

QUESTION NO: 1

Describe the rights of women?

INTRODUCTION:

Historically women were denied their basic rights and had to struggle for their existence. With the advent of Islam, women rights were revived. Islam became the first religion to define women rights and considered them equal to men. The current waves of women rights demand equality for women in workplace and some other rights which Islam has already granted to Muslim women.

Women rights in Islam:

Women rights discussed and defined in detail, therefore are categorized into different heads for simplification.

- i- Social rights.
- Rights as a mother.
 - Rights as a wife.
 - Rights as daughter and sister.

- ii- Economic rights.
- iii- Political rights.
- iv- Special rights.
- v- Right to education.

SOCIAL RIGHTS:-

AS A MOTHER:

Islam has elevated the respect of women to such level that "heaven lies in the feet of mother". Islam has raised the status of women as a mother and blessed her with privileges which were never seen before.

AS A WIFE:

The rights of women as wife are clearly stated in the Holy Quran. During his last sermon, Holy Prophet (SAWW) stated:
Fear Allah concerning women
--- If your wife refrains from acts of impropriety and remains loyal, provide them with good food and clothing.

AS A SISTER:

The privilege of a woman being a sister are evident from the treatment of Holy Prophet (SAWW) towards her sister Shaima. He (SAWW) pardoned her during a conquest.

AS A DAUGHTER:

Islam appreciated the upbringing of daughters as an act leading towards Paradise.

RIGHT TO LIFE:

Holy Prophet (SAWW) glorified the upbringing of daughters and had a very close and dear relationship with her daughter Hazrat Fatima (RA). Before the advent of Islam, the birth of daughter was considered a burden and bad omen. Islam categorically resisted the act and Allah said in Quran,

Do not kill your child with the fear of poverty. We provide for you them and for you. Surely killing them is a heinous sin.

ECONOMIC RIGHTS:-

RIGHT TO EARN:

Unlike other religions, Islam allowed women to run their own businesses and earn money for themselves. Allah says in Quran:

To men is allotted what they earn and to women is allotted what they earn - (4:32)

RIGHT TO OWN PROPERTY AND MONEY:

Islam clearly stated the women have the right to own any property. They may lease, mortgage any property. They have all rights to possess their own money.

POLITICAL RIGHTS:

-) Right to vote.
-) Right to protest.
-) Right to rule.
-) Bait.

Islam allows women to have a say in the decision making process. Hazrat Abdul-Rehman bin Auf (RA) consulted women while selection of Hazrat Usman (RA) -

RIGHT TO ACQUIRE EDUCATION:

Women have the right to acquire education. Holy Prophet (SAW) equated the education of a woman to education of a whole family. Islam made acquisition of knowledge compulsory for both men and women.

SPECIAL RIGHTS GRANTED TO WOMEN:

RIGHT TO MARRY:

Islam is against the marriage of women without their consent. Consultation and agreement for marriage is necessary according to Islam.

RIGHT TO DIVORCE:

A woman is allowed the option of divorce and Khula if the normal life is not possible.

RIGHT OF INHERITANCE:

Women get share of inheritance from their father, husband and sons.

→ Right to ^{acquire} Dower:

It is the amount given to a

women by her husband. It can be agreed upon before or on the day of marriage.

4) Right of alimony:

Islam also allows women to acquire alimony after divorce.

Allama Shibli:-

Allama Shibli stated that Islam is the first religion which granted equal rights to women.

Shah Wali Ullah described the provision of rights to women in his book *Hijjat ul-Baligha*.

Current waves of women rights:

The current waves of women rights are demanding the acquisition of rights which Islam granted hundred years back. Currently the situation of women worldwide is not satisfactory.

Increased incidence of sexual harassment, rape and the evident unequal pay scale for women are the major demands of women. The women rights movements claim to march for these rights but are often controversial due to the use of slogans and the perceived influence of Western on their ideology. But these rights were granted to women in Islam centuries ago. Strict implementation of laws will lead to peaceful existence.

CONCLUSION:

Islam is the first and only religion to grant equal rights to women. Before this they were even denied their right to life. ~~As soon as they~~ The current waves for women rights are often rendered

Controversial to make them ineffective.

The strict implementation of the existing laws and formulation of more such laws regarding the safeguard of women will pave way for equal representation of women in the world.

QUESTION NO: 2:-

Islamic civilization has a unique identity. Elaborate its characteristics.

INTRODUCTION:

Islamic civilization undoubtedly has unique identity as its founding principles are based on the religious beliefs. In addition to this Islam inculcated the values of accountability, fair play, equality, justice and honesty. Values have a very vital role in the formulation of a civilization.

The key characteristics of an Islamic civilization include oneness of Allah, The Prophet hood, equality, brotherhood and complete guidance for an individual.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION:

SYSTEM OF BELIEF:

Islamic system of faith includes:

- Oneness of Allah
- Prophet hood.

This belief in Almighty and the faith that sovereignty belongs to Allah alone serves as guiding principle for Islamic civilization. Strong faith renders the steadfast and true Islamic civilization.

Allama Maududi said that beliefs and rituals of Islam are the real components of Islamic civilization.

ISLAMIC LAW:

Legal systems of an Islamic civilization are mainly influenced by the Islamic Jurisprudence. These laws guided the society about the values of justice and strict system of punishment. The application of Islamic Law led to the establishment of just and peaceful society.

EQUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD:

Islam inculcated the principle of equality in its civilization. Miss Sarojini Naidu observed that "Islam is the only religion that discourages cast and creed system and promotes equality and brotherhood."

ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE:

Islamic art included intricate geometric patterns, calligraphy

and other similar symbols. The building of mosques and palaces depicted the rich and unique cultural heritage of Muslims.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING:

Islamic civilization promoted acquisition of knowledge as a religious obligation. Education played an important role in formulation of a just society. Muslim scientists excelled in their fields and led to creation of algebra and some crucial medicines. The induction of civic sense played significant role in community building.

ETHICAL VALUES:

Islamic civilizations were built on the strong imposition of

ethical values. Islam taught the importance of fair play and justice. The inculcation of these values led to the creation of a unique Islamic civilization. The values of fair play and honesty as emphasized in Holy Quran lead to the uniqueness of Islamic civilization.

The Political System:

The Islamic civilization operated on the principle of consultation. A strong system of governance was established. Islam defied the concept of the alleged authority to rule and prioritized the process of consultation in the establishment of a government.

SYSTEM OF CALIPHATE:

Islamic civilizations were originally governed by Caliphs. The Caliphs were selected by the process of mutual consultation. The Caliphs were subject to a set standard qualities. Those fulfilling the selection criteria were allowed to rule.

LANGUAGE AS A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION:

Arabic language was used as means of communication. It played a vital role in the spread of Quranic knowledge and the teachings of Islam. Many prominent scholars made contributions for the betterment of Arabic language.

SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY:

The sense of dual accountability one in this world and the world hereafter ensured the true fulfilment of assigned responsibilities. Accountability on the day of Judgment and fear of Allah emerged as strength of Islamic civilization.

AMMAR BIL MAROOF VA NAHI

ANIL MUNKAR :

The concept of Amma bil maroof ~~va~~ va nahi anil munkir translated as the promotion of doing the right thing forbidding the wrong doing emerged as another characteristic which rendered the Islamic civilization as unique till date.

Conclusion:

Inculcation of the moral and ethical virtues of Islam in the Islamic civilization renders

Quote references

Make impressive headings

it to be one of the best and unique civilization - The foundation of civilization based on religious faith on Allah being the most prominent reasons for the uniqueness of Islamic civilization.