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Q:
Give a comparative review
on the role of women in
Islam and Modern Society.

Introduction:

A woman performs significant roles in both Islam and modern society. Most of her basic roles are exclusively related to Islam. However, she exercises certain roles which are common to both Islam and modern society. These include her participation in public offices, civil services, democracy, economy and so on. Thus, a Muslim woman carries out diverse range of responsibilities in Islam and modern society.

Role of Women in Islam and modern Society: (A Comparison)

There are certain similarities and dissimilarities between women's role in

Islam and of that in modern society. A comparative analysis of such roles is presented as below:

1- Basis of women's role:

In Islam, the role of women is based upon equality not equality. It is because of her biological factors. However, the modern society advocates women's role to be based upon equality.

Unlike men, women in Islam are exempted from worship in their specific days and pregnancy.

2. Position of woman in her family.

Islam and modern society have contrast views upon position of a woman in family system.

Unlike modern society, a man is given status of

head of Family in Islam. In the words of the Holy Quran,

"Men are in charge of his family." (Sura Nisa, v. 34)

3. Role in upbringing of a child.

Both women and men are equal responsible for upbringing of their children.

This concept is similar in both Islam and modern society.

Woman is considered as a initial school of her children. However, father also plays that role. As Holy Prophet said, "No father has given his child better than manners."

4. Upholding Islamic moral values

In Islam, through various practices woman is ought to uphold Islamic morality in her life. This specific role of a muslim woman is not a feature of modern society.

For instance, a muslim woman unlike her modern counterpart is ordained

to wear her veil while going outside of her home.

5. To hold public office.

In Islam as well as in modern society, women are allowed to hold a public office.

As women are holding public offices in modern society, the former prime minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Arden is a prominent example. However, muslim women like Halimah Jacob (incumbent president of Singapore) is also bearing the same purpose.

6. Role in modern technology.

Both Islam and modern society put no restrictions upon women's role in information technology.

For example, Arifa Karim (a muslim girl) was the youngest Microsoft Certified Professional from Pakistan in 2004.

7. As a stakeholder in politics.

Either Islam or modern society, women have their role in political affairs of a country. However, in modern society, such roles are exercised in assemblies, organisations and public offices.

8. Economic role of women.

Women perform diverse range of economic roles in Islam as well as in modern society.

Women can own property, sell it or give it as charity. Furthermore, she is also allowed to participate in other economic activities in both societies.

9. Women in armed forces.

There is no doubt that women are actively participating as armed personnel in modern societies. However,

In Islam, she is also allowed to play her role in security affairs.

10. Women as Scholars.

Women have a prominent role as scholars in Islamic and modern society.

Hajrat Ayesha R.A. was an influencing woman scholar in Islamic history. Besides, Helen Armstrong stood as a strong scholar in Britain of modern times.

11. Women in Governance.

Women also play a key role in governance. This role of women is similar to both Islam and modern societies.

In Islam, the Caliph Umar appointed a woman Shifa bint Abd Allah to oversee the Medina market. Such role of governance has increased in modern society.

12. Women in modernity.

Islam differs in some roles of women in modernity than modern society.

According to Islam women are free to portray themselves as strong part of society on basis of Islamic teachings. However the modern society is quite different in this sense.

For instance, in modern entertainment women have to act both morally and immorally.

13. Women as Scientists

In Islam there is no restriction upon women's education. Besides, modern society of science demands women's role in scientific achievements.

Thus, muslim women have also played their role as scientist in this modern world. Mariam al Jilani is a Syrian scientist who is master of complex mathematical calculations.

14. Women's role and Islamic Laws.

In Islam women have not only to live upto Islamic laws. She is also bound to carry out Islamic principles in their society. However, in modern society, women follow democratic and capitalist laws of their respective regions.

Conclusion:

In short, woman has diverse roles in Islam as well as in the modern society. On collective grounds, women hold a prominent position in both societies.