

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EQUALITY IN ISLAM

Bozorova Ruzigul Sharofovna

Associate Professor of the Department of History and Philology, Asian International University,
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy.

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Abstract. *The article discusses the issue of women's rights and equality in Islam. Islam calls for women to be granted equal rights with men, assigning them a specific status and responsibility. The Quran and Hadith clearly define women's rights to education, work, property ownership, and participation in social life. Also, the obligations between men and women in family life are based on the principles of justice. The article analyzes the role of women in Islam from a philosophical and modern point of view, paying attention to the issue of gender equality.*

Keywords: *Islam, woman, gender, law, divorce, marriage, dowry.*

ПРАВА И РАВЕНСТВО ЖЕНЩИН В ИСЛАМЕ

Аннотация. *В статье рассматривается вопрос прав и равенства женщин в исламе. Ислам призывает предоставить женщинам равные права с мужчинами, наделяя их определенным статусом и ответственностью. Коран и хадисы четко определяют права женщин на образование, работу, владение имуществом и участие в общественной жизни. Также обязательства между мужчинами и женщинами в семейной жизни основаны на принципах справедливости. В статье анализируется роль женщин в исламе с философской и современной точки зрения, уделяя внимание вопросу гендерного равенства.*

Ключевые слова: *ислам, женщина, гендер, закон, развод, брак, приданое.*

Women are given great respect and attention in Islam. The Quran and Hadith call for the protection of women's rights and for treating them fairly and kindly. Islam promotes balance and justice between men and women in all aspects of life. Women are an integral part of society, playing an important role in the family, society, and in the development of humanity in general.

With the advent of Islam, women's rights were strengthened, and they were given respect and attention.

In the history of Islam, many scholars, doctors, writers, and accomplished women have emerged. For example, the wives of our Prophet, Hazrat Aisha (RA) and Hazrat Khadijah (RA), were accomplished representatives of Muslim society. The Quran gives women equal rights as human beings, as expressed in the following statement: "Men have a share of what they earn, and

women have a share of what they earn" (Surah An-Nisa, verse 32). The Quran also states that men and women are protectors of each other: "They (women) are a garment for you and you are a garment for them." (Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 187) This verse shows that husbands and wives should be complementary and protective of each other.

The role of women in the family has also been affirmed in Islam. Women are the support of the family and loving mothers. In Islam, the status of mothers is very high and it is obligatory to respect them. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Paradise is under the feet of mothers." (An-Nasaa'i) This hadith shows that the role of mothers in raising children is important.

Another hadith shows that the correct formation of relationships in the family is reflected in another hadith. Our Prophet (peace be upon him) always emphasized treating women well: "The most perfect of believers in faith is the one with the best character. And the best of you are those who are best to their women." (Tirmidhi) The emphasis in this hadith means that a good Muslim also treats his wife well.

A woman also ensures the strength of the family as a faithful wife. Respecting and valuing women is also important. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The best of you are those who are kind to their wives." (Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah) The right to education is also given to women. In Islam, seeking knowledge is obligatory for both men and women. Our Prophet (peace be upon him): "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman." (Ibn Majah)

In Islam, obtaining the consent of the woman is of great importance and it condemns forced marriage. Our Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "It is not permissible to give the woman to a husband until her consent is obtained." (Bukhari) A woman is not forced into a forced marriage against her will.

Women's rights and equality in Islam

Before the advent of Islam, women were discriminated against and their rights were ignored. Islam has given them the following rights:

1. The right to inheritance - The right to inheritance is not directly stated in the Hadiths, but the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) ordered to follow the rulings of the Quran on inheritance and advocated justice in the distribution of inheritance. The Quran clearly defines the distribution of inheritance, and these rulings are also reinforced by the Hadiths.

The distribution of inheritance is described in detail in the Quran in Surah An-Nisa: Women have the right to inherit from their families. (Surah An-Nisa, verse 7)

The following basic rules have been confirmed regarding the distribution of inheritance between sons and daughters. "Allah enjoins upon you a ruling regarding inheritance: To the male is a share equal to that of two females. But if there are more than two (inheritors), then to them is two-thirds of what is left. If she is only one, then she shall have half of it." (Surah An-Nisa, verse 11)

The following statement can be made about the right of husband and wife to inherit: "If your wives die (without children), then you shall have half of what they leave. If they have children, then you shall have a fourth of what they leave..." (Surah An-Nisa, verse 12) "If your husbands die (without children), then you shall have a fourth of what they leave. If they have children, then you shall have an eighth of what they leave." (Surah An-Nisa, verse 12):

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Allah has given each heir his due, so do not be unjust in inheritance." (Abu Dawud) This hadith confirms that the inheritance rules in the Quran are not subject to change and that everyone receives their share fairly. In some societies before Islam, women were not given inheritance. Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) abolished this injustice and confirmed the rights established in the Quran. Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever deprives another of his rights or oppresses another in the distribution of inheritance, his punishment will be the Fire of Hell on the Day of Resurrection." (Bukhari) This hadith shows the importance of observing justice in the distribution of inheritance. The hadiths confirm the Quranic rulings on the distribution of inheritance and command that they be followed. Islam has also given women the right to inheritance, and it is strictly forbidden to deprive them of it. Our Prophet (peace be upon him) called for the proper distribution of inheritance and refraining from eating someone else's rights in this regard.

2. The right to education - Women are commanded to seek knowledge. In Islam, women's education is of great importance and is supported from a religious perspective. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) stated: "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman." (Ibn Majah, Sunan, 224). This hadith shows that women have the right and duty to seek education along with men. During the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him) - Women were active in seeking knowledge.

For example, the wives of the Prophet (peace be upon him), in particular Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her), were accomplished scholars in jurisprudence, hadith, and medicine, and

taught the Companions and later generations of Muslims. In the Middle Ages, women in the Islamic world engaged in knowledge and studied in madrasas and libraries.

For example, Fatima al-Fihri founded the University of Al-Qarawiyyin in Morocco (one of the oldest universities in the world). In later centuries, although traditional views limited women's access to education in some regions, Islam itself did not oppose this. Today, in many Muslim countries, women's right to education is guaranteed by law and is encouraged in accordance with Islamic teachings. Many Muslim women also work in Islamic universities and academic institutions. Islam did not prohibit women from obtaining knowledge, but rather promoted it. The main issue is that the educational process is in accordance with Islamic values and morals.

3. The right to marriage and divorce - A woman is not forced into marriage, she has the right to divorce.

Islam views marriage as a sacred and strong bond. Marriage is not only important for satisfying personal needs, but also for the stability of society. At the same time, Islam also recognizes divorce as a vital necessity and allows it under certain conditions.

Islam considers marriage to be a sacred bond that is concluded on the basis of mutual consent and contract.

Conditions of Marriage:

1. Mutual Consent – Marriage requires the consent of both the man and the woman. Forced marriage is against Islam.

2. Witnesses to the Marriage – At least two witnesses are required to make the marriage official.

3. Mahr (bride money) – The man gives the woman a certain amount of material gift (mahr), which is introduced to guarantee the rights of the woman.

4. Announcement of the Marriage – The marriage should not be secret.

5. Financial and moral responsibility – The man takes on the financial support of the family, and the woman contributes to maintaining a stable family life. The right to divorce (Talaq). Islam does not like divorce, but allows it in cases where marriage is not possible. The following can be mentioned as forms of divorce.

1. Talaq (Divorce by the man)

- If the man wants a divorce, he must pronounce the word “talaq” in a certain manner.

- He has the option of reconciling with her until the iddah (three menstrual periods or three months) has passed.

-If he has divorced her three times, she cannot remarry until she marries someone else.

2. Khul' (Request for divorce by a woman)

-If a woman wants to divorce her husband, she can apply to a court or religious figure, citing a reason based on Sharia law.

-Sometimes a woman can return the dowry to her husband or come to a financial settlement.

3. Faskh (Islamic court divorce)

-If a man violates a woman's rights (for example, domestic violence, financial insecurity, or serious conflict), an Islamic court can annul the marriage.

4. The right to own property – Women can own and manage their own property independently. These rights demonstrate the high values that Islam places on women.

This verse means that women have the same rights as men and should not be discriminated against.

Financial support for women: The man is obliged to provide for her financially during the waiting period even after divorce.

Child rearing: Children remain primarily with the mother, but their financial support is the responsibility of the father.

Respect after marriage: Islam recommends that divorced couples treat each other with respect.

Marriage in Islam should be based on stability and kindness. If divorce is inevitable, it should be fair and in accordance with the rules of Sharia. Islam does not facilitate divorce, but regulates it in a way that protects human rights.

Islam commands women to be treated with respect, kindness, and justice. The Quran and Hadith encourage men to treat women well, respect their rights, and not oppress them.

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