

ISLAMIC STUDIES

Q. European and human rights activists claim that Islam does not give proper rights to women. What do you say about this statement. (14 marks)

(1) INTRODUCTION

Human rights ^{are} ~~can be~~ defined, as those rights which we obtain by birth, by Amnesty International. The history of human rights, especially women rights in west is full of sacrifices and struggles. While Islam is the ~~guar~~ granter of women's rights since its essence. Islam has given numerous rights to women include + right to life, property, education. However, these rights should be interpreted and implemented properly for to observe their importance and significance.

(2) BACKGROUND; DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN RIGHTS IN WEST AND IN ISLAM

The western societies recognised the importance of women rights during the age of enlightenment and they obtained these rights after struggle and sacrifices. While, the women rights in Islam are divine which are given to them with the essence of the Islam.

(3) ISLAM PROVIDES RIGHTS TO WOMEN IN EVERY SPHERE OF LIFE

3.1) Women have right to life; Islam recognizes and emphasizes on the importance of an individual's life. In the following surah Allah says;

"And whoever kills a man it is as if he had killed the whole humanity."

(Surah Maidah 5:32)

3.2) Islam gives right to acquire education to women; The holy prophet p.b.u.h said that "education / is knowledge is compulsory on every muslim." This shows that Islam gives right to every individual whether man or woman to get education.

3.3) Economic rights given to women by Islam; Islam has given various economic rights to women such as right to acquire property, and inherited rights associated with property. The same idea is supported in the Quran as;

"And for women is a share of what they have earned"
(Surah Nisa 4: 32)

3.4) Right of equality is given to women by Islam;

"And we created you from one soul"
(Surah Nisa 4: 1)

In the lightening of the above verse, one can clearly understand that Islam have has given and encouraged the equality of all human beings.

3.5) Right to be aided financially and provided and protection; Islam has given this duty to men to protect and aid women financially.

"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women"
(Surah Nisa 4:34)

(4) ADDRESSING THE MISCONCEPTIONS

It is clear now that Islam has given utmost rights to women.

However, some critics criticized Islam on the basis of polygamy and Hijab. Thus it must be acknowledged that Islam gives

the permission of polygamy under certain conditions like equitable treatment with all wives. Besides, there are certain discriminatory societal norms in the muslim societies which should be avoided by following true teachings of Islam.

add more arguments.

(5) a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Islam is the Deen which has provided the women rights before they even existed in the western societies. However, these rights should be provided to the women by the society and state impartially by keeping in view the true teachings of Islam. Only then the significance of these rights would be seen.