Women Social Exclusion in Pakistan: An Anti Islamic Practice

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Abstract:
Violence is an obscuring threat to the norm of the world, specifically, when it is practiced against women. A woman, in the man dominant society is categorized as a mediocre entity. This bigotry can be observed everywhere, irrespective of country, tradition, class, income, education and age. There is no society that is free of the blame of violence. Many cases can be seen in the name of violence, such as murder, honor killing, abduction/kidnapping, domestic violence, suicide, rape/gang-rape, sexual assault, physical harassment, stove burning and acid throwing. The violent behavior is not appreciated in Islam against women. This is a great favor of Islam on a woman, that it has given a respectable and honorable position to her, as a mother, sister, wife and daughter. Because she truly deserves to enjoying the special love, affection, respect and the gentle feelings. The Islamic teachings tell us that a man and a woman, both are equal in the sight of Allah (SWT). Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Quran: "And for women are rights over men similar to those of men over women". However, as a whole, the situation is not satisfactory and it is a fact, that today's woman is suffering from various problems. The aim of this research is to highlight the different issues related to violence against women and to analyze them from Islamic perspective.

Keywords: Pakistan, Islam, Woman, Violence, Rural, Urban

Introduction
Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. Islam has given an honour and respect to a woman as, a mother, a sister, a wife and a daughter. A man and a woman have an equal right in Islam, priority is only given on the base of believe (Emaan). When we turn our faces back
to history and analyze the status of a woman, before the rising of the dawn of Islam, hence many facts come in front of us. She was considered less than cattle in the days of ignorance. She was sold and bought in markets like animals. She was not given honour and respect in a male dominant society. Islam is only a true and peaceful religion, which has given respect and regard to a woman. In different tribal and rural areas of Pakistan people are usually hospitable and welcoming. But sometimes not exempted from the violence against women. While the women of urban areas are mainly spending their lives in good condition and they are getting all their rights for a pleasant life. Whereas the condition of the rural areas of women are not good, they are spending their lives in the worst condition. They are deprived of all the fundamental rights, for instance, marital, social, educational, economic and inheritor and as well as, they are enduring many kinds of violence against themselves as, physical violence, psychological violence, emotional violence, spiritual violence, verbal abuse and cultural violence etc. The reasons behind such circumstances are totally ignorant of the Islamic teachings. If we analyze our lives, hence it is become clear that we are moving towards ruin with the passage of time. We are Muslims, but our actions are not like a true and pious Muslim. We admit that Quran is a Holy book (Book of Allah (SWT)), but we do not give importance to its teachings. That is why, we have forgot the difference between true and false. It need that we should adopt all the teachings of Islam and should give a reputable and honorable position to a woman in our society. The purpose of this research is to analyze the situation of violence against women and to explain it in the light of Islamic teachings.

**Literature Review**

Dr Gastawli Baan writes in his book that a woman was considered less than an animal before the advent of Islam. She was deprived from all the fundamental rights and was spending her life in most awful condition. People of Greece had thinking about a woman that she is a root of Pugnacity.\(^1\) Another book ‘A Woman in Islamic Society’ is a very famed book. Its writer is ‘Jalaluddin Ansar Umri’. He explained the status and position of a woman before and after Islam. After reading this book, a reader and researcher can get many information regarding different cultures.\(^2\) Abdul Qayyom Nadwi writes in his book ‘Islam and Woman’ that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. It is a true religion. Therefore it has given all rights to a woman to spend a pleasant life in society. He has used very simple way of writing. Which is understandable for readers.\(^3\) We got an interesting book, whose writer is Abdur Rehman Khan. He is a well-known writer. His book is "A Woman in the mirror of humanity". This is an useful book concerning its theme. He has elucidated
the position of a woman in the ignorant period and after the advent of Islam in detail. He has explained an actual condition of a woman, which has been given to her in Islamic society.⁴ We found another book of Abdul Qayyom Nadwi during the collection of material entitled "A woman, Islamic Rules of a Life". He has explicated all the rules for spending a peaceful and pleasant life in society under the Islamic teachings. Moreover, he has also elucidated very points in detail to make them easy and clear. This is a quality of the writing of said writer.⁵ For further elucidation several verses of the Holy Quran and Ahadith are also presented in the paper to clear the position of women in Islam.

**Woman in Pre Islamic Arab**

When we talk about the black period in Arab (before the advent of Islam), a woman was considered like cattle. She was sold and bought like merchandise in markets. She was deprived from all the basic rights. Such as, matrimonial, economic, social and inheritor etc. In many tribes, there was a custom that after the birth of a baby girl, she was buried alive. It was a common practice amongst the Arabs.⁶ Which was showing a cruelty and selfishness of a male gender for a female. Islam tells to human beings that in pagan Arabia after the news of the birth of a female child, a father feels this news shameful for himself and he hides himself from other people due to this disgraceful news. Cruel father buried alive his innocent daughter in the dust.⁷

Many reasons were behind this evil act, as the pagan Arab considered the birth of a baby girl disgraceful and shameful. They did not want to give inheritance to her. That is why, they adopted many awful ways to torture her. But the killing of an infant girl was the worst condition of a hate. Many examples are in history, the one is, "Qais Bin Asim". He was a leader of the clan of "Tamim". He showed cruelty for his daughters and had buried them alive they were eight in numbers. One more case is discussed here as a man had a little and cute daughter, she loved her father very much. Whenever he called his daughter, litter fairy came running happily towards her father. One day he called his little daughter, as usual little baby came running and she followed her father. Father took her to a nearby well and pushed her in. At that time she cried loudly, father. Hadrat Muhammad (peace be upon him) was stunned to hear this story and his eyes were filled with tears.⁸ Islam discusses a critical situation of a female infant that a question will be asked buried alive infant on the day of judgment for what sin she was killed.⁹ It's mean that every criminal will be punished for his/her crime on the Day of Judgment. In the dark age a man could have many wives in pagan Arabia, every man was free in his choice to keep unlimited women in his marriage. All the circumstances tell us that a woman was spending her life
in worst condition and was enduring brutality of a man. ‘When "Wahal Asadi" (may Allah be pleased with him) converted to Islam, at that time he had ten (10) wives.’\textsuperscript{10} One other case is "Gheelan Saqfee" had ten wives, when he embraced Islam.\textsuperscript{11} "Afşar Bano" state, ‘In black days, a man was free to divorce his wife or wives any time and any number, there was not any limitation.’\textsuperscript{12} But there were some tribes, in which the respect and honour was given to a woman, for instance, when we read regarding the life of Hadrat Amina (mother of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), she had honorable and respectable position in her tribe Zuhra.

Another name is of Hazrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her), she had a reputable position and the title of purity (Taahira) was given to her by these Arabs. We find another example of ‘Hind Bint Otba’, the wife of Abu Sufyan. She had high nobility and regard in her tribe, before the conversion to Islam.\textsuperscript{13}

**Woman and Islam**

Islam has given a high status to a woman as a mother, a sister, a wife and a daughter. After the advent of Islam, a woman has gotten an honor and a respect in male dominant society. Islam is a peaceful and true religion. It does not like any kind of inhumanity. Islam gives equal right to man and woman. Therefore, it has given all the basic rights to a woman for spending her entire life with respect in the society. It is a reality of this world that many relations have been made to maintain the beauty of this globe. The relation of a mother is one of them, which is an actual and loving relationship. That's why, that Allah (SWT) has bestowed a high position to a mother in this world and hereafter too. The paradise is under her feet, if we see it is a great favour of Allah (SWT) to a mother. A woman in the form of a mother has the most loving and caring feelings for her children. She provides love and satisfaction to her children. Her lap is like a thick and strong tree, which gives cool shadow to her kids. Ibn-e-Majah and Ahmed stated: ‘Paradise lies at the feet of the mother.’\textsuperscript{14} She tolerates many difficulties being a mother. Hadrat Abu Huraira narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) was once asked who amongst all the people was the most worthy of his respect and compassion. The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied “your mother”; the man wanted to know who should be next, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said “your mother”. The man enquired, who next?, the Prophet (peace be upon him) replied for the third time “your mother”, again the man asked who next? The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied “your father”.\textsuperscript{15}

If we talk regarding the relation of a sister, a wife and a daughter, these all relations are very respectful and important for spending a pleasant life. A sister and a daughter have loving and charming personality for their families. Hadrat Ayesha (RAA) states that the Holy Prophet(peace be
upon him) advised to human beings that if a man has three or two daughters and he treats them kindly, they will be as a shield for his father from the Hell. On another occasion, it is said that a man has three daughters and a father bears the miseries in their connection. He feeds and clothes them and treat them gently. These daughters will become a shade for him from hell.”

Hadrat Abu Sayeed (RA) states that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “Whoever has three daughters or three sisters or two daughters or two sisters and he adopts a good company with them and fears Allah about them, He has (place for him in) heaven.”

All the information tells us that with the dawn of Islam, a woman has gotten her respectful and real status in society. If we discuss the relation of a husband and a wife, it is a beautiful relationship of this world. This relation depends upon respect, love, understanding and good caring. Allah (SWT) has bestowed love and attraction in this relation for each other, which makes it more strong and pleasant. Allah (SWT) says: “And among His signs is that, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts), verily in that are signs for those who reflect.”

Once “Hadrat Muawiya Qushairi (RA) asked about the rights of a wife from the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “That you should give her food when you eat, clothe her when you clothe yourself, not strike her on the face and not revile her or turn her out of the house (if separation becomes necessary) but live separately within the house (temporarily).”

Similarly, Hadrat Ayesha (RAA) relates that Hadrat Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “The best of you is he who is the best to his family, and I am the best among you to my family.”

This is a responsibility of a husband, that he should fulfill all the basic needs of her wife according to his status and position, and should talk her with love and respect. He should keep away himself from harsh performance and behavior. Because, such actions can be reason of the destruction of this relation.

**Violence against women**

There are many urban and rural areas in Pakistan with different cultures and traditions. Apart from Islamic ideology mostly the people in rural areas are inspired by their customs and traditions. Thatt’s why women from rural areas are mainly the victims of violence as compare to the women of urban areas. Woman of rural area is derived from her fundamental rights. She could not express her choice regarding her marriage. She does not have a right to get share from inheritance as a mother, sister, wife or daughter. Although we are living in twenty-first century, but still our woman of rural area is spending her life in worst condition. She is enduring different norms of violence, for instance,
physical violence, psychological violence, emotional violence, spiritual violence, verbal abuse, cultural violence, financial abuse and neglect. These areas represent a man dominant society and woman cannot even rise her voice against this violence. Islam has given all basic rights to a woman, but we have ignored the teachings of Islam. In last some years, the ratio of sexual violence has been increased in rural areas. It is necessity to bring under control the present situation regarding sexual violence. According to Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 2801 incident regarding sexual Harassments have been occurred during last five years from September 2012 to September 2017. We can see two thousand eight hundred and one (2801) cases of sexual violence, according to the human rights commission of Pakistan (HRCP), in five years, such as, from 01/09/2012 to 01/09/2017. In which the female's gang rape cases were eight hundred and sixty nine, the cases of harassment were twenty four, the rape and sodomy case were eleven hundred and seventy five and the cases of stripping were fifty. Some occurrences were behind all the above mentioned cases, such as there were eight hundred gang rape's cases, in which sixty five gang rape were done by relatives, twenty five committed by stepfathers and nineteen cases performed by in-laws. Whereas, two hundred and sixty four cases were done by local residents, two cases of gang rape committed by sibling, one hundred and fourteen cases were done by neighbors and forty nine cases came before us through teachers. While forty one cases were unknown. Five hundred and sixty nine cases of gang rape committed with females in last five years. Many reasons were at the back of these offenses. In such cases, eighteen cases were like that, in which the relatives were involved. Although in remaining cases, six cases of step fathers, four cases of in-laws, one hundred and seventy six cases of local residents and forty cases of neighbors happened in the history of last five years, whereas sixty seven cases were unknown. If we take the cases of harassment, these were thirteen, in which three cases committed by local residents and three cases performed by teachers, while one case was unknown. The fifteen cases of stripping happened, in which, five cases were related to relatives, ten cases were connected with local residents and the linked of two cases were with teachers. After the incidents of rape and sodomy, one hundred and seventeen cases of murdered happened. In which, the cause of behind the eighty cases were injuries, in seventy nine cases were dangerous injuries and four cases were of suicide. Whereas one case was, in which victim died after rape. After the gang rape cases, fifty seven occurrences happened of murder. In which four cases were of burnt, eighty cases were of injuries, eighty six cases were of serious injuries, two cases were of suicide and in six cases victims died after incident. In harassment cases,
one case was of murder and other two cases were of injuries. While in stripping, fourteen cases were of injuries. Whereas medical aid provided in rape and sodomy cases to two hundred and three victims, in gang rape cases to one hundred and sixty one victims, in harassment case to one victim and in stripping to five sufferers. The victim's social status were in the above mentioned cases, as homemaker, maid, students, professional women, traders, workers, Govt employees. The involved persons in sexual violence were security guard, landlords, madrassa teachers, police, political figures, shopkeepers, students and workers. Three hundred and thirty five cases of rape and sodomy, one hundred and ninety eight cases of gang rape, only four cases of harassment and six cases of stripping were in custody, from last years.

**Islamic Injections regarding Sexual Violence**

All forms of sexual violence are Prohibited (Haraam) in Islamic Sharia. Islam have guaranteed that all people must be protected from sexual violence as it is against the people’s right to life, right of freedom, and right of respect. All these rights are guaranteed under Islamic law. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) also discouraged beating one's wife severely. "Hakim bin Muawiyah" heard from his father that once a time a man came to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and asked what is the right of a wife over her husband? Hadrat Muhammad cleared this point before that man, he should feed her wife as he feeds himself and should clothe her as he clothes himself. He should not slap on her face and not disfigure her. He should keep her in house respectfully.23 "Sulaiman bin Amr bin Ahwas" stated: His father said that he was with Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) at the time of Farewell Pilgrimage. The Holy Prophet praised Allah (SWT) and advised people. You should kind treated with women because they are like prisoners with you and you do not have right to mistreatment over them unless they commit clear indecency. If they do that, then you leave their bed and hit them but without injury. If they show obedience for you then behave well. As you have right over your wives, same they have right over you.24

**Conclusion:**

Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. Therefore, it does not like disgraceful behavior regarding humanity. When we have a deep look at history, many facts come before us that a woman was considered like cattle. She did not have any identification concerning herself. After the death of husband, she was distributed like inheritance among family members in days of ignorance. She was spending her life in an awful condition. Islam is only a religion, which has given to her high regard and respect in society. Pakistan is an Islamic country. There are four provinces in it, each province has its specific cultures and traditions. If we talk about
a working lady, so she is facing different kinds of violence at working places as abduction/kidnapping, rape/gang-rape, sexual assault, and physical harassment etc. The actual condition of contemporary society is that today's woman is also crushing in the male dominant society. She has an inequivalence position in the twenty-first century too. The condition of rural woman is the worst than other women and she is enduring different kinds of domestic violence, for instance, acid throwing, stove burning, wife beating, physical violence, and suicide etc. The main reason behind such behaviour is the ignorance from Islamic teachings. Due to which, we are going towards destruction with the passage of time. It is needed that we should follow all the Islamic teachings and give respect and honour to a woman as a mother, a sister, a wife and a daughter. Because She deserves for a respectable position in our society.

**Suggestions and Recommendations:**

Some suggestions and recommendations are given below.

1. We should follow the Islamic teaching and give respect and regard to a woman.
2. The concerned authorities should monitor the schools and colleges of rural areas, because education can play a vital role in changing their mindset.
3. The government should pay attention to stop the violence against women in urban and rural areas too.
4. Government should take the responsibility of helpless women to avoid their exploitation.
5. For working women, the only need is to implement the law without any discrimination.

**References & Notes**

7. Al Quran, 16: 58-59
9. Al Quran, 17:31
17. Ibid
18. Al Quran, 30:21
19. Tirmizi, Muhammad Bin Essa, 2006, P: 70
20. Ibid
23. Ibid, Hadith 1924.

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