

Chapter

6

Culture of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Objective Type Questions With Answers

Q1. Fill in the blanks to make an appropriate statement.

1. Major part of the research done on the Indus Valley civilization was rendered by _____.
2. Impact of the _____ civilization extends up to Balochistan. _____.
3. People of the Indus Valley have a close affinity with the people of _____.
4. The Muslims entered Sindh as conquerors in the year. _____.
5. Bhir mound is also an important city of the _____ civilization.

Answer

| No. | Answer | No. | Answer |
|-----|----------------|-----|--------|
| 1. | Arnold Toynbee | 2. | Indus |
| 3. | Pakistan | 4. | 712 |
| 5. | Gandhara | | |

Q2. Fill in the blanks by putting one of the three alternatives given in the bracket against each question.

1. Historic city of Taxila lies at a distance of about _____ km from Islamabad
(16,25,92)
2. Harappa is situated in the district of _____
(Taxila, Sahiwal, Lahore)
3. _____ per cent people of Pakistan are Muslim
(80,70,79)

4. The British women were for the first time enfranchised in the year _____ (1918, 1920, 1940)

5. _____ is the oldest association working for the rights of women in Pakistan. (WWA, WAPDA, APWA)

Answer

| No. | Answer | No. | Answer |
|-----|--------|-----|---------|
| 1. | 16 | 2. | Sahiwal |
| 3. | 97 | 4. | 1918 |
| 5. | APWA | | |

Q3. Indicate whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE; put a circle around the correct answer.

- Ibn-e-Khaldun's "A Study of History" was published in the year 1934. (True/False)
- Toynbee denied the presence of any link between Indus and Ganges Valley Civilizations. (True/False)
- According to Toynbee there is a close affinity between the Indus Valley Civilization and Iraq's Sumerian Civilization. (True/False)
- The area, which now forms our country, has remained a distinct cultural unit from times immemorial. (True/False)
- Musharraf's government enhanced the number of women seats in the National Assembly from 20 to 60. (True/False)

Answer

| No. | Answer | No. | Answer | No. | Answer | No. | Answer |
|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|
| 1. | False | 2. | False | 3. | True | 4. | True |
| 5. | True | | | | | | |

Q4. Put right parts together.

| No. | Column A | Column B |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Arnold Toynbee | Tarikh-ul-Ibar |
| 2. | Ibn-e-Khaldun (RA) | Swat |
| 3. | Bhirmound | Debui |
| 4. | Ora | Study of History |
| 5. | Bhambore | Achaeminian |

Answer

| No. | Column A | Column B |
|-----|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Arnold Toynbee | A Study of History |

| | | |
|----|--------------------|----------------|
| 2. | Ibn-e-Khaldun (RA) | Tarikh-ul-Ibar |
| 3. | Bhirmound | Achaeminian |
| 4. | Ora | Swat |
| 5. | Bhambore | Debul |

Q5. Answer each question in two to four lines.

1. Give a brief historical background of Pakistani culture?

Answer

The modern nation of Pakistan has inherited a very rich cultural and traditional background going back to the Indus Valley Civilization, 2800 BC-1800 BC. The region that is now Pakistan has in the past been invaded and occupied by many different people, including Elamo-Dravidians, Aryans, Greeks, White Huns, Persians, Arabs, Turks, Afghans, Mongols and various Eurasian groups. There are differences in culture among the different ethnic groups in matters such as dress, food, and religion, especially where pre-Islamic customs differ from Islamic practices, pre-Islamic practices are being eroded as time goes by.

2. What do you know about Kot Diji?

Answer

Kot Diji is situated between Ranipur and Khairpur on the highway from Hyderabad, at the east bank of the Indus close to Rohri. The discovery of Kot Diji provides the evidence that there is a civilization before Harappa and Moenjodaro. The Kot Diji culture is marked by well-furnished, well-made pottery and houses built of mud-bricks on solid stone foundations. The Harappans borrowed some of the basic cultural elements from Kot Dijians.

3. What is the significance of Harappa in the cultural heritage of Pakistan?

Answer

Located 180 km south-west of Lahore, Harappa is reached via Sahiwal, formerly known as Montgomery. Situated beside an earlier course of the Ravi River, Harappa was discovered in 1920-21, but through the ages the site was quarried for bricks and most of the buildings excavated so far are in poor condition. The cemeteries discovered at Harappa confirm that

| | | |
|----|--------------------|----------------|
| 2. | Ibn-e-Khaldun (RA) | Tarikh-ul-Ibar |
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the Indus Valley people buried their dead, many of them wearing finger rings, necklaces of steatite beads, anklets of paste bead, earnings and shell bangles. Copper mirrors, antimony rods, sheer spoons and vessels and urns of various shapes and size lay in the graves. Some of the female skeletons had anklets of tiny beads and girdles studded with some-precious stones.

4. What do you know about the ancient city of Mansura?

Answer

Mansura

Mansura was the city founded by the Arabs after they occupied Sindh. The city had a strong fortification around, with four gateways. There was a magnificent mosque erected in the centre of the city. There are many stories about how the city was name most probably it was founded by Muhammad Bin Qasim's son Omer and named "Mansura" to commemorate his round of victorious. Mansura is an Arabic word which literally means "success". The city was later abandoned due to unknown reasons. Exact location of Mansura remained a matter of controversy among the researchers. Lately the mass of ruins known as Dalur was identified as being the site of defunct Mansura city; this is situated at a distance of about 13 km from Shahdadpur railway station. Excavations carried out at Dalur between 1920-22 have revealed Arab coins, the remains of a mosque and certain other relies.

5. Enlist the salient features of Muslim architect?

Answer

The salient features of Muslim architecture are:

- **Openness**, which symbolizes Muslim broad mindedness, tolerance and enlightenment
- **Balance and Coherence**, which is the basic principle of Islamic way of life
- **Use of arch, minaret and dome**, and also of the **double dome**, which is expressive of the Muslim aesthetic sense.
- **Use of vertical lines** instead of horizontal lines, which gives the building an air of loftiness, drive and upward motion.

Subjective Questions With Answers

Q1. Define Culture, elaborate its importance in human life.

Answer

Derivation of Culture

The word culture is derived from the Latin root “**colere**” (to inhabit, to cultivate, or to honour).

General definition of Culture

In general, it refers to human activity; different definitions of culture reflect different theories for understanding, or criteria for valuing, human activity. Anthropologists use the term to refer to the universal human capacity to classify experiences, and to encode and communicate them symbolically. They regard this capacity as a defining feature of the genus *Homo*. Since culture is not innate but learned, people living in different places have different cultures.

Dr. Jameel Jalibi on Culture

“Culture, therefore, connoes the entire range of a society's make-up such as religion, faith, morals, customs, laws, learning, arts, crafts, hobbies and leisure which a man acquires as a member of society, and whose use and adoption enables the different and sometimes dissimilar individuals and groups to develop common interests and acquire common appearance and traits.

Culture, makes a man capable of distinguishing between uncivilized behaviours and urbanity, thus raising the arts and crafts to a higher level.”

Culture and Society

Culture has a fundamentally important role to play in strengthening civil society. It is understood that where individuals make a strong commitment to civil society, they have made a strong investment in the future stability of that society. Moreover, evidence has shown that in those parts of the world where civil society is weak, economic and political growth is almost impossible.

Culture and Nationality

Modern sociologists believe that culture plays a decisive role in the formation of the nations and nationalities. Relationship between

culture and nationality can be easily understood by the study of the Pakistan Movement. Pakistan was not meant to be a national state, pure and simple. The Muslims of India wanted to establish a state living under which they would safeguard and promote their culture and civilization. In other words, cultural aspirations of the Indian Muslims gave birth to Muslim Nationalism in India, which later came to be known as Pakistani Nationalism and the culture as Pakistani Culture.

Q2. Give a summary of Toynbee's finding regarding the culture of our area.

Answer

Arnold Toynbee

Arnold Toynbee is the most eminent of the western historians and his book called “A Study of History”, is the most authentic treatise on the history of civilization and the art of historiography. This book is in ten (10) volumes.

Toynbee's Findings About Area

At page 107 and 108 of the first volume of his world famous book “A Study of History” Toynbee discusses the history of Indus civilization.

- Moenjodaro Culture delineates Pakistan Culture.
- Life Span of community at Moenjodaro.
- Places and communities in this area.
- Sir Johan Marshall did Pioneer work in Indus civilization.
- Indus civilization extends to Balochistan.
- Pakistan culture connected with the remote Past.

Moenjodaro delineates Pakistani culture

The roots of Pakistani culture lie deep in Moenjodaro civilization. The culture of this area of ours dates back to nearly 1700 B.C. when Moenjodaro was the heart of Indus civilization.

Life Span of community at Moenjodaro

Life span of the community at Moenjodaro is to be dated between 3250 and 2750 BC. (in the later period through investigations made with the help of newly devised scientific instruments, it was revealed that this culture was actually less older than it was estimated by

Arnold Toynbee, these findings dated it at 2600 BC. Ancient city of Kot Diji in Sind is older than Moenjodaro.

Races and Communities in this Area

Some Turks like some Aryas, Crossed the Hind Kush and descended upon South Asia, while other Turks like other Aryas made their way westward as far as Syria. (This incidence manifests the ethnic affinity between the Pakistani people and the races of the Middle East)

Sir John Marshall did Pioneer Work on Indus Civilization

Sir John Marshall is the person who did pioneer work on the Indus Valley Civilization. According to him, there is complete uniformity of culture between Moenjodaro and Harappa, though the cities are located at a distance of nearly 650 km from each other.

Indus Civilization Extends to Balochistan

The domain of this culture extends in to Balochistan, but Balochistan was not an important seat of it.

Indus Culture Relates to "Ganges Basin"

"There is no evidence, yet forthcoming for the presence of the Indus Culture in the Ganges Basin."

We can summarise Toynbee's findings in the three points:-

1. The area that now forms Pakistan had a distinct cultural identity, even in the remotest past.
2. History shows that the territory of Pakistan was culturally linked with the Middle East and not with the Ganges Valley. (now a part of India)
3. The people of Pakistan have closer ethnic affinity with the racial groups settled in the Middle East.

Q3 Write an essay on ' Fine Arts in Pakistan'?

Answer

Fine Arts

Aesthetics from all over the world and the critics of arts in all departments of fine arts are attracted to experience and discover the boundless depth and beauty of Pakistani culture. A brief review of Pakistani culture has been attempted in the following lines:

Excavations at Harappa and Moenjodaro

Excavations at Harappa and Moenjodaro have revealed that the people of this land had achieved a level of advancement in the fields of architect and urban planning. They built houses, swimming pools, public baths and market places. These buildings were airy and bright and were provided with excellent drainage system. In the words of Sahib Zada Abdur Rasul:

"The onlooker is deeply impressed by the urban lay out and organization of Moenjodaro and Taxila, buildings of the Khanqahs and gardens laid out in the Muslim period, palaces, mausoleums, and masjids, decorated with exquisite floral motifs. Lions of Moenjodaro and Sirkap, monasteries of Takhat Bhai and Julian, fortress of Attock and Ruhtas, palaces and gardens of Lahore, Badshahi Mosques of Thatta and Lahore, Mausoleums of Shah Rukn-e-Alam (RA) (Multan) Jam Nizam-ud-Din (Makli) and Jahangir (Lahore) are the excellent masterpieces of our architectural skills."

Indus Civilization

People of Harappa, Moenjodaro and Gandhara had attained excellence in the art of melting metals and making of ornaments and seals, and carving out sculptures. During the Muslim period the craftsmen attained excellence in the art of making glazed tiles printed with floral and geometrical designs.

Painting

Pakistan has a very rich tradition in different styles of painting. Starting from the anonymous painters of the murals at Butgaram (Swat) the tradition enriched itself through the ages; especially notable are miniature paintings of the Mughal period and later the masterpieces of Abdur Rahman Chughtai and Ustad Allah Buksh in the twentieth century AD.

Wood Carving

Woodcarving and engraving, making glazed and painted earthenware, engraving and inlay work on brass, copper and alloy utensils and the art of making delicate ornaments, are the specialities Pakistanis excel in, and are appreciated throughout the civilized world.

Muslim Calligraphy

Our calligraphists have demonstrated great promise by keeping abreast with the spirit of the modern age and evolving newer modes of expression. Prominent among these are Abdul Majeed Parveen Raqam, Hafiz Yousuf Sadidi, Sayyid Anwar Hussain Nafees Raqam, Khurshid Alam Gohar Raqam, Sadiqain and Aslam Kamal.

Dress Designing / Needle work

Tradition of making festive as well as beautiful informal male and female dresses has been kept alive by the Pakistani craftsmen. Woollen patti (orpattu) of Gilgit and Swat, shawls and gown of Kashmir, Phulkari of the Punjab and the NWFP, Chapa or the block printed bed sheets of Bahawalpur, Khairpur and Multan, Ajrak and Bandhnu of Sind are the products liked by the people not only in Pakistan but also outside.

Hand knotted Carpets

Our area has a centuries old tradition of making hand knotted carpets. Lahore is the oldest centre of carpet making. Carpets made here are exported and appreciated throughout the world. Special varieties of carpets are done in Kashmir, The NWFP, Balochistan and Sindh. These include Namdas and Ghalichas.

Our Festivals

Apart from Eids and religious festivals, melas are celebrated on the birth anniversaries of the Sufi saints, and on special seasonal and harvesting occasions. Festivals are more popular in rural areas; they reflect our rural culture and provide recreation to the people who otherwise have not much of it.

Our Games

Wrestling, kabbaddi, malakhra, volleyball and football are the most favourite sports in our villages. Hockey is our national sport. Pakistan has produced some of the world's finest sportsmen in the field of Hockey, Cricket and Squash.

Q4. What are the cultural characteristics common among different parts of Pakistan?

Answer

Culture

“Culture” can be defined in many different ways. Culture may be defined as behaviour peculiar to human beings, together with material objects used. Culture consists of language, ideas, values, attributes, beliefs, customs, codes, institutions, tools, works and arts, religion, law, morality, ceremonies and festivals. Muller's definition of Culture

According to Muller-Layer, Culture can be defined, as “Culture is an aggregate means of achievement and of progress”.

Salient Features of Pakistan Culture

Following are the salient features of Pakistani culture:

- Religious Unity
- Heterogeneous Nature
- Marriage Patterns
- Languages
- Family Life
- Simple Life
- Simple Dress
- Spirituality -Oriented Society
- Culture Heritage

Religious Unity

Pakistan is a Muslim country and Islam is the official religion. Islam is the religion, which is professed and practiced by the people of Pakistan.

Heterogeneous Nature

Pakistani culture can be called as “Mixed Culture”. Although the majority of people in Pakistan are Muslims by birth and faith, there is a strong influence of Hindu culture on the present Pakistani culture. The shadows of this influence are quite visible on the marriage ceremonies and festivals like “Basant”. Pakistani society is largely multilingual and multicultural. Religious practices of various faiths are an integral part of everyday life in society.

Marriage Patterns

The marriage ceremonies in Pakistan are very simple. Islam discourages the practice of Dowry. Bride and groom start the new journey of their life with the holy ceremony of Nikkah. Display of mehndi, fireworks, extravagant lights, singing and dancing are un-Islamic practices.

Languages

English is the official language in Pakistan, but the national language is Urdu, which is widely spoken and understood throughout the country. Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Balochi and Kashmiri are the regional languages.

Family Life

Pakistani society is a "Male Oriented Society", where they are given full protection and great respect. A male member, usually the oldest male member of the group, heads the family. He guides the other members. Old people are given positions of prestige, honour and respect in Pakistani culture. The traditional family values are highly respected and considered sacred, although urban families have grown into a nuclear family system, owing to the socio-economic constraints imposed by the traditional joint family system.

Simple Life

Social life is simple. Social customs and traditions reflect Islamic touch: people are very much conscious about their social traditions and feel pride in following them.

Simple Dress

Dress in a Muslim society like Pakistan is designed and intended to cover human body, as nudity is prohibited in Islam. So, people of Pakistan prefer to wear simple dresses according to their climate. Most rural homes in Pakistan are made of mud or mud-brick, though concrete and fired brick buildings have become more prevalent. Traditional dress for both men and women consists of the shalwar kamiz-loose cotton trousers and a long or short shirt or skirt worn outside over the pants. Women usually wear a long dupatta, or scarf, draped around the head and shoulders. Islamic value of "Satr-Poshi" is the hallmark of Pakistani dresses.

Spirituality -Oriented Society

Ulema, Mushaikh and Sufi poets occupy highly honoured places in Pakistani culture.

Culture of Pakistan

Cultural Heritage

Pakistan has a rich and unique cultural heritage, and has actively preserved its established traditions throughout history. Many cultural practices and monuments have been inherited from the rule of Mughal emperors.

Q5. Examine and evaluate the culture of Pakistan with reference to Moenjodaro, Taxila and Gandhara.

Moenjodaro

Moenjodaro, Literally, "mound of the dead"), like Harappa, was a city of the Indus Valley civilization. It is situated some 80 km southwest of modern Sukkur, Sindh, Pakistan. The ruins of Moenjodaro cover an area of more than five km and lie scattered on the right banks of the river Indus. It is located at about 320 km North of Karachi. It is somewhat better preserved than Harappa, and therefore a more informative source on its parent civilization. It was probably built between four and five thousand years ago, and was abandoned around 1700 BC, probably due to a change of course of the river, which supported the civilization. It was rediscovered in the 1920s by archaeologists.

Mohenjodaro is a remarkable construction, considering its antiquity. It has a planned layout based on a grid of streets, with structures constructed of bricks of baked mud, sun dried bricks and burned wood. At its height the city probably had around 35,000-40,000 residents. It had an advanced drainage system, a variety of buildings up to two stories high, and an elaborate bath area. The bath area was very well built and had a layer of natural tar, to keep it from leaking. Being an agricultural city, it also featured a large well, granary, and central marketplace. Perhaps most unexpected, it even had a building with an underground furnace (hypocaust), possibly for heated bathing.

The city was successively destroyed and rebuilt at least seven times. Each time, the new cities were built directly on top of the old ones. Flooding by the Indus is thought to have been the cause of destruction.

Taxila

Taxila is an archaeological site, located in the Punjab province of Pakistan, west of the Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi, on the border of the Punjab and North West Frontier Province and just off the Grand Trunk Road. Its coordinates are 33.76° N 72.84° E.

Taxila (then called Taksh-shila) was an ancient Buddhist seat of learning, connected across the Khunjerab pass to the Silk Road, attracting students from all over the world. It flourished during the first-fifth centuries AD (see Gandhara). Located at the junction of three major trade routes, it was of considerable economic and strategic importance.

According to the mythical accounts of Jain Mat, this city is millions of years old. In the days of Ashoka, Taxila emerged as the pyramids of learning, most modern in its time and unique throughout the world. The university of Taxila quenched the thirst of the students of Buddhism, arithmetic, surgery, and philosophy.

The UNESCO has listed Taxila as one of the World Heritage Site.

Gandhara

Gandhara (also Ghandara, Ghandahra, Chandahara, and Persian Gandara) is the name of an ancient country in eastern Afghanistan and north-west Pakistan. Gandhara was located mainly on southern side of Kabul River. In the east, it extended beyond Indus River and included within its boundaries parts of the valley of Kashmir (Political History of Ancient India, 1996, p 151). It is sometimes identified as the antecedent of present day Kandahar in Afghanistan.

Q6. Why gender equality is essential for the creation of a cultured society?

Answer

Culture

By culture we mean intellectual and creative products, including literature, music, drama, and painting. Another use of "culture" is to describe the beliefs and practices of another society, particularly where these are seen as closely linked with tradition or origin. But culture is more than that. Culture is part of the fabric of every society, including our own. It shapes "the way things are done" and our understanding of why this should be so.

Culture and Society

“Culture is the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or a social group. It includes not only arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs.”

Gender and Culture

Gender identities and gender relations are critical aspects of culture because they shape the way daily life is lived in the family, but also in the wider community and the workplace. Gender (like race or ethnicity) functions as an organizing principle for society because of the cultural meanings given to being male or female.

Men are no Piece of Gold

“There is a Cambodian saying that men are no piece of gold, and women are no piece of cloth”. These two genders are equally important on the venue of life.

Gender disparity in Pakistan

The Western world has exploited women in the name of emancipation and deprived her of her natural purity. According to a survey, 98 percent of women expressed an earnest desire to return to family life, but found them helpless because neither the husband nor the father was ready to welcome them back. Lot of the women in the backward and less literate societies is no better than the so - called civilized societies, but the nature of problems faced by them is certainly different. If we cast a glance at our society we find our women suffering from several problems.

Different forms of gender Inequality in Pakistan

The different forms of gender equality in Pakistan are:

- Lesser creature
- Forced Labour
- Honour Killing
- Violence against Women
- Domestic Violence
- Trafficking of Women
- Gender Disparity in the matters of health

- Gender Disparity in the matters of Education

Lesser creature

Woman is considered to be a lesser creature than man. Her birth is a burden for family.

Forced Labour

Women are made to work as peasants and as field labour in our rural areas.

Women in the fudal system

In the fudal system, women are treated like a slave.

Honour killing

In Pakistan every year, many women are killed in the name of honour. In Sindh this honour killing has a traditional form, namely Karo Kari. Our social system is generally inclined to favour men, women is convicted notwithstanding the fallacy of charge levied against her, and women is even not given a chance to plead innocent in the court of law.

Violence against Women

Violence against women is a fundamental violation of the human right to life, physical safety, self-respect, and dignity. It is the manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is fairly widespread across all classes. It ranges from slapping, hitting, and kicking, to murder. Since the society, police and law enforcing agencies view domestic violence as a private matter, it goes unnoticed until it takes extreme forms of murder or attempted murder.

Trafficking of Women

Trafficking of women is also on the rise. Foreign women from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar are brought to Pakistan and sold.

Gender disparity in the matters of health

Violence against women is also a public health and development issue. As stated in ADB's gender and development policy paper, the relationship between female-focused violence and maternal

mortality, health care utilization, child survival, AIDS prevention, and cost to the judiciary and law enforcement agencies is receiving increasing attention."

Gender disparity in the matters of education

In Pakistan, female literacy rate is much lower than that of males.

Conclusion

Pakistan is a Muslim state. In Muslim state women have their own rights. She has the same responsibilities towards herself, towards Allah the Almighty and towards other human beings as the male, and will be punished or rewarded in the Hereafter without discrimination towards her female gender.

Q7. Give an account of the rights Islam guaranteed for women.

Answer

In the days before Islam, women were treated like slaves or property. Their personal consent concerning anything related to their well-being was considered unimportant, to such a degree that they were never even treated as a party to a marriage contract.

Women and the Greeks

Greeks claimed themselves to be the most cultured and civilized people in the world, yet the status of women in the Greek city-states was no better than slaves. They were not entitled even to right to vote.

Women and the Hindu religion

Old Hindu scriptures are full of derogatory remarks about women. The slogan of women emancipation, though very attractive apparently resulted in more exploitation and worsening of the lot of women.

Women in the Western World

As late as 1918 the British women were given the right to vote. American women had to wait another ten years before they were enfranchised.

On the other hand Islam gave women rights equal to men. Islam gave women the following rights:

- Right to be treated fairly

- Right to equality
- Dignity
- Right to social life
- Right to employment
- Right to attainment of Knowledge
- Right to property
- Right to the basic necessities of life
- Right to be consulted with

Right to be treated fairly

The rights of Muslim women were given to us by Allah the Almighty, who is All-Compassionate, All-Merciful, All-Just, All-Unbiased, All-Knowing and Most Wise. These rights, which were granted to women more than 1400 years ago, and were taught by the perfect example of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, were given by the one Who created us and Who alone knows what rights are best for our female natures. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran:

The most basic right of a woman in Islam is the knowledge and recognition that she never has to ask or demand or fight for her rights which are guaranteed to her by Allah the Almighty Himself.

Right to equality

Islam considers a woman to be equal to a man as a human being and as his partner in this life. Women have been created with a soul of the same nature as man's. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran:

"O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife (Eve), and from them both He created many men and women and fear Allah through whom you demand your mutual (rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allah is Ever and All-Watcher over you." (Al-Nisa 4:1)

And in the words of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ,
"Assuredly, women are the twin halves of men."

(Sahih reported by Abu-Dawud (RA))

In Islamic law a woman is an independent, unique individual in her own right. She has the same responsibilities towards herself, towards Allah the Almighty and towards other human beings as the male, and will be punished or rewarded in the Hereafter without discrimination towards her female gender.

Dignity

Muslim women are not forbidden from going out in the community, working, or visiting relatives and female friends, if there is no objection from their guardian/husband and they are covered and behave and speak according to Islamic guidelines and, if necessary, escorted by their Mahram (a close male relative). However, a woman's home should be the main base that she works from.

Right to education

In the words of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

"To seek knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim."

Muslim here meaning male and female Muslims, as women are the twin halves of men. The Prophet ﷺ also said:

"Whoever follows a way to seek knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a way to paradise."

A woman in Islam has the right to knowledge and education. Allah the Almighty encourages women to read and keep up the learning process. He also bestows His mercy upon all who seek knowledge, and gives them high status.

Right to social life

In Islam, the value and importance of women in society and the true measure of their success as human beings, is measured with completely different criteria: their fear of Allah the Almighty and obedience to Him, and fulfilment of the duties He has entrusted them with, particularly that of bearing, rearing and teaching children!

Nevertheless, Islam is a practical religion, and responds to human needs and life situations. Many women need, or wish, to work for various reasons. For example, they may possess a needed skill, such as a teacher or a doctor.

While Islam does not prohibit women working outside the home, it does stipulate that the following restrictions be followed to safeguard the dignity and honour of women and the purity and stability of the Islamic society, (the conduct of women, after all, is the "backbone" of any society):

Right to attainment of Knowledge

Islam makes it obligatory for both men and women to seek Knowledge. So the Muslim women have the full right of attainment of knowledge.

Right to property

Women can earn and own a property if they like. It would be their personal property and no father or husband is allowed to deprive them of the right of having the property.

Right to the basic necessities of life.

It is not obligatory for a woman to earn her livelihood. She can't be forced to earn her livelihood. It is the moral duty of the husband to provide his wife with basic necessities of life.

Women have a complete right over all the necessities of life which a man can relish on. The Holy Quran says:

Allah has given the one more strength than the other and because the men support them from their means".

Right to be consulted with

Islam made women respectable enough that men can consult with them. The Holy Prophet ﷺ took opinion from Hazrat Umme Salma رضي الله عنها when the treaty of Hudabia was to be signed. Similarly Hazarat Umar رضي الله عنه consulted with his daughter Hazrat Hafsa رضي الله عنها in very important matters of the state. Ummul Momineen Hazrat Ayesha رضي الله عنها was held in high esteem by the Sahabas of the Holy Prophet ﷺ in the matters of Islamic juristic opinions.

Q8. What strategy has been adopted for women fortification in national affairs under devolution plan?

Answer

Devolution Plan

The President of Pakistan General Pervaz Musharraf envisioned a new political system in which power were to be developed on the common man at the grassroot level and women were to be made an equal partners in sharing power with men. He launched a "Devolution of Power and Responsibility plan"

The woman's participation in the National affairs according to the devolution plan provided that

- Every union council should be comprised of 21 members. Out of these 21, 6 seats will be reserved for women.
- Out of these 6 seats, 2 would be reserved for *Kisan* females women working as peasant or agriculture labourers.

- Women will be given 33 percent representation in District Government.
- 60 seats would be reserved for females in the National Assembly.
- The allocation of seats under provincial Quota in the legislatures assemblies would be as follows.

| Punjab Assembly | Sindh Assembly | NWFP Assembly | Balochistan Assembly |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 66 | 29 | 22 | 11 |

The comparison of the allocation of female seats between the 1973 constitution and the Devolution Plan.

Conclusion

This brief overview shows that a new revolution in the life of Pakistani women has set in, the prospects show that these changes will go long way in improving the lot of Pakistani women with reference to safe guarding their social and political rights on one side and ensuring their constructive participation in task of nation building on the other.

Q9. Write an essay on “Be Pakistani, Buy Pakistani”

Answer

History bears a testimony to the fact that only those nations survived which relied on their own resources for development. Only those made economic progress, which had once decided to adopt the habit of using their indigenous products and had remained religiously committed to this vow.

The Dilemma of Pakistanis

Pakistanis have never adopted the habit of patronizing their national products and this is perhaps one of the paramount causes of our retarded economic growth.

We use Imported Goods

We, the Pakistanis are maniac after using the imported goods. We consider that using imported goods is a status symbol. Due to this infatuation of the imported goods, a big amount of our precious foreign exchange diminish this phenomenon that the masses should

“Be Pakistani, Buy Pakistani” Realization of the dream of Be Pakistani buy Pakistani”

Recommendations

To realise the dream of “Be Pakistani, Buy Pakistani”

- The leaders should set a role model for the masses.
- The standard of the local products should be raised so that they can be a substitute of the high quality imported goods.
- Incentives should be provided to the local manufacturers
- Media should create awareness in the people to use homemade articles and to abstain from imported goods.

Q10. Highlight the social characteristics of Pakistan with reference to family life and social customs.

Answer

Social characteristics of Pakistani Culture

The characteristics of Pakistani culture are as follows:

- Religious Units
- Marriage Ceremonies
- National Language
- Male oriented society
- Social life
- Simple dress
- Purely Islamic society
- Family system
- Prayers

Religious Unity

Pakistan is a Muslim country and Islam is the official religion. Islam is the religion, which is professed and practiced by the people of Pakistan. Pakistani culture can be called as “Mixed Culture”. Although the majority of people in Pakistan are Muslims by birth and faith, there is a strong influence of Hindu culture on the present Pakistani culture.

Marriage ceremonies

The marriage ceremonies in Pakistan are very simple. Islam discourages the practice of Dowry. Bride and groom start the new journey of their life with the holy ceremony of Nikkah. Display of mehndi, fireworks, extravagant lights, singing and dancing are un-Islamic practices.

National Language

English is the official language in Pakistan, but the national language is Urdu, which is widely spoken and understood throughout the country. Punjabi, Pushto, Sindhi, Balochi and Kashmiri are the regional languages.

Male Oriented Society

Pakistani society is a "Male Oriented Society", where they are given full protection and great respect. A male member, usually the oldest male member of the group, heads the family. He guides the other members. Old people are given positions of prestige, honour and respect in Pakistani culture.

Social life

Social life is simple. Social customs and traditions reflect Islamic touch: people are very much conscious about their social traditions and feel pride in following them.

Dress is Islamic

Dress in a Muslim society like Pakistan is designed and intended to cover human body, as nudity is prohibited in Islam. So, people of Pakistan prefer to wear simple dresses according to their climate.

A purely Islamic Society

People of Pakistan are extremely humble simple and Islamic people. Image of Islam portrayed by the terrorists as Islam is to tarnish the name of the Last Religion. In Pakistan you can clearly see the real image of simple and pure people and understand what the basis of Islam really are. The Pakistani Society runs around the reigns of Islam, not that people understand Islam very well but at least try to do as much as they can to be good.

Family System

People in Pakistan are very much linked together by family bonds or by the place where they live or just friendship especially in Lahore.

They live in large families and are very proud of their family background like the British. Such a bond only exists between our people who keep others interests above their personal interests.

Prayers

The western concept of clubs is so well implemented in the local cultures of the Pakistani People that they are asked to come to a community centre Five times a day and that is what is called the Mosque. Where we go to say our prayer five times a day and meet those people who live in the same community and socialize.

