

Question

Theoretical Perspectives of Gender Based Violence

(1) Introduction to Gender Based Violence:

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is the violence against someone on the basis of their gender. Gender Based Violence is the use of violence in its various forms against someone due to his or her gender. The victims of gender based violence are men as well as women, but boys and men are victims in very few cases as compared to the female victims of gender based violence. That is why, gender based violence (gbv) is also alternatively called Violence Against Women (VAW). There are various causes of gender based violence described and explained through different theoretical perspectives.

(2) Defining Gender Based Violence:

The United Nations Office for Human Rights Commission's Committee for Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) defines GBV in its recommendation 19 as

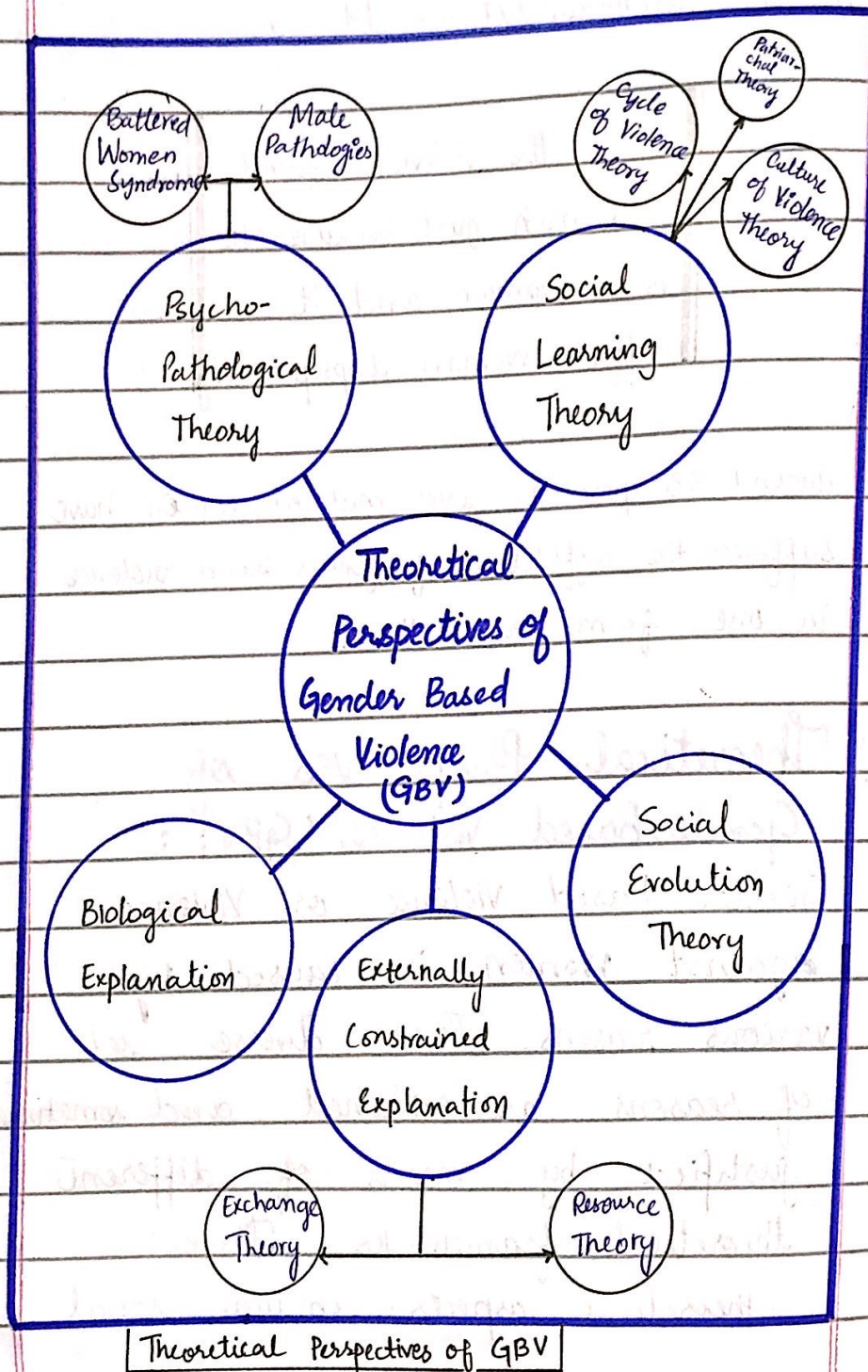
It is the violence against a woman just because she is a woman and it affects woman disproportionately.

Around 35 percent ever-married women have suffered the affliction of gender based violence in one form or another.

(3) Theoretical Perspectives of Gender Based Violence (GBV):

Gender Based Violence or Violence against Women is caused by various reasons. These diverse set of reasons are explained and sometimes justified by means of different theoretical frameworks. These theoretical aspects include social

learning theory, psychopathological explanations, externally constrained explanations, biological explanations and social evolution perspectives. These perspectives ^{are based on} further theories and examples.



3.1: Psychopathological Theory:

According to psychopathological theory, there are various psychological and pathological causes behind GBV. For instance:

3.1.1: Male Pathologies:

Male Pathologies like bipolar personality disorder and other personality disorder lead to GBV. Men do violent activities and abusive acts towards their spouses due to psychological and pathological factors.

3.1.2: Battered Women Syndrome (BWS):

Battered Women Syndrome (BWS) is found in female victims of GBV. These women consider themselves responsible for the violent behaviour of their partners. They find themselves helpless and bear this torture silently. In some cases, they consider that they deserve this behaviour.

3.2: Biological Explanations:

Biological explanations of GBV explain that men are more violent and aggressive by nature. The testosterone

levels and alcohol consumption uninhibit the internal violent nature of men which leads to gender based violence.

3.3: Social Evolution Theory:

According to this theory, the society has evolved from simple to complex. Therefore, the changing and evolving social structure leads to GBV. For instance, parents committing GBV to gain obedience or the male patriarch of the family commits GBV to maintain dominance in family.

3.4: Externally Constrained Explanation; Exchange and Resource Theory:

Various external factors influence the frequency of GBV in any family. In joint family system, usually, GBV is not more frequent due to external constraint. The resource theory claims that in order to maintain dominance and control over resources, GBV is committed.

Exchange theory explains that prohibition from GBV as a result of exchange of reward as good social reputation.

3.5: Social Learning Theory:

It claims that the perpetrators of GBV learn this behaviour from their society.

3.5.1: Culture of Violence Theory:

It explains GBV as the product of cultural products, norms. GBV is influenced by the culture. In various cultures, gender based violence is considered normal to control individuals.

3.5.2: Cycle of Violence Theory:

Cycle of Violence theory suggests that the perpetrators of GBV usually observe it in childhood in family and peers. They consider it normal and continue it. In this way, inter-generational passing of GBV as a normal practice creates a vicious cycle of violence.

3.5.3: Patriarchal Theory:

In patriarchal societies and male dominant societies, women are more prone and vulnerable to GBV due to the social and ideological approach of individuals.

(4) Curtailing Violence Against Women:

Violence against women can be curtailed by various strategies, some of important and crucial steps that should be taken in order to eliminate GBV, are following:

↳ Implementation of legal initiatives against gender based violence can ~~or~~ eliminate GBV to a large extent.

↳ Increased women representation in law enforcing agencies can make it ~~things~~ easier for women to report GBV. In Pakistan, only 3% women are there in police, despite the available quota.

↳ High conviction rate in gender based violence can curtail this evil. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, only the conviction rate is only 2.5% according to a UN report.

↳ Preventive education can also contribute in reducing GBV. It is educating the masses about the evil of GBV and taking preventive steps for its further expansion.