



Pursuit of education and acquisition of knowledge for women in Islam

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Abstract

Acquiring and applying knowledge for any Muslim is a basic requirement for all Muslim men and women so that they can understand and practice the religious ideals well. Education is a process through which an individual or a nation highlight and clarifies its identity on a pure entity and this process works to shape any nation and improve its sense and consciousness. This is the process through which the new generation is taught the manners of living and this is the means through which the goals and duties of life are enlightened. It is through education that the nation transfers its cultural, intellectual, heritage to future generations. Education and training, knowledge and awareness are of fundamental importance for the development of any society. Islam has given primary importance to knowledge and piety, education and training, from the beginning. Because the Islamic Sharia has imposed equal rights and duties on both men and women and both are equally responsible for fulfilling their duties.

Keywords: education and acquisition, women in Islam

Introduction

In Islam, there is only one law for the education of women, which has been going on forever and that is that women should be exposed to education in every situation. Because uneducated and ignorant women cause backwardness and degradation in the society. Ignorant people and their women do not have any distinction between disbelief and polytheism, nor any familiarity with religion and the world. For this reason, sometimes women are ignorant of the rank and status of Allah and His Messenger, and sometimes they are rude and disrespectful to the glory of God. And in the same way, they speak boldly in honor of the Prophet (pbuh). The lives of such uneducated and ignorant women are ruined because they do not have the wealth of this knowledge. In Islam, it is obligatory for both men and women to acquire knowledge, and if a woman does not fulfill this obligation, she is also included in the category of disobedience. And this is the reason why the coming generation proves to ruin their lives by taking wrong paths instead of following the right path. But on the contrary, religiously educated women know the limits of right and wrong, legal and illegal, and they deal with the problems that arise in their lives with their own style, and these women are the generation that grows up in their homes. It provides such training that proves to be a useful existence for everyone in the society. That is why it is extremely important for a woman to be educated. If we emphasize that it is important for a woman to be educated more than a man, then it will not be an exaggeration at all. Firstly, the teaching of Islam is that there is no distinction between men and women for special knowledge anywhere in Islam. Because the order of acquiring knowledge is the same for both, that is why there is no question of differentiation in it. Yes, it is certainly said in Islam that those who acquire knowledge, scholars and those who do not acquire knowledge, can never be equal. As the Quran says.

Say, 'O Prophet, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" None will be mindful 'of this' except people of reason ^[1].

Education is very important in the religion of Islam otherwise hardly there is any other religion in the world which has given emphasis on education like Islam. We can infer this by saying that the word that started with the revelation of the Qur'an was "Iqra"^[2]. Since the revelation of the Qur'an, a lot of emphasis has been placed on the acquisition of knowledge in Islamic education. The founder of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) gave the good news of paradise for those who take the path of education in these words:

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Allah makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in the search of knowledge ^[3]."

Human progress is based on knowledge. Any person or nation without knowledge is left behind in the process of life. That is why such a person and such nations face different stages in life due to their lack of awareness and ignorance. They can't do it and they can't make much progress in the academic and modern field in their life. But despite all this, a long period of history has passed in which the need and importance of knowledge for women has always been ignored and the importance and need of knowledge has been considered necessary only for men. The sad thing is that even today in different parts of the world and society, education has been declared forbidden for women, women are forced to live a life of ignorance far away from knowledge. But on Islam, it is only the grace of Allah Almighty and the kindness of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to all women that Islam has declared knowledge as a duty for both men and women and has opened the doors of acquiring knowledge to both men and women. And whatever obstacles and restrictions there were, Islam removed them. As stated in the blessed hadiths for the acquisition of knowledge that

The Messenger of Allah prophet mohammad (pbuh) said: "Seeking knowledge is a compulsion on every Muslim ^[4]."

This Hadith is referring to the knowledge of that aspect of the Deen that will save someone from the Fire.

In another place, Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "There is not one of you with three daughters or three sisters, or two daughters or two sisters, fearing Allah regarding them and treating them in the best manner, but that he will enter Paradise ^[5]."

Islam addresses both men and women and has made both of them bound by the ethics of worship and Shariat, which is not possible without knowledge. Without knowledge, a woman can neither protect her rights nor fulfill her responsibilities, which are imposed on a woman in Islam. That is why it is very important for women to be educated along with men. Because if a woman is not educated, then she will not be able to train her children on the track on which the order to train is contained in the Quran and Hadith.

The importance of women's education in Islam

It is no exaggeration that historically women have been subjected to social injustice and educational exclusion. Before the arrival of Islam, girls were killed mercilessly in Arabia, they had no respect in the society. If a girl was born in any family, that family was looked down upon. The girl was considered a burden on her parents and the whole family. And thousands of restrictions were imposed on her. If she survived, her whole life would be spent in pain. But after the advent of Islam, Allah Almighty had mercy on this woman and gave her all her rights, including the right to education, through the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Organizing the education and training of women in Islam is one of the basic measures. Before Islam, women were deprived of all rights in the Jahili societies. Where a woman is deprived of her right to life, there can be no question of her right to read and write. But where Islam gave the woman a high and honorable position, it also did a favor to her by giving her a place opposite to men in education and training. Because according to Islamic Sharia, both men and women have full importance. In some way, religious orders are obligatory on both of them and on the Day of Resurrection, women will also be accountable to the Lord of the Worlds, just like men. Therefore, the acquisition of knowledge for women, which teaches them about basic religious matters and teaches them how to live according to Islamic rules, has been declared obligatory for them. Here our "fard ain" means that it is compulsory to learn it and if a woman or a man neglects it, they will be guilty and sinful before God Almighty.

Therefore, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) paid attention to the education of women from the beginning. He said about the verses of "Surah Baqarah" that:

"Learn them yourself and teach your womens too ^[6]".

Similarly Prophet is Islam (Pbuh) used to advise the delegation that came to your service for education and training that:

"You go back to your homes, stay with your families, teach them religion and make them follow the religious orders ^[7]".

For the preaching activities of the Holy Prophet, one day in a week was also dedicated for women, in which he

organized the education and training of women. On that day, women used to attend your service and ask questions on various matters and problems arising in daily life. After the Eid prayer, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to address them separately. He had also ordered the Umm al-Momineen ^[8] to educate Muslim women about religious issues. Similarly, prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) again urged women to write. Hazrat Shafa bint Abdullah knew how to write, so the Holy Prophet (pbuh) ordered her to teach Hazrat Hafsa "Umm al-Momineen" to write, so she taught Hazrat Hafsa to write too. And this was the reason why gradually the love of writing and reading increased among women. Now, if we examine the period of the Caliphs after the Prophet's era, we will know that in this period too, women were given education and training. Hazrat Umar Bin Al-Khattab (R.A.) ^[9] issued this commandment in all parts of his kingdom''

Be sure to teach your women "Surah Al-Noor" because it contains numerous issues and rulings related to domestic life and social life.

Whether it is religion or history, rational arguments or scientific observations, if we think about it in any respect, we will know that the acquisition of knowledge is not only for men but it is mandatory for women to acquire it because of their Based-on knowledge, she has to fight the battle of life, because she does not have the strength like a man, therefore, based on knowledge, she faces the difficulties and obstacles that come before her. It is also worth noting that if a woman is educated, the society will be saved from various types of evils and corruptions because women have a great role in the role of the society.

Conclusion

The development of every nation depends on its education. Education only enhances the sense and consciousness of the nation and teaches the new generation how to live. It is also a fact that the role of the women of this nation is important, central and fundamental in enlightening the nation and its youth as a whole, enlightening them with civilization and culture, beautifying them with virtues and beautiful features and righteous development. This is the reason why, on the one hand, Islam has given special emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge, on the other hand, it has not differentiated between men and women and declared it as an equal obligation for both. Today's age is the age of modern technology and in this age, science and modern sciences have developed so much that there is no precedent in previous eras. In today's age it is very important for everyone to be educated. And in today's age of rationalism, it is extremely important for a woman to be educated, because a newborn child whose education and upbringing and good morals are the first responsibility of his mother. Through it he embraces all kinds of virtues and avoids vices, that is why it is more important for the mother to be educated because she is determined to prepare a new generation. And if we look at the history of all the other religions of the world, it is a great favor of Islam to women that it gave women the freedom that was not seen in any other religion before.

References

1. *Surah Al zumar,9)*
2. The word iqra is a classical arabic origin word which is literally means “read/ recite and also believed by muslims to be the first word revealed to prophet muhammad (pbuh) in the quran
3. *Riyad as-Salihin)*
4. *(Sunan Ibn Majah)*
5. Musnad Ahmad
6. (Sunan Darmi)
7. (Sahi Al Bukhari)
8. (Mothers of the Believers)
9. He was the second caliph of islam