

Question: Discuss The women's empowerment concept in islam in light of Quran and Sunnah?

Answer:

Introduction

The women empowerment is most debated topic in modern world. However, Islam granted women dignity, equality, and rights more than fourteen years ago - long before the Quran and Sunnah elevated women from the social oppression to a position of honour and responsibilities. True empowerment is the recognition and protection of women's rights as prescribed by divine law - ensuring balance between right, duties, and freedom and morality.

Concept of empowerment in islam

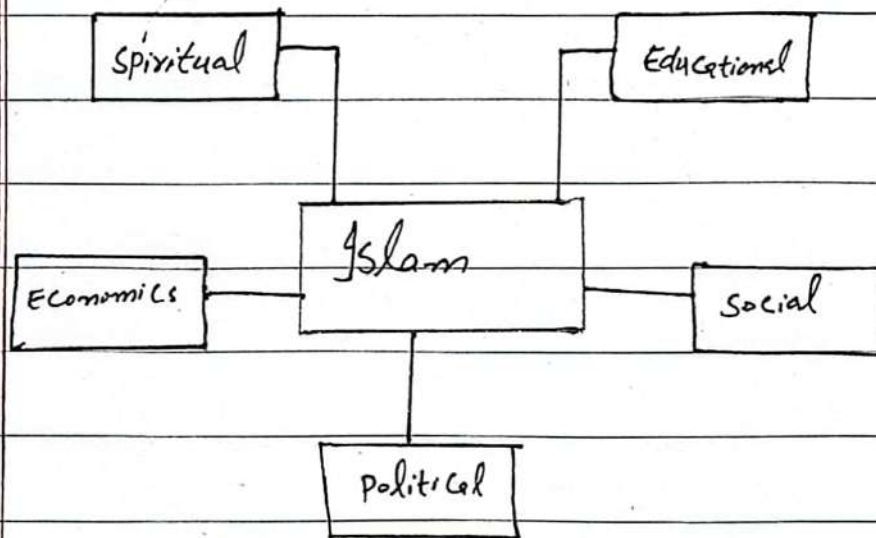
Empowerment in islam means enabling the individuals to realize their full potential in accordance with Seerah and Shari'ah. Islam view both men and women as partner in faith and society. The Quran affirms their moral and spiritual equality.

Surah Aal-imran 3: 195

فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ أَنِّي لَا أَضِيعُ عَمَلٌ مِّمَّا بَلَغَ بَيْنُكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرُوا أَنِّي
بِفَضْلِكُمْ مِنْ بَعْضٍ :

"So Lord answered Them, indeed, I do not allow the work of any worker among you, male or female, to be lost; you are of one another."

Islamic empowerment emphasizes equal worth before Allah, not identical roles.



1. Spiritual Empowerment

Islam recognizes men and women spiritually equal according to Quran (Surah An-Nahl 16: 97):

مَنْ عَمِلْ عَمَلًا مِثْلَ ذَكَرُوا أَنِّي وَفَّقُوا مَوْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّاهُ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً

"Who does not righteousness, male or female while being a believer - we will surely

grant them good life."

No act of worship or good deeds are diminished by gender. Women, like men, are accountable and rewarded equally.

2. Educational Empowerment.

The first revelation - "Read!" - signifies the importance of knowledge for all. Islam commands both men and women to seek knowledge.

According to Hadith:

"Seeking of knowledge is an obligation upon every muslims." (Ibn Majah)

Women are students, teachers, and scholars.

Aisha (R.A) narrated over 2000 Hadiths. Shifa bint Abdullah was appointed to teach literacy in Madinah.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

↓
Encouraged women's education

↓
Women scholars (Aisha (R.A), Shifa, Hafsa)

↓
Knowledge transmitted to the Ummah

3. Economic empowerment

Islam gives women financial autonomy - They may earn - inherit, and own wealth. According to Quran (An-Nisa 4:32):

لِّلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ مِمَّا قَدَرْتُمْ حَسَبَ مَا تَرَكَ

الْوَلَدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ

For man is a share of inheritance, and for women is a share of inheritance.

Hazrat Khadija (R.A), The prophet wife, was leading businesswomen - a model of economic empowerment through honesty and independence.

4. Social and family Empowerment

Islam honored women as mother, wives, and daughters. According to Quran (An-Nisah 4:1)

وَعَامَا بَيْنَهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

"And live with them in kindness."

According to hadith:

"Your mothers, your mother, your mother, then your father." (Bukhari & Muslim)

This hadith shows the importance of women rights. Women have the right to choose their spouse, relieve *Mahr*, and seek *Khula* (divorce). Islam commands mutual respect in family life.

Pivotal role of women in Islam described as:

Mother → Paradise beneath her feet

Wife → Partner and counselor

Daughter → Source of blessing and honour.

Sister → Symbol of respect and protection

5. Political and Civic Empowerment

women also participated in civic and political affairs. According to Quran (Surah Al-Mumtahanah 60:12):

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتُ يَبَايِعُكَ... فَبَايِعْهُنَّ

"O prophet (PBH)! When believing women come to you to pledge allegiance... Then accept their pledge."

women took part in Bay'ah (pledge of allegiance), and in early Islamic history, they voiced opinions in governance. During Caliph Umer's rule, a woman corrected his public discussion on dowry. He accepted her views.

6. Legal Empowerment

Islam grants women full legal status and the right to justice. According to Quran (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:237):

وَلَا تَنْسُوا الْفَضْلَ بَيْنَكُمْ

"And do not forget to be gracious to one another."

According to Farewell Sermon:

"Fear Allah concerning women. Treat them

kindly; They are They are your parents and helpers."

Women Can own property, testify in Court and access inheritance. Their rights are protected by law and morality.

7. Historical Examples of Empowerment

Hazrat Khadij (R.A) was a business leader, and supporter of holy prophet (PBUH)

Hazrat Aish (R.A) was not only a scholar but also a jurist. She also take part in education as a teacher.

Hazrat Fatima (R.A) was a great and symbolic model of modesty and Piety.

Shifah Bint-e-Abdullah. was appointed market supervisor in Caliph Umar (R.A).

Rufaidah Al-Aslamiyah was pioneer in nursing and social services.

8

8- Misconception and cultural Barriers.

Many limitations faced by muslim women today come from cultural customs, not islam. Practices like forced marriages,

denial of inheritance, or restriction of education are Un-Islamic. Islam promote Complementarity, not competition. Both genders have Unique roles contributing to a Just Society.

9. Modern Relevance

To revive true empowerment, muslim societies must:

- I - Provide equal access to education.
- II - Enforce women's legal and financial rights.
- III - Promote women civic participation.
- IV - Eradicate Cultural injustice.

Modern empowerment should reconnect with Quranic principles of Justice, dignity, and balance.

Conclusion

Islam's approach to women's empowerment is holistic. It integrates spirituals, educational, economics, and legal rights under divine guidance. According to Quran (Al-Hujurat 49:13)

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاهُ

"Indeed, The most honored of you in both The sight of Allah is most righteous of you."

True empowerment in Islam uplifts women as

equal believers, wise educators,
compassionate mothers, and active
Contributor to Society. Islam gave
women honour of being not only
protector but also a builder of
civilization.