

Multiplicity of Socio-Religious Perspectives among Young Educated Females at Al Huda International Foundation, Lahore

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INTRODUCTION:

The multiplicity of socio-religious perspectives among educated Muslim females are explored through the research. It has focused on those females who were engaged in the detail study of the Holy Quran and Sunnah(1) at Al Huda International Foundation(2).

Many studies have been conducted on the subject of religiosity in the past but the focus of the previous researches was only to measure the level of religiosity among youth. In Pakistan, the focus of research studies on the subject of religiosity was limited to the terrorism and suicide attacks only. However, not even a single study was conducted to explore the notion of religiosity among young females in Pakistan, in particular, with the motivation of females to study the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

Before discussing the detail of present research, it is important to know the real meaning of religiosity. According to Hernandez (2011), researchers have not reached a consensus regarding definition of religiosity. Many researchers have defined religiosity as both beliefs and practices relating to an organized religious affiliation or a specified divine power. However, Kwon (2003) has defined the term of religiosity as the extent to which believers think of everyday matters in a uniquely religious way and apply religious beliefs into their daily life situations. Religiosity is defined in a similar way by Alicia and Torres (2007), Darder (1995), Yoo and Chung (2008), Roof (1979) and Andersen and Taylor (2008). Hence, it can be stated that religiosity deals with individual's faith, his beliefs and behavior, religious involvement and religious activities.

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Surely Allah loves those who are most repenting, and loves those who keep themselves pure.

These are all the precautionary measures for living being so that they would protect them from every kind of pollution and unhygienic conditions. For the Muslim, humankind's role on earth is that of a vicegerent or trustee of Allah. We are Allah's stewards and agent on Earth. We are not master of this earth; it does not belong to us to do what we wish. It belongs to Allah and he has entrusted us with its safe keeping. As it is narrated in Quran:

﴿فَاقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا ۖ فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا ۚ لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ۗ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ ۗ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾ (46)

"So, set your face to the Faith uprightly, this (faith) being the nature designed by Allah on which He has created the mankind. There is no change in Allah's creation. That is the straight faith, but most of the people do not know."

There are also many other hadith in which human being is clearly told that he will be held accountable for his actions at the Day of Judgment and also instructed to look after the environment and not to damage it as his little deeds of mortality may reduce the ecological issues.

"عن عائشة قالت قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم عشر من الفطرة قص الشارب وإعفاء اللحية والسواك واستنشاق الماء وقص الأظفار وغسل البراجم ونتف الإبط وحلق العانة وانتقاص الماء" (44)

'A'isha reported: The Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said: Ten are the acts according to fitra: clipping the moustache, letting the beard grow, using the tooth-stick, snuffing water in the nose, cutting the nails, washing the finger joints, plucking the hair under the armpits, shaving the pubes and cleaning one's private parts with water. The narrator said: I have forgotten the tenth, but it may have been rinsing the mouth with water.

Trimming of nail is a serious matter in cooking. The tendency of growing nail is increasing in girls and it is a fact they have to engage in cooking. It is necessary for the chefs to trim their nails otherwise it may involve some type of health hazards. Hence, this Hadith emphasis that on every Friday trimming nails not only saves us from different diseases, help to live a healthy life in healthy environment also become the source of reward as it is the Sunnah of our Holy Prophet (SAW).

Conclusion:

A recent debate in worldwide is to protect the environment from the destruction, and make earth a peaceful abode to live. Environment is not limited to the natural environment! It's also the social, moral, economic and political environment that needs to be clean and free of corruption. As in the case of natural environment, Islam provides guidance and shows the way in all spheres of human life. We can protect our environment by planting more trees or cultivating more lands, keep close the gates of house (at night), keep utensils neat and covered with lid, forbidding mutilation (or maiming) of bodies, avoid extravagant in all activities and observe moderation in all actions as emphasis in Quran and hadith. We can also reduce the hazard of pollution by recycling paper, constructing factories outside the residential area; put the garbage basin in front of every home, by reducing traffic volume, constructing more reservoirs so that the availability of water may be possible in every city and spending a reasonable budget for the environmental reforms. Islamic teachings are meant to take protective care of the Inner self through Basic Beliefs and pillar of Islam, abstaining from the pollution of the idols and vain words, lowering voices and lowering gazes and guarding private parts, wearing clean dresses, performing ablution, using "maswak" and taking bath on Friday. By practicing these Islamic values, Muslims would lead a healthy, modest and regardful life. It is narrated in Quran:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْفَوَّابِينَ وَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ﴾ (45)

The concept of marriage is also the source of purity for the Muslims as it save them from the sexual intercourse. Islam has many reasons to encourage marriage such as its advantages in safeguarding one's faith and also becoming an essential element in the proper upbringing of children. This is because children without one of their parents are much more likely to commit crimes etc.; and in short become an anxiety to the environment they live in. Marriage plays a large part in saving one from the sins of fornication, homosexuality and masturbation. It takes away the possibility of these things because after marriage a man is supposed to occupy himself with a woman he has married and vice versa.(41) Hence Islam abolished sexual intercourse through the Sunnah of Nikkah. It also announced punishments which should be implemented so that the people should abstain from prostitution. Essentially the couple continues to live separately from each other, as before their contract, and see each other to fulfill their needs in a permissible manner when they please.

It is narrated in Surah Al-Nisa:

﴿وَأَجَلَ لَكُمْ مَا وَرَاءَ ذَلِكَ أَنْ تَبْتَغُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ مُحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسْفِحِينَ﴾ (42)

All (women), except these, have been permitted for you to seek (to marry) through your wealth, binding yourself, (in marriage) and not only for lust.

The verse proceeds to say that women other than those specified may be sought in marriage, but even so, not from motives of lust, but in order to promote chastity between the sexes. Marriage is the original Arabic is here described by a word which suggests a fortress (hisn): marriage is therefore, the fortress of Chasity. Islam emphasized on marriage in several verses and hadith as it safeguard one's eye and modesty.

Nails fashion and pollution:

Currently we observe that the matter of western culture imitation reached its worth peak. Especially Muslim women's are adopting different worse, unhygienic and sluggish activities from west. As far imitating non-Muslims, it has many harmful effects that are witnessed by reality. West has been addicted women to keep long nails that are actually the signs of an underlying disease that you might be suffering from. Contrary to this, Islamic civilization is based on the value of education, which both the Qur'an and the Prophet stressed. Islam dislikes and forbade addicting long nails. Islam gives not only the honor and respect to the woman but also the healthy tips to live healthy and successful life. Islam laid stress onten practices that are characteristics of thenature and it is very much important for us to keep them clean. One of them is "*Qass al afar*"⁽⁴³⁾ meaning "trimming nails".

It is narrated in hadith:

﴿وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ
وَيَتَّخِذَهَا هُزُوًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ﴾⁽³⁹⁾

There is a man among the people who buys discourses of distracting amusements, so that he may mislead (people) from the Way of Allah, and make a mockery of it. For such people there is a disgraceful punishment

This ayah shows that we should abstain from idle language and gives emphasis on the implication of the modesty which is a way of purification through good literature.

Sign boards and Electronic Media; Source of pollution:

The sign boards of film advertisement are fixed at every step along the road which leads towards vulgarity are also imitated by western culture. Advertisers have made women a motive to earn money. The advertisement of any film cannot complete without the nude picture of women. Therefore it is difficult for a pious person to avoid his eyes by looking towards there advertisements. Cinema, Television, radio and internet are the basic source to publish these types of vulgarity. In Islamic point of view it should necessary for the people to aware from the defensive sense against vulgarity. For these purpose, Islamic seminars and speeches should be organized. Surah al-Noor also told us about the facts that those who spread evils and Social pollution in the society will be punished excessive in this world and the hereafter. It is narrated in Quran:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ تَشِيعَ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا
وَالْآخِرَةِ﴾⁽⁴⁰⁾

"Those who love (to see) scandal published broadcast among the believers, will have a grievous penalty in this life and the hereafter: Allah knows, and you do not know."

What mischief can be planned by Evil to delude simple folk who men no harm in the own minds but who by thoughtlessness are deluded step by step to become the instruments of evil, may not be known to the most instructed of men, but it is all known to Allah, Man should always be on his guard against the traps of Evil, and it is only Allah's grace that can save him. There are also other verses and Hadith which emphasizes that vulgarity should be controlled as otherwise it effect badly the environment and it leads towards the penal in the world and here after.

Prostitution; Source of Pollution:

Prostitution becomes a regular practice in western civilization. It happened mostly due to the unmarried status. Due to sexual intercourse epidemic like HIV aids is increasing day by day. More than ten lack peoples are the victim of HIV aids from which 90% people don't know this reality.

modesty as it save them from vulgarity. Quran also prescribed hijab for women so that it can save him from the prostitution. As narrated in Quran:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِمَا رَأَاكُ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُتَدَيَّنْنَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جُلَا بَيْنَهُنَّ ذَلِكَ أَنْتَى
أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلْيَأْيُؤَذِّنْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا﴾⁽³⁸⁾

"Oprophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believing that they should cast their outer garments over. There persons (when aboard): That is most convenient, that they should be known (as such), and not molested. And Allah is oft-Forgiving, most merciful."

This is for all Muslim women, Those of the Prophet's household, as well as the others. They were asked to cover themselves with outer garments when walking around. Here the object was not to restrict the liberty of woman but to protect them from harm and molestation. In the east and west a distinctive public dress of some sort or another has always been a badge of honor or distinction, both among men and women. There are also other verses in which the *Hijab* has been prescribed for the women so that they are recognized as modest women and this will also prevent them from being molested.

Beside this, Muslims are also copycatting the salutations;hy, hello, instead of saying Assalam-o-Alaikum. Discos, pubs, clubs are the favorite hangout places of the youngster but holy places like Mosques are like graveyard for them. The food habits of people have also changed. Instead of having food at home, they survive on burgers, coals, pizzas and all at junk. These junk foods are unhealthy and cause food poisoning. Late night studies have turned into late night parties and create disturbance for others. Actually they all are meant for health and cleanliness. That is why Islam forbade imitation of western culture as it leads us unhygienic and unlawful actions.

Vulgar literature and nude pictures in magazines – Source of pollution:

In Islamic countries print media has also adopted the vulgar literature and naked pictures in magazines from west. There are unlimited magazines which are running with the help of naked pictures and vulgar people. They have made them a source of trade and business. This vulgar, rude, ill-mannered and loutish literature and naked pictures of women cause physical and spiritual change in the life and hence leads towards sexual intercourses. It is necessary that we should meet to the editors of the newspapers, Writers of the books and novels and convince them they should complete boycott with the immoral values, naked pictures and vulgar literature to overcome this problem. Islam is a complete code of life and provides us necessary information to keep our mind, body and spirit pure. It is stated in the Quran:

environment in early Islamic period made people enlighten their minded. By practiced these Islamic injunctions people might lead a health, prosper, modest and regardful life in the sound and clean environment.

The topic going to be discussed has its own significance. It is important to elaborate some major problems caused by pollution. The above description is about the physical and environment elaboration of pollution. The first process in godliness is to cleanse ourselves in body, mind and soul. Then we shall be in a fit state to see and proclaim the glory of Allah that leads us to actual absorption in praise and prayers.

Contrary to this, Pollution is not only a subject to surrounding and environmental pollution rather there is some other types of pollutions that are associated and implemented in practical life. People implement these pollutions practically on daily basis.

Imitation of west, Origin of ethical evils, and their Islamic solutions:

Westernization means the adoption of western culture. It is not only limited to any one sector of our society but every sector of our society. Whether rich or poor, high or low in every field (social, economic and educational) are following the western techniques, pattern and civilization too.

Imitation of Western culture:

In west women are degraded and used as objects of lust. In west miniskirts, shorts are the status symbol, the more she wears them the more modern she looks. She wears short dresses and has no respect at all. Western culture has totally made the women naked and raped its self-respect and character. These all evils create sexual, spiritual and physical pollution which are harmful for everyone. In west, a woman is still regarded as a second-class citizen and deprived of various basic rights enjoyed by the male population. Contrary to this, Islam uplifts the status of women and granted them their just rights and expects them to maintain their status. It is said that only those things are covered which are precious and Islam has given this honor to woman as she can save her from every bad actions. Islam was the first religion formally to grant the women a status never known before. The Holy Quran, the sacred scripture of Islam, contains hundreds of teachings, which apply both to men and women alike. The moral, spiritual and economic equality of men and women as propagated by Islam is unquestionable. The specific verses of the Holy Quran, says that the hijab has been prescribed for the women so that they are recognized as modest women and this will also prevent them from being harmed.(37) Islam has closed all the doors which lead towards evil. The glorious Quran mentioned for believing men to lower gauze their eyes and save guard their

environmental reforms in the time of Prophet (P.B.U.H) and Caliph Rashidun.

Environmental reforms in the period of Holy Prophet (PBUH):

The whole life of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) gives the complete code of conduct of life as His life is the true mirror of the Quran. He (P.B.U.H) ordered to grow the trees as many as there could be because it assists in greenery; give shades to other creatures and is also beneficial from the economic point of view. As a result people started cultivating vegetables on the barren lands of the Medina city. Therefore, it enhanced the greenery of the city and proved to be a remarkable environmental protection act. The barren land had no use; therefore a green land having trees is beneficial for all animals and humans. The cultivated land give benefits in the form of shade, as meadows, as forests, give fruit and are a source of vegetables.(31) Along with this it is also helpful in making the beauty of the environment and enhancing its peace. It is narrated in hadith.

"عن ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم أعطى
خير اليهود على أن يعملوها ويزرعوها ولهم شطر ما خرج منها" (32)

Narrated Ibn 'Umar: Allah's Apostle gave the land of Khaibar to the Jew's on the condition that they work on it and cultivate it, and be given half of its yield.

The barren land had no use; therefore green lands having trees is beneficial for all forests, give fruit and are a source of vegetables.(33) Along with this, it is also helpful in making the beauty of the environment and enhancing its peace.

The Caliphate and their Environmental Reforms:

The most of the environmental reforms done in the age periods of the caliphate were with more focus to provide justice in society, enforce the Islamic values and rules, obey the only God and thus to seek mental peace and body security by following the true Islamic values.(34)

In Hazrat Umar Farooq(R.A) reign plague spread as an epidemic in Syria, He (R.A) took many steps to control this epidemic. The preservation and safety of trees was specially the task of his reign. Another environmental reform taken by him was that he made parks, wide and clean roads in the city. Bridges were built on rivers and canals in order to make easy passages for passengers and also to avoid the solid water pollution caused due to tree stems and leather stuff used at that time.(35)

During the age period of Hazrat Ali (R.A) steps were taken to increase the area of the forest this was done to enhance the greenery and protect the environment. He (R.A) was the first one to get the monetary gains from the vast area of trees.(36)

Hence the awareness and knowledge about the protection of