

# Islamic Studies

## Question:

### Introduction:

Islam has granted significant human rights to women by accepting and acknowledging her personhood. Women were brutally treated by their men in Pre-Islamic era. They were deprived of even their basic rights to life and security. Islam acknowledged rights of women considering their vulnerabilities. They have been gifted with sanctity of life and property along with other basic rights. Women as wife was exploited in the name of "social norms and" she had to bear all humiliations silently. Islam has empowered women with their "basic rights by" obliging men to acknowledge those rights without any violation of Islamic injunction. Despite Islamic laws and orders, men find ways to deny or cheat rights of

women as their wives. Social norms and  
tool of patriarchy or effects used  
to make women accept their  
inferiority as Divine decree and made  
to accept all what their biased  
witness demand.

## Position of Women

### i) Before Islam:

Pre-Islamic Arabia was dominated  
by Nomads and Bedouins. They did not  
respect women. even if they pay  
had to providing rights to women.  
women were treated as property.  
They were buried alive or exchanged  
as property especially after husband's  
death. Despite being married woman  
was at risk of being disrespected  
and humiliated either by husband or  
by other males of family.

### ii) After Islam:

After the advent of Islam, deteriorated  
position of women was improved.  
Islam declared that

You all are created from  
Adam and Hawa, they were made  
of clay, so no one is superior  
to other

Islam has declared equality of men and women is most of rights. Women as wife has been bestowed with respect and honour. She has to be acknowledged as an individual to be respected by society and family. They have been given right to property, life, khula, mahr, mulla, trade and earn but within Islamic code of morality and modesty.

## Rights of Women (wives) in Islam

Unlike women in Pre-Islamic Arabia, Islam has bestowed upon her all basic rights to let her lead an honourable life. Enlisted below are certain prominent rights gifted by Islam to wives in Islamic society.

### i) Right to life:

Islam has saved women from being sacrificed for her husband on his death especially. It has made it haram upon Islamic society to let a woman lead a life of respect and honour even if she faces death of her husband. Burying alive was a custom which Islam has declared null and void.

### iii) Right to Property:

Women were treated as inheritance then as inheritors. They had no right to own property. It was considered unnecessary to grant her access to property. But Islam has empowered women as wife to own her share of property without hesitation.

Islam has allocated a fixed proportion of property for wives so as to grant her security in case of death of husband.

### iii) Right to Mehr (Dowry):

Islam has introduced a sacred way of continuation of relations as Nikah. This halal relation is connected to payment of mehr not as mere money but as gift of marriage to woman which she has to accept. This right is not forgiven until wife leaves it willingly.

### iv) Right to Trade and Earn:

Islam has empowered women to not only indulge in economic sphere of life but also support herself to earn, to meet her

requirements. In addition to granting permission to earn, women is allowed to not spend her earnings on husband or family. Blessings except life on world is back of Khatija (R.A) the mother of all believers.

### v) Right to dissolve Marriage (Khula):

Women are bound to continue the social relationship in case of humiliation or exploitation. She has been allowed to get khula, if not treated well with respect and dignity. She has been bestowed with right to dissolve marriage but with logical inclusion of gaps to rethink if both spouses agree to continue to relation.

### vi) Right to remarry:

Women in pre-Islamic Arabia had no choice left than to die on death of her husband, for the fact that she had to be free from exploitation in hands of men. But Islam has granted women the right to remarry if she gets divorced or becomes widow. In both cases women is allowed to remarry.

on her choice without social pressure.

## How these rights are Denied.

Patriarchy finds its ways to exploit women by constructing social stereotypes to support patriarchal hegemony. Rights promised by Islam to women are intentionally denied by using social norms and customs to abstrain <sup>wives</sup> women from exercising them.

Wives are not allowed to go far khula. She is threatened of social isolation and humiliat in the name of modesty and dignity.

Men do not allow women to renay after divorce or death of husband to either continue claim on property and child or to <sup>maintain</sup> ~~maintain~~ his so called social ego before the circle of his nomenclature.

## Conclusion

Women as wife has been given respect and honour by Islam. She has been made responsible of her husband. She has been allowed to carry out business and to own property. Wives are no more

properties to be owned and sold by men  
but a respectable individual to be  
paid wage. Islam has bestowed wives  
with all basic rights to lead  
a life of respect and dignity.  
Altho men deny their rights but  
still Islam has promised the rights  
to women which are to be granted  
to them.