

Gender Based Violation (GBV); National and International Perspective

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Discussion Objectives:

- Definition and Forms of GBV
- Causes and Impacts of GBV
- Global Overview & Pakistan Context
- Key International Frameworks
- National Legal Framework
- Preventive Strategies
- Responsive Mechanism
- Conclusion

Formal Definition (as per UN):

“Gender-based violence is **violence** directed against a person because of their **gender**.”

Violence: Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, that results in injury, death, psychological harm etc.

Gender: Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed.





Forms of gender-based violence

- a. Domestic Violence
- b. Intimate partner violence
- c. Sexual harassment & assault
- d. Economic & psychological abuse
- e. Online harassment
- f. Trafficking & forced marriage

Causes and Impacts of GBV

- Gender inequality & patriarchal norms
 - Economic dependency
 - Lack of awareness & education
 - Impunity and weak institutional response
 - Stigma and victim-blaming
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- Physical injury, reproduction health problems
 - Depression, anxiety, PTSD
 - Economic loss & productivity decline
 - Intergenerational trauma

Global Overview and Pakistan Context

According to WHO, about 1 in 3 women (30%) have experienced physical and/or sexual violence

According to UN Women estimate, in 2023 an average of 140 women and girls were killed everyday by a partner or family member globally (51, 100 victims in 2023)

The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) report found 32,617 cases of GBV reported nationwide in in 2024, including rape, kidnapping/abduction, domestic violence and honor killing

Conviction rates are alarmingly low:

Rape and Honor killing: 0.5%

Kidnapping/ abduction: 0.1%

Domestic violence: 1.3%

Key International Frameworks/ National Legal Framework (Pakistan)

- CEDAW- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- SDG 5- Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
- UN Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)
- Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010
- Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2021- added rape and anti-harassment protections
- National Commission on Status of Women oversees compliance
- Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013

Prevention Strategies

1. Education and awareness campaigns
2. Engaging men and boys
3. Strengthening legal systems
4. Promoting women's economic empowerment
5. School and community-based programs
6. Train police and judiciary
7. Increase public awareness

Response Mechanism



1. One-stop crisis centers
2. Medical, psychological and legal support
3. Police gender desks
4. Coordination among institutions
5. Survivor-centred approach

Conclusion

- Ending GBV requires collaboration of government, civil society, law enforcement, and community members
- Empowerment, education, and enforcement must work together

Thank
you

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