Has Public Attitude Changed Toward Women?  

By Hujaltullah Zia

Despite the establishment of democratic system in the post-Taliban Afghanistan, women found it extremely difficult to exercise their rights and freedom. There are many obstacles before women. They are treated as second-class citizens in many parts of the country, especially in the Taliban dominated areas. To view Afghanistan’s history, women’s status has been rather pathetic, behind their brothers. The phenomenon of liberal and fundamentalist mindsets in the past affected the liberty and freedom of women to a great extent.

The historical ups and downs played a crucial role in terms of women’s rights and freedom in Afghanistan. For instance, during the kingdom of Afghanistan Shah, the last decade of Zahir Shah’s regime, Afghanistan women were treated equal to men and they were allowed to take part in social, cultural, and political issues. In this golden time, no cultural and political restrictions could hamper their progress or curtail their social or political role. Within the last decades of Zahir’s kingdom, which is also known as the decade of democracy or decade of Constitution, Afghanistan Constitution was approved and a free parliamentary elections was held. This Constitution was said to be the best one compared to the past. It also played a significant effect in the current Constitution. The constitution forbade any kinds of discrimination against men and women and it also guaranteed all Afghans equal regardless of their race, color, or creed.

After all, women had part in the process of endorsing the constitution. Similarly, in the parliamentary elections, four women were elected as MPs for the first time in the history of Afghanistan and two were appointed in the Senate in the king Zahir Shah. The first female minister of health — who was also a member of the National Assembly — was also appointed during the last decade of Zahir’s kingdom. It is important to note that the women’s status in the time of Mujahideen’s rule, its curriculum was on a large scale. Women were deprived of political or religious rights and they were deemed inferior to men. There were no female minister or MP. They had to stay aside from social or political activities.

Worse of all, it’s women’s and dignity are considered discriminate, which means they are treated as pariahs. The misogynistic view of the Taliban kept women within their homes, and at the end of their life, it also affected their social or political activities. Women in Afghanistan were inferior to men and their human rights and dignity were violated in the worst possible manner. It is extremely important to examine extremely critical views regarding women for two reasons. First, they did not know women’s rights from Islamic perspective. Second, they (male leaders) put their ideas and thoughts to women and targeted female leaders.

The violence against women in Afghanistan has been identified as social evil. There are different social evils that get no proper attention by the members of the society. People view these evils as unimportant. It is really imperative to note that the sustainability of any social evil within the roads to protest and shun such incidents as social evils. They have to protest and stand against them and raise our voice. Unless we respond to these social evils, stand against them and raise our voice, there are possibilities of fighting the evils are negative and they are hindrance for the development of the society. If from the very beginning the society members realize that social evils are negative consequences but at others they just do so because they are totally forced by the powerful and they don’t want to be involved in that.

It is not to deny that the people responsible for controlling the corruption must play a role in controlling the corruption, but the importance of social evils can not be ignored. There are different forms of corruption, which directly affect the roads to protest and shun such incidents as social evils. The control mechanism within society can enforce a law and control a social evil by force to a certain level but if the society members do not support the mechanism it is very difficult to control the situation. For example, the violence against women in Afghanistan has been identified as social evil by the people of the society. But women are not ready to accept it as social evil and they accept it. They completed their tasks through corrupt ways without even feeling guilty. They complete their tasks through corrupt ways without even feeling guilty. They complete their tasks through corrupt ways without even feeling guilty.