Empowering Women to Understand Their Role as the Prime Builder of Inclusive Society

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Abstract: *The inclusive society is the condition where all people fell valued. Their differences are respected, and their basic needs are met so they can live in dignity. There are many ways to achieve this dream to become true in society. One of the best ways is to acknowledge woman' roles as the prime part of the society. As women build half of society and responsible for the nurturing, guidance and reformation of the generations of both men and women. When the women as the first teachers do not have a strong foundation in their own divine identity, we are distorted our beliefs about relationships and our own world, and when it could be accommodated this so called inclusive society. In fact, they are often at a disadvantage condition due to many factors which are rooted in the society. There are some steps that have been done to increase women's dignity by the Government, society, non-governmental organizations and the like. And it is considered successfully develop the life style of most people from the outlook of the education, economic, health, politics and others. However, there is missing link that should be existed on these improvements. The consciousness and the awareness of the women responsibility for her to developing their authentic identity is should be recognized not only by them, but also by the community in general. The family, the society and the Government in general should accommodate their existence, and never ending awareness to be always mature in building the inclusive society.*

Key Words: *Empowering women, Inclusive society.*

Introduction

An inclusive society is a society that over-rides differences of race, gender, class, generation, and geography, and ensures inclusion, equality of opportunity as well as capability of all members of the society to

determine an agreed set of social institutions that govern social interaction.[1]

The World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) defines an inclusive society as a "society for all in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play". Such an inclusive society must be based on respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice and the special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, democratic participation and the rule of law. It is promoted by social policies that seek to reduce inequality and create flexible and tolerant societies that embrace all people.[2]It's about who we are as a society and it's about respecting the different people that come together to make up who we are as a society. So that's again another level or another shift in perspective." Meanwhile, social inclusion is understood as a process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of their background, so that they can achieve their full potential in life. It is a multi-dimensional process aimed at creating conditions which enable full and active participation of every member of the society in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, and political activities, as well as participation in decisionmaking processes.[3]

An inclusive society is everyone's responsibility. As according to the study of United Nations in order to promote social inclusion, it is important to understand the processes through which individuals or groups are excluded, as promotion of inclusion can only be possible by tackling exclusion. Social inclusion needs to occur on various dimensions and multiple levels. It is a process through which the dignity of each individual is recognized, needs and concerns of all people are reflected, rights of all people are not only guaranteed in legislation, but also respected, and people are able to participate actively in life activities. The process of social inclusion needs to take place simultaneously at multiple levels, from the individual, community and local levels, to the regional and national levels, as social inclusion is a subject which concerns all stakeholders in society. While social inclusion involves formal (societal)

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[1]http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf.
(Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Social Integration, Helsinki, July 2008)
[2]http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf
[3]http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf

level engagements, ensuring that institutions in society reflect, uphold, respect, and activate the inclusive processes within society, it at the same time, addresses the informal (individual) level of engagements, and as such, perceptions and experiences of individuals, how they think and feel, also need to be taken into account. On the one hand, social inclusion reflects, an individual's experience of and possibilities for self-actualization, and on the other hand, societal capacities to eliminate causes of exclusion and ensure equal opportunities for all.[4]Thus social problem of society will arise even only one element of societywho can not create and manage well. And automatically these will impact the improvement and the harmony of society itself.[5]

There are many reasons that lead to the existence of social problems. The impact is diverse, it could be positive and negative impacts. These impacts could be manythings. There would be a gap between the rich and the poor; orincreasing the creativity of a more diverse society; or the existence of group disputes; orthe emergence of deviant behavior; or increasing community competitiveness; or the decrease of morale and attitude within society; or the increasing of crime rate; or the increasing of unemployment; or the emergence of radical ideas; and so forth.

Furthermore, individual has social identity. As Social identity itself is understood as the individual's self-concept derived from perceived membership of social groups.[6] People also have multiple social identities corresponding to widening circles of group memberships, such as gender, age, education, economic status, ethnicity, religion, language, nationality, etc. Even social identity can be made evident through the use of markers such as language, belief, clothes, and behavior, and the effect of the markers depends on their recognition by others.[7]

Woman as an Individual and as a Part of Society

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[4]Final Report of the Expert Group Meeting on "Creating an Inclusive Society: Practical strategies to promote social inclusion", May 2008, unpublished.

[5]Global→regional→national→ local→ community → household → individual (Levels involved in a social inclusion process)

[6]Tajfel, H. & Turner, J. C. (1986). The social identity theory of inter-group behavior. In S. Worchel and L. W. Austin (eds.), Psychology of Intergroup Relations. Chigago: Nelson-Hall

[7]http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf

Woman is not only an individual and a significant unit of the society but her existance also influencing the course of social change in society. We can see that how women's role has changed in society from generation to generation.Gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of violence against women, influenced by the historical and structural power imbalances between women and men which exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world.Violence against women and girls is related to their lack of power and control, as well as to the social norms that prescribe men and women's roles in society and condone abuse. Inequalities between men and women cut across public and private spheres of life, and across social, economic, cultural, and political rights; and are manifested in restrictionsand limitations on women's freedoms, choices and opportunities. These inequalities can increase women's and girls' risks of abuse, violent relationships and exploitation, for example, due to economic dependency and limited survival and income-earning options, or discrimination under the law as it relates to marriage, divorce, and child custody rights. And according to many studies the violence against women and girls is not only a consequence of gender inequality, but reinforces women's low status in society and the multiple disparities between women and men. Moreover,the women's access to formal peacemaking and peace building processes remains limited.[8]

On the contrary there are some views which negate the the positive identities of women. That women have lack knowledge in practising public affairs. This argument is refuted by the fact that an ignorant woman is like an ignorant man. Not all women are ignorant and not all men are educated. There is still long way to go before women see

[8]General Assembly Sixty-second session, Introductory Statement by Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Assistant SecretaryGeneral Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, 15 October 2007

Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. (a) Increase and accelerate women's participation in every aspect of legislative and oversight work with a view to attaining gender equality in politics and in parliaments by 2030, including by using electoral gender quotas where applicable; (b) Review the functioning of our parliaments to ensure that they are gender-sensitive institutions and that they provide family friendly facilities; (c) Take action to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; (d) Address pay gaps, inequality of access to economic opportunities and harassment in the work place; (e) Ensure that women and girls have access to health and education in all instances, including in times of war and conflict; and (f) Work in partnership with women and men to those ends.

anything near equity.Even as countries have made slow but steady progress on closing the gender gapin education, economics, health and politics.

If society help woman to pursue manythings at her improvements and developments, they will help society, all, globally, to succeed.[9]Because women are an important element of our Society. And the modern society has started recognizing the individual identity of women. She is believed to have her aspiration, abilities and qualities as a man does have and it is also agreed that she should have the opportunities to develop her faculties and to express them according to her own choice.

Women as the First Teacher and as the Prime Builder of Children-the Next Generation

A woman is a mother. A woman is also a daughter and sister. A woman is also a wife. Women make up half of society and they are responsible for the nurturing, guidance and reformation of the subsequent generation of men and women. It is believed that the female who imbues principles and faith into the soul of the nation.

The extraordinary role of the mother as the first teacher is responsible for the female developing her authentic identity and embracing her sacred feminine. Once the child is born, the mother is becoming both the teacher and the guidance. She is the primary foundation and first influence, providing the child with security and love. Her authentic and intimate relationships show the child the way to trust.When these teachers do not have a strong foundation in their own divine identity, the children form distorted beliefs about relationships and the world around them. Children become frustrated. lt is easy for

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[9] Women's empowerment
- If women had equal employment, they could every country's GDP
- If companies put women in leadership positions, they'd both benefit
- If women more politically invoved, we'd have better policies for the need
- If women were paid more, families would thrive
- If more women held political office, they'd advance more pro-women policies
- If women had more STEM training, they could change the tech market
- If more women held political power, there might be less government corruption
http://matchinternational.org/women-change-world-women/

them to become angry in childhood and then hold into that anger for the remainder of their lives, becoming lost in deep-seated patterns of frustration instead of enjoying the blessings of this precious human life.

Every parent actually can not give up his responsibility in educating his children. If we are discussing the children's education, it is not merely rely on teacher and school. School head and teachers in school are only implementers of parental responsibilities because in time and professionalism are not able to implement them directly. Thus, parents are responsible for the children education. Education and development of children's intelligence begins since the child was born, and some even started since the child in the womb. Therefore, the role of a mother in educating her children is very important. The mother and child's approach begins since the mother contains the child. Realizing how big the role of mother as the primary and first educator, then a mother who wants her children can grow and develop well including developing a variety of intelligence that has been owned by the child.The mother should prepare herself with a lot of knowledge provision related to educating children since early age. This should also be supported by the husband as an equal partner in the household.

A new study has found that mothers have a greater impact on their children's educational achievements than fathers. By contrast the educational achievements of fathers made no significant impact on their offspring's academic accomplishments even though they may have higher income than their partner, researchers said. Prof Ian Walker, from Lancaster University Management School, one of the study's authors, told the Sunday Times: "It seems the mother-daughter relationship is now the transmission mechanism for social mobility. It used to be said that the father was the breadwinner and that would dictate household education decisions. If the father was richer you could afford to stay on at school rather than go out to earn a living. That is clearly no longer the case."[10]Moreover, the role of parents in their children's education has long been recognised as a significant factor in educational success and school improvement (Epstein, 1996, Safran, 1996).

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[10]http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8012011/Mothers-are-strongest-role-models-for-childrens-education-report-claims.html

Woman is seen and considered from the way she behaves, speaks, conducts, dresses, thinks, and her performance. And even her way of connection with others is influenced by many factors. In addition, the maturity in thinking and their experience while facing the obstacles of life, also mostly influenced by internal factors of family. When women as individuals attempts to form inclusive society but is not supported by various factors like the good social norms of society, the good understanding of religion, women's entity as a basic builder of strong societies. Moreover, husbands who can place and posit wives in important positions in the success of their children; not merely rely on formal education but also children's characters who are ready to face life, society and the challenges of the times.

Social conditions that place women in important positions and government' friendly policies toward women's welfare and the improvement of women's life quality, will become the best condition for women. As the inclusive society is not created because of the existence of women. But it can be created if there are women who understand and play an active role about the importance of social inclusion so they will be the the main instrument in the realization of inclusive society.

Women, Family and Culture

The successful mother is not the one who have never struggled. She is the one who never give up to build the successful of the family. Because mother is not a single person who cause someone's life existance, but she also maintain someone's longlife journey.[11] No matter her current family situation, each woman has the responsibility to strengthen families — their own and those they can influence. The family is also the first tier in the process of social upbringing. It is the family that instills in the child the standards by which he judges everything that he later receives from all social institutions.

Everyone belongs to a family, and every family needs to be strengthened, protected and nurtured. Families are not static or

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[11]Mother always steady to become an alarm clock, a cook, a maid, a waitress, a teacher, a nurse, a nanny, a referee, a handy man, an ATM, an event planner, a security officer, a personal assistant, a photographer, a counseller, a chauffeur, a hairdresser, a comforter, etc.

monolithic; because every family is unique, yet it is a 'microcosm' of the society at large and is again, reflective of religious, social and political values.If the family is to be a wholesome cradle for human society, it means that the children as continuations of the human race, must find there warmth, patience and every possible advancement in their all-round education. For this purpose, they must have a mother who considers the care for her children not as a part-time job but as one of her foremost duties. And they must have a father too, who "according to the patriarchal nature of Islam, is an Imam for the family on whose shoulders rests the religious responsibility of the family.

However the women's role of being a mother and a wife are not her only roles. The women's role to upbring the better society relies on her family's tradition and social conditions. The family gives great influences in the woman's lifestyle, the why of thinking, and so forth.For this, family's members and their why of thinking and style of parenting impress the woman's life. A good father figure who protects his family can inspire his children to do the same, especially for girls that idol figure like his father would decides to find her companion life just like her father. As a father is the policy maker of the entrusted family, his duties are not merely to give a living, provide protectionand security, love family, and give advice. But he automatically should understand and learn his female children need, strengthen her mentally to be a great candidate of woman who able to build a better society even an inclusive society.

Until the middle of ninetenth century,girls and women were educated only for traditional household works. But now, the society is witnessing changes in the role-status of women. There is greater emphasis on education girls and women in the same way as we educate boys and men. The modern-day parents want to fulfill the aspiration of their children without gender parity.However when women have equal opportunities to get education as men, but do not understand their vital role in preparing the next generation, they can, at the very least, only prepare their children's education without making them ready and tough enough to face the dynamics of life. Particularly the facts that connect to their existence in printing the exquisite human beings who have a strong and smart character both from the religious side of human and who lively

understand the complexity of life and tolerant to the differences that God created to be known and grateful.

We must not forget that the woman has a noble and significant task entrusted to her by Allah Almighty, child-bearing and motherhood. A man cannot undertake this most noble of tasks, which is being denigrated today by some; furthermore the human race itself would disappear in the absence of this process. Moreover, it is the mother that suckles the baby with her milk, giving out of care, nurturing the child, the effects of which remain with child throughout his life. The woman is also the lord of the house and it is her task to care for the family and prepare the home as a place of comfort; her role is a huge responsibility and noble mission that must not be in any way neglected or underestimated. These characteristics, duties and rights which have been allocated to women by Allah are in balance with the duties she has towards her husband and her children. These duties must be given precedence over other responsibilities and they are necessary for the stability of the family which is the basic cell of the society and the cause for its cohesion, strength, and efficiency.[12]

Islamic laws and cultural customs impact various stages of a Muslim women's life, including her education, employment opportunities, rights to inheritance, dress, age of marriage, freedom to consent to marriage, marriage contract, dowry, permissibility of birth control, divorce, sex outside or before marriage, her ability to receive justice in case of sex crimes, property rights independent of her husband, and when salat (prayers) are mandatory for her.And assumptions; unfortunately the discussion is more often than not a negative one. The most common perceptions are of women living under the oppressive dictatorships of their husbands and fathers, forced into marriage, and of course suffocated under the veil. In terms of her contribution and role in society the witticism is one of the woman restricted only to kitchen, bed, and washroom.

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[12] However, the husband has a right to permit his wife to work. This right is to be regulated by an agreement between the husband and the wife. Such rights should not be regulated by law and the authorities should not interfere with them except in some rare cases.

But, with the growing resurgence and political awakening of Muslims worldwide, the political voice of Muslim women in contributing to the improvement of society must not be ignored. Indeed, examples of such activism exist from the time of the Prophet (saw) to the present day. Islam defines politics as taking care of the affairs of the Ummah, Muslim women do not live separately but live amongst and are part of the Ummah, they feel the problems that exist in society and the world at large, they feel the absence of Islam, and see the injustice of the oppressive regimes. And muslim women are part of society; hence they have a key role to play in the development towards a truly Islamic society and beyond. In Islam a women is seen as an honour and an invaluable part of the Ummah.

Policies on Women

There are many reasons that have prevented girls from getting education and going to school. Besides that poverty, pregnancy, school-based violence, child marriage and discriminatory gender norms are some of the major obstacles to girls' education worldwide. School fees, the threat of violence on the way to and in school, and the perceived benefits of girls' domestic work also keep girls out-of-formal education. Pregnancy and child marriage cut short adolescent girls' schooling before they have completed secondary school.Such findings suggest that the level and type of women's education is affected both by household, family, and government. In the absence of complete educational support by the government to all citizens, women's education is affected by the dynamics of gender, familial life cycles and perceptions and decisions relating to children's education. Realizing the importance of women education, the government and many non-government organizations took a lot of projects to spread women education. Literacy programs are being taken in favor of women. Agreed to work together to include all children in quality learning.

The need to acquire knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim whether male or female. For this, the State is obligated to provide women an education to the highest level. Women are seen as valuable citizens of the state who not only offer their knowledge but also educate, nurture and instil the Islamic personality for the next generation. In every way the

Muslim woman contributes to and has a vital and honourable role to play in society.

Once policies have determined and prescribed an outline of action to be taken, the institutional mechanisms at the national level must take on the responsibility of implementation. To promote social inclusion, the legal systems and security forces must be impartial and uphold the most basic rights for all members of society. Schools, universities and governments must assure the access and accessibility to education for every individual. Social institutions must develop and create housing and welfare systems, training programmes and promote knowledge, information and community responsibility. The curricula and syllaby of education also encouraging women. Governance and policy-making processes need to become more transparent and inclusive in their functioning and also uphold social inclusion principles. Policy must be tailored and rewritten to reflect the needs, concerns, languages and cultures of diverse population. Thus women should have voice inside the decision maker. If the aim is to have an inclusive society, where everyone participates and engages with societal and governmental processes, then it is necessary to encourage or create a system where socially excluded groups –and women in this regard- become stakeholders in the social, political and economic process and the success of a society. The fact is that if people feel that they have a voice then they will be encouraged to include themselves. The chance to use this voice must be offered and members of society must be engaged.[13]

While changes in legislation and policies supportive of vulnerable and marginalized groups, improvements in their access to resources and participation are fundamental steps to take, they do not by themselves, change relations of power, as their implementation is frequently obstructed by entrenched structures and values, and undesirable discourses, with culture and religion continuing to be used by a privileged few to legitimize unequal power structures. To achieve a more inclusive society, governments must be more proactive in addressing discrimination and eliminating violence against women and girls.

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[13] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf

They should ensure that every woman, child and adolescent across the world survives, thrives and reaches their full potential. They should promote girls' education. governments must also advance tolerance, economic equity, equal access to education and employment, women's economic empowerment, and equal participation in the political process, including decision-making institutions. And newly cooperate with the fast speed of growing information that protects women from unmannered irresponsible parties.[14] Actions which can be used towards this purpose include education, dialogue and public awareness campaigns.[15]Nations and industries that support and invest in caregiving and basic workplace protections—including benefits like paid family leave, access to affordable childcare, sick days, healthcare, fair pay, vacation time, and healthy work environments—have shown growth and increased capacity.

The Gender's Misconception, a New Social Problem

Women's interest and participation in social life is increasing. This development is also the result of women's education and enhancement of social values. Women are participating in social organizations and are developing taste for leading a life of social involvement. Their interest in social and cultural activities is increasing. They have growing interest in travel and literary activities.

Then, on the contrary there are some impacts which are 'misled' to the positive energy of gender equity improvement. Some matters related to the issue above are, why do children be problematic ? There are some reasons concerning to this. The basic needs of children which is the affection of parents have not provided well. It is the affection that fosters

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[14] Unequal power relations must therefore also be challenged and transformed at the meso- and micro-level if social inclusion is to be enhanced. Social inclusion of the excluded groups can only happen if everyone becomes "part of the group" that defines the culture, values and standards of the society in which they live. The development of science and technology that is increasingly rapid and advanced, encouraging the emergence of electronic media and the ease of access makes it more difficult to filter out good and bad information. It just like the violence perpetrated by watching movies / scenes that showcased acts of violence, sexual harassment from watching pornographic videos circulating on the internet and frauds made through social media and much more.

[15] Quoted from message from forum: "Where's the Power in Women's Empowerment?" organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), organized by Ms. Noeleen Hayzer, UnderSecretary-General and ESCAP's Executive Secretary

the psychological and physical health of children. It is true, many toys nourishing the world of children. But no one can hold a child with affection just like a parent. The cradle of parents is able to give love and warm to the child. The importance of physical and psychic closeness between parent and child is illustrated by a child psychologist, Elizabeth B. Hurlock (1980). In "Developmental Psychology", Hurlock affirms the emotional closeness between parents to the needs of the child's personality development.

Positive energy that communicated to the child, would crystallize until he or she matures. Children who have interpersonal communication spacing with their parents, will worsen the development of their personality. Hurlock advises parents to take time to communicate with their children. At least in the last two decades, parents have rarely taken time for children because of busy in work and many other reasons. As a result, poverty of communication between parents and children also occurs. Poor communication between parents and children makes the home atmosphere uncomfortable for children. When the night for example, the time when the child can feel the crib of affection, parents can not give touch affection because of tired from working. Therefore, the child is only accompanied by strangers such as maid, television, toys and so forth. Woman as a mother slip her devine duty in nurturing the children. As to nurture is to provide love and influence, to care for, to support, to educate, to encourage, to protect and to teach. To nurture is to help someone to grow and develop.

There is a situation which could be considered as an example of 'overload' in woman education.As according to Professor Geeta Nargund, medical director of Create Fertility, who told The Telegraph "it is something to celebrate that more women are going to university and getting educated but, at the same time, when it comes to starting a family it seems there is now a societal problem." "Women tell us frequently that they are freezing their eggs because the men they meet feel threatened by their success and so are unwilling to commit to starting a family together," she added[16]

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[16] http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/highly-educated-women-freezing-eggs-shortage-equal-men-successful-career-children-a7824611.html

When woman grows up with a good education and has been supported by her neighboorhood to have strong career, then forget the nature of her divine identity as a source of life for the future of children, then her role as a mother is sometimes replaced by making grandmother as mother, or even maid as mother. Furthermore, sometimes the concentration of women changes by simply noticing their social outlooks and appearances, even lifestyles without actually realizing that this can adversely affect the understanding and concept of what women are doing by their children in the future. So the children's mind would grows with the perception that women are more busy and identic with fashion, shopping, friendship, 'high social life', money, beauty, and the like and even not fit the religion as a benchmark and standard in life. Therewith feminists need to understand the complexities of religion rather than swapping a blanket condemnation toward religion - as they need to develop better religious literacy. Everybody as human beings will have some kind of prejudice. It's a question of how we manage that prejudice, how we educate against it. A woman also has to study the Islamic teachings for her own personal guidance the same as the male. As she is responsible for conveying and communicating Islam.

Conclusion

Women around the world have fought very hard for their rights to be recognized and upheld. Wherever there are women, people must continue to hold the society's gound and break new ground for change. Whether it is in education or economic empowerment, in health services, culture, politics and practices or legal systems. Or in ending violence against women. Women need the opportunity to cross inspirational narratives and ideas to give society tools, skills, leads to work with and above all the confidence to make things happen. When all people are willing and continously working together and flexibbly following the dynamics of life without breaking the norm of society and understanding the standard religious values, then inclusive society could be realized and pursued. Even we can expect that this will survive up to our offspring-next generation in the future. And the fact that women are ultimately one social identity in the societythat can change and build the inclusive society. And it becomes all people's task to ensure that they are properly supported in doing so. Hopefully.

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