



Submitted to :

Dr. Samia Huq

Submitted by :

Name : Nowshin Sumaiya

Id: 21301276

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Answer to the question no: 01

In order to completely eradicate all types of discrimination against women that have grown entrenched in the nation's laws, constitution, policies, and institutions, the Women's Affairs Reforms Commission recently proposed numerous proposals for comprehensive reforms(Jahan, 2025). According to Shirin Parveen Haque, the head of the Women's Affairs Reforms Commission, they will work to eradicate all forms of unequal treatment towards women in the constitution, laws, and government projects (Akhter,2025). Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has received a report from the 10-member commission that had 433 recommendations.



Fig: Women's Affairs Reforms Commission

Additionally, according to Jamuna TV, some important proposals are:

- Increase the total number of parliamentary seats set out for women to 600.
- Women and men ought to have equal rights to receive inherited property.
- Acknowledge sex workers and domestic helpers as officially recognized employees.
- Expand the participation of women in the media.
- Creation of a free and independent Women's Commission.
- Make 18 the legal age of marriage for girls.
- The rights of men and women should be equal.
- Make an optional civil law that is completely different for people who do not wish to live a religiously based lifestyle.

On the other hand, Hefazat-e-Islam called for the Women's Affairs Reform Commission to be disbanded and its report to be withdrawn, proclaiming that it was "anti-Quran." (The Daily Star, 2025). According to Maulana Mamunul Haque(Ameer, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis), Women cannot survive if they are merely granted equal rights. They won't be able to compete with males and achieve social equality (Jamuna TV, 2025). According to the Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, “The Women's Affairs Reforms Commission's suggestions have been brought forward in an attempt to destroy civilization. This commission is not accepted ” (Jamuna TV, 2025). People who are protesting against the Women's Affairs Reforms Commission proposals, focusing solely on a few issues, such as establishing a unified family code, ensuring equal ownership of fathers' property, and amending labor laws that protect the rights and dignity of sex workers. They are attempting to completely reject each and every suggestion based on these few factors.

The conflict is presented as a collision of civilizations, involving Muslim culture versus the Western imposition. I don't entirely agree with this perspective. I've seen a few initiatives that will truly benefit our country's women. These are not connected to any impositions from the West.

In reality, not every Muslim holds the same opinions, and not every Western concept is opposed to Islam. Religious citizens shouldn't be restricted from engaging in their freedom of expression or taking part in the process of democratic will-formation (Habermas, 2006). Moreover, in Muslim nations, a large number of people support women's rights, but they want them to be offered in a way that acknowledges their customs and faith. Additionally, it seems that there is a disagreement occurring inside Muslim societies between those who support tradition and those who want change, so this is not only a conflict among Islam and the West. We can think about Malala Yousafzai, a Muslim girl who encourages women's education. She uses both Islamic teachings (such as the right to pursue education) and Western values (such as equality) while addressing women's rights. Again, the concept of a clash of civilizations must be avoided since it ignores the differences among the cultures (Habermas, 2004). Moreover, according to Wendy Brown, we shouldn't believe in this "clash of civilizations" concept. It hides the truth behind it. Power is perhaps the most significant issue, not culture (Brown, 2008). By employing slogans such as "Muslim vs. Western," many people avoid critical problems like poverty, injustice, and unfair treatment of women.

Half of our population is women. Without the contributions of women, the country will never move forward. So, all women deserve equal rights. Women's rights are not solely a Western idea, they are actually an individual concern. Rather than portraying women's rights as a clash of civilizations, we should take steps to give them proper rights and help women to achieve their goals.

Answer to the question no: 02

When discussing women's rights in recent situations, particularly the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami community, most often attempts to characterize it as part of a "clash of civilizations." This may indicate that some people in our country believe there is a conflict between Western, liberal values and Muslim's cultural traditions. This will ultimately result in conflict and division among ourselves. Rather than portraying it as a clash, we need to examine the values and the ways in which tolerance may promote mutually beneficial relationships among people of different backgrounds and perspectives.

Apart from the clash of civilizations, we are now going to analyze the values that are currently being debated regarding women's rights. First of all, Equal opportunity versus Tradition. Some believe that women deserve to be allowed completely equal treatment in the law, society, and politics. Others think that women should continue carrying out typical traditions or religious roles. Certain people think that women ought to perform traditional duties, which include being a good mother and wife and mainly working in the home. Again, Comparing Secular and Religious Law. Secular law stands for state-made policy that is not influenced by religion. Whatever their religion, every citizen is bound to follow these policies. In a few countries, religious rules, faith-based rules that may assign different responsibilities to men and women. Moreover, if we talk about, Freedom of choice vs. Cultural Constraints. The values of a culture or religion may clash with the freedoms of women in making choices regarding their education, attire, marriage, and profession.

Furthermore, as long as people respect one another, Habermas' concept of a "sphere of tolerance" supports the presence of different points of view in a community. On the other hand, the strong opposition to the Women's Affairs Reform Commission's recommendations in Bangladesh indicates that the "sphere of tolerance" is under pressure. But other nations have handled similar debates with greater success. Instead of criticizing others, Habermas shows us that there can be a space of tolerance where both sides communicate and work to understand one another (Habermas, 2004). It is my opinion that there is currently a thin line of

tolerance in some locations of the world where people are gradually learning to communicate and listen.

Answer to the question no: 03

According to Jurgen Habermas, if we create a common sphere, various cultures and religions may live together in a society that is democratic.

The state and society can establish a common sphere that is both safe and tolerant by doing:

- Educate every individual, both boys and girls.
- Promote women's liberty and safety.
- Create fair and transparent laws to defend women's rights.
- Instead of arguing, let individuals with different perspectives speak in peace.
- Encourage open discussion in schools and the press.
- Appreciate both religious and secular viewpoints.

Values that need to be included in that sphere:

- Equality.
- Absence of Domination.
- Freedom of speech.
- Mutual respect.
- Respect for all religions.
- Justice.
- Peaceful disagreement.

Now, if we talk about the ideal form of tolerance look like within society. According to Habermas, tolerance is an active participation instead of a passive acceptance. Being tolerant is allowing someone to live their life peacefully despite the fact that we disagree with them. In Wendy Brown's essay "Tolerance as/in Civilizational Discourse," Wendy Brown thoughtfully reviews the ways in which Western liberal cultures utilize the idea of tolerance. She believes that tolerance serves as a tool for upholding power structures and justifies the dominance of the West over non-Western cultures, rather than being solely a good characteristic (Brown, 2008). According to Habermas, religious justifications for public policy must be converted into secular terms so that everyone can easily understand and agree with them (Habermas, 2006). Bangladesh needs fair policies, open discussion, respect for all human beings, ensuring proper and equal rights to women, etc. Then we will be able to create a "sphere of tolerance". Opinions can differ. But instead of causing controversies, identifying solutions that honor different points of view.

Answer to the question no: 04

In my viewpoint, true tolerance can be seen when people of various faiths can live together in the same nation and still show respect for one another. Some people mix religion with everything to create problems. Religion does not conflict with women's rights. In the past, Islam granted women several privileges, including the ability to work, freedom of speech, have assets of their own, along with an education. This is totally wrong if People believe that a woman is being "Western" if she wants independence or security. We need to provide an atmosphere of comfort where everyone's opinions are valued and nobody is hurt. Peaceful

coexistence, fairness, and respect need to be the main objectives. As an example, let's consider wearing a hijab. While some women wear this as a religious symbol, others do not. A society that is tolerant ought to permit both. Women should not be prohibited from wearing it or forced to do so by the state.

Some of the proposals given by the Women's Affairs Reforms Commission are truly remarkable in favor of women. Personally, I liked some points. For example, equal treatment of women, educating women, expanding the participation of women in the media, making 18 the legal age of marriage for girls, providing talented teenagers in villages with opportunities for developing their skills, implementing a six-month maternity leave, bringing more women into journalism, etc. According to Shirin Parveen Haque, the head of the women's affairs reform commission, there will be several recommendations for the next government and some proposals for the interim government(Akhter,2025). Because of the anti-discrimination movement, the Women's Affairs Reform Commission was formed. Hence, initiatives will be made to completely eliminate all types of unequal treatment that women face at every moment of their lives (Akhter,2025).

But now, if I talk about controversies. I know some suggestions given by the Women's Affairs Reforms Commission are not acceptable to some people in our country. According to Sheikh Ahmadullah(Islamic scholar), all religions disapprove of and disallow acknowledging sex workers. Therefore, it would be more beneficial for society to take steps to rehabilitate them rather than just acknowledging them (Channel 24,2025). Again, according to the rules of Islam, a son receives twice as much as a daughter when it comes to father's property. As this rule follows from the past, changing this rule is not acceptable to all people. Again, although there are several Islamic women's organizations, nobody was included on this commission. A lot of people have questioned this. That's a valid point, in my opinion. Perhaps there wouldn't have been as many controversies if an individual from an Islamic women's organization had been involved.

It is impossible for a country to move forward if half of its citizens are not given their rights. We can see, almost all of the workers in our garment companies, which is the backbone of the economy of our nation, are women. The economy will benefit significantly if female workers active participation in all sectors. Again, Important political movements, like as the student-led mass uprising in July and August, have benefited extremely from the contributions of women. Since every human being has the right to equal treatment, nondiscrimination, and security from physical and mental abuse, these rights cannot be questioned (The Daily Star, 2025). So, instead of focusing on a few controversial points, we should focus on the valuable suggestions given by the Women's Affairs Reforms Commission. We should respect others' opinions and try to find a way that will erase those controversies.

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