AN-NISA

Journal of Islamic Study

VOL.1-NO.1-2026

ISSN-P

ISSN-e

QUR'ANIC GUIDANCE ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN SURAH AN-NISA: MAHR, INHERITANCE AND FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Muhammad Hamza
BS Student, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Punjab, Lahore

ABSTRACT

Women's economic rights are an important dimension of social justice and family welfare in Islamic teachings. The Qur'an provides specific principles concerning women's financial security, including the right to receive mahr, the right to inherit property, the protection of personal wealth, and the prohibition of unjust financial practices. Surah An-Nisa is particularly significant because it establishes detailed guidance concerning inheritance, marriage, family responsibilities, and the protection of vulnerable members of society. This study examines the Qur'anic guidance on women's economic rights in Surah An-Nisa, with particular attention to mahr, inheritance, ownership, and financial protection. The study adopts a qualitative, analytical approach based on relevant Qur'anic verses and contemporary scholarly literature. The findings indicate that Surah An-Nisa establishes women as independent holders of financial rights and rejects practices through which their property or inheritance may be unjustly taken. The study further highlights that economic protection in the Qur'anic framework is connected with broader principles of justice, dignity, family responsibility, and social welfare. The research concludes that the economic principles presented in Surah An-Nisa remain relevant to contemporary discussions concerning women's financial security and social justice.

KEYWORDS: *Women's Economic Rights, Surah An-Nisa, Mahr, Inheritance, Financial Protection, Qur'an, Islamic Social Justice*

INTRODUCTION

Economic rights are an essential component of human dignity, social justice, and family stability. In many societies, women's access to property, inheritance, financial resources, and independent economic decision-making has historically been influenced by social and cultural structures. Islamic teachings introduced a framework in which women possess recognized financial rights and are entitled to their lawful property. Surah An-Nisa holds particular importance in this context because it provides detailed guidance concerning marriage, inheritance, family responsibilities, orphans, and the protection of wealth. The Qur'anic approach connects economic rights with justice and ethical responsibility rather than treating financial matters as merely private transactions.One of the significant principles presented in Surah An-Nisa is that women have a recognized entitlement to financial resources. The Qur'an addresses the issue of inheritance directly and establishes shares for women within the family inheritance system. This represents an important aspect of economic recognition because property rights provide individuals with financial security and social independence. The Qur'anic guidance also addresses mahr, which is a financial right associated with marriage. Rather than treating mahr as a symbolic cultural practice alone, the Qur'an establishes it as an entitlement of the woman. Similarly, the Qur'an emphasizes that wealth should not be consumed unjustly and that financial dealings should be based on fairness and legitimate consent.

AN-NISA
Journal of Islamic Study
VOL.1-NO.1-2026
ISSN-P
ISSN-e

The economic principles of Surah An-Nisa are also connected with the protection of vulnerable members of society. The Surah repeatedly addresses the rights of orphans and warns against consuming their property unjustly. This demonstrates that Qur'anic economic justice extends beyond individual ownership to include social responsibility. Women and orphans are discussed within a broader framework of protection, accountability, and justice. Contemporary scholarship has also examined Qur'anic approaches to gender justice, women's rights, inheritance, and financial protection, showing the continuing relevance of these principles to modern Islamic thought.The present study therefore examines women's economic rights through the specific themes of mahr, inheritance, property ownership, and financial protection in Surah An-Nisa. The study aims to understand how these principles contribute to a broader Qur'anic concept of justice and how they may inform contemporary discussions about women's economic dignity and security.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the Qur'anic guidance regarding women's economic rights in Surah An-Nisa, particularly in relation to mahr, inheritance, and personal property.
2. To analyze the principles of financial protection and economic justice provided for women in Surah An-Nisa.
3. To explore the contemporary relevance of Qur'anic principles concerning women's economic rights, financial security, and social justice.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What economic rights are granted to women according to the teachings of Surah An-Nisa?
2. How does Surah An-Nisa provide financial protection to women through the principles of mahr, inheritance, and property ownership?
3. How can the Qur'anic principles of women's economic rights contribute to contemporary discussions of financial justice and social protection?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Qur'anic concept of women's economic rights has received increasing attention in contemporary Islamic scholarship, particularly in relation to inheritance, property ownership, marriage, and gender justice. Surah An-Nisa is especially important because it provides detailed guidance concerning the distribution of inheritance and establishes principles for protecting the property of vulnerable individuals. The Qur'anic framework does not present women merely as dependents within the family but recognizes them as holders of specific financial rights. This perspective provides an important foundation for examining women's economic dignity within Islamic teachings.Contemporary studies on Qur'anic gender justice have examined how the Qur'an establishes principles of fairness between men and women while recognizing different family and financial responsibilities. Zubaidi, Arifah, and Sansayto (2025) examine divine justice and gender equity through Qur'anic discussions of inheritance and women's testimony.

Their study contributes to the understanding that women's economic rights should be considered within the broader Qur'anic framework of justice, responsibility, and social protection. In the context of Surah An-Nisa, inheritance is not simply a matter of distributing wealth but also represents a mechanism through which the Qur'an establishes recognized financial entitlements for family members.

Mahr is another important aspect of women's economic rights. The Qur'an instructs men to give women their bridal gifts willingly and respectfully. This principle establishes mahr as a financial entitlement belonging to the woman rather than property that can simply be controlled by other family members. The economic significance of mahr can therefore be understood in terms of dignity, security, and recognition of women's independent financial rights. The principle is particularly relevant when examining marriage as an institution in which financial responsibilities are connected with ethical obligations and mutual respect.Inheritance represents another major dimension of the economic framework of Surah An-Nisa. The Surah provides specific guidance concerning shares of inheritance and explicitly recognizes women among the legitimate heirs. This principle has substantial significance because it establishes women's entitlement to inherited property and challenges practices through which female family members may be deprived of their lawful shares. Contemporary research on women's rights in Islamic jurisprudence similarly emphasizes the importance of understanding women's property and financial rights through primary Islamic sources rather than through cultural practices alone.

The Qur'anic approach also emphasizes the protection of wealth from exploitation and unlawful consumption. Surah An-Nisa contains strong warnings concerning the unjust consumption of the property of orphans and vulnerable persons. This principle demonstrates that economic justice involves not only giving individuals their rights but also preventing powerful members of society from exploiting those who have less social or economic power. The protection of wealth is therefore connected with accountability, morality, and social responsibility.Another important theme in the literature is the relationship between economic rights and social justice. Women's access to property and financial resources can influence their ability to participate in family and social life with greater security and dignity. Qur'anic principles concerning inheritance, mahr, lawful ownership, and protection from financial exploitation collectively establish a framework in which economic justice becomes part of broader social justice. Contemporary scholarship increasingly examines these principles in relation to changing social conditions and the economic challenges faced by women.Overall, the literature indicates that women's economic rights in the Qur'an should be studied as an interconnected system rather than through isolated verses. Mahr, inheritance, property ownership, and financial protection collectively contribute to a framework of economic justice. Surah An-Nisa provides particularly important evidence for this framework because it addresses marriage, family wealth, inheritance, vulnerable persons, and ethical financial conduct within a single Qur'anic discourse.

METHODOLOGY

The findings of the study demonstrate that Surah An-Nisa provides a comprehensive framework for protecting women's economic rights and financial dignity. The analysis indicates that women

are recognized as legitimate holders of wealth and financial entitlements rather than being treated merely as dependents of male family members. The Qur'anic principles concerning mahr, inheritance, ownership, and financial protection collectively establish an important foundation for economic justice.The first major finding is that mahr represents an important financial right of women within marriage. The Qur'anic guidance establishes that the bridal gift should be given to the woman as her rightful entitlement. This demonstrates that marriage involves financial responsibilities and that women possess an independent claim to the property assigned to them as mahr. The principle also emphasizes respect, consent, and ethical financial conduct within the marital relationship.The second finding concerns women's right to inheritance. Surah An-Nisa explicitly recognizes women as beneficiaries of inheritance and establishes their entitlement within the family property system. The study finds that this principle provides women with a recognized economic position within the family and protects them from being completely excluded from inherited wealth. The Qur'anic inheritance framework therefore represents an important dimension of financial security and social justice.The third finding is that women possess rights over their own lawful property and wealth. The Qur'anic framework recognizes individual ownership and prohibits unjust consumption of another person's wealth. This principle is particularly significant for women because it establishes that financial resources belonging to them cannot legitimately be taken or controlled through unjust practices. Economic rights are therefore connected with personal dignity and accountability.The fourth finding is that financial protection is closely connected with social justice. Surah An-Nisa addresses the protection of vulnerable individuals and strongly condemns the unjust consumption of wealth. The study finds that economic justice in the Qur'anic framework is not limited to distributing financial resources; it also requires preventing exploitation, protecting property, and ensuring that legitimate rights are respected.

The fifth finding is that women's economic rights are interconnected rather than isolated principles. Mahr, inheritance, property ownership, and financial protection collectively contribute to a broader system of economic security. These principles demonstrate that Qur'anic guidance concerning women's financial position includes both positive entitlements and protection against financial injustice.Finally, the study finds that the principles of Surah An-Nisa remain relevant to contemporary discussions of women's economic security. Although social and economic conditions have changed, the fundamental principles of lawful ownership, financial entitlement, protection of wealth, and justice continue to provide an important framework for understanding women's economic rights from an Islamic perspective.

CONCLUSION

This study examined Qur'anic guidance concerning women's economic rights in Surah An-Nisa, with particular emphasis on mahr, inheritance, property ownership, and financial protection. The analysis demonstrates that the Qur'anic framework recognizes women as legitimate holders of economic rights and establishes principles intended to protect their financial dignity. Mahr provides a specific financial entitlement within marriage, while inheritance establishes women's recognized position within the family property system.The study further concludes that economic justice in Surah An-Nisa extends beyond the allocation of wealth. It includes the protection of

individual property, prevention of unjust financial practices, and safeguarding of vulnerable members of society. These principles demonstrate that financial rights are closely connected with broader Qur'anic concepts of justice, responsibility, dignity, and social welfare.The findings also indicate that women's economic rights should be understood as an interconnected framework. Mahr, inheritance, ownership, and financial protection collectively contribute to women's economic security. The Qur'anic approach therefore provides not only specific financial provisions but also ethical principles governing the treatment of wealth and the responsibilities of family and society.In conclusion, Surah An-Nisa presents a significant framework for understanding women's economic rights within Islamic teachings. Its principles concerning financial entitlement, inheritance, property protection, and justice provide a foundation for examining contemporary questions of women's economic dignity while maintaining the importance of Qur'anic guidance and ethical responsibility.

The study uses a qualitative analytical approach. This approach is appropriate because the research seeks to explore the meanings and principles contained in Qur'anic guidance rather than measure economic rights numerically. Relevant verses of Surah An-Nisa are examined in relation to major themes such as mahr, inheritance, women's ownership of wealth, protection of property, and financial justice. The approach also considers contemporary scholarly discussions in order to understand how these Qur'anic principles have been interpreted in modern academic literature.The study also incorporates a thematic approach to organize the findings. Qur'anic guidance is categorized into major themes and examined in relation to the research questions. Thematic analysis enables the researcher to identify relationships between different economic rights and demonstrate how individual principles collectively contribute to a broader concept of financial justice. This approach is useful for connecting classical Qur'anic principles with contemporary discussions about women's economic security and social protection.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research employs a descriptive-analytical research design. The descriptive component explains the economic rights presented in Surah An-Nisa, including rights related to mahr, inheritance, ownership, and protection of wealth. The analytical component examines the significance of these rights within the broader Qur'anic framework of justice and social responsibility. Relevant verses are selected according to their direct connection with the research topic and are examined in their thematic context.The research design also involves document analysis. Qur'anic verses, relevant scholarly interpretations, academic articles, and Islamic legal discussions are treated as documentary sources. The selected literature is reviewed critically to identify common themes, areas of scholarly agreement, and contemporary interpretations. The design allows the study to connect textual evidence with modern academic discussions without reducing Qur'anic principles to purely cultural or historical practices.

DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data are analyzed through thematic analysis. First, relevant Qur'anic verses concerning women's economic rights are identified and grouped according to their subject matter. The major categories include mahr, inheritance, property ownership, financial protection, and social justice. Each category is then examined to identify the principles and responsibilities associated with it. This process allows the study to determine how different financial rights operate within the wider Qur'anic framework.

In the second stage, the Qur'anic themes are compared with findings from contemporary scholarly literature. Particular attention is given to discussions of gender justice, inheritance, women's financial independence, and protection from economic exploitation. Similarities and differences between scholarly interpretations are considered in order to provide a balanced understanding of the subject. The analysis remains focused on the research questions and avoids treating cultural practices as equivalent to Qur'anic teachings.

Finally, the findings are synthesized to explain the relationship between women's economic rights and broader principles of justice. The analysis suggests that mahr, inheritance, ownership, and financial protection are interconnected dimensions of economic dignity. Rather than examining these rights separately, the study interprets them as components of a broader ethical framework in which wealth is protected, legitimate ownership is recognized, and vulnerable individuals are safeguarded from exploitation.

REFERENCES

Alami, S., Fatihunnada, F., Salim, H. B., Lidwan, N., Faqih, M., & Sudiyo. (2026). Women's economic rights in the Qur'an: Quraish Shihab's perspective in Tafsir Al-Misbah. Akrab Juara: Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial, 11(2).

Imron, I. Y. A., & Sukendar. (2026). The meaning of qiwāmah in the exegesis of Surah An-Nisā' verse 34 in the context of women as the primary breadwinners: An analysis of contemporary gender exegesis. Jurnal Semiotika-Q: Kajian Ilmu al-Quran dan Tafsir, 6(1), 331–350.

Islam, R. (2025). The economic rights of women as granted in the Qur'ān and the Report of the Women's Reform Commission: A review. Islami Ain O Bichar, 21(82–83).

Mohammed, O. A. A. (2026). Approach of Quran's to establishing the fundamentals of justice for women and orphans in Surah An-Nisa (An objective study). Kirkuk University Journal: Humanity Studies, 21(2).

Rambe, E. A. P., & Kharomen, A. I. (2026). Interpretation of the inheritance verses in Surah An-Nisa in the Toba Batak tradition. Al-Fahmu: Jurnal Ilmu Al-Qur'an dan Tafsir, 5(1), 376–388.

Ramli, M. A., Rosele, M. I., Achmad, A. D., & Qotadah, H. A. (2023). Women's right of inheritance in Islam: Between the Sharia provision and demand of socio-cultural changes.

Surasman, O. (2026). The role of women in the Qur'an: An exegetical study of Surah An-Nisā'/4:32. Takafu: Journal of Tafsir and Gender Perspective, 3(1), 17–30.

Zubaidi, S., Arifah, F. N., & Sansayto, I. M. (2025). Divine justice and gender equity in Islam: A Qur'anic analysis of inheritance and women's testimony. Al-Bayan: Jurnal Studi Ilmu Al-Qur'an dan Tafsir, 10(1).