

Gender Studies

Q 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?

Answer

1) Introduction:

Gender based violence is not a recent issue, it originated far back, and is a persistent problem within a society. It exists in different forms, such as direct or indirect violence, ranging from honour killings to cybercrimes as well. It is a serious issue, that disrupts the social fabric of peace and prosperity within a country. It requires immediate strategies such as promoting women in different fields, addressing socio-political norms, policy changes and etc, for the elimination of gender based violence.

2) Defining Gender Based violence:

Simple terms:-

Gender based violence is a form of abuse, coercion, or discrimination imposed on individuals based on their gender identity or societal roles.

- Lori Heise

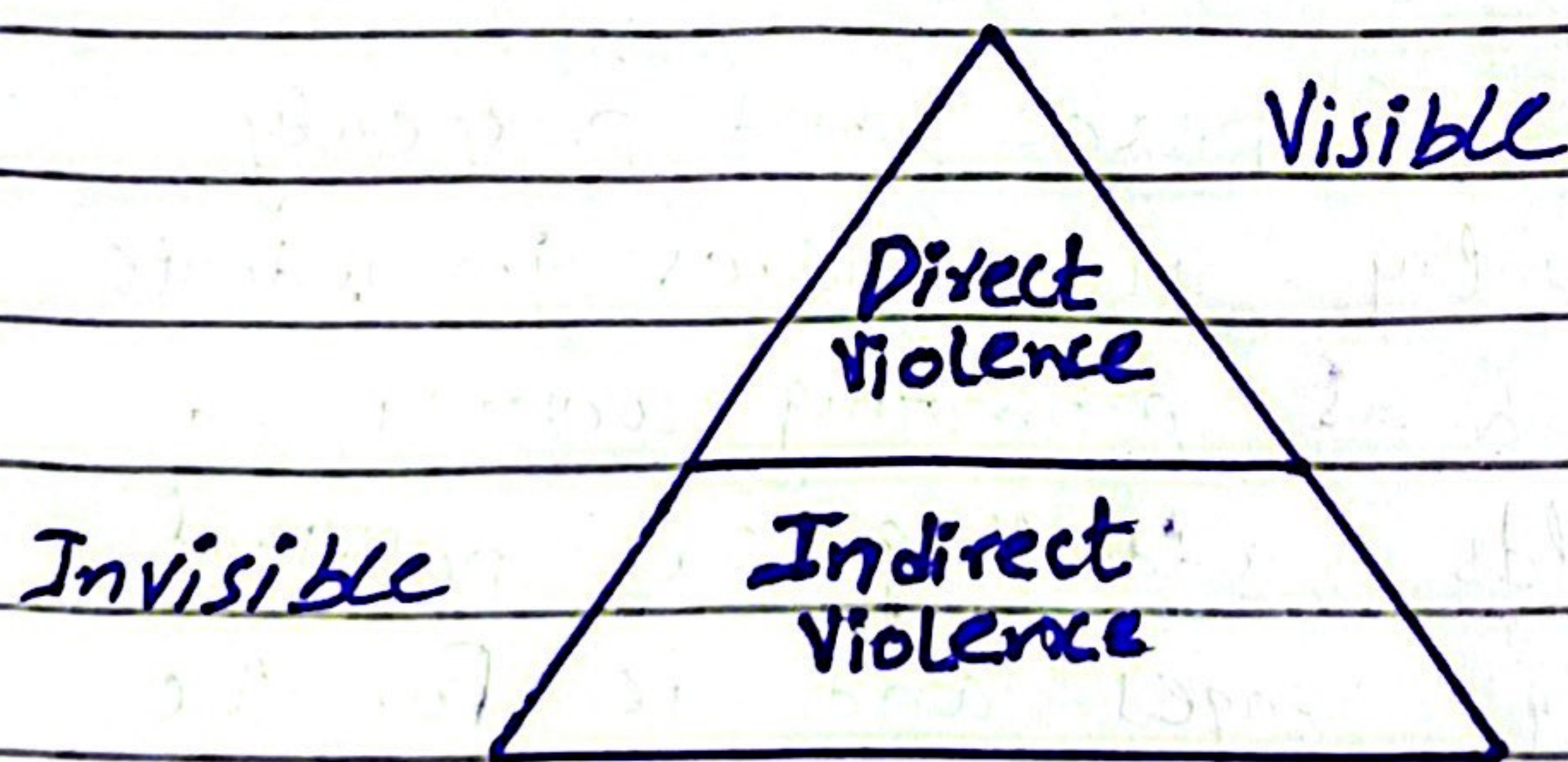
> USAID definition:-

Violence that is perpetrated against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression, or perceived adherence to socially defined gender norms.

> CEDAW definition:-

Violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.

3) Explaining The Types of Gender Based Violence:



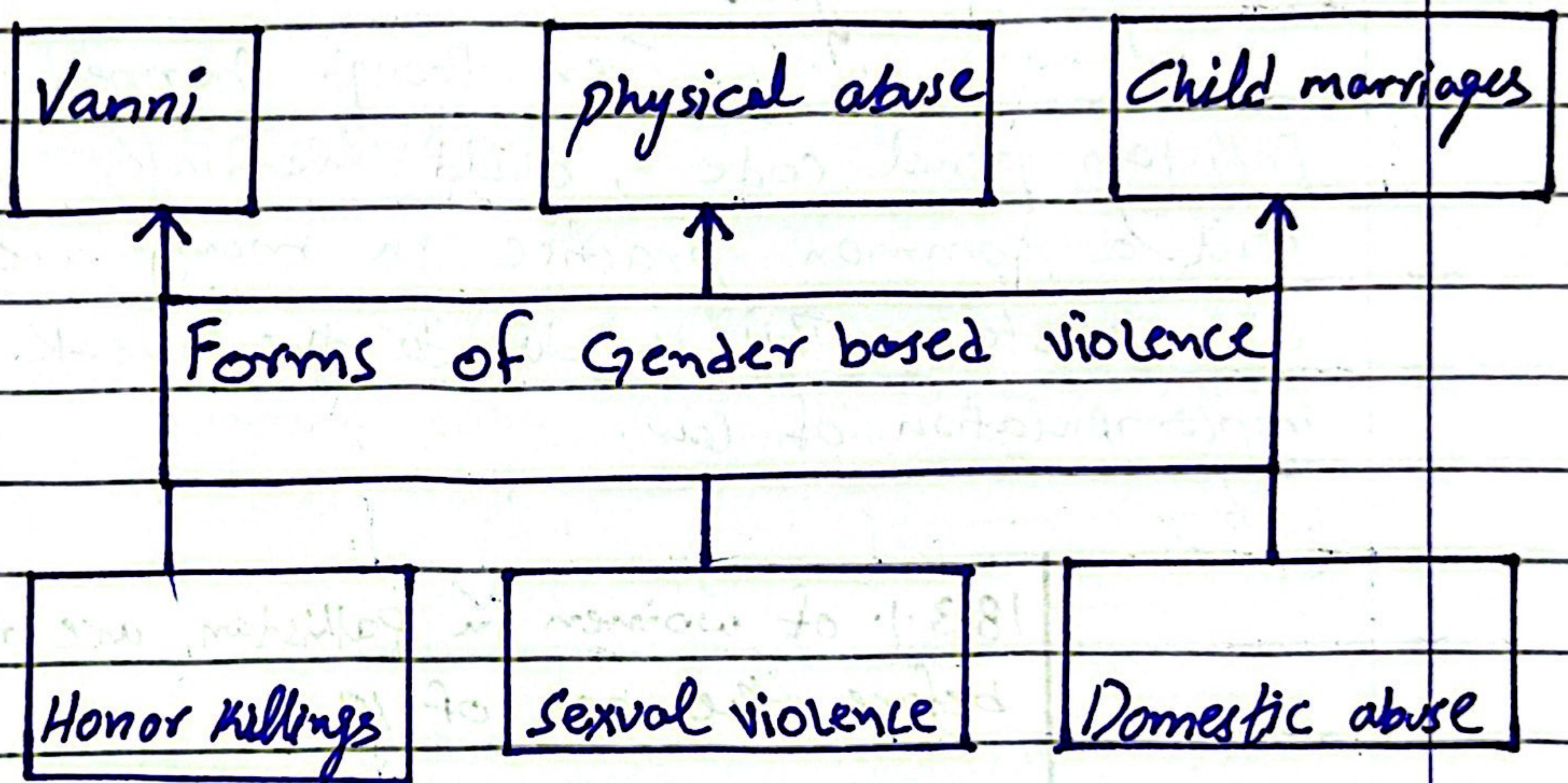
> Direct violence:-

It includes physical acts of aggression, which are generally visible such as a man beating his wife, acid attacks, bullying, sexual torture and killing in the name of honour.

> Indirect violence :-

It refers to the ways in which society, institutions and culture can hurt or cause disadvantage to a person. It may include child marriages, Vanni, sexism culture, denial of rights and discrimination.

4) Different form of Gender Based Violence:



> Vanni :-

Despite living in the 21st century, immoral practices exist, especially in Pakistan. One common practice is that of vanni, where a girl is presented as a blood price to resolve disputes, mostly as a compensation for blood price.

Case in point :-

Shazia and Kiron case, 2021 where in Punjab both the girls were given as an compensation for a murder from 10 years ago.

> Physical abuse:-

Another prominent type of GBV is Physical ~~the~~ abuse. It involves physical force to cause harm to the other person. It includes murder, burning to death, strangling and stabbing.

Case in point:-

Noor Muggaddam case 2022

in which she was tortured and then beheaded.

> Child marriages:-

Even though banned by the Pakistan penal code, child marriages are still a common practice in many areas of Pakistan. This is due to the weak implementation of law.

18.3.1. of women in Pakistan are married before the age of 18.

- Child marriage data portal

> Honour Killings:-

Also known as Karo - Kari meaning "Black man" and "Black women".

If labelled they are considered morally ~~tinted~~ tainted and hence are executed, as a sign to regain the lost honor.

Case in point:-

The recent case in Balochistan were a couple Bano BiBi and Ahsan Ullah were shot dead for marrying without family permission.

> Sexual violence:-

Any form of sexual violence act, that is committed without the consent of the other person falls under this category. Women are the ones most effected by it.

Case in point:-

The case of Mukhtaran Mai 2002, where she was raped by the village members, as a punishment for her brothers alleged relation with a girl of the clan.

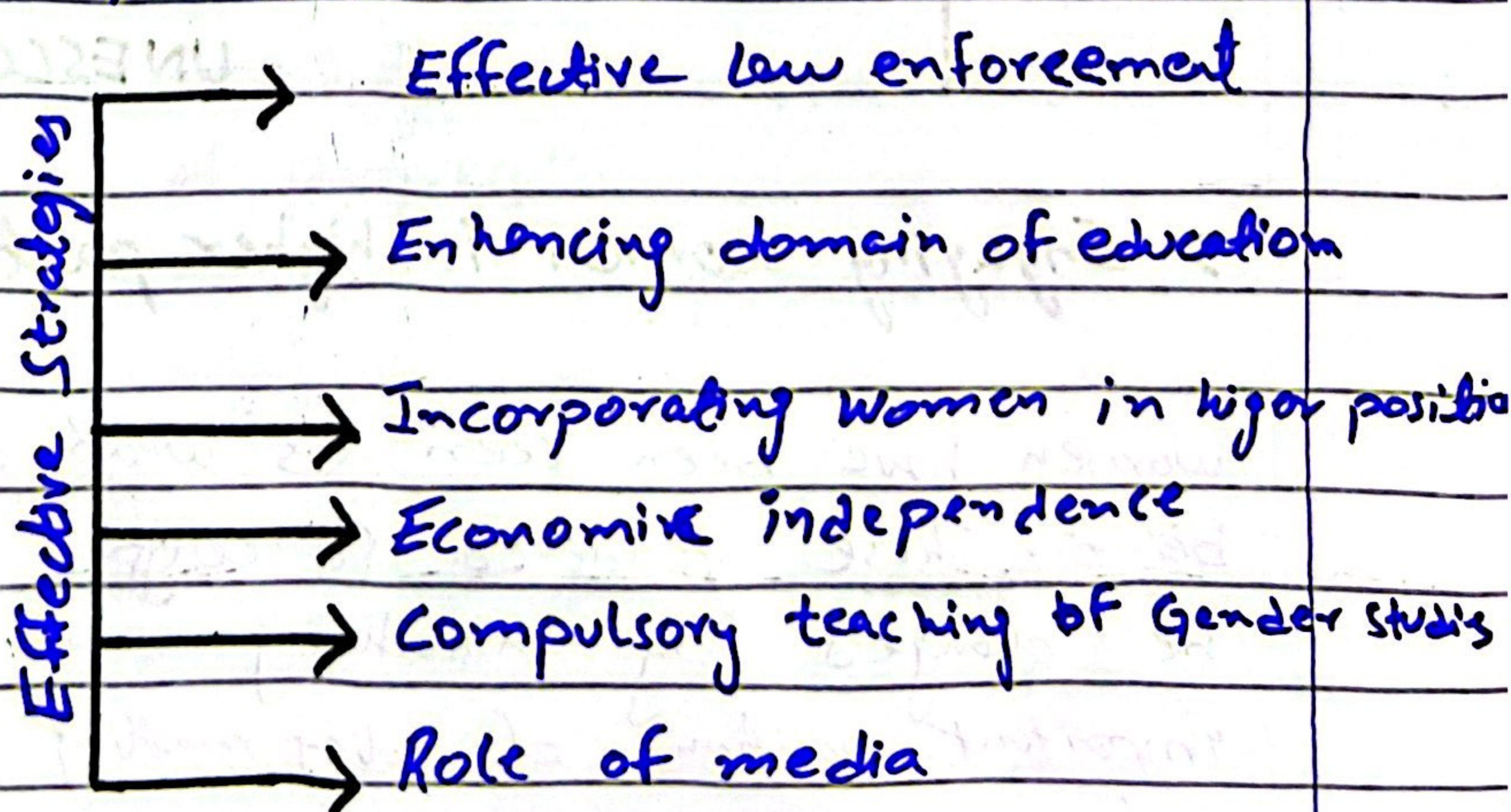
> Domestic abuse:-

Domestic abuse is not a myth, it is a reality. There are tons of stories of women who are suffering exploitation in their homes and embracing it as they won't have anywhere else to go.

90% of women in Pakistan have experienced some form of domestic violence

- HRCP, 2023

5) Strategies to Eliminate Gender Based Violence in Pakistan:



> Effective law enforcement:-

In Pakistan there are plenty of legal acts for the protection against gender-based violence. Such as Zainab Alert act 2020, Transgender persons protection act 2018, Anti-rape act 2016 and so on, the major problem is effective implementation of these acts. State should improve the enforcement for a safe Pakistan.

"Justice delayed is justice denied"

- William Gladstone

> Education - illiteracy as a hindering factors-

Education is the primary factor which helps an individual to differentiate between right and wrong. Overall literacy rate is low in Pakistan especially in rural areas which contributes to gender based exploitation. Hence the government should ensure free of cost education for the people. An educated nation would be less likely to be indulged in immoral practices of violence.

Pakistan adult literacy rate is
58%

- UNESCO, 2019

> Engaging women in higher positions-

Historically women have been seen as weak and emotional beings. These gendered stereotypes have to be changed by introducing more women in important positions of policy making and governance.

currently 17% of parliamentary seats reserved for women which is below the UN target of 33%. An increase in quota would be beneficial for a meaningful change.

> Economic independence:-

Women are dependent on a man, which is the major reason for tolerating violence, as they would have nowhere to go. The government should provide economic incentives to the women and help to establish small businesses, so that they would no longer be dependent on anyone.

> Compulsory teachings of Gender Studies:-

Awareness is the best way to counter GBV, which can be done by slight change in curriculum. In this way the men can understand women better and treat them as equal, and for the women to know about their rights. It would be a troublesome task that would face criticism from religious scholars, but if implemented can cause a drastic change.

"Adversity is the motherhood of progress"

- Proverb

> Role of media:-

Media plays a vital role in shaping perspective. In Pakistani drama

serials their is romanticism of domestic violence in which the man is violent and then conform due to the love of her wife. The real world does not work like that. There should be ban on such dramas and rather focus on serials relating to women empowerment such as "Sinf-e-Ahn".

6) Conclusion:-

To conclude, gender based violence exist in many forms effecting the livelihood of people. But due to rapid advancement of the world and awarness, the issue is improving with proper law enforcement and improved integration in multiple domain, gender based violence is bound to be reduced, providing a safe space for all genders in pakistan and around the globe.