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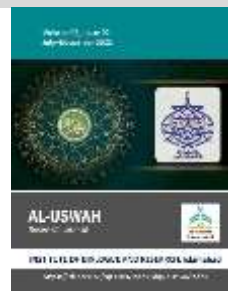
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Research on Women Issues: A Review of Dissertations Submitted At
Institute of Islamic Studies University of The Punjab

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Research on Women Issues: A Review of Dissertations

Submitted at Institute of Islamic Studies

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Abstract

Institute of Islamic Studies University of the Punjab is a pioneer institute in the field of Islamic Studies in Pakistani Universities. It was founded in 1949 to introduce Islamic Studies as a subject at Pakistani Universities. It has the honor of starting Master's and PhD Programs in the field of Islamic Studies. Feeling the importance of research, the Institute encourage its students from the very beginning to write Dissertations. Keeping in view the role and place of Women in society as a major source of progress and prosperity, the institute has address the Women issues from the very beginning years. The article will be written by using descriptive and analytical methodology. Feeling the significance of women's place in society, the institute has addressed the women issues at every level of research. This article deals with the review of few Dissertations about women issues.

Keywords: women issues, Problems, Contribution, Institute of Islamic Studies, Dissertations

Introduction:

Women play a vital role in reformation of society in different ways. The world is a better place to live in with the presence of women. Women in her every role towards society bring love and prosperity in surroundings. Their energy and positivity continuously amaze the environment and inspires her relations to be the best at every level and position. Throughout the history, the women has played a central role in stability, progress and long term development of nations. Women are the primary caretakers of children and elders in every country of the world. International studies demonstrate that when economy and political organization of a society change, women take the lead in helping the family. They are likely to be the prime initiator of

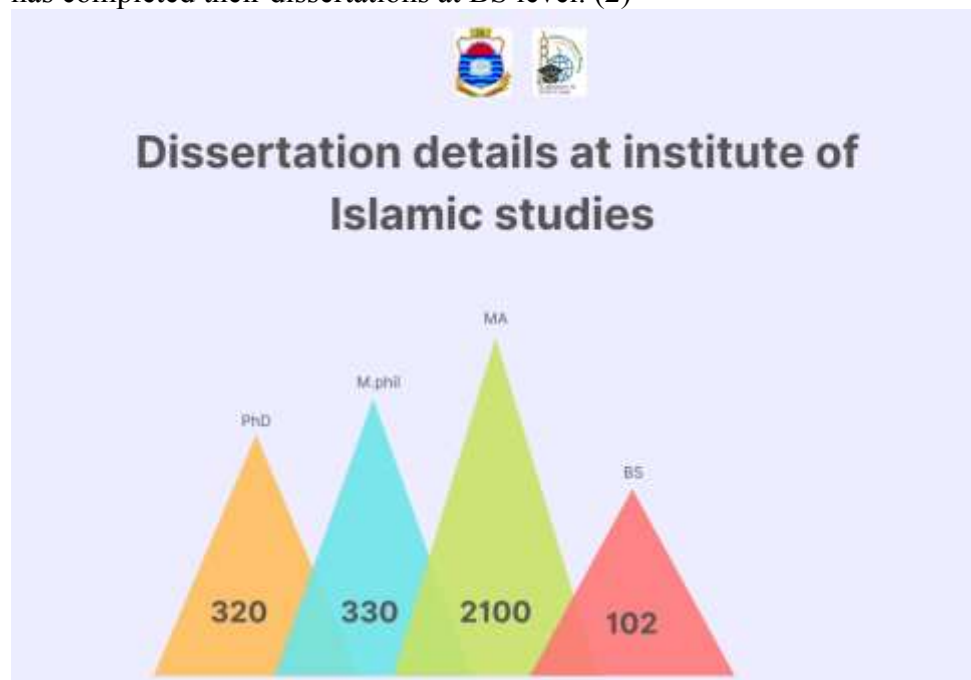
outside assistance and play an important role in facilitating. Today the median female share of the global workforce is 45.4%. Women formed and informed labor can transform a community from a relatively autonomous society to a participant in the national economy. (1)

Significance of the Topic:

Keeping in view the role and central position of women in transformation of society, Institute of Islamic Studies University of the Punjab, that is a pioneer Institute in the field of Islamic Studies in Pakistani Universities, always feel its responsibility towards contemporary women issues. Institute of Islamic Studies has a strong productive history in research especially addressing the contemporary issues. Feeling the importance of women role in society, Institute of Islamic Studies started to address the issues related with them from the very beginning, so that their central and pivotal role in the uplifting and progress of the society could be justified.

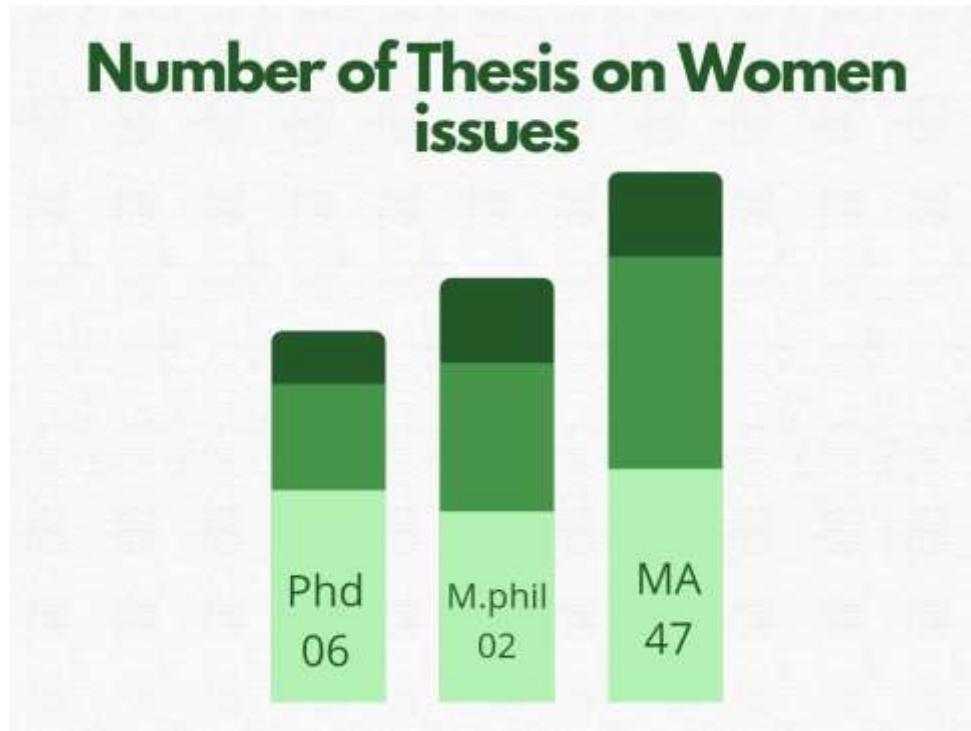
Discussion:

Institute of Islamic Studies has awarded 320 PhD degrees from 1971 to 2022. The number of students who has completed their MPhil from the Institute from 2003 to 2022 is 330. Masters in Islamic Studies start in 1950 and during past 71 years, 2100 dissertations has been submitted from master's students. The Institute started BS program in 2016 and 102 students has completed their dissertations at BS level. (2)

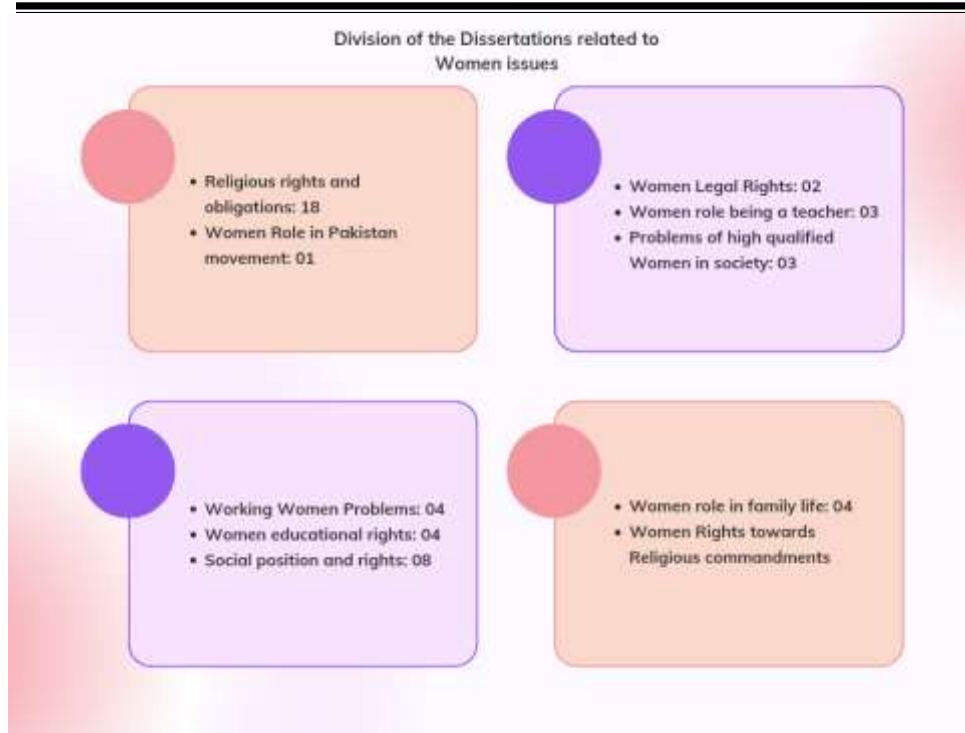


The number of research projects about women issues at PhD level are six in number which discuss the different issues related to women, at

MPhil there are two thesis which discuss the situation of women part in inheritance. Masters level dissertations has many dimensions about the issues related with females like religious, social, economic, legal rights, women obligations being a mother, her status as a Muslim woman, her responsibilities towards religion, family and society as well. The total number of dissertations related to women issues at master's level is 47.



They configure women problems regarding their religious rights and responsibilities. Some research work describes the women role in Pakistan movement. The problems faced by working women, their social rights and position, women educational and legal rights in Pakistani society, the problems faced by highly qualified women in Pakistani culture, women role in family life, their rights towards performing religious commandments and women role as a teacher at different levels are the major topics of the dissertations submitted at the Institute.



As there is a large number of dissertations related women issues, so it is not possible to discuss every dissertation in detail in one article. Therefore, few Selective dissertations from PhD level will be discussed here. As previously described, there are six dissertations of PhD about women issues.

There topics and researchers names are:

- Women role in Islamic Social System by Abida Khawaja,
- Women as a ruler: the commandments of Quran and Sunnah by Ghazala Butt,
- Sub-Continent women Issues and their solutions in the books of Islamic Law by Lubna Rehmat,
- Current family life issues & Islamic perspective by Shahida Perveen,
- Family system in Islam & Challenges by Sameeha Raheel Qazi,
- The Problems of Divorced ladies in Paksitani Society by Syeda Sadia.

Women role in Islamic Social System by Abida Khawaja was submitted for PhD degree in which the researcher has define the different roles played by females in an Islamic society. She has divided her dissertation in four good chapters to prove her hypothesis. She has claimed that women are essential part of any society and culture. Not a nation nor a

country can progress without their dedication and effort towards societal reforms. In Islam women has a prominent place among the society. They are honored being a mother, wife, daughter and sister. In all these different roles they are responsible for the betterment of their family and the society at large. They are the reasons behind the success and comfort of male members. They are shaping the actual face of the social system of every society and culture. They have the authority and courage to shape the ethics of their male relationships so that the social system of the society can be reformed. (3)

Thesis entitled “Women as a Ruler: The commandments of Quran & Sunnah in the current Scenario” was submitted by Ghazala Butt in 2000. The dissertation is divided in six parts in which the scholar has described the historical examples of female rulers. She has justified her topic with the quotations from the basic sources of Islamic Law the Quran & Sunnah. She also discussed the feminist movement of West & its effects on Muslim countries. The scholar has critically reviewed the leadership of women in Pakistan. She has finalized her results that women can lead the society when it is needed. (4)

Another PhD dissertation related women issues is entitled as “Sub-Continent women Issues and their solutions in the books of Islamic Law “by Lubna Rehmat. As we all know that sub-continent is a multi-cultural and multi religious society so the problems here are a bit complicated. Many myths are common which sometimes are considered as religious commandments. Being a multi religious society before partition there are many misconceptions especially related with females in sub-continent. The research scholar has chosen this bold and important topic for her research work. She has briefly addressed the issues of women in the light of Islamic books of law so that women can feel relax and find it easy to follow the religious commandments. The Islamic scholars in all times considered it their responsibility to pen down about female position and problems as well. The researcher has over viewed the selected books for her dissertation to describe the solution of different problems with the guideline of authentic scholars. (5)

The next PhD dissertation related women issues is entitled “Current Marital life Problems & Islamic perspective” by Shahida Perveen. Configuring a family is natural and basic requirement of human beings. In this universe, man considered himself most protective and comfortable at the place to whom he called “Home”, where he lives with his family. The deep emulations of soul need to have a comfortable atmosphere to grow in and if such atmosphere is not found, the humans feel into constant psychological discomforts. This dissertation deals with the problems that humans are facing with their family lives and also suggest the ways to settle

down the things. The researcher has discussed the problems and solutions in seven good chapters. In the start of her research work she introduces the family life, its foundations, structure and psychological requirements. It also overviews the family system of different societies and religions. (6)

She not only introduces the family life but also describes its foundations, structure and psychological requirements. She also overviews the family system of different cultures and societies to understand its importance. The scholar has compared the family laws of Pakistan with other Muslim countries to emphasize the problems in connection. She has discussed the issues of man and woman being husband and wife. It also enlightens the problems of Pakistani and other Muslim societies related to Nikah. The researcher has discussed the issues related to marriage agreement such as forced marriages, cross marriages and other relevant issues which are the basic reason to spoil this pure and beautiful relationship.

She has discussed the problems faced by the women of sub-continent in marital relationship like her position & status in in-laws, her right to have personal belonging, right to spend her income independently, the concept of superiority of husband, religious boundaries to serve husband and his family keeping in view the situation of south Asian societies. The researcher also discussed the problems and their solutions regarding the separation between couples and its effects on families especially on children. In one part the scholar has discussed the right of separation at husband's side which is called divorce, in the next part she has a detailed discussion about wife's right of separation which is called Khulaa. She also gives suggestions for a healthy marital relationship to avoid difficult circumstances. (7)

In all living creatures of the universe, the human is honored to have the blessing of family institute. In this modern era, all the advancement in science and technology is unable to provide the feelings which can touch and soothe the human beings such as the family and relationship does. That's why the family institute is the basic need of human beings for a peaceful life. Unfortunately this soothing institute is staggering because of crucial changes at the horizon of modern world. The dissertation entitled "Family System in Islam and Current Challenges" by Sameeha Rahil Qazi deals with the religious, spiritual, ethical and economic conditions, which are going to be the reason of instability of this noble institution. According to Islamic perspective family is not only a source of spending lives together, setting the issues and solving the problems, but it assigns duties to different human characters, so that they can prepare a selfless society by performing these duties. (8)

In family institute the right of leadership owned the parents, and all other family members are their helpers for the betterment and prosperity of this institution. It is a historical fact that a solid family life is the reason of all

advancement. This dissertation points out the challenges which the world especially Muslim world is going to face in current scenario. According to researcher, the basic purpose of her research is to save and protect the family institute from other cultures invasion. She is doing her best effort to portray the beautiful picture of Islamic family sponsorship system which is invisible from the world, so that its elegance can be unfold in front of so called modern world.

This dissertation has total seven chapters. In starting she has described the definitions and introduction of her topic. She has briefly described the family institute, its introduction, requirements and importance and also penlights the natural need of family as per Islamic perspective, the effects and benefits of family set up. She also described the definition of family institution according to international documentations. She also discussed the current cultural collision and the challenges towards family life. She pen down the dilemma of civilization differences between Islam and West. She also clarifies the religious, cultural, social and economic challenges as a result of this dilemma between both civilizations. The dissertation also reflects the disastrous effects which the family institute is facing because of this dilemma.

In the chapter entitled “The disaster of social and family system and the target of supremacy of western culture and civilization” the researcher described the conspiracies against Islamic family system, planned promotion of secularism, denial and avoidance from the rulings of Allah Almighty and the Holy Prophet PBUH, effort to abolish the invincible family system, havoc of Islamic ethics and traditions and detail planning of supremacy of Western culture especially in the Muslim World. Next she has chosen the topic of general sources of disaster of family system. The research scholar has tried to unveil the procedures which anti Islam powers has defined to break the family institution. She also dares to point out the special sources used to destroy family set up. She gives a brief description of new world order, globalization, the role of NGO’S and their effects on family system. The feminist movements, women issues related international conferences and international agreements, Beijing platform for action and the role of SEEDA is also critically observed as per Islamic perspective.

In this dissertation the scholar has given a brief detail of the international conferences which were attended by her during the completion of her research work. In the end she concludes the topic under the title “current culture challenges and the responsibilities of think tanks and scholars “. According to the scholar it is the most important responsibility of every scholar and policy makers of different countries and societies to address this burning issue. Family life is the basic need of every human

being, if it is destroyed then all the social set up will collapse. It is the need of the hour to consider this issue seriously. (9)

The blessing of Allah Almighty are countless. One of these is the marital life which was the first relationship ever among humans. All other relationships are the outcome of this fundamental relation. The base of marital relationship is love, kindness and companionship. Allah has declared the couple a source of embellishment so that they can understand the delicacy, security and beautification of this relationship. This is the most strong and vulnerable relationship. Unfortunately in present times, this relationship is going to be weak with each passing day. The ratio of divorce cases is highly alarming. In Pakistani society the increase in divorce rate is brutally effecting the females.

Problems of divorced ladies in Pakistan is the title of PhD dissertation submitted by Syeda Sadia. A divorcee who is suffering from the tough phase of her life has to face negative behaviors of society, she has to go through residence and economic problems to survive, to raise the children alone, facing the non-supportive and disrespected behavior of relatives and society. She is treated as a criminal without committing a crime. The separation between couple despite being a solution of problems, open the door of unseen problems. Divorce in Pakistani Society, is not the end of troubles but it effect the couple, children and families terribly. This dissertation deals with the situation which a Pakistani woman has to face after being divorced.(10)

Starting her research work the scholar has describe the importance of family system and the structure of Pakistani family system. She also analysis the social and legal position of women in Pakistani society with the help of different surveys. Keeping in view the increase of divorce ratio in Pakistan, she briefly discussed the reasons of divorce which are also collected through surveys from divorced ladies. Financial problems, husband non supportive and non-cooperative attitude, inference of in-laws are the major reason behind divorce. The scholar has also interviewed the divorced ladies to figure out their problems after divorce. Majority of females accepts that after divorce they are suffering more. She has discussed the Islamic law of divorce in detail. The significance of three times divorce in one sitting, views of different schools of Islamic law about it has been briefly described. In current social scenario the problems of considering three divorce words in one sitting as a complete divorce and scholarly opinion and suggestions has been given to control the increase of divorce rate.

The researcher has taken a look of Pakistani family laws sections related to Nikkah, divorce, Khulaa, Mahar and dowry. She also indicates the inaccuracies in family law and suggest the recommendations of legalization

and reforms in court system so that the problems of divorced ladies can be addressed properly. At the end of her thesis she concluded the discussion to present reformatations to decrease the problems faced by divorcee females and also highlights the difficulties after separation and give extravagances to control the divorce ratio.(11)

Conclusion:

The review of selected dissertations about women issues submitted at Institute of Islamic Studies, University of the Punjab shows the variety of topics, addressing the current issues faced by women at different levels and their solutions. They also describe women role, its importance for societal reforms as well. It is need of the hour to focus on women issues and their solutions for the upbringing of a healthy and prosperous society. The day when we will realize that the formation of a positive world depends on the equality of human being, the world will definitely become a better place to live.

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