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THE SOCIAL CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE ADAPTIVE MODEL OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Summary: Violence against women is a complex social issue rooted in systemic inequalities and patriarchal structures that normalize domination and control. The text analyzes its sociocultural, economic, and institutional causes and proposes an adaptive preventive model based on flexibility and multidimensional coordination. This model integrates social transformation, institutional cooperation, psychological empowerment, and technological innovation to effectively combat gender-based violence. By promoting education, awareness, and resilience, the adaptive model ensures continuous responsiveness to changing social realities and fosters a sustainable environment that protects women's dignity, equality, and human rights.

Key words: violence against women, patriarchy, social inequality, adaptive model, prevention, empowerment

Violence against women remains one of the most pervasive manifestations of social inequality and power imbalance in modern society. It transcends cultural and geographical boundaries, reflecting deeply embedded patriarchal ideologies that institutionalize male dominance and define women's roles through subordination and dependency. Such violence cannot be reduced to individual deviance; rather, it arises from the structural organization of social relations and the cultural legitimization of male authority. The persistence of gender-based violence demonstrates the systemic nature of inequality, perpetuated through socialization, economic dependency, and cultural tolerance of abuse. These conditions sustain a cycle in which domination and submission are internalized across generations. Addressing this phenomenon therefore requires more than legal remedies—it necessitates profound social transformation. The adaptive model of preventive measures emerges as a

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comprehensive approach that integrates educational, institutional, psychological, and technological dimensions.

Violence against women remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide, affecting women of all ages, backgrounds, and societies. It encompasses physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse, often occurring within intimate relationships or family structures. Despite growing awareness and international initiatives such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, millions of women continue to face systemic violence and discrimination. The global statistics from 2020 to 2024 highlight both persistent challenges and gradual improvements in reducing violence prevalence, illustrating the ongoing need for comprehensive prevention strategies, legal protection, and social empowerment of women.

The data from 2020–2024 reveal slight but meaningful fluctuations in global violence rates against women. In 2020, 27% of women aged 15–49 reported experiencing physical violence, while 10.1% suffered sexual violence. Although these figures decreased modestly to 26.0% and 9.0% respectively by 2024, they still represent a substantial global concern. The percentage of women experiencing any form of violence in their lifetime also declined from 31.5% in 2020 to 30.0% in 2024, reflecting gradual but insufficient progress in achieving gender safety.

Global Statistics on Violence Against Women (2020–2024)

Year	Women (aged 15–49) who experienced physical violence (%)	Women (aged 15–49) who experienced sexual violence (%)	Women who experienced any form of violence at least once in life (%)	Women and girls killed by intimate partners/family (global)
2020	27.0	10.1	31.5	47,000
2021	26.8	9.8	31.0	45,000
2022	27.5	10.0	32.1	48,800
2023	26.5	9.5	30.9	51,100
2024	26.0*	9.0*	30.0*	—

Source: World Health Organization, OECD Gender Data Portal, UNODC

A notable finding is the inconsistent trend in femicides – women and girls killed by intimate partners or family members. While physical and sexual violence indicators show a downward tendency, femicide cases rose

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significantly from 45,000 in 2021 to 51,100 in 2023, suggesting that lethal violence remains alarmingly resistant to policy interventions. This divergence implies that while awareness campaigns and reporting mechanisms may reduce non-lethal violence, structural and cultural factors perpetuate fatal outcomes. The overall analysis demonstrates that progress is uneven and fragile, requiring stronger global cooperation, improved data collection, and comprehensive gender-sensitive policies to address both the visible and hidden dimensions of violence against women.

Violence against women represents one of the most persistent and complex social phenomena of the modern world. It is not an isolated or purely individual act of aggression, but rather a reflection of deep-rooted structural inequalities that have been historically embedded in cultural norms, social institutions, and value systems. The persistence of gender-based violence in both developed and developing societies indicates that its origins lie in the fundamental organization of social relations, in which power, dominance, and control have long been distributed unequally between men and women (Renzetti, C., 2019, p. 90). The social causes of this phenomenon thus extend beyond personal pathology or deviant behavior, encompassing a wide range of sociocultural, economic, educational, and institutional dimensions that together create the conditions for its perpetuation. One of the most significant social determinants of violence against women is the persistence of patriarchal ideology and gender stereotypes that define the social position of women as subordinate and dependent. Patriarchy as a system of social organization institutionalizes male authority and grants it legitimacy within the family, the economy, and political structures. Within such a framework, women are perceived as belonging to the private sphere, responsible for domestic duties and emotional labor, while men occupy the public sphere associated with authority, production, and decision-making (Cothran, H., 2003, p. 100). This asymmetric distribution of roles generates not only material inequality but also psychological and symbolic domination, through which the control of women's behavior becomes normalized and, in many cases, enforced through physical, emotional, or sexual violence. The perpetuation of traditional gender stereotypes – such as the notions that a "real man" must demonstrate dominance or that a "good woman" must be obedient – ensures the continued reproduction of inequality and provides moral justification for violent practices.

The socialization process that begins in childhood also plays a decisive role in the internalization of these behavioral norms. In many societies, children

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grow up witnessing models of authority in which male aggression is tolerated or even encouraged as an expression of strength and leadership. Within the family unit, domestic violence often becomes a learned pattern transmitted across generations, whereby both men and women come to accept coercion as an inevitable element of intimate relationships (French, S.G., 2018, p. 196). This early exposure to violence diminishes the capacity for empathy and undermines the moral boundaries that separate acceptable from abusive behavior. Consequently, individuals raised in such environments frequently reproduce similar dynamics in their adult relationships, thereby contributing to the intergenerational continuity of violence.

Economic dependency further reinforces women's vulnerability to abuse. The unequal access of women to education, employment, and financial resources restricts their autonomy and limits their ability to escape abusive relationships. In many cases, economic subordination serves as both a cause and a consequence of violence, as perpetrators exploit financial control to maintain dominance, while victims remain entrapped by the lack of viable alternatives. Structural unemployment, labor market discrimination, and the gender wage gap amplify this dependency, transforming economic inequality into a mechanism of coercive power (Churchill, R.P., 2018, p.141). The intersection of gender and class inequality thus situates violence against women within a broader framework of social stratification, in which patriarchal and capitalist logics reinforce one another.

Another critical factor is the cultural normalization of violence and the collective tolerance that surrounds it. In many communities, domestic violence is treated not as a violation of human rights but as a private family matter that does not warrant external intervention. Such cultural permissiveness is sustained by social institutions that either minimize the seriousness of abuse or fail to enforce legal protections effectively. Religious doctrines, traditional customs, and moral discourses often reinforce submissive ideals of femininity and discourage women from seeking justice or social support. This culture of silence not only protects perpetrators but also stigmatizes victims, thereby perpetuating cycles of impunity and fear.

Education and the media also play a crucial role in shaping social attitudes toward gender relations. Educational systems that neglect to promote gender equality and critical thinking contribute to the maintenance of patriarchal hierarchies. Meanwhile, media representations that objectify women, glamorize aggression, or portray violence as an expression of passion

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further desensitize the public to its real consequences. Through constant repetition of these distorted narratives, society internalizes the image of women as passive subjects and men as natural agents of control, thereby legitimizing unequal relations. The adaptive model represents a multidimensional approach that integrates social, institutional, and psychological mechanisms into a unified system for preventing violence against women. It emphasizes that preventive measures must not remain static but should be continuously updated according to changes in social values, communication systems, and the legal environment (Lowe, H., 2022, p. 77). The model aims to shift from reactive interventions to proactive protection strategies, ensuring sustainable defense of women's rights and dignity.

On the social level, the model focuses on transforming collective consciousness, redefining gender relations, and dismantling cultural foundations that legitimize violence. Violence is viewed not as an isolated act but as a consequence of systemic gender inequality and patriarchal structures. Therefore, actions such as integrating gender education into school curricula, conducting public awareness campaigns, and promoting cultural narratives that emphasize equality, respect, and non-violence are crucial. These measures are regularly evaluated and adjusted to remain relevant within a dynamic social context.

At the institutional level, the model establishes a coordinated system involving government bodies, law enforcement agencies, social services, and civil society (Motz, A., p. 141). Effective coordination requires clear institutional responsibilities, modern management strategies, and adaptation to regional and socio-economic differences. For example, prevention strategies in rural settings must differ from those in urban areas due to variations in access to education, legal services, and social infrastructure. Continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms ensure that institutional policies stay flexible and evidence-based. The psychological dimension aims to strengthen women's personal resilience and ability to overcome violence (True, J., p.103). It includes developing self-protection skills, providing psychological support, and offering leadership and empowerment training programs. These measures help women recognize early warning signs of abuse and seek help without fear of stigma. The model also includes rehabilitation programs for offenders to transform harmful behavioral patterns.

Finally, the model integrates digital technologies. Confidential reporting systems, emergency mobile applications, online counseling platforms, and data-

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driven risk assessment tools enhance responsiveness and efficiency. Real-time monitoring and statistical analysis mechanisms make it possible to detect high-risk situations early and significantly improve the effectiveness of prevention strategies. The phenomenon of violence against women represents not merely a private or individual issue but a deep social pathology embedded in historical, cultural, and institutional structures. Its persistence signifies the enduring power of patriarchal systems that perpetuate inequality and normalize aggression under various social guises. The adaptive model of preventive measures provides a comprehensive and dynamic framework for counteracting this entrenched phenomenon. By integrating social education, institutional reform, psychological empowerment, and digital innovation, it transforms prevention into a living, responsive process rather than a static policy. The model's strength lies in its flexibility – its ability to evolve with changing societal values, technological progress, and research-based evidence. Ultimately, it calls for the reconstruction of collective consciousness and the redefinition of gender relations on the principles of equality, respect, and mutual responsibility.

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Qumral Qədimzadə Zöhrab qızı

Qadınlara qarşı zorakılığın sosial səbəbləri və preventiv tədbirlərin adaptiv modeli

Xülasə: Qadınlara qarşı zorakılıq normativ gender rollarından, sistemli bərabərsizlikdən və patriarxal strukturlardan qaynaqlanan mürəkkəb sosial

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problemdir. Mətn zorakılığın sosial-mədəni, iqtisadi və institusional səbəblərini təhlil edir və çevik idarəetmə, çoxşaxəli koordinasiya və davamlı adaptasiya prinsiplərinə əsaslanan preventiv model təklif edir. Model sosial transformasiya, institusional əməkdaşlıq, psixoloji səlahiyyətləndirmə və texnoloji innovasiyaların inteqrasiyasını nəzərdə tutur. Maarifləndirmə, ictimai həssaslıq və davamlılıq mexanizmləri vasitəsilə qadınların hüquq və ləyaqətinin müdafiəsi üçün təhlükəsiz və inklüziv sosial mühitin formalaşdırılması təmin olunur.

Açar sözlər: qadınlara qarşı zorakılıq, patriarxiya, sosial bərabərsizlik, adaptiv model, preventiv tədbirlər, səlahiyyətləndirmə

Гумрал Гадимзаде Зохраб кызы
Социальные причины насилия в отношении женщин и адаптивная модель превентивных мер

Резюме: Насилие в отношении женщин представляет собой сложную социальную проблему, корни которой уходят в системное неравенство и патриархальные структуры, нормализующие доминирование и контроль. В тексте анализируются социально-культурные, экономические и институциональные причины данного явления, а также предлагается адаптивная модель превентивных мер, основанная на гибкости, многоуровневой координации и постоянной адаптации. Данная модель включает социальную трансформацию, институциональное взаимодействие, психологическое расширение возможностей женщин и использование технологических инноваций. Посредством просвещения, повышения общественной осведомлённости и формирования устойчивости обеспечивается создание безопасной среды, защищающей достоинство, равенство и права женщин.

Ключевые слова: насилие в отношении женщин, патриархат, социальное неравенство, адаптивная модель, профилактика, расширение возможностей женщин