

Can interpretations of religious texts be answerable for the disadvantage status of women today?

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Abstract. Much confusion has developed on the issue of Muslim women and gender, cultural practices is seen to give preference to one gender over the other. This has been particularly realized in dealing with issues which are of major concern to women. The issue of gender will always raise the question of Muslim women fully participating and productively functioning within the society.

The objective of this research is to investigate the perceived disadvantage of Muslim women in relation to the issue of gender. It will focus on certain taboos that hinder Muslim women from fully participating and productively functioning in the society.

The issues discussed here are highly controversial and debatable. Thus, in order to identify and clarify the stance of religious texts on the issue of gender, we undoubtedly need to revisit the Islamic sources and examine both religious discourse and its diverse scholarly interpretations and hold a comparison to social norms and historical events that took place within the early Muslim society. It will attempt to identify whether any validation for such practice was made within the religious approach or through traditionally-acquired concepts that have lived and grew within the Muslim cultures throughout the ages.