

4-August-2025

Q Women rights in Islam are different from Western concept of feminism.

INTRODUCTION:

The word "right" in Islam is derived from an Arabic word "huqooq", these are certain mandatory terms that others are obligated (farz) to provide. In the same manner, women rights are obligations that everyone have to provide or perform towards women. Both the Islam and the west emphasize on the rights on women and oppose their oppression.

WOMEN RIGHTS IN ISLAM:

Women rights in Islam has been given to women 1400 years ago. Allah in Qur'an stated the rights of women in many Surahs, such as, Al-Baqarah, Al-Imran, Al-Maida, and Al-Mumtahina. Moreover, Allah has given a particular Surah

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specifically for women and their life affairs - Surah-Nisa and Surah-Talag. Also, Prophet (P.B.U.H) not only emphasized on the rights of women but also his life is also a role model of how a women must be treated.

WOMEN RIGHTS IN WEST:

Women rights in west started from a suffrage movement in ~~sevent~~ nineteenth-century. Later on, in late twentieth-century, this movement started as a "feminist movement" in the west. This movement demanded the rights of women to be ensured and protected. Subsequently, in 1979 United Nations passed the "Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)" to protect women rights in a formal and documented manner.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WOMEN RIGHTS IN ISLAM AND FEMINISM IN THE WEST:

① EQUALITY:

Both Islam and the West oppose discrimination against women. Islam ensures equality of women with equity, whereas the western feminism concept complete equality in all domains - For instance, Islam state "women are equal to men in respect and responsibilities", but not in life affairs. Men is responsible to take care of women financially, her health, her security. Whereas, women in west ~~dem~~ do not demand protection, feminism demand equality in all spheres of life.

② FINANCIAL EQUALITY:

Feminism states financial independence is must. Women must

not be dependant upon men either her husband, father or brother. On the other hand, men is obligated to provide women her needs, also her permissible demands and wants. Although, women can earn if they want to do so. Prophet (P.B.U.H)'s Wife Hazrat Khadija (R.A) was the most influencial businesswomen of Arab. ~~the~~ Also, women are still responsibility of her husband or father, even if she earns and no one ~~is~~ has share from her earning or wealth. As Sahih Bukhari state-
"A women is owner of her own wealth".

③ MATERS OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE:

In Islam, there is no compulsion in marriage and not even in divorce but divorce is ~~the~~ considered as a least and disliked way.

In addition to it, Islam provides

women "haq-mehr" which ensures her financial protection. Women in Islam can decide her haq-mehr independantly. Whereas, feminist consider "marriage" as a bounding contract and in many countries, there ~~is~~ is no concept of alimony (sort of haq mehr at the time of divorce). So, the women who are not financially independant, consider themselves bound in a marriage contract.

④ INHERITANCE:

Feminism demands inheritance rights. Many countries have laws regarding inheritance to women. In the sub-continent region of Asia, only 3% of women gets their inheritance. However, in Islam, women gets inheritance even if she is married. Women has inheritance rights over her father's, brother's or husband's property. Even if they are deceased. Allah has repeated multiple-times

to provide women their inheritance rights.

CONCLUSION:

The rights that feminism is demanding in the west has already given to the women in Islam over 1400 years ago. Women in Islam are respected - as a daughter, she is mercy; as a wife - she completes a half deen of her husband; as a mother - she has jannah beneath her feet.

Women are empowered in Islam. The misinterpretation and cultural stereotypes have portrayed Islam as an oppressed religion for women, which is not true. Hence, there are few things in which women rights ~~are~~ ~~different~~ in Islam are different from western concept of feminism.