

Question #1

Difference between Deen and Religion and importance of Deen in human life

1- Introduction

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

"The deen in the sight of Allah is Islam."

~ Surah Al-Imran #19

The difference between deen and religion (Mahzab) is clear and distinct. There are various factors that make deen and religion completely different from each other. The differences between deen and religion are in terms of complete code of life, totality versus totality, concept of tauheed, protection of the holy books, and injunctions related to accountability. As far as importance of deen in human life is concerned, it gives purpose to life, helps in gaining moral reformation, acts as source of spiritual satisfaction, and ensures public welfare. And Islam, as an all encompassing and comprehensive code of life, completes all criterias and is the only deen.

2- Understanding the concept of deen and religion

2.1, Literal meaning of deen

Deen is a Quranic term and it means

- way of life
- obedience
- superiority

2.2, Definition of deen

"Deen is a comprehensive system, which includes not only spiritual matters but also secular matters."

~ Imam Ghazali - "Ihya ul Uloom"

2.3, Literal meaning of religion

Religion (Mazhab) is not a Quranic term and it means

- belief
- a way
- sects

2.4, Definition of religion

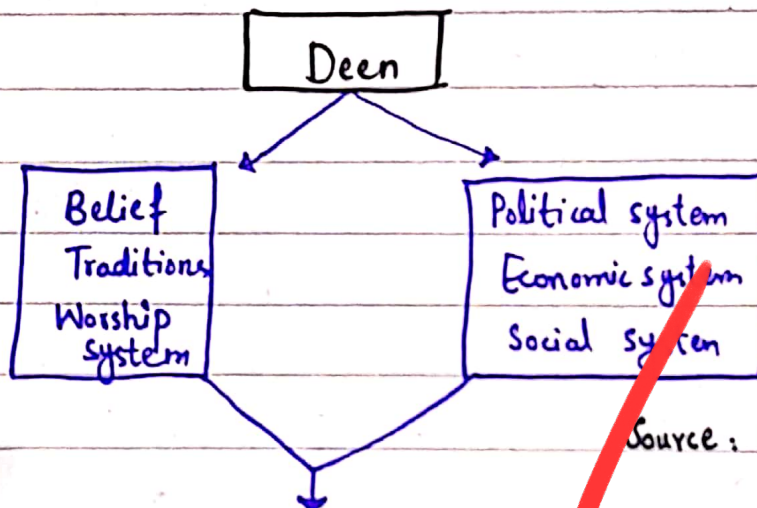
"It is a power of beliefs that leads to spiritual being."

~ Prof. White Head

3, Understanding the difference between deen and religion

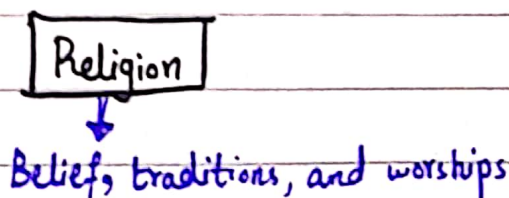
3.1, Complete code of life

To begin with, deen is a complete code of life as it deals with both worldly and hereafter affairs.



Source: An Introduction to Islam by Dr. Hamid Ullah

On contrary, religion is not complete code of life as it does not deal with the affairs of both worlds.



3.2, Purity of concept of Tauheed

Next, in deen - that is Islam, the concept of Tauheed is in its purest

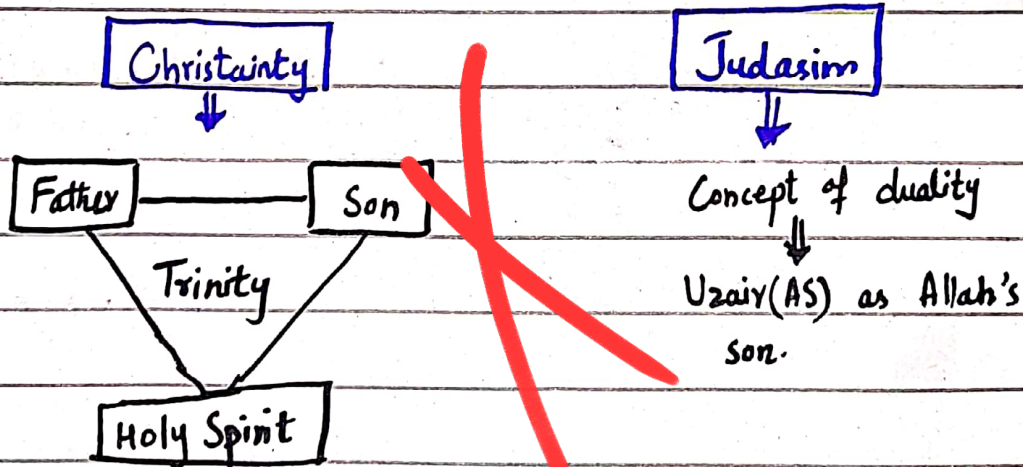
form based on the oneness of Allah. As Allah says in the Quran,

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ. اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ. لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ. وَلَهُ يَكُنْ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ.

"Say, He Allah is One. Allah, the Eternal, The Absolute. He is beget not nor He is begotten. And There is none like Him."

~ Surah Akas

While, in religion, there are so many impurities in the concept of Tauheed. For example, concept of trinity in Christianity and concept of duality in Judaism. make them religion



3.3) Injunctions related to the accountability

Another difference is that in deen such as Islam, there is clear rulings regarding accountability in deen. In this regard, the Holy Prophet (SAW) said,

"Each one of you is shepherd and is responsible for his flock."

On the other hand, in religion, there is no concept of accountability.

For instance, Christians believe that Hazrat Issa (AS) has compensated for them, and Hindus believe that taking bath in Ganges River eliminate all their sins.

3.4, Protection of the Holy book

Moreover, in deen (Islam), the protection of the Holy book that is Quran is divine. As Allah says in the Quran,

اِنَّا خِزْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَاِنَّا لَظٰلِمُوْنَ

"Indeed, it is We who sent down the Quran, and indeed, We will be its guardians."

~ Surah Hijaz #9

In contrast, the holy books in religion are not protected as humans have added multiple changes in it, which cause destruction.

Such as, changes in Bible was a leading cause of centuries long wars of Crusades which disrupted the peace of the world for years.

3.5, Difference in terms of totality versus partiality

Furthermore, deen that is Islam is a total and perfect as it deals with every sphere of life. Allah describes in the Quran,

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed my favour upon you and approved Islam as a religion (deen) for you."

~ Surah Maida #3

Contrarily, religion is partial; there is no injunctions related to its totality, and it only deals with worldly affairs of human life.

3.6, Difference in the realm of universality

Additionally, deen (Islam) is a universal as it gives globally accepted guidelines which are acceptable for all, such as teaching regarding human rights.

"Islam is a deen of the world, of government, society, moral values to the same extent as it is a deen of faith, belief, and worship."

~ Muhammad Izzat Daswazah

On the flip side, religion has limited guidance, which only address particular groups.

For example, Christians light lamp, Hindus bell rings, and Shintoism worship nature spirits.

3.7) Concept of Hereafter

Last but not least, Islam as a deen has concept of Hereafter and according to which every human being will get reward and punishment as per their doings on the day of judgement. As Allah states in the Quran,

"Everything is recorded in the Book."

~ Surah Naba #29

However, religion has no such concept of hereafter as present in deen.

As an illustration, Hinduism believe that life ends with burning of a human, and Jews believe that they will only go to paradise.

4) Importance of deen in human life

4.1) Deen gives purpose to life

First, deen has significant

importance in human life as it gives purpose to human life and tells human what is the reason behind its creation. As Allah says,

وما خلقت الجن والانس الا ليعبدون

"And I did not create the jin and the mankind except to worship Me."

~ Surah Zariat #56

4.2) Deen as a source of spiritual purification

Besides, deen is also important in human life because it gives spiritual satisfaction to human in today's highly depressing world. Allah elucidates in the Quran,

الا بذكر الله تطمئن القلوب

"Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah, heart finds comfort."

~ Surah Radh #28

4.3) Deen gives ruling about leadership

Moreover, deen is important in human life because it guides a leader how to rule as per divine guidance, fulfilling its duties.

الذين ان مكنهم في الارض اقاموا الصلوة وآتوا الزكاة
وامرو بالمعروف ونهوا عن المنكر...

“(And-they are)-those who, if We give them authority in the land, establish prayer, and give zakat, and enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong.”

~ Surah Hajj # 41

4.4, Deen helps in moral development

Likewise, importance of deen in the moral development of human can not be overshadowed. Through its divine teachings, Islam, as a deen, reforms moral character ^{of human} and helps him become a good human being.

“Who am I? A devout Muslim - who refrains from hurting anyone with his heart and tongue.”

Holy Prophet (S.A.W)

4.5, Deen ensures public welfare

Lastly, deen is important in human life because by its teachings, human ensures public welfare, promoting justice, peace, equality, and harmony.

"The Zakat system in Islam the best
in regard of ensuring public
welfare."

E.B. Tylor, A renowned Orientalist

5, Conclusion

To conclude, deen and religion have distinct difference between them. The differences between deen and religion are in realm of code of life, totality versus partiality, concept of Tauheed, protection of holy book, and concept of accountability. Moreover, deen that is Islam has profound importance in human life as it gives purpose to life, acts as spiritual cure, gives welfare system, and helps in moral development.



Question #3

Shariah, its sources, and importance of Ijma in the Quran and Sunnah

1- Introduction

"And those who strive for us - We will surely guide them to our path."

~ Surah Anqaboot # 69

Shariah, as an Islamic law, holds an immense importance in Islamic jurisprudence as it comprise divinely guided injunctions related to every landscape of life. It has different sources: primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include the Quran and Sunnah, and the secondary sources include Qiyas and Ijma. Moreover, the importance of Ijma that is consensus is described in the Quran as it is a source of enjoining good and forbidding evil and in the Sunnah, it brings the entire ummah to a single point, ultimately uniting all Muslim. Hence, Ijma holds paramount significance in both the Quran and Sunnah.

2- Definition and meaning of Shariah

2.1) Meaning of Shariah

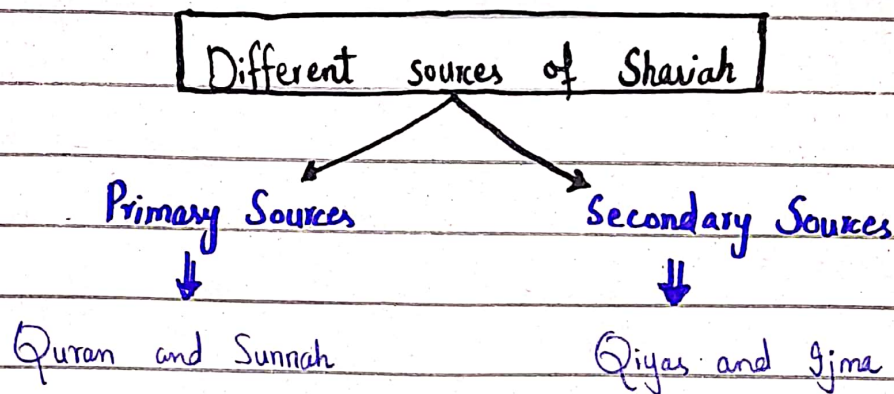
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means → "a way"

2.2, Definition of Shariah

"Shariah is the divinely guided Islamic law, encompassing a comprehensive code of conduct derived from the Quran and Sunnah that governs all aspects of Muslim's life."

Sayyed Muhammad Rizvi -
"An Introduction to the
Islamic Shariah"

3, Understanding the different sources of Shariah



3.1) Primary sources of Shariah

The primary sources of Shariah include the Quran and Sunnah. Both are divinely guided and based on clear injunctions directly from Allah. These sources

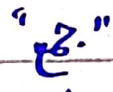
are unchangeable.

3.2, Secondary sources of Shariah

The secondary sources of Shariah include Qiyas and Ijma. Qiyas refers to the analogy which is used to resolve issue through interpretation from the primary sources of Shariah. And Ijma means consensus of scholars on ^{an} issues and its solution as per the primary sources. These sources can be changed as per the need of time.

4, Comprehending Ijma

4.1, Literal meaning of Ijma

Ijma derived from  Arabic word
↓
"To combine things together" ← which means

4.2, Definition of Ijma

"Ijma is the consensus of scholars of an era over religious matters."

~ Imam Ghazali - Shya ul Uloom

5) Importance of Ijma in The Quran

5.1, Ijma as source of unity of Ummah

To start, ijma is a source of muslim unity as it ensures consensus of all the scholars.

As Allah describes in the Quran,

وَاَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

~ Surah Al-Imran #103

5.2, Enjoining good and forbidding wrong

In ijma, all scholars are highly qualified and take decisions that ensure the enjoining of good and forbidding wrong. Moreover, one of the elements of ijma is that transgressor can not participate in it. Allah says in the Quran,

"You are the best nation produced (as an example) for mankind. You enjoin what

is good and forbid what is evil."

~ Surah Al-Imran #110

5.3, Ensuring reference to the primary sources

In ijma, the scholars must ensure to conclude their consensus based on their interpretation from the Quran and Sunnah. As ~~the~~ Allah states in The Quran,

فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ

"And when you disagree over anything refer it to Allah and the Messenger."

~ Surah Nisa #59

6, Importance of Ijma in Sunnah

6.1) Supporting validity of scholars on right thing

First ~~ijma~~ of the scholars shows that the Ummah of the Holy Prophet (SAW) will always agree on things which are in greater good of the Muslims.

"My Ummah will never agree upon an error."

~ Holy Prophet (SAW)

6.2) Ensures consensus on majority's decision

Moreover, ijma ensures that the decision of the majority is applied as there are chances that it will be on right track.

~~"When you see differences, follow the path of the majority."~~

~~~ Holy Prophet (SAW)~~

### 6.3) Refrains division in ummah

Lastly, ijma also ensures that Muslims act like <sup>one</sup> ummah and do not become divided, and whosoever tries to divide them should be killed. As the Holy Prophet (SAW) said,

"Anyone who attempts to create division within the Ummah when they are united (consensus) should be killed."

## 7) Conclusion

In conclusion, Shariah is an Islamic legal system that deals with all areas of Muslims' life



based on divine guidance and teachings of  
Prophet (AW). The different sources of Shariah  
are the Quran, Sunnah, Qiyas, and Ijma.  
And Ijma holds immense importance  
both in the Quran and Sunnah as it  
unify the Ummah, eliminates error, and enjoin  
good and forbid evil.

#### Question #4

Suggestions for reforming Pakistani politics as per the  
aspects of Islamic political system

##### 1) Introduction

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَاطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَالَّذِينَ أُمِرُوا بِهِ

"Oh believers! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and  
those in authority among you."

~ Surah Nisa #59

The political situation in Pakistan  
is deteriorating with every passing day. So, it  
is the need of the hour to make  
the Pakistani politics effective and efficient  
by following the suggestions in align  
with various aspects of Islamic political  
system. To reform Pakistani politics as per  
Islamic political system, it is imperative to

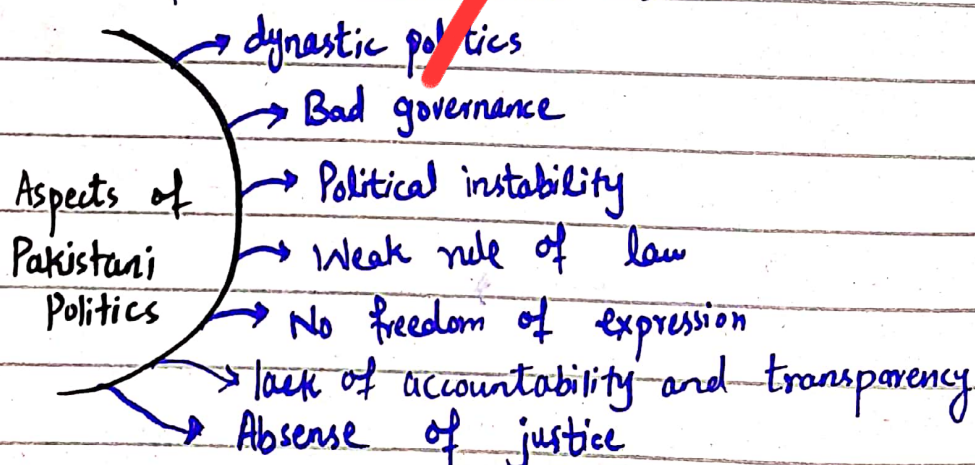
ensure shura (consultation), make decisions as per Islamic law (shariat), bolster justice, encourage rule of law, promote accountability, revise voting system, ensure Amr bil Ma'ruf wa nahi Anr il Munqir concept, and protect human rights. Hence, all these suggestions in line with various aspects of Islamic political system can resolve the problems in Pakistani politics, ultimately promoting peace in the country.

## 2) Glancing over current situation of politics in Pakistan

"Pakistan ranked 124<sup>th</sup> out of 160 countries in democracy index."

Democracy Index 2024 published by Economist Intelligence Unit

This report clearly depicts the upset state of politics in Pakistan. Moreover, various aspects of Pakistani politics are mentioned below.





### 3, Suggestions aligning with different aspects of Islamic political system to reform Pakistani politics

#### 3.1) Promotion of consultation (shura)

To begin with, Pakistan politics can be reformed when promotion of consultation is ensured as it is the significant aspect of Islamic political system. Allah says in the Quran,

وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ

"And consult them in the affairs."

~ Surah Al-Imran #159

#### 3.2) Ensuring the concept of enjoining good and forbidding evil

Next, for reforming Pakistani politics, it is of paramount importance to ensure the concept of enjoining good and forbidding evil in the country. As this concept is corner stone of Islamic political system, it will eliminate all evils from Pakistani politics. As Allah says,

"You are the best nation produced (as an example) for mankind you enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong."

~ Surah Al-Imran #110

### 3.3, Revising the voting rights

Moreover, for reforming Pakistani politics, it is essential to revise the voting system in Pakistan and make it as per Islamic teaching. In Islamic political system, voting right is given to political conscious and aware people, so they take well-informed decisions.

For example, Hazrat Umar (R.A) found "Majalis e Shura e Khaas" for selection of upcoming Khalifa, which consisted 6 highly political aware members.

Hence, the adult franchise voting system needs to be revised to reform Pakistani politics as per Islamic political system.

### 3.4, Making decisions (legislation) as per Islamic laws (Shariah)

Furthermore, for revising Pakistani politics, the legislation making process must be in line with Shariah because it is one of the significant elements of Islamic political system.

For instance, the legislation process at the times of pious Caliphate is best example in this regard.



### 3.5) Bolstering justice

To add, the important aspect of Islamic political system is justice. Therefore, bolstering justice is pertinent in the process of reforming Pakistani politics. In this regard, Allah says in the Quran,

اِدْرُوْكُمْ اَقْرَبَ لِلْقَوٰی

"Be just; that is nearer to righteousness."

~ Surah Maida #8

### 3.6) Ensuring rule of law

Likewise, rule of law is also significant aspect of Islamic political system. For reforming Pakistani politics, rule of law should be ensured.

The glaring example of rule of law is when Prophet (SAW) said, "Even if my daughter Fatima did theft, I would have given her the same punishment."

### 3.7) Upholding accountability of the rulers

Another prominent aspect of Islamic political system is that it upholds

the administrators accountable whether they have done their duty diligently or not. So, Pakistani Politics can be best reformed if the accountability of rulers is ensured. In this regard, Hajj Courts for the accountability process of the governors during Pious Caliphate is best illustration.

### 3.8, Protecting human rights

Adding more, protection of human rights is also necessary for reforming the Pakistani politics in line of Islamic political system because Islam strictly advocates for it. Allah says in The Quran

مَنْ قَتَلَ النَّفْسَ الْغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَدَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ  
النَّاسَ كَإِثْمِهِ.

"That whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption (done) in the land, it is as if he had slain the mankind entirely."

~ Surah Maida #32



### 3.9, Ensuring the public welfare

Finally, for reforming Pakistani politics, it is important to ensure the important aspect of Islamic political system that is public welfare. It will ultimately promote peace, social equality, and economic equality in the country.

For this purpose, system of Zakat must be made robust and effective as it was by the time of Hazrat Umar(RA) Caliphate when no a single person was available as a Zakat recipient

### 4, Conclusion

To sum up the discussion, the Pakistani politics is in dire state and reforming it is the need of an hour. The suggestions as per aspects of Islamic political system can be prove beneficial. These include promotion of justice, ensuring consultation, bolstering rule of law, upholding accountability, implementing the concept of Amr bil Ma'ruf, and protecting human rights. Thus, for following these suggestions, Pakistani politics can be reformed as per Islamic political system.

## Question #5

Women rights in Islam in the context of current waves of feminism movements

### 1- Introduction

الذي خلقك من نفس واحدة

"Who created you from a single soul."

~Surah Nisa #1

Islam as a comprehensive deen has provided unparalleled rights to women 1400 years ago when the rest of the world cannot imagine about it. The Western world has start feminism movement to ensure equal rights to women, but Islam has already provided these rights, ultimately fulfilling demand of feminism movement.

Women rights in Islam include right to life, right to education, right to own property, right to inheritance, right to marriage, and right to divorce. Hence, all these rights of women in Islam also align with the current feminism movements.

### 2- Understanding the term feminism

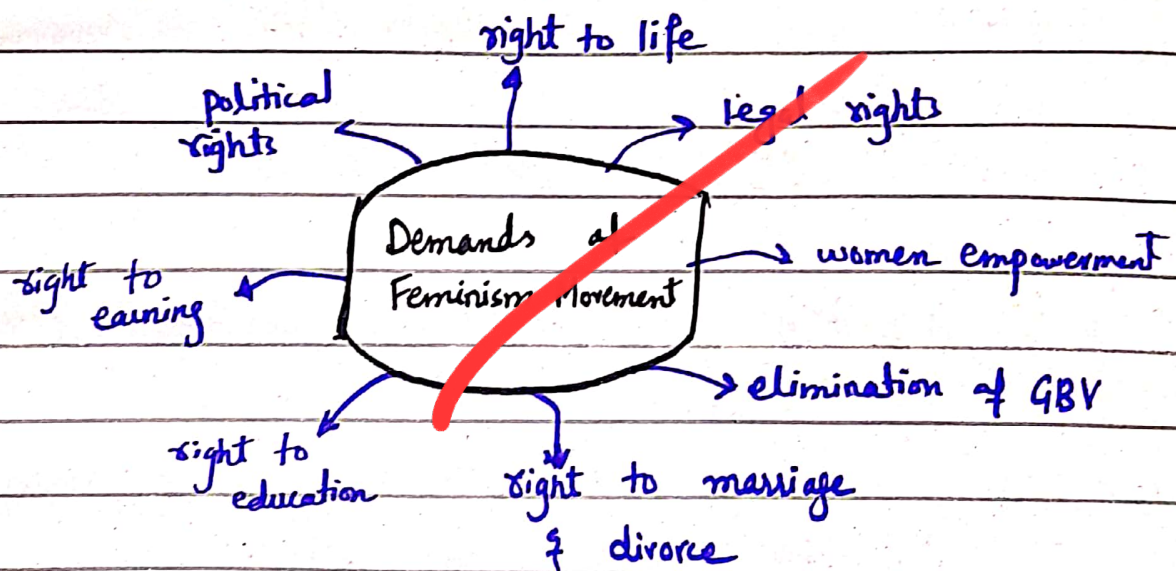
"Feminism is a world-wide movement



which was started to achieve gender equality and challenge the patriarchal mindset against women, giving equal status to women as men enjoy."

### 3- Comprehending the demands of feminism movements

The following are the demands of feminism movements for ensuring women rights.



### 4- Discussing rights of women in Islam in context of current wave of feminism movements

#### 4.1) Right to life

First and foremost, Islam has granted

right to life when the primitive societies used to bury them alive. Allah says in the

Quran,

"Whoever kills a man unless for a soul or corruption (done) in the land - it is as if he had slain the mankind entirely."

~ Surah Maida #32

The verse elucidates the importance of life of the entire mankind whether male or female, showcasing the scarcity of life. Feminism also advocates for right of life by rising voice against honor killing of women.

#### 4.2) Right to education

Islam has also provided the right of education to women without any discrimination.

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim."

Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Thus, the Hadith of the beloved Prophet (SAW) clearly advocates for right of education as every Muslim including men and women. Feminism also advocates for this right and by following this teaching, Malala Yousufzai, started working for women right of education.



#### 4.3, Right to own property

Moreover, Islam also gives right of owning property to women which is again in line with the demand of current feminism movements. Allah says in the Quran,

"For men is a share of what they have earned and for women is a share for what they have earned."

~ Surah Nisa #32

#### 4.4, Right of political participation

Next, Islam also provides the right of political participation to women, and it is also significant demand of current feminism movements to ensure political representation of women.

For example, "Participation of women in the selection process of Hazrat Usman(RA) is giving example in this regard."

#### 4.5, Right to dignity and honor

Additionally, the right of dignity and honor is also given to women

by Islam. So is the demand of feminism.  
Allah states in the Quran

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ

"And We have honored the children of Adam"

~ Surah Bani-Israel #70

#### 4.6, Right to inheritance

Furthermore, Islam as a complete code of life also ensure the right of inheritance of women in order to ensure their financial security.

"God has ordained to every man the share of his inheritance."

~ Holy Prophet (SAW) - The Last Sermon

#### 4.7, Right of freedom of expression

Likewise, Islam also gives right of freedom of expression to women, so they can present their views and advocate for their rights. Contemporary feminism also demands for this right.

For example, The old lady had questioned Hazrat Umar (RA) when he was Kalifah and ordered to abolish



the dowry of women. The lady said when Allah has given us this right how can you abolish it.

#### 4.8, Right to divorce

In addition, Islam profoundly ensures the right of divorce of women and give them right to claim "Khula" when their marriage is no more valuable.

Allah himself said in the Quran,

"And when you divorce women and they reach their prescribed period, then either retain them in kindness or release them in kindness."

~ Surah Baqara # 231

#### 4.9, Right to marriage

Lastly, Islam also advocates for women's right to marriage as per their own choice. Islam does not support the concept of forced marriage and so does feminism.

"And do not force your daughters into marriage."

~ Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

## 5) Conclusion

In conclusion, women are significant and integral part of society. For this reason, Islam has provided unprecedented rights to women, which are even the demands of current wave of feminism. These rights of women in Islam include right to life, right to inheritance, right to own property, right to marriage, right to education, and right to divorce. Hence, all these rights of women are testament of importance of women in society.

