

Question no 1:-

What are the root causes that led to gender-based violence? How these factors intersect and perpetuate violence against women in Pakistan? (CSS-2025)

Answer:-

Introduction:-

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts committed against a person because of their gender. In Pakistan,

women face the most violence due to deeply rooted patriarchy. Feminist scholars argue that GBV is not just individual violence but also structural oppression that limits women's rights and freedom.

⇒ Root Causes of Gender-Based Violence in Pakistan

(1) Patriarchy and Social Norms

Patriarchy is a system where men hold most power and women are marginalized. Cultural norms often justify male dominance over women, controlling their behaviour and choices.

Practices like honor killings are often defended by families as protecting family honor.

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2- Economic Dependence and Poverty:

Women often depend on male family members for financial support. This dependence limits their ability to resist abuse or leave violent relationships.

Feminist theory highlights this as structural violence, where economic inequality reinforces gender oppression.

(3) Education and Awareness

Gaps:-

Lack of education reinforces gender stereotypes. Women are often unaware of their rights and men may view violence as acceptable.

Feminist term this hegemonic masculinity where society socializes men to dominate and control women.

(4) Weak legal Protection and Impunity:

Laws such as Domestic Violence Act, Prevention of Honor killings Act exist to protect women but enforcement is weak. Many cases go unreported due to fear of stigma or family pressure.

Case study:-

The Mukhtaran Mai Case (2002) - Mukhtaran Mai, a woman from rural Pakistan, was gang-raped. Initially, the local courts acquitted the perpetrators due to social and political pressure. It was only after national and international advocacy that justice was partially achieved.

Factors that Perpetuate violence

GBV in Pakistan is fueled by patriarchy, economic

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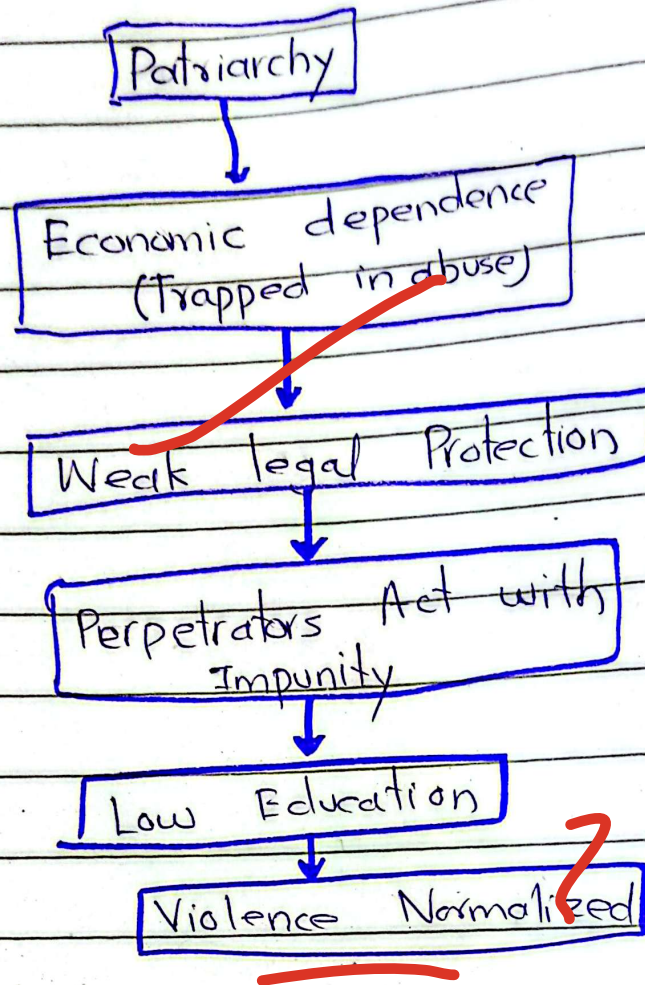
dependence, weak legal protection and low education

(ii) Patriarchy and social norms limit women's freedom, while economic dependence traps them in abusive relationships.

(iii) Weak enforcement of laws and fear of social stigmas prevent women from seeking justice.

(iv) Low education and cultural acceptance of male dominance normalize violence, while hegemonic masculinity encourages men to control women.

These factors intersect to create a cycle where women remain vulnerable and powerless.



Conclusion:-

GBV in Pakistan is driven by patriarchy, poverty and weak laws. Feminist perspectives emphasize that tackling GBV requires legal reform, economic empowerment, education and cultural change to challenge patriarchal norms.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

improve the references and the paper presentation part.