

Key Terms

Sociocultural framework: The social and cultural context of an act or issue. This includes the influence of institutions such as law, media, religion, workplace, politics, economy, physical infrastructure, healthcare etc on the issue.

Patriarchy: A social system in which males are the primary authority figures and are central to social organization, leadership, moral authority and control of property. In a patriarchy, fathers hold authority over women and children and men regulate how women may act.

Objectification: Portrayal or treatment of a person as an object, often by reducing them to their body and/or sexual appeal. *This is done on a large scale in the media (eg: "Item" girls) but is also present in everyday conversation when words such as "chikni", "bomb" etc are used.*

Misogyny: Discrimination, objectification and/or violence against women.

Victim-blaming: When a victim is held at least partially responsible for the crime that befell them (*e.g. "She was asking for it"; "It was her fault because of how she was dressed" etc*)

Agency: The capacity of individuals to act independently and make their own free choices.

Coercion: Pressuring an individual to involuntarily engage in an act, through the use of physical and/or emotional means.

Consent: defined in the Indian Penal Code as "when an individual by words, gestures or any form of verbal or nonverbal communication, communicates their willingness to participate in the specific act." Consent should be *active, enthusiastic and freely given.*

Perpetuate: To make something continue

Sanction: To permit, approve and/or forgive an act.

Gender: The socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.

Gender spectrum: A range of gender identities between and outside the categories of masculine and feminine.

Gender norms: Behaviours and attributes that are considered appropriate for a gender as defined by society (*e.g. "girls like pink"; "boys don't cry" etc*)

Gender roles: Social expectations to conform to gender norms.

Gender Stereotype: A widely held belief regarding a gender that shapes the way an individual of that gender is perceived. (*e.g. "Women are the weaker sex", "Anusha must like shopping because she's a girl", "My cousin is a boy, should I buy him a blue truck for his birthday?"*)

Hypermasculinity: Exaggerated stereotypical male behaviour with emphasis on physical strength, aggression, violence and sexuality. *This is sometimes enforced as the masculine gender norm in the media.*

Gender policing: Forcing an individual to conform to gender roles by corrective punishment, social coercion, or through the use of physical and/or emotional means. (e.g. "boys can't wear pink"; "women should act in a lady-like manner.") Rape is sometimes used as a corrective punishment to enforce gender policing (e.g. "she was out too late"; "she was not dressed appropriately"; "we were teaching her a lesson" etc).

Corrective punishment: Imposing an undesirable act upon an individual in order to make them reform their behaviour in accordance to what the enforcer believes is right.