Scholars' view on womens rights in Islam

"Islam, on one hand, shares kindness to women; on the other hand, it provides them with human and religious value," said Qari Gulbaddin Qanid, an Afghan religious scholar in an interview with The Kabul Times adding that in the religion of Islam women are given a lot of rights and privileges.

According to the scholar, Islam improved the status of a woman in society and stressed the virtue of women seeing her as a human being. She was assigned of religious rituals so that she becomes responsible for her deeds and by doing following the teaching of Islam and for her good actions she becomes qualified to enter the enteral abode, the paradise,

He added that the holy religion of Islam made men and women the most valuable creatures and piety and goodness became the parameter of superiority and virtue.

Similarly, God has termed four women superior to most of human beings; Merry, the mother of Jesus, Asiya, the wife of Pharaoh, Hazrat Khadijah, the wife of Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) and Fatima, the daughter of Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH).

"No religion has ever given the women, who is a mother, such a status but Islam. There are many teachings about the position and role of a mother in Islam and God has mentioned her after his worshipping," he added saying that Islam has also given her respect and grace as being a daughter. Before the advent of Islam, daughters were condemned in the society and were not welcomed in homes.

They would be considered a sign of shame and humiliation for the family. Even they would be ashamed to join her in food and a daughter would be considered a reason of poverty.

Therefore, she would be buried alive. The most important aspect of Islam for protecting women was it protected her from being buried alive. Allah Almighty says, "And when the female infant buried alive shall be questioned."

The religion of Islam has termed the birth of a daughter a gift from God, "He may bestow daughters to whomever He wills." [Al-Quran]

Mawlavi Imamudding, another Afghan religious scholar said that Islam is superior to any other religion on the face of earth regarding the status of world and has rewarded high position to a woman.

He added that women have more role in caring for children than men in order to provide better persons to the society.

According to him, bride price, right to select life partner, right to work, right to seeking knowledge and education and all the other rights belonging to women are listed in the teachings of Islam. All of them are the true rights of those women who live in Islamic countries.

Sharifa, a private school teacher in Kabul city, told The Kabul Times that Islam is the holiest religion in the world. The rights that Islam has considered for a woman and no other religion can be compared to Islam in this regard.

According to Sharia, in western countries women are used as tools. In most of the advertisement, for instance, women are showcased that in itself is a humiliation and disgrace to the status of women. However, in the Islamic countries women have been given all the rightful human rights and privileges.

Qarizada

IEA working for constructive engagement with world

For the past six months and just after the Islamic Emirate's victory in mid-August last year, diplomatic delegations of a number of foreign countries have visited Kabul and met with the high-ranking officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA). Meanwhile, diplomatic delegations from Kabul have visited a number of countries so that ground for resumption of relations and engagement between Kabul and the world paves.

In its most recent visit to Geneva, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's delegation led by Mawlavi Lutfullah Hakimi joined the Swiss foundation Geneva Call meetings in Geneva from February 7-11, which were aimed at enhancing unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

Mawlavi Latifullah Hakimi, head of the delegation of the Islamic Emirate for the Switzerland summit (Geneva Call Summit) said that the delegation had separate meetings with representatives from Switzerland, Germany, Britain, the EU and a number of international organizations on how to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

"The focus was that this aids should be moved away from politics and should be given to those in need on time. Also, the amount that was before should be increased, not reduced or stopped," Hakimi said.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) considers this summit a success in drawing particular attention of the world for providing aid to Afghanistan.

A spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan says the visit of the IEA's delegation to Geneva was very good, and its achievement was that they are ready to continue working with Afghanistan health sector, as well as on humanitarian and economic issues.

"The trip was good, and its achievement was that they are ready to continue working with the Afghan health sector, as well as on humanitarian and economic issues," said Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesman of the Islamic Emirate.

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Islamic Emirate key supporter of education

Education and seeking knowledge occupies so a high place and position that the first revelation on the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) in the cave named Hira was to order the His prophet to read (recite), even though Almighty Allah knew that the Mohmmad (PBUH) is illiterate and did not know how to read or write. Similarly, in other verses of the Quran God Almighty swears by the pen, which is a tool of learning and education, designating the extraordinary position the education and literacy holds in the religion of Islam.

In this perspective, from the advent of Islam then until the present day, Islam urges its followers to seek knowledge and wisdom as knowledge is a way to recognize oneself, his creator and nature. Until a man does not recognize himself and his creator, he cannot fulfill the virtues of Islam and restrain himself from what is vice. Furthermore, he will not be able to follow the teachings of the religion as best as he should.

Education and knowledge is the burning lamp that elaborates what is vice and what is virtue. It does not allow a knowledgeable and literate man to descend into darkness and adversity. With the light of knowledge, he thinks the present world to be the preparation arena for the next world. Thus, he struggles to save himself, family and significant others from the hardships and adversities of both this and hereafter. The holy Quran, emphasizing enough the importance of education and knowledge, says, "Are those who know equal with those who know not?"

Quran being the word of God Almighty has stated the importance of knowledge with a beautiful analogy. It defines literacy and illiteracy as the milestone between people. Human experience and modern education also shows that it is one of the miracles of Quran and word of God. Everyone even the idolaters and enemies of Islam yield that literacy is better and superior than illiteracy and a man equipped with knowledge and education can assure the success of both this and the next world making his life pleasant and wonderful.

The holy religion of Islam in itself is knowledge and wisdom and urges its followers and devotees to seeking knowledge and getting education. It asks them to strive for education in any kind of circumstances and should never let the darkness of illiteracy and ignorance to occupy their minds and conscience. In the case of illiteracy, man forgets the real nature of his existence, which in turn has nothing to gain him but destruction and devastation.

On one hand, the power of knowledge directs man towards the recognition of the doors of improvement and well-being and on the other hand, it beautifies him with virtue, dignity and generosity. The most important fruit and outcome of knowledge for a man is piety and it piety that can help handle his religious rituals, worldly affairs, etc. in a better way.

Even though, since the recent changes in Afghanistan resulting in Islamic Emirate to assume the power doors of schools, universities and other educational institutions were temporarily closed for some reasons, it is seen that with each passing day they are resuming their operations and students, both male and female have once again joined their classes.

From one side, reopening of educational institutions including public universities in tropical regions in the last week and scheduling the resumption of public universities in the next month; on the other side, the promise to reopen secondary schools for female students indicates the commitment and consideration of the officials of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan for strengthening and supporting the educational institutions in the country. Finally, a delegation of Ministry of Education (MoE) in a meeting with the Supreme Leader His Excellency Sheikh-Ul-Hadith Hibbatullah Akhunzada shared the problems and challenges relating to education. In response, the leader not only appreciated the efforts of those involved in education sector but showed his support in favor of education and educational institutions. In addition, he assured that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan supports all educational institutions such madrassas, modern schools, and private and public universities in its full power and seriousness and the Emirate is fully committed to provide the necessary equipment and tools. This in itself is a clear indicator of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan being in favor of education, literacy and knowledge.

The Kabul Times

Need for special curriculum for girls

Although no one ignores the importance of modern education and other academic disciplines such as criminology, police departments, general sciences, and ... alongside the religious education for women, there needs to be some special measures to be considered in an Islamic and cultural society.

There are different ways in this respect as separating school buildings of male and female students, though some areas currently have separate buildings, providing protected environment for girls or segregation of classes based on gender in the same building.

On the other hand, the schools can hire old teachers for small girls and as far as the senior female students are concerned, it is important that their studying periods should be short and brief, whether it is for modern education or religious studies, because women do not have much time for regular education and the conditions for them are harsh sometimes.

Therefore, it would be better that they attend the regular schools up to grade six. Afterwards, they can be provided with a special three-year curriculum. In this curriculum, all those subjects should be abandoned not necessary for women. Instead, the curriculum should be composed of subjects that are either important for medical field or play a crucial role in women's general life.

Given the current circumstances, women are only seemed to be necessary in medical fields. Therefore, even if there are some subjects in the medical faculty that are not crucial for women, it would be better to make them optional for medical students.

However, it is important to note that after the new curriculum is prepared and implemented, those aspects, not key in medical field, should not be severely focused in the Kankoor (entry) test for female students. No wonder, other faculties are not important for women anyway.

Afghan people should consider the importance of this issue, i.e. they should never be influenced by the media propaganda. Instead, they should be aware of what the people need the most and the overall religious and cultural background and structure of the country should be kept in mind.

Due to the more than four decade long war in the country, women should be equipped with skills that can help them become breadwinners for their families and supportive pillar for the future of their children. In this regard, faculties such as economics, computer science, literature, and other social and business disciplines can play an important role in economic life of women.

Finally, officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) have times and again stressed that the country direly needs women experts in every discipline. Recently, the reopening of public universities in some areas of the country for both male and female students evidently show that the IEA government is fully committed to providing education and academic opportunities for the daughters of Afghanistan.

Saida Ahmadi

COVID surge batters Afghanistan's crumbling healthcare

Only five hospitals in Afghanistan still offer COVID-19 treatment, with 33 others having been forced to close in recent months for lack of doctors, medicines and even heating.

This comes as the economically devastated nation is hit by a steep rise in the number of reported coronavirus cases.

At Kabul's only hospital offering COVID-19 treatment, staff can heat the building only at night because of lack of fuel, even as winter temperatures drop below freezing point during the day. Patients are bundled under heavy blankets.

Its director, Dr Mohammed Gul Liwal, said they lack everything from oxygen to medicine supplies.

The facility, called the Afghan Japan Communicable Disease Hospital, has 100 beds.

The COVID-19 ward is almost always full as the virus rages. Before late January, the hospital was getting one or two new coronavirus patients a day. In the past two weeks, 10 to 12 new patients have been admitted daily, Liwal said.

"The situation is worsening day by day," said Liwal, speaking inside a chilly conference room.

The Omicron coronavirus variant is likely hitting Afghanistan hard, Liwal said, but he admits it is just a guess because the country is still waiting for kits that test specifically for the variant.

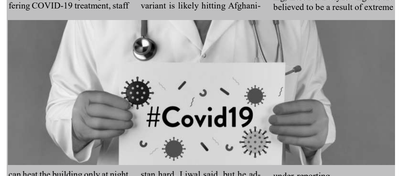
They were supposed to arrive before the end of last month, said Public Health Ministry spokesman Javid Hazhir. The World Health Organization (WHO) now says Afghanistan will get the kits by the end of February.

WHO says that between January 30 and February 5, public laboratories in Afghanistan tested 8,496 samples, of which nearly half were positive for COVID-19. Those numbers translate into a 47.4 percent positivity rate, the world health body said.

WHO recorded more than 7,400 deaths and close to 167,000 infections since the start of the pandemic almost two years ago. In the absence of large-scale testing, these relatively low figures are believed to be a result of extreme under-reporting.

With 3.2 million vaccine doses in stock, Hazhir said the administration has launched a campaign through mosques, spiritual leaders and mobile vaccine clinics to get more people vaccinated. Currently, barely 27 percent of Afghanistan's 38 million people have been vaccinated, most of them with the single-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Monitoring Desk



Government fully supporting private sector & domestic products

As the private sector, referring to any profit-oriented activities and transaction outside of direct state control, can play key role in economic development and lead economic growth in Afghanistan, the Islamic Emirate officials in their recent meetings with representatives of the Afghan private sector have assured them of providing security and addressing their needs.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan would like to create a more facilitating environment for the Afghan private sector, particularly for the many smaller players that form the bulk of the economy as they can contribute to improving human and tradition security conditions in the country. At the first meeting of the Economic Commission held last week, officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) emphasized the efforts for Afghanistan's self-sufficiency and support for the private sector. They said they are trying to launch long-term projects, including mining in different parts of the country.

Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Second Deputy Prime Minister, said at the meeting that the Islamic Emirate was providing comprehensive support to the private sector and investors to advance large-scale projects and mining. Hanafi added that the work of semi-finished projects from the previous government and new projects such as railways, fiber optics and other large projects will be started and completed according to the plan.

Meanwhile, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the First Deputy Prime Minister and head of the economic commission, criticized the infrastructure performance over the past 20 years, saying that no fundamental work had been done for Afghanistan's self-sufficiency. Baradar added that the Islamic Emirate is paving the way for Afghanistan's infrastructure growth and self-sufficiency by launching large-scale projects.

On the other hand, representatives of the private sector in their most recent meeting with Deputy Political Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Mawlavi Abdul Kabir have expressed satisfaction with the security situation creating a good environment for business and trade.

They have also shared their problems and suggestions in connection with importing and production of spices and health products, including banking problems, high tariffs on imported raw materials and the lack of comprehensive laws in the Department of Medicine and Food.

Representatives of the private sector and manufacturing companies have asked the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan for fully supporting the private sector and their products.

At the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister thanked the businessmen and investors for their service to the people. Mawlavi Abdul Kabir said that supporting the private sector and investing in Afghanistan was one of the priorities of the Islamic Emirate, stressing that necessary efforts would be made to address the private sector's problems and suggestions through relevant institutions.

Afghan economists and officials of the Afghan private sector say security situation has improved across the country and it's time for the private sector to further invest in the country. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) is also making effort to address all needs and problems facing the Afghan private sector as the private sector can play vital role in economic growth of the country. **Momand**