

ASSIGNMENT No. 4

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ISLAMIC STUDIES

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Name: Noor-ul-ain

Submitted To: Sir Raza

TOPIC: "HOW WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ISLAM ARE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF WESTERN SOCIETY"

EXPLORING WOMEN'S RIGHTS: ISLAM VS WESTERN SOCIETY: The concept of women's rights varies significantly between Islam and Western society, shaped by differing foundations, philosophies and approaches. While Islam emphasizes equity and balance rooted in divine guidance, Western society prioritizes equality and individual freedom driven by secular principles.

1. Foundation Of Rights:

• Islam: Women's rights are rooted in divine guidance from the Quran and Sunnah. These rights are eternal and unchanging, emphasizing fairness and balance.

For instance, The Quran says:

"And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them according to what is equitable (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:228).

This highlights equity, not strict equality, considering difference in roles and responsibilities.

Western Society: Women's rights are based on secular principles and evolve over time, driven by movements like feminism. The focus is on individual freedom and equality, often



Overlooking freedom and equality biological or societal differences.

2. Financial Independence:

- **Islam:** Women have absolute financial independence. They can own property, inherit wealth and earn money without being obligated to contribute financially to the household.

For Instance: "For man is a share of what the parents and relatives leave, and for women is a share of what the parents and relatives leave..."
(Surah An-Nisa, 4:7)

Women like Hazrat Khadija (RA), the Prophet's wife, were successful businesswomen and role models of financial independence.

- **Western society:** Women have similar financial rights, but they're often expected to share household expenses equally. This can create economic pressure, especially for working mothers balancing careers and family.

3. Marriage and Family Roles:

- **Islam:** Marriage is a mutual contract with rights like dowry (mahr), consent and the ability to initiate divorce (khula). Men are obligated to provide for the family, while women's earnings remain theirs.

For Instance: "And give the women [upon marriage] their due compensation graciously." (Surah An-Nisa, 4:4)

The Prophet annulled a forced marriage, emphasizing that consent is mandatory (Sahih 

(Sahih Bukhari).

Western society:- Marriage is based on equality, but women often face challenges balancing careers and family roles.

Divorce laws vary, sometimes favoring one party over the other, leading to improved complex disputes.

4. Rights on War and Conflict:

• **Islam:** Women are protected during war. The Prophet forbade harming women, children or the elderly during conflict (Sahih Muslim).

• **Western society:** Women's rights in war depend on international laws, like the Geneva Conventions. However, women often face exploitation and abuse in conflict zone.

5. POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS:-

• **Islam:-** Women have the right to education and participation in politics. The Prophet said:-
"Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every muslim". (Sunah abn Majah).

Women like Hazrat Ayesha (RA) were scholars and leaders.

• **Western society:-** Women have similar rights, but disparities like unequal pay and limited representation in leadership roles persist.

