

## **Gender Equality: Role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)**

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### **Abstract**

Gender equality is a product of the contemporary era that has recently taken on new dimensions in terms of social relevance, political significance, and legal significance. The two sexes are they equal? Is a man or a woman superior? Are women less than men? Public discourse is continually centred on these and other issues. Despite their apparent diversity, these inquiries centre on the problem of gender equality.

Islam is a justice and egalitarian religion. Although they have different roles and responsibilities based on their nature, Islam views men and women as having equal rights and occupying the same status below God. Gender equity is a significant, current, and relevant problem. The number of discussions and writings on the subject is rising, and they include a wide range of view point. Non-Muslims, and occasionally some Muslims as well, have the worst understanding and representation of the Islamic viewpoint on the matter. Islam holds that God regards both men and women as having the same status as human beings. For more clarification, we turn to the opening stanza of Chapter “The Woman” which is as follows: The Woman Surah – 4 The Woman [4:1]

Mankind! Reverence your Guardian Lord who created you from a single soul and he created from that its mate. And from them twain scattered (like seeds) countless men and women – fear Allah, through whom you demand your mutual (rights), and (reverence) the wombs (that bore you): for Allah ever watches over you.

According to this verse, the origin of human beings creation, including both man and woman, is regarded as; that is sacred soul and there is no distinction between them as a human beings.

Therefore, the status of the soul of man and woman in the presence of God is the same and equal and this justice in creation is emphasized in the Glorious Quran.

In the seventh century, women in Arabia had extremely few, if any, rights. Even the right to life would be in question because little girls were regularly buried alive during times of famine. After the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the status of women started to rise and The Quran predicts that on the Day of Judgment, dead girls would rise from their graves and ask why they were killed. Infanticide was outlawed and explicit rights for women were established as part of Muhammad's legacy. Islam grants women other divinely ordained inheritance, property, social, and marriage rights as well as the freedom to reject a proposal's terms and petition for divorce. As a result, I want to discuss in my paper how the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) raised the women's status in Islam and clarify all rights of women in every field of life.

### **Introduction**

Man is not like a woman, and while it is true that we differ psychologically, physically, and emotionally and that we think and perceive the world in different ways, this does not imply that one is superior to the other. All it means is that because of these differences, we have different talents, special duties, and special obligations, and because of these differences, men and women in Islam complement one another. . !

This is how the male-female relationship is defined in Islam, and despite our differences, Allah sees us all as equally valuable. All are His creation since He is the master. According to Islam, there is no distinction made between people based on their race, ethnicity, or skin colour. Because everyone is ultimately equal in the eyes of Allah, Islam views everyone as being equal to one another. Islam did not just focus on abolishing slavery; it also made sure that women were treated equally to males and that they had rights in life.

The term "equity" is used in place of the more popular term "equality," which can occasionally be misinterpreted to mean absolute equality in each and every detailed comparison rather than equality in the entirety of rights and obligations of both genders and permits the possibility of variation in particular items within the overall balance and equality. The Quran teaches that Adam and Eve shared a same soul during creation.

### **Role of Prophet Muhammad S.A.W**

Islam was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) in the shape of the Quran. Muslims hold that since the first humans were created by Allah in the form of Eve and Adam, Islam has been the religion of all mankind.

Nevertheless, it was eventually made up through time, and when Allah ultimately revealed the Quran to Prophet Muhammad and polished it, calling it Islam, it put an end to the mission of our last Prophet.

The pre-Islamic period, also referred to as the jahiliyah period or the days of ignorance, was characterized by extreme darkness before the advent of Islam. Muslim women have to deal with a lot of issues. Women were viewed as the property of men, who may marry or divorce them as they pleased. They lacked both social standing and rights. A guy was free to wed as many women as he desired and to divorce them whenever he pleased. After his father passed away, the son inherited his stepmother and was allowed to wed her. The culture was morally depraved.

The majority of female infants were slaughtered or buried alive since having a daughter was considered a misfortune. Her birth was an occasion for embarrassment rather than celebration. Those days also had a relatively flexible marriage structure. However, after the advent of the Prophet Muhammad, conditions in Arabia, and particularly the status of women, altered. People's attitudes about women also evolved, and women now have rights in every area of life.

### **1. Social Rights:**

Islam grants women four various statuses, ranging from childbirth through old age. Nobody can deny that women play a significant part in every aspect of a man's life while discussing the role of women in his life. In addition to being a mother, wife, sister, and daughter. Islam therefore offers the rights in line with her function. Here are a few passages from the Quran that describe the rights that women are granted based on their roles.

#### **i-As a mother:**

The adoration of Allah is regarded by the Quran as having the highest status, followed by love to parents, particularly mothers. In the Quran, it is mentioned numerous times.

*“And we have enjoined upon man ( to be good ) to his parents : His mother bears him in weakness upon weakness...( Quran 31: 14)”*

The Prophet Muhammad emphasised that individuals should treat their parents well, especially their mothers.

*“A man came to the Prophet ... and said Messenger of God, I desire to go on a military expedition and I have come to consult you. The Prophet*

*asked him if he had a mother and when he replied that he had, he said: stay with her, for paradise is at her feet”.*

Just consider the time when a son wed his mother to get an idea of how much the Prophet raised the status of women in these comments. The state of women is at its worst, but following the advent of Islam, Prophet Muhammad commanded that they be respected and that if a woman is a mother, she will save her child’s life in the hereafter.

### **ii -As a Daughter:**

Islam forbids infanticide, which is defined as the killing of female infants and is seen as a serious kind of murder.

*“When the female (infant), buried alive, is questioned, for what crime she was killed.”*

Female infanticide was widespread in pre-Islamic Arabia, and female children were frequently buried as soon as they were born. Islam not only outlaws female infanticide, but also all forms of infanticide, whether the child is a boy or a girl.

Parents have a responsibility to assist, treat kindly, and uphold justice for their daughters. Prophet Muhammad said:

*“Whosoever has a daughter and does not bury her alive, does not insult her, and does not favour his son over her, Allah will enter him into paradise.”*

### **iii- As a sister:**

Women are the “Shaqa’iq” of men, according to the Prophet Muhammad. Shaqa’iq can imply either a sister or two halves. Women are therefore the sisters of men or the halves of society, meaning that half of society is made up of men and the other half of society is made up of women. “I recommend you to be kind to your women” Men and Women are overall equal.

### **iv - As a Wife:**

As opposed to how the Bible views women, Islam does not view them as the devil’s tool. But because a virtuous woman by virtue of her marriage aids a man in maintaining a straight path in life, the Quran refers to her as Mohsana - a fortress of Satan. There is no monasticism in Islam, according to Prophet Muhammad. Additionally, he commanded-

*“Oh you young men – whoever is able to marry should marry for this will help him to lower his gaze and guard his modesty” (Al- Bukhari)*

It is narrated by Anas that the messenger of Allah said, “When a man marries he has complete one half of his religion!”

## 2. Economic Rights:

Islam has provided women with resources to ensure their financial stability, allowing them to fully exercise their right to financial independence. Islam disapproves of any attempts to become enmeshed in worldly matters and to abandon all efforts to pursue material wealth. Instead, it directs those who will follow to create a satisfaction-focused strategy.

However, it is acceptable for someone to live luxuriously if they acquire their income legally. Trade and business transactions are ways to secure the prospect of wealth while also providing for basic needs. When a woman chooses to trade or pursue any other legal strategy within Islamic law to replace a life of hardship with one of ease and comfort, what is permitted to men should also be permissible to women. Islamic Shariah permits women to engage in any legal business or trade without restriction.

A sahabia named Qeela R.A said to the Holy Prophet *“I am a woman who buys and sells different commodities and want to know the principles of trade.”*

During the caliphate of Hadrat Umar Farooq R.A Abdullah bin abi Rabiya used to send ‘itr’ to his mother Asma from Yaman and she carried on its business.

Jabir bin Abdullah R.A. claims that his aunt was legally divorced from her husband but that she is still free to travel to her farm and work there. During the time of her iddat, she made the decision to chop and sell a few trees. So went to ask the Holy Prophet for guidance. Go to your field and chop your date trees for a noble cause, the Prophet commanded, so that you would be rewarded in the hereafter. Women also took part in industrial activity. The R.A of Hadrat Abdullah bin Masood A wife had a very prosperous business and used the profits to support her husband and kids.

## 3. Education Rights:

The word “ilm” is used 88 times in the Quran. Reading, reciting, or proclaiming the Quran was the first piece of advice provided to humankind in the book.

Read recite Proclaim! In the name of thy Lord and cherisher who created – created the human out of congealed clot of blood. Read and thy lord is most beautiful. He who taught the pen – taught men that which he knew not.

Reading the Quran was given as the first instruction, not praying, fasting, or giving zakat. This advice was given to both men and women, not just

to men. Thus, it is clear that Islam places a high value on women. The right of women to pursue knowledge is the same as the right of men. Prophet Muhammad said: “It is obligatory for every Muslim, male or female, to acquire knowledge (AL –Bay- haqi).

Prophet Muhammad said that “whoever educates a man, he/she educates a nation”. Here, Islam’s prophet placed a high value on female education and accorded them a special place and role within the faith.

“The one who has three daughters born to him, and he is patient over them, and clothes them will according to his means, they will become a means of rescue for him from Hell.” ( Bukhari Al- Adab al – Mufrad, Ibn Majah ).

#### **4. Property Rights:**

One of the primary economic sources for women is inheritance. Women were typically not allowed to inherit from their relatives before the emergence of Islam. The Quran overturned all of these discriminatory traditions and gave inheritance rights to female relatives who were close to them. The broad distribution of property outlined in 4:7–11 and 12 is the Islamic system. The general norm is that a man’s part in a relationship of equal degree is twice that of a woman’s.

The eleventh verse of Nisa, chapter of the holy Qu-ran, declares the inheritance of women in various roles. The Holy Quran declared the following in relation to the daughters’ and sister’s inheritance:

*“Allah instructs you concerning your children: for the male, what is equal to one half of the share of son. If the deceased leaves only one daughter and no son, the daughter is entitled to half of the inheritance. In case of two third of inheritance and share it equally divided between them”.*

#### **5. Marriage:**

Islam views marriage as a significant and holy connection between a man and woman that completes half of one’s religious duties. The following verse from the Quran addresses marriage:

*“Among His signs is that He created for you spouses from yourselves so that you might find repose with them. And He has placed between you affection and mercy. In that there are certainly signs for people who reflect.”*

In Islam, the concept of marriage is frequently used to poetically describe the love and equality that exist between men and women. Islam places a

high value on a husband and wife's shared love and respect. Additionally, men are commanded to treat their spouses with respect and care. According to reports, the Prophet Muhammad said:

*"The most perfect in faith amongst believers is he who is best in manners and kindest to his wife."*

Marriage offers may be accepted or rejected by the female. According to the teaching of the Prophets, her approval is a requirement for the marital contract's legality. Therefore, if an "organized" marriage refers to a woman being married without her consent, then, if the woman so desires, such a marriage may be dissolved:

Ibn Abbas reported that a girl came to the Messenger of Allah, and she reported that her father had forced her to marry without her consent. The Messenger of God gave her the choice... (Between accepting the marriage or invalidating it (Ahmad, Hadith No.2469).

Another version of the report states that the girl said: "Actually, I accept this marriage, but I wanted to let women know that parents have no right to force a husband on them." (Ibn- Majah)

In the spirit of cooperation and goodwill, the spouse is in charge of providing for the family's upkeep, safety, and general leadership (qiwamah). The reciprocity complementarity between a husband and wife is not the same as either party's "subservience" to the other. Muhammad the Prophet helped with domestic tasks despite his obligations, bore and the serious problems his neighborhood was dealing with.

## **6. Divorce:**

While divorce was possible before Islam, it was significantly more favorable to women after the arrival of Islam. During a divorce, women's property is not divided. In the event that a marriage dissolves, a woman is still entitled to all money earned or gifts received prior to, during, and after the marriage. Male exploitation of women's income or property through marriage is thus prevented.

Divorce is a last resort that is legal but not advised because the Qur'an values the upholding of faith and each person's right to happiness, regardless of gender. types of matrimony Included in a dissolution is an act based on consent, the wife's initiative (if it is a portion of hers), the husband's initiative the court's ruling on a wife's initiative (for a marriage contract), The wife's initiative without a "cause" (i.e., a good reason) if she gives her marriage gift back to her spouse (khul' or divestiture)

However, if a divorce occurs in accordance with the terms of the couple's

marriage contract, the man's property is divided. If a woman needs support or maintenance, her ex-husband must provide it. Additionally, there are specific rules if the divorce happens before the marriage is complete and before or after the dowry is decided. Iddah, a three-month waiting period for women, was another Islamic institution.

## CONCLUSION

So it is clear that Islam guarantees women's rights on par with those of males. Islam grants women the right to work in any sector. This demonstrates that although men and women are both equal, they vary in some ways. Women may have more rights than males in some areas, but in reality, everyone has the same rights, depending on the situation and needs. If anyone has any remaining doubts about Islam's standing now, they just need to go back 1400 years to the time when Islam first granted them their current set of privileges.

“Tu Beti hai toh Rehmat hai, Tu Bahen hai to Shafaqat hai Tu Biwi hai toh, chahat hai, Tu Maa hai toh Jannat hai Jo tujhko aise mane, usko Allah ki hidayat hai..... “If she is a daughter, she is blessing... if she is a sister, she brings kindness.

If she is a wife, she gives love....if she is a mother, paradise lies beneath her feet and if one consider her true value, is a true believer”.

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