

Individual and Communal character building, Woman, Responsibilities: Gender Study in Light of Prophetic Biography

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ABSTRACT

Rights and responsibilities are two sides of one coin. The modern world's familiarity with human rights and women's rights is high. Women are more responsible individuals than men in the building of society rather than a deprived or subordinated identity. The contemporary Muslim world is suffering from a crisis of women's social and civic roles. Unfortunately, due to misreading or misinterpretation, or lack of Islamic teachings, a woman's separate identity has been diminished in present Muslim society. Islam provided a variety of portfolios for women to develop character in both individual and communal life in society, such as wife, mother, daughter, sister, teacher, and so on. The Prophetic era acknowledged women's independent identity and gave them a key role in reforming society. In the 20th century, feminist movements were started and present vibes are more threatening to Muslim societies. Muslim women need to recognise their role and respond to western feminist vibes. This study will explore women's social and civic roles to build the character of an individual as well as a society. It will bring out prophetic practise indicating women's independent identity and their key role in society. The status of women in the modernization of society will be the main topic of the essay at hand. It will open up new opportunities for academics to share their knowledge and help advance the status of women in the development of future generations' moral character. This study will not only dispel myths about women's gender and social standing in the Muslim world but also promote women's participation in societal norms.

Keywords: *Women, societal norms, modernization dispel myths, societal norms, Prophetic Biography.*

INTRODUCTION

In the domestic and social realms, women are more reformist than men. The contribution of women to this social superstructure is a key indicator of how modern society has evolved. They are important sources of human capital for the development and prosperity of human society. Women are skilled at nurturing and caring for the human race, but they also serve as partners, wives, mothers, mentors, administrators, discipline enforcers, and health officers. In a household, a woman truly reigns supreme. Women have traits related to motherhood, education, and starting families. They have been the child's first teacher and guide since birth. This connection fosters him and produces affection, creating a civilised society. The effective role of women is crucial to the long-term development of the individual and society. Human resources are essential to a country's success, and in today's culture, the proportion of women is rising steadily. Real and comprehensive growth cannot occur without their active involvement. God has given women the artistic ability to care for, nurture, and mentor children. It is true that all social projects and programmes should be built around the family structure as their foundation. Women have many rights, which may also be called obligations. Today's women concentrate on getting rights but neglect to take responsibility for exercising those rights. Women's primary rights are protected at home, where they also begin to make a crucial contribution. Women must first assume their duty at home in order to develop the character of their children, husband, and all other family members before entering the workforce. Despite the fact that the woman is referred to as the mistress of the house.

Men and women work together to build families and societies. In order for human civilization to thrive and survive, both people are essential. Since the beginning of time, women have fought for their autonomy. The status of women and gender equality has been a topic of discussion throughout history. It is understood that women must shoulder heavy burdens like childbearing and caring. Their function is a fundamental pillar of the family or society. Her feminine temperament determines the calm and pleasant ambiance of the home, and as a result, these effects affect the entire community.

Unfortunately, modern women no longer make a positive contribution to society. They lost sight of their significant position in Muslim society and turned into a helpless, frail creature. Even educated women are often unaware of their rights and obligations in today's society. Myths with an inferiority complex and self-pitying tendencies are mistaken with the first instructor and mentor of society. On social media, women were depicted badly, and their special and beneficial role in Muslim society was overlooked. The story of so-called feminism, which is fiction rather than reality, is one of oppressed and helpless women in films and dramas. Women play a very small part in the advancement of society, the nation, and the country, while making up the majority of the population and making great educational advancements. On the other hand, there are numerous instances of women making contributions to society throughout Islamic history. No one else can do it, yet it is a woman's responsibility to maintain the pillars of society, whether she is a housewife or a professional. Muslim women have lost sight of their heritage, moral principles, and reform traditions, which they are obligated to transmit to subsequent generations.

Since the dawn of Islam, women have participated in conflict zones at home, but their primary duty has been to shape people's character in society both directly and indirectly. A woman gives her child more than simply milk; she also infuses its veins with the moral spirit of her life. Women who struggle with their religion cause generations to struggle with

their religion. From an early age, a responsible mother nourishes her kids and plants the seeds of love, happiness, sincerity, and spiritual intimacy in their hearts. Muslim women should counsel all family members in order to affect family institutions since they have emotional and psychological sway over men. As a result, a woman mentors a guy in her nursery, and everyone in society is a student of a woman. Women must receive special consideration since they are the cornerstone of civilisation. A woman's civilised performance educates the entire family and society, in contrast to a man's civilised performance, which is merely an individual deed. A woman's contributions to society extend beyond the family; she acts as a link between the two. If the female half of the population is passive, no nation can advance.

WOMAN'S CONTRIBUTION: Equal Rights for Women & Personality
Islam is referred to as "street faith" or "social religion" since it balances the rights and obligations of society's members. It is true that the distribution of responsibilities is linked to the growth or demise of a community. As said, the Qur'anic verse encouraged the distribution of responsibilities for reformation or character development.

(وما كان ربك ليهلك القرى بظلم وأهلها مصلحون)⁽¹⁾

"Your Creator would never have demolished the cities unfairly if their inhabitants had become reformers."

This text connected the practice of reformation as the shelter for destruction of societies. No doubt it is duty of every member of family or society but the major role may be performed by the women. The holy book revealed on the equal participation of women in society as texted:

(إن المسلمين والمسلمات والمؤمنين والمؤمنات والقانتين والقانتات والصادقين والصادقات والصابرين والصابرات والخاشعين والخاشعات... الخ)⁽²⁾

For those who put their trust in Allah, who are obedient to Him, who are truthful to Him, who are patient with Him, who are humble before Him, who give alms to others, who fast, who watch over their private parts, and who think of Him frequently, Allah has prepared forgiveness and a tremendous reward for them.

The definition of women and the role of women are both discussed in this verse of the Qur'an. This passage also rejects the notion that women do not have equal rights in Islam. Men are discussed alongside women.

Another verse revealed as:

(والمؤمنون والمؤمنات بعضهم أولياء بعض ۖ يأمرون بالمعروف وينهون عن المنكر ويقيمون الصلاة ويؤتون الزكاة ويطيعون الله ورسوله ۗ أولئك سيرحمهم الله ۗ إن الله عزيز حكيم)⁽³⁾

"True believers, whether male or female, watch after and protect one another. They pray five times a day, give alms on a regular basis, and submit themselves to Allah and His Prophet. They endorse good behavior and condemn immoral behavior. They are the ones on whom Allah will have mercy; without a doubt, Allah is both powerful and wise.

This verse praises women and describes how they can successfully carry out the tasks that are expected of them..

For the next generation to benefit from character development and training, there must be no contradiction between their words and deeds. Additionally, if adults' words and deeds don't match up, it will surely have a bad effect on the kids and make them disobey guidance from adults. The holy book was
:revealed to be

﴿يا أيها الذين آمنوا لم تقولون ما لا تفعلون﴾⁽⁴⁾

O, you people who have faith! Why do you speak what you don't do?"

Peace is essential for societal cohesion, and it can only be attained by following the aforementioned rule of similarity in words and deeds. However, many people never educate their family members about virtue and fail to stop them from undertaking evil activities, as has been witnessed. The focus of a complete social change is on the people who make up society;
:this is the reformation premise. The passage from the Qur'an says

﴿يا أيها الذين آمنوا قوا أنفسكم وأهليكم نارا﴾⁽⁵⁾

"To those of you who have faith, take care to shield yourselves and your family from the oncoming blaze."

In this verse, an important point has been explained to play a positive role in the society, that if a person wants to bring something good and if he wants to fix something bad in the society, then he should fix it himself first. It has to be. This verse criticizes those people who want people to have good morals and advise them but do not correct themselves.

Prophetic Directions

People are the greatest creation of God. Allah commanded us to utilise the example of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as a complete guide to character development. Character formation was a key priority for the Prophet, so it should guide the travels of the Ummah throughout the world. It is correct to suggest that regular practise is required for this activity. () The following Quranic verses praise the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.):

﴿وانك لعلى خلق عظيم﴾⁽⁶⁾

“And, yes, you have a very high level of character.”

In the above verse, this point has been explained that Muhammad ﷺ is on high morals, so those who follow him should also adopt good habits.

﴿((7)) أكمل المؤمنين إيماناً أحسنهم خلقاً.﴾

"A most comprehensive person who believes in faith is the one with the greatest character between them."

In this verse, a restriction was imposed on the believers that their morals should be correct because this is a requirement of faith -

He states in another Hadith that nothing weighs more heavily on the scale than good character. In fact, a person of good character will have acquired () .the status of a fasting and praying person

Anyone who doesn't care about the matters of Muslims is not a member of them, and whoever spends day and night without being sincere to Allah, His Messenger, His Book, the leaders of Muslims, and their masses is not one of us, according to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), who went on to further explain the principle of true belief. Whoever does not care about the affairs of Muslims is not one of them. Whoever spends day and night without being sincere to Allah, His Messenger, His Book, the leaders of Muslims.

Muslim society needs the care and attention of every person during a crisis. Anyone who doesn't make an effort to alleviate or eradicate these issues is not seen as a sincere Muslim. Islam seeks to care for both the individual and the community. The Prophet (PBUH) and his companions' wives and daughters took part in every aspect of life. Women nowadays can look forward to Hazrat Fatima Zahra (RA) for inspiration on how to contribute to society. According to the Strat Azb, there is no difference between men and women when it comes to faith, obedience, and humility, offering alms, fasting, persistence, and patience, protecting one's honour, and remembering God. They do not differentiate between them in terms of social changes, economic endeavours, planning, intellectual processes, national, .city, village, group, and individual issues

Regarding developing one's character, the holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

((ألا كلّم راع وكلّم مسنول عن رعيته))⁽⁸⁾

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Regarding developing one's character, the holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

((والمرأة راعية على أهل بيت زوجها وولده وهي مسئولة عنهم))⁽⁹⁾

“And woman is the guardian of her husband's home and of his children and is responsible for them.”

In order for humanity to properly advance in both the material and spiritual domains, character building involves all those life issues that offer complete direction to people in all areas of their lives, including the mental, intellectual, and practical ones. () The development of character in today's youth is a major responsibility shared by men and women alike. Children cannot develop into excellent people without proper training from their parents, especially moms. Due to the fact that children spend more time with mothers than fathers, mothers have a more significant role in character development in families. The Holy Prophet gave the following advice with regard to social stability and character development:

“Not to be neglectful in three issues; specifically, the order of goodness, the forbidding from doing evil, and the teaching of people the Sunnah.”⁽¹⁰⁾

Another text is revealed:

"Have fear of Allah in the presence of your family members, and do not take the stick away from them as a warning."⁽¹¹⁾

In another statement, the holy prophet (PBUH) placed the woman as the precious identity of this world;

((الدنيا متاع، وخير متاعها المرأة الصالحة))⁽¹²⁾

“Everything in this world is just a momentary convenience, and the best momentary comfort that this world has to offer is a good lady.

It is acknowledged that women can play a crucially reforming part in developing moral character. Disorder, social change, and child rearing are more often associated with women than with men. Because this process is actually reforming society as a whole.

The roles that people should play and their obligations are discussed in the aforementioned hadiths, with special emphasis on the position of women and how they can better both their own lives and society. A well-known adage claims that a man The education of a woman is the education of the entire community as well as the education of the individual.

SOCIAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Currently, there are laws, rules, and numerous organizations that aim to safeguard women's rights and raise awareness about the significance of their position in society..⁽¹³⁾

Islamic society grants special regard for women.

➤ **As a mother**

The lady in the family is in charge of having children and raising them. She is mostly in charge of the child's self-control, punctuality, organization, diligence, hard work, stealing, and honesty. She is the youngster's first instructor. She passes on the social heritage of the child. The child picks up the laws, moral standards, customs, and ideals of men from his or her mother. She is therefore responsible for upholding rigorous discipline within the family. Because she's a mother, she works as a primary healthcare officer.

The holy prophet (PBUH) said:

((كل مولود يولد على الفطرة، فأبواه يهودانه وينصرانه ويمجسانه، كما تنتج البهيمة بهيمةً جمعاء، هل تحسون فيها من جدعاء))⁽¹⁴⁾

“Every infant is said to enter the world in a unified state as fitrah. Then, much like an animal is born without any defects, his parents raise him to be a Jew, a Christian, or a Magian. Do you notice any of them that appear to have been injured (during birth)?

Every single baby is automatically a Muslim. His parents and society indoctrinate him with beliefs and philosophies of different faiths and systems.

Another prophetic statement is:

((ما نحل والد ولدا من نحل أفضل من أدب حسن))⁽¹⁵⁾

“There is no more important thing for a parent to instil in their offspring than proper etiquette.

Another message is brought to light, and it reads as follows: "They are both your Heaven and your Hell."⁽¹⁶⁾

((الجنة تحت أقدام الأمهات))⁽¹⁷⁾

Paradise is situated beneath her feet.

Half of society is made up of women, and it is up to them to care for, direct, and change both the next generation of men and women. The woman is the one who instills morals and faith in people's hearts. Nowadays, moral degeneration and decadence, especially among youth, are viewed as a global issue. Numerous such incidents happened as a direct consequence of the lack of awareness displayed by their caretakers, members of the community, and anybody else who played a role in the formation of their personalities throughout their childhood.⁽¹⁸⁾

➤ **As a wife**

Man's companion, partner, helpmate, and comrade is a woman. In order to ease her husband's stress and tension, create moral standards, and maintain peace and order at home, she sacrifices her own happiness, pleasure, and goals. She consequently establishes a crucial atmosphere for her male partner to take the financial health of the family into account. She inspires men to pursue their dreams and achieve success in life.

((هن لباس لكم و انتم لباس لهن))⁽¹⁹⁾

“They (your wives) are a garment (covering) for you, & you as well are clothes (covering) for them.

Another text is revealed:

(ربنا هب لنا من أزواجنا وذرياتنا قرة أعين واجعلنا للمتقين إماما)⁽²⁰⁾

“O, Lord! Give us calmness in our wives' and our descendants' eyes, and create us a model for those who are devout..”

According to the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH):

“It is a woman's responsibility to welcome the entrance when her spouse knocks and to make him feel welcome.”⁽²¹⁾

Another Quote is as follows:

“A lady who treats her spouse with respect and refrains from harassing him will have good fortune and success.”⁽²²⁾

- **As a supervisor of the family's finances**
- The family's finances are modestly managed by a woman. She is responsible for making sure that every dollar invested yields the highest potential return. She would rather have surplus budgets than deficit ones. While performing numerous loss and profit computations, she wastes money. She wisely allocates her income amongst a variety of demands, luxuries, and comforts.

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

((والمرأة راعية على أهل بيت زوجها وولده وهي مسنولة عنهم))⁽²³⁾

“And the woman is the protector of her partner's home and children, as well as their responsible party.

➤ **As the head of the family**

The head of a family institution is a female. She divides up the work among the family members according to their abilities, interests, and skills as well as the materials and tools required to complete the assignment. She plays a key role in the preparation and serving of food, the maintenance of the house, and the washing, decorating, choosing, and upkeep of clothing. In her role as an administrator, she organises several family social gatherings to foster social development. A well-organized, disciplined home requires greater management, which is done by women, in order for there to be a regular family life.

Women's Role in the Medical Profession

In Muslim history, women were crucial to winning battles. At the time, they served in the medical wing in military conflicts. Women now effectively contribute in the scientific and medical disciplines after the 19th century.

Role of Women in Agriculture

In developing nations, women make up a large portion of the agricultural workforce. They are employed in agriculture, and the nature of their employment varies widely depending on the region and the household. They assist their husbands, fathers, and brothers to provide for the family.

As a Politician

Women have been granted unprecedented economic, social, and legal rights throughout the history of different societies and civilizations thanks to the influence of Islam, which has contributed to the advancement of women. During the time of Hazrat Umar Farooq, female parliamentarians are referenced in the books of Hadith, Seer, and History. [Citation needed] [Citation needed] It was rumored that during the caliphate of Phrophe, the maximum amount of dowry that could be demanded of a woman at the time of her marriage should have been regulated. This was purportedly discussed in the Parliament of Madinah (SAW). A female member of parliament rose to her feet and questioned the legitimacy of the legislation, stating that she did not understand how it was possible given that Allah had not imposed any restrictions. When Hazrat Umar Farooq, may Allah be pleased with him, asked the woman for proof of what she said, she recited the following Qur'anic verse:

And regardless matter how much riches you may have transferred to him, you must not take any of it back..⁽²⁴⁾

According to this woman's interpretation, the phrase "heaps of wealth" in the Qur'an suggests that there is no upper limit to the dowry that can be demanded. Hazrat Umar Farooq stated:

The woman was correct in her assessment, whereas the man demonstrated poor judgement..⁽²⁵⁾

CONCLUSION

Women can play vital role in reformation of family and society. All family members learn from women and Muslim society regarded women with high position in family

members. Women have rights of wife and daughter, dignity of mother and sister, and first teacher of society. Women's population proportion is increasing day by day but efficient representation or contribution is not seen. Western feminist movements are threatening for Muslim societies. It is high need of time that Muslim women know their civic responsibilities as mother, wife, daughter, sister and then contribute as professional to society. Character of society is based on individual's character which is completely in the hand of women as the Holy Prophet said:

"Surely! You are all guardians, and you are each responsible for the people entrusted to your care. The leader of the people, known as the imam, also serves as a protector and is accountable for his subjects. A man is the keeper of his family (household), and he is responsible for the people who live in it; a woman is the custodian of her partner's home and of his children, and she is responsible for those people; and a slave to a man is the custodian of his master's property, and he is responsible for it. Surely, each one of you serves as a guardian, and you are all responsible for the people entrusted to your care.

This is a direct related prophetic quotation on a member of society's obligations, with special emphasis on the position of women. Women are emphasized as having primary responsibilities for the home and the education of their offspring. This research opened up some new questions that can be investigated further and lead to new directions for panel discussions. What kinds of things did prominent Muslim women in early Islam as well as in contemporary Islam offer to society, and how did they do so? Is it necessary for contemporary Muslim women to have a feminist movement comparable to that of Western feminism in order to bring about a resurgence of this status? How can the factors that lead to the degradation of women be eliminated? Does the society of Pakistan need women who work outside the home or inside the home?

RECOMMENDATIONS

In Islamic tradition, males and females are held to the same standard of social equality. It has also been demonstrated that women, in particular, can contribute to Muslim society via education and devotion without abandoning their identities as Muslims, which has been a significant finding. Women are the ones who establish the standards by which society measures its moral and social values. Women living in Muslim societies now can benefit from looking back at Islamic history in a bid to bring about a change for the better in their status and place within Muslim culture..²⁶

1. In order to change the course of history for the Muslim Nation, women should recognize their portfolio and position in the home and society as reformers and character builders.
2. Women should be encouraged to volunteer in their communities from the comfort of their own homes, alongside their family members.
3. Researchers and teachers in the fields of religion and education should teach women how to help their communities.
4. It is important to prevent excessive pressure placed on women to participate in the workforce and the abandonment of efforts to form families.
5. Individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions that are advocating for the work of religion and the reformation of society should make prophetic acknowledgement of the independent social role of women more widely known to the public.

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