

Q.no.1

What are the root causes of that led to gender-based-violence? How do these factors interest and perpetuate violence against women in Pakistan?

Exordium:

Gender-based violence is rooted in social structure of Pakistan. There are severe causes that lead towards violence in society. It is usually not related to individual or specific incident but associated to social structures as Holly Jackson showed in his work Gender based violence:

An International Perspective.

United National General Assembly gives the definition in 1993, "any act of gender-base-violence which result in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering of women, including threat of such act, coercion

or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether in public or private life."

Gender based violence is associated to violence which is caused by the gender of his/her or expectations with specific gender. It is important to notice that males also become victims of gender-based violence specially sexual violence. Khalid Hosseini depicted this idea in his novel 'A kite Runner'.

Direct violence Theories

Social learning theory: The individual can learn the act of violence from his/her parents. The shifting of violence through generations.

Psychopathy and personality disorder: Such individuals face mental illness.

The past trauma's or any other thing can make them psychological abuser. They often feel pleasure in it.

Exchange theory: The individual can commit violence for pursuit of some reward or to save himself from punishment

Indirect violence Theories

Social acceptance of violence: This constructs violence as normal event and people accept violence as part of life.

Stress: The stress of male members can make them abuser. The pressure of work or earning is mostly the reason behind violence.

Patriarchy: The denial of patriarchy and gender-roles also lead to violence

Categories of violence

Physical violence: It includes physical harm such as beating, choking, arm twisting, killing etc.

Sexual violence: It includes all kind of unwanted sexual relations, force someone for sex by threatening, or Marital rape also lies under sexual

Date: _____

Day: _____

violence.

Psychological violence: It includes verbal aggression, humiliation, custody of children etc.

Economical violence: It includes threatening to take food and life, threat to property and deprivation from property inheritance.

PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE

There are numerous causes of violence in Pakistan. The 'so called' family honour leads to honor killing. Patriarchy leads to domestic violence. Social construct of masculinity and femininity leads to sexual harassment and acid attacks. Aurat Foundation

Pakistan report 2009 showed that in **2008** around **7571** women in Pakistan become victim of gender-based violence. **SSDO's**

reports showed that there were

1027 cases of violence in **2023** and the number rised to **32617** in

2024.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is very normal in Pakistan and the story of every house. It is usually caused due to bad relations with in-laws, husband's bad treat, small chores of house. Tehmina Durrani in her work, 'My Feudal Lords' showed that she was just a merely possession for her husband. In 2010, there were 498 cases of domestic violence but in 2024 (SSDO) there were 2238 cases.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This is a violence which is considered a matter of 'izzat' in Pakistan. People feel ashamed while talking about it. Antal Lievan in his book, 'Pakistan A Hard County' writes that even lower class people have this kind of 'izzat'. Guernsey in her work, 'Sexual Harassment: A Question of

'Power', explained sexual harassment. In 2010, 928 cases were reported but in 2024, 5339 cases of sexual harassment were reported.

STOVE BURNING / BRIDE BURNING or DOWRY MURDER

This is the most cruel ~~act~~ kind of murder to kill someone by burning. In-laws by some cause burned alive their daughter-in-law and termed it as stove burning.

Ayesha S. Chaudhary in her work 'Domestic violence and the Islamic Tradition', highlighted this dowry murder. In 2010, 38 cases of dowry murder were reported.

GIRLS TRAFFICING

Musa Khan in his book, 'Girls Trafficking in Pakistan and Afghanistan' showed how girls are become victims of trafficking for prostitution or domestic work. In 2010, 2200 + girls were trafficked. However, this number increase

to high level in 2024, more than 24 thousand girls were abducted and trafficked.

HONOR KILLING

This is most famous in south asia. The females are considered as the honor. They are killed if tried to marry some one or if they speak for their rights.

Samya Buxy in her book Crime or Custom? Violence against women in Pakistan. She explained this concept of killing for honor. In 2010, 1498 cases of honor killing was reported. Only honor killing is reduced within these years and all credit goes to our legislature. But still need to implement more laws to stop it completely. In 2024, 527 cases were reported.

SOLUTION

- Giving girls education about their rights and spread awareness.

- Provide safe and accessible education.
- Access to economic resources.
- Women in decision making power can make it easy for victim female to approach justice.
- Role of NGOs.
- Media can spread awareness.
- Religious leaders can give religious declarations (Fatwa) to stop dowry and many other kinds of violence.

Legislature:

There is need to make new laws and implement previous amendments more strictly such as.

Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929

The Muslim Family Law ordinance, 1961.

Dowry and bridal gift (Restriction) Act, 1976.

Criminal Law (Amendment) Act for khula (2000).

Protection against harassment of women at the workplace Act (2010)

Renouement:

Day: _____

The implementation of these laws strictly and by using new mediums like media to spread information regarding violence we can rip it out from our society. Pakistan is a Muslim country and need to implement true teachings of Islam to stop this gender-base-violence. As Islam is a religion of peace
