

Q1)

What are Women Rights

In recent times, feminist movements have gained much momentum. The aim of ~~so~~ these movements is to secure and increase the rights of women in different ~~aspects~~ of areas of life. However, unlike western societies where women had to struggle for years to gain their rights, Islam had extensively laid down rights of women without them having to struggle for it. Women rights refer to fundamental rights of women, giving them opportunities and protection in different domains of life. The United Nations defines women rights in the following words:

"Women rights are fundamental human rights ensuring equal ~~opportunities for women in~~ social, economic, political and cultural opportunities for women enabling them to fully participate ~~in~~ and contribute in a society".

In order to better understand the purpose of women rights movements, and to ~~off~~ understand and the reason why Islam had to ~~be~~ provide women rights, it is essential to know how women were treated in different civilizations.

How Women were treated in different civilizations

→ In Arab before the advent of Islam

Before the arrival of Islam, Arabs used to feel humiliated by women. Women were seen as a source of weakness and ~~humillial~~ humiliation. Practice of burying infant girls alive was pervasive.

→ Women In India

For Indians, women were mere objects. They treated women like slaves, traded them and lost/won them over bets. Moreover, women were given derogatory jobs in a society like cleaning toilets.

→ In Greek

Greeks treated women as inferior creations. They abhorred women and denied them equal rights. The

harsh treatment given to women can be discern by a statement of one of the greatest philosopher of all time: Aristotle, who said:

"Women are unfinished men"

Women Rights in Islam

→ Basic Human Rights

Islam places much emphasis on women rights. Islam regards women as equal before Allah just like men, and explicitly states that women have certain rights over men, just like how men have certain rights over the former. In this regard Quran say:

"And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable" [2: 228].

→ Respectful Treatment

Women should be treated with respect

and one should not treat them harshly. In this regard the messenger of Allah prophet ~~PI~~ Muhammad (P.B.U.H) says:

"The best among you are those who the best to their wives".

→ Right to Education :

Just like men women have the right to acquire education. Education, without a doubt, is an important facet of life that Islam stresses upon. Prophet (P.B.U.H) said, emphasising on the importance of education :

"Seeking education is obligatory on every muslim"

The part where prophet ^{P.B.U.H} explicitly said 'every muslim' indicates that it is education is mandatory for both men and women.

—> Financial Dealings: & Property Ownership

The rubric of Islam does not deprive or prohibit women from owning property or engaging in financial dealings. Having a business or ownership of property is allowed for both men and women. The example of H. Khadija^{R.A} comes to mind. She was a business woman and owned many properties. And even after she became a Muslim, her properties remained under her ownership.

—> Share in Inheritance

Islam gives women a share in what her parents or deceased relatives have left. In this regard, the Holy Quran says:

"For men is a share of what their parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what their parents and close relatives leave - ~~not~~ whether it is little or much." (An-Nisa, 7)

→ Right to Divorce

Although divorce is discouraged in Islam, it is allowed for both men and women. It is also note worthy to mention that divorce should only be taken when there is no hope left for a marriage to succeed.

→ Freedom of Marriage

Islam gives women the right to marry a man ~~according~~ of their choice. Practices where women are forced or pressurised to marry someone are ~~is~~ not allowed. Emphasising of a women's consent in her marriage, Prophet ^{Pbuh} said:

"an ayyim must not be wedded unless she is asked. And a virgin should not be wedded unless she is consulted."

→ Political Rights:

Islam also gives certain political

rights. Women as a being a part of society have a say on how they should be governed, especially if it is on matters concerning them. During the caliphate of H. UMAR^{R.A}, he was discussing with his companions in a mosque to put an upper limit on ~~the~~ mehar for wedding. However, a woman stood up and protested against this change after which the ~~issue~~ ~~change~~ ~~was~~ ~~stopped~~. idea was dropped.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, Islam has give extensive rights to women. Muslim women did not have to struggle for these rights for centuries unlike their western counterparts. However, it is also essential to bever in mind that ~~with~~ with rights come responsibilities and women should be cautious to not transgressing Islamic limits.

Q2)

What is a civilization

Civilization is an advanced state of ~~life~~ living which encompasses laws, culture, social habits and norms. Oxford dictionary defines civilization in the following words:

"The process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social and cultural development and organisation".

In order to better understand what a civilization is we must discuss some main characteristics of it

characteristics

Key ~~features~~ of a civilization

→ Presence of a geographical boundaries

A civilization must have a geographical boundaries. With these boundaries the core ideology including justice, religion, economic system is followed.

→ A strong Political system

A civilization has its own political system. It is the main governing body and has influence of its inhabitants. The type of system varies as some have monarchy, whereas ~~dem~~ democracy is present in others.

→ Religion

Religion is also an important characteristic of a civilization. Though there will be small factions practicing a different religion, the majority will have the same religion and teachings.

→ Economic System:

Every civilization has its own economic system. Some have the concept of free market economy, where state has not control over the economy. Others will have an economic system regulated by the governing body.

Key characteristics of Islamic civilization

→ Concept of Tawheed

Tawheed is an important pillar of Islam. It is the core of the deen, and it is ~~at~~ only after a strong belief is established in this pillar that a person can enter the folds of Islam. Tawheed ~~is~~ can be divided in three following categories:

1) Oneness of Allah

This means having a strong, unwavering belief in Allah as the sole creator of the worlds. There is none who are worthy of worship except Allah, and partners should be ascribed with him. Regarding this the Quran says:

"And your God is one God. There is no deity [worthy of worship] except him".

2) Attributes of Allah.

This means that has has the best and most beautiful names. No one shares these attribute with him. The Quran says in this regard:

"And to Allah belongs the best of names, so invoke him by them".

3) Unity in Actions

This means that Allah alone has the power to do anything. He alone controls the affairs of the worlds, and there is no one who shares these powers with Him. The Quran says:

"To God belongs the sovereignty of heavens and earth and every thing that lies within them".

→ Dignity of Man

Islam grants dignity to every person. Islam does not allow anyone, whether King or a beggar, to humiliate

another person. In this regard the Holy Quran says:

" ~~O Children of Adam~~

" We have honoured the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, and provided them good things, and greatly favored them over many of those we created!"

→ Equality

Equality is a key characteristic of Islamic civilization. Islam has greatly stressed upon this aspect. There are many verses in Quran that enunciate equality, one notable verse being:

" O people! We have created you from a male and female, and made you races and tribes that you may know one another. The best among you is the one in the sight of Allah is the one who is the most righteous."

→ Tolerance

Islam is a religion of peace and compassion, and therefore tolerance is another important characteristic of Islamic civilization. Stressing on the importance of tolerance and forgiveness, Islam says:

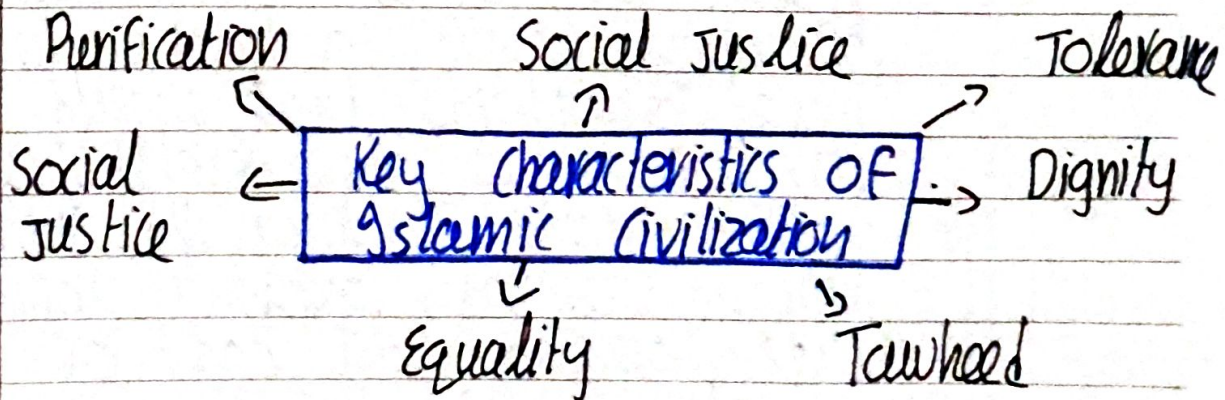
"The repayment of a bad action is one ~~equivalent~~ equivalent to it. And whoever pardons and makes reconciliation, his reward lies with Allah. And Allah does not love unjust".

→ Moral values

Having high moral values is the essence of Islamic civilization. Islam encourage people to have high moral standards that should set them apart from the disbelievers. These moral values include: speaking the truth, be fair in dealings, ignoring worldly gains that come at the cost of ones morals.

→ Social Justice :

Social justice is another characteristic of ~~the~~ Islamic civilization. Justice is given a lot of importance in Islam. An Islamic civilization should always dispense impartial justice. No one should be given any special treatment, nor should any one be above the law. An incident regarding this comes to mind where a woman ~~of~~ belonging to a high status family was found guilty. Some people asked the prophet ^ﷺ to forgive her but the prophet ^ﷺ categorically denied and said that ~~if~~ even if his daughter Hafsa ^{R.A.}, had committed the crime, she would have ~~if~~ received the same punishment.



Conclusion

To sum up, Islamic civilization is one of a kind. The key characteristics not only refer to the governing patterns but places in a lot of significance on how individuals are to be treated and how the governing body should make sure of it. The principles of equality, moral value, dignity, and social justice really distinguishes Islam from other civilizations.