

Assertion of Wearing Hijab in the Community: an Analysis

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Abstract

Hijab is worn by women who are Muslim, as a symbol of modesty and privacy. It reflects one's intrinsic devotion to God. Wearing hijab as a means of a visibly expressing the Muslim identity. The purpose of this study is to examine and clarify the meaning of hijab and the assertion of wearing hijab in the Muslim community of the world. In this analysis, the role of society influenced women to wearing hijab as well as their awareness on modern culture. A quantitative analysis has been conducted over hundred women who are wearing hijab in the country of Bangladesh. In this study tried to analyze the thoughts of individual participants and their statements.

Keywords: Hijab; Muslim women; Modesty; Market demand; Hijab fashion.

1. Introduction

Hijab is the identity and worn by Muslim women as a symbol of modesty and privacy. Wearing hijab can be also considered as a means of a visibly expressing the Muslim identity [1]. It is an Arabic word meaning is "covering" [2]. Muslim women's, who are covering their head and neck that is called hijab [3, 4, 5]. Hijab is referred by various names, mostly common of which is a veil or a headscarf.

Hijab means headscarf (mostly square or rectangular fabric) worn by Muslim women, that cover the head and neck, but leaves the face.

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Hijab is used to refer to the seclusion of women in some Islamic society or it may denote a metaphysical dimension, customarily practiced in order to maintain standards of modesty [6, 7]. Muslim women perceive the hijab in a variety of ways and associate it and diverse the meaning that range from covering of the head to the modest behavior [8]. The term hijab has various meanings in the various dictionaries and in the Qur'an. According to Lane (1984), the meanings of the word hijab are: a thing that prevents, hinders, debar, or precludes; a thing that veils, conceals, hides, covers, or protects, because it prevents seeing, or beholding [8]. In the Qur'an, the concept of hijab has double meaning that is: not only something has that protected, but also something that can hinder. Wearing hijab is a personal choice of every woman. They choose to wear hijab or other coverings for a variety of reasons. Some believe that God has instructed women to wear it as a means of fulfilling his commandment for modesty. It reflects one's personal devotion to God. Wearing hijab as a means of a visibly expressing the Muslim identity [1]. In many cases, wearing of hijab is also used to challenge Western feminist discourses which present hijab-wearing women as oppressed or silenced.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Concept of hijab

The hijab are illuminate in a variety of ways. Some group says that Muslim women or girls must cover everything but her face and hands, and other group says that it is hard to cover everything but the eyes [9]. In some societies where women are not required by law to wear a veil, some Islamic group have mobilized the Hijab to represent a traditional sense of Islamic identity [10]. The true meaning of hijab is covering the private parts and adornments in order to maintain modesty in all respects of life.

2.2 Al-Quran says about hijab

In Islam, the source of power is Allah, or God, and all the creation obeys his laws. The Islamic system of life is called Shariah [11]. There are two primary sources of normative ethics in Shariah. The first and most important source is the Quran. Muslims accept the Quran as the verbatim word of Allah, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (P). The second primary source is called Sunnah or Hadith, which means the words, actions, and approvals of the Prophet Muhammad (P). Both primary sources offer broad principles and guidelines for conducting Islamic life [12]. The Qur'anic verses that are traditionally cited to describe women's dress code are as follows:

- a. And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty... And that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden ornaments (Al-Quran 24: 30-31) [13].
- b. O Prophet! Tell thy wives and daughters, and the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments over their persons (when abroad): this is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not molested. And God is oft forgiving, most merciful (Al-Quran 33: 58-59) [13].

2.3 Law and Religion of Bangladesh

The main religion of Bangladesh is Islam because of 90.4% is Muslim [14, 15]. But also is a secular country as per constitution [16]. A survey in late 2003 confirmed that religion is the first choice by a citizen for self-identification Bangladesh only recognizes Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism [17]. Overwhelming majority of Muslims in Bangladesh but there are no laws that require women to cover their heads. The ghumta, commonly worn by elderly women in rural and urban areas, is a loose hair-covering using the achal of the saree [18]. Because of the constitution of Bangladesh there is no law of wearing hijab that's why women of this country are not bound to wear hijab. But a good number of women doing their hijab by following Islam and choose their life in way of Islam.

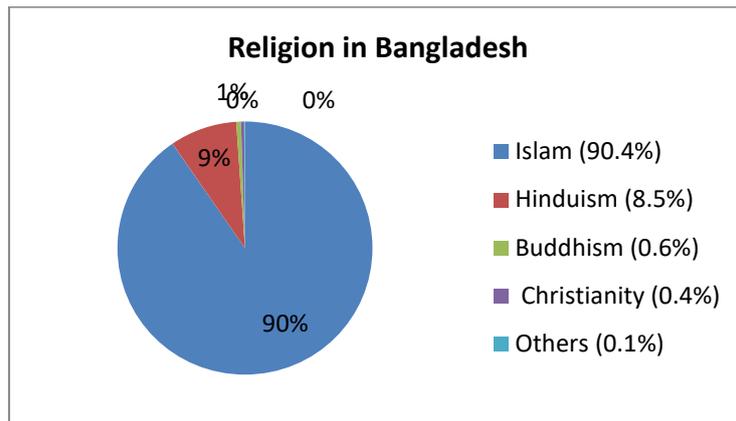


Figure 1: Religion in Bangladesh

2.4 Modern perception and Progressive market demand

The traditional and modern culture of the Islamic hijab is not only creating an attitude of modesty but also attract as little attention to oneself as possible. Fashion is a form of self-expression, which is experimenting with looks, and attracting attention to one's personal style. Despite the seeming contradiction with the spirit of hijab, a growing number of Muslim women are blending the two [19].

This recent interest in Muslim fashion also signals the changing dynamics of the ever-increasing interaction among Eastern and Western cultures [20]. The global Muslim population comprises one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world, hence representing a major growth opportunity for businesses around the globe, including in the fashion sector [20]. Muslim women should dress in a polished and dignified manner. Hijab has its regional and social characteristics.

By analyzing the world Muslim women and targeting this market and providing consumers with modest or Islamic outfits could bring significant benefits to the fashion industries. Islamic dressing is a style of its own, and today it is beginning to attract more and more attention, as mainstream trends become increasingly bold and provocative [20]. Growing of Muslim fashion interest also signals the changing dynamics of the ever-increasing interaction among Eastern and Western cultures.

2.5 Methodology

2.5.1 Subject to study

Research subject of this study are women aged start to (20- 25) years old and (26-30 plus) years old which specifically towards students and working women, who are wearing hijab. The questionnaires were distributed in working women of different sectors and private university students in the city of Dhaka.

2.5.2 Research instrument

This research instrument was questionnaires. This questionnaire is a drive-structured which is straight to the point-oriented method and own statement that is well suited for describing the whole objective of this research. This survey questionnaire was a multiple choice type and there was a statement also.

The goal of these questionnaires is to conclude the motive behind the wearing hijab and also the assertion of wearing hijab.

2.5.3 Data collection

After the survey questionnaires, collect the data and analyzed it. The format of the questionnaires remains structured where the questionnaires is generally designed. Each answered form was calculated according to the objectives of the research.

2.5.4 Data analysis

This research, questionnaires were distributed to a number of women wearing hijab in a private university students and different sectors of working women in the city of Dhaka which they answered a set of questionnaire protocol that have been prepared by the researcher.

Each respondent answered the same structured set of questions and then calculated the answer and compared the differences in answer and made pie chart.

3. Results

In this questionnaire survey, the outcomes are given: 67.7% respondents aged (20-25) and 29% respondents aged (26- 30 plus); 54.8% respondents are student, 35.5% respondents are working women and 9.6% are housewife; 48.4% respondents are unmarried and 41.9% are married.

3.1 Reason behind to wearing hijab

According to the questionnaire survey analysis the pie chart developed. The result says that, 80.6% of respondents answered that they are wearing hijab for their own choice, 16.1% said, they follow their family decisions and 3.2% said, they wearing hijab for the social reason.

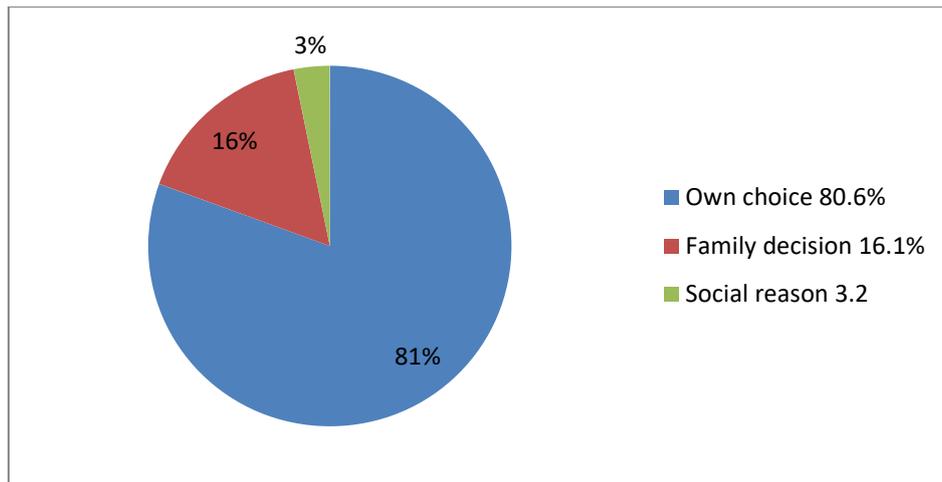


Figure 2: The reason behind wearing hijab.

3.2 Women are start to wear hijab

According to the analysis the pie chart shows that, 81% respondents wearing hijab before marriage and 19% respondents wearing hijab after marriage. And the difference is very high.

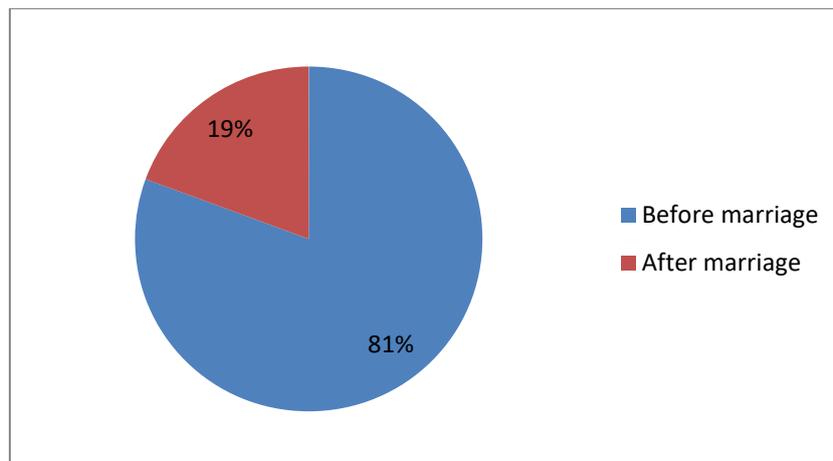


Figure 3: Start to wear hijab

3.3 Thoughts behind wearing hijab

In this survey, there are found the individuals thoughts behind wearing hijab .These are below:

- 100% respondents said that, Hijab gives freedom and respect.
- 90.3% respondents said that, Hijab is important for the society.
- 74.2% respondents said that, Hijab needs to mandatory for every women.

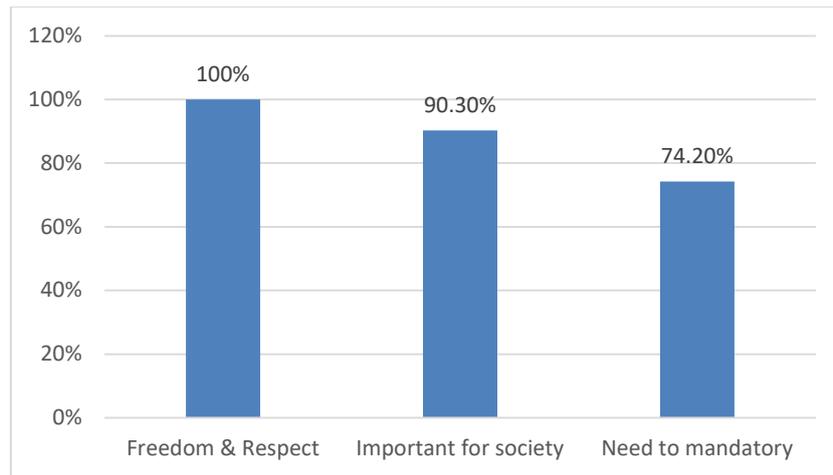


Figure 4: Thoughts for individuals.

3.4 During this survey, some other issue also comes behind wearing the hijab.

- 74.19% respondents agreed that hijab is going to be part of fashion.
- 19.35% respondents agreed that they wear hijab because it's a new style.
- 25.8% respondents agreed that they are wearing hijab because caring their hair not any kind of Islamic mind.

4. Constraints of the Study

In this article, the main focus point was primary data collection and survey based on who are wearing hijab. Regarding this data collection there have found some constraints to found women who are wear hijab. Because of the constitution in Bangladesh, there have no rules to wearing hijab of the Muslim women.

5. Discussions

A Muslim woman wears hijab because of she is obeying and submitting to Allah. As long as if any one wearing only the modest clothes without covering her head nobody has to notice that she is a Muslim. But once she wear hijab, using headscarf then everyone noticed that she is a Muslim. So, Belonging and identification of Muslim, wearing hijab is one of the ways to express. The concept of Hijab is literally straight forward where from the article has found is stated that hijab is an Islamic outfit and symbol of Muslim women. Hijab is a piece of cloth by which we cover our head and body. It is not only gives freedom & respect but also gives comfort & confident. Hijab is a shield of bad things, evil eyes and thoughts of sluggish people. It is a part of purity, personality and gives respectable image in the society. As well as, in the modern culture the trend created come out with some confusion on the understanding of the order wearing Hijab in Islam. Regarding this survey analysis, a group of people who are wearing hijab, they thought that hijab is a new style and it is going to be a part of fashion. On the other hand, another group of people thought that it should be mandatory for every women of the country and it is important for the society. According to Islam, wearing hijab is not because it forces men to respect; not too good for the society; not to even save the beauty; it is because of she is obeying

and submitting to Allah. Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) said, "Verily, the rewarded of deeds depends upon the intentions, verily, every person will get rewarded only for what he intended."

6. Conclusion

Hijab is not only a piece of cloth that covers your head it reflects individuals mind. Hijab is not limited to head covering: conducting life unpretentiously is also significant in fulfilling the requirements of the hijab. Modest behavior is the fundamental aspect of the hijab. Much statement argues that the hijab sets a boundary between men and women that help them avoid premarital or illegal relationships, which are not permissible in Islam. Women need to wear the hijab because it keeps the society pure in many ways [8]. Hijab gives a women respect, dignity and protection. The long-established culture of the Islamic hijab is to create an attitude of modesty and attract a small attention to one as possible. A growing number of Muslim women are blending the spirit of hijab and modern culture in a distinctive manner. They find inspiration in what they see in modern culture and adapt it to make sure it covers and abides by Islamic rulings.

7. Recommendation

Through the data collection and discussions there have some recommendations also.

- The meaning of Islam is peace and submission. It basically means that by submitting yourself will to God and by following the rules of Islam you'll be at peace. So, believe on God then there will be no confusing.
- Enhance the knowledge of Islam and understand Quran and Hadiths. According to Quran and following the path of Islam will solve the problem.
- According to Quran and hadiths, it is very clear that hijab is a religious obligation, which a woman has to undertake. There will be no argue on this point.
- Many women wear hijab for a number of reasons. Whether it's for social reasons, family influence, and religious reason or may be their own choice. So whatever the reason is the main intention behind wearing it is what really counts.

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