



Woman in Culture and Arts

The Social Position of Women in the Alavi Government

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article type:</p> <p>Research Article</p> <p>Article history:</p> <p>Received: 2 August 2023</p> <p>Received in revised form: 23 June 2024</p> <p>Accepted: 29 July 2024</p> <p>Published online: 1 July 2025</p> <p>Keywords:</p> <p><i>Women,</i></p> <p><i>Social Position of Women,</i></p> <p><i>Alavi's Government,</i></p> <p><i>Women's Role in Early Islam.</i></p>	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The social history of women in early Islam experienced significant shifts, particularly from the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through subsequent caliphates. Initially, women's status was elevated by divine revelations that recognized their spiritual and social rights, promoting gender equality. Yet, after the Prophet's passing away, governance shifted to personal opinions and tribal customs, which restricted women's participation in the society.</p> <p>Imam Ali's (PBUH) caliphate aimed to restore the original vision of women's rights, reviving their social, spiritual, and economic roles while resisting earlier regressive trends. This study explores women's position during Imam Ali's (PBUH) governance and the strategies he employed to enhance their social role, which underscores the family dynamics, education, cultural participation, and economic involvement. It highlights the relevance of Imam Ali's (PBUH) model for contemporary Islamic societies, showing how his principles can guide efforts to improve women's rights and status today.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>This research employs a descriptive-analytical approach, utilizing both qualitative and historical procedures to explore the social status of women under Imam Ali's (PBUH) rule. It relies on library-based research, drawing from primary historical texts, religious scriptures, and secondary scholarly sources. These sources provide insights into the policies and practices of Imam Ali's governance with regard to women.</p> <p>Through an in-depth analysis of these texts, the study seeks to answer the following central questions: What was the social status of women in Imam Ali's (PBUH) government? And how did his leadership attempt to revive the ideals of the prophetic model in terms of women's roles and rights? The methodology emphasizes a comparative analysis of the prophetic and Alavi models of governance to comprehend the extent of Imam Ali's efforts in elevating women's social status.</p> <p>In addition to examining historical texts, the research involves an analysis of contemporary interpretations of Imam Ali's policies and their implications for current societal norms regarding women's rights. By incorporating diverse scholarly perspectives, the study seeks to present a comprehensive overview of the complexities surrounding women's roles in early Islamic history and the enduring impact of Imam Ali's leadership on contemporary discussions regarding gender equality in Islam.</p> <p>The findings are structured around key themes that reflect the comprehensive nature of Imam Ali's (PBUH) policies toward women, highlighting both practical measures and long-term societal impact.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>1. Strengthening Women's Role in the Islamic Family: Imam Ali (PBUH) recognized the family as the core of a healthy society and emphasized the vital role of women in nurturing the next generation. He encouraged women to play a significant role in the religious, moral, and educational upbringing of their children, thereby reinforcing the family unit. His governance underscored the importance of shared responsibilities within families, promoting mutual respect between men and women.</p> <p>By advocating for women's involvement in child-rearing and moral education, Imam Ali (PBUH) laid the groundwork for a balanced family dynamic where both genders contributed equally. This approach countered prevailing societal norms that marginalized women's contributions, positioning them instead as essential to the family's spiritual and moral development.</p> <p>2. Combating Violence against Women: The Alavi government actively addressed violence against women by promoting legal and social measures to protect their dignity and safety. Imam Ali (PBUH) condemned all forms of violence, including domestic abuse, and emphasized the need</p>

for fair treatment within both familial and societal contexts. His governance reinforced the principle that women's security was essential for maintaining justice and harmony within the community.

Imam Ali (PBUH) established a legal framework that offered women avenues for seeking justice against abuse, thereby challenging societal norms that tolerated or overlooked violence. His advocacy for women's rights included not only protection from physical harm, but also a broader commitment to ensuring their dignity and respect within society.

3. Support for Women's Art and Poetry: During Imam Ali's (PBUH) government, women's participation in cultural activities, including poetry and art, was both encouraged and respected. The government's support for these activities reflected a broader vision that recognized the value of women's creative contributions. This approach not only fostered cultural diversity, but also empowered women to participate in public discourse beyond traditional domestic roles.

Imam Ali's (PBUH) appreciation for artistic expression was evident in his patronage of female poets and artists, showcasing their talents and contributions to society. By creating an environment that valued cultural participation, Imam Ali (PBUH) helped dismantle barriers that restricted women's engagement in public life, reinforcing the idea that women's voices were vital to the cultural fabric of the community.

4. Promoting Women's Education: Imam Ali (PBUH) strongly advocated for women's education, recognizing it as a fundamental right. He emphasized the importance of both religious and secular knowledge, encouraging women to pursue learning opportunities that would enhance their intellectual and spiritual capacities. His efforts in promoting education aimed to prepare women for active participation in both family life and broader societal affairs.

5. Support for Women's Economic Participation: The Alavi government also supported women's involvement in economic activities, promoting financial independence and participation in trade and business. Imam Ali's (PBUH) policies provided women with the opportunity to contribute to the economic development of the community, challenging traditional norms that restricted their roles to household tasks. His governance emphasized fairness in economic transactions and ensured that women had access to financial resources and opportunities.

Conclusion

Imam Ali (PBUH) recognized that empowering women economically not only benefited individual families, but also empowered the community as a whole. By facilitating women's participation in economic activities, he contributed to the development of a more inclusive and equitable society where both men and women could thrive.

In conclusion, Imam Ali's (PBUH) governance exemplified a model of leadership that sought to restore and elevate the role of women to the esteemed level of the prophetic era. His initiatives in promoting women's family role, combating violence, supporting art and education, encouraging spiritual growth, and fostering economic participation reflect a progressive and equitable approach to women's status in Islamic society.

The Alavi government offers valuable insights into how Islamic principles can be implemented to ensure justice and equality for women. Imam Ali's (PBUH) policies demonstrate that the promotion of women's rights and active participation in society aligns with Islamic teachings, providing a practical framework for contemporary Muslim communities.

The relevance of Imam Ali's (PBUH) model extends beyond historical contexts, offering a blueprint for modern Islamic societies seeking to balance tradition with progress. His efforts serve as a reminder that justice, education, and social participation are compatible with Islamic values as well as essential for achieving social harmony and development.

Through this research, we hope to inspire further scholarly exploration of women's roles in Islamic history, emphasizing the importance of examining past models of governance that championed gender equity. By drawing lessons from Imam Ali's (PBUH) governance, contemporary Islamic societies can navigate challenges related to gender equality and foster a more inclusive future.

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