

QNo.04: Describe the rights of women in Islam in the context of current wave of the feminist movement

1 Introduction

The question of women rights has become increasingly prominent in the contemporary global discourse, particularly with the rise of the current wave of feminism. The current wave of feminist demanded social justice, ~~demanded~~ ^{structural} changes, digital activism, and intersectionality. Islam has granted equal right to inheritance, business, divorce, and economic independence. The feminist are demanded those rights which Islam has already granted to women but its implementation depends on culture to culture.

2 The right of women in the Islam in the ^{context} of current wave of feminist movement

a) Convergences of women's right

b) Divergence of women's rights

a) Convergence of women's rights in Islam and the current wave of feminism

i) Right to education

ii) Economic right

iii) Consent in marriage

iv) Protection from violence

v) Participation in public life

vi) Right to divorce

i) Islam emphasizes on education which is important for both men and women, modern feminist movements also recognizes education as a fundamental rights for women

Both Islam and modern feminism has recognized and emphasized on education as a fundamental right for women.

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim, male and female"
(Ibn Majah)

ii) Islam has grant ^{economic} ~~women~~ rights: right to property, right to own property etc, Modern feminist movement are also fighting for equal economic rights.

Modern feminist movement are demanded equal economic rights, fair wages, and ownership etc. Islam has already granted these rights

"For men is a share what they have earned, and for women is a share of what they have earned"
(4:32)

[Right to inherit (4:7)]

[Right to own and manage property
Independently (Quran 4:4)]

iii) Islam has given right to consent before marriage, while today's feminist are asking for this

The current feminist movements demanded autonomy in marriage, whereas Islam has already granted the right to consent before marriage of women.

A woman came to the Prophet and complained that her father had married off without her consent. The Prophet (PBUH) gave her choice to remain married or to have the marriage annulled.
(Sunan Abi Dawood)

iv) Islam has allowed to seek khula (divorce) under specific circumstances, modern feminist are advocate for women's right of divorce.

Modern women are demanded right of divorce, but Islam has granted right of divorce 1400 years ago.

[The Prophet (PBUH) permitted a woman]

to separate from her husband when she felt incompatible (Sakiah-Bukhari)

v) Islam has permitted women to participate in public affairs, whereas feminists are fighting for equality in public affairs

Modern feminists are demanding equal representation in political and social affairs; Islam has already provided equality to women in public affairs.

Zainab-bint-Ali, a grand daughter of Prophet (PBUH), assumed the role of leadership role at Karbala.

Even Prophet (PBUH) worked as a tradesman with ^{Hazrat} Khadija.

vi) Islam has protected ^{women from} abuse and domestic violence; feminists are seeking protection from domestic violence and abuse

Current feminists are demanding protection from domestic violence and

and abuse, but Islam has already provided this protection to women.

The best among you is the one who is best to his wife (Ibn-Majah)

b) Divergence of women's rights in Islam and the context of current wave of feminism

i) Gender role

ii) Inheritance law

iii) Hijab and modesty

iv) Difference in testimony

v) Polygamy

vi) Bodily autonomy and abortion

vii) LGBTQ + Rights

i) Modern feminist promotes absolute gender equality, while Islam recognizes biological and psychological difference between men and women and assigns responsibilities accordingly.

Feminism demanded gender equality, often calling for identical roles for women and men in every domain. However, Islam promotes gender equality and complementarity.

The husband is the financial provider and leader of the household (Quran, 4:34)

ii) Islamic inheritance law provides twice share of inheritance to male while modern feminist often criticize this as unequal and patriarchal.

Islam gives inheritance share to man equal to two women. However, modern feminist calls this as inequality in gender perspective.

"Allah commands you regarding your children: for the male, a share equivalent to that of two females" (Quran, 4:11)

iii) Feminism often views religious dress codes like the hijab as a patriarchal control, while Islam sees modesty as a symbol of dignity, self-respect etc.

Feminist considers hijab as an oppressive, and ^{way of} controlling ~~by~~ women. In contrast, Islam has commanded both man and women to protect themselves from vulgarity.

"Let them their veils over their chests, and not reveal their hidden adornment"
(An-Nisa:32)

O Prophet! Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and guard their chastity (An-Nisa-31)

iv) Feminism advocates for equal legal recognition of men's and women's voices in all matters; Islamic law in specific cases testimony of women equals that of one man.

In Feminot opposes gender based

discrimination, ^{and called} ~~to~~ Islamic testimony which considers two female as a one man as a gender discrimination.

"Call upon two of your men to witness, then one one and two men of your choice. If two men is not available" (Al-Baqarah, 2: 282)

Imam Ibn al-Qayyim wrote that this ruling is not due to a flaw in a women's intellect or character, but due to the societal norms of the time.

✓) Feminists opposes polygamy while Islam regulates if he provides equal rights to all

Modern feminist discourage the polygamy, viewing it as a manifestation of male privilege and female subordination. In contrast, Islam permits polygyny under a strict moral and social conditions.

"Marry women of your choice, two, or three, or four; but if you fear that you will not deal justly, then [Marry] only one" — (Quran, 4: 3)

vi) Modern feminism views bodily autonomy as right to abortion and reproductive decisions while Islam respects bodily autonomy within a moral and legal framework.

Current feminist movements demanded abortion right and reproductive decision. In contrast, Islam opposes it, and may allow under strict circumstances.

In Islam, abortion generally considered unlawful (Haram) and a major sin, but there are some exceptions. If the mother's life is in danger or if the fetus is severely deformed - (Sharia)

vii) Modern feminists support the homosexuality and gender freedom while Islam has not any concept of LGBTQ+, it is haram and a major sin

Feminism actively promotes the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals like same sex relationships and marriage. However, Islam strictly prohibits same-sex sexual relations

and does not recognize gender identity beyond biological male and female.

Whoever, you find doing the deeds of Lut's people (homosexuality), then kill the doers and the one who allows it to be done to him (both partners) *Surah Al-Hud*

3 Critical Analysis

Allah has given equal rights to men and women. Indeed in Quran Allah has mentioned "Ya ayyuhan nass" means "O humans" and at other place in Quran, addresses on the basis of ideology like as "O you who believe". Thus, Allah has not mentioned O men, which shows that he treated both men and women equally. By looking at whole discussion, Islam has granted rights to women equally to men, which modern feminist movements are demanded.

LB Conclusion:

Modern feminist movements,

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are fighting for equal rights to women in comparison to men. These rights, includes right to education, economic activity, consent in marriage, participation in public life and protection from domestic violence. Islam has already granted these rights to women.