

Avoided Women Rights in Afghanistan

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Introduction:

Living in America is a great blessing for all women. Growing up in such a place makes it hard for most women to understand that it is not that way in every country. While looking into the lives of Afghan women you see unfortunate events taking place every day. Afghan women are described as being prisoners in their own homes by the Women's International Network News in 2002. They also said, "Although the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan ended 18 months ago, women in the country are still faced with a huge number of restrictions in their everyday life." These women do not realize that they are worth more than they can imagine to their country. One of my teachers once told me that if you change the mind of women, you change the next generation. Afghan women must deal with these treatments daily because that is how they have learned to live. If there was anything they could do to fix it, it would require education, discovering self worth, and also working to uplift their country. If the women were to do this they would have the capability to teach the next generation, strengthen their country, and retain respect for themselves as women.

Part I: Education

In the in American past time, women were known for staying at home to rear up children and keep the house in order. Through some revolution, women are now just as equal as men and we have the exact

same rights as men. In many mountain regions, this is not how it is for women. They have to deal with the assumption of being useless. They are thought as creatures only necessary for the process of reproduction. Owning this title has put them in a situation of being misused and they lack the education necessary for them to succeed. "Schools for women and girls have closed their doors, with the exception of Qur'anic training for girls under eight, leaving the female population hopeless about their future." (Women's International Network News, 1999) This leaves the women with a small amount of skill to teach their own children. To make things harder, many women rarely get the support needed from their husbands. This leaves the women having to struggle to keep a roof over their children's heads, to keep their children fed, and to keep them clothed as well. If women do not have these necessities, they are forced to sit and watch their children suffer. "Women cannot obtain health care from many facilities and cannot be examined by a male doctor without a chaperone; yet female doctors and nurses are severely restricted from practicing, and many have fled the country." (Women's International Network News, 1999) Life would become simpler for these women if they were allowed to walk into a school as we are today. For now it seems the only way possible for the women to keep from desperate need for necessities is if they have either a good husband that treats them well or have an education themselves. This proves the importance of receiving an education. If Afghan women had the opportunity to go to school many of these problems would be solved. By allowing and encouraging Afghan women to go to school, they would be affecting their next generation and how the country would function. Without a doubt, things would work out for a better place. Evidence is in our very faces. As America started as a country, when we were all given the privilege to go out and get an education, America became a top nation, all we needed to continue that was a good leader to help keep us on that track. Although some women may not want to receive an education because they don't want to change their recent culture, the least we can do is provide them with some source of schooling. By doing that we would be affecting Afghanistan with the possibilities they would have. Forcing them is not an option, but allowing them is.

If they have the deep desire to learn and to create a better generation they would grasp this opportunity and never let go. They would realize how much an education was needed and possibly set a good example to many other countries. Together we could change the worst situations into an absolute dream. Afghan women would have to do their part though in order for all this to take place.

Part II: Characteristics

As a teenager, you learn that in order to find your talents and discover the person you are and you must put yourself into the world and do some experimenting. Growing up, we go through many different phases and experience personalities, testing whether they are right for us or not. Once we find our character, it is our very own job to accept who we have become. This is an extremely difficult process but it is necessary in order for you to choose what is best for yourself and it will strongly affect the person you become. As important as this process is, Afghan women do not have this opportunity. They are forced to hide themselves from public in order to accomplish the ideal women and wife. Afghan women are not allowed to show their faces and there must be no skin showing whatsoever. In America, we often use our appearance to express ourselves and the person we are. Acting otherwise can be often taken that you do not respect yourself and the person you have become. They take it as a sign of respect when they hide their faces but I find it somewhat insulting. It is as if they are saying that their faces are not important enough to be known by the world. It shows that women are silent and have no need to show expression with what they find important. It is as if they are seen as an invisible, silent, being. Discovering the person you are is also a scary thing to go through. Many women, being raised the way they were, may find it impossible and even unnecessary. Some Afghan women may see their appearance the way it is expected to be, but it is not who that women really is. Also it is important to understand that we cannot just barge in and suddenly change their culture and the way they use

their appearance. The climate they live in is different than ours and their dress is to keep them comfortable and safe with that climate. It is important to remember that we cannot make up the minds of these Afghan women, we must respect their wishes. There is room for improvement though. One way we can change this is by introducing new ways of dressing which shows respect for those women. We can also make sure that what they are dressing in is appropriate and we must make sure we do not take any drastic changes.

Part III: Improvement that comes with work

Here in America, women work to support their families just like men do. We have the opportunity to choose our career choice because for women, they are nearly unlimited. Here we have every right to make up our own minds and make our own decisions on what is best for us. No matter what that career choice is; American women affect the country in some way. They may be hard to see just at that time but when you follow the chain, every job is needed in some way to progress our nation. In Afghanistan, things do not work that way. Afghan women are not allowed to have a job and earn a salary. "Women who once contributed to the support of their families have become destitute, and must beg because they are forbidden from working." (Women's International Network News, 1999) This makes things extremely difficult for women to support their families and provide them with the things that they need. Many Afghan women have husbands that do not even support their families, but the women have no choice but to sit back and watch things in the home fall apart. Afghanistan women are expected to follow their husband which may put them in a bad environment. With this situation the women will suffer. They will stay into the dark background and watch as the men treat them disrespectfully as they run off and make mistakes, not caring about what their family needs. Asking Afghan women to suddenly start to work for their own country is a large request. Putting so much pressure on them would only cause a massacre and many other problems to their country, problems that are strongly not needed. There is a strong

possibility that we could encourage Afghanistan to take small steps toward giving women this opportunity. If Afghan women did start to work, they could affect their country with economic growth and also population growth because when the families are receiving more income, they are most likely to receive the needed objects in a home in order for children to live and grow to be strong. Their country could make better choices and start to do well in a lot of other things. In order to change something you have to be willing to take a risk, otherwise you will stay in the same gutter. You don't see history change by somebody getting together to make a difference and then sit down and hope for somebody else to take the job. You need to change something but following through and believing in your heart and the choices you make.

Conclusion:

All it takes is to change women's minds and you change their future. Especially when women are going through these kinds of situations, it would not be hard to change a girl's mind. When you go to school and receive an education, find your character and respect it, and also work to make your country a better place for the next generations, you will create a better country. We all want this world to be a better place and one way we can do that is by making choices that will benefit a person for a lifetime. Many lives will be affected with the choices made in your very own life, so it is your own responsibility to make them good choices. I respect the Afghan women and we can do something for them so they do not suffer all their lives. They deserve so much more than that. All women do. We can make a difference by stepping forward, holding our ground, and not taking no for an answer. You must follow your heart.

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