

Human Rights: A Comparative Study of the Modern and Prophetic Societies
(Perception of the Female Students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University
Peshawar and Women University Swabi)

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Abstract

Human rights are the moral principles that describe human behavior in society. Really without human rights, society will be like wild, where the asset, blood, life and honour of everyone will be unsafe and violence, inequality, injustice, cruelty and the unbalanced situation would have been observed everywhere. The aim of this research was to explicate the human rights in modern and Prophetic societies along with the views of the female students of SBBWU, Peshawar and Women University Swabi. For this purpose, we distributed one hundred and twenty questionnaires among female students of both universities. Ten questions were filled by every student and the result was displayed through pie charts. The female students of both universities (SBBWU, Peshawar and Women University Swabi) shared their views through questionnaire that people of modern society are ignoring the teachings of Islam, due to which many problems and unethical values are producing in environment as; injustice, inequality, inhumanity, robbery, bloodshed, dishonorable, rape, violence and depression etc. There is a need to reform the society and it will be possible at that time when we shall follow the teachings of Islam and give rights to human beings to spend their lives in a peaceful and nonviolent atmosphere. This research work can be useful in its specific field for upcoming researcher and scholars.

Keywords: Human rights, Modern society, Prophetic society, Pious, Islamic teachings, Ignorant

1. Introduction:

The gathering of people is called society. Allāmah Ibn-e-Khaldūn says that: "The gathering of human beings is the necessary and important thing, which makes family and then it is converted in society"¹. The Islamic society is different than other societies and has an eminent position in the world, because its base is on the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH²). Everyone, rich or poor, master or slave, and black or white is equal before Allah (SWT). No one is superior over the other, the bases of worldly status before Allah (SWT). Superiority is only the bases of pious mean the fear of Allah_(SWT) and to fulfill all the commands of Allah (SWT). Islam gives equal fundamental rights to everyone. The best quality of Islamic society is, that everyone which belongs to any place of the world, after converted to Islam, can easily form and adjust in an Islamic society regardless of their cultural differences.

In the Holy Qur'ān, Allah says: "*O people! We created you from one man and one woman and made you branches and tribes that you may recognize one another. Undoubtedly, the most respected among you in the sight of Allah is he who is more pious, verily, Allah is knowing, Aware.*"³ It is proved that superiority is only the base of Emān. If we talk concerning modern

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society, we see everywhere inhumanity, disrespect, inequality and injustice in environment. It is a reality that we ourselves have created an unbalanced environment in society, because of ignorance of the Islamic teachings. And we are giving importance to worldly things and considering the worldly status for superiority. This is a fact, that we are going to ruin with the passage of time. It is a need of time that we should follow all the teachings of Islam then we can succeed to keep the base of a peaceful and nonviolent atmosphere in society. The summary of this paper consists on few steps such as; the first step explains introduction, statement of the problem, hypotheses of the research and objectives of the research, whereas, the second step introduces the research methodology, data collection and sampling, moreover, the third step gives details concerning the analysis of the problem, similarly, the fourth step clarifies results & discussion and findings, likewise the fifth step explains conclusion and in last, some suggestions and recommendations are given to bring the improvement in society.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Some statements of the problems are given below:

1. What was the status of society before the rising of Islam?
2. What were the rules of the Prophetic society concerning human rights?
3. Why is it considering that modern society is going to ruin with the passage of time?
4. What are the causes of the unbalanced environment in modern society?

1.2. Hypotheses of the Research

The following hypotheses have been produced to show the result of this research work:

1. The teachings of Islam have been ignored.
2. People of modern society prefer to spend their lives according to their choice.
3. The ignorance of Islamic teachings is the main reason to produce an unbalanced atmosphere in society.
4. People like to make themselves modern, they follow modernism to live in society, therefore.

1.3. Objectives of the Research

Some objectives are given below:

1. To explain the situation of society before the dawn of Islam in short.
2. To acquire the information concerning modern and Prophetic societies.
3. To elucidate the situation of modern society and to know regarding the causes which make to environment unbalanced.
4. To collect the data in the form of the views of the students and to display the result through the different graphs.
5. To give some suggestions and recommendations to bring improvement in modern society.

2. Research Methodology

The base of this research paper is on theoretic and fieldwork. All the data for this research work has been collected from different sources such as; newspapers, reports, articles,

magazines, books and dissertations etc. The method of the questionnaire has been used to collect the views of female students of SBBWU Peshawar and Women University Swabi regarding the said theme and the result has been displayed through different graphs.

2.1. Data Collection

All the data was assembled randomly via questionnaire for this research work by two universities i.e. SBBWU, Peshawar and Woman University Swabi.

2.2. Sampling

The samples were one hundred and twenty in numbers, which were randomly distributed among students in two Universities; as Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar and Women University Swabi. The aim was to get the opinions of the female students about modern society and displayed the result of the questionnaire by different shapes.

3. Analysis of the Problem:

Human rights have specific importance in society because people are spending their lives according to these rights. Without rights, society will be as a jungle. It is necessary for keeping balance in an environment that the protection should be given to human rights, therefore. Human rights: a comparative study of modern and Prophetic societies is a very significant topic concerning the present time period. We tried to explain each thing of the said subject in detail, therefore and for this purpose, we collected information through different sources like books, newspapers, articles, magazines, thesis, internet, seminars and workshops. We applied the method of the questionnaire to collect the data from the respective universities and displayed the result through different graphs, moreover the said theme is explained with the reference of verses of the Holy Qur'ān and Ḥadīths. The details are given below.

Pre-Islamic Era of Ignorance

Many evils were present in pagan Arabia before the dawn of Islam. As they were arrogant and considered themselves superior among others. They had extremely hate for woman and was deemed less than animals. When they were heard the news of the birth of daughters, their faces become black and hid themselves from people that they did not ask about the birth of their daughters. A false sense of honor compelled them to bury their alive daughters.⁴ A woman had weak position and was not given the respect as a mother, sister, wife and daughter in Arab society. As the step sons got married with their step mother at the death of their father. She was considered a source to birth the children and was deprived all fundamental rights and was spending her life in worst condition. A man could have a number of women as wives. The evils, indiscipline and blind laws were spread everywhere in society. The rich people mistreated with poor people like cattle and their blood was not considered important. The wealth, life and honor of no one was safe. The men and women circumbulated the Holy Ka'ba in a naked state and they felt proud of this act. The ignorant Arabia worshipped the idols, they forgot the existence of Allah. They bowed their heads before idols and prayed them to fulfill their wishes. This was the society of

ignorance Arabia, where the robbery was considered an art, it was not a crime. Where the lives of servants were not safe. They were treated like animals and were deprived of all the fundamental rights. The rich or wealthy people comprehend to the servants like their assets, whenever the masters became annoyed at the little fault of them, they threw them in front of hungry lions or wild animals. There was no cost of human's life, they were killed only for the slightest mistakes and then their hostility was moved forward for long periods.⁵ It was a pagan society of Arab, in which inhumanity, injustice, violence and cruelty were on their peak. Such a society needed reform, which completed after the dawn of Islam.

Prophetic Society:

The base of the Islamic social system is on this theory, that all the human beings of this world belong to one race. Allah had created the first human pair i.e. the Holy prophet Adam (PBUH) and his wife Eve for this world, then numerous people were born from them. In the beginning, the offspring of the same pair were one Ummah (nation) for a time. They had the same religion and the same language. There were no differences and dissimilarities among them. As they were increased in number and were spread over all the earth. They divided into different tribes, races and nations due to this proliferation or a large number, and were separated their languages, dress code and way of life. The climate of different places changed their colour, complexion and facial features. All these differences were naturally, therefore Islam accepts them and does not want to erase them. Because the mutual cooperation and the introduction of the human beings are possible only in this way. All of the human beings are produced from same mother (*Ḥaḍrat Eve*) and father (*Ḥaḍrat Adam*). Each among them is the brother of other, consequently. Every one of them is equal before Allah except those who are pious. The superiority is only based on the honesty and righteousness.⁶ The Holy Qur'ān states: *"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted"*.⁷ Further said in another verse of the Holy Qur'ān: *"O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women"*.⁸ In the last sermon, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) addressed the people on the ninth day of Dhu'l-Ḥijjah, 10 A.H. (589 A.D.) in Arafāt at Mecca: *"O people! Verily, your Lord is one, and your ancestor is also one: all of you are the descendents of Adam, and Adam was made of clay. The most respectable of you in the sight of Allah is the one who is most fearful of Allah. No Arab has any excellence over a non-Arab if not by the fear of Allah"*.⁹ The above quoted verses expresses that all the human beings are equal before Allah by birth. No one is superior over another due to the differences of color, position, status, ethnicity and nationality. Those people who are pious, who worship Allah and fulfill all the commands of Islam, have a high position in the sight of Allah.

Allah describes this good practice in the Holy Qur'an: *"The believers are brethren, so make settlement between your brothers. And fear Allah that you may receive mercy"*.¹⁰ Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) advised people in his farewell sermon: *"O people listen to what I say and take it to heart. You must know that every Muslim is the brother of another Muslim, and that all Muslims are brethren. All of you are as equal as the fingers of a*

hand. It is not lawful for any man to take anything of his brothers except what is given with one's own free will. Therefore, do not injustice to one another. The Arabs are not superior to the Non-Arabs or the Non-Arabs to the Arabs".¹¹ Allah says concerning human's conduct: "And I did not create the Jinn and mankind except to worship Me".¹² Which prejudices have created in human beings due to the differences of race, colour, language and nationality, all these are wrong in Islam.¹³ The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) further advised human beings in sanctity of Property and Life. "Your blood and your property are as sacred as are this day and this month. You will surely meet your Lord and He will ask you of your works. have I told you?".¹⁴ He who is entrusted to whom it belongs. Allah has ordained to every man the share of his inheritance: A Testament is not lawful to the prejudice of heirs. The child belongs to his parents: and the violator of wedlock shall be stoned".¹⁵ In this address the Prophet (PBUH) abolished usury as said: "All usury is abolished, but you have your capital. Wrong not and you shall not be wronged. Allah has decided that there is no usury. And all usury due to Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib is cancelled".¹⁶ Further He prohibited Bloodshed and said: "All bloodshed in the Days of Ignorance is to be left unavenged. The first claim on blood I abolish is that of A'mir bin Rabi'ah bin Ḥarith bin Abdul Mutallib. It is the first bloodshed of the Day of Ignorance which I deal with".¹⁷ "Intercalation of the year banned. "O men! The postponement of a sacred month is a custom of the ignorance and disbelief, whereby those who disbelieve are misled. They allow it one year but forbid it another year that they may permit what Allah has allowed. But time is eternal since Allah created the heavens and the earth. The number of months with Allah is twelve; four months are sacred, three of them are consecutive; Dhul Qi'dah, Dhu'l-Hijjah, Muḥarram and Rajab which comes between Jumada and Sha'ban".¹⁸ "Right of wives protected. "O my people! you have rights over your wives and they have rights over you. You have the right that they should not defile your bed and that they should not behave with open immodesty. If they are guilty, Allah allows you to avoid intercourse with them and beat them without causing (serious) injury. But if they repent you must feed and clothe them with kindness. Instruct and order your women kindly, for they are prisoners with you, having no control over anything. You have taken them only as a trust from Allah and they have been made lawful to you by the Word of Allah".¹⁹ Ḥaḍrat Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) stated to people that "And your slaves! See that you feed them with such food as you eat yourselves, and clothe them with the stuff you wear; and if they commit a fault which you are not inclined to forgive, then part from them, for they are the servants of the lord, and are not to be harshly treated".²⁰ This is proved that the prophetic society was an ideal society, where everyone was spending his/her life in a pleasant way. Each one such as; rich, poor, master, slave, black and white were gotten the basic rights of the life and every person was satisfied from the implemented laws of Prophetic society especially justice, brotherhood, equality, and honesty etc.

Modern Society

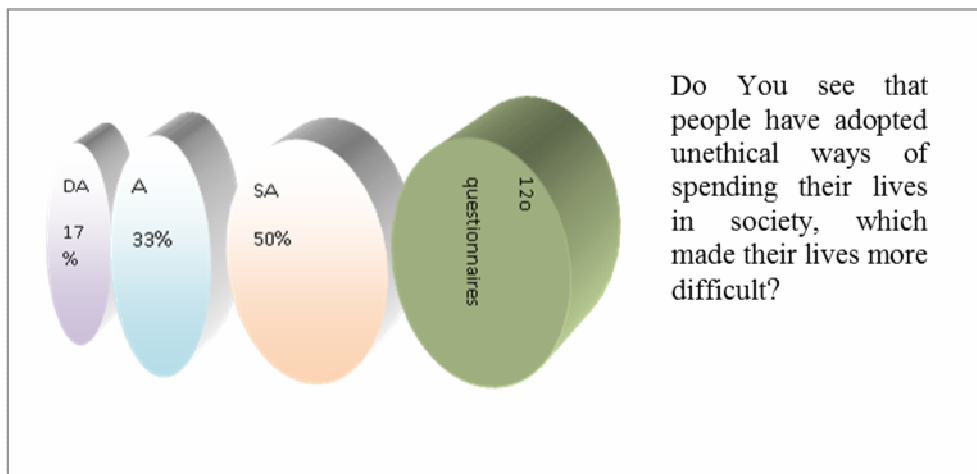
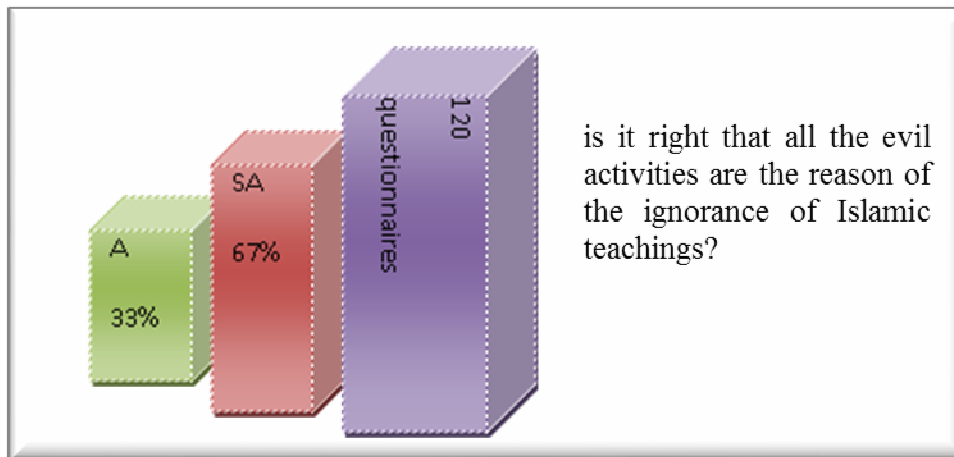
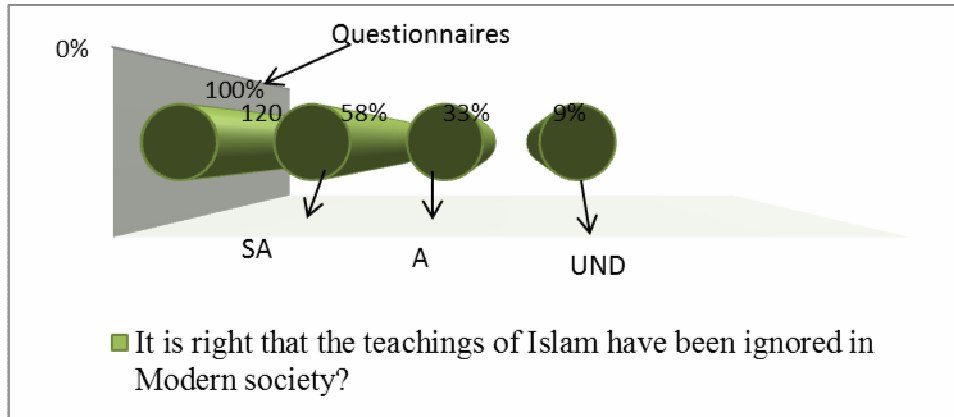
In modern society, we can see that every person is busy in his/her life and no one has time for each other. The respect is given only on the base of status. Poor does not have importance, because they are considered like insects as well as their lives, assets, blood, honour etc have not significance meaning. We can see everywhere the differences of caste,

status, colour, race etc among people in modern society. We are breathing in the 21 century but we consider woman less than cattle. Reality is that, we are not giving basic right to a woman in modern society too. She is facing many problems such as; violence, harassment, rape and other such issues in her life. Pakistan came in to being on the name of Islam, but we do not follow Islamic teachings in it, unfortunately. If we overview the history to look into the Prophetic society, we observe justice and equality for everyone. Every individual had approach to his/her economic, social and political rights. Everyone was respectable being human regardless of master, slave, rich, poor, black and white. A woman had honour as a mother, sister, wife and daughter. In real meaning, it was a Prophet society, where everyone was happy and glad. But in modern society, we are seeing a noisy environment, in which each one is busy in his/her life, no one is giving moral support to others. Humanity is moving to end among people. We do not help poor, disable and ill people because we are being cruelness and unkindness. The kindness and sympathy are ending in the hearts of people. Immorality is spreading very fast in society, we are seeing shameless, obscenity and sinful activities everywhere, due to which, our family system is moving towards destruction, children do not give respect to their parents and they consider them a burden. They admit them in old houses. Allah (SWT) says concerning parents: *"And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], "uff," and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word"*.²¹ The obedience of parents is necessary. The happiness of Allah (SWT) is present in their happiness and the annoyance of Allah (SWT) is present in their annoyance. Abdullah Bin Masood narrated that *"I asked from the Messenger of Allah! What is the most favorite thing to God? Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, praying on time, I asked, what is the status of this? He said, to behave well with the parents, I asked, what is the next matter? He said: Jihad"*.²² We should respect and honour to our parents because their obedience is a paradise for us and their disobedience is hell for us. Many unethical activities have produced in our society, this is a very perilous situation because the entire society is suffering from this. Now there needs to follow the teachings of Islam. If we will act upon the Islamic teachings then we can save our lives and moral ethics. Because it is an alarming situation for us, we ignored the teachings of Islam and today's man is going into converting in an ignorant person with the passage of time. This is a very embarrassing situation for us if we understand it. We should spend our lives according to Islamic teachings. We should help others and care about the rights of humanity. Actually, it is our duty that we produce a peaceful and helpful environment among human beings.

4. Result and Discussion

The method of qualitative and quantitative research was used and the questionnaires were prepared for this research work. The result of this research is displayed in pie charts and ten questions were asked from one hundred and twenty students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar and Women University Swabi. Some symbols are used to show the expression of students such as; (Strongly agree: SA), (Agree: A), (Undecided: Und), (Disagree: DA) and (Strongly Disagree: SDA). The different graphs are given below to depict the result of this research work as;

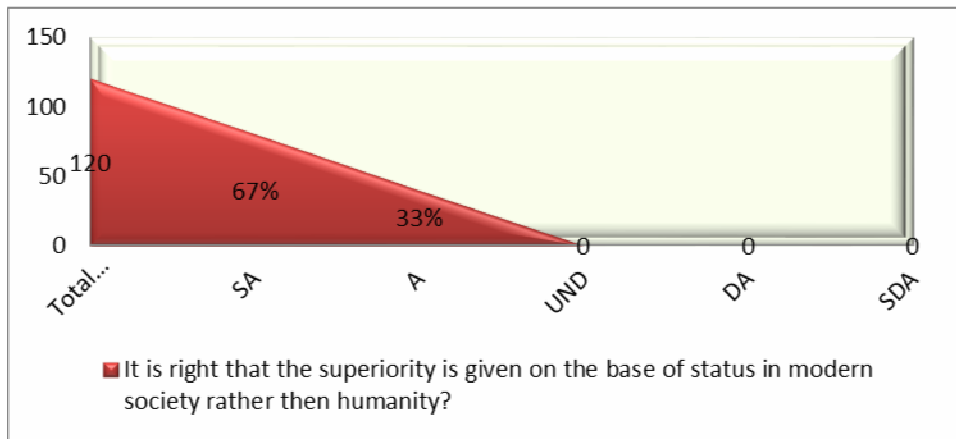
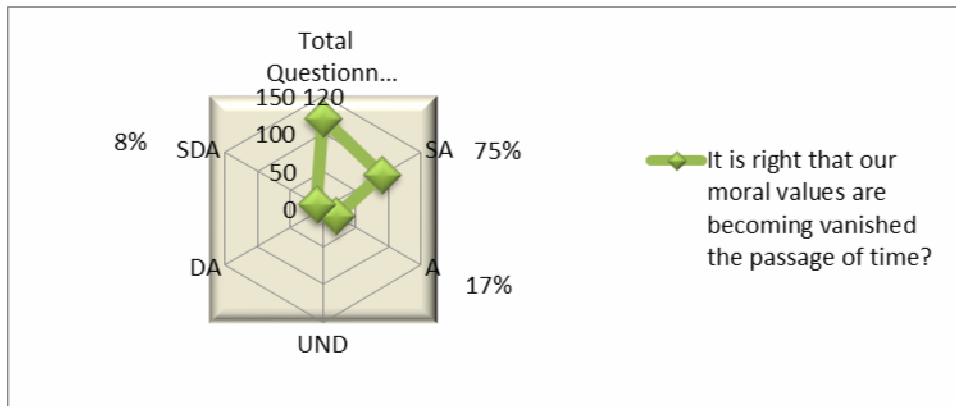
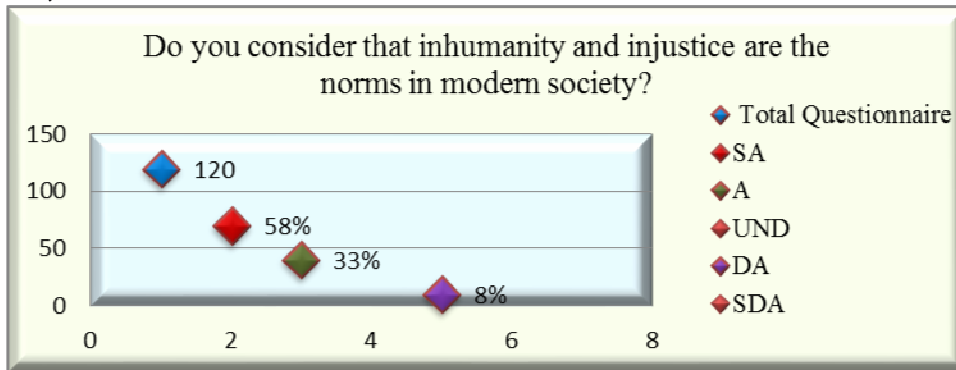
Graphs 01, 02 and 03:



Graphs 01, 02 and 03 showed that 58%, 67% and 50% of female students were strongly

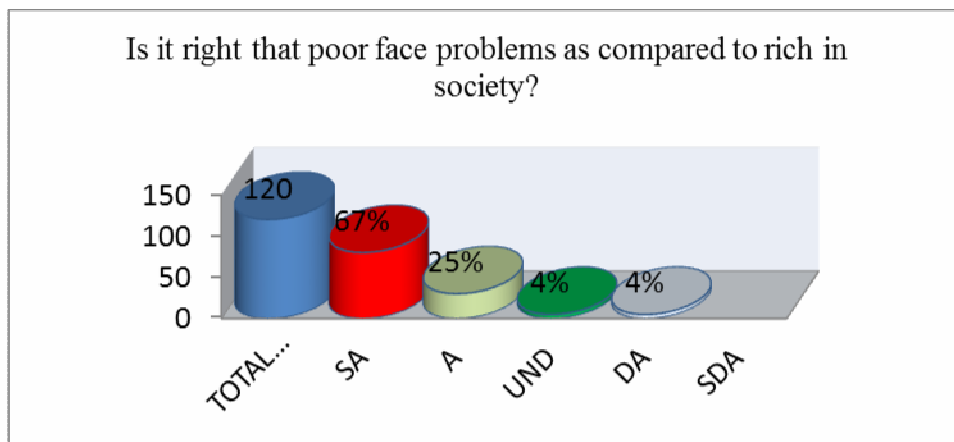
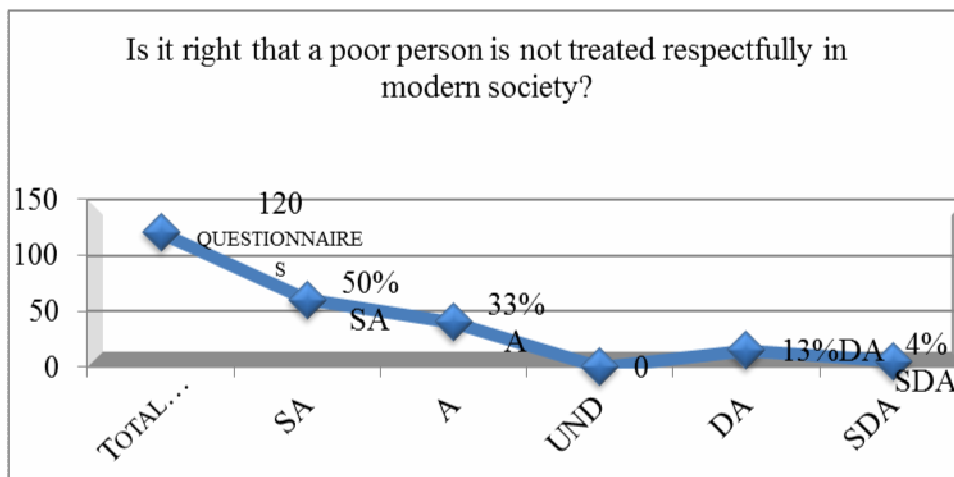
agree concerning this issue that all the problems and evil activities are caused by the ignorance of the Islamic teachings. When the unethical ways of spending life will be adopted then the life of every person will be difficult and hard. Whereas 33% of female students responded to agree as to the above same matter.

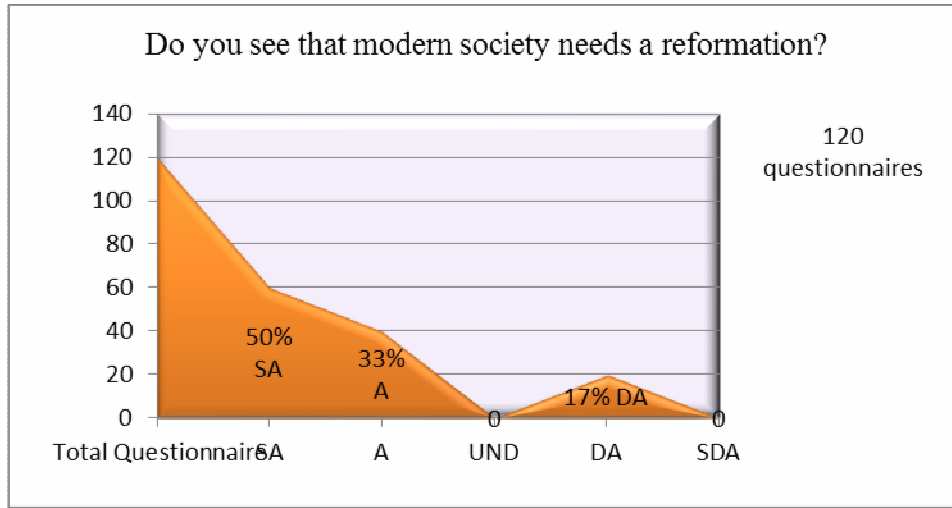
Graphs 04, 05 and 06:



The female students of both universities such as SBBWU, Peshawar and WUS²³ answered in 58%, 75% and 67% for strongly agree, they said that inhumanity and injustice are the norms in modern society. They further highlighted that the moral values are being vanished with the passage of time. Therefore, the superiority is being given on the base of status in modern society rather than humanity. Like that 33%, 17% and 33% of female students had also the same statement respectively.

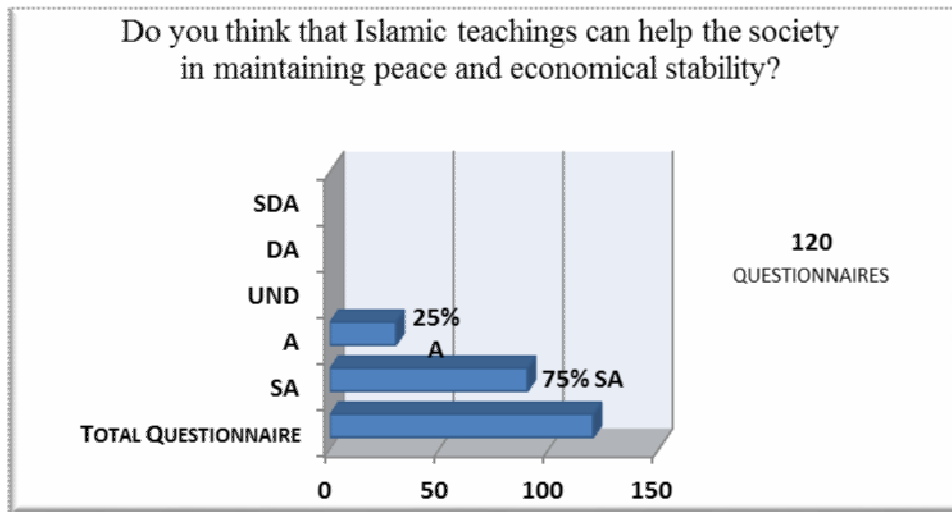
Graphs 07, 08 and 09:





We can see in different graphs 07, 08 and 09 that the female students of both universities showed their feeling in 50%, 67% and 50% for strongly agree. They gave their opinion that a poor person is not treated respectfully in society. A poor is facing problems as compared to rich in society. The modern society needs reformation. It will be possible at that time when the Islamic teachings would be followed. The remaining 33%, 25% and 33% of female students had such mentioned above statement respectively.

Graph 10:



Graph 10 displayed the result in 75% for strongly agree and 25% in agree. The students said that the teachings of Islam can help to maintain the society to be peaceful and economically sound for everyone. We should follow the teachings of Islam to make the environment peaceful from sinful and evil activities, therefore.

4.1. Findings

The majority of female students of both universities agreed that the teachings of Islam are being ignored in modern society, due to which many iniquity activities are producing in the atmosphere. People lost ethics and they are spending their lives in an unbalanced environment. Where we can see injustice, inequality, inhumanity, robbery, bloodshed, dishonorable, rape, violence and depression etc and other several unethical values. Today's person is facing a lot of problems in society, actually, these difficulties are self-created. When people ignore the right path of spending life then their lives become difficult and they have to face many difficulties in their lives. There is a need to reform and to produce a peaceful environment in society, but it can be possible at that time when we will follow the teachings of Islam.

5. Conclusion

Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. It gives all the basic rights to human to spend their lives in a peaceful way. If we talk about the days of ignorance, inhumanity, injustice and inequality etc were at their peak. But the dawn of Islam, the environment of Arab changed and each individual could easily approach the basic rights of life. Actually, human beings are disobedience by their nature, therefore he/she is ignoring the teachings of Islam by the passage of time. Now we have reached in different difficult situations, where we observe unethical activities, injustice, violence and so many other such sinful activities. When we collected the views of the female students of both universities such as SBBWU, Peshawar and Women University Swabi, they said that the unbalanced and violent environment is caused by the ignorance of Islamic teachings. When everyone will follow the teachings of Islam and he/she will spend his/her life according to rules of Islamic teachings then every difficulty will be vanished from our lives.

6. Suggestions and Recommendations

Some suggestions and recommendations are given below.

6.1. Social Aspects

1. We should follow the teachings of Islam.
2. We should understand that every individual deserves respect and honor.
3. We should create a peaceful and nonviolent environment in society.
4. We should help everyone because this is our duty as a Muslim.
5. We should aware of people from ethical values to make their lives pleasant.

6.2. Physical Aspects

1. People should be known of the Islamic teachings because more than half of the population is unaware of such teachings.
2. Everyone regardless of caste, creed and color have a respectable position and all human deserve for the same rights.
3. The equality, justice, brotherhood and honor should give to everyone equally in society.
4. The government should look after the rights of everyone and give the same respect to each one.

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