READINGS IN SOCIAL AND ISLAMIC ISSUES
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Jamil Farooqui

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THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ISLAM: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Jamil Farooqui*

INTRODUCTION
Women are a vital part of humanity as are their counterparts men. They play, beyond a shadow of a doubt, a determinant role in preserving, continuing and enriching the human race. They are human beings and, as such, have the same physiological traits, abilities and skills with a few exceptions. They have the same rights and privileges to exist and operate in this world as well as to maintain their dignity. They are neither less important nor have inferior status in comparison to men. They are the constituent element of a system which we call family, and without which the system would be dysfunctional. In fact, men and women are the two units of a system and work together to operate the system so as to achieve definite goals. Thus, they are dependent on and complement each other. They are incomplete without each other and cannot survive without each other.

Human beings in the wake of social developments have tasted the significance of power and wealth and found them the best factors to satisfy their material and psychological needs as well as to accomplish their ambitions. They have tried their best to obtain these factors by hook or by crook and, further, used them for the gratification of their needs and the satisfaction of their egos that increased day by day. In this process, they grabbed all the objects and commodities which they considered valuable or helpful for maximum gratification and pleasure.

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