

Role of Gender Roles and Norms in GBV

Gender-Based Violence is perpetuated by various factors, including harmful gender norms.

- Women must be submissive to male family members – Married women who do not obey their husbands may face physical violence as punishment.
- Men are expected to be controlling – Men may monitor phones and social media.
- Men and women believe violence is okay – Both men and women believe that violence is acceptable and necessary when used by men to discipline women for not fulfilling their responsibilities or social norms.
- Women cannot deny their male partner sex – These norms can lead to intimate partner rape and other forms of abuse.
- Sexual harassment is normal – Men feel entitled to women's bodies.
- Women experience violence because they dress provocatively – Men often blame women for the violence experienced because they dress provocatively.
- All women should become mothers – Women are expected to serve their husbands and raise children.
- Girls are valued as wives, not individuals – Girls may be forced to marry early and experience abuse from husbands.
- Divorced women have less value – Divorced women or widows are considered property of the family in law, not respected in their families, and not protected against violence.

These harmful gender norms perpetuate violence against women.

