

Past Paper 2024

Q: What is gender based violence? What forms of gender based violence given in Punjab Protection of women against gbv Act 2016? What are the consequences of GBV on Women?

Ans: Gender based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender, and it predominately affects women and girls. GBV is rooted in patriarchal societies & societies with inequality, initially started from social norms & stereotypes. GBV also includes wide range of violent acts, e.g Physical violence, such as hitting, slapping, choking or using weapons, And Sexual violence including ranges from ϕ rape & sexual harassment to forced marriage & sexual slavery. And Emotional/Psychological abuse is also a form of GBV which involves verbal attacks threats and blackmailing with control tactics. GBV also includes economic violence where Perpetrators control access to financial resources making victims dependent and vulnerable.

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Furthermore, women & girls who are victims of GBV face severe consequences, including physical injury, psychological trauma & reproductive health issues. This may include unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections & risk of HIV/AIDS.

Due to the unequal power dynamics, women often have fewer resources & options to escape abusive situations.

Moreover, there are theories who explain GBV often focus on unequal distribution of power in society. Feminist perspectives highlights how patriarchal systems maintain male dominance & control over women through violence. And the social learning theory, suggest that violence is a learned behavior passed down through generations.

Therefore, since the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while guaranteeing gender equality, enables the state to make special provision for the protection of women, it is necessary to protect women against violence including domestic violence, to establish a protection system for effective service delivery to women victims & to create an enabling

environment to encourage & facilitate women freely to play their desired role in society.

So Punjab Assembly on Feb, 24, 2016 passed an Act, assented by Governor of Punjab.

Where Punjab Protection of Women

against Violence Act aims to protect women

from domestic, sexual, psychological & economic

abuse, stalking & cyber crimes, perpetrated

by their husband(s), sibling(s), adopted

Children, relatives & domestic employers.

Victims of domestic violence can approach a

Court themselves, or through Women Protection Officers

to obtain Interim, Protection, Residence or Monetary

orders to prevent further violence, retain the right

to reside in marital home, & obtain maintenance

from accused. The period of validity of an Order

will be defined by Court.

The Interim orders can be passed by Court

at any stage of proceedings under this Act.

Terms of an Interim order can include

protection, right of residence & monetary

benefits for the victims, while trial is pending.

Protection orders, orders the accused not to have communication & stay a specific distance from the victim, surrender any firearms, & refrain from attempting to cause harm to her.

Residence Order can be passed by Court to ensure that accused or members of his family do not evict the victim from her marital home. If the victim wishes, she can be relocated to dar-ul-aman or other location of her preference, if she fears violence from accused person.

Monetary Orders direct accused person to pay monetary relief to the victim to meet expenses incurred by her due to e.g loss of earning, medical expenses & any other harm suffered. Monetary Orders can also include maintenance for a specific period of time.

Violation of the terms of any order mentioned above can result in imprisonment of up to 1 year or fine ranging from Rs 5000 to Rs 200,000.

The Act provides for setting up violence against Women Centres, which will provide all

essential service to ensure speedy (reporting)^x reporting of crimes, registration of cases, timely medical examination & collection of forensic & other evidence. Services provided for survivors of violence include counselling, medical care, legal aid, coordination with local law enforcement agencies & temporary shelter at dar-ul-aman.

None the less, GBV is an global issue, which has many consequences. In US a rape occurs every six minutes & violence occurs once in $2/3$ of all marriages.

In Canada, one in every four women can expect to be sexually assaulted at some point in her life. In France 95 percent of victims of violence are women, 51% of victims at hands of a husband. According to World Health Organization (WHO) 80m+ women have undergone sexual surgery in Africa.

In addition there are many other International Laws made to counter GBV specifically

against women, e.g CEDAW's articles 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12 & 16. Which deals with prohibition of discrimination by public & Private actors.

The consequences of GBV are profound & multifaceted, impacting individuals, families & communities. The individuals can face physical health consequences like injuries, sexual & Reproductive health issue & Chronic health Condition. There could be psychological & Emotional Impact as well like mental health disorder, Suicidal tendencies and low self-esteem and fear.

Socio-Economic consequences are also caused by GBV which further lead to economic dependence & poverty, workplace Impact and educational disruptions.

Therefore efforts to eliminate GBV must start early, focusing on changing societal norms, increasing women's economic empowerment and promoting respect for human rights.

And ensuring survivors have access to support & justice is essential in addressing GBV issues.