

What are the different forms of gender based violence and, in your opinion, what could be the workable strategies to eliminate gender based violence from Pakistani society? (CSS - 2017)

### A. Gender Based Violence :-

Gender based violence refers to violence directed towards an individual based on their gender. It is often rooted in power inequalities between genders. It can affect anyone but girls and women are disproportionately impacted due to social, cultural, and historical inequalities.

According to United Nations violence against women means

"any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"

### B. Forms of Gender Based Violence :-

#### 1. Physical violence :-

Physical violence refers to the use of force to cause

physical harm or pain. It involves murder, beating, slapping, choking, punching or any other form of physical harm.

Example:-

In 2022 Noor Muqaddam was assaulted and murdered by Zahid Jaffer in Islamabad.

## 2. Sexual Violence :-

Any sexual activity done without the consent of a person. It can take the form of rape, sexual assault, harassment or coercion.

Example:-

In 2002 Mukhtaran Mai was gang-raped by one of the clan of her village as punishment because her brother's alleged relation with a woman of that clan.

## 3. Psychological abuse :-

Any act that causes harm to mental wellbeing of an individual. The goal is to control, degrade or instill fear in the victim. Psychological abuse involve coercion, verbal abuse, isolation from others, humiliation, intimidation or manipulation. This often lead to stress, anxiety, or depression in the victim.

Example :-

In 2019, Asma Aziz was physically and psychologically tortured by her husband. He shaved her head because of not dancing in front of his friends.

#### 4. Economic Violence :-

Economic violence involves controlling or limiting a person's access to financial resources, employment or education. This can include preventing a person from working, controlling their income or making them financially independent. It often limits the victim's ability to escape abusive situation or gain independence.

#### 5. Domestic violence :-

Domestic violence is committed by <sup>someone in</sup> victim's domestic circle. The perpetrator is ~~the~~ partner, ex-partner or any other immediate family member. There is usually a power gap between victim and perpetrator. The victim is dependent on the offender. It can take the form of physical, mental, or sexual abuse.

Example :-

In 2017, a 22 year old girl Madeeha, was burned to death by her husband and his family because she was unable to bring a motorbike

in her dowry.

## 6. Honor Killing:-

Honor Killing is the act of killing a person usually a female by family members or relatives as a way of "restoring" family's honor. This typically happens when the victim is perceived to have brought shame or dishonor to the family or community. This can occur for various reasons such as having premarital sex, engaging in relationships outside of marriage, seeking a divorce, or defying social or cultural norms. In some cases, even being a victim of rape can be perceived as dishonorable, leading to an honor killing.

Example:-

In 2016, Mandeel Baloch was killed by her younger brother in the name of honor.

## 7. Vanni (Girls as Compensation):-

Vanni is a custom where, girls, often minors, are given in marriage or servitude to an aggrieved family to settle disputes, often murder. Vanni is a form of arranged or forced child marriage and result of punishment decided by jirga. In

Teachers Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

KPK it is known as 'Swara' and in Balochistan as 'Sung Chatti'.

Example:-

Abdul Rehman gave his daughter and nephew to the village of Chah - Hathi Khelawala in Mianwali. It resulted from a murder 10 years ago. The panchayat imposed a fine of 5 lacs or 2 girls. Hence, the aggressor party choosed the to give to girls as vani.

### C. Strategies to Eliminate Gender-Based violence:-

1. Educational institutions should incorporate gender equality and respect into the curriculum, to challenge the harmful stereotypes and foster a healthy relationship from an early age.
2. Government should formulate and implement policies focusing on economic empowerment of women including skills development, equal job opportunities and equal pay.
3. The legal system should ensure that laws against Gender based violence are robust, and comprehensive. The system and inclusive of all forms of violence (e.g, domestic, sexual harassment, and Psychological). The system should prioritize safety, and rights of survivors.

4. Government should remove barriers for survivors seeking justice such as long legal processes or fear of retaliation. For this purpose government should provide establish specialized courts for swift case processing. Moreover, <sup>it</sup> they should provide survivors safe spaces and support networks.
5. Government and NGOs should provide survivors with financial support, housing, and vocational training to help them rebuild their lives and reduce dependence on their abusers.
6. Religious scholars hold significant influence in society. They should give declaration against violence against women. In addition, they should support women education.
7. Civil society organizations can launch campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women, its consequences, and available support system. These campaigns can challenge cultural norms and reduce the stigma faced by survivors.
8. Men should be engaged in efforts to end violence against women. They should be supported in breaking down the traditional notions of masculinity, gender and power, and promoting gender equality.
9. Parents and families should stop blaming their daughters, sisters, and

wives for abusive incidents which they face at home, streets or workplace. They should support them in raising voices in public sphere.

10. Media can educate people about gender based violence and its consequences. It can challenge the harmful stereotypes and misconceptions about gender based violence such as victim blaming and the idea that domestic violence is a private matter. Through documentaries, stories, and programs, it can promote positive gender norms and equality, which can help prevent the cultural acceptance of violence.
11. Government should adopt and enforce strong laws that criminalize all forms of gender based violence including domestic violence, sexual harassment, Female Genital mutilation, and trafficking.
12. Gender based violence is often rooted in gender inequality, and addressing systematic discrimination and unequal power dynamics is essential. This includes promoting gender equality in all aspects of life including from politics, to employment to household decision-making.
13. To eliminate violence against women changing societal attitudes towards gender roles and challenging patriarchal

structures that perpetuate violence, is crucial for long-term transformation.

14. Government and NGOs should establish and widely publicize confidential helplines that women can call for support, advice, and guidance when facing violence. These services should be available in multiple languages and accessible to women<sup>in</sup> rural and marginalized communities.

15. Government should support women's entrepreneurship and self-employment through microfinance programs, which can help them\* leave abusive situation

#### D. Legislative Measure Taken by Government to Eliminate Gender Based Violence:-

1. The Muslims' Family Laws Ordinance, 1961
2. Protection of Women Act, 2006
3. The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2010.
4. National Gender Policy Framework, 2022.
5. Zainab Alet, Responsive and Recovery Act, 2020.