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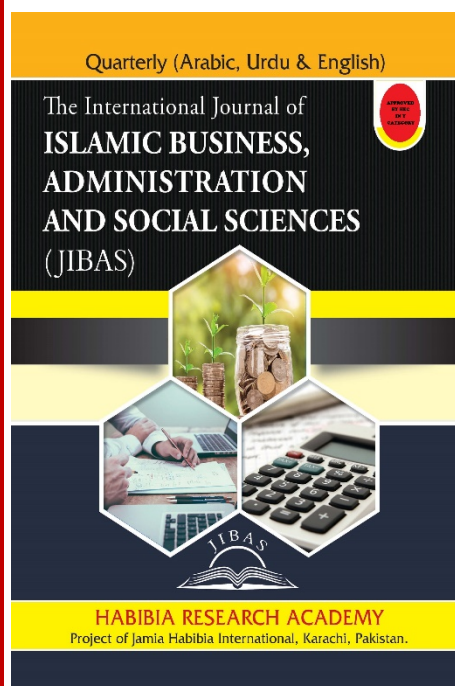
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TOPIC:
AN EMPIRICAL STUDY BASED ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN'S IN PAKISTAN WITH REGARDS TO ISLAMIC VALUES

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**AN EMPIRICAL STUDY BASED ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN'S
IN PAKISTAN WITH REGARDS TO ISLAMIC VALUES***Ms. Raheela Khatim**Liaquat Ali Abro,***ABSTRACT:**

In the present era, the empowerment of women is among one of the issues that is highly debatable. Particularly in Pakistan, which is an Islamic Republic and being democratic the concern of women's empowerment is fronting various different issues and challenges. Understanding the multidirectional nature and to give an empirical touch to this research article the discussion is made under the values and the teachings of Islam with regards to the empowerment of women's in Pakistan. In this article the attempt is been conducted to clarify the misconception because of the religion the empowerment of women is hindered. Furthermore, it is highlighted in this research article that the Islamic value assures the rights of women's. However, these are the old traditions, social norms, that are adapted from other religions and the distance which has taken us far away from the true Islamic teachings, and the women of present era have become weak and defenseless.

Keywords: *Women Rights, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Women's Empowerment; Muslim Women, Islamic Values*

INTRODUCTION: In the year 1947, by the Will of ALLAH TA'LA the Muslim took the independence from the Indian Subcontinent and created Pakistan which is by design a nation having majority of Muslims with over ninety-seven percent of population consisted of the believers of Islam. Although, the fact that the division of Pakistan and India was on the basis of the religious distinctions and identities that is determined under the 'Two-Nation Theory'; Pakistan further continue facing the issues and crisis of identity as the evidence via the division among the secularists and the Islamists (Yilmaz, 2016). The Islam is regarded as the significant and primary aspect in the identity of the Pakistan from the reflections of the Pakistan's constitution. In the year 1956, with reference to the objective resolution of the year 1949, the nation was now acknowledged as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Ahmed, 2016). Lately, with the constitution the Islamic ideology centrality was kept maintained in the daily official and unofficial affairs in the Nation (Chak, 2015).

LITERATURE: Islam is the only religion in which the women's were given a respectable position for more than 1440 years ago. Now days, the word 'women empowerment' have become one of the most arguable matter in various fields

specifically in development (Cohen, 2004). It's intensely identified that the empowerment of women is necessary for the sustainability and growth of the economy and in controlling the poverty for the developing nations (Klasen, 1999). Not only in the Muslim nations but all other nations regard the empowerment of women's as the significant issue. However in reality the presently the Muslim women's' are among the segment that are empowered and respected in the society. It is the corruption and the non-Islamic traditions that came from several cultures that became the cause of lacking in the empowerment of women's and not the values of Islam. The Muslim Ummah unfortunately, unable to empower the basic necessary human resource due to lack of knowledge and understandings of Islam in reality over challenges and difficulties in empowerment of women's; it is clearly declared In the Holy Quran that; *(translation)*

“And (as for) the believers, both men and women – they are friends and protectors of one another: they [all] enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong, and are constant in prayer, and render the purifying dues, and pay heed unto God and His Messenger.” (At-Taubah 9:71)

It is necessary to understand that the Islam is a perfect religion that is having a complete balance in all the matters, the balance among the spiritual and mundane, the complete balance and guide on the worship and the work, the balance of selflessness and the self-pervations. The complete balance and guide on ADL, as the human creation essence by which the spirit and body are balanced and united, on this lies the concern of maintaining the nature balance, in both perspective of the eco-system and the societal balance. And having interruption in such balance causing disruption is known as (ZULM) injustice in the Islam. The ALLAH TA'LA in the Holy Quran the women's and the men both which serve as an evidence on their importance and equality as it is stated; *(translation)*

“For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women, for devout men and women, for true men and women who are patient, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage much in Allah's praise - For them all has Allah prepared forgiveness and great reward.” (Al-Ahzab 33:35)

Societies, families and eventually the entire mankind in the Islam are treated ethically. The glorious Hadith and the Holy Quran both highlights and protects the women's rights, that consist their rights of worship, education, choosing the spouse,

freedom of the opinion, social role, economic freedom and etc. the women who is empowered could be among the women's that are having self-confident, that analysis critically her atmosphere and practices the controls on the important choices and decisions that is having the impacts on her life. In the Islam the women is determined as the equal partner in humankind procreation. The women as the mother, while the men as the father and both of them are necessary for the life. (Translation)

"They are your garments and you are their garments." (Al-Baqara 2:187)

Such partnership clarifies that the women's are having an equal and complete share in all the aspects, provided equal responsibilities, rights, having a wide number of qualities, elements of humanity that as of her partner. The Islam 1440 years ago, has made it clear not only by words but by actions that the women and men in Islam are accountable equally to the ALLAH TA'LA in worshiping and glorifying Him beyond the setting of any sort of the limits in the progress spiritually. In the first verse of the chapter named "Women", the Holy Quran mentioned; (Translation)

"O mankind! Be careful of your duty to your Lord Who created you from a single soul and from it its mate and from them both have spread abroad a multitude of men and women. Be careful of your duty toward Allah in Whom you claim (your rights) of one another, and towards the wombs (that bore you). Lo! Allah has been a Watcher over you." (An-Nisa 4:1)

And also in the Quran again;

"O mankind! Verily we have created you from a single (pair) of a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other." (Al-Hujraat 49:13; cf.4:1)

Another place it is mentioned in the Quran;

"The believers, men And women, are protectors One of another: They uphold What is just, and forbid? What is evil: they observe Regular prayers, practice Regular charity and obey Allah and His Messenger."

It is clearly understood only by few of the verse from the Holy Quran that Islam is having a complete guide and a perfect balance to spend the life. Not only in the Quran but the beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and the companions Sahaba (R.A) practically displayed the glorious illustrations setting an example to humankind and the jinn's worldwide. The examples set by the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) in treating the women as a mother, daughter, sister, or a wife and in all the aspects around Him have set an unarguable example, the Sunnah which are the His teachings, and the Ahadees the sayings, all shows that in the values of the Islam the

women's have been dignified, given honor, and a status that is successful for the life.

According to the report of the Hazrat Abu Hurairah (R.A) the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said: *"The believers with perfect faith are those who have the best disposition and the best of you are those who are best to their wives"*

Once he mentioned;

"Whoever has a female child and does not bury her alive, nor holds her in contempt, nor prefers his male child above her, God will make him enter into paradise." (Abu Dawud)

Another beautiful Hadith of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) which shows the empowerment and the values of women's in Islam are mentioned beneath;

"Seeking knowledge is a mandate for every Muslim (male and female)."

There are huge numbers of example available in which the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) taught and emphasizes on giving just and fair treatment to the females of the society.

Hence the empowerment of the women is a significant objective for the process of continuous development; several challenges are faced due to the particular religious and regional attributes in the nation such as the Pakistan. Even though the Pakistan is the Islamic republic yet the real laws of the Islam are not completely flourished in the state due to the society of Pakistan is vastly patriarchal in which the endorsed old-age traditions of the subordinate and subservient part of the women's. In some parts of the Pakistan a female child in the society is habitually grown up with the teaching that they should obey and serve the men's, in term to the choices regarding the selection of husband, career, having the number of children's etc. are mostly made by the men, specifically in the underdeveloped and remote areas of the nation. However, there are several other aspects which contribute to the submissive character of the women in the Pakistani society that take towards the society to become conservative and continue poverty cycle, low rate of literacy, under-nutrition among the women's of Pakistan. on the local and foreign forums the basic ideology empowering the women is determined with various different elements and some significant studies are made in this regards by the famous researchers and authors such as the; Chaudhry&Nosheen (2009), Kishore & Gupta, (2004), Chaudhry&Rehman, (2009), Malhotra et. al., (2003), Chaudhry, (2007), Hashemiet. al., (1996), Sathar&Kazi, (2000), Williamson, (1983), Ali et. al., (1995), Jejeebhoy&Sathar (2001), Klasen (2006), Mahendra (2004), Schüler (2006), Amin et. al., (1998), Kabeer (2005) and Pradhan (2003).In these researches have determined the empowerment of women with several factors in many different

nations and regions, and various variables been discussed in there research. Furthermore the GGI is also developed in the World Economic Forum highlighting the wide range of indicators and dimensions (Zahidi& Lopez-Claros, 2005).

According to Gallant (2004) determined the feminism cases in the Arab region, the author examined that the Muslim nations such as the Arab the feministic approaches is probable only if they understand and achieve the regional and religious demands. As per the Badawi (1971) in his research examined the comprehensive picture that how Islamic revolution was brought in women's life in comparison with the status of the women prior to the Islam, the author further emphasizes on various factors related with the empowerment in Islam. Most significantly Bugaje (1997), in his research have explained and answered to a huge number of the questions regarding the Muslim low status women and evidently verified that from the Sunnah and the Quran have confirms the highest empowerment level of women's of the universe. Islam is undoubtedly a complete life code by which the rights of all the humankind and society members particularly the women's are honored on a high status. Islamic values have given the women recognition. The values and concept of Islam in respect to the empowerment of women is researched by a huge number of Muslim and non-Muslims researchers, scientist, authors and etc. and is always appreciated the teachings and the contribution of Islam in the empowerment of women's (Chamberlayne, 1968).

CONCLUSION: In the light of the literature drawn above it is visibly clear that the empowerment of women is among the most arguable issues and the challenges the women facing in not only in the present era but it's from a long period of time. The empowerment of women is necessary in the growth and development of the societies and the policies development in on a global forum. In terms to the women's empowerment it's a multidimensional and complex process that needs the analysis that is on multivariate and particularly and significantly there is a presence of literacy and miss-conceptions towards the rights of the women in Islam. Islam is the only religion in which the women's were given a respectable position for more than 1440 years ago along with setting up an example before the universe of the society in which the women is given respects and access to all the necessary rights that are available to humans and in fact more rights that the (modern women) at present could even imagine. The key purpose of this article is to discuss the empowerment of women's in Pakistan with regards to Islamic values by strengthening the concepts that are from the teachings of Islam. The Islamic values are available to human beings in respect to the women empowerment from more than 1440 years that could now be integrated and practice in the Pakistan via enhancing the women's health,

working, educational opportunities side by side enhancing their knowledge by various means.

Almost every Society in the world victims of violence against women that is why it is necessary to eliminate it in every form and level and make every place safe for girls and women even if it is a family, be at work or other private and public places such as police stations, jail or extradition. Violence and discrimination against women continues because there is no protest against it in the tradition, And cultural norms and laws and tradition again st it are very flawed. Therefore, it is necessary to make women empowered citizens, Therefore financially legal, political and social rights achieving basic human rights for women and ensuring their full protection, especially women of minority, helping poor and disabled women and girls who are vulnerable and helpers and providing health services and assistance to women and girls which can protect their health.

The rate of women literacy can be increased quickly and to reasonable extent and the educational standards of girls and women can be fulfilled. To this end make appropriate changes in the curriculum so as to increase the participation of women and provide equal opportunities to women in this regard and ensure that they are provided with a suitable place for them to use their abilities and become useful citizens in society. The Islamic republic of Pakistan which was made 74 years ago should completely practice the laws that are made under Islam and to spend the lives as per the principals by which the ALLAH TA'LA and the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) have presented practically. However the Pakistani Government has not been able to completely integrate such Islamic laws in the nation because of which the women's in some areas and society are impacted and have become vulnerable. Moreover, many political parties in Pakistan have showed progress in terms to the empowerment of women however it is less effective or in effect to low percentage of the urban females, while the females from the rural areas of Pakistan are spending their lives in condition of ignorance, poverty and been targeted of violence. The empowerment of women's is significant not just in the section of the human right but also this term is having potential to improve the well-being of humans.

With the women empowered and enhancing their quality of life as per the teachings of Islam they could also contribute with sustainability in the development of the economy as well as in the society ensuring worldly and spiritually success. The Islam makes sure the women empowerment to the fullest and there is no need to develop any other ideology or concept on an international forum the concept provided by the Islam can be adopted by the universe. It is not wrong to state that the need of the hour is that the society and the government should cooperate with

each another making the environment according to the values of Islam, creating awareness on the Islamic laws and practicing them in the courts.

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