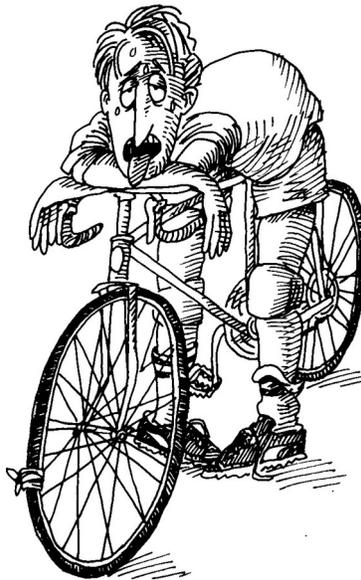


The position of women in contemporary society has changed from the past, and public verbal assent to propositions about the equality of sexes and of sons and daughters seems universal. Women attend schools and universities, serve in the People's Liberation Army, and join the party. Almost all urban women and the majority of rural women work outside the home.

But women remain disadvantaged in many ways, economic and social, and there seems no prospect for substantive change."



"Stay committed."

Vocabulary List: Gender Issues

Chador (chah-DUHR) The woman's shawl (head covering) used by many Middle Eastern women

Comfort women An estimated 200,000 Korean, Philippine, Chinese, Indonesian, Burmese, Dutch and Japanese women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during 1932-1945.

Complementary roles Traditional outlook which sees man as protector, and women enjoying the fruits of this guardianship in the security, protection, and respect given them in the home.

Filial piety Relations guiding children with their parents and past generations. Often elaborate and showing great respect for elders, both living and departed, this tradition is basic to most East Asian peoples.

Fundamentalist positions of Islamic women Advocates who apply strict interpretations of the Qur'an and sharia to women. Many bar women from working outside the home or attending higher educational institutions.

Hadith (hah DEETH) Reports of what Muhammad, or his companions, said and did. Next to the Qur'an, hadith is the most important source of Muslim instruction.

Hijab (HEHZH-yab) The complete head and body covering style of dress employed by many Middle Eastern women

Nongovernment Organization (NGO) Groups active within a country who are allowed by the government, yet not supported by government structures. United Nations groups, humanitarian agencies and mission organizations are examples of NGOs.

Progressive Islamic positions regarding women Muslims who work for full women's legal and religious rights. The "Sisters of Islam" is one such movement within Islam. Members advocate laws against domestic violence and Qur'an interpretations formulated by women theologians.

Sarawi, Huda (hoo-DAH sah-RAH-wee) One of Egypt's first progressive women. In 1923, she threw her veil into the Mediterranean. Eventually, Sarawi founded the Egyptian Feminist Union.

Sati (SUH-tee) Traditional Hindu practice, now outlawed, where widows would burn themselves on their husbands' funeral pyres.

Sharia (sha REE ah) The religious law of Islam. Sharia can vary from state to state and within various Muslim movements.

Taliban (tahl-ee-BAHN) Militant Islamist student youth movement in Afghanistan which currently rules 70 percent of the country.

Traditional Islamic views of the woman's position While spiritually equal, women are barred from leadership positions outside the home. Their sphere of influence, and grounds for respect, stem from the position taken within the home and family.

Woman's economic position within Islam The Qur'an guarantees property, inheritance, and monetary rights to women, whether single or married. In practice, these rights are often percentages less than those given their male counterparts.

Review Quiz: Gender Issues



Part 1--Matching

Place the correct letter in the blank provided.

1. _____ Taliban

women.

2. _____ Hadith

3. _____ Sharia

4. _____ Sarawi, Huda

5. _____ Women's economic
position

6. _____ Chador

Eventually,
Feminist

and

of the

rights to
or married. In
rights are often
than those given
counterparts.

A. The woman's shawl (head covering)
used by many Middle Eastern

B. Reports of what Muhammad, or his
companions, said and did. Next to
the Qur'an, it is the most
important source of Muslim
instruction.

C. One of Egypt's first progressive
women. In 1923, she threw her veil
into the Mediterranean.
she founded the Egyptian
Union.

D. The religious law of Islam. It
can vary from state to state
within various Muslim movements.

E. Militant Islamist student youth
movement in Afghanistan which
currently rules 70 percent
country.

F. The Qur'an guarantees property,
inheritance, and monetary
women, whether single
practice, these
percentages less
their male

Part 2--True or False Place a T or an F in the blank provided.



1. _____ Islamic customs and traditions regarding women are the same throughout the world.
2. _____ Some fundamentalist extremists seek a return to head-to-foot shrouds for women.
3. _____ The Western media often portrays Muslim women as victims of the Islamic resurgence.
4. _____ Many Muslim women feel satisfied with the security, protection, and respect accorded them by the present Islamic social system.
5. _____ Within Islamic circles, the veil can signify the invisibility of a woman within the man's territorial space.
6. _____ Many traditional interpreters of the Qur'an assume male/female psychological, emotional, and physical differences.
7. _____ According to many interpreters of the Qur'an, men and women are on equal footing before God.
8. _____ Within Islam, male leadership in the home means the husband is a dictator over his wife.
9. _____ Some progressive Islamic women advocate education, economic, and legal reforms concerning the position of women within Middle Eastern society.
10. _____ In traditional Confucian thought, women are usually associated with "yang" traits.
11. _____ Taoist practice was so otherworldly it has little impact upon gender issues.

12. _____ In the Buddhist tradition, women are excluded from participation in the Sangha.
13. _____ Establishing schools and colleges for girls/women in China, Korea and Japan is one aspect of long-term Christian influence on gender issues in East Asia.
14. _____ Exploitation, greed and poverty are all aspects of economic reasons prostitution exists.
15. _____ Some women accept employment in the sex trade so they may support their extended families.
16. _____ There are few emotional/psychological risks in engaging the sex trade.
17. _____ U.S. Armed Forces personnel who engage in the East Asian sex trade do little to perpetuate the system.
18. _____ In much of Southeast Asia, Islam is also tied to pre-Islamic, indigenous practice.
19. _____ Traditional hijab dress by Islamic women can be a fashion statement.
20. _____ The historical Buddha seemed unconcerned with the status of women.
-



Part 3--Multiple Choice Place the letter of the most correct response in the blank provided.

1. _____ The Qur'an, in advocating spiritual equality of women, _____ their position in seventh century Middle Eastern society.

Unit 10: Gender Issues

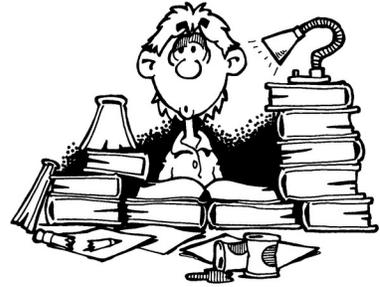
- a. lowered
- b. elevated
- c. maintained

2. _____ An objective of marriage according to the Qur'an is
- a. emotional well-being and spiritual harmony.
 - b. fulfillment for all personal ambitions.
 - c. guaranteed individual satisfaction.
3. _____ Professions open to many Middle East Muslim women are
- a. nursing, education and medicine.
 - b. national political office.
 - c. factory directorates.
4. _____ Within Islam, differences in male/female roles imply
- a. male supremacy.
 - b. female supremacy.
 - c. complementary roles of both sexes in life.
5. _____ What is NOT a reason for the popularity of Hijab amongst Muslim women?
- a. Psychological and physical protection
 - b. A chic form of generational rebellion
 - c. Fashion consciousness
 - d. Egyptian feminist Huda Sarawi advocated its use.
6. _____ Taliban clerics seek to reestablish _____ guidelines in Afghanistan.
- a. progressive Islamic
 - b. medieval Islamic
 - c. equality of sexes
7. _____ For many Muslim women, their greatest influence is within the
- a. school.
 - b. marketplace.
 - c. home.
8. _____ Progressive Muslim women seek
- a. reform in clothing, economic, and education practices.
 - b. a return to rural women's roles.
 - c. to imitate Western feminists.

9. _____ Western media portrayals of Muslim women often overlook
- a. veil wearing and sex segregation.
 - b. male dominance and dependence upon husbands.
 - c. positive, personally fulfilling aspects of women's roles within Islam.
10. _____ Restrictions in Muslim women's roles can offer protection from
- a. stress, indignities, and competitions outside the home.
 - b. personal aspirations to excel in political leadership.
 - c. dominance by overbearing males.
11. _____ Attitudes toward gender equality within Hindu practice could best be described as
- a. feminist.
 - b. ambivalent.
 - c. male sexist.
12. _____ In Confucian practice, what is the traditional standing regarding women?
- a. Equal with men
 - b. Superior to men
 - c. Subservient to men
13. _____ The influence of Confucian teaching stemming from the _____ filial piety resulted in woman's status wherein the woman was
- a. obedient, retiring, silent and fertile.
 - b. aggressive, loud, boisterous and of a warrior spirit.
 - c. associated with dragon goddesses.
14. _____ Some analysts see Christian influence in the Philippines as negatively impacting women because
- a. divorce becomes so easy to obtain.
 - b. of societal impact of the church's opposition to divorce.
 - c. annulments are so inexpensive and easy to obtain that marriage vows become meaningless.

15. _____ What is probably the most significant gender issue affecting deployed U.S. Armed Forces personnel to East Asia?
- a. Equal pay for equal work
 - b. Prostitution
 - c. Filial piety
16. _____ In parts of South Korea and Japan, what factor influences the considerable demand for prostitutes?
- a. Excessive ratio of men to women in the region
 - b. Influence of Buddhist Sangha practice
 - c. Presence of military bases and installations
17. _____ The recent Asian Women's Fund, established by Japan to compensate former comfort women, is a result of
- a. forced sex practice upon women by soldiers during 1932-1945.
 - b. the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 - c. the Fourth World Conference on Women--Beijing, 1995.
18. _____ Filial piety is
- a. Confucian family relations guiding children with parents and older generations.
 - b. spiritual prayers in the Taoist tradition.
 - c. a code of conduct for Samurai warriors.
19. _____ Yin/yang relationships are meant to interact
- a. harmoniously.
 - b. with friction.
 - c. laboriously.
20. _____ What East Asian school of thought emphasizes the virtues of passivity, adaptability and sense of yielding, thought by some traditionalists to express "female" virtues?
- a. Zen Buddhism
 - b. Taoism
 - c. Tantric Buddhism

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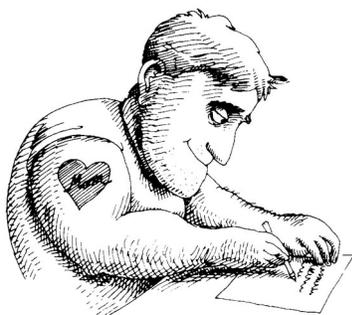
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"When the woman confessed for the fourth time,
Stoning her to death became necessary...
Her guard...
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"Make a difference. The time each of us is 'in charge' is short. By leaving things better than they were, you will be making history..."

(General John A Wickham, Jr.)

