

## **JINNAH'S CONCEPT OF "AN IDEAL MUSLIM WOMEN"**

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### ***Abstract***

*Quaid-e-Azam is as much role model for women as he is for men. Our leader grateful personality, bravely and love for nation impressed the women and they joined his ranks in thousand a million. Quaid-Azam considered the role of women in development of society as important as that of men. If all the speeches and observations of Quaid-e-Azam are complied together we get a perfect picture of women with an ideal character and qualities. Quaid-e-Azam often spoke about the responsibilities which he envisioned for women. He believed that women's participation in politics and social welfare work was not only benefit but also essential for the well being of the community.*

*Quaid-e-Azam stressed that Muslim women have to play their due role in the spread of Islamic Ideals and Muslim brotherhood by actively taking part in the practical life.*

*He wanted women to get as much educations men but he never wanted all women to work. He wished that women should walk shoulder to shoulder with men but also held that they should interest in their household work and in the social welfare work.*

Our dear leader Quaid-e-Azam a man of resolute will, completely incorruptible, a shrewd politician, and an advocate, prosperous and immaculate, I have referred to him as Quaid-e-Azam or simply Quaid, or my or our leader.

"A Rose called by any other name smells just as sweet" Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah coupled with their monumental scarifies, made Pakistan once a mere dream, as reality. His unbending will and complete faith in the righteousness of his cause, created a nation with life and vision out of an exhausted, disarrayed and frustrated people.

Quaid-e-Azam is as much a role model for women as he is for men. Our leader graceful personality, bravely and love for nation impressed the women folks and they joined his ranks in thousand and millions. In his speech of 10<sup>th</sup> March 1944at Aligarh, Quaid said:

"No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you. In do not mean that we should imitate the evil of the western life. But let us try to raise the status of our women according to our own Islamic ideas and standards"

Quaid-e-Azam considered the role of women in development of society, as important as that of men. His views and opinion about women in an Islamic society are very clear and straightforward. Take for example; when he considered education for men as important, he also considered it compulsory for women. He believed that women's participation in politics and social welfare work was not only beneficial but also essential for the well being of the community.

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During his various addresses to the nation, personal meetings with women and in private gatherings. Quaid-e-Azam often spoke about the responsible which he envisioned for women.

If all the speeches and observations of Quaid-e-Azam are compiled together we get a perfect picture of a woman with ideal character and qualities. We can analyze Quaid's views and observations under the following heads:

## **1. ADHERENCE TO ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES:**

In Quaid's view the first quality that women should have is adherence to the Islamic principles and their principal adoption in their daily lives. He held the principles of Islam as a complete code of life. He believed that it was must for all women and men alike to follow the Islamic teachings and mould their lives according to them. (in his book. Quaid-e-Azam Ain Aivr Khawateen, as well known writer, Dr. Zafar Ali Raja, Says:

Quaid-e-Azam stressed that Muslim women have to play their due role in the spread of Islamic ideals and Muslim brotherhood by actively taking part in the practical life"<sup>1</sup>.

In Quaid-e-Azam views a Muslim woman, besides keeping the spirit of Islam alive in the members of her family, can also provide guidance to the neighborhood.

Quaid-e-Azam himself actively led his life according to the principles of Islam, and also urged others to do the same. His own actions were examples for others to follow.

After the death of his wife Quaid-e-Azam, sent his daughter Viah. Jinnah to her grandmother. Mrs. Denshat, for upbringing. the liberal environment of her grandmother's house change the thinking of Viah, Jinnah, Gradually she moved away from her father's principles. The situation reached a climax when she married a non-Muslim.<sup>2</sup>

Quaid-e-Azam was very worried when he came to know about the situation. First he himself tried to stop her from adopting the wrong path. He advised her to review her thinking and correct her views. After this, he asked Maulana Shaukat. Ali to guide Viah Jinnah and acquaint her with the Islamic teachings. But he too, despite all his efforts, failed to bring about a positive change in her.

"As a last resort Quaid-e-Azam explained to her the problems that could emerge as a result of her marriage to a non-Muslim. He made it clear to her that the marriage would break her relations, with him Quaid-e-Azam and Maulana Shaukat Ali's advice could not change Viah's plan. She married Naval Watt, a mill owner. Quaid, true to his word, broke all contact with her"<sup>3</sup>.

This clearly shows that he could give greatest sacrifice but would not compromise on the Islamic principles.

## **2. SECTARIANISM:**

“Quaid-e-Azam was against sectarianism among Muslims. He especially stressed upon the women not to be influenced by sectarianism. During his address at a women’s college in Delhi he said, “now Muslim redemption lies in their getting united. They should abandon of being Shias, Sunnis or Wahabis”<sup>4</sup>.

Quaid-e-Azam did not just verbally advise people of shun prejudices and abandon sectarianism but also made practical efforts in this jihad. He started the Jihad against sectarianism by getting his sister Rehmat Bai married to a Sunni youth”<sup>5</sup>. He thus set an example to end the evil of sectarianism.

## **3. EDUCATION:**

Women should make all efforts to get education which serve as a tool for progress and development besides helping them in overcoming the inferiority complex that comes due to male domination in the society. Only education can give women the confidence and wisdom that is essential for making them useful members of the society. An illiterate women is not expected to bring up the new generation according to the Islamic teachings and national requirements of the country. For modern and good education Quaid-e-Azam set an example.”He had to face strong resistance of older family members, when he decided to get Fatima admitted in an English Medium school. But young Muhammad Ali Jinnah bravely faced this opposition. Quaid’s relatives themselves tried to convince Fatima Jinnah to refuse to take English education, she refused to go against her brother’s wish. Quaid-e-Azam did not budge from his stand”.

Quaid-e-Azam got Fatima Jinnah admitted in a convent school of Bandara in 1903 and arranged her accommodation in the boarding house. Later in 1906 he got her admitted in Saint Patrick School of Gonandala from where. She did her matriculation. She qualified the Senior Cambridge examination in 1913. She received certificate in dentistry from, Dr. Ahmed Dental College, Calcuta, in 1922.

“About the vital need of education for women Quaid-e-Azam said, Education for girls is as important as for boys. A vehicle has two wheels. If one wheel is not working the vehicle becomes useless because only if both the wheels work, it can run. Therefore, both boys and girls should get educated. The women will fulfill their responsibilities in a better way if they would be educated. An educated women can take better care of her home and children”<sup>6</sup> as well.

### **Begum Saeeda Qazi says about Quaid”:**

“He wanted to get as much education as men but he never wanted all women to work. He wished that women should walk shoulder to shoulder with men but also held that they should interest in their household work and in the social welfare work.

Quaid wanted to see women equipped with modern education so that they may play a role in the progress and development of the country but he did not want all this at the expense of family life. He wanted women to maintain a balance. He

wanted them to pay as much attention to their homes and upbringing of their children .

In an address at a function of Anujman-I-Hamait-I-Islam College, Quaid said, “The girls are getting the right kind of education in this college and have every right to be proud of their success. No nation can make progress if its women are not making progress along with men. You have shown your desire to regain the lost glory of Islam fully support you for this”<sup>7</sup>.

#### **4. RESPONSIBILITY OF UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN:**

A women has great power, which mould the society in u better way. It is a very difficult thing to keep the nation united and to ensure its progress and development. Women can play an important role in this regard. Women are first architect of the young generation’s character. They work as a backbone for the nation. It is necessary that the young generation including the young girls be properly trained and advised so that they may grow up as useful citizens of the country with a positive bent of mind towards progress and development so they can serve Pakistan in a better way.

Quaid-e-Azam in an address on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1944 said. A woman has great power to put the children on the right path. These great assets should not be wasted.”<sup>8</sup>.

In his address to the Muslim League Women wing on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1948, he said, “you have the key to a big success. And that key is the next generation. Bring up your children in such a away that they become citizens who could be pride for the nation”<sup>9</sup>.

#### **5. SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE IN WOMEN:**

Quaid-e-Azam expected women to be filled with spirit of sacrifice for the nation and the country. Muslim women gave many sacrifices in the Pakistan Movement. Paying tributes to women, he said:

“You have given many sacrifices for Pakistan, a country which the whole would has now accepted as a reality. You will have to go one step forward. That day is not far when nations of the world will praise Pakistan”<sup>10</sup>.

In his address to the nation on Radio Pakistan on August 21<sup>th</sup> 1947, Quaid said.

“Now it is he duty of every Muslim, whether man or women to work more and more, make sacrifices and work earnestly” (Hi)<sup>11</sup>.

#### **6. EQUAL RIGHTS:**

Quaid-e-Azam appreciated those women who worked shoulder to shoulder with men and fought for their eights he always wrote back to women who wrote him letter about their struggle for rights. He encouraged them on all occasions. In private meetings he used to say. “It is essential to proved opportunities to women for their betterment and progress”. In his address on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1943, at Jinnah Islamia College for Women, he said:

"If Muslim women cooperate with men in, the same manner as they did at the time of Holy Prophet (PBUH) then very soon we will reach our destination"<sup>12</sup>.

## **7. WOMEN'S ROLE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Quaid-e-Azam was a strong supporter of women's role in national development. In his view, development process comes down to half its pace, if women would not participate in it.

In his address at Dawar Park, Dacca, on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1948, he said, "women have to play an important role in the development of the nation. Women are the architects of building the character of youth, who are the backbone of the country"<sup>13</sup>

While addressing Muslim convention in Delhi on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1946, he said, "it is a good thing that a revolutionary change is taking place in women. This change is of great importance. No Nation in the world can make progress unless the women of that nation move ahead along with men"<sup>14</sup>. Once Quaid-e-Azam while appreciating the work of Khurshid Ara Begum in social welfare, said, "Presently you have a few women for supporters but, I am sure that you will soon have more. You continue your work. I assure you that women will have to play an important role for the uplift of the nation. The women in the Punjab have done well. I have full faith in the abilities and inspiration of women"<sup>15</sup>.

## **8. WOMAN: THE THIRD POWER IN THE WORLD:**

Quaid-e-Azam, while addressing the students of Islamia College for Women (Nawakot) on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1940, said, "There are two powers in the world: One is pen and the other is sword. There is a contest going on between the two for supremacy. I have often made this announcement that there is a third power, which is more powerful than both. This power is woman, which at the time of difficulty the man when to use sword or pen. I do not ask you to follow this west but the men must be made aware, of the fact that woman is his helper, friend and companion. If both men and woman work together, they can build their family, home and the nation"<sup>16</sup>.

Speaking at a Muslim Language meeting at Muslim University, Aligarh, Quaid said. "Another important thing which I want to make clear to you is that no nation can make progress in the true sense unless its women participate in the development and 'construction work along with men. We are habitual of wrong customs and traditions of keeping women confined within the four walls of the house. This is not just cruelty but also a crime against humanity. I do not mean to say that they should adopt western way of life or follow them. We must make efforts to improve the condition of women according to Islamic standards and teachings. There is no reason that women should live in the conditions in which they are being kept. You should take the women along with you in every field of life but away from the bad things of the West. How do you expect an illiterate woman to give a good upbringing to the children"<sup>17</sup>.

## **9. WOMAN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL STRUGGLE:**

Quaid-e-Azam wanted to see women in the front ranks of the political struggle and independence movement. He invited Muslim women of the subcontinent to practically enter the Politics. Quaid paid tributes to women wherever they did good deeds in the freedom struggle, Quaid-e-Azam used to say, "Muslims will never get freedom unless the women practically take part in politics and play their due role in society"<sup>18</sup>. He used to say that "if woman of the house becomes a Muslim League member then every one in the house including children, old people and youth will become Muslim leaguers"<sup>19</sup>.

Begum Gaiti Ara Bashir Ahmed showed the Muslim women of India the very of being active in the Politics. 'Our loving Quaid-e-Azam ordered us to become soldiers in the freedom struggle. And should devote our whole time for the creation of Pakistan. Within a short span of time Muslim League and Quaid-e-Azam became popular in every home due to the efforts of women"<sup>20</sup>.

While addressing a group of girls students Quaid-e-Azam said, "The task before you, is big, and you should no remain behind at this moment of your life. Come and work side by side. Remain engaged in the freedom struggle along with us till we are successful. We have constituted an all-India Muslim women control committee in Patan. During the fifteen months I witnessed the work of women, their problems and the hindrances that come in their work, but still they have made a log of progress. You young girls are luckier than your mothers because you are going to be liberated"<sup>21</sup>.

Quaid-e-Azam, while addressing a Muslim women meeting at Town hall ground, in Lahore on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1947, said, "I am thankful to you. It appears from your speeches that you understand and I do not need to say anything, of pray to God and assure you that you will be successful *Inshallah*".

Thus Quaid-e-Azam, in every possible-way, organized and used the force of women for the freedom struggle and hundreds of thousands of women made every sacrifice for the creation of Pakistan.

## **DISCUSSION IN BRIEF:**

Quaid-e-Azam considered women as important for the development of the country as men. In this article, Quaid's thinking and vision

1. About women has been presented. In Quaid's view it is important and essential that a Muslim woman should practically work for spreading the Islamic ideas and Islamic brotherhood.
2. His opinion and thinking about the role of women in the development of the country was clear and straight forward.
3. An educated woman can look after her family in a better way besides she can also take an active role in the national development.

4. Quaid-e-Azam paid tributes to women when they showed extraordinary results in the Pakistan Movement. He gave women as much importance as he gave to men.
5. In Quaid's view, women are the third greatest power in the world after pen and sword. Quaid-e-Azam considered women's participation in politics very important. He made many efforts to bring Muslim women to the platform of Muslim League. His efforts bore fruit and women made valuable contribution in the struggle for Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam is as much a role model for women as he is for men. Our leader's graceful personality, bravery and love for nation impressed the women folk and they joined the Muslim League in thousands and millions.
6. Muslim women have worked parallel to men in many different political movements. Instead of going far, look at the Tehrik-e-Pakistan for an example, where while men put in all their abilities to make the movement a success, the women worked to awaken the political awareness among Muslim women.
7. The conviction of the slogan '*lay key rahin gay Pakistan*' was spread all over the subcontinent and taken to every home by these women. Amongst these renowned & educated women are Begum Shahnawaz, Mrs. Zubaida Lateef, Lady Jamal Khan, Lady Abdul Qadir, Ms Fatima Jinnah, Begum Nawab Sadiq Ali Khan, Begum Shahab-ud-Din and Begum Haroon"<sup>22</sup>.
8. Muhtarma Fatima Jinnah was Quaid-e-Azam's younger sister. She was two years younger than Quaid-e-Azam. He was a very loving and caring brother to Fatima Jinnah and played a great role in her upbringing. It was Quaid-e-Azam who got Fatima Jinnah admitted in the Dental College. Fatima Jinnah was a Dental Surgeon but played a great role in the making of Pakistan, to the extent that she even closed down her Dental Clinic and dedicated her life along with Quaid-e-Azam to get Pakistan. Whatever Quaid-e-Azam felt was best for other women, he felt was best for Fatima Jinnah too. Quaid-e-Azam was a true muslim. His wife Ratan was true lover of Islam. She embraced Islam & helped Quaid's in every walk of life.

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