

JIBAS (The International Journal of Islamic Business, Administration and Social Sciences) (Quarterly) Trilingual (Arabic, English, Urdu) ISSN: APPLIED FOR (P) & (E)

Home Page: <http://jibas.org>

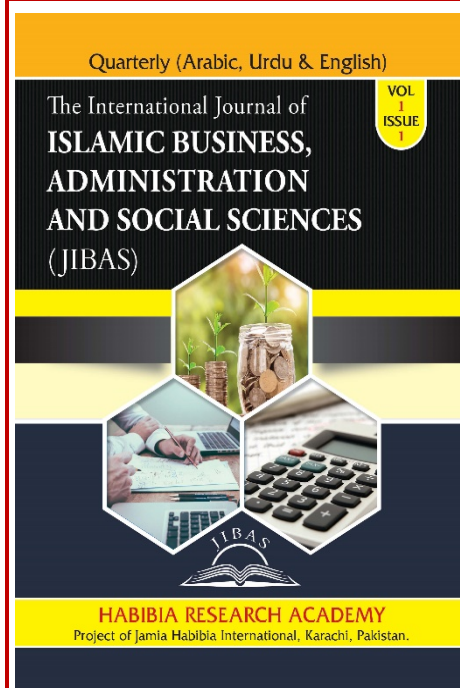
FOLLOWS REQUIREMENTS OF HEC FOR Y CATEGORY

Indexing: IRI (AIOU), Australian Islamic Library, Euro pub.

PUBLISHER HABIBIA RESEARCH ACADEMY
Project of **JAMIA HABIBIA INTERNATIONAL**,
Reg. No: KAR No. 2287 Societies Registration
Act XXI of 1860 Govt. of Sindh, Pakistan.

Website: www.habibia.edu.pk,

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



TOPIC:
THE REAL FEMINISM

AUTHORS:

1. *Fizza Ahmed, Research Scholar Department of Sciences and Humanities FAST-National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Karachi*
k102365@nu.edu.pk

How to Cite:

Ahmed, Ms. Fizza. 2021. "THE REAL FEMINISM". The International Journal of Islamic Business, Administration and Social Sciences (JIBAS) 1 (1):29-36.

URL: <http://jibas.org/index.php/jibas/article/view/7>.

Vol. 1, No.1 || January –March 2021 || P. 29-36

Published online: 2021-03-15

QR. Code



THE REAL FEMINISM*Fizza Ahmed***ABSTRACT:**

*This research is all about the rights of women. Women in the present world, before and after, in every era of life have suffered through many problems and obstacles. They have been dealing with difficult situations in every aspect of life, educational issues, social issues, cultural issues, economic issues but they have found a useless solution to their issues, instead of focusing on Islam, they have been looking forward towards secular and liberal feminists which don't even guide them to a nearly sensible solution. Feminism is a present day issue; women and men as well are suffering through. This research is to clearly define them the true importance of women in Islam and that to every problem; Islam gives you the best solution. I have raised this issue to aware the people of the “**The Real Feminism**”. Being Muslims, it is our duty to make the women realize that what they are doing and what should they do. If the teachings of Islam are being practiced all around the world, there is no gainsaying the fact that the world would witness a peaceful atmosphere and women will realize what true freedom is.*

KEYWORDS: *Womankind, rights of women, feminism, the real feminism.*

Introduction:

This research is entirely based upon women, their issues, and how to deal with those issues. Majorly, this to make people realize that they should search for the real solutions instead of wasting their time, money, and lives on absurd solutions. I personally feel that the women should realize that the feminists are giving them unnecessary freedom and distracting them from the right path. Islam has the best rights for women defined in Quran and Sunnah at length, if they follow them, they will be freed from all the issues and sufferings. This topic has been discussed at length previously by many feminists, scholars and writers. For example, *Feminism and Islam: legal and literary perspectives* [M Yamani - 1996 – Ithaca], *the politics of feminism in Islam* [A Majid - Signs, 1998 – JSTOR], *Feminism in Islam: Secular and religious convergences* [M Badran - 2009 - One world Pubns Ltd], *Gender, politics, and Islam* [T Saliba, C Allen - 2004].

Feminism:

In a single line, feminism is about women gaining equal rights with men. However, feminism is more complex and profound than just a matter of equality with men. Yes, feminism is a movement that stands for women's rights but it does not end at simply claiming equal rights with men. It is a movement which knows that every human being was created equal and thus strives to create that certainty in personal, professional and public life.

Feminism in Islam:

Feminism in Islam can be defined in two ways. Firstly, we can define feminism in Islam as the rights of women discussed in Quran and Sunnah or precisely, we can say that the rights of women in Islamic law (Shariah). Secondly, we can term “Feminism in Islam” as the practicing Muslims running NGO's and guiding women to the most suitable solution

according to Islamic law. Islamic feminists advocate women's rights, gender equality, and social justice grounded in an Islamic framework. Although rooted in Islam, the movement's pioneers have also utilized secular and European or non-Muslim feminist discourses and recognize the role of Islamic feminism as part of an integrated global feminist movement.

Females in the past:

In the early days, woman didn't have any rights whatsoever. Men had a control over their women in every aspect may it be professional or personal. Women were bound to their homes and kids and had no voice and freedom of their own. However, since the advent of Islam, Allah educated His people through Prophet Muhammad (SAW) that women were not men's slaves but had equal if not more importance than men.

Before Islam:

The era of 630s has known as the period of Jahiliyyah or pre-Islamic Arabia. This is the time before the Islam arose. During the days of Ignorance, before the advent of the Holy Prophet [SAW], women were:

- Treated like cattle
- Devoid of humanity
- Infant girls were buried alive
- Women did not have the right of inheritance and bequest
- They were not treated fairly during divorce
- Women were not afforded full control of their wealth

In those days of darkness, the people did not recognise any rights of women who were tolerated in the houses no better than pet animals like goats and sheep.

After the advent of Islam:

Islam with the revelation of the Quran completely changed the way woman were looked upon in society. It is in placing the Quran and its principles against the backdrop of such a setting that the reformist spirit of Islam, which restores the true human character, can be seen. Islam's emergence drastically altered the spiritual landscape of Arabia for women. One of the most important principles outlined in the Quran is the notion of religious, moral and spiritual, obligations being present upon all individuals, regardless of sex. The Quran states: **"And they (women) have rights similar to [those] over them according to what is reasonable, but men have a degree [of responsibility] over them"** ¹Moreover, in contrast to the central concept of Original sin in Christianity and Judaism, the Quran never mentions that woman is the devil's gateway or a deceiver by nature. The Quran clearly rejects any such notion of the "inherent" evil of woman. It clearly demands respect for her "inherent" good as potential child-bearer (and primary nurturer). Islam has given a little superiority to men over women and there are reasons for that. But as far as getting reward or punishment is concerned, it is equal. As per Quran: **"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has made the one of them to excel the other, and because they spend [to support them] from their means"**. ²

Importance in Islam of woman as:

1. Mother: Amongst the clearest examples of Islam's honouring women is the greatest status of mother in Islam. Islam commands kindness, respect and obedience to parents and specifically emphasizes and gives preference to the mother. The command to be good to one's parents begins right from the Quran. Allah says: **"Worship God and join not any partners with Him; and be kind to your parents..."** [Noble Quran 4:36]³ The significance of mother is easily explained by the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), He said: **"Paradise lies underneath the feet of your mother."** The Quran emphasizes the great struggles the mother goes through for her child, to highlight the need for one to reciprocate their parents' sacrifice for them: **"And we have enjoined on man [to be good] to his parents: in travail upon travail did his mother bear him and his weaning was over two years. Be thankful to Me and to your parents, unto Me is the final destination."** [Noble Quran 31:14]⁴ The Quran repeats its mention of the struggles of the mother in yet another passage: **"And we have enjoined upon man, to his parents, good treatment. His mother carried him with hardship and gave birth to him with hardship, and his gestation and weaning [period] is thirty months. [He grows] until, when he reaches maturity and reaches [the age of] forty years, he says, "My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favour which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to work righteousness of which You will approve and make righteous for me my offspring. Indeed, I have repented to you, and indeed, I am of the Muslims."** [Noble Quran 46:15]⁵

2. Wife: Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"The most perfect in faith amongst believers is he who is best in manners and kindest to his wife."**⁶ The righteous woman is the pillar, cornerstone and foundation of the Muslim family. She is seen as the greatest joy in a man's life, as the Quran says: **"O Prophet! when believing women come to you giving you a pledge that they will not associate aught with Allah, and will not steal, and will not commit fornication, and will not kill their children, and will not bring a calumny which they have forged of themselves, and will not disobey you in what is good, accept their pledge, and ask forgiveness for them from Allah; surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."**⁷ "One of the ways in which Islam has honoured woman is by giving her the right to choose her husband. Her parents have no right to force her to marry someone she dislikes. The Muslim woman knows this right, but she does not reject the advice and guidance of her parents when a potential suitor comes along, because they have her best interests at heart, and they have more experience of life and people. At the same time, she does not forego this right because of her father's wishes that may make him force his daughter into a marriage with someone she dislikes. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said stating the rights of wife: **"You are obliged to provide them with food and clothes honourably"**.⁸

3. Human being: In Islam there is absolutely no difference between men and women as far as their relationship to Allah is concerned, as both are promised the same reward for good conduct and the same punishment for evil conduct. The Quran says: "**And for women are rights over men similar to those of men over women.**" ⁹The Quran, in addressing the believers, often uses the expression, "**believing men and women**" to emphasize the equality of men and women in regard to their respective duties, rights, virtues and merits. It says: The Quran admonishes those men who oppress or ill-treat women: "**O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the dowry you have given them - except when they have become guilty of open lewdness. On the contrary live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If you take a dislike to them, it may be that you dislike something and Allah will bring about through it a great deal of good.**" ¹⁰Equality of women in three levels: **Islam** (outward submission to Allah): It is thus required for every woman to testify that there is none deserving worship but Allah and that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger; to pray; to give charity; to fast; and to make a pilgrimage to Allah's House if she has the means.

- **Iman** (inward faith in Allah and the unseen [Al Ghaib]): It is likewise required for every woman to believe in Allah, His angels, His scriptures, His messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in Allah's decree (and that the good and evil consequences thereof are from Allah).
- **Ihsan** (perfection of worship of Allah): It is likewise required for every woman to worship Allah as if she sees Him. For although she cannot see Allah, she must believe that He sees whatever she does in secret and in public.

International work on feminism:

Many organisations internationally are working hard now for what Islam stated years ago, their religions may be different but their motives are what Islam taught us from the beginning: "**Equality for men and women!**" These organisations create movements against any ill and unfair treatment to women and are in numerous in number. Many of these organisations belonging to a Muslim group and may work hard to preach equality however they mostly do not succeed; "the reason being the mere diverging from the path of Islam". In fighting for the rights of women, these organisations forget that women have some obligations too. These obligations are mentioned clearly in the Quran and Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. **Some of the few highly acclaimed organisations are: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of ¹Women (UN Women).** Established: This organization come into began in January 2011. Objective: As the name, show this organization work for the empowerment of Women.

- **Women in Science International League.** Established: Unknown Objective: Educate societies and families to promote education of science among girls and women as well as work for the equality and quality of education.
- **Women’s Environmental and Development Organization (WEDO).** Established: 1990. Objective: To achieve gender equality, social and economic justice.
- **Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).** Established: 1915. Objective: Gather women from all around the world of various political and religious backgrounds to know the cause of war and make peace.
- **International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International).** Established: 1930. Objective: Working to enhance the leadership, professional and business skills of women.
- **International Federation of University Women (IFUW).** Established: 1919. Objective: Make realization among people to encourage women education.
- **Women in Action.** Established: Unknown. Objective: Work for the rights of women such as education, security, well-being and love. These associations collectively make effort to give women those rights that Islam individually gives. Before one thousand and five hundred years back, in past, Islam has made all the hard work for the welfare of females and stand against those cruel people who don’t consider woman a human being even.

Rights given by International Organizations:

The basic concept of freedom among the people of these organizations is that a person has the liberty to everything, to lead a normal life with freedom. From this believe they provide women those rights that are against the status of women in real. These associations give women not the rights but unnecessary freedoms that decrease respect of females among people and distract them from the right path.

- These organizations provide the following freedoms and rights: They give women the opportunities to get education of any field that they want and provide them coeducational system to make them more confident and self- assured.
- These organization work for the health of women and provide them all the medical facilities with expert doctors (male and female).
- Make efforts to give women equal status as man. Moreover, try to provide them the justice in society.
- Try to make women more professional and skillful through various courses of different skills.

- They not only teach women the significance of education but also promote education importance among their families.
- These organization offer the freedom of travel, women can go anywhere alone she want, for any purpose (like, for employment, education or to see the world).

There are many other works done by these associations for the better status in society for women. However, the actual issue is the rights that takes the status and respect of a woman to a higher level or lower it down. Every sensible person agrees with the educational progress of women but it is more reasonable to provide women a secure environment and make them separate institutions where they can get education in those fields which they prefer. This can be explained by the fact that women feel more comfortable when they get treatment by a female doctor rather than male. Women can easily share their problems with the female doctors. Women feel secure in their respective homes with their family or surrounded by other women. This also provides a solution to lessening sexual assaults and sexual harassment cases.

International issue- Dr. Aafia Siddique:

Aafia Siddiqui is an American-educated Pakistani cognitive neuroscientist who was convicted of assault with intent to murder her U.S. interrogators in Afghanistan. The charges carried a maximum sentence of life imprisonment in September 2010, as long as 86 years by U.S district court. She entered the United States on a student visa staying for both undergraduate and graduate education. A devout Muslim who was engaged in Islamic charity work, she moved back to Pakistan in 2002. She disappeared with her three young children in March 2003, shortly after the arrest in Pakistan of her second husband's uncle, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged chief planner of the September 11 attacks, Khalid Mohammed reportedly mentioned her name while he was being interrogated as said by the U.S government, and shortly thereafter, she was added to the FBI seeking Information – War on Terrorism list. FBI named Aafia Siddiqui as one of its seven Most Wanted Terrorists. Her whereabouts were reported to have been unknown for more than five years, until she was arrested in July 2008 in Afghanistan. She has been charged of carrying documents related to bombing at the time she was arrested. Echoing her family's comments, many students, and some social activists protested in Pakistan. Some shouted anti-American slogans, though many believe she is innocent that the charges against her were fabricated, and her trial was unjustly carried out, she was picked up in Karachi in 2003, detained at the U.S. Bagram Airbase, raped and tortured.

Role of Social activists:

These organizations are now not at all raising their voices for the poor women, not even for a re-trial for justice. Though, these organizations are entirely focused on the rights and empowerment of women, they have their eyes closed towards a Muslim victim. Without any authentic evidence, the American Intelligence Agency through a story pioneered her. Many Islamic countries protested against the American government, but none of these organizations. They have made it quite clear that these organizations only make effort for those whom from they know they can acquire name and fame among the people and they themselves won't face any political issues.

The important question: “Are these world famous organisations really giving women the status as asked in ISLAM?”

Answer: The answer to this question is ‘no’. Women which are being victims never get justice because of these secular NGO’s. They become known to the people as an identity to what has happened to them. It is never a sane solution to get to their doors. It’s much better to go to the court and ask for justice. Muslim scholars can guide them to the best solutions as directed by Islam. They can never get that respect or status which they are given to them in Islam narrated in Quran and Sunnah.

REFERENCES:

- ¹- Al-Baqara-228
- ²- Al-Nisa-34
- ³- Noble Quran 4:36
- ⁴- Noble Quran 31:14
- ⁵- Noble Quran 46:15
- ⁶- Abu Dawud
- ⁷- TheDivorce-65
- ⁸- Transmitted by Abu Dawud (1905); Ibn Majah (3074); Al- Doramy bin Kitab Al-Mannish p.440 on the authority of Jabber; Ahmad 5/73 on the authority of Abu Gara Al-Raqashi's uncle
- ⁹- Noble Quran 2:228
- ¹⁰- Noble Quran 4:19
11. www.wikipedia.com
12. knol.google.com/k/feminism-in-Islam
13. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_feminism
14. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRg3kwZVmlM>
15. <http://www.france24.com/en/20111208-margot-badran-georgetown-university-feminism-islam>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).