



Women Studies from an **Islamic Viewpoint**

Compiled and Introduced by
Hamidreza Ayatullahi

English Translation edited by
Hussein Mollanazar

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**WOMEN STUDIES FROM AN ISLAMIC
VIEWPOINT**

**WOMEN STUDIES FROM AN ISLAMIC
VIEWPOINT**

Compiled and Introduced by
Hamidreza Ayatollahy

English Translation edited by
Hussein Mollanazar

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN: 978-1-907905-10-0 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-907905-11-7 (pbk)

© MIU PRESS

This English edition first published in 2013

Opinions and views expressed in this book do not necessarily express those of the publishers. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of MIU Press, or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organisation. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the foregoing should be addressed to MIU Press.

MIU Press

133, High Road, Willesden

London NW10 2SW

Content

<i>Transliteration</i>	<i>XVIII</i>
<i>Introduction and Overview</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>An Overview of the Papers</i>	<i>8</i>
Murtaḍā Muṭahharī and Women’s Rights in Islam	21
Criticism of the Western View on Defending Women’s Rights.....	21
Equality of Men and Women’s Rights	30
Islam’s View of Women’s Economic Independence	45
The Islamic <i>Hijāb</i>	50
Strengthening the Society.....	53
Women’s Value and Respect.....	54
Sexual Ethics.....	57

Chapter One: Criticism of the Feminist Views

Gender Justice: A Challenge to Feminism	67
1. Introduction and Statement of the Problem.....	67
2. First-Wave Feminism	68
2.1. Background and Social Issues.....	68
2.1.1. Social Beliefs about Women.....	69
2.1.2. Social Exclusion	70
2.1.3. Abolitionism.....	70
2.1.3.1. Sameness of Human Nature.....	71
2.1.3.2. Superiority of Feminine Moral Values.....	72
3. Second-Wave Feminism	73
3.1. Review and Criticism.....	74
3.1.1. Liberal Equality-Seeking Ideology	74
3.1.2. Radical Confrontationist Ideology	75

CONTENT

3.1.3. Gender Discrimination in Existential Feminist Approach.....	77
3.1.4. Gender Discrimination in Social Feminist Approach	78
4. Third-Wave Feminism	79
4.1. Plurality	80
5. Islam and Gender Justice	81
5.1. Common Human Nature	82
5.1.1. Sameness in Creation	82
5.1.2. Sameness in Duties and Missions	82
5.1.3. Sameness in Rewards.....	83
5.2. Difference in Biological Gender.....	83
5.2.1. Peace.....	83
5.2.2. Cover	84
5.2.3. Survival.....	84
5.3. Difference in Existential Foundation	84
5.4. Difference in Social Gender	85
5.4.1. Equality in Values	85
5.4.2. Harmony between Genders and Roles.....	86
5.4.3. Harmony between Ethics and Rights.....	86
5.4.4. Opposing Discrimination in Wages and Benefits	87
6. Conclusions.....	87
Bibliography.....	87
Gender Equality and women's Employment.....	89
Statement of the Problem	89
1. Terminology	91
1.1. Justice	91
1.2. Gender	91
1.3. Employment	92
2. Women's Employment in the Modern World	93
3. Viewpoints and Theories	95
4. A Critique of the Theories	99
5. The Woman's Right to Employment	102
5.1. The Right to Employment	102
5.2. General Principles of Employment	103
5.2.1. Criteria for the Employment of Women	104
5.2.1.1. Appropriate Work with regard to Feminine Characteristics	104

WOMEN STUDIES FROM AN ISLAMIC VIEWPOINT

5.2.1.2. Observing the <i>Hijāb</i> , Chastity and Segregation	105
5.2.1.3. Compatibility between the Wife's Job and the Husband's Rights.....	106
5.2.1.4. Compatibility of the Woman's Job with Her Maternal Duties	107
5.3. The Ideal Pattern For Women's Employment according to Islam	109
6. Results and Suggestions	109
6.1. Appropriate Education for Women	110
6.2. The Particular Importance of Housekeeping	110
6.3. Part-time Employment	112
6.4. Strict Laws to Prevent Abuse	112
6.5. Special Facilities for Working Women	113
6.6. Support in Special Jobs for Women	113
6.7. Avoiding Western Values in Women's Employment	113
Bibliography.....	114
An Explanation and Study of Feminist Educational Theory and Its Critique from the Perspective of Islamic Education.....	117
Introduction	117
Concept of Feminism.....	118
The Theoretical Foundations of Feminism.....	118
Feminism Waves	119
1. First-Wave Feminism	119
2. Second-Wave Feminism	120
3. Third-Wave Feminism	122
Feminist Approaches	123
1. Liberal Feminism	123
2. Marxist Feminism	124
3. Radical Feminism	124
4. Socialist Feminism.....	124
5. Postmodern Feminism.....	125
6. Black Feminism.....	125
7. Third World Feminism.....	126
8. Islamic Feminism.....	126
The Feminist View on Education.....	126
The Educational Objectives from the Point of View of Feminism	128
1. Social Equality	128
2. Economic Equality between Women and Men.....	130

CONTENT

3. Political Equality between Women and Men.....	130
Pedagogical Programs from the Point of View of Feminism.....	130
Pedagogical Methods from the Point of View of Feminism	131
Islam and Feminism	131
1. Purposefulness of Creation and Function of Differences among Creatures	132
2. Understanding and Sympathy	133
3. Special Attention to Family	134
4. Inadequacy of the Legal View	135
Criticism of Theoretical Perspectives of Feminism from the Point of View of Islam.....	135
Reviewing the Educational Objectives of Feminism	139
Conclusion.....	143
Bibliography.....	145

Chapter Two: Sexual Education in the Islamic Thought

An Analysis of the Linguistic Decency of the <i>Qur'an</i> in Relevance to Sexual Pleasures.....	149
Statement of the Problem	150
Three meanings of the language of the <i>Qur'an</i>	151
Elaboration on the Verbal Sobriety of the <i>Qur'an</i>	152
Metaphorical Application of Sexual Interpretations from the Point of View of Analysts and Lexicologists	153
Categorizing the Allegorical Interpretations of the <i>Qur'an</i> Based on the Type of Pleasures	153
Lingual Interpretations of the <i>Qur'an</i> Concerning Heartfelt Pleasures.....	154
The Allegorical Aspect of 'Shaghaf (Passion)'	154
The Allegorical Aspect of 'Maradh (Malady)'	155
Lingual Interpretations of the <i>Qur'an</i> Concerning Visual Pleasures	156
The Allegorical Aspect of the Phrase 'To Refrain From Succulent Sight'	157
The Allegorical Aspect of the Phrase 'Qāṣirāt al-Ṭarf (Curbing Glances)' ...	157
Lingual Interpretations of the <i>Qur'an</i> Concerning Verbal Pleasures	159
Lingual Interpretations of the <i>Qur'an</i> concerning Tactile Pleasures.....	160
Allegorical application of the term 'Nikāḥ (Matrimony)'	160
The Allegorical Application of the Term 'Ḥarth (Cultivation)'	161

WOMEN STUDIES FROM AN ISLAMIC VIEWPOINT

The Allegorical Applications of the Term ‘ <i>Rafath</i> (Obscenity)’	161
The Allegorical Application of the Term ‘ <i>Mass</i> (Touch)’	162
The Allegorical Application of the Term ‘ <i>Mubāsharah</i> (Contact)’	162
The Allegorical Application of the Term ‘ <i>Lams</i> (Feel)’	163
The Allegorical Application of the Term ‘ <i>Ṭamth</i> (Menstruation Blood)’	164
The Lingual Interpretations of the <i>Qur’an</i> Concerning Coital Pleasures.....	164
The Allegorical Application of the Term ‘ <i>Dakhl</i> (Entry)’.....	165
The Allegorical Application of the Term ‘ <i>Sifāḥ</i> (Fornication)’	166
The Common Applications of the Term ‘ <i>Zinā</i> (Adultery)’ at the Time of the Appearance of the <i>Qur’an</i>	167
The Allegorical Aspects of Substituting ‘Orientation towards Men’ Instead of ‘Sodomy’	168
Lingual Sobriety of the <i>Qur’an</i> in Verbal Interpretations of Sexual Pleasures (in agreement with the normative language of the audience)	169
Verbal Sobriety Rate of the Arabic Common Language at the Time of the Appearance of the <i>Qur’an</i>	170
Criteria of the Verbal Sobriety of the Holy <i>Qur’an</i>	170
Condensation (economy of language) and Indistinct Description of an Event.....	171
Avoiding Explicitness; Substituting Pronouns for Names of People.....	173
The Verbal Sobriety of the <i>Qur’an</i> in Accordance with Textual and Semantic Cohesion (In the <i>Qur’anic</i> World View)	173
The Presence of Monotheism in the Depiction of Stories Involving Sexual Concepts in the <i>Qur’an</i>	174
Cohesion of Views and General Ethical Concepts with Verbal Sobriety.....	176
The Lessons of ‘Seeking Refuge with God’ in Special Sexual Situations.....	177
Conclusion.....	177
Strategies to Expand Verbal Sobriety Socially and Individually	178
Strategies Concerning macro-economical Policies in the Society	178
Regional and Micro-level Strategies	179
Education.....	179
Writing Novels and Stories	180
The Media.....	180

CONTENT

Personal Communication	181
Bibliography.....	181
The Study of <i>Hadīths</i> on the Strategies for Prevention of Abnormal Sexual Behaviours in Adolescents and the Youth	184
Introduction	185
Implementation of Sex Education Methods	186
Overcoming the Causes of Deviation.....	187
Social Control	187
Formal and Informal Control.....	187
Compulsory and Persuasive Control	188
Social Control and the Internet.....	188
Religious Upbringing-based Control.....	193
Individual Care	195
Paying Attention to One's Self-Esteem.....	195
Remembrance and Attention	197
Paying Attention to Environmental Contexts.....	198
Perfection of Reason	200
Turning to One's Spouse and Asking for God's Help	202
Condition-Imposing and Reckoning.....	203
Consideration of the Consequences of Sexual Abnormalities	205
Personality Damage	206
Attitudinal and Cognitive Damages.....	207
Spiritual Damages	208
Disastrous Consequences	209
Discussion and Conclusion	211
Bibliography.....	211
The Appropriate Content for Sex Education to Be Incorporated in the High School Curriculum	215
Introduction	216
The first viewpoint	216
The second viewpoint	217
The third viewpoint.....	217
Research Methodology	221
Research Instrument.....	222
The Method of Statistical Analysis.....	223
Results.....	223

WOMEN STUDIES FROM AN ISLAMIC VIEWPOINT

Discussion and Conclusion225
Bibliography.....235

Chapter Three: Islamic Views on Women and the Family

**Psychological Teachings Based on the *Qur'an* and *Hadith*
and Analyzing Their Effects on Marital Relationships.....239**
Introduction240
Educational Content.....244
1. Motives for Marriage.....244
A. Mental peace.....244
B. Development of religiousness246
C. Having Children247
2. Cognitive and attitudinal skills.....248
A. Awareness of Each Other's Natural Tendencies248
B. Knowing Each Other's Rights.....248
C. Assuming the Spouse as a Valuable Gift from Allah.....250
D. Rectification of Attitudes and Beliefs251
E. Strengthening of Positive Thinking and Optimism252
F. Adjustment of Expectations253
G. Correction of Sexual Beliefs and Behaviours254
H. Strengthening of self-esteem and self-worth.....255
3. Communicational and Moral Skills.....256
A. Verbal Communication256
B. Listening Properly257
C. Expressing Feelings (verbally and practically).....258
D. Good Communication260
E. Being Good-tempered and Affable261
F. Forgiveness.....262
F. Respecting the Spouse's Opinion and Taste263
G. Avoiding Mentioning Each Other's Weaknesses264
H. Accepting the Husband's Management264
I. Problem-Solving265
J. Development of Compatibility265
4. Sexual Skills266
A. Being adorned and well-dressed for each other.....266
B. Preparing.....267

CONTENT

Remaining Calm and Removing Stress Factors.....	268
C. Focusing on Beauties and Kindnesses of the Spouse.....	268
D. Quick Response to the Spouse's Needs.....	269
E. Intercourse.....	269
Not Having Intercourse on a Full Stomach.....	270
Avoiding Unromantic Talks When Having Intercourse.....	270
Avoiding Intercourse in Stand up Position.....	271
Discussion and Conclusion.....	271
Bibliography.....	275
The Ethics of Motherhood in Islam and Feminism.....	277
Prologue.....	278
Developmental Differences in Men and Women.....	279
Feminism and Biological Differences.....	279
Feminism and Marriage.....	280
The Family.....	281
Motherhood.....	283
The Honour and Dignity of the Role of Motherhood.....	284
Pregnancy.....	285
Nursing.....	286
Feminism and Motherhood.....	287
Family Feminism.....	288
Extreme Feminism and Procreation.....	288
Abortion.....	289
Day-Care Centres.....	289
Feminist Ethics.....	290
Maternal Ethics.....	294
Criticism of Feminist Maternal Ethics.....	297
Motherhood in Islam.....	299
The Hereditary and Nurturing Roles of the Mother in the Qur'an.....	301
The Living Faith and Purity of the Mother.....	302
Motherly Forgiveness.....	303
Motherly Love and Kindness.....	303
Some Ethical Suggestions Founded on Islam for Dealing with Children.....	305
Refraining from Insults and Scorn.....	305
Speaking Kindly to a Child.....	305
On Kissing One's Children.....	305
Motherly Discipline.....	306

WOMEN STUDIES FROM AN ISLAMIC VIEWPOINT

Playing with the Child	306
Telling Stories to Children	306
The Child's Education.....	307
Do not Discriminate between Your Children	307
Consulting with Your Child.....	307
Keeping Children in Separate Beds	308
Social Manners	308
Conclusion.....	309
Bibliography.....	311
A Analysis of the Relationship between Religious Commitments and Marital Adjustment	316
Introduction	317
Methodology	319
Sample Population and Sampling Method.....	319
Instruments of the Study.....	320
Findings	321
Discussion	326
Bibliography.....	331
The Marital Adjustment of Maladjusted Couples by Counselling: An Islamic Perspective	334
Introduction	335
Purposes	341
1. The Hypothesis of the Research.....	341
2. Methodological process	341
2.1. Statistical Population, Sample Tested and Method of Implementation...341	
2.2. The Research Instrument	342
2.3. Method of Execution.....	343
2.4. Design of Data Analysis	344
3. Statistical Results and Data Analysis	345
Discussion	347
Bibliography.....	351
Chapter Four: Elaboration of the Islamic Perspective on <i>Hijāb</i>	
<i>Hijāb</i>: A Common Point in Abrahamic Religions.....	358
1. Introduction.....	359
2. <i>Hijāb</i> in Judaism.....	359

CONTENT

2.1. The Necessity of Chastity and <i>Hijāb</i> in Judaism.....	359
2.2. Boundaries of Women's <i>Hijāb</i> According to the Jewish Law (<i>Sharī'ah</i>)	362
2.3. Practical Tradition of Jewish Women throughout History	363
2.3.1. Clothing of Jewish Women in the Contemporary Era	364
3. <i>Hijāb</i> in Christianity	365
3.1. Necessity of Chastity and <i>Hijāb</i> in Christianity	365
3.2. Origin of Chastity and <i>Hijāb</i> in Christianity	367
3.3. Practical Traditions of Christian Women throughout History.....	368
4. <i>Hijāb</i> in Islam	369
4.1. Verses of the Holy <i>Qur'an</i> regarding <i>Hijāb</i>	370
4.1.1. Significance of Maintaining Chastity According to the Islamic Narrations	372
5. Conclusion	374
Bibliography.....	375
Examination of the Significance and the Concept of <i>Hijāb</i>	378
1. Description of the Problem.....	379
2. Lexical and Terminological Meanings of <i>Hijāb</i>	379
2.1. Lexical Meaning	379
2.2. Veiling as a Term in Mysticism.....	381
2.3. Veiling as a Term in Islamic Jurisprudence (<i>Fiqh</i>).....	382
3. The Word 'Veiling' in the <i>Qur'an</i>	383
4. The Word 'Veiling' in Islamic Narrations	387
5. Veiling and the Related Concepts.....	388
5.1. <i>Hijāb</i> and Covering.....	388
5.2. Veiling and Modesty (' <i>Ifāf</i>)	389
5.2.1 Chastity	389
5.2.2 Veiling and Modesty in Clothing	390
5.3. Veiling and Beauty Show-off (<i>Tabarru</i>)	393
6. Closing Discussion	393
Bibliography.....	394
Non-prohibition of Islamic <i>Hijāb</i> according to International Minority Rights	398
Introduction.....	398
1. Minority Rights under International Law	399

WOMEN STUDIES FROM AN ISLAMIC VIEWPOINT

1.1. United Nations Charter and the Principle of Non-Discrimination.....	401
1.2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Principle of Equality...	401
1.3. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	402
1.4. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	402
1.5. Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities	404
1.6. Convention on the Rights of the Child	405
2. Limitations of International Community in Protecting Minority Rights....	405
2.1. States Sovereignty	406
2.2. Differences in Political and Legal Systems	406
2.3. The Lack of a Comprehensive Definition	406
3. Non-prohibition of <i>ḥijāb</i> according to Minority Rights.....	407
3.1. The Principle of Non-discrimination and Equality	407
3.2. Article 27 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.....	411
3.3. Margin of Appreciation Doctrine	413
3.4. Identity Crisis	414
3.5. A Political Puzzle or a Legal One?	415
Conclusion.....	417
Bibliography.....	417

Chapter Five: The Social Role of Muslim Women

An analysis of the Qur’anic Bases for Women in Management, Focusing on Three Approaches in Islamic Social Theory	422
Introduction	423
1. Islamic Traditionalism.....	423
1.1. The Qur’anic Bases of Islamic Traditionalism	424
2. Islamic Modernism	426
2. 1. The Qur’anic Bases of Islamic Modernism.....	427
3. Islamic Civilisationism.....	431
3.1. The Qur’anic Bases of Islamic Civilisationalism	431
4. An Analysis of the Concept of ‘Interest’	435
4.1. Definition of ‘Interest’	436
4.2. An analysis of Islamic Traditionalism	438
4.3. An Analysis of Islamic Modernism	440

CONTENT

4.4. An Analysis of Islamic Civilizationism.....	440
5. The Pathology of the Views Regarding the Concept of Interest.....	441
6. A Formulation of the Idea of 'Interest'	442
7. Relationships between 'Demand,' 'Aptitude' and 'Interest'	443
7.1. An Analysis of the Concept of 'Aptitude'	444
7.2. An Analysis of the Concept of 'Demand'	446
8. Interest as the Common Criterion in the Three Approaches.....	447
The First Case	448
The Second Case	449
Conclusion.....	449
Bibliography.....	451
Women and Art	454
1. Reflection on the Concept of Art.....	454
2. Art in the Realm of Islamic Thought	460
3. Women and Art in the Mirror of the Contemporary Intellectual Currents.....	466
Conclusion.....	472
Bibliography.....	473
Iranian Woman in Discourse of Returning to the Origin	477
Introduction	478
1. Developing Countries and the Struggle for Human Dignity.....	479
2. The Unfulfillment of Women's Dignity in the Process of Pahlawī's Modernism	480
3. Imām Khumaynī and the Revival of Women's Dignity as a Human Being	484
3.1. Women's Rights and Duties According to Imām Khumaynī.....	487
3.2. Imām Khumaynī's Action Regarding the Introduction of the Pattern	490
4. Social Studies and Women's Personality	495
5. Summing up.....	496
Bibliography.....	498

Transliteration

Symbol	Transliteration	Symbol	Transliteration
ا	a	آ	a
ب	b	ت	t
ث	th	ج	j
ح	h	خ	kh
د	d	ذ	dh
ر	r	ز	z
س	s	ش	sh
ص	ṣ	ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ	ظ	ẓ
ع	'	غ	gh
ف	f	ق	q
ک	k	ل	l
م	m	ن	n
ه	h	و	w
ی	y	ة	ah
Long Vowels		Short Vowels	
آ	a	اَ	a
ای	ī	اِ	i
او	ū	اُ	u
Persian Letters			
Symbol	Transliteration	Symbol	Transliteration
پ	p	چ	ch
ژ	zh	گ	g

At the end of Farsi words, 'eh', '-e', and '-ye' have been used.