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Women's Responsibilities Towards the Upbringing of Society

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to elucidate and throw light upon the role of women in the upbringing of society. The personification of women as society builders is being debated in this article to highlight its role. Women are the pioneers of the Nation. They are an integral part of any society and can bring phenomenal changes in society. They a great potential to lift any nation which is rife with problems. Consequently, women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life in the family system. No nation can rise to the height of glory unless its women are side by side in the development of the nation. Throughout history, the pivotal and central role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress, advancement, and long-term development of Nations. The role of women being Mothers, Sister, Wives, Educators, Economist, Caretaker, Disburser, Disciplinarian, and Health Proffesionalist is elaborated in this article in the light of Islam especially keeping in view the teachings of Seerat e Tayyaba Of our beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H). The Significance which is being given to Women in Islamic Religious Doctrines is elevated in this article in detail. So, society becomes cognizant of the due status and position of women in Islam



and the series of examples of Persecution came to an end which ultimately results in the progress of Nations and Society.

Keywords: *Pioneer, Phenomenal Changes, Islam, Comprehensive Religion*

Introduction

After the creation of mankind, Allah the almighty with his divine intelligence segregated mankind into male and female sexes. The establishment of a righteous, peaceful, and disciplined society is a dire need of humanity, and this will be possible only when both male and female members of the society play their natural roles in an evident and staunch manner. The equilibrium of society will be affected if both genders neglect their duties either consciously or due to some external factors ultimately resulting in social and psychological disbalance. (1)

Within society, women have versatile and dynamic roles to perform and act upon them. The roles of women are fundamentally recognized in the social, economic, cultural, the religious domains. In these domains, when they are to post efficient skills and abilities, so they can render their participation and collaboration in an effectual manner. When women are performing various types of roles, they need to ensure that they work effectively towards promoting the well-being of their family and community. Women are the pioneers of the Nation. They have a great potential to lift any nation which is rife with problems. (2)

According to William Shakes sphere, “The world would be imperfect without the presence of the woman.”

The Religion Islam has not kept the domain of women limited to her house only but provides her with a limitless sky where she can fly and can set high aims and ambitions. As she can contribute to the field of education, she can also opt for various other professions so that she can contribute to the individual as well as collective progress and development of society. Islam is a natural religion, and keeping women in its natural domain, the religion bestowed honor and dignity to women and has provided complete opportunities to women so that they can recognize their instinct qualities which can be harnessed for the betterment of society. The role of women being Mothers, Sister, Wife, Educators, Economist, Caretaker, Organizer, Administrator, Disburser,

Disciplinarian, and Health Professionalist has been accepted by Islam and was being practiced by the Sahabiyat and the great women of the first era. (3)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ
مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ
رَقِيبًا.

Oh 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. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one and another, and the wombs. In fact, Allah has strong surveillance of you. (4)

Significance of the topic

The preaching of the Religion Islam is a fundamental duty of the Muslim Ummah. This is the utmost responsibility of men and women to be part of this mission. The role of women in the upbringing and education of a society is not dependent upon verbal appreciation. The role of women is always been potent in the development of humanity, but her efforts and contribution remain under the veil and are not appreciated. (5)

A mother's lap is the first institutional unit of a child and it is such an effective university that the lesson a child cognizes here imparts a strong impression in his heart and mind and this impression is so robust that it will last forever. The lesson he learned from this university helped in his character-building throughout his life span. The Sahabiyat Participated in all fields of life playing their role. (6)

The roles of women within society are dedicated as a campaigner towards human development and advancement, and social justice and are influencing and implementing policy-induced change. (7)

After this, it can be said with complete equivocation and without any skepticism that half or more than half percent of the society's upbuilding and admonition relies upon the role women play in society.

This is basically due to the fact that the proportion of women in a society is more than or equivalent to the male population and due to this density in the community women play a pivotal role in making the members of the society righteous. Secondly Allah the Almighty has blessed women with such dynamic and charismatic traits that she has the potential to lift any nation which is rife with problems. (8) So it can be concluded that the position of women in any society is evident and it cannot be disdain.

Influence of Women in Upbringing the Society

Throughout history, the central and pivotal role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress, advancement, and long-term development of nations. (9) Muslim women have contributed a considerable amount to the welfare and advancement of societies. (10) Muslim women are indeed capable of participating in the progress of society and contributing to the enhancement of the Entire Ummah. (11)

The followers of Islam also have a rich and exemplary history in which not only males but also females have amazing and remarkable achievements. These great women of the time portray their marvelous and spectacular roles in every domain of life including being a mother, daughter, sister, wife, warrior, economist doctor which put the rest of the world in amazement and astonishment. (12)

In Islam Traits Necessary To be Possessed by Women for The Guidance of Society

According to the teachings of Islam, a woman to be the pioneer of the Nation must possess the following attributes to have an influential impact on society.

- Being herself righteous and Devotedness

- Being possesses the quality of eloquence and Dynamic style of expression which can melt hearts.
- Wisdom (13)

Cognition of Women's Role as a mother

According to Islamic Teaching the dignity of the mother is the ascension of humanity. It is stated in Quran.

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ إِحْسَانًا حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ كُرْهًا وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا وَحَمْلُهُ وَفِطْلُهُ
ثَلَاثُونَ شَهْرًا

We have ordered Mankind to be good to his parents. His mother carries him in her womb with pain and the process of birth was painful. The Gestational and Lactational period comprises two years. (14)

As stated in Hadith

ان الله حرم عليكم عقوق الامهات

Allah has forbidden upon you the disobedience of your mother. (15)

It is among the obligatory and fundamental duties of a Muslim mother to make her children abide by the teachings of Islamic Doctrines at any cost. She should work hard and make struggle for it to raise her children in an Islamic manner. A mother who practices Islamic methodologies at her home ultimately provides an atmosphere favorable for the Islamic nourishment of her Children. This Islamic training which a child gets at his basic home school helps him to combat multiple challenges he may encounter in world affairs. This is the only way Children become accustomed to performing religious rituals before puberty, and this habit becomes firm till puberty. Muslim mothers must on no account ever consent to send their children to Christian missionary schools or convents where they are totally alienated from their religious and cultural patrimony, though she knows government schools are not satisfactory at all. But the trading for Akhirah should be given priority upon world affairs. (16)

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Her relationship with the child during the mostformative period of his development sets up his behavior pattern. She is thus responsible for the maintenance of utmost discipline in the family which ultimately results in the strengthening of society. She is the primary educator of the child. She serves as a barrier to transmitting social heritage to the child. It is from the mother that the child cognizes the laws of the race, the manner of men, moral code, and ideals. The mother, because of her intimate and sustained relationship with the child, can discover, promulgate, and nurture the child's special traits aptitudes, and attitudes which subsequently play a key role in shaping his personality and making him a beneficial person for society. (17)

Cognition of Women's Role as a Wife

The life of the wives of Beloved Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H sets an example for the Muslim society that how a woman being a wife can play her part in the reformation of the society. The first wife of Prophet Muhammad Hazrat Khadija serves as a strong bond in strengthening the religion, Islam. She serves with her wealth for the establishment of Islam and provides condolences to the Prophet in his preaching mission. Hazrat Ayesha spent 57 years of her life in the field of Tafseer, Hadith, and Fiqh to continue the mission of her beloved husband. So, Women is man's partner and comrades. She sacrifices her personal pleasure and ambitions, sets standards of morality, relieves the stress and strain, and the tension of her husband maintains peace and order so that he can think peacefully for the reformation of society. She is the source of inspiration to man for the high endeavor and worthy achievements in life as can be seen from the life of the Prophet's wives. (18)

Cognition of Women's Role as a sister

The relationship between a sister and her brother is like the shade of a tree under which he gets comfort and reverence. (19) Sisters play their part to protect and care for children and young people in their community by being supportive, caring and looking out for them. (20) In Islam, multiple women set such examples. One such incident is quoted below.

خولة بنت الأزور الأسيدي: شاعرة كانت من أشجع النساء في عصرها، وتشبّه
بخالد بن الوليد في حملاتها. وهي أخت ضرار بن الأزور. وفي شعرها جزالة
وفخر توفيت في أواخر عهد عثمان (الأعلام للزركلي 325 / 2)

The sister of Hazrat Zarar bin Azwar, Hazrat Khaula bint e Azwar was famous among the brave women of Arabs. She also participated in the battle of Yarmouk. She is contemporary in bravery to Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed R.A and plays her role being a warrior sister in the Islamic empire. (21)

Cognition of Women's Role as a Teacher

In Islam, the teaching profession has more importance as our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) introduced himself as an educator, over 1441 years ago. The role of the teacher being an influential icon is always recognized in society. Teachers are responsible for the grooming of their students. Islam has paid great attention to teachers for their being the first brick in the structure of social development and perfection, and the cause of guiding and developing the behavior and mentality of individuals and communities. (22) The wife of the Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H Hazrat Ayesha was the teacher of the whole Muslim Ummah. Hazrat Rabia Basri R.A. was a staunch icon in Islamic history to be a teacher. So, women have great potential to play their part in the reformation of society as great teachers.

Cognition of Women's Role as an Economist

Women can opt for any profession or business according to their situation and circumstances, abilities, resources, and inclinations. They can seek jobs as well as invest in trade, industry, agriculture, and in any sector of their choice. They have managerial capabilities to take on risky and daring challenges. They can even create new opportunities for themselves keeping themselves within limits. (23) Similarly, Islam also provides complete opportunities for women to serve their role as an economist and it was evident from the Prophet era that women play their part in every field of economics. Hazrat Khadija the staunch trader. Hazrat kaila R. A said to the Prophet that "I am a woman who purchases and sells goods." (24) Women also take

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part in farming in early Islam. (25) Hazrat Asma bint e Abi Baqar took part actively in farming with her husband after getting married. (26) Women of the Prophet era also took part in sewing, weaving, and trading like Hazrat Fatima bint e Sabiha R.A. So, if the women took part in the economy of the state, the economic background of the country can become strong, and stalwart. (27)

Cognition of Women's Role as a Medical Professionalist

The practice of Medicine has a great essence not only in the contemporary time but also in the Islamic regime. The Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H use to instruct his Sahaba, especially the women to learn treatment for ailments and diseases. (28) In medicine and surgery, the eminent personalities as female medical practitioners were Hazrat Rafida, Hamna bint e Jahash, umm e Kabsha, Ume Atiya, Ume Sulaim R.A. (29) Umm ul Hussain bint e Alqazi ibn e Jaffar was a famous female gynecologist in Islam who was called for the treatments of Royal Queens. (30) If women act as medical professionals, not only the ratio of malady decent in society but also it will provide ease to the women sector to discuss their personal issues with them in complete protection and confidence that is difficult to discuss with male doctors.

Conclusion

The present study concludes that the participation of individuals in society plays an eminent role in the development of society despite their gender. The Islamic teachings of the Quran and Sunnah highlight that there is no difference between males and females within society. The participation of individuals is determined by only Taqwa and the performance of good deeds both physically and spiritually. Women have the freedom to play their part in different domains of life for the well-being of society. She can be a great doctor, mother, economist, teacher, a warrior, and Allah has blessed her with staunch capabilities that she can lift any nation which is rife with problems. She can pay special attention to the upbringing of her child who in the future will become the leader of society. One should not overlook the fact that great men of history were the children of great women. The only course of action that will ensure progress and success for the Muslim community is to follow in the footsteps of its first generation. It will take courage to scale the ascent that may impede our way towards the activation of the role of Muslim women as it was practiced during the time of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and righty-guided Caliphs.

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