

Rights of Women in Islam

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Outline

1. Introduction
2. Women Rights in Islam
3. The Spiritual Rights of Women in Islam
4. The Economic Rights of women in Islam
 - i) Right of independent ownership
 - ii) Right to seek employment
 - iii) Right of inheritance
5. The Social Rights of Women in Islam
 - i) Rights of daughters in Islam
 - ii) Rights of a Wife in Islam
 - iii) Rights of a Mother in Islam
6. The Political Rights of Women in Islam
7. The Legal Rights of Women in Islam
8. Conclusion

1. Introduction:

Islam; a religion of peace has uplifted women to its esteem and has given women all those rights which men enjoys such as legal, social, economic, spiritual etc. Islam gave women an honorable life and ignited the light of rights in her life. Islam abolished all the pre-Islamic dark practices and made the paradise under the of mother, guaranteed paradise to a father who brought up her daughters with love, assured paradise to the husband who care her wife and made sisters partners in the inheritance. Following paragraphs will make a detail analysis of women rights in Islam.

2. Women Rights in Islam:

At the times of ignorance the Arabs were the most ignorant people who did all the cruelties and deprived women from their status and rights. Islam is complete code of life not only for men but also for women. It gives equal right to men and women.

Many times the rights of men and women are the same and hence are identical but sometimes they differ from those of men depending upon biological, Physiological, psychological.

As Quran say in Chapter 3 verse 36
"and the male is not like the female"

Following are the broad categories discussing women rights in Islam.

3. The Spiritual Rights of Women in Islam:

Men and Women in Islam are spiritually equal. In Islam the reward is not given on the basis of gender but on the basis of TAQWA and nearness to Allah Almighty. Many western have a misconception that Paradise is only for men and not for women, this misconception can easily be clarified with the following verse of Quran Chapter 4, Verse 124
"That if any of you do deeds of righteousness be it a male or a female and has faith he will surely enter into Jannah and not the least of injustice be done to them."

There are some religions that put blame on Eve for tempting Adam to eat the forbidden fruit and they thus say that human is born in sin whereas Islam rejects this claim and accounts both the Adam and Eve responsible for eating the forbidden fruit as the Quran say in Chapter 7, Verse 19-27 that Both of them made mistake and both of them repented and both of them were forgiven

Thus spiritually men and women are of the same family, and as such have similar rights and duties, and their Lord promises them in the Quran Chp. 3, Verse 195 "Never will I waste the work of a worker among you, whether male or female, the one of you being from the other."

4. The Economic Rights of Women in Islam:

- 1) Right of independent ownership:

In Islam, any adult women whether married or unmarried is allowed to own or disown the property without permission of

someone else. In Islam a woman is financially secured. According to Islamic Law, woman's right to her money, real estate, or other properties is fully acknowledged.

ii) Right to seek employment:

The financial burden is put on the shoulder of man. If both the ends do not meet and if a woman wants to work and financially she can work as long as it is within the purview of Islamic Sharia i.e. she maintains the Hijab, and she follows the Quran and Hadith. In Islam there is no single verse nor any authentic Hadith which prohibits female from working as long as it is following the Quran and Hadiths.

iii) Right of Inheritance:

Women are financially secured by giving them due proportion in inheritance, which was denied by all the other ancient

civilization, as the Quran states in Chapter 4, Verses 11 & 12
"Allah has ordained that what you leave of your wealth for your children the sons get doubled the share the daughters, if only daughters two or more their share into $\frac{1}{3}$ if only one she gets half. What you leave for your parents each gets $\frac{1}{6}$ if you have children and the mother gets $\frac{1}{3}$ if there are no children, in what your wives leave for you, you get half if you have no children, you get $\frac{1}{4}$ if you have children, what you leave for your wives they get $\frac{1}{4}$ if there are no children, they get $\frac{1}{8}$ if there are children."

5. The Social Rights of Women in Islam:

The social rights of Islam are further divided into four sub categories:

i) Rights of daughters in Islam:

Despite the social acceptance

of female infanticide among some Arabian tribes, the Quran forbade this custom, and considered it a crime like any other murder as Quran states in Chapter 81, Verse 8-9:

"And when the female (infant) buried alive - is questioned, for what crime she was killed."

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) has said on another occasion about daughters:

"Whoever supports two daughters till they mature, he and I will come in the day of judgment as this (and he pointed with his two fingers held together)."

ii) Rights of a Wife in Islam:

The Quran clearly indicates that marriage is sharing between the two halves of the society, and that its objectives, besides perpetuating human life, are emotional well-being and spiritual harmony. Its bases are love and mercy, Quran states in Chapter 30, Verse 21:

"And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts); verily in that are Signs for those who reflect."⁷⁹

In Islam the female has the right to accept or reject marriage proposals, Her consent is a prerequisite to the validity of the marital contract, according to the Prophet's teachings, she has the right to give separate home, she has full right to her Mahr and the husband is responsible for the maintenance, protection, and overall leadership of the family.

Prophet (PBUH) instructed Muslims:

"I commend you to be kind to women."

iii) Rights of a Mother in Islam:

Islam after worshipping of Allah considers kindness to parents as Quran says in Chapter 31, Verse 14:

"Show gratitude to Me and to your

parents: to Me is (your final) destiny." ⁸¹
The Sahih Hadith of Holy Prophet (PBUH):
"Paradise lies beneath the feet
of your mother."

On another occasion, when
a man came to the Prophet (PBUH),
and expressed the desire to join
a military expedition, the Prophet
(PBUH) asked him he had a mother.
When he replied that he had,
the Prophet (PBUH) advised him,
"Stay with her, for Paradise is
at her feet."

There are multiple evidences
that discuss the value of the
mother that place motherhood as
one of the most blessed and
rewarded roles that a woman will have

6. Political Rights of women in Islam:

The Quran says in
chapter 9, Verse 71:

"The believing men and women they
are supporter of one another"

The women also took

part in law making:

Once Hazrat Omer was discussing with Companions, that should we put upper limit to Meher, there was a woman who objected from the back seat of the mosque and said that when Allah has not put a limit then who is Omer to put an upper limit. And the Caliph of Islam Omer said, "Omer is wrong and the woman is right."

The women also took part in battle field, they went and gave water to soldiers they gave first aid to the soldiers. They have right to advise the guardian and the ruler, they have rights to denounce the unjust ruler, they have right to shelter, they have the rights to monitor current events, they even can claim their political rights and defend them.

7. The Legal Rights of women in Islam

Legally men and women are equal; if they commit any crime they get the same punishment. If

a man murders a man, the man is put to death and if the woman murders someone she is put to death. The punishment for men and women for the same crime is the same.

In Islam the women has also give a right to be witnessed which was not given by any of the civilization before Jewish gave the right to women for witness in 1950.

Islam legally protects woman and Quran says in chapter 24, Verse 4: "If someone lays an allegation against the chastity and legacy of a woman and does not produce four witnesses give him eighty lashes."

In western world when a woman marries a man she takes of her husband, in Islam she has option to take husband name or maintain her maide name

8. Conclusion:

To sum up the whole, it

is Islam the only religion that has made women rights equal to men rights and has provided all the due rights that no any other religion has granted so far. Women in Islam are considered precious and valuable and have been granted recognition, protection, respect, modesty and are honored with integrity, prosperity and due rights in all code of life.