

TAWHID & IT'S IMPACTS

Introduction

The doctrine of tawhid affirms the belief in absolute unity and oneness of a unique transcendent, omnipotent, compassionate and merciful God

- Tawhid is the very essence of Islam
- Only Allah is the **creator**
- Allah alone is **supremely powerful** (other religions distribute power among gods)
- Allah alone is the **sustainer**
- **Eternal**
- All Quranic concepts and ideas are woven together to pinpoint, elaborate, and describe this doctrine of God's oneness, unity, and uniqueness, and to encourage mankind to establish a meaningful and appropriate relationship with him.

La Ilaha illa Allah

- The Islamic credo "la ilaha illa Allah" is a declaration that there is no ilah (God) except Allah.
- It is important to understand these two fundamental Islamic terms

Concept of Tawhid

- Although, the concept of tawhid revolves around the concept of oneness of Allah Almighty, however the comprehensive definition of tawhid was stated by **Syed Ameer Ali** in his book, spirit of Islam

"Tawhid is the name of explicit belief in the unity of God, that there is no authority than Allah Almighty"

- Similar concept was displayed / presented by Khurshid Ahmed.

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Kinds of Tawhid

Three categories of Tawhid

Unity in Person

The oneness of His person means that there is neither plurality of gods, nor plurality of persons in the Godhood

(112:1-4) "He neither begets nor is born"

John clover - The evidence of God in an expanding universe

Unity in Attributes

It implies that no other being possess any of the divine attributes in the absolute sense

(Surah As Sajdah 8:6) → perfect creation
(95:1-8)

Unity in Action

His unity in actions means that no one can do or does the works which Allah has done or does or which Allah will do in the future

Importance of Tawhid in the light of Quran and Sunnah

Verses of Holy Quran

قل هو الله احد - الله الصمد -

"Say, He is Allah (who is) one Allah, the eternal refuge
(Al-Quran)

لا اله الا الله -

"There is no god but Allah." (Al-Quran)

لا حول ولا قوة الا بالله -

"There is no power nor any strength except through Allah" (AL-Quran)

Surah-Al Ahzab

"Your God is one God, and there is no God except him"

Similar accounts, concept of Tawhid

Ahadees

Once Holy Prophet (PBUH) stated

"The testimony regarding the oneness of Allah Almighty is the key to paradise"

Another states that

"The best of human virtue is belief in oneness of Allah Almighty"

Impacts on individual life

- Tawhid creates sense of accountability
 - encourages man to work towards transforming himself in accordance with God's revealed will.
- Tawhid gives purpose of existence to man and universe
- Tawhid infuses self-respect
 - Allah alone is the possessor of all power, provider of his needs which makes him indifferent to, and independent and fearless of, all powers other than God.
- Tawhid induces sense of modesty and humility
 - A believer never becomes proud, arrogant or haughty

- Tawhid impacts consolation, satisfaction and hope.

(94:5-6) "For indeed, with hardship (will be) ease"

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Impacts on collective life / society

- Human equality and social equity
(4:1) Surah Nisa "He created you from one soul"
- Islamic unity, brotherhood, bond and mutual cooperation
(49:10) "certainly all muslims are brothers"
- Collective peace and social justice
Islam connects tawhid to socio-pol and economic justice. Injustice leads to disruption of peace which must be confronted and corrected.
- Dual concept of accountability
Answer in this world and hereafter
- Eradicates Extremism

Critical Analysis

Inculcation of belief of Tawhid should not be there in words only but it must also be practised to get the desired results.

Conclusion

Evident that Tawhid impacts individuals and society as a whole, positively.

Status of Women in Islam

Introduction

Islam has granted unprecedented spiritual, social, economic, political and cultural freedom to women.

Islam has acknowledged complete personhood of a woman, considered her vulnerabilities and provided her protection.

Islam in various ways has proven that a woman holds a position in the society to be respected and considered as an individual with dignity. These principles are essential for peace, comfort, and happiness of human species and regulation of harmony between men and women.

Status of women in Islam

a) Acknowledgement of complete personhood of women in Islam

Eleven centuries before the publication of "A vindication of rights of women" by Mary Wollstonecraft, the foremost feminist, Islam accepted the complete personhood of a woman and provided her with freedom in many aspects.

The Quran states, "O mankind, keep your duty to your lord who created you from a single soul" (Al-Nisa:1-4) emphasizing that in Islam man and woman are equal.

b) Special relaxation to women in religious obligations

In Islam, similar principles of worship apply to both men and women. However, women receive multiple relaxatory measures during situations

Such as, menstrual period and child/birth.

c) As a child and an adolescent

Despite the social acceptance of female infanticide among the Arabs, the Quran strictly forbade this tradition.

"And when the female (infant) buried alive" - is questioned, for what crime she was killed for" (81:8-9)

Holy Prophet (pbuh) at one instance said, "whoever has a daughter and he does not bury her alive, does not insult her, and does not favour his son over her, God will enter him into Paradise." (Ibn-Hambal)

d) As a wife / adult

The Quran clearly indicates that marriage is a sharing between two halves, who have to respect each other and consider each other equal.

1) Right to select spouse

According to Islamic law, women cannot be forced to marry anyone without their consent.

One instance was reported where the Holy Prophet (pbuh) declared a girl's marriage invalid cause it was commenced without her consent.

2) Rules for married life

The rules for married life are clear and in harmony with upright nature. Quran states,

"And they (women) have rights similar to those (of men) over them, and men are a degree above them." (2:228)

A man should treat ~~her~~^{his} wife with the

utmost of respect. He is obliged to protect her and cater to her needs accordingly. This in no way means implementing a dictatorship methodology but considering her vulnerable in fight or flight circumstances is mandatory.

g) Rights to divorce / Khula:

Previously, women were not allowed to ~~ask~~ request separation from her husband and even if this was the case she had to go through rigorous formalities. However, Islam provided woman with the freedom to request divorce or khula from her husband.

e) As a mother

Islam considers kindness towards parents next to worship of God.

"And we have enjoined upon man (to be good) to his parents. His mother bears him in weakness upon weakness" (Quran, surah Al-lugman)

A famous saying of the Prophet (PBUH) is "Paradise is at the feet of mothers" (Ibn-Hanbal)

Economic Aspect

A woman in Islam has the;

- Right of independent ownership

Islamic law considers, woman's right to her money, real estate, ^{acknowledges} or other properties.

- Female employment

Woman in Islam have the right to seek employment whenever there is a necessity.

- Female inheritance

Political Aspect

Women have clear "political rights" in Islam.

They are allowed to vote, select their favourite candidate, participate in public affairs, and also head states.

Examples of women being head of states in muslim countries.

- Benazir Bhutto (Pakistan)
- Khaleda Zia (Bangladesh)

Status of women

Aspect

Muslim Countries	Aspect	Western Countries
Varies widely; some countries grant equal rights but others have restrictions	Legal Rights	Generally equal legal rights and protections but inequalities persist
Increasing access	Education	Gender stereotypes remains an issue
Mandated. Respected	Dress Code	Objectification of women's appearance.
Persists and is usually undocumented	Violence & Harassment	Legal protection exists
Restricted in many countries	Reproductive Rights	Liberal, but causing casualties due to spread of STD's.

Conclusion

The current pathetic condition of woman in generality can be improved by means of due will by muslims as individuals, as societies, as economics and states. Eradication of poverty, inclusive political systems, adherence to pristine islamic teachings can greatly improve these conditions.