

Question: 7

Describe the rights, role, and status of women in Islam. How a Muslim woman is more empowered than the Western woman. Discuss.

Answer:

Introduction:

Islam has elevated the status of women. The exalted status that women achieved through Islam has no precedence in any other religion, ideology, or a civilization.

The Muslim women gets spiritual, political, and economic, social, and religious rights. Just as they have rights, so also some responsibilities.

In this regard, Islam has recognized the individuality of women and propounded their due rights. In the sense of security, social, and political roles a Muslim woman got empowered that has no precedence in human history.

Islam has elevated the status of women:

Islam has exalted the status of women. Civilizations all around the globe exploited women in various domains. Athenian women were inferior to that of Athenian men. Persian women had no individuality and, in turn, no recognized rights. Similarly, Western women had no recognition of their individuality. They were subject of ~~poetry~~ poetry and romanticism; however, they never got constitutional safeguards until Magna Carta in 1215. On the contrary, Islam empowered women, recognized their rights, and guaranteed documented safeguards. A Muslim woman is free in her financial affairs, choice of marriage, and choice of job. Just as they have rights, so also ^{they have} some obligations. They are obliged to do Parda, refrain from illegal relationships, and avoid moments

weakness. To sum up, Islam has elevated the status of women to an unprecedented level.

Women Rights in Islam :

1) Political rights of Muslim women

Islam recognises political rights of women. A Muslim woman is free to cast vote in favor of any candidate of her choice. She is equally capable of holding political offices. She can also perform in political campaigns. However, in doing so, she has to oblige the cardinal principles of Islam.

There are several instances that justify the argument of political participation of a Muslim woman.

Shifa bint Abdullah held a political office of market surveillance during the regime of Hazrat Umar (RA). Similarly, Hazrat Ayesha (RA) participated in the political affairs of the then Muslim state. Likewise, there are other examples of women participation in consultations and other affairs.

2) Social rights of Muslim women

Just as Islam recognizes their political rights, so also they are recognized in the social domain.

Islam empowers women through education and exalts their constitutional status. Muslim women have several social rights, including as an individual, as a wife, as a mother, and as a daughter.

a) social rights of women as an individual

Islam recognizes the individuality of women and treats her as a complete and equal human being. Therefore, it enjoins women's social rights

b) social rights of women as a mother

Islam commands its followers to treat their parents justly and affectionately. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said; "Paradise lies under the feet of your mother". Therefore, Islam has exalted the status of women as a mother

b) Muslim women have a right to job

Muslim women can perform her abilities in every field of life. She can do every job she wants, as long as, it is moral and under the commandments of Islam.

c) Islam recognizes women's right to inheritance

Islam recognizes women's share in inheritance. As women belongs to two families: father's family and husband's family. Therefore, she gets half in accordance with her brother. Likewise, she have the rights to inheritance in case of her husband's death or in case of separation.

d) Muslim women have a right to ~~the~~ Haq-Mehar

Muslim women receives marriage gift (Haq mehar) from her husband. She is a sovereign of that gift and is allowed to retain it in case of

Muslim women is more empowered than western women:

Islam gives more rights to women relative to any other civilization, political system, or ideologies. It has ~~empowered~~ empowered women and recognizes their individuality. Western women got recognition as late as 1215 in Magna Carta. Similarly, they got ~~the~~ right to hold property in 1787 ~~of~~ in 1787 of American constitution. Likewise, in the contemporary age, the west objectify women, burdenes her financially, and exploits her politically.

a) Muslim women should be judged according to teachings of Islam, rather than their prevalent treatment by Muslims

The west ~~an~~ takes in perspective Muslim women by the notorious practice of certain extremist groups or cruel dictators. Their perspective is often based on generalisations and inconsistencies.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Islam has elevated the status of women that is unprecedented in the history of humankind. It recognises their individuality and grants her rights that are not lesser in any sense in accordance with their male counterparts. Western media propagates women rights and champions their cause; however, Islam has done it more than 14 centuries ago. It has exalted the status of women in politics, society, and economy.

Part II

Question-2.

Explain the doctrine of Akhvat (life hereafter) in Islam. Describe its impacts on the life of an individual and society.

Answer:

Islam has enjoined the doctrine of Akhvat or the day of judgment in its basic beliefs. It commands its followers to have an unshakeable belief in the day of resurrection. The teachings of Quran and the Holy Prophet (PBUH) equally propagates the concept of the day of judgment. However, this is not just a simple concept. It has number of impacts on an individual's life, including an inculcation of desire of doing good and abstaining from evil, sense of justice and accountability, and fostering of humility. Just as it inculcates various attributes in individuals, so also in the society. It inscribes social morality, promotes justice,

and accountability in a society among other attributes. To sum up, belief in the Hereafter have a profound impact on an individual, as well as on societal level.

Belief in the doctrine of Akhrat is a fundamental article of faith in Islam:

Islam has enjoined the belief in the day of judgment as a basic article of faith. Without having an unshakable belief in the day resurrection, one cannot enter into the domain of Islam. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said;

أَمِنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ وَالْقَدَرِ خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ
مَنْ أَلَّهَ تَعَالَى وَالْبَيْتَ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ .

You shall believe in one God, His angels, His revealed books, His messengers, His on the day of judgment, and the belief of good and evil in the hands of God.

Therefore, believing in the day of Akhrat, among others, is a fundamental

belief or article of faith in Islam.

Impacts of doctrine of Akhrot on an individual:

Doctrine of Akhrot can be described as people will get a new life in the hereafter. and every human being will be made accountable of their deeds ~~in~~ carried out in this world.

The doctrine produces a strong impact on those who have profoundly belief in this concept.

a) Inculcation of sense of justice

The doctrine inculcates a sense of justice in individuals. The reason is that they believe their actions are noticed and will be judged in the day of judgment. Hence, they try their best to ~~make~~ ^{dispense} justice at their disposal and treat others fairly.

b) Desire of doing good and abstaining from evil:

Belief in the hereafter fosters a desire of doing good and abstaining

from evil. A Momin tries to align his actions according to the commands of the Quran and the Sunnah. Hence, the doctrine uplift morality of an individual.

d) Negation of discrimination, nepotism, and other social evils:

An unshakeable belief in the hereafter ignites a sense of self-accountability in individuals. By so doing, he refrains from activities that are based on injustice, selfishness, and greed. Therefore, he abstains from discrimination among human beings, nepotism, bribery, and other social evils.

e) Fostering of sense of responsibility to follow the voice of conscience and negate whimsical behavior

It inculcates a sense in human being their activities are being oversighted. They will be judged according to their actions. Therefore, they refrain from adopting or following whims in human affairs. Moreover, they try to listen to their conscience, in turn, do justice with their fellows.