

Topic:

# Social and Economic Securities for Women In Islam

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## Essay:

Islam is not a religion for specific caste, race or area but for the whole humanity. It gives equal treatment to every human being living on the earth and defines their due rights and duties. Before Islam, women were always treated as an inferior segment of society; they were considered as minor and subjected to submission in <sup>the</sup> Greek, Roman and Indian civilisation; in pre-Islamic Arabia, they were burnt and buried alive. However, since its beginning, Islam gave special focus to socio-economic security of women. It raised the status women in the patriarchal society. Islam defined the <sup>social</sup> rights of women in <sup>her</sup> every possible role: as a daughter, wife and mother. It determined marital rights by securing the freedom of her making choices. It not only gave special attention to her educational rights but also provided her with political rights so that she could raise her voice regarding the issues she faces

in the society. Not only has Islam empowered women through social security but it has also provided them with economic security. It allows a woman to hold property in her name to ensure her economic status. Moreover, it also enables her to take part in economic activities of the country. Islam has also defined laws of inheritance of women. In this way, she gets financial support and independency in the society. Islam has given the pragmatic structure of human rights in which women have been granted a variety of socio-economic rights. With provision of all these rights, women's status in the society rises up.

Before the advent of Islam, women were taken as an inferior creature. <sup>in most of the ancient civiliza-</sup> In Greek and Roman civilizations, a woman was considered as a minor. Her consent was never taken before marriage. In Egyptian civilization, young girls were sacrificed in the Nile; they would think sacrificing girls will end their sufferings.

Hindu culture would also consider women as subjected to submission. Their <sup>inhumane</sup> practice of 'Satti', burning widow alive with her <sup>deceased</sup> husband, is still prevalent in a few parts of India. Similarly, world religions, other than Islam, hold very dark point of view regarding women's rights. In Christianity and Judaism, women are condemned and thought as source of all the evils. As per Biblical resources, Eve is blamed for expel of Adam from the Eden. In this context, they consider women as evil. In the west - which is the champion of human rights - women had to struggle for centuries to gain their basic rights. Whereas, Islam provided all those rights to women from the start which Western women had to snatch from the patriarchal systems of the west.

Islam beautifully covers the social aspect of human life. It provides social security to women of all strata of the society.

To begin with, Islam provides social security to women in the role of daughters in the society. The Allah Almighty orders a man to take care of the daughters and give them equal treatment as that of sons. Prophet of Islam, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever has three daughters, and he cares for them, then Paradise is certainly required for him." Raising a girl child, giving her the best education and life style, as per one's capacity, is an act of kindness in Islam, and Allah pleases with such person.

Women in the role of wife have also given social security. Men have been ordered to take care of their families and deal with them with fair treatment. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "The best among you is one who is best for his family." Allah has made man and woman in pairs so that they could complement each other. In this context, women are not subjected to unequal treatment rather equality and justice.

Similarly, mothers are given high and respectable status in the society. They are supposed to be treated with love and care. The saying of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) "Heaven lies beneath the feet of your mother" is prominent in the Muslim culture. It emphasises on the kind treatment of woman as a mother in the society.

In addition to it, Islam provides comprehensive marital rights to women. Marriage is social contract, and Islam ensures social security of women through agreements related to marriage. First of all, before the marriage, Islam gives a right of consent to a woman. As per the Islamic law, a girl should not be forced to marry a person without her consent. Moreover, after a marriage, Islam gives an option to women to break the marriage through the process of "Khula" if she does not feel compatibility with the partner. In the Holy Quran, the incident of Hazrat Zainab (RA) and Hazrat Zaid (RA) has been specially mentioned

to highlight the importance of this issue.

Islam is also the advocate of women's education. Education is a divine command in Islam for both men and women. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "seeking knowledge is obligatory for (both) Muslim (men and women)." As per this saying, it is evident that acquisition of education is not a limited right: for men only, but women should also strive for seeking education as it is their social right. Thus, Islam gives women social security through their right of education.

Islam also focus on political participation of women so they could speak themselves about their problems and issues. Women ought to stay active in political matters of the country. They must vote in elections responsibly. Moreover, she should also take part in elections as a candidate. Representation in Shura allows them to take up the matters related to women in the parliament. For instance, <sup>specified</sup> quota for women in the Parliament of



Pakistan gives women opportunity to talk about the problems women face in the society.

Women of Islamic culture is treated with respect in the society. Islam sets the rules of dignity and honour for women; on the basis of them, women are treated with high regard. Islamic countries, by culture, follow the tradition of respect for women. In this way, women feel socially secure in an Islamic system.

Not only in social sphere, Islam also empowers women in economic circle as well. It provides a variety of economic right to women.

Firstly, in an Islamic society, a woman is permitted to hold property in her name. She is also allowed to sell or purchase the land. In a century ago, women were not legally allowed to hold keep property in the west. In few cultures, women's property was transferred to the males in case of marriages. While in Islam, the case <sup>always</sup> remained opposite. Article 23 of the

Constitution of Pakistan permits all citizens of the country to hold property; including women, every person can keep property in their name. Thus, ~~Islam~~ women feels economically secure in the society.

~~was~~ In addition to this, women are also encouraged to take part in economic activities of the country. Several examples from the time period of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and rightly guided caliphs support the fact that Islam has never kept the women away from economic sphere. Hazrat Khadija (RA) was a business woman. Similarly, Hazrat Umar (RA) appointed Shifa binte Abdullah as a Market Inspector during his caliphate. These examples suggest that women are allowed to own a business as well as employment. In this way, Islam provides economic security to woman.

Islam also empowers women by giving them their due right in ~~her~~ inheritance. <sup>A woman</sup> ~~It~~ not only receives share from her father's property but she also has a share from her husband's property.

In a few cultures like <sup>in</sup> Pakistan, women are kept away from their right to inheritance. Such decisions are taken within the <sup>either</sup> families or the jirgas. Supreme Court of Pakistan gave ruling in 2021 that such matters should not be decided in the jirgas as Islam had already provided law on it. This suggests that depriving women from their inheritance is purely the cultural issue not the religious, as Islam has economically empowered women 1400 years ago.

In a nutshell, Islam has given women socio-economic security in the society. It has economically empowered women by providing them laws related to inheritance and property. It has also advocated their inclusion in economic activities. Moreover, Islam also provided them with social security. It grants women with several rights in the role of daughter, wife and mother. It ensures the provision of educational and political rights. Islam also gives marital rights to women. Laws related to nuptial agreements

and alimony provides social as well as economic security to women. Dealing women with equal treatment as that of men is the defining characteristics of Islam. Such approach towards human right makes it the religion of whole humanity.