

Gender studies - CSS' 25

Qno:1

Root causes that led to GBV. How do these factors interest & perpetuate violence against women in Pakistan?

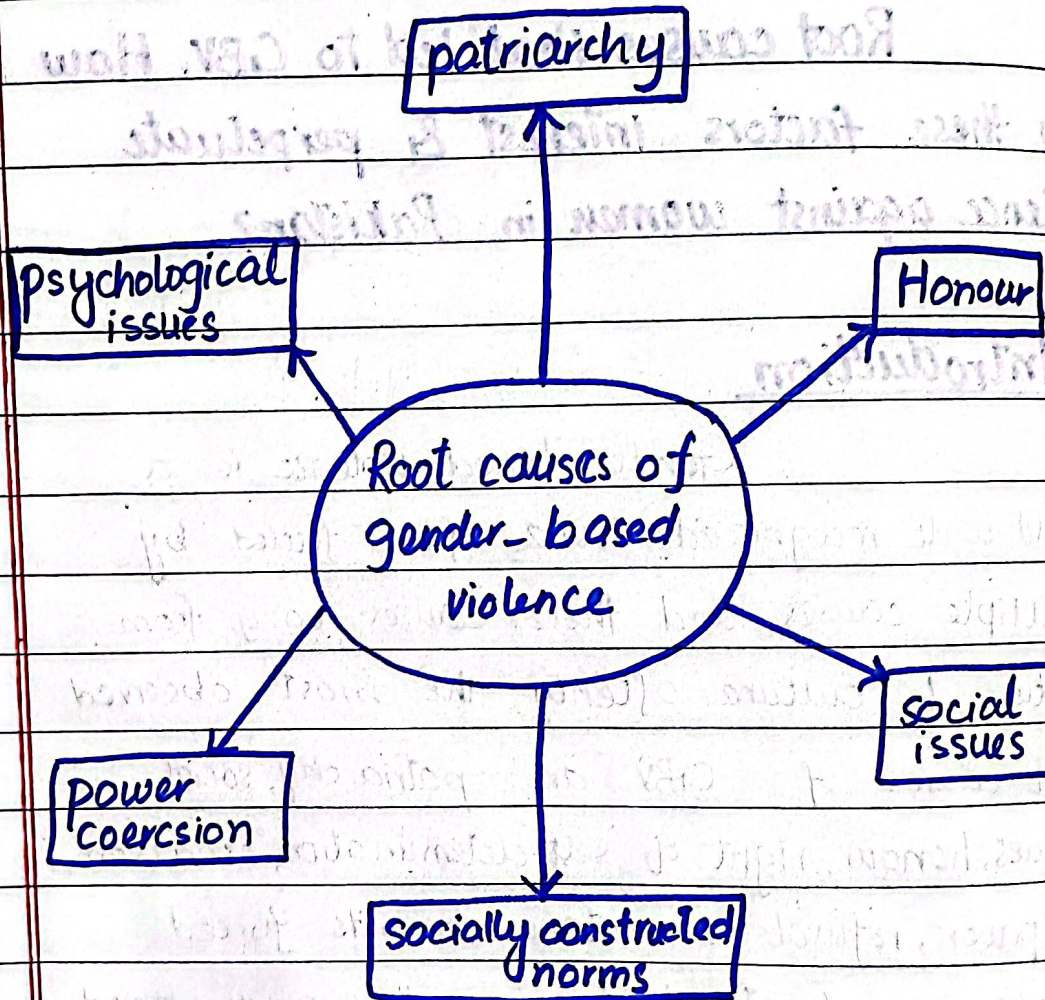
1. Introduction

Gender-based violence is a world wide recognized issue often fueled by multiple causes and these causes vary from culture to culture. Oftenly, the most observed root causes of GBV are patriarchy, social issues, honour, right of self determination, coercion of power, refusal or resistance towards forced decisions and etc. Most commonly gender-based violence is practiced by male genders over inferior genders of society. In many cultures and societies it is a common practice to abuse women and transgenders. In Pakistan patriarchy and socially constructed norms regarding genders encourage gender based violence to make men feel superior over all other genders. In this question, it will

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be briefly discussed that what are the root causes of GBV and how do they interest GBV in Pakistan.



2. Psychological issues

Gender who practice gender based violence dominantly males have psychological issues or anger issues due to some extreme or traumatic past experiences. Under those unstable mental health conditions they practice violence over weak genders such as women

around them or some weak transgender.

These untreated psychological issues create aggressiveness which men practice against fragile genders.

3. Patriarchy fuels GBV

Patriarchy is dominance of male genders in societies.

It is commonly observed in Asia mainly in South Asia. By birth men are fed as superior sexes and eventually this superiority results in patriarchy. The patriarchy practiced by males make them patriarchs. These patriarchs control women and other weak genders arounds them. They are the decision makers of society and practice abuse and violence against weak genders who resist their decisions and powers.

4. Socially constructed norms

The socially constructed norms like men are the bread earner and women are weak and fragile promotes gender-based violence. These norms create superiority complex in females and make women dependent on men. To maintain their superiority, they practice

violence over weak genders.

5. Power coercion

Another important factor that links to the root causes of gender based violence is power coercion. The powerful and strong genders practice violence over weak genders to coerce their power and authority on them. By practising power and violence over weak genders around them they maintain their superiority.

6. Social issues

Social issues like unemployment, excessive taunting, depression, workplace issues, relationship issues frustrates the men. Resultantly, they become violent and practice violence on women around them out of their frustration and peer pressure.

7. Honour

Practicing and promoting violence on weak gender out of honour or in the name of honour is quite common reason of sexual abuse and violence against weak genders.

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How do these factors interest violence against women in Pak?

- **Patriarchy** promotes forced or early marriages, watta satta, marital rape, women abuse being used as compensations.
- **Honour** hundred of women are killed in Pakistan each year in the name of honour.
- **Psychological issues** lead to bride burning, physical or sexual violence, verbal violence, acid attacks in Pakistan.
- **Socially constructed norms** promote blackmailing, physical violence in Pakistan.
- **Power coercion** interest in domestic violence, marital rape in Pakistan.

How patriarchy interest in violence against in Pak?

Patriarchy in Pakistan is very common. It is practised by almost 80% of men in Pakistan. Patriarchy becomes a big deal when it leads to violence. The patriarchy practiced by feudal lords in Pakistan is quite concerning. These feudal lords or patriarchs

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practice early marriages, marital rapes, gang rapes, domestic and sexual violence in Pakistan. The facade of male superiority complex feeds the mindset of these patriarchs leading to gender-based violence in Pakistan.

9. Honour contributing to GBV in Pak

Honour killings, domestic violence, physical and verbal violence in name of honour is quite common to Pakistan. Having an independent choice and opinion damages the shallow honour of Pakistani men in return of which they practice violence over women to safeguard their fragile ego and honour.

10. Psychological issues

When it comes to gender-based violence, Pakistani men seem to have serious psychological and mental health issues that lead to extreme physical violence against women. The Oscar won documentary of Sharmin Obaid "Saving face" portrays how Pakistani men are extremely brutal and violent towards their women. This documentary is based on different acid-attack

cases in Pakistan and it clearly depicts the sick psychology of Pakistani men.

11. Socially constructed norms

Men are the superior gender and only bread earner of the family while women are the inferior gender of the society. This is the most common socially constructed narrative in Pakistan. Such narratives create misogynist and narcissistic men in Pakistani society. Then these misogynist men practice violence to maintain their gender roles.

12. Power coercion

To ^{maintain} practices their power and influence over weak genders, Pakistani men practice violence either verbally or physically. Maintaining their honour and status in society are preferred by Pakistani men over the life of weak genders. Forced decisions, forced prostitution, rapes, domestic violence and verbal abuse is used by men to coerce their influence or power over weak and helpless genders in Pakistan.

13. Conclusion

To conclude the debate there would be no offense to say that gender based violence is more inclined towards men rather than women or transgenders.

Because of psychological issues, socially constructed norms, patriarchy, power coercion GBV is common across the world.

Due to these certain causes Pakistan has significantly observed cases of gender-based violence which includes acid-attacks, honour killings, marital rapes, sexual abuse, physical violence, etc.