

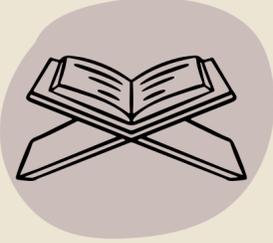
Knowledge & Education in Islam



The Rights of Women

ISLAMIC TEACHINGS

The Holy Qur'an invites all believers to increase their knowledge by teaching the following prayer:



"Oh my Lord, increase me in knowledge."

[Holy Qur'an, 20:115]

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) emphasised that the pursuit of knowledge is obligatory for both men and women:



"Seeking knowledge is incumbent upon every Muslim, male and female."

[Ibn Majah]

The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) has highlighted the importance of attaining knowledge, likening it to an imperishable treasure:



"Knowledge and wisdom are a treasure that is superior to all riches. All material wealth is perishable, however, knowledge and wisdom do not perish."

[Malfuzat, [Urdu] Vol. 7, p. 209]

The education of women is especially significant, as explained by His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper), the current worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:



"It is of even more significance for a girl to be educated because in later life she will then be able to educate and raise her children in the best fashion."

[19 April 2017]

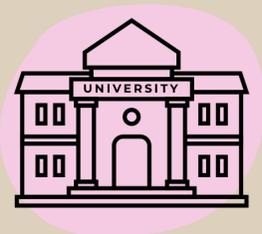
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Islam, from its outset 1,400 years ago, guaranteed the rights of women, including the right to seek education, centuries before similar rights were recognised in the West.

“At a time, when women and girls were discriminated against and often looked down upon, the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed his followers to ensure that girls were educated and respected. Indeed, he said that if a person had three daughters who they educated and guided in the best way they would be sure to enter Paradise.”

His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad,
(may Allah be his Helper) 8 October 2019

DID YOU KNOW?



It was not until **1878** that the University of London became the first university in the UK to award degrees to women and accept them on equal terms as men.



In **1920**, Oxford became the second-to-last university in the UK to allow women to become full members and be awarded degrees. Only in **1948** did the University of Cambridge follow suit.



Real progress in women's rights was not seen in the UK until the enactment of the Sex Discrimination Act in **1975**. This made it illegal to discriminate against women in education or employment.

INSPIRING WOMEN FROM EARLY ISLAM

1

Hazrat Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) was the wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and a renowned scholar who shared her extensive knowledge with both women and men.

2

Rufayda al-Aslamiyyah (7th Century) is considered to be the first nurse in Islamic history. She developed the first mobile medical units and trained other women in healthcare.

3

Fatima Al-Fihri established what is considered to be the first University in the world, the University of Al-Qarawiyyin in Fez Morocco, in 859 CE.

4

Mariam Al-Astrulabi was a 10th-century scientist in Aleppo, Syria, who developed astrolabes which were important tools used for astronomy and timekeeping.

5

Dahma bint Yahya lived in Yemen during the 15th century. She was a scholar who was proficient in multiple sciences, excelling in grammar, logic, astronomy and chemistry.

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

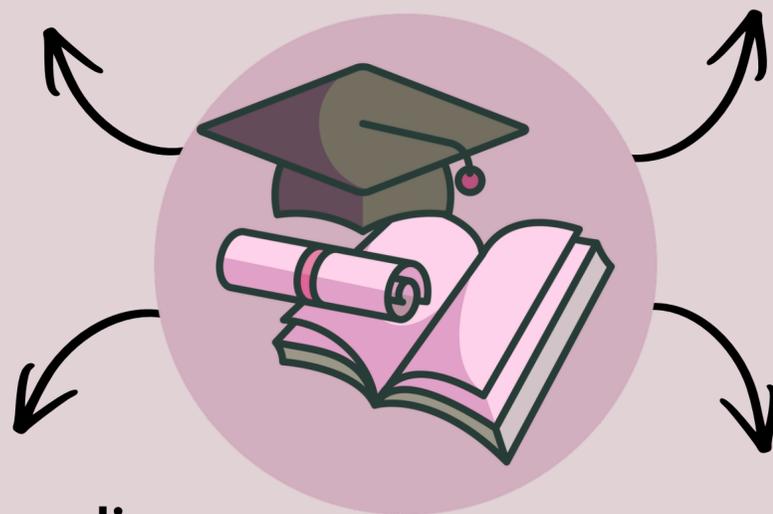
Today, Ahmadi Muslim girls across the world are excelling in education and entering professions through which they can benefit humanity and serve mankind. This is reflected in the high literacy rate of Ahmadi Muslim girls in the developing world which is at least 99%.

“Certainly, throughout its existence, [the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community] has continued to promote and support the education of women and girls and many programmes or schemes have been set up to facilitate this.”

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad
(may Allah be his Helper) 25 February 2017

**The Ahmadiyya Muslim
Womens Students'
Association**

**The International
Association of Ahmadi
Architects and Engineers**



**The Ahmadiyya
Muslim Research
Association**

**The Ahmadiyya
Muslim Lawyers
Association**

**The Ahmadiyya
Muslim Medical
Association**

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was founded in 1889 by the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him). His mission was to revive the peaceful teachings of Islam and engender in people's hearts the love of God and the duty to serve mankind. The community is led by a system of Khilafat (spiritual leadership). His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper) is the community's fifth Khalifa. He leads his global community and inspires it to serve humanity with the spirit of kindness and humility that is integral to Islam.



THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, also known as 'Lajna Ima'illah' is an auxiliary organisation of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. It was established in 1922 by the second successor to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him), Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him) as an empowered women's organisation whose aims include promoting religious and secular education amongst women.



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