

PART - II

Question 1

In the realm of Gender Studies and International Development, the evolution from Women In Development (WID) to Women and Development (WAD) and finally Gender and Development (GAD) represents a significant conceptual shift from treating women as passive recipients to viewing them as active agents of structural changes.

Comparative analysis of WID, WAD, and GAD

To understand these approaches, we must analyse their theoretical foundations, focuses, and strategies.

1) Women in Development (WID)

Emerging in the early 1970s, WID is rooted in Modernization Theory and Liberal Feminism.

⇒ **Definition**: An approach that seeks to integrate women into the existing development process by improving their access to resources.

⇒ **Focus**: It focuses on women's productive work (income generation) and legal equality.

⇒ **Shortcoming**: It views women as the "problem" to be fixed, and ignores the impact of patriarchal power relations. It asks "How can women help development?" rather than how development ~~affects~~ gender roles affects.

2) Women and Development (WAD)

Emerging in the late 1970s, WAD is rooted in the Dependency Theory and Marxist Feminism.

⇒ **Definition:** An approach that argues women have always been part of development but are exploited by global capitalist structures.

⇒ **Focus:** It emphasizes the link between women's work and the international economic system.

⇒ **Shortcoming:** It focuses heavily on class and international inequality, often neglecting the private sphere (household dynamics) and the unique social oppression women face regardless of class.

3) Gender and Development (GAD)

Emerging in the 1980s, GAD is rooted in Socialist feminism.

⇒ **Definition:** A holistic approach that focuses on the social relations between men and women rather than focusing on women in isolation.

⇒ **Focus:** It aims to transform unequal power structures and emphasizes both the "productive" and "reproductive" (domestic) roles of women.

⇒ **Strategy:** It advocates for Gender Mainstreaming and the empowerment of women to challenge patriarchy. It asks, "Why are women systematically assigned secondary roles?"

The Most Effective Strategy for Pakistan: GAD Approach.

For a country like Pakistan where gender inequality is deeply structural and cultural, the Gender and Development (GAD) approach is the most effective. While WID (microcredit) and WAD (labour rights) provide relief, they fail to dismantle the root cause of disparity.

Why GAD is essential for Pakistan?

- 1) **Challenging the patriarchal framework**: Pakistan's gender gap (ranked 155/146 in the Global Gender Gap Report 2024) is rooted in social norms rather than just lack of "integration." GAD addresses the ideology of patriarchy that limits women's agency in both the public and private spheres.
- 2) **Involvement of men as stakeholders**: Unlike WID/WAD, GAD involves men. In the Pakistani context, male family members often act as "gatekeepers" to women's education and employment. As noted in the UNICEF Pakistan Gender Strategy 2024-2027, engaging men and boys as allies is vital for sustainable behavioral change.
- 3) **Focus on reproductive labour**: Pakistan has one of the "unpaid care work" burdens for women. GAD recognizes

that unless domestic responsibilities are redistributed or supported by the state, women cannot effectively participate in the work force (WAD's goal).

4) Addressing intersectionality: GAD acknowledges that a woman's experience in Pakistan varies by class, ethnicity, and geography (e.g., Baluchistan vs. Urban Punjab). This allows for nuanced policy-making such as the Baluchistan Gender Parity Report 2024 which uses gender disaggregated data to target specific regional barriers.

5) Gender mainstreaming: GAD ensures that gender is not a "side project" (like WID) but is integrated in all ministries - from Climate change to Finance. This is evident in the recent establishment of the National Gender Data Portal (2021/2023) which facilitates evidence-based GAD policies.

Conclusion

While WID and WAD provided the ground-work for recognizing women's economic contributions, they remained non-confrontational. For Pakistan, to achieve true gender equality, a GAD approach is indispensable. By transforming the social contract between men and women, Pakistan can move beyond mere "participation" toward genuine empowerment.

QUESTION 2

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive and structural crisis in Pakistan, deeply intertwined with the country's patriarchal socio-economic fabric. In 2024-2025, the surge in ~~economic~~ reported cases alongside dismal conviction rate has brought the issue to the forefront of national policy discourse.

Definition of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

According to the United Nations (UN) and the Government of Pakistan's Draft National Policy (2025):

“Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act perpetrated against a person's will that is rooted in a system of unequal power between genders. It encompasses physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm, including threats of such acts, coercion, and arbitrary deprivation of liberty, occurring in both public and private life.”

Forms of GBV in Pakistan

In Pakistani context, GBV manifests in varied, often culturally legitimized forms.

1) Physical and domestic violence

⇒ **Intimate Partner Violence**: This is the most prevalent form.

A 2024 report by the National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) suggests that over 90% of Pakistani women have faced some form of domestic abuse in their lifetime.

⇒ **Femicide and honour killing**: Killings perpetrated under the pretext of "honour". In 2024, over 547 cases were reported nationally (SSDO Report 2024).

2) **Sexual violence**

⇒ **Rape and Gang Rape**: Over 5000 cases were reported in 2024, yet the national conviction rate remains a staggering 0.5%.

⇒ **Sexual harassment**: Rampant in workplaces and educational institutions, often leading to women withdrawing from the public sphere.

3) **Harmful traditional practices**

⇒ **Forced and child marriage**: Girls are often married off to settle disputes (Vani) or due to economic pressure.

⇒ **Forced conversions**: Particularly prevalent in Sindh, involving the abduction and forced marriage of young women from minority communities.

4) **Socio-economic and digital violence**

⇒ **Economic deprivation**: Denial of inheritance rights and restriction from seeking employment.

⇒ **Cyberviolence**: Harassment, doxing, and "revenge porn" on digital platforms have surged as highlighted by the Digital Rights Foundation (2025).

Strategies to reduce GBV

Reducing GBV requires a multidimensional approach that ~~fuses~~ legal rigor with social transformation.

1) Policy-oriented strategies

- ⇒ **Uniformity in Legislation**: While provinces have passed various acts (e.g., Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016), there is a need for unified federal-provincial framework to remove legal loopholes regarding "compromise" in honour and rape cases.
- ⇒ **Implementation of GBV courts**: Expanding the specialised gender-based violence courts (established in every Sessions Division) to ensure survivor-centric trials and faster adjudications.
- ⇒ **Gender-responsive budgeting**: As per the National Policy (2025), allocating 5-10% of provincial budgets specifically for prevention mechanisms, shelters, and rapid relief funds.
- ⇒ **Revamping the Medico-legal System**: Modernizing medical labs and ensuring the presence of female police officers (currently only 1.5% of the force) in all frontline stations.

2) Practical and social strategies

- 1) **Economic empowerment**: Strengthening women's inheritance claims through the Federal Shariat's Court's 2025 rulings to reduce their financial dependency on male gatekeepers.
- 2) **Engaging men and boys**: Implementing community-based programs like Aawaz II that train men as allies

- to challenge toxic masculinity and patriarchal norms.
- => Curriculum reforms: Integrating "Gender Sensitization" and "personal safety" modules into the national ~~at~~ school curriculum to foster respect from an early age.
 - => Digital Literacy: Training law enforcement (FIA Cyber-crime Wing) and citizens on identifying and reporting digital harassment.

Conclusion

GBV in Pakistan is not merely a legal hurdle but a systematic crisis of power. While legislative progress has been made, the implementation gap characterized by a 0.1% to 1.3% conviction rate across various GBV categories indicates a failing justice system. A sustainable solution lies in the GAD (Gender and Development) approach, shifting from viewing women as victims to transforming the social structures that allow violence to persist.