

Q#2 Women Rights Different from in Islam from the West

(1) Introduction:

Islam is a deen that provides all rules, describes all rights and responsibilities of every person, so does women rights. Women rights in Islam are different from the rights of women in the west. Islam has granted dignity to her and other rights equal to men like ~~et~~ spiritual, economic, political and social rights. On the contrary in ^{the} west women was considered ~~evil~~ sign of evil in the past and was given all rights as late as 19th century after ~~a long~~ so many efforts.

(2) Women Rights in Islam are Different from the West:

Women rights in Islam consist of ~~rights~~ ^{dignity} spiritual, economic, political and social spheres. They were granted 1400 years ago, while the west struggled.

(a)
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Dignifying women by providing equal spiritual rights to ~~to~~ as man:

Allah says in Surah Muddhath-his verse 38;

"Every soul will be held in pledge for its deeds"

The above verse shows that Islam has granted women equivalent spiritual rights to ~~women~~ ^{men}. Islam enjoined women to all the worships that has been enjoined upon men such as prayer, fasting, zakat and even most arduous worship in Islam Hajj has been enjoined upon women. Rather she is exempted from performing prayers and fasting during her menstrual periods and pregnancy. Also, Islam like Christianity does not hold Eve for eating the fruits of the forbidden trees. As it is in Quran,

"When they tasted the tree their shame became manifest."
(A'arafi; 22)

(b) Economic Rights of women:

(i) Right of Inheritance:

Islam bestowed right of inheritance to women 1400 years ago. In surah Nisa, verse 7 Allah says,

"For men there is a share in what their parents and close relatives leave, and for women there is a share in what their parents and other close relatives leave, whether it is little or much. These are obligatory shares"

Evident from the above verse that women has right of inheritance in her parents' and other relative's properties. And even made it an obligatory share.

(ii) Maintenance of wife:

Maintenance of wife is a responsibility of husband. Women cannot spend even a single penny for it, no matter how much rich she is and how poor he is. In surah Nisa, verse 34 Allah describes,

"Men are protectors and

maintainers of women because Allah has made one of them to excel the other, and because they spend to support them from their means.

The above verse also shows that women and men are only in Islam excel the women just because they spend on them.

(C) Political rights of women:

Comparing to the western women who got their political rights just around 100 years ago, Islam bestowed women with their political rights about 1400 years ago. She has right to vote, to nominate political offices and to participate in public affairs. And it is clearly evident from the example when a woman argued with caliph Umar ^{during} his own caliphate, she proved her point and caused him to say ~~that~~ "The woman is right and Umar is wrong". However, she cannot be head of state because of differences in biological and psychological

(ii)

make up of between men and women.
The About this difference Dr. Khurshid Ahmad in his book "Islam and its meaning and message," "It has nothing to do with the dignity of women or with her rights."

(d) Social rights of women:

Islam had gifted women with exclusive social rights through which she has been dignified. Whether she is a daughter or a mother, sister or wife, she has been dignified in every relation. About the rights of daughter, prophet (P.B.U.H) said,

"Whosoever has a daughter and he does not bury her alive, does not insult her, and does not favor his son over her, God will enter him into paradise."

The above similar hadith is about sisters. Similarly, about mother, prophet said:

"Paradise is at the feet of mother."

In the same way, Islam granted women with the right of marrying with her own choice. A woman came to prophet and said, that her father had married her without consent, the prophet said, "She is allowed to either stay with

him or leave him."

(3) Women Rights in the West:

(a) Spiritual rights of women:

In the west women has less spiritual rights than man. It is because unlike Islam, in the west women cannot be at high-ranks like in high-ranking clergy. Catholics still don't recognize women as priests. According to National Congregations Study, less than 12% of priests in the US were women in 2012. Apart from that they consider women an evil which is evident from this statement where ~~women~~ Eve is held responsible for eating the fruit of the forbidden tree,

"The woman you put here with me -- she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it" (Genesis, 3:12)

(b) Economic rights of women:

The women in the west had ^{no} right to possess property or enter into any contracts means no right of inheritance. According to English Common Law, in 18th

century property that woman possessed before marrying became automatically their husband's property. It is because she was considered a property of her husband and he had full control over her. However, this right ~~was given to~~ to possess property after marriage was given to her as late as ~~ninte~~ 19th century under the act of The Married Women's Property Act 1882.

(c) Political rights of women:

Before 19th century women of the west had no political rights such as voting, taking part in public affairs or nominating political offices. However, Islam had given those rights 1400 years ago. In 1893, New Zealand was the first country of the west to grant the right of voting to women. After that the number of countries to providing voting rights to women increased dramatically, Canada (1917), UK and Germany (1918) and so on.

(d) Social rights of women:

Women's social rights in the west

are inferior than that of in Islam. Islam granted dignity to women, by giving her exclusive social rights ~~that~~ discussed before. While in the west women has been subject to inferiority, humiliation and has been subjected to sexual desires. Since literature is a reflection of a society, Samuel Johnson in English Language dictionary which he wrote in 1755 he used words like Emasculation (Adj) means womenish quality, Virago (Noun) means a female warrior, Virago is commonly used in detestation for an impudent woman. It depicts social rights and status of women in the west.

(4) Conclusion:

Rights of women in Islam and in the west are contrary to each other. ~~Where~~ Islam gives equal rights to women as of men in all spheres of life and by providing these rights, it dignifies her. While in the west she ~~has~~ not only been subject to inequality in all spectrums of life but also has been disregarded. Thus, rights of women in Islam are better than the west.