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### Q3. Introduction

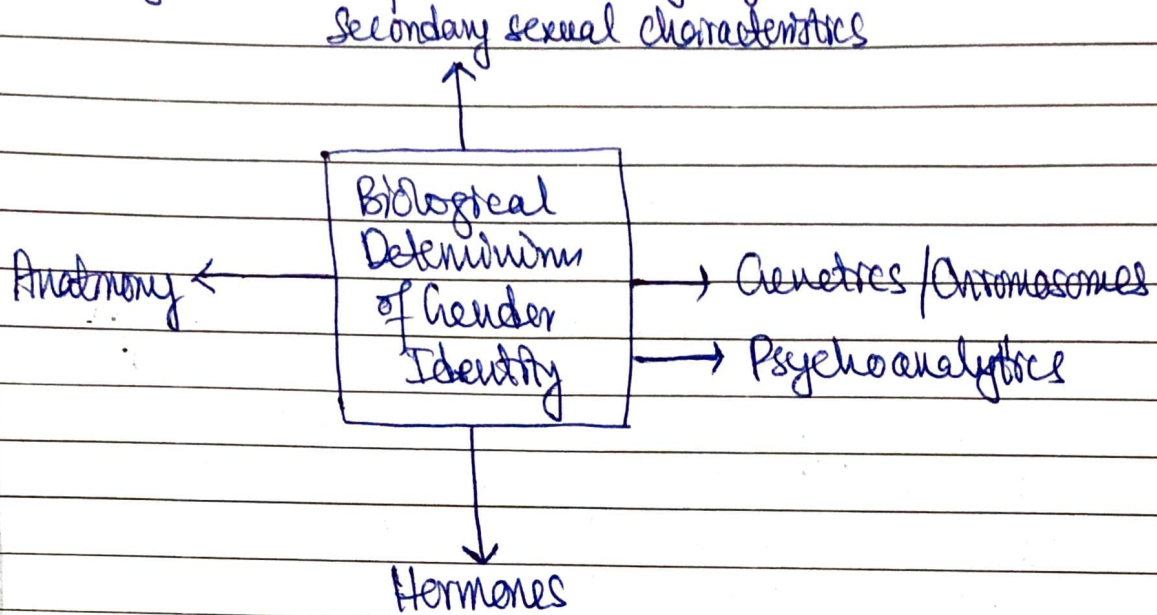
The concept of gender identity can be viewed from a myriad of dimensions. It entails several biological, psychological, social and cultural factors. However, the central debate arises whether nurture or nature plays a greater role in shaping gender identity. It is both a static and a dynamic concept at the same time. Proponents of nature school of thought argue that inherent traits reflected through biological differences in terms of genetics, anatomy and physiology are essential in creating a gender identity. On the contrary, the nurture inclined scholars argue that gender is a social construction and it has basis with how the society has given meanings to it and how the continuous adherence to those meanings emphasizes and reflects on the concept of gender identity.

### Role of biology in defining gender identity

The term gender identity connotes the sense of being and belonging under the emblem of a particular gender. Biological determinists mark a clear distinction between men and women and how biological factors

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alone contribute to the development of a gender identity. These factors are highlighted below



### i) Chromosomes / Genetics

There is a distinction between men and women on the basis of their genetic makeup. Men possess XY chromosomes, whereas females possess XX chromosomes. This fundamental distinction in their biology reflects in their overall makeup as individuals. Moreover, genes decide many a person's features and traits and hence, it is argued that owing to genetics, gender identity is a natural phenomenon.

### ii) Anatomy

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On the basis of anatomy, the difference between males and females is made at the time of their birth. On this measure, their roles are set and expectations attached for life. Therefore, males and females identify themselves with reference to their anatomical differences. The anatomical differences are through both the external genitalia and internal sexual organs such as ovaries or testes. Therefore, this anatomical structure marks a clear divide between males and female and hence, nature school of thought argues that this difference is manifested as they assimilate to their respective gender identities.

### iii) Hormonal / physiological differences

Hormones play a key role in determining a person's behavior and attitude. Males possess an excess of testosterone which is linked with the masculine properties of aggression and physical boldness. Contrary to this, women have estrogen which affects the sensitivity of their nature. Hence, the hormonal differences shape and influence a person's personality traits and thereby, their sense of identity towards a particular gender.

### iv) Secondary sexual characteristics

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As a child grows and reaches towards puberty, there is a developmental transition and it is reflected through secondary sexual characteristics. Both anatomical and physiological difference become more vivid at this stage. Therefore, they reinforce the identity that a child of a particular gender has carried through his early ages.

### v) Psychoanalysis school of thought

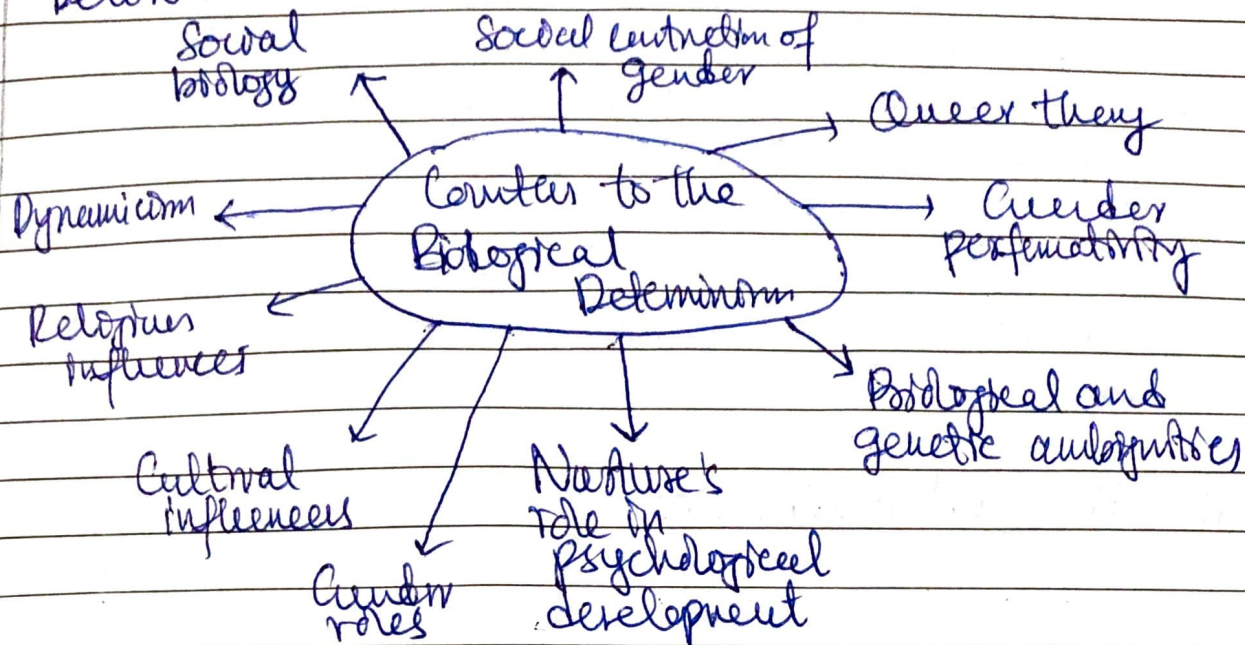
Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis points that there are certain instinctive psychological differences between both males and females that determine their gender identity. In the phallic stage of development there is a recognition and acknowledgment of their gender identity which is then carried out through their lives. Hence, the mental psychological instinct processes help bolster the gender identity.

### Arguments contradicting the biological determinism

The central argument that counters the doctrine of biological determinism is that, gender is a concept that is socially constructed. Hence, the concept of gender identity can not be seen in the binary view of biological or natural differences. There are a plethora of factors that

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Influence gender identity. These are highlighted below:



In contrast to the nature school of thought, the nurture debates delve into the concept of how perception of gender is created and hence, how it leads to construction of gender identity.

## 1) Social construction of gender

Gender is not a fixed, biological fact according to the social constructionist theorists. It is formed through the way a society views the roles and expectations attached to a gender. Hence, it is the society that not only helps construct a gender identity but also enforces it through positive and negative sanctions.

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## ii) Gender performativity

According to Judith Butler, the gender roles and identity are enforced by individuals' continuous performance of the roles expected of them from the society. As a person creates his or her gender identity and conform to it, he or she then reinforces the societal construction of that identity.

## iii) Biological ambiguities

There are certain medical conditions such as Turner's syndrome or Klinefelter syndrome where the genetic makeup of individuals is not just that of XY or XX. In that case there is difficult to conclude that the gender identity they take is because of their in born biology or through their socialization process.

## iv) Queer theory

Queer theory advocates that gender identities are fluid and dynamic. There is no fixed expectation that is associated with a particular gender identity. Moreover, a multitude of factors contribute towards a person choosing a certain identity for

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themselves.

## v) Social biology

The social biology school of thought builds a middle ground between nature and nurture debate. It highlights that both inborn traits and the way a person is socialized play a crucial role in constructing a gender identity.

## Conclusion

Therefore, it can be concluded that gender identity is constructed through multifarious way. Nurture has a significant role in moulding the identity, however, the role of nature can not be denied. Biological differences of anatomy, genetics and physiology play a role in ascribing different gender identities but similarly, socialization and social construction of gender plays an essential role too.

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## Q4. Introduction

The marxist feminist perspective posits that the financial dependence and economic exploitation of women is the central theme that creates a fissure between men and women in the society. Influenced by the works of Marx and Engels, they view the power relations between men and women in light of the difference in their economic powers. This theoretical framework is also visualised practically across the globe and especially in the third world countries like Pakistan. Although women contribute significantly to the society, the monetary benefits they receive are minimal. Therefore, not only does it create a difference between men and women but it also widens the gap in their standing in the society. Moreover, the patriarchal and the capitalist structures of the contemporary world play a significant role in the exploitation of women.

## Historical materialism

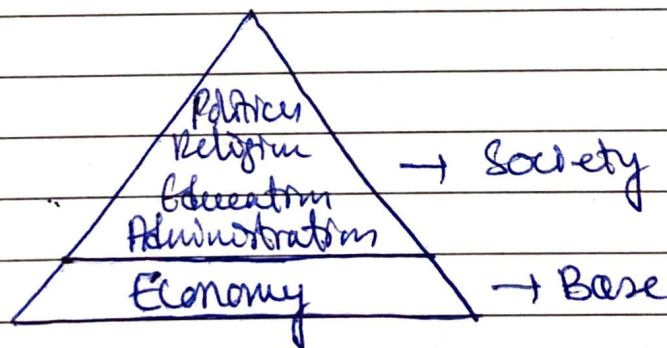
In the works of Engels and Marx, the major point of focus was the ownership of means of production. The ones owning the means of production were the elite,



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bourgeoisie class, whereas those who did not own these, were classified as the working class, proletariat. This distinction leads to a class based society. Subsequently, the lower class are exploited by the upper class. By extrapolating this concept, marxist feminists believe that women do not own economic resources in the present day. Hence, this leads to them being seen as a class subservient to the men. Moreover, they are dependent on men to provide them basic necessities. This reinforces the dominance of men in the society.

### Economic base and superstructure of society



Another concept related to Marxism is that the society's fundamental stone is that of the economy on which the other superstructures of politics, religion, education are based. Hence, it is the economy that determines the dynamics in all other social institutions. Thus, based on this concept, as the women are economically

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inferior and financially dependent on men, they are also inferior and dependent in all other social spheres. Women participate less in political arena, they are not given equal opportunities of quality education, religion is used to exploit them and in all facets of life the patriarchal society dominates them. Thus, the element bars results in pervasive inequality throughout the society.

### Exploitation by the capitalist structures

Although capitalism claimed to provide each individual with a better standard of living and economic prosperity, women have been exploited further. According to feminist theorists, patriarchy and capitalism go hand in hand. The capitalist structures have objectified women for commercial purposes. Moreover, they have given women opportunities in low paid pink collar jobs which has not aided in their economic independence. Even those who manage to rise through the ranks, a 'glass ceiling' is always placed for women to prevent their rise to the position of authority. ~~Addressably~~ Additionally, in times of crisis, women are the first to be laid off because they are considered more as a burden than

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as valuable members of the organization.

## Role conflict for women

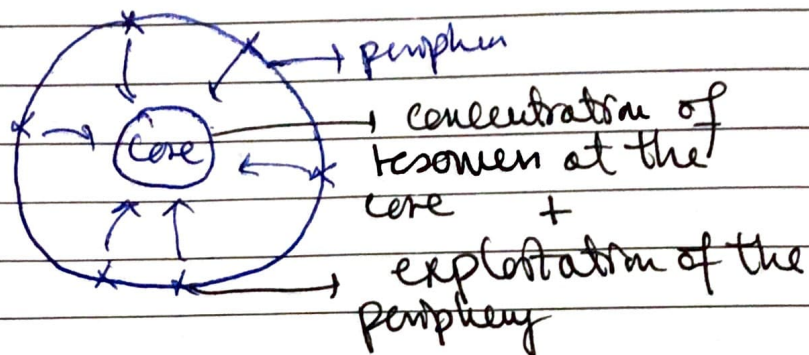
Another perspective that Marxist feminists highlight is that women have a contradictory triple role in the society. They have the reproductive, productive and community roles. The increased burden on women through role conflict has further increased their exploitation. A woman has to manage her home and children, then she has to go to her job, which is usually low paid, and then she has to contribute as a responsible member of the community. Additionally, the Marxists are critical of the mothering role of women. They point out that women reproduce the inequalities in the society. Hence, not only do women face a role conflict which adds to their exploitation, they also become a medium to further reproduce disparities in the society.

## Financial dependence of women in light of Dependency Theory

The 'dependency theory' highlights that certain nations are at the core of the current global economic system and they exploit

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The resources of countries at the periphery. In turn, they also make the countries on the periphery dependent on them for finished goods and markets as well as financial assistance.



core developed  
periphery underdeveloped

The same model is applied by the Marxist feminist theorists to the male - female relationship. In the androcentric society, men are at the core and females are at the periphery. While males use females services for house labor, child rearing and other menial tasks, they are free to develop at their will. In return, they make their female partners dependent on them for financial resources. Therefore, this economic dependency exacerbates the men - women disparity.

Current status of women in the world

At present women continue to suffer and

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are economically less privileged than men.  
"Women do 70% of the work, earn 10% of the revenue and own 1% of the wealth" (Molyneux, 2003). Although women contribute to the economy both directly by working different jobs and indirectly by taking care of household chores and rearing children, they hardly receive just and equitable remuneration for their services. Hence, women continue to be economically exploited. In countries like Pakistan, the situation is worse. Women are seen to belong to the home as child bearers and men alone are seen as breadwinners. Due to this dichotomy, the consequence is that women are exploited and it is manifested through their subordination and even to the extent of violence against them.

### Conclusion

Therefore, it can be concluded the financial dependency plays a great role in defining the power relation between men and women ~~also~~ also deepens and perpetuates inequalities. According to the Marxist feminists, the exploitation by capitalism of women has led to increase in the divide between men and women and only through the transformation of economic structures of the society can the issues

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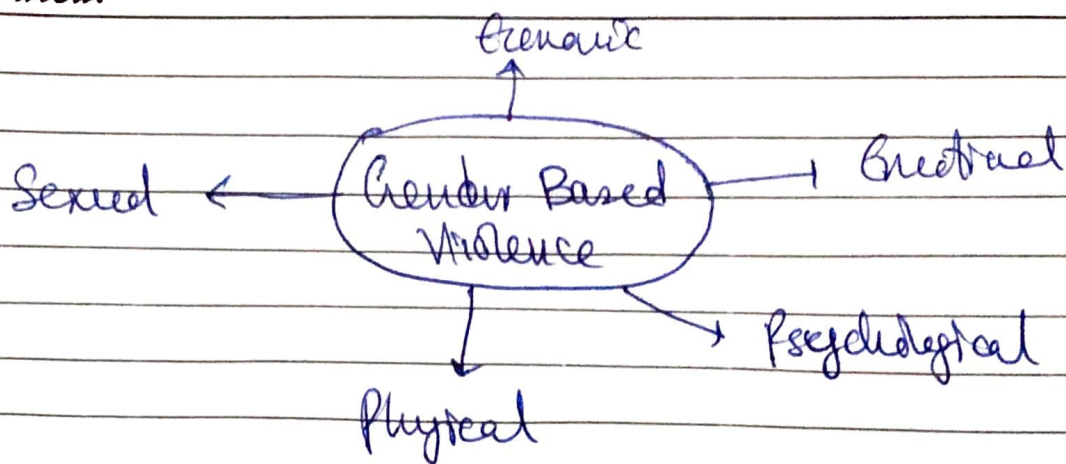
of gender ~~for~~ disparity be addressed.

## Q7. Introduction

Gender based violence is an issues that has prevailed since historical times. Even after educational improvements, science and technological advancements and various policy decisions to eliminate violence against women, the ~~same~~ heinous crime ~~is~~ continues to exist. In traditional terms, violence was viewed as physical aggression alone. However, the dynamics of gender based violence are different. Violence against women encompasses physical, sexual, psychological, emotional as well as economic harms. The cases of gender based violence persist globally, however, developing nations are specially a ~~concern~~ ~~volatile~~ precarious zone for women. Pakistan, unfortunately, is also in the limelight for ~~violence~~ ~~against~~ violence against women. Domestic violence, sexual abuses and honor killings are prevalent in Pakistani society. In order to mitigate the effects of gender based violence and to eliminate its existence, both macro and micro level reforms need to be undertaken.

## Forms of gender based violence

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According to Islamabad, Capital Territory, Domestic Violence (prevention and protection) Act, section 3: Domestic violence is defined as any act of psychological, emotional, physical, sexual or economic harm to any woman, children or vulnerable person in a close relationship with respondent at present or in the past, or any coercion, or threat that leads to harm against the aggrieved person. The same 5 factors that are highlighted in context of domestic violence can be applied to violence against women in general.

i) Economic: Since the makeup of society is such that males are regarded as the earners of the family and women are financially dependent on men, economic harm to women becomes a likelihood. Hence, any means to restrict access to economic resources is also an act of violence against women.

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ii) Psychological: Any means of threat or fear inducing psychological assault or any mental trouble against a woman categorises as psychological violence.

iii) Emotional: Emotional manipulation and exploitation, eg: threat to separate a mother from her children, is also a form of violence against women.

iv) ~~Psyche~~ Physical: Any direct injury or harm to a woman would be characterized as physical violence and abuse.

v) Sexual: Sexual violence can include offences such as rape, harassment, abuse and manipulation.

### Type of violence prevalent in Pakistan

Pakistan has been regarded as one of the worst countries in the world for women. Not only due to reasons which lead to gender disparity, but also the looming threat to the security of women in the country. All forms of gender based violence are seen in Pakistan. Among the prevalent ones are domestic violence, sexual violence and honor killings.



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### i) Domestic violence:

According to Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-2018: about 36% of women experience spousal abuse in their married life out of which 54% do not do anything about it. The official statistics related to domestic violence are conservative at best. Hardly are such cases reported. Most cases are not even seen as a criminal offence due to lack of awareness among both men and women. Even if the cases are brought up to the police they are refused on the basis of internal marital affairs. Only few get reported. The ones which involve physical violence and physical injury are usually considered. However, ones which include psychological or economic threats are disregarded. Hence, the case of domestic violence is a deeply embedded cultural and social issue. It is widely prevalent and women suffer throughout their lives as a result of it.

### ii) Honor killings:

~~These~~ The cases of Qandeel Baloch or the women of Behistan, are no rare sights in Pakistan. Each year over a 1000 women

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lose their lives due to killings in the name of honor. Although several legislations have been brought up to ban such practices, the dilemma continues. Societal and cultural values regarding honor killings have not transferred. Hence, another form of gender based violence in Pakistan is that of honor killings.

iii) Sexual violence.

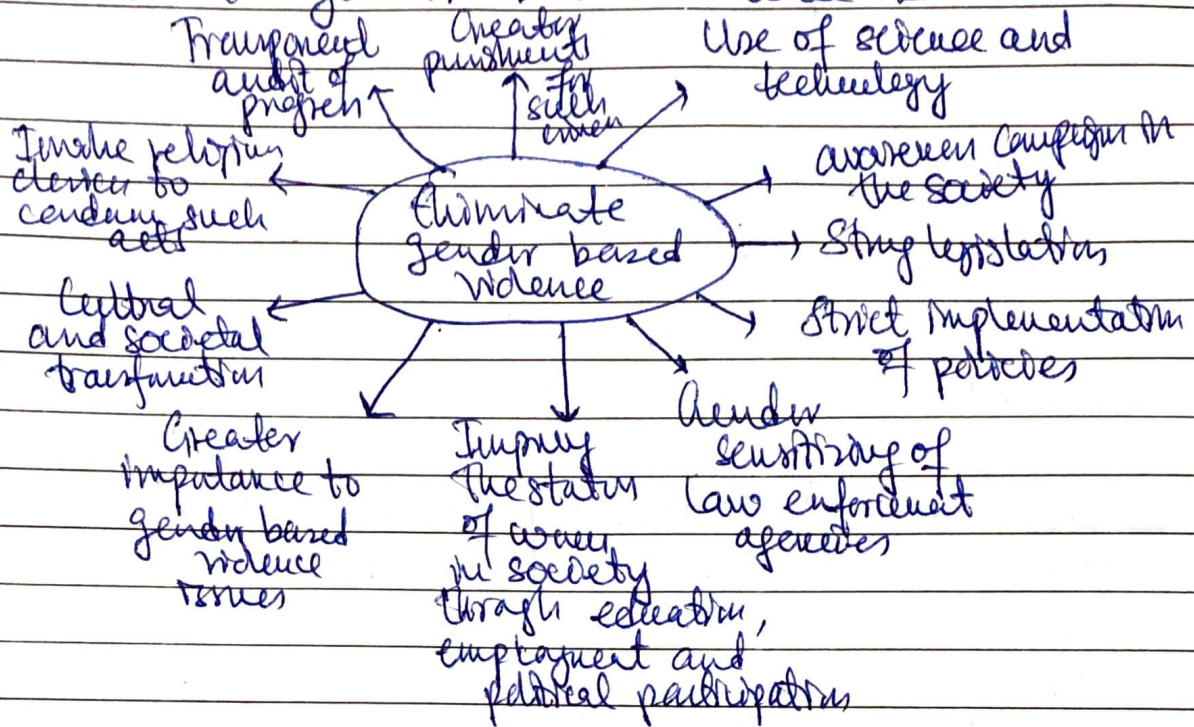
As per Aurat March Foundation annual statistics of 2020, there were 11000 cases of violence against women, out of which around 3000 were that of rape and sexual violence. Rape, sexual harassment and abuse are a common theme in Pakistan. Several heinous cases have come to light and again despite policies against this offence, the results are similar and there is no reprieve for women.

Eliminating gender based violence

In order to eliminate gender based violence, the root causes need to be addressed. These include social, cultural and religious restrictions and misconceptions associated with women. Unless the status of patriarchy is taken down, these cases would continue to persist. Hence, the structural reforms are necessary. Moreover,

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Strong legislation and implementation of policies to curtail the gender based violence is essential.



i) Cultural and social transformation:

It is of utmost importance that the society's mindset regarding gender based violence be changed. The crimes related to gender must be seen with same seriousness as that of murder or theft. Women must be encouraged to report the crimes and men must be warned from such acts as they would lead to severe repercussions.

ii) Strong legislation:

Many international conventions and national

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Polices exist against gender based violence. However, these need to be further bolstered such that heavy punishments and fines are imposed on the perpetrators and no loopholes are rendered to give an opportunity for evasion from such crimes. This can include banning the 'Jury' pardon program for cases such as honor killings.

iii) Gender sensitizing of law enforcement agencies:

It is important to include more women in law enforcement agencies to provide an environment that is suitable for members of all genders. Moreover, the existing staff needs to be trained with the SOPs and ethics of dealing with gender based crimes.

iv) Strict implementation of policies:

Not only do strong legislations and policies need to exist, but they also need to be implemented with such rigor. If the implementation is flakey, it will reduce the cases of gender based violence.

Conclusion

Therefore, it can be concluded that gender based violence exists in economic, psychological,

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physical and emotional dimensions. In Pakistan, domestic violence and honor killings are particularly prevalent. To reduce and eliminate gender based violence, the cultural attitudes towards the issue need to be transformed along with strict policies and their execution.

## Q5. Introduction

The three waves of feminism had different agendas based on the circumstances of their time period. Each of these waves played a role in emphasizing the ~~status~~ problem faced by women and demanded their equality to men. However, each of the three waves had divergent means and goals. The first wave focused on achieving political and legal rights for women, the second wave had the objective of redressing gender inequalities not only in public, but also in private sphere, whereas the third wave of feminism promoted differentiation, inclusivity and individualism. All these waves had significant impact on Pakistan. The first wave had a liberal view and advocated for women suffrage, owing to its worldwide impact, women in Pakistan got the right to vote as soon as Pakistan was established. Second wave of feminism

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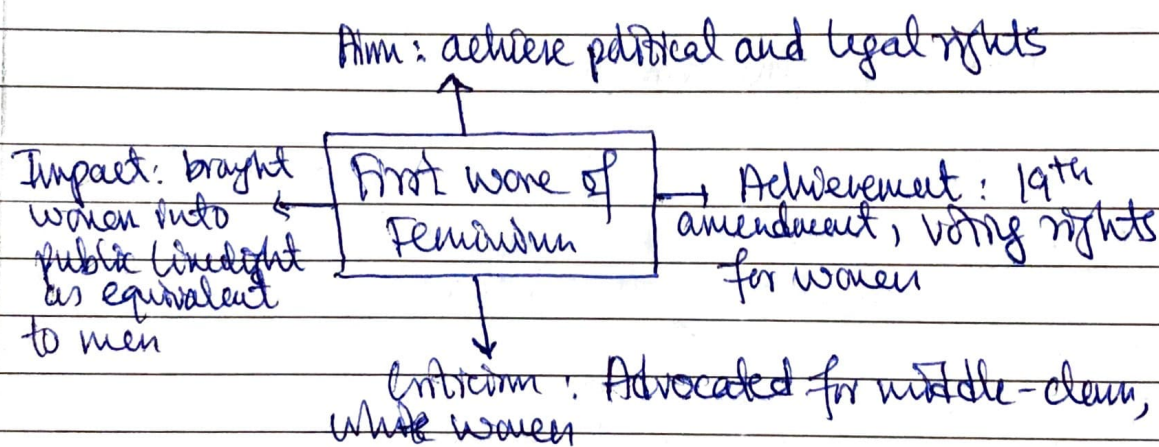
coincided at the time where females were being oppressed under martial law rules. Societies such as women action forum and Shirkat gah women's resource centre were established to advocate the rights of women against draconic laws. Moreover, with third wave of feminism, there was greater emphasis on women's empowerment in education, employment and political sectors of Pakistan.

### First wave of feminism

The first wave of feminism emerged after the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. The declaration of sentiments advocated by Elizabeth Cady and Susan Anthony raised issues related to gender inequality. They demanded equal voting rights, equal opportunity for education and rights to property and divorce. This was a battle to achieve legal and political rights for women. In 1792, Mary Wollstonecraft wrote 'Vindication of rights of women' in which she advocated for the rights of women and highlighted their importance in the society. Due to these efforts, women were getting increased representation in the political sphere. The movement culminated with women getting voting rights across the world. In USA, they got these voting rights as a result of 19th amendment.

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of 1920. However, one sharp criticism that arose with the first wave of feminism was that it had limited representation and it advocated for the rights of middle class white women. Moreover, it did little to challenge the existing power differentials between men and women in the private sphere. The traits of the first wave are summarised below:

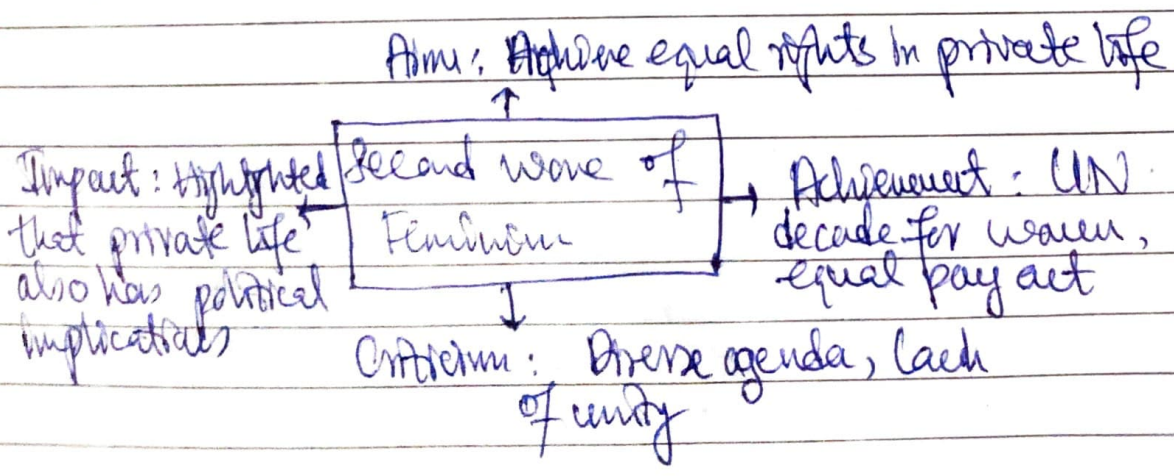


## Second wave of feminism

The second wave of feminism is also known as women's liberation movement. It had theoretical frameworks with marxist and radical feminists, who argued that society's patriarchal and capitalist structures are responsible for gender inequality. In 1963, Betty Friedan wrote 'The Feminist Mystique', which highlighted the issue of glorification of the household role of women. Therefore, the

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second wave of feminism focused on women's rights in personal sphere and argued against the public-private dichotomy. Their motto was that 'private is political', hence, to address the issue of women's oppression the factors in private life that contribute to it must be addressed. They advocated for reproductive rights, right to divorce, stood up against violence, proclaimed rights to equal educational opportunities as men. Thus, the second wave of feminism was addressing the roles of women in private life. The achievements of this wave were that in US a equal pay act was introduced in 1963, followed by civil rights act of 1964. Moreover, UN conferences on women commenced in 1975 which highlighted the importance of gender equality. 1976-85 was declared as the decade of women. Features of the second wave are summarised below:





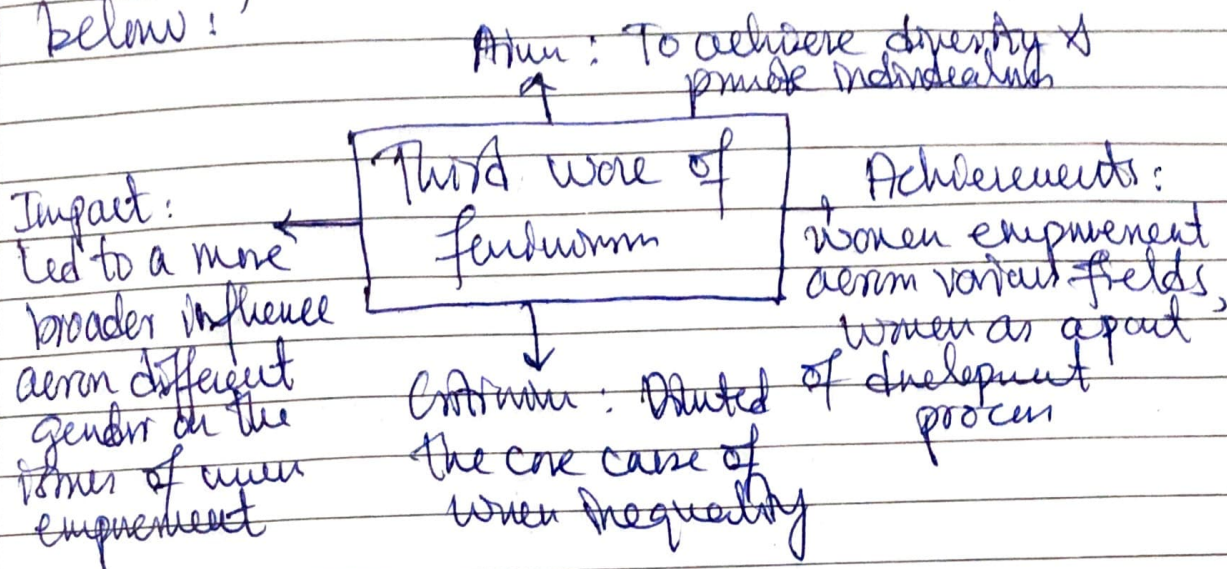
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## Third wave of feminism

The third wave of feminism arose in 1980-1990s. It continues to the present day. The primary objective of the third wave was to highlight the importance of liberty and individualism. It was more inclusive than the previous two waves and advocated for equal rights across the gender spectrum. Moreover, it brought to limelight the issues of intersectionality and gender - how different factors of race, class, age, nationality also contribute to the societal disparities on top of the existing female-male inequality. The achievement of third wave entailed the introduction of the subject of gender studies. Moreover, it sensitized the global community with the seriousness of the issue of gender disparity. Initiatives to include women's development and to ensure their empowerment were taken. Moreover gender equality became a significant theme in the millennial development goals followed by the sustainable development goals. SDG 5 advocates gender parity across all fields of sphere. However, the criticism related to third wave of feminism is that it focused more on diversity and intersectionality that the core cause of women inequality became diluted in the mix.

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Features of the third wave are highlighted below:



## Impacts of these movements in Pakistan

### i) Right to vote for women

Due to the influence of waves of feminism worldwide, women in Pakistan also got a right to vote as soon as the political machinery of Pakistan was established.

### ii) Institutes for betterment of women

In 1949, All Pakistan Women Association was established by Begum Raza Liaquat Ali Khan to strengthen the academic and skill care of women in Pakistan.

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### iii) Rise against oppressive rule

Coming with the era of second wave of feminism was the martial regime in Pakistan. In 1979 the promulgation of Hudood Ordinance and Zina Ordinance made life miserable for women. In response to such oppressive laws, women rose up. The creation of women action forum, Aurat Fundation, Shirkat gah contributed not only to voice concerns of women, but also promoted their interests across all fields.

### iv) Centers of education for women

With the onset of third wave of feminism, the global call for education of women had heightened. In Pakistan, the ministry of women development created the framework for establishment of centres for women education. Thereby, women were elevated with enhanced educational opportunities.

### v) Steps to include women in development

NGOs and state institutions, together with global welfare agencies worked to enhance the role of women in development of

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Pakistan, through, avenues for their participation in the development process were created.

vi) End to violence against women

Pakistan ~~has~~ ratified CEDAW and other international conventions, in light of the women of feminism, to curtail the violence against women. Moreover, national policies and legislations were enacted to protect women and ensure their empowerment.

vii) Feminism in Pakistan

The movements of feminism across the world have influenced Pakistani society as well. Therefore, Aurat March and other vocal female rights movements are seen throughout Pakistan.

### Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that the three waves of feminism had different goals. First wave sought equal political rights, second wave demanded rights in personal sphere and the third wave focused on discrimination. These waves led to rise of feminist movements in Pakistan and creation of institutions to protect women rights and advocate their empowerment.