

Question #7

What are various forms of Gender Based Violence? What type of violence is more prevalent in Pakistani society? In your opinion, how it could be eliminated?

Introduction

Gender Based Violence, or simply GBV, is an act of "violence ^{inflicted} against someone solely because of their gender" (UN Women). All the genders could be the victim of GBV. However, since the segment of society which is affected the most by such incidents is that of women, it is used in synonymity with the term "Violence Against Women". When it comes to forms of the GBV, they range from physical, psychological and economic to sexual and cultural violence. In Pakistan, the most prevalent form of violence is in the physical and sexual violence. However, the deeply ingrained cultural violence can also not be ignored. The solution to remedy the problem of GBV in Pakistan lies in effective implementation of the violence related laws and the spreading of awareness through media, religious scholars as well as education.

Various Forms of Gender Based Violence

Various forms of gender based violence are listed below:

(1) Physical Violence

Physical violence ranges from hitting and beating to seriously injuring women in violent incidents. It is the most prevalent form of violence and is ~~easily~~ reported in almost all the parts of the world.

(2) Sexual Violence

The second most prevalent form of violence is the sexual violence. It includes the acts of harassment like catcalling, inappropriate signalling and touching. Moreover, the violent sexual acts like rape, marital rape and forced prostitution also fall under this category of violence. Many of the incidents of such violence do not even get reported.

(3) Economic Expto Violence

Economic violence against women include the manipulation of economic resources or restricted access to economic resources. It includes barring women from working and

not allowing them to spend or receive economic benefits.

(4) Femicide

Femicide means "killing of a female". It differs from normal homicide or murder incidents because of the fact that most of femicide incidents are initiated by the partners or former partners of the victims.

(5) Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation or FGM is the cutting off or modification of women or young girls due to cultural or other reasons. It was declared as violence and inhumanity by a joint statement by various organs of UN in 1993.

(6) Women Trafficking

women trafficking involves illegal buying and selling of women and their transport across borders. The offenders use many tactics like manipulation or coercion to traffic women and use them for prostitution and other similar jobs against their will. It is also one of the well-known form of violence against women.

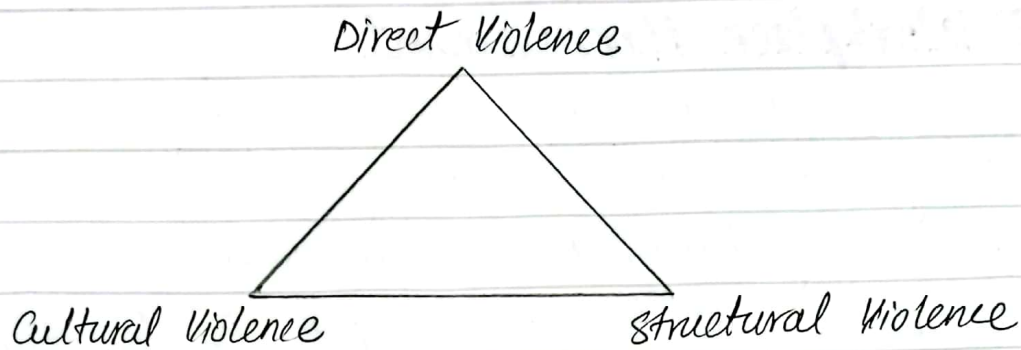
(6) Psychological Violence

Another prominent form of violence

against women is the psychological violence which involves manipulating and torturing women by various tactics. These include belittling, threatening to hurt children or themselves, and other similar tactics.

The layers of violence - Violence Triangle

In order to better understand FBU, it becomes essential to make use of the violence triangle given by Johan Galtung who categorized violence as direct, structural, and cultural violence. The direct violence is what one can observe on daily basis. It involves the well known forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence. The structural violence on the other hand depicts the violence-enabling behaviours ingrained in the systems of economy, laws, politics and the society. Lastly, the cultural violence is made up of the values which rule the society. For example, even when the law (~~structure~~) provides against the domestic violence, the station incharge will refuse to file an FIR on behalf of a woman who brought a complaint against her husband. This depicts the cultural violence that is facilitated by cultural norms and values.



The Prevalent Forms of Violence in the Pakistani Society

Some of the prevalent forms of the gender based violence in Pakistani society are given below:

(1) Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a combination of physical, sexual, economic and psychological violence. It is the most dominant facet of violence against women in Pakistan. Many of the incidents do not even get reported in Pakistan. The ones which get reported are still dangerously high in number.

(2) Acid Attacks

Another common and most heinous form of GBV in Pakistan is the increasing frequency of the acid attacks. This leads to severe physical disfigurement as well as the subsequent Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in ~~part~~ the

women affected by it.

(3) Workplace Harassment

women, who have hardly started entering workplaces are facing harassment incidents on daily basis. This is an issue of growing concern, as according to a report by Dawn, One in three of women faced harassments at their workplace.

(4) The Cultural Violence

There are many GBV forms in Pakistan which are a product of the culture of the subcontinent. These include denial of share in inheritance, Satti, marriages with Qur'aan and customs like Bhag. These incidents are strongly supported by the flawed culture.

Steps to Eliminate Gender Based Violence in Pakistan

There are many steps which need to be taken to eliminate Gender Based Violence in Pakistan. Some of such remedies are discussed below:

(1) Implementation of Laws in their Full Spirit

There is a serious need for the implementation of laws against Gender Based Violence.

nce in their true spirit. These laws include examples like Anti-Acid Attack and Acid Control Prevention Act, Act for Elimination of the Custom of Ghag (KPK, 2013), and the Anti-Domestic Violence Act of 2020. The laws are already in place and demand only an implementation in true spirit.

(2) Awareness and Education of Masses

There is a need for awareness and education of masses. The educational curriculum needs to be revised to ~~add~~ train the children from the school level to be responsible and sensitive towards women. Moreover, the media should play its role by producing content supporting women empowerment. Lastly, religious scholars need to be involved in the process of educating masses against the cruel customs and traditions.

(3) Focus on Human and Women Development Programs

The government needs to work on human development programmes with special focus on women. The more empowered and economically independent the women will be, the more will they be able to work towards their betterment as a productive segment of

the society.

Conclusion

Gender Based Violence manifests itself as physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. In Pakistan, it shows itself in incidents of domestic violence, acid attacks and the inhuman customs like marriage with Qur'an and Ghag. The implementation of laws in their true spirit and the awareness through ~~social~~ media, education and religious scholars will also play a significant role in this regard. Lastly, focus on women development and empowerment will further mitigate the problem.