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Q:- HOW THE WOMEN RIGHTS ARE DIFFERENT IN ISLAM, FROM THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN WEST ?

In addressing the differences in women's rights between Islam and the West, it is essential to first establish a comprehensive understanding of the foundational principles and sources of these two belief systems. In the case of Islam, the primary source is the Quran, along with the Hadith (saying and actions of Prophet Muhammad) and Sunnah (his example). In the case of the West, the rights and freedoms are predominantly derived from various historical documents, such as the Magna Carta, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and national constitutions. Islam and the West have distinct perspectives on women's rights. It is crucial to note that the following —

Date \_\_\_\_\_

analysis does not aim to criticize the West but rather to present an Islamic perspective on the matter.

### 1. The Concept of Equality:

In Islam, men and women are considered equal in terms of their fundamental human dignity and the importance of their roles in society. The Quran states, "The male is not to have superiority over the female nor the female over the male. (Quran 49:13)." .

This verse emphasizes that there should be no gender-based hierarchy in Islamic society. However, the roles and responsibilities assigned to each gender may differ, as they are designed to complement each other and fulfill the needs of the family and community.

In contrast, western societies often prioritize gender equality in terms of legal rights and opportunities.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

for personal and professional growth. While this has led to significant advancements for women, it has also resulted in a blurred distinction between the roles of men and women, which may have negative consequences on family dynamics and societal stability.

## 2. Women Rights in Marriage and Family:

In Islam, the rights of women in marriage and family are protected and emphasized. The Quran states, "And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your hearts" — (Quran 30:21). This verse highlights the importance of companionship, love, and mercy in marital relationships.

Islamic marriage laws provide women —

Date \_\_\_\_\_

with several rights, such as the right to choose a spouse, the right to receive a dowry (Mahr) from the husband, and the right to maintenance and support. Additionally, Islamic law prohibits polygamy for men unless they can treat all their wives equally, ensuring that women's rights are not compromised. This differs from some Western societies, where divorce rates are relatively high, and single-parent families are more common, potentially affecting the well-being of children and women.

In Islam, the role of a mother is highly valued, and the Quran states, "We have enjoined on man (to be kind) to his parents: in travail upon travail did his mother go through; and in years twain was his weaning" (Quran-31:14).

This verse highlights the sacrifices a mother makes for her child and emphasizes the importance of respecting -

Date \_\_\_\_\_

and caring for one's parents.

In contrast, Western societies often have more flexible family structures, with varying degrees of emphasis on the importance of parental roles. While this may offer more freedom in personal choices, it can also lead to a decline in family values and the weakening of intergenerational bonds.

3.

### Women's Rights in Education and Workplace :

In Islam, women are encouraged to seek knowledge and education. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim" (Sahih Muslim). This applies to both men and women, emphasizing the importance of education in Islam. Moreover, women are allowed to work and earn a living, as long as it does not

Date \_\_\_\_\_

conflict with their primary responsibility of taking care of their families.

In the West, women have gained equal access to education and employment opportunities, leading to significant advancements in various fields. However this has also resulted in challenges such as work-life balance, gender-based pay gaps, and workplace harassment. In Islam, the family unit is considered a priority, and women's roles in the workplace are balanced with their responsibilities towards their families.

#### 4. Modesty and Privacy:

Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of modesty and privacy for both men and women. The Quran states, "O children of Adam, wear to yourselves from your garments, decoration, and concealment"

- (Quran = 7:26)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This verse encourages individuals to dress modestly and maintain a sense of privacy. In Islamic societies, women are expected to dress modestly, covering their hair, arms, and legs, as a means of protecting their dignity and privacy.

The Quran emphasizes the importance of modesty and privacy for both men and women. In Surah Al-Ahzab, it is stated: "Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and be modest. That is pure for them. Indeed, Allah is aware of what they do. And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and be modest, and to display of their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women, those their right hands possess, or male attendants who lack vigor, or children who know nothing -

Date \_\_\_\_\_

of women's private parts. And let them not stamp their feet to make known what they conceal of their adornment. And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, that you might succeed." - (Quran — 24:30 — 31).

In Western societies, there is often a greater emphasis on personal freedom and expression, leading to varying degrees of modesty in dress. While this allows for individual choices, it can also result in objectification and loss of privacy for women.

From an Islamic perspective it argues, that the Western approach to modesty is often overshadowed by materialism and superficiality. The emphasis on physical appearance, fashion, and self expression can sometimes prioritize external factors over inner values and virtues. This may lead —



Date \_\_\_\_\_

to a shallow understanding of modesty, focusing more on the outward appearance rather than the internal qualities of character.  
~~Western societies~~

## 5: Women's Role in Society and Leadership :

In Islam, women are encouraged to participate in community and societal affairs. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said, "Seek knowledge, even if you have to go as far as China" (Sahih Al-Bukhari). This hadith highlights the importance of knowledge and education for both men and women, without any gender restrictions.

Throughout Islamic history, there have been numerous examples of women contributing to society in various fields, including education, science, and politics.

In the West, women have —

Date \_\_\_\_\_

gained significant political and social influence, holding leadership positions in various sectors. However, this progress has been relatively recent and has faced numerous challenges, including gender-based discrimination and barriers to entry in certain fields. In Islam, women's participation in society and leadership is not only encouraged but also supported by the Quran and the example of Prophet Muhammad.

## 6. Reproductive Rights and Family Planning ?

In Islam, reproductive rights and family planning are approached with a focus on responsible parenthood and the well-being of the family.

The Quran states, "It is He who produced you from a single person, and (here you are) in diverse groups" (Quran - 49:13).

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This verse emphasizes the importance of family and the diverse roles individuals play within it.

In Islamic teachings, family planning is allowed when it serves the best interests of the family and society. However, abortion is generally discouraged, except in cases where it may save the mother's life or prevent severe harm to her health.

In contrast, Western societies often prioritize individual autonomy and personal choices when it comes to reproductive rights, including abortion and contraception. While this allows for greater personal freedom, it can also lead to moral debates and varying opinions on the subject.

In Conclusion, the Islamic perspective on women's rights differs from that of western societies in various aspects, such as the concept of —

Date \_\_\_\_\_

equality, rights in marriage and family, education and workplace, modesty and privacy, women's role in society and reproductive rights. While both systems aim to protect and promote women's rights, the Islamic approach places greater emphasis on the complementary roles of men and women within the family and society, as well as the importance of modesty and respect for individual dignity. It is essential to recognize that each system has its unique strengths and challenges, and understanding these differences can foster a more comprehensive appreciation of the diverse ways in which societies approach women's rights and gender-equality.