

Q.1: Rights of Women In Islam:

Introduction:

The rights that Islam gave to women were revolutionary for not only the time when it gave them but for centuries to come. Women not treated as equals to man before Islam. Islam introduced a comprehensive system of rights for women which include spiritual, social, economic and political rights. In the rest of the world women were not given any rights until late nineteenth century. Only now, after decades of struggle of women, have they been able to secure their rights that Islam gave to them 1400 years ago.

Before Islam:

Before Islam, women were treated as property of men. They were considered inferior to men. They did not have any political or economic rights. They could not hold any public office, nor could they own any property. After marriage, anything that women possessed became a property of the husband. Women were considered the root of all evil and infant girls were buried alive. In other religions as well, women were considered the devil. For example, in Christian religion, ~~was~~ Eve, a woman, is blamed for making Adam ~~make~~ the first disobey God. Islam for the first

gave rights to women.

Woman in Islam:-

Islam has laid down a comprehensive system of rights for women that encompasses all the spiritual, social, economic and political aspects of life.

1) Spiritual Aspect:

Women and men are considered equal spiritually and all their wrongdoings and right doings are going to be measured on the same basis. In Quran, Allah says:

"Every soul will be (held) in pledge for its deeds". - (Al-Quran- 74:38)

Which means that it doesn't matter if it's a man or a woman, both will be held accountable for their actions.

In another place, Allah says:

"Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has faith, verily to them We give a new life that is good and pure, and We will bestow on such their rewards according to the best of their actions."

- Al-Quran (16:97)

2) Social Aspect:

In every social role, be it a child, a wife or a mother, women are to be treated with the highest of regards and respect according to Islam:

a) As a child / daughter:

As a child, women deserve the same love and respect, if not more, as the sons.

Daughters are considered to be a blessing in Islam. The Holy Prophet said, "Any man who raises two daughters with respect till maturity, he and I will enter Jannah like this (and he pointed to two of his fingers together)".
- ~~Had~~ Hadith

Before Islam, daughters were considered a curse and were buried alive, which is severely condemned in Islam. Allah says, "And when the female (infant) who was buried alive, is questioned, for what crime was she killed?"

Al-Quran (81: 8-9)

b) As a wife:-

Women have every right as wives over their husbands as their husbands over them. The only difference is that the leadership of the family belongs to the husband. But this does not mean by any means that husbands are superior over them. Islam teaches of mutual consent and consultation between husband and wife. Quran says,

"If they (husband and wife) desire to wear the child by mutual consent and agreement, there is no blame on them."

Al-Quran (2: 233)

"Husband and wife are supposed to support each other in every aspect of life. Islam teaches of love and mercy between them. Quran says, And among his signs is this: that

He created mates for you from among yourselves, so you find rest in them and peace of mind, and He ordained between you love and mercy."

(Al-Quran-30:21)

" The Holy Prophet ¹⁰ said,

" The best among you are those who are best to their wives and I am the best to my wives."

c) As a mother:

~~The~~ Islam has ordained the utmost respect and love for mothers - There is a famous Hadith that,

" Jannah lies at the feet of your mother -"

Such is the respect of a mother in Islam - In Holy Quran, there is a verse:

"Your Lord has decreed upon you that you worship none, save Him, and that you be kind to your parents"

Al-Quran (17:23)

According to a Hadith, a mother has three times more rights than a father.

3) Economic Aspect:-

Women did not possess any economic rights before Islam whatsoever. Islam gave women the right to own property, to do business and a right in inheritance. Women have half the share of inheritance as men but this definitely does not mean that they have less. Men have double the share in inheritance because of their financial obligations to their

families - while women don't have these obligations in Islam and all the wealth they inherit belongs to them solely. In fact, women are at an advantage from this point of view.

4) Political Rights:-

Women have got all the political rights as men do. They can have a say in public affairs and hold public offices. During the time of the Holy Prophet, women debated in public affairs even with the Prophet himself. During the time of the caliphate of Hazrat Umar, a woman debated with him and made him say, "Umar is wrong, a woman is right".

Women are not considered suitable

to become heads of states in Islam.

It is because of their biological construct - The head of state is

supposed to lead prayers of Friday

and on festivals. A woman might

be in menstrual period and can not

perform prayer. And according to similar

reasons, a woman is not considered

well suited to become head of state.

Women Rights in the light of feminist movements and Islam:

In all other parts of the world outside of Islam, women were not given any rights which is why they had to struggle for centuries. These struggles led to feminist movements and

women have been able to secure some of their rights through these movements, which Islam gave to women 14 centuries ago. Some of these rights are:

1) - Political rights:

Feminist movement started out as a political movement and the right to vote. Women did not possess the right to vote ~~or~~ let alone holding a public office until very recently. As a result of the first feminist movement they secured these rights after decades of struggle. While Islam has given these rights to women 1400 years ago.

2)

2) Economic Rights:-

Women also did not possess any economic rights outside of Islam. Women did not have a share in inheritance and they did not have the right to own property or do business. After the success of first wave of feminist movement, women began to struggle for their economic rights. And they got these rights very recently. Islam has given all these rights to women 14 centuries ago.

Conclusion:-

The rights that have been given to women by Islam 14 centuries ago without any struggle or demand for them have only been recently given to women after years of struggle outside Islam. Islam gave every political, social, economic and spiritual right to women that men possessed. Islam made women equals of men.

Q.2). Moral Values of Islam:

Introduction:

'Moral values' or 'morality' means to distinguish between good deeds and bad deeds. It is universal and is inherent in human nature. But Islamic concept of morality is distinct from the rest.

In Islam, morality means "to live in complete obedience to Allah, and to strive to seek the pleasure of Allah." Morality leads to numerous individual and social benefits which is why it has been ordained in the Quran and Sunnah on many occasions.

Moral Values in Quran and Sunnah:

Moral values have utmost importance in Quran and Sunnah, and there is a mention of them again and again. One of the most comprehensive mentions of moral values is in the seventeen verses of Soorah Beni Israel. (17: 23-39),

which are as follows:

- i) To worship Allah alone
- ii) Extreme kindness to parents
- iii) Moderation in expenditure
- iv) Giving their due to kinsmen, wayfarer & poor.
- v) No profligation of wealth
- vi) Do not commit fornication
- vii) Do not slay own children
- viii) Do not kill someone that Allah has forbidden
- ix) Keeping of promises
- x) Do not heresy
- xi) Complete the measure.

These are the moral values as guided by the Quran - The Holy Prophet also laid a lot of emphasis on morality. He said, "The perfect in belief and faith is the one who is the best morally" - Hadith

On another occasion the Prophet said, "My best and nearest companion on day of Judgement will be the person of the best morals" - Hadith

Benefits of Moral Values:-

Moral values have a lot of individual and social benefits; some of which are as follows:

1) Equality of Mankind:-

One of the most important moral values taught in Islam is the equality of mankind. The Prophet (PBUH) said in his last sermon that, "No white has any superiority over

the black and no black has any superiority over the white, no Arab has any superiority over a non-Arab and no Non-Arab has any superiority over Arab."

Which means that all humans are born equal. The only thing that distinguishes them is piety.

2) Importance of Piety:-

Since every human being is equal to one another, the only distinguishing factor among them is piety. They will be judged in the Hereafter based on their piety. Quran says,

"Surely the most honorable of you with Allah is the one who is the most pious".

Al-Quran (49:13)

This importance of piety leads to other numerous benefits-

3) Unity and Brotherhood:

Another moral value taught by Islam is unity and brotherhood among mankind-

Quran says,

"Mankind is one community".

(Al-Baqarah 2: 213)

Mankind is supposed to treat each other like brothers and live peacefully.

4) No Compulsion In Religion:-

There is no compulsion in Islam. Everyone has been given the free will and free choice of choosing Islam or not.

"Whosoever wants to believe may believe, and whosoever wants to disbelieve may

disbelieve" (Al-Quran - 10:15)

5- Moderation:-

In Islam, the middle path is always the preferred one - Extremism of any kind is discouraged in Islam. Being too much materialistic is prohibited as well as giving too much to religion and leaving the world behind.

The Holy Prophet said,

"God did not send me to be harsh or cause harm, but He sent me to teach and make things easy".

- Hadith.

6. Kindness:-

Islam teaches its followers to be kind to every human being. Not just humans, but Islam also ordains to be kind to animals as well.

7: Truthfulness:-

Truthfulness is among the highest moral values in Islam, as it prohibits one from committing sin. The Holy Prophet said,

"Truth leads to piety and piety leads to Heaven. Similarly, lies lead to vice and vice lead to Hell".

- Hadith.

8. Tolerance:-

Islam teaches its followers to be tolerant. Even if someone treats you harshly should be treated with kindness. The Holy Prophet was the highest example of tolerance and he said to his companions to be tolerant when they were being persecuted.

in Makkah. It has been mentioned again and again in the Holy Quran as well,
وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

"Indeed, Allah is with the tolerant ones".

g) Justice:-

Islam ordains the moral value of justice - When a girl named Fatima was caught in an act of theft and the punishment of cutting off her hands was ordained, some ~~per~~ influential people came to the Prophet and asked to reverse this punishment - The Holy Prophet replied,

"If it was my own daughter Fatima, she would have been punished the same".

Conclusion:-

Islam has a comprehensive system of moral values. These have been emphasised upon again and again in the Quran and Sunnah. The distinctive feature of the moral value system in Islam is that they are performed to please Allah. They have several benefits to individuals and society and are a permanent & prominent feature of the Islamic Civilisation.