

# Barriers, Resistance, and Revelation of women in Different Spheres of Life and the role of Holy Qur'an

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**Abstract:** In traditional societies, women's lives have been shaped by social, cultural, economic, religious and political barriers since ancient times. These obstacles are not only limited to life but are deeply embedded in literary traditions. With a vast historical range from pre-Islamic times to the contemporary era, Arabic literature appears to paint a rich and layered portrayal of women's struggle, resilience and resistance. This research paper investigates the obstacles women face in various aspects of their lives and presents a discursive study of how literary texts function both as mirrors of patriarchal structures and as powerful sites of critique and reform. The study highlights the social barriers women face, for example patriarchy, gender discrimination, early marriage, mobility and on education. In classical Arabic literature, women are often confined to domestic work. In addition, obedience, chastity, and silence were considered ideal feminine qualities. Women were represented in love poetry as objects of desire or reflected as symbols of honour whose behaviour determined male and familial prestige. Such depictions reinforced the social system and maintained male domination throughout the ages. However, subsequent literary developments reveal subtle yet significant changes, as female characters begin to question their imposed roles and articulate their suppressed voices.

**Keywords:** Bury, Obstacle, Patriarchy, Liberation, Literature, Confront

## I. INTRODUCTION

The most important aspect of contemporary literature is feminism since it discusses women's experiences in all spheres, both favourably and unfavourably. Additionally, it emphasises women's rights in a variety of fields, such as education, politics, society, the economy, emancipation, and equality with men and women. Whether as a housewife, a mistress of the family, a life partner, a manager, a soldier, a symbol of hope, or even a source of sorrow for some, and women have been an

integral part of society for as long as people can remember.

Islam came to support and grants women their full rights because, in the past, they were denied the right to human dignity because they were seen as inferior to men. As a result, women are neglected at every turn and denied access to many facets of life because women were ignored the right to human dignity, this is particularly true. It has tried to shed some insight on the status of women in each of these eras, from pre-Islamic times to the present.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY

- To study Women's Obstacles faced in various aspects of their lives.
- To highlight the position of women in pre-Islamic to modern Era and the role of holy Quran.

## III. METHODOLOGY

To fulfil the above mentioned objectives, descriptive and analytical methods have been used. In addition, primary and secondary data have been used in this entire process. Secondary sources like various books, book chapters, journals, and different articles written by various authors have been followed as well as some themes and data collected using the Internet.

## IV. DISCUSSION

Women in pre-Islamic era: Women were not given any significant place in Arab civilization before the arrival of Muhammad (Sm), i.e. during the time of ignorance. The Arabs thought that women were a source of shame for them, a source of disrespect and a tool to diminish the self-esteem of their families. As a result, if they found out that the mother was pregnant with a daughter, they killed the foetus or buried it alive after birth. Not only did the Arabs

commit such inhuman acts against women, but the medieval Indian Rajput aristocracy also committed injustice against women. They thought that if a daughter was born in their family, they would have to raise her and marry her to someone outside the family and then people would call them mother-in-law which would make them bow their heads in shame. Therefore, girls child were killed at birth. In Addition women were deprived of their right to inherit property at that time. Girls' opinions were not taken into account of marriage. They were even confined to the walls of the house.

The woman had no rights under the Hindu Laws of Manu. They were only their father's or husband's servant. They had no ownership rights and lacked the ability to properly dispose of their belongings. All of their possessions belonged to their husband, father, or son. Women were also supposed to be burnt alive and buried beside her husband when he passed away. Even after the British conquest of India began and laws prohibiting the burning of women alive were put in place, this horrible crime persisted. In contrast, the holy Quran gives women full rights to inherited property. The holy Quran says as follows:

*“For men is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, be it little or much - an obligatory share.” (Al-Nisa, 4:7)*

Greece was the most urbanized and civilized country in antiquity. The city of science, philosophy, medicine, and wisdom was Athens. But in the past, the women were traded as a commodity by the people of Athens. They saw the woman as nothing more than the devil's creation of pollution. In short, women were not given sufficient status and were not recognized by the male-dominated society of the time.

Most people who lived in pre-Islamic times, especially those from the Rabi'a, Kinda, and Tamim tribes, claimed that raising girls was expensive and required many costs to keep them alive. Additionally, they thought that since women couldn't ride horses, they wouldn't be of any real help to them (on the battlefield). Additionally, they could demand astronomical ransom payments in exchange for their release if they were seized by the enemy during a conflict, which would result in their losing their dignity rather than benefiting from the

loot. Secondly, they were worried that the girl may eventually cause them embarrassment. Ironically, many Arab tribes were fairly tolerant of prostitution despite their fear of embarrassment, and they even forced their slave females into prostitution until Allah the verse prohibiting this act was revealed by the Almighty. In this connection Almighty Allah has revealed a verse in the holy Quran:

*“And do not compel your slave girls to prostitution, if they desire chastity, to seek [thereby] the temporary interests of worldly life. And if someone should compel them, then indeed, Allah is [to them], after their compulsion, Forgiving and Merciful.” (Al-Nur, 24:35)*

On the contrary, the Holy Qur'an gives women a high status. There is also opposition to the fact that girls were killed after birth. Undoubtedly, such acts are described as disgusting and condemned. The Holy Qur'an says:

*“And when one of them is informed of [birth of] a female, his face becomes dark and he is suppresses grief. He hides from the people because of the evil of what was given to him. Should he keep it humiliation or bury it in the ground? Unquestionably, evil is what they decide.” (Sūrah al-Nahl 16: 58–59)*

## V. WOMEN IN THE ISLAMIC ERA

Throughout the history women have been victims of oppression throughout the ages. And they have been denied all kinds of social and political opportunities. Women have also been treated like animals or lower than animals instead of being treated well. They had no distinct place in a male dominated society. The advent of Islam marked a new dawn for women. It not only ended the injustices of the past but also provided women with rights and dignity that were unparalleled. Society should give equal space and importance to both men and women as according to Almighty Allah men and women are created from the same spirit. This is described in the holy Quran as follows:

*“Oh mankind, fear your lord, who was created 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 another and the wombs. Indeed Allah is over, over you, an observer.” (Sūrat al-Nisā' 4:1)*

Islam made guaranteed that women were no longer excluded from the human race through these teachings. They were given rights that were both legally protected and spiritually ordained, and they were promoted to respectable positions. Women's honour was further highlighted in the Quran by Surahh Al-Nisa, a whole chapter devoted to their rights and well-being.

People killed their children, especially female infants, before the arrival of Muhammad (Sm), especially in pre-Islamic Arabia, out of fear of future adversity, poverty, or social disgrace. The terrible practice of female infanticide was a reflection of the era's poor economic circumstances and erroneous societal ideals. This cruel crime was carried out by parents who were afraid they wouldn't be able to provide for or protect their daughters. Islam pronounced this behaviour a serious sin against humanity and vehemently denounced it. This problem was clearly addressed in the Qur'an, which assured parents that Allah alone provides for their needs and that no child should be slain out of dread of poverty. It declared that the Creator provides for both parents and children. In this connection, Almighty Allah gives clear message to mankind in Quran as follows:

*"And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Indeed, their killing is ever a great sin."* (Al-Isrā 17:31)

Islam emphasized the equal worth of women and girls in God's eyes and restored their dignity and honour via its teachings. It substituted compassion for brutality and faith for fear. Islam did this in an effort to create a society founded on moral duty, justice, and charity. In addition, Almighty has clearly informed mankind about the duties of husbands after getting married. After marriage, it is considered most essential for the husband to pay the dowry (Mahr) due to his wife. And if a person does not pay his 'Mahr', he is considered to be in sin. This is revealed in holy Quran as follows:

*"And give the women [upon marriage] their [bridal] gifts graciously. But if they give up willingly to you anything of it, then take it in satisfaction and ease."* (Al-Nisā 4:4.)

## VI. WOMEN IN THE MODERN ERA

The contemporary world professes to support women's independence and rights. It has, nevertheless, exposed women to a new kind of exploitation in many respects. Women are frequently portrayed as merely physical objects in Western societies, which prioritize youth and beauty over their uniqueness and dignity. Women are complimented on their physical looks yet, like transient items, are abandoned as they get older. This way of thinking is a return to the ignorance that Islam eliminated. Women are once again being deprived of their actual value under the pretence of independence. In favour of flimsy ideals, relationships such as motherhood, sisterhood, and daughterhood are being devalued. Even the practice of killing unborn girls, which was outlawed by Islam, is making a comeback under the pretence of contemporary family planning. In this regard Almighty instructed as follows:

*"And do not kill the soul which is Allah has forbidden [to be killed] except by legal right. This has instructed you that you may use reason."* (Al-An'am, 6:151)

People living in the modern age, particularly those who are part of the new Westerners, advocate for the idea that women should be given the same status as males in all parts of life. The Westerners concluded that women should be given a greater position than what Islam had previously provided for them. However, the Islamic women's liberation movement was able to improve the socioeconomic standing of women without introducing any new challenges to society.

The experience of Islam was limited to national boundaries because it was based on divine revelation. Women today have a time managing their jobs and families handling abuse because of their gender and figuring out who they are with all the different ideas about their rights. This is because traditional cultural expectations and what society wants now are at odds with each other.

Women have to balance a lot of things. They need to keep learning have careers and take care of their families and kids at the time. To be liked by society women are often pushed by the media. What people think is normal to focus on how they look or show their bodies, which can go against what they believe in personally or because of their religion especially when it comes to being modest. Women have to deal with things like not getting paid not having the same rights when it comes to inheriting things in some

societies and not getting good healthcare in their daily lives. On top of this violence at home and harassment are still problems that people often wrongly excuse by misinterpreting religious scriptures, which is really about Islam and what Islam says. Women and Islam is a part of this issue and understanding Islam is key, to solving these problems that women face. These concerns are addressed in the Quran by means of a framework of justice, spiritual equality, and particular legal protections that were groundbreaking when they were revealed and are still relevant now.

The Quran offers a number of guidelines and directives to reinstate equality and dignity of women. Men and women are equal in God's eyes and have the same spiritual origin, according to the Quran, which judges them solely on their righteousness. The Quran gives women complete control over their wealth, in contrast to many historical and contemporary institutions. Marriages that are forced are severely forbidden. A woman must give her agreement for a marriage to be deemed lawful and has the right to select her spouse. The Sunnah, or prophetic tradition, affirms that "seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim male and female.

#### VII. THE POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Women's political standing in pre-Islamic societies was primarily determined by their exclusion from patriarchal tribal and imperial hierarchies. Women were essentially viewed as property in pre-Islamic Arabia and had very little legal standing. Similar to how women were prohibited from voting and public discourse in ancient Greece, early Vedic ideals of relative equality in ancient India progressively faded into a mediaeval era characterized by social isolation and the loss of property rights. While there were a few notable outliers, such as the wealthy Abbesses in mediaeval Europe who occasionally cast ballots in national assemblies or the trader Khadija in Arabia, most women were confined to the home and lacked autonomous political action.

From the Ottoman Empire's "harem diplomacy" to complete sovereign authority in dynasties like Razia Sultana's Sultanate of Delhi, women's political roles changed from the mediaeval to the modern age. A shift toward universal suffrage occurred during the 20th century, with nations like Turkey and Azerbaijan setting the standard for voting rights.

#### VIII. SOCIAL STATUS

Women had no value in society, because they created the image for the enjoyment of men only, and they were not free to travel and leave the house without permission and it was obligatory to wear the niqab (Hijab), and no one in the family and society cared about educating and raising the women, as they considered them to be the housewife, as they must only care about family matters, such as cooking food, washing clothes, taking care of children, etc. Thus, women were limited in every field. They had no choice, no dignity, and no freedom in any work or function of life. So, women began to break out of these social and cultural restrictions and shackles. Then the great revolution began against these outdated traditions and social systems, and men of science and literature raised these issues and problems. Social, political, and cultural feminists in their writings give and establish women's rights in every field of economic, social, and political.

#### IX. FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY

When this study is finished the research paper will show that women have been facing social barriers for a long time. These barriers are cultural, economic, political and religious. They have been around since before Islam. They still exist today. They take away the dignity and opportunities of women. Before Prophet Muhammad's arrival women were not allowed to inherit things attend meetings or make their own decisions. They were treated like objects, in Arabia parts of India and Greece. There were bad practices like killing baby girls forced marriages and isolating women from society. These practices showed that men were in charge and women had no power.

Arabic literature from a time ago said that women were only good for being desired symbols of honor and taking care of the home. Women were supposed to be obedient, chaste and quiet. These were considered the qualities for a woman. Then Prophet Muhammad came and things started to change. He said that women had the right to inherit things choose who they wanted to marry and receive a dowry. He also said that women should be protected from being exploited and that killing baby girls was wrong. He believed that men and women were equal in the eyes of God. With these changes women were still not truly free. Men still had power and control over women. Today women face problems like not having equal pay being victims of violence being

objectified by the media and having to balance work and family life.

Now many women are speaking out against these injustices. They are writing books and stories that show the struggles of women. Women are finally able to express themselves and challenge the roles that society has given them. The women in these stories are strong and brave. They are fighting for their rights. Women like those in the stories are changing the way people think about women and their place, in society.

#### X.CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study shows that women's struggles are deeply rooted in social, cultural and political systems that changed over time. From times women were treated unfairly and didn't have basic rights to the Islamic period that brought significant changes women's roles have changed a lot. The Qur'an introduced principles, equal rights, inheritance rights and protection from abuse, which was a big change for women. However with these changes, old customs and wrong interpretations of religious teachings still limited women's participation in society. Today women have access to education, jobs and politics. They still face new challenges like unfair treatment being treated as objects and economic inequality. The study also finds that Arabic literature reflects systems and is a powerful tool for resistance, where modern women speak out against imposed roles and demand respect. Therefore empowering women requires not new laws but also a change, in how people think, cultural practices and how women are represented in literature. For women to be truly free they need justice, awareness and a fair understanding of religious traditions that respect their dignity and equality in all areas of life.

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