

Topic: Women rights in Islam

Introduction:

Islam provides a comprehensive framework for the rights of women, ensuring their dignity, equality and protection in all spheres of life. Allah (SWT) has created both men and women without subordination of one another. Islam has ensured gender equality and women's rights in every sphere.

It considers women a special blessing, and their rights and responsibilities are equal to those of men. The sacred text of the Quran and the early history of Islam bear testimony of the fact that women hold the utmost importance. So, women, like men, are commanded to believe in Allah and to worship him. Women have the right to express themselves, to give advice, to enjoin what is good and forbid

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What is evil, and to call people to Allah. They also have the right to own property, to buy and sell, to inherit, to give charity and to give gifts. It is not permissible for Allah says:

وَلَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْكَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

And for Women are rights over men
Similar to those of men over Women.”
(2: 228)

Condition of Women before islam:

Prior to the arrival of Islam, the pagan Arabs used to bury their female children alive, make women dance naked in the vicinity of Ka'ba during their annual fairs and treated women just like slaves or chattels and they used women only their sexual contentment who possess no rights, dignity, honour or position. Other religions regarded women as their possessed by

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inherit sin and wickedness and men are being possessed of inherit value and nobility. Before the advent of islam women were often treated worse than islam. The prophet (P.B.U.H) wanted to put a stop to all cruelties to women. He preached kindness towards them. He told the Muslims:

الْقَوْلُ فِي النِّسَاءِ
 "Fear Allah in respect of women."

Status of Women in Islam:

Undoubtedly, there is no discrepancy in islam between men and women as far as their relationship to Allah in concerning as both are promised the same reward for good conduct and the same punishment for evil conduct. Islam is such a religion which has first given to the women a place

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of dignity and honour.

Unlike other religions, which regarded women as being possessed of inherit sin and wickedness and men are being possessed of inherit virtue and nobility, islam treats men and women are being of the equal essence created from one soul. Allah says:

“O mankind, be mindful of your duty to your Lord, who Created you from a single soul and from it Created its mate and from the two Created and spread many men and Women.” (4:2)

Islam has also honoured women in their roles as daughters, wives, and mothers.

Allah even devotes an entire chapter of the Quran to women, Surah-al-Nisa

Rights of Women:

Here is an overview of women's rights to understand how Islam empowers Women:

1. Spiritual and moral rights:

In Islam there is no more difference between men and women as far as their relationship to Allah is concerned, as both are promised the same reward for good conduct and the same punishment for evil conduct. The Quran, in addressing the believers, often uses the expression, 'believing men and women' to emphasize the equality of men and women in regard to their respective duties, rights, virtues and merits. The Quran even says that women have seats and souls in same way as men and will enter paradise if they do good.

“Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim

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Women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women, the truthful men and truthful women, the patient men and patient women”.

This verses highlights that both men and women have equal rights, spiritual status and access to divine rewards. Women are encouraged to seek knowledge, Perform religious obligations, and actively engage in acts of piety.

2. Legal rights:

Islam establishes legal equality between men and women. Both have the right to justice, fair treatment, and due to progress in legal matters. The prophet (PBUH) said

“إِنَّمَا النِّسَاءُ شِقَائِقُ الرِّجَالِ

Women are twin halves of men.”

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This hadith emphasizes the fundamental legal equality of men and women.

3. Right to inheritance:

At a time when a woman was considered a property to be inherited, Islam made her an heir. Daughters, wives, mothers and sisters all have a particular share in inheritance, depending on their relationship to the deceased kin and the number of heirs. No one has a right to exempt a woman from her inherited share of the property.

Women are also free from any financial liabilities. She is not obliged to work or share family expenditures. What she receives from her father or what she earns herself is solely her own.

It is her privilege if she wants to work or be self-supporting, provided her honour and integrity are safeguarded.

“For men is a share of what parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what parents and close relatives leave, be it much or little – a legal share.” (4:7)

4. Right to testimony:

Women's testimony is recognized in Islamic law. In financial matters, two women may testify together with one man (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:282), while in other cases, a woman's testimony is equally valid.

5. Right to protecting from harm:

Islam strictly prohibits violence against women. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي

“The best among you are those who are best to their wives.”

6. Right to education:

Muhammad (PBUH) declared that pursuing knowledge is compulsory for every Muslim, either man or women. Aisha, a wife of Muhammad (PBUH), was known as one of the most influential scholars in Islamic history.

طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ قَرِيفَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

“

Seeking knowledge is essential for all Muslims.”

Women have the right to pursue education, learn skills, and contribute to society intellectually and professionally.

7. Right to marriage and divorce:

The consent of women is fundamental to the validity of marriage contract. She has a right to accept or reject the marriage proposal. A significant

misconception among Muslims and non-Muslims is that women have no right to initiate divorce in Islam. Such people are oblivious to the teachings of Islam. Women also have the right to seek divorce if the marriage becomes unbearable, and they can set conditions in their marriage contract for their well-being.

“If you divorce a woman before touching her or setting a dowry, pay a reasonable compensation.”
(2: 236)

The worst calamity for a woman is when her husband passes away and, as a widow, the responsibility of maintaining the children falls upon her. The prophet (PBUH) upheld the cause of widows. Most of his wives were widows. In an age when widows were rarely permitted to remarry, the Prophet (PBUH) encouraged his followers to remarry.

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8. Right to work and economics independence:

Women have the right to work, own Property, and Conduct business independently. The Qur'an affirms:

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

Historically, Khadijah (RA), the wife of the Prophet (PBUH), was a successful businessman, exemplifying the economic rights granted to Women.

9. Political rights:

Women in Islam have the right to participate in political affairs, including voting, advising leaders, and holding public affairs. The Quran mentions of Sheba, who was a wise and just ruler. Women played active roles in governance during early Islamic history.

10. Rights as Mothers and Wives :

Islam elevates the status of women as Mothers and Wives. The prophet (PBUH) emphasized the honor of motherhood, stating-

الجنة تحت اقدام الامهات

“

Paradise Lies under the feet of mothers.”

Women as mother Commands great respect in Islam. The Noble Quran speaks of the rights of the mother in a number of verses. As Wives, Women are to be treated with kindness, respect and care.

11. Rights as daughters :

In Islam, daughters are seen as a precious blessing and their rights are firmly upheld as an integral part of a just society.

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The rights of women as daughters extend to receiving love, education and a safe nurturing environment, emphasizing that they are not only family members but also bearers of honour and potential for society contribution. Holy prophet (PBUH) said:

“Whoever has a daughter and does not bury her alive, does not humiliate her, and does not prefer his sons over her, Allah will admit him to the paradise.”

Conclusion:

To Conclude, Islam grants women a comprehensive set of rights that ensure their dignity, protection, and empowerment in all aspects of life. From spiritual and legal

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equality to social and economic independence. Women in Islam are recognized as valuable and autonomous individuals.

The Quran and Sunnah establishes clear principles that protect their rights in education, marriage, inheritance, work and governance. Thus, the rights of women in Islam are not only protected but also celebrated, ensuring their active role in shaping a just and balanced society.

دعوتِ دین سے ہے تصویرِ کائنات میں رنگ
اسی کے ساز سے ہے رنگِ کاسوِ دروں