

Analytical Review of the Status and Position of Woman in the Light of Different Cultures and Islamic Teachings

Dr. Naseem Akhter

Associate Professor, Department of Islamic Studies
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, Pakistan
Email: khtr_nsm@yahoo.com

Dr Abdul Qudoos

Associate Professor, Department of Islamic Studies and Research
University of Science and Technology, Bannu, KPK, Pakistan
Email: drqadoos2004@yahoo.com

ISSN (P): 2708-6577
ISSN (E): 2709-6157

Abstract

Islam is a full code of conduct that encompasses all aspects of human life. The necessity for marriage is one of several necessities in human life. Because marriage binds a strong link between man and woman, the role of the woman is critical. Then, as they choose to engage in their play activities, they both cope with their confidence. Then they both maintain their trust in one another and defend each other's wealth and honor. The woman takes care of the house and plays an important role in the education and training of the children. Thus, the importance and need of a woman can be gauged from the fact that a man is incomplete without a woman. And the race is also the source of human survival. This research paper, which is drafted with the status and importance of women in mind, is proof that women in Islam have the rights and dignity that are not granted in any other religion. As a result, the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah are compared to different civilizations to define the worth and status of women.

Keywords: Women, Dignity, Honor, Islamic teachings, Different Civilizations, Human life

Introduction:

Female refers to a woman. An adult female human is referred to as a woman. While the term "girl" is often used to refer to a human daughter, the term "female" is often used to refer to all females. Every phase of history has seen a woman subjected to males. Developed countries have attempted to make men and women equal in modern times.¹ If the term "woman" is defined, it refers to the female bodily component, which is a disgrace for obvious reasons. As a result, the connotation of the caste contains a sense of shame and revelation.² How can it be turned into a soothing image? This is why a woman's body and face have been commanded to be covered. The purpose of this research was to explain the status and position of women in different cultures and Islamic perspectives. Women were not treated well in the pre-Islam era; they were not only deemed lesser beings, but they were also denied all basic rights throughout the world, and this system was implemented in every culture and tradition.³ She was also bereft of property and unable to express her preferences in the topic of marriage. Women were granted full rights after the advent of Islam, and as a mother, sister, wife, and daughter, she is to be considered an honorable and respectful person in Islam.⁴

The Status of Women in Ancient Eastern Civilization:

It is the destiny of the oppressed and downtrodden woman of every age. She is carrying the burden of torment and humiliation; she has been wandering in the forests of darkness. Before Islam, people were buried alive because of many negative distinctions, sometimes they were forced to burn themselves on the death of their husbands, sometimes they were sold and bought in the bazaars like ordinary items. So

Analytical Review of the Status and Position of Woman in the Light of Different Cultures and Islamic Teachings

ever considered such as the property of the father, husband or son. As a woman, she was sometimes called the idol of Satan's evil and sedition, and sometimes she was considered the gate of evil, evil, and corruption. She was deprived of her rightful position and rights for the rest of her life.⁵ In his article "Exploring the Social Status of Women in Immaterial Culture," Professor Miyan Inam-ur-Rehman writes that the nature of women's social status has always been debated, from ancient times to the present. History is a witness in this regard and its general impression is that women have been under the care of guardians in every age. In the ancient tradition, the status of women was subject to extreme oppression. The man overpowered them physically kept the woman under his control and mentally oppressed her even more. Her status in the home was slightly higher than the servants'. Sons had the status of a master in front of a mother whose orders had to be obeyed by the mother, which was the pinnacle of cruelty and brutality.⁶

The Status of Women in Iranian Culture:

A woman in Iranian society had little status and was regarded as a servant. He donated his wife or one of his wives to whomever he wanted to assist another unemployed individual in finding work. The husband does not consult his wife about her decision to offer his wife to another person. Similarly, a woman was thought to be so small that she had no title to a share of her husband's property or the children born as a result of this impromptu marriage. They were considered the first husband's children. The woman would have been a slave if she had any kind of status. Iranians believed that women were dirty and that their bad eyesight harmed others. No woman was allowed near the infant, to avoid the filthiness and misfortune causing the child's affliction.⁷ According to Hyun Sang, a well-known Chinese visitor, Iranian law did not recognize any marriage bond, and Iranians were unconcerned about their integrity and respect.⁸ Mani had begun an abstraction movement in response to this overwhelming sexual desire. Marriage has also been deemed haraam. Then, in response to the Mani movement, Mazuk declared all women to be halal and permissible for all men. As a result of this movement, Iran was thrown into a sexual ego and sexual crisis about men and women's physical relationships.⁹ "Marrying a mahram was not viewed as a sin," says Professor Artha K. Sutton Sen, "but the reward was much as comparable to marrying in close family relations from a religious aspect, and a man had multiple wives and divorced as frequently as he liked". Men have been recruited to defend women in Iran from ancient times, much as it was normal practice in Greece to have prostitutes and pregnant women. It was not only religiously justified, but it also became a part of Iranian culture.¹⁰

The Status of Women in Egyptian Civilization:

Egypt's ancient history made it clear that women were treated with respect and dignity, but then this status was gradually taken away from them. According to Egyptian law, a woman was made the heir to the throne when there was no male heir in the royal family. The Egyptian queen could not appear in the dress of an ordinary woman. She had to wear a masculine dress. Because he said that taking charge of the government is not the style of any woman. Many customs in Egypt were enough to push women into slavery, humiliation, and disgrace. After marriage, the woman was considered the property of the man, and her asset also was become the property of the man. The rights of the mother over the children were also not considered. Dr. Muhammad Shehzad Shams writes that the social status of women was very high in ancient Egypt. According to him, the first invention of marriage certificates was in ancient Egypt.¹¹ Egyptian civilization is unique in that it has been created by giving privileges to women. In Egyptian society, a woman had many rights and could receive property and inheritance. She was able to manage it. She could go to court and testify for her rights.

In society, women had a separate status between the lower class and the elite. Lower-class women were busy with household chores. But she also did various crafts to increase her income as making clothes, making utensils, and selling make-up items, the girls were also engaged in household chores from an early age. Lower-class families lived by the river. It was the responsibility of the women to fetch water from the river and in religious matters, the women had the right to perform their religious duties in the temple as pilgrims. In Egypt, gods were worshiped on the level of male and female goddesses. So from religious matters to social rituals, the will of a woman was followed. The spiritual power of a woman is expressed by the fact that she was asked to interpret a dream. If a woman could not be a mother, the woman would use magic and amulets and go to the temple of (Hathor Devi) and offer vows. Women also had the right to birth control. In case of divorce, she would get 3/1 share of the property and she was compelled to go back to her father's house as she needed the supervision of a man. If she had sex with a man, she was burned as punishment. But the man was not told anything. Both men and women received equal treatment. There used to be a lovely wedding tradition. Boys married when they were at the age of twenty, and girls when they were twelve or thirteen. Such a marriage was not registered, and there was no wedding ceremony held there. On that day, both families met, and the boy and girl stated their desire to remain together. If a woman had many children, she was thought to be excellent for her family's continuity, according to the man's intentions. In society, kings' and princes' wives played a significant role. Many wives, concubines, and prostitutes lived in the king's palace, and they were served by a great number of servants and maids. The majority of them married their brothers. Kings and emperors used to have nannies for breastfeeding their babies and some mothers used to breastfeed themselves. In the history of Egypt, some women used the opportunity to express their talents. Just as the first queen, Sobek Nefro (died: 1802 BC), adopted the title of Pharaoh - the second queen was Hotepsekhemw (died: 1458 BC), who became a pharaoh.¹²

The Status of Women in Ancient Western Civilization:

Ancient Western civilizations include the Greek, Roman, and European civilizations, where the status of women did not matter. Wherever they were humiliated, they were worshiped naked before looking at the ancient civilizations, it is explained here that today when the women of the Western civilizations are exposing themselves obscenely and physically. So the women of Eastern civilizations want to adopt their tricks and made themselves like those. The saying "My body is my will" is very popular among Pakistani women. All of this occurred in ancient Eastern and Western civilizations. They do not appreciate this position of dignity, which Islam has given them, and they wish to return to the same era of ignorance, in which a woman was considered less than the insect. Muslim women are beginning to criticize their religion in today's society. For just a little money and freedom.¹³

The Status of Women in Greek Culture:

Greece is regarded as the world's oldest civilization and repository of knowledge. Women, however, had no place or respect even in the fields of culture and writing.¹⁴ A woman was seen as a trifling creature by the Greeks, and the honor and respect were reserved for the one and only male. Socrates, the prominent philosopher of the day, believed that no one in the world is eviler than a woman.¹⁵ He compared her to a dafl tree, which appears to be beautiful but is not in fact since it dies when a bird eats it.¹⁶ Saira, a mythical woman in Greek mythology, is thought to be the source of all human suffering.¹⁷ A woman, according to Aristotle, was a flawed human being.¹⁸ This comment had an impact not only on Greek society but also on the rest of Europe. Greek women were unable to exhibit their mental capacity due to stringent constraints.¹⁹ Aristotle believed that a woman was mad and flawed since she was born as a result of

Analytical Review of the Status and Position of Woman in the Light of Different Cultures and Islamic Teachings

an incomplete pregnancy. A woman was not permitted to leave the house. She used to only go out for a few festivals and relatives' funerals. This became the only time she could see a non-male, and as a result of these mishaps, those ladies had illicit relationships with other men, and if the husband found out, he had the right to murder his wife.²⁰

The Status of Women in Roman Civilization:

The nation that rose to prominence in the Greek world was the Romans. Roman society was considered the center of civilization. But even in this society, women were deprived of their legitimate rights. The woman had no respectable status. In the case of women were not treated as gentle and kindhearted. She behaved hard-hearted in society. If the husband had any doubts about his wife's character, he was legally entitled to execute her. Moreover, the man had full authority to adopt the method of killing him as he wished.²¹ About the "status of women in Rome," Maulana Syed Jalaluddin Omari says that, as slaves, the goal of a woman's life was nothing but servitude. The man used to marry the woman for the sole aim of exploiting her. Her evidence was not taken into account in any judgment, and she had no legal standing in the Roman Empire.²² Indeed during the heyday of Babylonian civilization, women were bought and vended. He was also deprived of property rights. When demanded, fathers would vend their real daughters.²³ Greece, considered to be the great center of civilization, the woman was deprived of its due place and status, and quality.²⁴

The Status of Women in Pre-Islamic Times:

When talking about nuptial life, one should keep in mind that before Islam, what was the position of women in different societies and different cultures of the world? Studying the history of the world, it becomes clear that Islam Before, women in different parts of the world were completely deprived of their basic rights.

1. France: In France, ladies were thought to be half-human. Hence, it gets to be the source of all the disasters of society.
2. China: In China, a woman was thought to have a satanic soul and welcome man to evil.
3. Japan: In Japan, ladies were thought to be born unclean. That's why she was not allowed to come to places of worship.
4. Hinduism: In this religion, the woman whose spouse passed away. He was not considered fit to live in society. Hence, it was essential for her to burn herself living with her husband's body. In case she had not done so, she would not have been regarded within the society.
5. Christianity: In the Christian world, women were considered a handicap in the way of godly knowledge. Women were tutored to live as recruits while men considered it an honor to be a monk.
6. Arabian Peninsula The birth of a daughter was considered bad in the Arabian Peninsula. Thus, the parents used to bury their daughter alive with their own hands. Women's rights had been violated to such an extent that if a man died, the things of inheritance were distributed among his children. Like the same, the wife or wives were also distributed among his children. If a woman's husband died in the Arabian Peninsula, she was detained in a black cell outside of Makkah. For two years, she was deprived of water and other fundamental necessities. If she had survived the persecution for two years, her face would have been blackened and she would have been rotated around the streets of Makkah before being allowed to return home. Allah's Prophet was sent to purge the earth of all evils and exalt women in a world when women's rights were being assaulted on all sides. He taught this lesson to all humanity that if you have a daughter you have the honor and if you have a sister you have honor

if you have a wife then life and if there is a mother, then in her footsteps is your paradise.²⁵

The Status of Women in Islam:

Islam liberated women from a life of humiliation and slavery and freed them from oppression and exploitation. Islam abolished all rituals which were against the human dignity of women. Gave women equal rights with men. The Holy Qur'an says: "Whoever does good deeds, whether male or female, and he is a believer, he will be admitted to Paradise, and his right will not be violated even to the point of a crack in a palm tree."²⁶ Kind treatment to parents in their literature and respect and their obedience in the engagements which are emphasized by the rules of Qur'an and Sunnah. There is no precedent for it in any other religion or system of thought. In the Holy Qur'an, the guidance is from Allah Almighty to human beings that "And remember when We made a solemn covenant with the Children of Israel, saying: "Worship none but Allah and be kind to your parents".²⁷ In another place, it is stated in Quran that "O Prophet, tell them, 'Let me tell you what your Lord has commanded you not to associate with Him, and to be kind to your parents'.²⁸ It is in Hadith that "A man asked: O Messenger of Allah! Who among the people is most deserving of my kindness? He said: Your mother. He asked: Who then? Then your mother. He asked: Who then? your father".²⁹ This hadith is very famous and common that the Prophet said; "Heaven is under the feet of your mothers".³⁰ The Prophet (PBUH) said: He who raised two daughters, he and I will enter Paradise (together) like these fingers. The Prophet (PBUH) pointed with two fingers".³¹ Islam, like mother and daughter, gives the right of inheritance to the "sister" so that if a person dies and his heirs do not have a mother, father, or child, then the sister will get half of the wealth from the inheritance. If there is only one and if there are two or more sisters, then two-thirds will be given.³² No other law, religion, or culture in the world has given the honor, dignity, status, and respect given to a woman as a mother, daughter, sister, and wife. In the case of good behavior, it is seen in the case of husband and wife in the family system of Islam. Legally, the man has been made the ruler and dominated by the woman. Islam places the husband in the position of sovereignty in the family system and the Qur'an uses the correct meaning of the word "qawam" for him, ie a person who manages the affairs of an individual institution or system properly. Protect and take care of it and be responsible for providing its needs and requirements. Quran says; "Men are dominant over women".³³ To ensure the dignity and respect of women in society, it is necessary to protect their rights. Islam gave women the right to infallibility and obliged men to protect women's infallibility.

Conclusion:

It is Islam that has honored women as mother, sister, wife, and daughter who has called mother's feet paradise. A wife is a good companion. In non-Muslim countries, women are not given any respect except for having sex. Allah (SWT) and His Messenger have given women a status that is unmatched in any other religion or society. Today's Muslim society is only claiming Islam. The process is far from over and its priorities have changed due to the rise of worldliness and fulfillment of desires. Therefore, he has deviated from the position of high morality and piety of Islam and has made life meaningless. The spirit of sacrifice for the sake of patience and the sake of Allah (SWT) for the sake of others has disappeared.³⁴ Due to this, the practice of injustice and oppression has become common in Muslim society. There is a need to follow Islamic teachings so that society can be saved from error and destruction.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Analytical Review of the Status and Position of Woman in the Light of Different Cultures and Islamic Teachings

References

- ¹ Aūrāt Azād Dairātul Marif Wikipedia (Ur.ikpeidia.org.)
- ² Reflection of a girls face book 'pg'.2
- ³ Jalaluddin Ansar Umri, Urāt Islāmi Mashrāy Main, Lahore, Islamic Publications, 1994, P: 4.
- ⁴ Syed Asghar Ali Shah Jafari, Māshrīq Aūr Māghrīb Kay Sīyāsi Afkār, Lahore, New Book Palace, P: 33.
- ⁵ <http://WWW.ALSHARIA.ORG\MUJALLA/2005/SEP/AURAT.CUITURE.PROFINAAM>
- ⁶ Dr Muhammad Shehzad Shams, *Aūrāt Aūr Samāj, Tākhleeq* Kar Publishers, Dehli, 2006, P: 16.
- ⁷ <http://lib.bazmeurdu.net/women.in.diffrent.societies.urdu.\book>
- ⁸ Moulana Mehmod Rasheed, *Islām Aūr Aūrāt*, Market 2, P:11.
- ⁹ Ibid, PP:12, 311.
- ¹⁰ Prof Arthor Kiristan Sain, Translator: Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, *Irān Bāeed Sāsanīyan*, Anjuman Taraqqi aur Dehli, 1947, P:429.
- ¹¹ Dr Mubarak Ali, *Tareekh Aur Aurat*, Lahore, Tareekh Publications, 2012, P: 132-134.
- ¹² Mazharuddin Siddiqi, *Islām Aūr Māzahib-e-Alām*, Lahore, Maitro Printer, 1986, P: 208.
- ¹³ Abdul Majid, *Tārēkh-e-Ikhlāq Yourāp*, Karachi, Darul Ashat, 2009, P: 220.
- ¹⁴ Saeed Amar Ali, *Aūrāt Islām Ki Nāzār Main*, Aaina Adab , Anar Kali Lahore, 1976, P29.
- ¹⁵ M. Abdur Rehman, *Aūrāt Insāniyāt Kay aieenāy Māin* , Private Publishers, Lahore, 1987, P:88.
- ¹⁶ <http://lib.bazmeurdu.net/women-in-different-societies- Urdu-book>
- ¹⁷ Dr Muhammad Shehzad Shams, *Aūrāt Aūr Samāj, Tākhleeq* Kar Publishers, Dehli, 2006, P: 16.
- ¹⁸ Moulana Syed Jalaluddin Umri, *Aūrāt Islāmi Moaishrāy Main*, Markazi Maktabah Islami Publishers, Dehli, 2011, P:26.
- ¹⁹ <http://lib.bazameurdu.net/women-in-different-societies-urdu—book>.
- ²⁰ Dr. Mubarak Ali, *Unāni Moaishrāy Main Aūrāt Na Mukāmīl*, 2019.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Moulana Syed Jalaluddin Umri, *Aūrāt Islāmi Moaishrāy Main*, Markazi Maktabah Islami Publishers, Dehli, 2011, P:26.
- ²³ Alāmi Youm-e-Khāwateen: *Aīk Lāmāhā Fīkria*, Mahnama Zindagi Nojawan, P: 36.
- ²⁴ Ibid, P:193.
- ²⁵ Dr Tahira Kokab, *Aūrāt Ki Sāmaji Wa Māshi Zindāgi*, Lahore, Shafiq Printer Darul Nawar, 2018, P: 142.
- ²⁶ Al-Qurān, Sūrah Nīsā 4: Verse 123.
- ²⁷ Al-Qurān, Sūrah Bāqrāh 2: Verse 83.
- ²⁸ Al-Qurān, Sūrah Bāqrāh 2: Verse 83.
- ²⁹ Muhammad Ismaeel Abu Abdullah Bukhari Aljafi, *Al-Jāmul Sāhīh Al- Mūkhtāsir*, Dar Ibn-e-Kaseer, Bairot, 1987, P:2227, Hadith.
- ³⁰ Kinzōl Amāl:45439, Ibn-e-Anas.
- ³¹ Abu-wl- Husain Muslim bin-un-Hujjaj bin Muslim Al-Qushairi, Al-Neesa Puri, Al-Jāmul Sāhīh Muslim, Darul Hail Bairot, Darul Aafaqul Jadidah, Bairot, Vol:8, P:38, Hadith: 6864.
- ³² Siratul Jinan, P:370.
- ³³ Al-Qurān, Sūrah Nīsā 4: Verse 34.
- ³⁴ Shamima Muhsin, *Aūrāt Qurān Ki Nāzār Māin*, Lahore, Publications, 2000, P: 4.