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Batch: 03-59 (Islamabad)

Exam: Mock - III

Subject: Islamic Studies

Date: 12th - 07 - 2024.

Part - II

Q5.

## WOMEN IN ISLAM

Before the arrival of Islam, women were treated inferior and as an object of shame. Islam is the only religion that gave rights to women and equated her men. Allah says in the Quran.

"He created you from a single being; then of the same kind made its mate."

This illustrates that men and women are created from the same being.

Islam elaborated women's rights, her status and role in a very detailed manner. The prophet (Pbuh) also guided the Muslims on taking care of the women. He not only advised his men but also practically

demonstrated how he treated his women. In the last sermon, Prophet (SAW) specifically advised Muslims to treat women with love and kindness.

## ROLE OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

In Islam women play an essential role in various aspects of life. Her contributions are acknowledged and are held with great regard.

### 1. SPIRITUAL ROLE:

Women in Islam have the same spiritual obligations and opportunities as men. She is encouraged to seek knowledge, worship Allah and do charity and good deeds. Women's spiritual equality with men is timely stressed upon in Quran.

"Whoso does good whether male or female, and is a believer, shall enter Paradise and they shall not be wronged a whit." (AL-QURAN).

### 2. EDUCATIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL ROLE OF WOMEN

Women in Islam are encouraged to seek knowledge and use it for the betterment of society. Islamic teachings promote education for both men and women. The prophet (Pbuh) says:

"Seeking knowledge also is obligatory upon every Muslim."

The hadith does not limit seeking knowledge to men only. The world muslim includes both men and women. Hazrat Aisha (RA) was a woman of knowledge. Many companions of the Prophet would come and seek knowledge from her. This is the classic example of women having a role in education and intellectual activity.

### 3. ECONOMIC ROLE:

Islam recognises women's economic capabilities and encourages them to engage in business and financial transactions. Hazrat Khadija (R.A) was a also business woman and took part in trade. Women can contribute to the economic well-being of their families and play an active role in societal development.

## RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

Islam has given women her due rights which are as follows.

### 1. RIGHT TO LIVE:

Before the arrival of Islam, a female child would be buried alive right after the birth. The society had taken the right to life from women. Islam came and redefined women's rights. It gave women the basic right to live.

Allah says:

"And when the female (infant) buried alive - is questioned, for what crime she was killed." (Al-Burani).

## 2. RIGHT TO HAVING CONSENT IN MARRIAGE.

Islam gave the right of choosing a husband herself to women. A woman cannot be married off to a man whom she does not like. Muhammad (Pbuh) says:

"A previously married woman must not be married till she is consulted, and a virgin must not be married till her consent is asked."

## 3. RIGHT TO EDUCATION:

Women are encouraged to seek knowledge and then teach the gained knowledge to people. The hadith mentions, "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim."

Women must increase their knowledge and use it for the betterment of the society.

## 4. RIGHT TO INHERIT:

Islam has made women to inherit her father's and husband's property. A right amount of share is given to her. She inherits  $\frac{1}{8}$  of her husband's property and  $\frac{2}{3}$  in the ratio of 2:1 from

her father's wealth.

## STATUS OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

### 1. MEN AND WOMEN ARE EQUAL IN THE SIGHT OF ALLAH:

Allah made both men and women equal. No one is superior to anyone. The Quran on multiple occasions have stated that both the sexes are equal in the sight of Allah and both will be rewarded or punished without any discrimination.

The Quran says,

"And so their Lord answered them: 'I will not waste the work of any worker among you, whether male or female. You are one of another.'"

### 2. ORDER TO RESPECT MOTHERS ABUNDANTLY:

Women are highly respected in the status of mothers. The prophet said that Heaven lies under mother's feet. Giving this valuable and dignified status to women is of paramount importance. In another incident a man came to Prophet (Pbuh) and asked who was more entitled to be treated with the best companionship by him. The prophet (Pbuh) answered that his mother. This question was asked thrice and ~~the~~ on every answer the prophet mentioned the mother. From this

one can get the idea that how important is given to women in the status of a mother.

### 3. ORDER TO TREAT WIVES IN THE BEST MANNER:

The prophet emphasized on the fact that women as wives should be treated with love and kindness.

"The best of you is the one who is best to his wife, and I am the best of you to my wives." (Ibn Maajah).

This hadith throws light on the importance of treating women in the status of wives.

### 4. ORDER TO TREAT DAUGHTERS WELL:

Islam encourages men to treat their daughters well. She should be given her due share in inheritance and must be educated, treated with dignity and asked for consent in marriage. Prophet's treatment with his daughter Hazrat Fatima (R.A) is a clear example of how daughters should be treated.

### CONCLUSION:

It can be summed up that Islam ordered men to treat women with love and dignity. This is evident by the rights and status given to her in Islam.