AN-NISA

Journal of Islamic Study

VOL.1-NO.1-2026

ISSN-P

ISSN-e

JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND ORPHANS IN SURAH AN-NISA: A STUDY OF QUR'ANIC PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

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ABSTRACT

Justice and social protection are central principles of the Qur'anic teachings presented in Surah An-Nisa. The Surah gives particular attention to women, orphans, and other vulnerable members of society and establishes principles for protecting their rights, property, dignity, and welfare. This study examines the Qur'anic principles of social protection for women and orphans in Surah An-Nisa, focusing on justice, financial protection, family responsibility, inheritance, marriage, and prevention of exploitation. The study adopts a qualitative and analytical methodology based on relevant Qur'anic verses and contemporary scholarly literature. The analysis indicates that Surah An-Nisa establishes a comprehensive ethical framework in which vulnerable members of society are protected through legal, financial, familial, and social principles. The Qur'anic guidance concerning orphan property, inheritance, marriage rights, and fair treatment demonstrates that social justice requires both recognition of rights and protection from exploitation. The study further finds that the principles of Surah An-Nisa remain relevant to contemporary discussions of social welfare, women's rights, child protection, economic justice, and family responsibility. The research concludes that Qur'anic social protection is based on justice, accountability, dignity, and collective responsibility.

KEYWORDS: *Surah An-Nisa, Women's Rights, Orphans, Social Protection, Justice, Qur'an, Islamic Social Justice*

INTRODUCTION

Social protection is an important dimension of a just and responsible society. Societies contain individuals and groups who may face greater vulnerability because of economic dependency, family circumstances, loss of parental support, or unequal access to resources. Islamic teachings place considerable emphasis on protecting such individuals and ensuring that their rights are not violated. Surah An-Nisa is particularly significant in this regard because it repeatedly addresses the rights of women and orphans and establishes principles concerning family relationships, inheritance, marriage, property, and social responsibility.The Qur'an begins Surah An-Nisa with a reminder of the common origin of humanity and emphasizes the importance of maintaining relationships and fulfilling responsibilities toward others. Within this broader framework, the Surah provides detailed guidance concerning orphans and women. The repeated emphasis on their protection demonstrates that social justice is not limited to general moral statements but requires concrete measures to protect rights and prevent exploitation. The Qur'anic guidance concerning orphan property, for example, establishes strong ethical restrictions against consuming or misusing wealth belonging to vulnerable persons.Women's rights are another major component of Surah An-Nisa. The Surah addresses marriage, mahr, inheritance, family responsibilities, and fair treatment. These provisions provide women with recognized rights within the family and economic structure. The Qur'anic approach therefore connects women's protection with both personal dignity and material security. Contemporary scholarship has also

examined Surah An-Nisa in relation to justice for women and orphans, emphasizing the importance of understanding these verses within a wider framework of social justice and ethical responsibility (Mohammed, 2026).Orphans represent another important focus of the Surah. Because the loss of parents can create financial and social vulnerability, the Qur'an establishes responsibilities concerning their property and welfare. Guardians are instructed to act responsibly and are warned against consuming orphan wealth unjustly. This principle demonstrates that social protection involves accountability for those entrusted with the care of vulnerable individuals.The present study therefore examines the principles of justice and social protection for women and orphans in Surah An-Nisa. It focuses on four interconnected areas: protection of rights, financial security, family responsibility, and prevention of exploitation. Through a qualitative analysis of relevant Qur'anic guidance and contemporary scholarship, the study seeks to demonstrate how Surah An-Nisa establishes a framework for protecting vulnerable members of society.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the Qur'anic principles of justice and social protection for women and orphans in Surah An-Nisa.
2. To analyze the Qur'anic guidance concerning the financial, familial, and social rights of women and orphans.
3. To explore the contemporary relevance of Qur'anic principles of social protection for vulnerable members of society.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What principles of justice and social protection are presented for women and orphans in Surah An-Nisa?
2. How does Surah An-Nisa protect the financial, familial, and social rights of women and orphans?
3. How are the Qur'anic principles of social protection relevant to contemporary society?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Qur'anic concept of social protection is closely connected with justice, human dignity, financial responsibility, and the protection of vulnerable members of society. Surah An-Nisa is particularly significant because it addresses women and orphans through specific guidance concerning inheritance, property, marriage, family relationships, and social responsibilities. The literature indicates that these provisions should be understood as part of a broader Qur'anic framework in which social justice requires the protection of individuals who may be vulnerable to economic or social exploitation.Mohammed (2026) examines the principles of justice for women and orphans in Surah An-Nisa and emphasizes the importance of Qur'anic guidance in establishing protection for vulnerable members of society. The study highlights that justice in the Qur'anic framework includes both recognition of rights and prevention of exploitation. This perspective is particularly relevant to the present study because Surah An-Nisa does not simply mention women and orphans as vulnerable groups; it establishes concrete principles concerning

their property, inheritance, family relationships, and welfare.Women's economic and social rights have also received considerable attention in contemporary Qur'anic scholarship. Recent studies have examined women's rights through the Qur'anic concepts of justice, equality, property, inheritance, and family responsibility. Alami et al. (2026), for example, examine women's economic rights through Quraish Shihab's interpretation in Tafsir Al-Misbah. Their discussion demonstrates the continuing relevance of Qur'anic principles for understanding women's economic position and financial rights in contemporary society.Inheritance is another major area in the literature. Surah An-Nisa provides detailed guidance concerning inheritance and identifies the rights of different family members. Contemporary research has examined how these inheritance principles interact with social and cultural practices. Rambe and Kharomen (2026) analyze interpretations of inheritance verses in Surah An-Nisa and demonstrate the importance of understanding Qur'anic inheritance principles within particular social contexts. Such research supports the view that the protection of inheritance rights is an important component of social justice.

The literature also emphasizes the importance of protecting orphan property. Qur'anic guidance places responsibility upon guardians and warns against unjust consumption of wealth belonging to orphans. This demonstrates that social protection involves not only providing care but also protecting the financial resources of vulnerable individuals. The guardian is therefore expected to act as a trustee with accountability rather than as an owner of the orphan's property.Another important theme emerging from contemporary literature is the relationship between gender justice and social responsibility. Surah An-Nisa addresses women's rights within the broader structure of family and society. Issues such as marriage, mahr, inheritance, and fair treatment demonstrate that women's protection includes both financial and social dimensions. Contemporary studies of Qur'anic gender justice have similarly examined the relationship between women's rights and broader principles of justice.Overall, the literature demonstrates that Surah An-Nisa provides an integrated framework of social protection. Women and orphans are protected through recognition of their rights, financial safeguards, family responsibilities, and restrictions against exploitation. The existing literature provides a foundation for examining these principles together and understanding their relevance to contemporary social justice and welfare.

METHODOLOGY

The study uses a qualitative analytical approach. This approach is appropriate because the research focuses on understanding the meanings, principles, and ethical guidance contained in Surah An-Nisa rather than measuring social phenomena numerically. Relevant Qur'anic verses are examined in relation to the rights and protection of women and orphans. Particular attention is given to issues such as inheritance, financial protection, marriage, property rights, and responsibilities toward vulnerable family members.A thematic approach is also employed to identify recurring concepts within the selected Qur'anic material and scholarly literature. The major themes include justice, social protection, financial security, family responsibility, dignity, and prevention of exploitation. Contemporary scholarly interpretations are considered alongside

Qur'anic guidance to understand how these principles can be discussed in relation to present-day social concerns.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research follows a descriptive-analytical research design. The descriptive aspect explains the Qur'anic provisions concerning women and orphans, while the analytical aspect examines the relationship between these provisions and the broader concept of social justice. Relevant verses and scholarly sources are selected according to their direct relevance to the research questions.
The study also uses document analysis as part of its research design. The Qur'an, academic articles, scholarly interpretations, and relevant Islamic literature are treated as documentary sources. These materials are systematically reviewed and categorized according to the major themes of the study. The design allows the researcher to examine Qur'anic principles while also considering their significance in contemporary discussions of social protection.

DATA ANALYSIS

The collected material is analyzed through thematic analysis. In the first stage, relevant Qur'anic verses are identified and organized according to their connection with women, orphans, justice, property, inheritance, marriage, and social responsibility. The selected material is then grouped into major themes in order to identify the central principles underlying Qur'anic social protection.In the second stage, the Qur'anic themes are examined in relation to contemporary academic literature. Particular attention is given to scholarly discussions concerning women's rights, orphan protection, inheritance, economic justice, and family responsibility. This comparison helps identify how contemporary researchers understand the social significance of the Qur'anic principles.In the final stage, the findings are synthesized to establish the relationship between individual rights and wider social responsibility. The analysis focuses on how Surah An-Nisa combines legal and ethical guidance to protect vulnerable members of society. The study therefore treats social protection as a comprehensive concept involving financial security, family care, protection from exploitation, recognition of rights, and accountability.The analysis indicates that the Qur'anic framework is not limited to providing theoretical recognition of rights. It also establishes responsibilities for families and guardians and emphasizes the ethical use and protection of wealth. These principles collectively contribute to a broader framework of justice and social welfare.

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