

Q: Compare the ^{Islamic} concept of women rights in comparison with current feminist movement.

Comparision of Islamic Concept and current Feminism in the context of Women Rights

It is not over-emphasized to say that Islam is the only religion that has laid the foundation of humanity. Islam has provided rights to every living-thing 1400 years ago. Islam. Allah Almighty has taught the lesson of gender equality to pagan Arabs who ^{were} treated ^{ing} women as material objects.

Allah the Exalted says in the Glorious Quran:

“ He created you from one soul. Then He made from it its mate.”

Surah Az-Zumar Verse 6

On contrary, the west believes that the concept of women rights originated from the untired efforts of feminist by the end of first wave of feminism (1830s to 1900s).

Key Facets of Islamic Feminism and Western Feminism

• Foundation of Concept:

Islamic feminism is based on the teachings of Quran and Hadith.

While western concept of feminism is based on Judeo-Christian traditions

• Focus of the Concept:

- (i) Islamic feminism is "more radical" which called for equality in public sphere but complementary rights in private sphere. While western feminism focuses on political, legal and social rights

of women.

(ii) This concept focuses on the fact that Islam is the 'only' religion that bestows women with gender equality in public and private sphere. While secular feminist believe that epistemology of Islam is contrary to women rights.

(iii) Islamic feminism focuses on rights on women as well as duties of women while western concept mainly focuses on rights of women only.

Position of Women in Islam and its Comparison with ^{current} Feminist Movement

(i) Gender Equality

Unlike the "second wave of feminism" (1960s to 1980s) that was focussing on "equality" of women with men, Islam has been focussing on gender equality since 1400 years ago. Before

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the advent of Islam wives and daughters were considered as slaves but Islam ^{has} changed this concept.

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) said

“I don't think that a man get better in faith without loving women better.”

(ii) Respect and dignity:

Unlike the current feminist movements which believe that women are disgraced in Islam and it is their feminism that gives women respect and dignity. But Islam has bestowed women respect 1400 years ago when they were treated miserably. At that time daughters were not being (being) loved. But Islam changed this concept.

Hadith: Don't dislike daughters; no doubt they are (for parents)

more caring and loving.

iii) Right to accept or reject marriage proposals:

Current feminists are focusing on portraying a false picture of Islam that Islam has not given right to woman to give her consent for marriage. But Islam has given this right to women 1400 years ago.

Hadith: Do not marry a widow until she asks herself and do not marry a virgin woman until she has permitted.

iv) Education rights:

Unlike 19th and 20th century of feminist movement that was focussed on education rights Islam has given the right of education to every man and woman. Even the first school of Islam was

established by Prophet (P.B.U.H.)
in the house of Hazrat Khadija (R.A.)
Islam has focussed on the
education of daughters because they
bring up the next generations.

Hadith:

"It is mandatory for every
Muslim man and woman to
seek knowledge."

v) **Equal rights of job for women:**

Current feminists preach a false
notion about Islam that Islam
restricts women under the kingship
of men to stay dependant on
them but it is Islam that
has brought the concept of
equal socio-economic rights of
women in society 1400 years
ago. At that time, women were
not even allowed to take
a sigh of relief but Islam

has given them rights to participate in all professions equally as men.

Conclusion

It is Islam that has bestowed women with equal rights as men but current feminism is portraying a false image of Islam. The journey of feminism for winning women rights started since 1830s but Islam has bestowed all these rights to women 1400 years ago.

Islam is a complete Din that focuses on rights as well as duties of women ensuring a prosperous life of society.