

conduct & ideal cultural norms of the Islamic society which should be defined & observed by women.

Regarding the presence of women in the arena of knowledge & thought Imam Khomeini repeatedly stated that women should receive education in various fields of knowledge such as experimental science , industry , culture , literature mysticism , philosophy , theology & Quranic knowledge . While defining the role of Muslim women in the realm of knowledge & thought in Islamic society , Imam stressed the morality & purification of the soul to ensure the presence of women in the arena of social relation . Islam believed that morality & purification of soul are the integral aspect of human conduct & life in both domain of

knowledge & action . To perform this great cultural role women should strive to attain moral & spiritual perfection to bring uprighteous individuals needed in an Islamic society. Islam has never restricted women to stay at home . Hazrat Zahra(a.s) as a divine exalted figure among all women , had all the moral dimensions attributed to a perfect woman & a perfect human , & with her supernatural knowledge , she was a great help for her father , & her husband . She struggled in her short life for the cause of Allah , protested strongly against their despotic rule . Hazrat Khadija & her respected daughter & other Arab women , helped the Holy prophet in his mission to invite people to Islam.

In Islam women enjoy

equal rights with men . They can receive education & seek employment , but some restriction in Islam regarding their activity in society protect them against immortality & prostitution & protect the nation from ruin.

In the 14th century these Muslims women carried out this mission unarmed & have performed their religious duty to maintain the sanctity of Islam. Women have pledged allegiance to spirituality as their nature ordains . If other women of the world know that Islam is the main refuge for their salvation & liberation from being a tool in the hands of universal blasphemy , they will certainly act according to their nature & respond rightly to the message of spirituality .

Footnotes :

1. Mortada Mutahhari , the rights of Women In Islam WOFIS , Teheran _ Iran.
2. Statos of Womwn , Teheran Times , 1374 .

responsibility in the family including child rearing, protection of human & religious nature of the family. The dual responsibility of Muslim women is to combine their great human & divine role of motherhood & strengthen religious faith in the family. The piety, sanctity, generosity, benevolence, devotion, self sacrifice, hospitality & patience of Fatimeh Zahra(a.s.) is a good example for Muslim women. A woman can rear

According to Imam & Islam, Muslim women played a pivotal role in the victory of Islamic Revolution & the institutionalization of the movement & the continuity of the Revolution within Islamic verses. Women like men are the members of the society. Even the Holy prophet regarded Fatima to such an extent that he used to rise whenever she came near him. It is not true that Muslim women are deprived from social activity. Fatima(a.s) the respected

a human being & with a correct way of training can establish good societies. The ideal social status & role of women clarifies her social, cultural, political and economical role. Fatemeh Zahra(a.s) & Hazrat Zeinab(a.s) are teachers of social status & ideal models of Muslim women. Because of her virtue she was titled "our lady of light" and because of her supernatural knowledge she was called "leader of all women of the world" for women in the history of Islam is a good example. She could not live for herself alone. The Islamic society is a nation which has to serve the other. Fatima felt this responsibility from her childhood. From the age of five or six she was working along with her father & tried to be a great help for the prophet. Her generosity & compassion for the poor was such that no destitute or beggar was ever turned away from her door unattended. In her lifetime, she was a complete woman being a

all time, and the prophethood of Mohammad(S.A.W) would not have lasted without her. For all the verses revealed in the Holy Quran for women, Fatemeh (a.s) is the perfect model who translated every verse into action. The political role of the Islamic Republic of Iran can be analyzed in the victory of political movement & continuation of the Islamic Revolution & also in the process of human & social development.

daughter, a wife & a mother at the same time. Being Khadija's daughter she could have had a luxurious life. But in spite of her wealthy & possession, she worked, dressed, ate & lived very simply. She was a very devoted wife & never asked for anything in her whole life. She was always at the service of others.

To know Fatima means to know the identity of a noble muslim woman. The cultural role of Muslim women is summed - up in the morality, behaviour,

morality ,to spread religious beliefs is part of human mission for women which God manifests in Islamic veil. God has always given a woman the role of supporter for the prophets of the religions. There was Eve for Adam , Mary for Jesus , Assiah for Moses , Khadija for Mohammad(S.A.W) Zahra(A.S) for Ali(A.S) and Zainab(A.S) for Iman Hussein(A.S). These woman all played their religious role remarkably . The birth of Hazrat Fatima(A.S) the outstanding sanitley figure among all women is named women day because of her religious role she has for all muslim wowed. Prophet M o h a m m a d (S . A . W) established a guide line of behaviour towards women through his own behaviour towards Fatemeh Zahra(a.s) the prophete (S.A.W) rose when Hazrate Zahra(a.s) came , Kissed her hands & seated her in his own place . The highly respectful behaviour of the prophet(S.A.W) toward his daughter made the pagan of

the time appreciate the value & lofty status of women . Their attitude towards wowed changed thanks to the transcendental position of Hazrat Zahra(a.s). History bears witness that the one closest and the dearest to the prophet (S.A.W) was Fatemeh(a.s) Then how is that women should not follow the example of Fatima in living , defending the truth , in wifely behaviour towards husbands, in bringing up children , in social activities & in acquiring knowledge . The piety devotion , chastity , divine identity , dignity & all moral characters of Hazrat Zahra(a.s) are examples to be followed ball . She is the leader of mankind in the field of guidance & community life.

The West accuse us of not respecting the women & Hejab restricts their activities. But with the above mentioned example the role of women in various dimentions , including their role at home,

in the society helping the process of development & promulgation of social justice on the basis of perception stemming from Mohammad Islam , shows the contrary .

During the Islamic Revolution, Iranian women revived the model of Muslim women throughout the world . The founder of Islamic Revolution of Iran said that from the loving lap or arms of mother men ascend to the highest heights of spirituality as Fatemeh Zahra(a.s) brought up children , like Imam Hassan , Hossein and Zahra . They are all well - known for their piety , goodness & generosity . Their strength of character & action changed the course of history . Now pious people like Motahari , Chamran , & other personalities are good examples . Others were the boys & girls behind the war field & devoted soldier who played an active role in Revolution & during the eight years of imposed war . Women have mutiple

The best proof of the moral decay of modern western society is the words of one of their leaders who said that American youth have drawned in sexual pleasure and six out of seven youth lack good moral behaviour . This could be a disastrous warning for society and in particular for American women .

It is the same with communist societies . Rampant corruption and the seeking of worldly pleasure are common place among the youth today . Human values are deteriorating and families are breaking up . Women suffer terribly as a result and their dignity is ignored .

In the name of "freedom" they are given some rights and are allowed to work together with men , but in the process they have lost their values , dignity and self - respect . Islam declared this consideration and notion wrong and unjust. The prophet fought strongly against such wrong conception . He considered

women as a human being like the man & that she too has the freedom & social rights . Nobody had the right to insult or look down upon her . Islam not only accepts the freedom of women , but also has established this freedom in all dimensions of her life . Islam is the origin of freedom for women . Islam has bestowed upon them the individuality & personality they deserve . Islam never restricted their social , political & legal activity during the entire history of man.

They have a higher status than men in the world of guidance , in the sense that it is the mother who nurtures and raises the generations of the society .

- Islam has paid greater attention to wown's rights . If there is a difference between man and woman is because of their nature .

- They are free to have the business.

- They have equal rights with men.

- They have the right of

ownership.

-They have the right to vote & receive votes in political elections .

- They are free to strive for human development .

- They have freedom of thought & opinion.

Islamic Republic of Iran supports the social status of women on the basis of Islamic laws & has restored their dignity . They use maximum effort to accomplish their duty in all aspects of life . A woman without religious beliefs cant play her fundamental role in solidifying the family foundation.

Women in Islamic societies enjoy a spiritually balanced status and a transcendental role , thanks to their religious beliefs . they can frustrate the evil propaganda against themselves & help in explaining their rightful status in life . The solidity of family in development of manpower is something quite different from the spread of prostitution . Hence , to keep social

In the name of God
The beneficent , the merciful
The comparison of women's status before
Islam , today's world and Islamic societies

Robabeh Pahlavan

This article attempts to portray the position of women in the world in general & then compare it with the position of Muslim women in Iran , Islamic rights for women and in particular with the personality of Fatim Zahra. There is no doubt that ladies such as Khadijah (A.S.), Fatimah (A.S.) and Zainab (A.S.) portrayed the greatness of women , illustrating the meaning of women's lives . They are , in turn , examples for future generations .

Before Islam , girls commonly married at the age of eight or nine . The consent of the father was the only requirement and the boy had to bear the expenses of marriage . Polygamy was very common. Women considered commodities that were sold or purchased . Illiterate

Arabs of the pre-Islamic era often considered girls to be the cause of bad luck or misfortune , and even buried them alive shortly after birth .

In ancient Iran the husband was given absolute authority at home . To marry more than one wife was very common in those days and there were no limitations as far as the numbers of wives . It just depended on the financial position of the man .

In ancient Rome , corruption among women was rampant . In India , there was great discrimination against women and they were considered second - class citizens. Likewise , in Japan men held extensive authority over women . Women had no right to inherit property . Although Greece , from the educational and social points

of view , was considered a more advanced nation , women were still living in desperate conditions and were deprived of their legitimate rights . These were the circumstances of most women in the world before Islam . Today , however many women still do not enjoy better conditions . It is claimed in many societies that women have equal rights in all aspects of life , but in reality the reverse is often true . Women were often considered as mere property in old civilizations and now not much has changed . In the name of freedom and equality , men exploit woman's physical nature for sexual pleasure and under the pretext of giving women the status they deserve , further degrade her . She is considered a medium of enjoyment .