

2023

Q No 8

1
Define gender based violence. Explain various forms of violence against women in Pakistan, and describe some practical strategies which can help in the eradication of gender-based violence from our society.

Answer:

1- Introduction:

Gender-based violence is a pervasive problem in our society, particularly against women. It is defined as any act of harm violence committed against an individual based on their gender including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm. It is a violation of human right and can lead to long lasting physical and emotional damage. Pakistan is no exception to this problem, and women in Pakistan faced a myriad of forms of violence,

including honour killing, domestic violence, acid attacks, sexual harassment, and forced marriages. Violence against women in Pakistan is a complex issue and deeply rooted in cultural and social norms. It requires a multi-faceted approach including legal reforms, education and cultural change to eliminate it.

2- Define Gender-Based Violence:

Gender-based violence refers to any form of violence or harmful action that is directed at an individual based on their gender, typically towards women and girls. It can include physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse, as well as harassment and intimidation. Gender-based violence can occur in a variety of settings including home, workplace, public places, and during the time of conflicts. It is a violation of human rights that can lead to severe and long-lasting consequences.

for survivors, including physical injuries, emotional traumas and reduce economic and social opportunities.

3) Forms of Gender-Based Violence Against Women in Pakistan:

i) Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence is the most prevalent form of gender-based violence against women in Pakistan. It includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse by a spouse, partner or family member. It is a widespread problem, and a survey conducted by Human Rights Watch found that about 90% of women in Pakistan experienced some form of domestic violence.

ii) Honor Killing:

Honor killing is another form of gender based violence against women in Pakistan. They occur when a woman is perceived to have brought shame to her family by engaging in a behaviour that is considered immoral and or inappropriate. The punishment

for this is often death, and perpetrators of the crime are usually family members.

iii) Acid Attacks:

Acid attacks are heinous form of violence against women in Pakistan. It involves throwing acid on a woman's face or body, causing severe burn and disfigurement. It is often perpetrated by the men who are rejected by the women they target.

iv) Forced Marriages:

Forced marriages are another form of violence against women in Pakistan. It is a practice where a woman is married against her consent or against her will. This happens when a family of women are unable to provide dowry or when the woman is seen as a burden.

v) Sexual Harassment:

Sexual harassment is a wide spread form of GBV.

against women in Pakistan. It involves unwanted sexual advances or comments, groping and other forms of sexual misconduct. According to "US-based National Library of Medicine 2023, about 54.5 pc women in Pakistan experienced sexual violence. Women in Pakistan face sexual violence at homes, public places, work places and educational institutions.

vii) **Child Abuse:**

Child marriage is a prevalent form of violence against women in Pakistan, with girls as young as nine being forced into marriage. This deprives them from their childhood and education and exposes them to various forms of abuse. 21 percent of girls in Pakistan marrying before the age of 18 (UNICEF 2020).

4- **Strategies to Eradicate GBV from Pakistani Society:**

To eradicate Gender-based violence from Pakistani society,

there is a need to implement a multifaceted approach that addresses the root cause of problem. The following strategies can be helpful:

a. Awareness Campaigns:

One of the most effective strategies is to launch awareness campaigns. The government should collaborate with NGOs and civil organisation to educate people about the harmful effects of gender-based violence on women and society as a whole. These campaigns should be aimed at both men and women to change the attitude and belief that perpetuate Gender-based Violence.

b. Strengthening the Legal Framework:

The government needs to strengthen the legal framework to protect women from Gender-based violence. Laws must be enacted and enforced to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. Special courts should be

established to expedite the trials of Gender-based violence cases.

c. Empowering Women:

Empowering women is crucial in eradicating Gender-based violence from Pakistani society. Women need to be educated and given economic opportunities to become financially independent. This will help them to escape abusive relationship and will have more control over their lives.

d. Collaboration with Religious Leaders:

Religious leaders can play a critical role in changing the attitudes that perpetuate Gender-based violence. The government should collaborate with them to promote the most equitable and just society that values women's rights.

5- Conclusion:

To sum up, Gender-based violence is a significant issue in

Pakistani society and women are its primary victims. Gender-Based violence takes many forms including honor killing, acid throwing, forced marriages and sexual abuse. It is essential to raise awareness, strengthen the legal framework, empower women and collaborating with religious leaders, to eradicate Gender-based violence from Pakistani Society.