
EDUCATION RIGHT OF WOMEN- ASSESSING ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY

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Abstract: Today the women issues have acquired great importance throughout the world among all the communities, nations and religions. Regarding the position and role of women, their right of education is one of the most serious issues and is often related with the religion particularly Islam, as it is charged upon Islam that it denies their right to education. But the fact is that Islam is the first religion which promoted the women education and obliged it upon its followers for its fulfilment.

Intend of the paper is to highlight the right of the women education with special reference to Islamic teachings. The fact is that acquiring of knowledge is a duty on Muslim women for its acquisition. The paper will discuss some Qur'anic verses and prophetic traditions which are related with educational rights of women. It also deals with the various aspects of women education in the time of Holy Prophet ﷺ as well as in the modern time.

Keywords: Education, Hadith, Islam, Qur'an, Women

The world has come a long way, but still is considered that Islam is against Women Education. This paper deals with the various aspect of women education in the prophetic period as well as the modern times in the light of Holy Qur'an.

In pre-Islamic period women suffered great injection not only in Arab world but also several other societies, as Qur'an mentioned that:

"And when the news of (the birth of) female (child) is brought to any of them his face become dark and he is filled with inward grief!"(16:58)

These verses of the Qur'an evidence that before the advent of Islam the condition of women was very vulnerable. The birth of a daughter would make the Arabs sorrowful and sad, moreover, they had no feeling of kindness and love for women, and they buried their daughter alive. This practice continues till Allah sent His messenger the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) on this earth in order to break off this ruthless practice. Islam abolished this heinous custom evidenced through this verse

"Surely, the killing of them is a great sin" (17:31)

However, in Qur'an and the tradition of Holy prophet (peace be upon him) women is held to be equal in status and worth to a man, as the Qur'an says:

"He created you from a single soul" (4:1)

Because of male female are children of the same parents, for that reason they should be treated equally in all respect and should be provided equal rights whether educational or social.

According to oxford Dictionary, education means "the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university" and as for as Qur'an is concerned whenever instruction regarding acquisition of knowledge were revealed through Prophet Muhammad, (peace be upon him) no differentiation was made if that instruction was concerned to women or men. It was for 'a Momin' or

the believer either a men believer or a woman. Even the first verse of Qur'an Al-Alaq, God says:

"Recite in the name of your Lord who created man from a clot of congealed blood. Recite and your Lord is the most Generous who taught by the pen, taught man which he knew not" (96:1-5)

It is very much apparent from Qur'an as to how much emphasis the Qur'an has attached to the seeking of knowledge and education, therefore; it has been made necessary for all human beings to acquire knowledge. The word "man" used in the verse is an emblematic expression of the Holy Quran. Within Islam there is no distinction found on acquisition of knowledge being required and obligatory. The significance and superiority of knowledge has been highlighted both directly as well as indirectly in over five hundred places in the Holy Qur'an. Indeed one of the fundamental duties and responsibilities of Prophet Hood was he spreading of knowledge and wisdom to all.

Lets us look at what Allah Almighty in His book said
"Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know? It is those who are endued with understanding that receive admonition."(39:9)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) himself emphasised on women education, Said:

"Seeking knowledge is compulsory for each and every Muslims"

He again remarked the same statements as:

"Knowledge is the lost property of a Muslims, and he should retrieve it wherever he finds it."

In addition to the above mentioned there are a number of another verses and Hadith where education for women and promoting awareness among them have been made one of the prime responsibilities of husbands towards their wives. The Holy Qur'an says:

“O you who believe! Ward off yourselves and your families against Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones, (66:6)

Islam has constantly urged the Muslims to endeavour to save their wives, children, and slaves from the fire of hell. They will only be able to do so if they educate them and enable them to choose between good and bad deeds. These saying reflect the fundamental obligation on all Muslims, male or female, because The Qur’an had already declared the doctrine of equitable treatment of women in ringing words:

“Their rights are equal to their obligation” (2:228)

Women in early Islam even held formal posts of authority in the community such as *al-Shafa bint Abdullah* who was appointed by the second Caliph Omer as superintendent of markets in Medina many times. Hence, women can work as teacher, doctors, and lawyers according to her interest. Islamic Shariah provides all facilities to women to acquired knowledge. It: intends to develop her mental power in order to become a useful member of the society. Islam emancipated Women from ignorance and made her position dignified and honourable.”*Urwah bin Zubair, (R. A. A.)* says about *Hazrat Ayesah (R.A. A.)*:

“Hazrat Ayesah (R. A. A.) Knew more about the injunctions of Holy Qur’an and, poetry and literature, the History of Arabs and their hierarchy than any other person.”

The Muslims women practised the principles of Islam and acquired honourable status in the society *Hazrat Ayesah (R.A.A)* says :

“The Ansar women were wonderful! Nothing could check them from understanding of Islam.”

“The women during the time of the Holy Prophet, (peace be upon Him) acquired profound knowledge of teaching s.

In modern time the high-flying reverted women such as *Maryam Jameela(1934-2012)* and *Amina Wadud (b.1952)* are not only reverted in Islam but devoted their lives for the cause of Islam and make easy to comprehend Islam by their precious writing after reverting Islam.

Amina Wadud says:

“Qur’an does not consider women a type of men in the presentation of its major themes. men and women are two categories of the human species given the same or equal potential. Neither is excluded in the principal purpose of the book, which is to guide humankind towards recognition of and belief in certain truth. The Qur’an encourages all believers’ male and female, to follow their belief with action, and for this it promises them a great reward. Thus, Qur’an does not make a distinction between men women in this creation, in the purpose of the book, or in the reward of the promises.

Maryam Jameelah; expressed her feelings that way she embraced Islam.

“In Islam I found all that was true, good and beautiful and which gives meaning and direction to human life and death, while in other religion, the truth is deformed, distorted, restricted and fragmentary.” Many other European reverted women argue that Islamic law gives a good to women in comparison to other religion. They also argue that Islam commensurate with science and modern life.

Today, some notable personalities of the Islamic world include the Turkish Sufi teacher *Cemalnur Sargut-* disciple the novelist and mystic *Samiha Ayverdi (1905-1993)*, *Camilla Adams Helminski*, the first women to translate a substantial portion of the Qur’an into English, and *Shaykha Fariha al Jerrahi*, the guide of the *Nur Ashki Jerrahi* Sufi Order.

There are so many other names to add in this list which clearly show the true face of Islam, the religion which doesn’t discriminate while showing blessings or while dictating punishments.

Modern Women Education Scenario in the Muslim World

According to UNESCO, in Turkey, the fraction of female researchers is a little higher (36%) than the average for the 27-member European Union as of 2012 (33%). At the University of Jordan’s largest and oldest university, 65% of students were female in 2013. Similarly, in Malaysia, Algeria, and in Saudi Arabia, majority of university have been female in recent years, Egypt had a women literacy rate of 64% in 2010, Iraq of 71% and Indonesia of 99%. These data eloquent a lot about women education right in Islam.

Conclusion: At last I conclude that Islam not only give a virtuous place of women in Islam, but also give her equal right as men; for betterment of the society, Allah knows that only a conversant women can enthusiastically participated in all affairs of life; and also give a good solution of problems in the light of Qur’an and Tradition of Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him), an educated women are very well conscious regarding their rights and duties. Therefore, it is necessary to promote education rights of women by which they can raise her voice for any violent behaviour and protect themselves, and also complaint to the court demand to remove that injustice. Educated women made great contribution to the cause of education and learning. They become the source of guidance and enlightenment for the society. In this respect, I delighted to give the example of *Malala yusuafzai* who not only fight against right of the women education, but also become Ideal for all, even the government declared 12 July as the “Malala Day” for her educational efforts.

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