

Feminism According to Islam

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Abstract

This article examines Muslim feminist opinions about Islam and women's empowerment. One of the issues that has received priority in Islamic feminism is the issue of Western Nations which has so far think that Islam is still lacking humane and unfair towards people woman. They assume that Islamic law is more pro-racial man. They also proposed a concept feminism that exists in their nation to be applied in Islam. Even though in Islam itself there is recognition of rights women and elevation his honor was there from the beginning of Islam

Keywords: *Feminism, Woman, Islam, Humanity*

Abstrak.

Artikel ini mempelajari pendapat feminis Muslim tentang Islam dan pemberdayaan perempuan. Salah satu persoalan yang mendapatkan prioritas dalam feminisme Islam adalah soal Bangsa-bangsa Barat yang selama ini menganggap bahwa Islam masih kurang manusiawi dan tidak adil terhadap kaum wanita. Mereka menganggap bahwa hukum Islam lebih berpihak kepada kaum lelaki. Mereka pun mengajukan konsep feminisme yang ada di bangsa mereka untuk diterapkan dalam Islam. Padahal di dalam Islam sendiri pengakuan hak-hak perempuan dan peninggian kehormatannya sudah ada sejak awal turunnya Islam.

Kata kunci: Feminisme, Wanita, Islam, Kemanusiaan

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The development of modern thought in Islam began to appear when contact took place between Muslims and western nations and had an influence on the mindset of Muslims. This can be seen for example, in the renewal movement launched by Jamaluddin Al-Afghani and his successors. This movement was a response to the awareness of Muslim intellectuals who saw the lagging behind Islamic civilization from western civilization at that time.

The issues raised in the discourse of modern Islamic thought are not limited to theology and shari'ah issues, but continue to develop until they touch social aspects in the order of social life. And one of the many discourses that developed at the stage of development of modern Islamic thought was the issue of the role of women and their position which later emerged into a movement that became feminism. The birth of democratic politics and the emergence of socialist and capitalist economic systems provided a new awareness of defense of women's rights. They did not want to be discriminated against any longer, as they had experienced in feudal society. Indeed, they refused to be treated like men's property. Also refuses to be considered inferior to men's social status. Women demand equal rights and equal respect. The broad definition of Muslim women's feminism includes women's awareness of restrictions on themselves because of gender, women's rejection of these injustices, and her efforts to build a more equitable gender system that involves new roles of women and a more optimal relationship between men and women.

The deep understanding of freedom proclaimed by women leaders in the Islamic world emphasizes the importance of realizing that the progress they have made is not just a copy of the progress of the West. This is what most of them least want. They seek ways to aid the development of the nascent freedom without harming its roots or sacrificing their distinctive mark. Their struggle is intended to participate in the life of the nation and state. In the last years of the 19th century, voices demanding reforms about the role and position of women were echoed throughout the Islamic world. These voices condemn the restrictions placed on the exclusion of women and leave them ignorant, because they are not the true teachings of Islam.

Muslim feminists demand equal women and men as citizens who can play a role in the public sector (public role) and accept roles in the family field or what is often called domestic roles/domestication roles. Some Muslim women practice feminism in their daily lives, although they distance themselves from organized political activity and hide their public identity as feminists.

Others feel the need to declare their feminist identity to the public and are active in the feminist movement. Some women combine writing with feminist activism.

Others focus more on contributing to the development of feminist theory and analysis or disseminating feminist consciousness through literary works.

In the last two decades, feminist groups have come up with several theories that specifically highlight the position of women in public life. Feminists seek to challenge patriarchal establishments and other forms of gender stereotypes that are widespread in society. Feminist theories that are more concerned with the fate of women assume that in fact women's nature is not determined by biological factors but by cultural factors in society. Inequality of gender roles and relations is considered to need to be revisited, but the alternatives offered are different, so that various feminist schools have emerged with their own alternative theories. In general, people prejudiced against balwa feminism is a movement of rebellion against men, an effort against existing social institutions, such as the institution of the household, marriage or attempts at women's rebellion to deny the so-called nature.

With such misconceptions, feminism not only has less place among women themselves, but is even generally rejected by society. For this reason, it is necessary to discuss in more detail and conceptually what exactly is meant by the feminist movement as expressed by feminism itself. Although feminist movements come with different analyses and ideologies, they generally have a common concern, namely fighting for the fate of women.

TEORITICAL STUDY

So far, many people think that Islam is an ancient and unfeminist religion because its women seem to have their lives regulated by religious rules. However, Islam is actually a religion that strongly supports feminism. Islam is a feminist religion in many ways, such as prioritizing women's honor, fighting for their rights, and giving them the freedom to choose their path in life without forgetting their code as women.

In essence, Islam wants its women to live well according to their nature as women and humans and full of honor by warning them about it through prohibitions and rules, instead of taking full control of the women's lives and treating them like objects.

Don't humans tend to feel peaceful and happy when they are in their natural state? Because it is by His nature that humans were created.

“So devote yourself to the religion of monotheism—the natural instinct Allah has instilled in mankind. There is no altering Allah’s creation. This is the true religion, but most people do not know.” (QS. Al-Ruum [30] : 30)

Many of us think that themes concerning women only became hot after the emergence of the Feminism movement during the renaissance, which was spearheaded by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and the Marquis de Condorcet. At that time, feminism emerged as a form of philosophy and social movement that opposed male domination in various areas of life and this domination leads to the oppression and inferiorization of women. Women are considered second class humans who have no rights, shares and roles in society. They are only burdened with household obligations and childcare.

They think that Islamic law favors men. They also proposed the concept of feminism that existed in their nation to be applied in Islam. In fact, in Islam itself, the recognition of women's rights and the promotion of their honor have existed since the beginning of the decline of Islam.

Feminism emerged in the midst of a nation that excluded women and considered women as second class human beings, actually has the same spirit of equal rights between genders that exists in Islam, even a thousand years before western feminists shouted their feminist philosophy, Islam has already equalized the status of women and men, and the only difference is the level of their piety. As Allah says in Surah Al-Hujarat [49] : 13

“O people! We created you from a male and a female, and made you races and tribes, that you may know one another. The best among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous. Allah is All-Knowing, Well-Experienced.” (QS. Al-Hujarat [49] : 13)

In the Middle Eastern world there are figures such as Dr. Yusuf Qardhawi, Abbas Mahmud Al 'Aqad, and Sheikh Muhammad Ghazali who has special attention to women with several of his works highlighting the lives of women both humanly and religiously.

Sheikh Muhammad Al Ghazali once wrote in his book entitled *Al-Thaaqaat Al-Mu'attalat*; “If we return our view to the time before a thousand years, then we will find women enjoying privileges in material and social fields unknown to women on five

continents. Their situation at that time was better than the situation of Western women today, as long as freedom of dress and social interactions are not used as a comparison." (M. Quraish Shihab, 2004: 269).

Recognition of the noble position of women in Islam is proven by the elimination of traditions that are discriminatory against them. Islam has also regulated the roles and duties of women. In the family, a woman has the role of a housewife who is tasked with caring for children and serving her husband. Apart from the above roles, Islam also guarantees women's rights.

These rights include 1) the right to inherit (a daughter gets half of a son's); 2) the right to education; 3) and the right to choose a partner. Islam came with sharia duties assigned to men and women, with laws dealing with the various actions and duties of each. Islam does not see equal rights (emancipation) or primacy between women and men, but Islam views it as a problem that needs to be overcome (Al-Baghdadi, 1997: 17). The issue of emancipation does not exist in Islamic law, there is only sharia law regarding events that occur to humans, both men and women.

So why does Western society view Islam as a religion that does not respect women? Why are there still some Muslims who still practice ignorant habits that demean women? The first question can be answered by answering the second question. The answer to the second question is that so far some Muslims understand Islam very superficially. They understand Islam only from the skin, not in depth by understanding the contents and contents of Islamic teachings. They, people who have a shallow understanding of Islam, use valid arguments but have distorted their aims and objectives to limit the movement of women and put them in a lower position than men. Even though the Qur'an itself never differentiates between women and men just because they are different genders. In fact, Islam respects women so much that one of the letters in the Qur'an, namely Al-Nisa' that women and the letter specifically discusses the many problems faced by women and describes them in detail and detail.

However, Western society actually views Islam's treatment of women as those who so far still have a shallow understanding of Islam without wanting to cross-check other Muslims who have a deeper understanding of Islam and know very well what Islamic rules are for women. This is where western society's misunderstandings take root.

Then they consider Islam to be a religion that dehumanizes women and class them in the second class after men. This unequal and unfair perspective continues to be maintained and many doubts are raised by orientalist to worsen the image and face of Islam.

However, along with orientalist attacks on the Islamic world through gender issues that they bring within the body of Islam, figures are always born who defend Islam from oriental attacks. Even so, there are so many clear arguments explaining the equal rights of men and women—Even though it is sometimes hidden by those who are ignorant in understanding Islam, it will still be there and reveal the light of divine guidance until the Last Day, and will continue to be echoed by them—those who try to show the world that Islam is a civil religion and a blessing for all nature.

RESEARCH METHOD

Judging from the data source, this research is a type of library research, namely research whose study is carried out by reviewing and tracing various literature. This research compiles and searches for data regarding the explanation of the concept of feminism in Islam. Of course the Qur'an and hadits as primary data sources, books/literature and related written works as data sources secondary.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Islam is a religion that applies feminism, So the assumption that Islam is not a feminist religion is wrong. Islamic values have taught the importance of respecting women and giving them their rights. Islam teaches well about the values that women need to have, their nature, as well as the rights and obligations that must be fulfilled. In conclusion, Islam is a religion that supports feminism while still prioritizing the nature and rights and obligations of women themselves.

A. Women's right as human beings

Since the beginning of woman creation they are already equal to men, as God has decreed that there is no difference between the two men and women and who the difference is only in degree piety. When some nations in this world looks down on humanity of women, instead Islam came and recognizing the humanity of women, It is located in that position

accepted, and there is an order to a child for respecting their mother three times bigger than respect for their father. Even more Islam strongly opposes it murder of girl baby in the Jahiliyah period because they consider girls is a family disgrace. In Islam women also have rights and obligations the same as men. Entitled to reward for good deeds, and punishment for bad deeds, and receive the same obligations of worship. In the beginning of Surat An-Nisa' [4]: 1

Meaning: "O people! Fear your Lord, who created you from a single soul, and created from it its mate, and propagated from them many men and women. And revere Allah whom you ask about, and the parents. Surely, Allah is Watchful over you." (QS. An-Nisa' [4]: 1)

B. Women as a mother

No one ever can deny that humanity is exist is because a mother. Since woman going through pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, raising humans, so it's confirmed that this life will not work normal without interference of woman.

- Surah Luqman [31]: 14

"We have entrusted the human being with the care of his parents. His mother carried him through hardship upon hardship, weaning him in two years. So give thanks to Me, and to your parents. To Me is the destination." (QS. Luqman [31]: 14)

- Surah Al-Ahqaaf [46] : 15

"We have enjoined upon man kindness to his parents. His mother carried him with difficulty, and delivered him with difficulty. His bearing and weaning takes thirty months. Until, when he has attained his maturity, and has reached forty years, he says, "Lord, enable me to appreciate the blessings You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to act with righteousness, pleasing You. And improve my children for me. I have sincerely repented to You, and I am of those who have surrendered.""

- Hadith of Rasulullah SAW from Bukhori and Muslim

Which means: "Someone has come and asked Rasulullah SAW: "Wich human? who deserves the most of my respect? Rasulullah replied: "Your mother," the man asked again, "Then who?" Rasulullah answered: "Your mother", the man asked

again, "then who?" Rasulullah replied: "your mother", the man asked again: "then who?" Rasulullah replied: "Your father"" (Hadith from Bukhori and Muslim)

C. Prohibition of killing baby girls during the period of jahiliyah

As stated in QS An-Nahl verses 57-59 which describes the condition of the jahiliyah, when they heard the news about their daughters, felt embarrassed, angry and very sad and disappointed. Apart from that, what is no less terrible is that they dare to bury baby girls who are born because they feel ashamed of having a baby or daughter, girls are like a bad disgrace in the family.

QS An-Nahl verses 57-59

“And they attribute to Allah daughters—exalted is He—and for themselves what they desire.” (QS An-Nahl [16] : 57)

“And when one of them is given news of a female infant, his face darkens, and he chokes with grief.” (QS An-Nahl [16] : 58)

Meaning: “He hides from the people because of the bad news given to him. Shall he keep it in humiliation, or bury it in the dust? Evil is the decision they make.” (QS An-Nahl [16] : 59)

D. Islam's critique of western feminism

1. Liberal Feminism

What is referred to as Liberal Feminism is their view to put women who have complete freedom and individual. This flow states that of freedom and equality rooted in rationality and separation between the private world and public. Every human being is like that according to them- has the capacity to think and act intelligently rational, and so on woman. The roots of oppression and backwardness in women are because caused by error the woman herself. Women must prepare themselves in order they can compete in the world within the framework of "free competition" and have a position equal to men.

If we look at this from an Islamic perspective we will find many confusion. Got this rooted in individual freedom the woman herself. However with the meaning of free absolute, as in dressing, hang out, and work instead trap women in negative values in society. Instead of wanting to be free women from oppression instead pushing women to outward direction from nature. Here

Islam directs women in some rules for the sake of take care of the woman herself and maintain their honor, such as by covering the intimate parts, keep company from a mixture of men and women who are not mahram in a quiet place (khalwat), and provide that job appropriate and proportionate women according to their nature for the sake of benefit in society itself. But it's the same thing never stop women from progress in fields of knowledge, social, economics, and politics.

2. Radical Feminism

This trend has emerged since mid-1970s in where this stream offers ideology of "struggle of separatist women". Historically, This flow appears as a reaction over a culture of sexism or domination social based on gender in Western in the 1960s, primarily against violence sexual and pornographic industries. Understanding male oppression towards women is one facts in the current social system. And thus move is named as "radical".

Radical Feminist have a view about state as ruler impartial between interests different groups that derived from the theory of state pluralism. They realized that the country it is dominated by men, which is reflected into nature of interest "masculine", but they are also assume that the state can strongly dominated by interests and racial influence. Understand this more have pressure on the country which is always controlled by men, both in executive, legislative, government and judiciary.

In view Islam puts women on household matters and childcare and more put men in the field of political power is for the sake of preserving the next generation tough in the future. Imagine if then the women all came in the realm of government and them busy with business state administration, who will take care of their household? Who takes care of it. Their children? Look after household and care governance is equally important and the same weight, it is necessary Division of tasks. If it's a man hold the government for the sake of ongoing order society normally then women prepare future leaders in their household.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Islam is a religion that applies feminism, So the assumption that Islam is not a feminist religion is wrong. Islamic values have taught the importance of respecting women and

giving them their rights. Islam teaches well about the values that women need to have, their nature, as well as the rights and obligations that must be fulfilled. In conclusion, Islam is a religion that supports feminism while still prioritizing the nature and rights and obligations of women themselves.

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