

(Part - II)

(Section - 1)

Question 2: Answer:

Measures to Control Gender Based crimes in Pakistan

Gender Based crimes constitute one of the most persistent and complex challenges within Pakistan's criminal justice and social order. These crimes, ranging from domestic violence, honor killings, sexual assault, forced marriages, cyber harassment, and workplace abuse, are not merely individual acts of deviance but are deeply rooted in structural inequalities, cultural norms, and weak enforcement mechanisms. From a criminological perspective, controlling

gender based crimes requires a multi dimensional response that addresses legal, institutional, social, economic, and cultural factors simultaneously.

Strengthening the Legal and Policy Framework

One of the most effective measures to control gender based crimes is the strengthening and effective implementation of existing laws. Pakistan has enacted several progressive legislations such as the protection of women Act, Anti Honor killing laws, Domestic violence Acts at provincial levels, and the Prevention of Electronic Act. However, criminological evidence

Suggests that laws alone do not deter crime unless certainty of punishment is ensured.

In many reported cases, such as domestic violence incidents or honor related crimes, perpetrators evade accountability due to compromises, weak prosecution, or social pressure on victims.

Strengthening investigation procedures, limiting misuse of compromise clauses, and ensuring swift trials can significantly increase deterrence. Specialised gender courts and fast track mechanisms can further reduce delays that often discourage victims from pursuing justice.

Reforming Policing and Criminal

Justice Institutions.

From a criminology standpoint, institutional behaviour plays a crucial role in crime control.

Many gender based crimes in Pakistan go unreported due to victim blaming attitudes, insensitive policing, and fear of humiliation. Police reforms focusing on gender sensitivity training, recruitment of female officers, and establishment of women only reporting desks can improve trust between victims and law enforcement agencies.

The introduction of women police stations and helplines in several provinces has shown that when victims feel

Safe and respected, reporting increases. However, these initiatives must be expanded nationwide and linked with prosecution and victim support systems to avoid symbolic compliance.

Victim Protection and Support Mechanisms

Gender based crimes cannot be controlled unless victims are protected from retaliation and social exclusion. Many women withdraw complaints due to fear of family pressure, economic dependence, or threats from perpetrators. Criminological research highlights that victim centered justice systems increase conviction rates and reduce

repeat victimization.
Shelter homes, legal aid services,
Psychological Counseling, and
Witness Protection Programs
are essential. State supported
institutions such as Dar ul
Aman and crisis centers
must be adequately funded,
professionally managed, and
free from stigma. Rehabilitation
rather than mere temporary
shelter should be the goal,
enabling victims to reintegrate
into society with dignity.

Addressing Socio cultural Norms
and Patriarchal Structures

A purely legal approach is
insufficient without addressing
the social learning and

normalization of violence. According to Social learning theory, individuals learn criminal behavior through observation and reinforcement. In many communities, violence against women is normalized through cultural narratives of honor, obedience, and male dominance.

Educational reforms, community engagement, and media responsibility are critical social attitudes.

Incorporating gender equality concepts into school curricula, engaging religious scholars to clarify misinterpretations, and promoting responsible media portrayals can gradually weaken the cultural acceptance of gender based violence.

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Economic Empowerment and Reducing Female Vulnerability

Criminological Studies consistently link economic dependency with vulnerability to abuse. Women who lack financial independence are more likely to tolerate violence due to fear of abandonment or social insecurity.

Enhancing Women's access to education, vocational training, and employment opportunities can reduce their exposure to gender based crimes.

Microfinance initiatives, skill development programs, and workplace protection laws not only empower women economically but also increase their bargaining power within

households and society. This preventive approach addresses the root causes rather than merely reacting to crime after it occurs.

Tackling Emerging Forms of Gender Based crimes.

With the expansion of digital spaces, cyber harassment, blackmail, and online exploitation have emerged as serious threats. While laws such as PECA exist, enforcement remains uneven. Specialized cyber crime units, digital literacy campaigns, and faster complaint resolution mechanisms are necessary to protect women in virtual spaces.

High profile cases of online

harrasment have demonstrated that effective State intervention can restore public confidence. However, sustained institutional capacity building is required to keep pace with evolving criminal methods.

Enhancing Data collection and Research Based Policy Making
Effective crime control depends on accurate data. Gender based crimes in Pakistan remain underreported, leading to distorted crime statistics and weak policy responses. Strengthening data collection mechanisms, encouraging reporting, and supporting academic research in criminology and gender studies can inform evidence

based interventions.

Reliable data enables the state to identify high risk areas, design targeted prevention strategies, and evaluate policy effectiveness over time.

Conclusion

Controlling gender based crimes in Pakistan requires a holistic criminological approach that goes beyond legislation to include institutional reform, victim protection, social transformation, and economic empowerment. Pakistan has taken important legal and policy steps, but sustained progress depends on effective implementation, cultural change, and coordinated state action.

By addressing both the structural causes and immediate manifestations of gender based crimes, Pakistan can move toward a safer, more just, and inclusive society.

(Section - II)

Question 4 : Answer :

Problems in Criminal Trials in Pakistan and Suggestions for Improvement

A fair, timely, and effective criminal trial is the backbone of any criminal justice system.

In Pakistan, despite having a well developed legal framework inherited from the common law tradition, the criminal trial

Process faces serious structural, procedural, and institutional challenges. These weaknesses undermine public confidence, contribute to low conviction rates, and weaken deterrence against crime.

From a criminological perspective, the problem does not lie in the absence of laws but in inefficient trial processes and weak implementation mechanisms.

Delays and Pendency of Criminal Cases

One of the most serious problems in criminal trials in Pakistan is extraordinary delay. Criminal cases often take years, sometimes decades, to conclude. Frequent adjournments, shortage of judges,

overburdened courts, and procedural complexities turn trials into prolonged processes.

As a result, Justice is delayed both for victims and accused persons.

From a criminological viewpoint, delay erodes deterrence because punishment loses its certainty and immediacy. Victims lose interest, witnesses disappear, and accused persons exploit time to influence proceedings.

Delayed Justice ultimately benefits habitual offenders and organized criminals.

Suggested Improvement

Fast track courts for serious crimes, strict regulation of adjusments, and time bound

trial Schedules can Significantly Progress and ensure accountability.

Weak Investigation and Poor Evidence Quality

Criminal trials in Pakistan often fail not because crimes were not committed, but because investigations are weak and evidences is poorly collected.

Police investigations frequently rely on Confessional Statements rather than forensic or Scientific evidence. Poor Crime

Scene management, lack of training, and limited forensic capacity weaken prosecution cases.

In many trials, evidence collapses during cross examination due to Contradictions, Procedural violations,

or non compliance with elementary standards. This results in acquittals reinforcing the perception that crime goes unpunished.

Suggested Improvement
Professionalizing investigation through training in forensic methods, evidence handling, and documentation is essential. Strengthening forensic institutions, ensuring coordination between police and prosecutors, and insulating investigations from external pressure can significantly improve trial outcomes.