

# Status of Women in Islam

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## Introduction

The existence of Women adds colors to the picture of universe because of her, life's melody is rich with diverse tunes

(Iqbal)

Women, before Islam were not even considered humans. They were considered as one's private property, a tool for sexual pleasure, a mistress and a

was booty. She was alienated from every decision making process and was constrained to reproducing or nurturing. Many even defied the women the right to life and considered it a shame for their clan. Thus, before Islam, women were living a miserable life.

Islam elevated the status of women socially, politically and economically. It also granted women all rights as that of a man and stressed on the equality of all human beings.

## Understanding the Status of Women before Islam

Various malicious practices were prevalent before Islam. Even today these practices are seen like Satti in Hinduism. Before Islam, they were buried alive. They were assaulted brutally. Codes of life harshly proclaimed beating of women, ripping of their clothes and confining them to domestic chores.

Even the English law, that is a modern day enlightened source of law defied women's right to property and she was considered the property of her husband.

Besides, in Arabia, the practice

of Zihar was very prevalent where if a man says "your back is like my mother" the woman becomes unlawful to her husband. Zihar was thus a form of confinement - an infringement upon the basic right of women. It was thus explicitly prohibited in Islam.

## → Status of women in Islam

### (a) Women as a Mother

Islam stressed upon the status of women as a mother. In both Quran and Sunnah we have seen multiple times that Allah and His prophet stressed on the right of mother.

Quran says

"We have commanded people to be good to their parents, their mothers carried them with strain upon strain and it takes two years to wean them. Give thanks to Me and your parents - all will return to Me."

### (b) Women as Wife

Our Holy Prophet stressed on kindness and respect while dealing with wife. He said,

~~Best among you is the one who~~  
Best among you is the <sup>one who</sup> best

with his wife. And I among you is the best in dealing with my wives."

And even Quran stressed that  
"Fear Allah regarding women."

→ Women as a daughter

Islam focused on the status of women as a daughter. Our Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> said them

"Among you, who has three or more daughters, upbrings them well and marries them off will go straight to Jannah"

Quran also stressed that one day of judgement a man will be questioned about dealings with daughter. In Holy Quran it is mentioned that

When one of them gets baby girl, his face becomes sad.

Ashamed, he hides from the people, because of the bad news given to him. He even thinks to keep the baby or to bury him.

Miserable, indeed is their judgement"

# Rights in Islam

## => Right to Life

Islam declared a daughter as a Rehmat, wife as peace and mother as saviour on the day of judgement. Islam guaranteed the right of life to the women. It prohibited killing or selling a woman. Quran states that

“And the buried alive will be asked of what crime were you killed.”

## => Right to Education

Women in Islam are stressed to educate themselves. During Prophet's time, separate places were allotted to men & women's education.

“Acquisition of knowledge is binding on all Muslims. (men/women)”

## => Women Right to Inheritance & Property

Islam has set a right for women in inheritance and property. Even she is exempted from all economic liabilities and is only the men's duty.

## => Right to Equal opportunities

Islam focused on equality. Allah

himself has stressed that  
No one is superior over  
another except who has  
Jaqlwa.

Islam also granted women the  
right to do work under prescribed  
conditions. Hazrat Khadija & Hazrat  
Sauda are beacon of light in this  
regard.

### Conclusion

Islam focused on rights of women  
Made them important component of  
human society. Allah ordered them  
to be treated with respect and  
Mahammad  $\text{r}$  through his life taught  
us how to be a best father to a  
daughter and a great husband. He  
focused on partnership in marriage  
rather than a relation of master  
and slave. Carrying the legacy  
forward, the Khulfa-Rashideen took  
various steps for empowerment of women.  
The view, prevalent that Islam denies  
the right to women must be addressed  
by looking back in the annals of history  
and grasping the true essence of Quranic  
teachings.

"Only an honorable man treats women  
with honor & integrity and only a vile  
man humiliates & degrades women"

(Hazrat Muhammad)

## (b) Rights of Minorities

### Introduction

Islam a religion of peace (Islamati) is a universal religion. It is for an entire mankind. And it has again and again focused on the principle of equality and forbidden oppression in the name of religion.

Islam was and still not a religion for any specific human, tribe, a caste. In many instances in Quran, it has said

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ

Oh! People

Rather than Oh Muslims. Allah in Quran has even stressed that *Huqooq-ul-Ibad* Right of people, can't be forgiven. Thus, Islam as a religion of peace has always strived for a peaceful society on the principles of justice & equality.

### ⇒ Rights of Minorities

Islam has ordained various rights to minorities. It has granted them various social, political & economic rights. Some of them are discussed below:-

### (a) Equality before God

Allah has many times focused

that every person is equal to him and the only scale is Taqwa (fear of God).

• Oh mankind! We have created you from one man and woman. Then divided you among tribes and clans, so that you may know each other. Indeed, the most notable among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you!

Even Prophet <sup>re</sup> stressed upon the same point stating in the last sermon that

• All mankind are from Adam & Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab neither a white over black except piety and good action?

## (b) Non-Discrimination

Islam has focused on the principle of non-discrimination while dealing minorities. And our Holy Prophet in his last sermon stressed that everyone is equal in the eyes of God.

Furthermore he also said that



“Beware! Whosoever is cruel and hard on a non-muslim, curtails his rights or burdens them with more than they can bear or takes anything against their will. I will complain to Allah on the day of Judgement.”

## b) Protection of Minorities

Islamic teachings focus on the rights & protection of minorities. It instructs to uphold justice and fairness while dealing with non-Muslims. Nabi Saaw with his practical example for taught us ways to deal with non-muslims where he would sit them with non-muslims in masjid Nabwi. He even was not angry when a non-muslim urinated in the mosque. And through his kindness, he inspired non-muslims.

## c) Religious Freedom.

Islam gave every human the freedom to choose a religion. It has granted each individual the right to worship and pray Allah in Quran says

“There is no compulsion in religion.”

## d Social Justice

Q.5

Islam adheres to the principle of social justice while dealing with the non-muslims. The prophet Muhammad said,

"Whoever hurts a non-muslim citizen of a muslim states, hurt me. And whoever hurts me, annoys Allah"

## Conclusion

Islam is a religion for the entire mankind and it treats every individual on the principle of equality. Minorities are also an important component of any society. But today, unfortunately we have turned away from the teachings of Quran & Sunnah and our society is now facing religious extremism and intolerance towards non-muslims. Today we need to re-look into the teachings of Quran & Sunnah in order to create a harmonious society.

## Q:5 Extremism - - - - -

### Introduction

Today, the world is entangled in the challenges of extremism spread across the world. Two main instances of extremism prevalent today are the hindutva policies and its impact on Muslims and the growing Zionist extremism against Muslims. These two instances have triggered a whole new range of violence and assault against Muslims across the world. We have recently seen the violence against Palestinian students in Vermont.

This new wave of extremism has brought a whole new range of challenges against Islam & Muslims. Some of the challenges are given below:-

#### @ Internal Strife in Muslim Ummah

Ummah has not been able to manage this extremism against Muslims. OIC has become a redundant organization. Muslim world is divided among themselves and they are deviated of the real path. Quran clearly mentions that

وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ  
أَسْرَابًا مِّنْ  
أَعْنَابٍ

## (b) Misinterpretation of Islamic Teachings and Portrayal of a distorted Picture of Islam

Meaning grow

Due to growing extremism against Islam, the image of Islam is presented in a completely distorted manner, where Muslims are presented as barbaric & terrorist.

Besides the interpretation of Islam is also done in a wrong-

## (c) Global Security Concerns

Rise of extremism has given rise to global security concerns. We have seen instances where Muslims were brutally attacked across the world like in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and India.

## (d) Radicalization of Youth

The rise of extremism has given rise to radical tendencies among youth. While radical organizations in France and New Zealand are targeting Muslims and within Ummah the tendencies of radicalization has grown multi fold.