



A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ABOUT THE ISLAMIC INFLUENCE OVER THE PAKISTANI WOMEN ATTIRE

*Dr Najmul Sahar Ilyas¹, Uzma Shabbir²

¹Senior Assistant Professor Islamic Studies, Department of General Education, Bahria University Health Sciences Campus, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7719-4323>

²Senior Lecturer English, Department of General Education, Bahria University Health Sciences Campus, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan.

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received: September 30, 2024
Revised: October 27, 2024
Accepted: October 30, 2024
Available Online: November 02, 2024

Keywords:

Islamic Influence
Pakistani Women
Multicultural Nation
Fashion Trends
Cultural Legacy

Funding:

This research journal (PIIJSS) doesn't receive any specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Copyrights:

Copyright Muslim Intellectuals Research Center. All Rights Reserved © 2021. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



ABSTRACT

One of the most fundamental necessities of human existence is clothing. Clothing serves as a means of pleasing others and projecting one's social image in addition to providing self-coverage. Islam has also stated the importance of modesty and clothing requirements, which many Muslims have forgotten. Covering and binding in accordance with the established boundaries of Islam is the ultimate goal of clothing. This sign disavows all of our established dress codes, enabling us to adhere to our society's dominant standards while maintaining the predetermined bounds of Islam.

Allah says in Quran,

"O children of Adam, We have bestowed upon you clothing to conceal your private parts and as adornment. But the clothing of piety – that is best." (Quran 7:26)

Following the Romans' example is nearly ideal and acceptable as long as it stays within the bounds of Islam. You are free to dress however you like, regardless of whether you are from an Eastern or Western culture. Depending on your income, you can also be extravagant when it comes to clothing purchases, but Islam does not forbid it as long as you maintain modesty.

Pakistan is a multicultural nation whose rich cultural legacy is evident in its way of life. Islam has had a significant impact on Pakistani culture, which has led to the development of a distinctive fashion style. This article will examine the impact of Islam on Pakistani culture and examine the evolving fashion trends of Pakistani women.

*Corresponding Author's Email: hodge.bumdc@bahria.edu.pk

INTRODUCTION

In Islam, clothing plays a significant role in maintaining modesty, humility, and dignity.

In Quran Allah Says:

"O Prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to bring down over themselves [part] of their outer garments. That is more suitable that they will be known and not be abused." (Quran 33:59)

Muslim clothing has expanded to include new hues and cuts over time. The Pew Research Center (2015) predicted that Islam would expand more quickly than any other major religion in the world over the next forty years. By 2050, the estimated growth rate would be 73%, reaching an astounding 2.76 billion. According to the same report, 34% of Muslims today are under the age of 15, making them a youthful, energetic, fashion-conscious, and socially engaged target market. As the world's Muslim population continues to grow, new fashions in clothing, accessories, and color have emerged. As a result, it can be seen that Muslim women worldwide are adopting these styles, which speak to both their personal sense of style and their religious preference. Known as "Hijabistas", modern Muslim women who choose fashionable attire and matching

headscarves to maintain a stylish dressing while adhering to religious dress codes are now regarded as a significant market segment for the fashion industry (Hassan and Harun, 2016).

Pakistani fashion follows Islamic principles and combines modern and traditional styles. For both men and women who wish to dress in accordance with their faith, it seeks to provide modest yet stylish apparel. The following are some significant facets of the significance of attire in Islam:

MODESTY AND HUMILITY

1. Conceal private parts: Clothing should conceal private parts and be an adornment. (Quran 7:26)
2. Avoid revealing clothing: Muslims are encouraged to avoid wearing revealing or tight-fitting clothing that may attract unwanted attention.
3. Dress modestly: Both men and women are encouraged to dress modestly, avoiding clothing that is too flashy or attention-seeking.

PROTECTION AND DIGNITY

1. Protect from harm: Clothing can protect the body from physical harm, such as extreme temperatures or injuries.
2. Maintain dignity: Clothing can help maintain dignity and respect for oneself and others.
3. Avoid immodest exposure: Clothing should avoid immodest exposure, which can lead to sinful thoughts or actions.

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) having said this:

“Two are the types of the denizens of Hell whom I did not see: people having flogs like the tails of the ox with them and they would be beating people, and the women who would be dressed but appear to be naked, who would be inclined (to evil) and make their husbands incline towards it. Their heads would be like the humps of the bukht camel inclined to one side. They will not enter Paradise and they would not smell its odour whereas its odour would be smelt from such and such distance” (Muslim 2128)

Explanation

In this Hadith, the Messenger of Allah (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) identifies two categories of individuals that he had not witnessed but who will burn in the hellfire. Stated differently,

these two kinds of behavior result in punishment and Hell in the Afterlife.

May Allah Ta'ala save us all. Ameen.

According to Imam al-Nawawi and others, “women who will be dressed yet appear to be naked” refers to semi-nude women. While one part of their body will be exposed, the other will be covered. Today, this is evidently shown by the large number of women who wear short skirts that reveal their arms, necks, hair, etc. Imam al-Nawawi (Allah have mercy on him) mentions some scholars stating that the meaning is, women will wear see-through and transparent clothing in a way that the colour of their body will be visible. This, again, is quite common today, in that many women wear very thin clothing, thus exposing their skin-colour.

A third interpretation, also recorded by Imam al-Nawawi (Allah have mercy on him), is that they will be blessed in abundance with the various gifts and bounties of Allah, yet they will not be grateful.

The meaning of “They will seduce men and be inclined towards them” is that they will walk and act in order to seduce strange men.

The meaning of “Their heads will be like the swaying humps of bacterial camels” is that they will style their hair to certain stylish hairdos, or style their hair like a hump. (Sharh of Nawawi on Sahih Muslim, P. 1603) In summary, the above Hadith is one of the marvels (mu’jizah) of the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace). Imam al-Nawawi (Allah have mercy on him) states:

“This Hadith is from the miracles of prophet-hood (nubuwwah), for these two types of people now exist. This Hadith also condemns these two actions.” (Sharh of Nawawi on Sahih Muslim, P. 1603)

The Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) envisaged the situation of certain individuals and their actions, thus informed his companions (Allah be pleased with them) and us about them. Thus, the moral of the Hadith is to abstain and refrain from these actions, for they lead one to the fire of Hell.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. Identify with the community: Clothing can identify a person as a member of the Muslim community.
2. Respect for tradition: Clothing can show respect for Islamic tradition and cultural heritage.
3. Avoid cultural assimilation: Clothing can help avoid cultural assimilation and maintain a distinct Islamic identity.

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. Inner purity: Clothing can reflect inner purity and cleanliness.
2. Piety and righteousness: Clothing can be a means of expressing piety and righteousness.
3. Accountability: Clothing can serve as a reminder of one's accountability to Allah for their actions and intentions.

SOME RESTRICTION OF ISLAM ABOUT CLOTHING

But there are some rules need to be followed while clothing and their details are shared below:

1. Silk or Gold clothing isn't permissible in Islam for males.
2. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "These two [gold and silk] are forbidden for the males of my ummah and permissible for the females." (Maajah, 3640)
Clothes sharing a glimpse or look of non-Muslims are forbidden in Islam, like wearing Christianity sign of "Cross" because it would make you look like non-Muslims.
It was narrated that 'Abd-Allaah ibn 'Amr ibn Al-'Aas said:
"The Messenger of Allah (P.B.U.H) saw 'Ali wearing two garments dyed with safflower and said: "These are garments of the kuffaar; do not wear them". (Muslim, 2077)
3. Likewise, clothes which men look alike women and vice versa are also not allowed in Islam.
"It is haraam for women to imitate men and men to imitate women in the way they dress, because the Prophet (P.B.U.H) cursed the men who imitate women and the women who imitate men." (Al-Tirmizi 2784)
4. Islam is strictly against wearing see through clothes, which are very light and expose your body off or those are tight and reveal your body features.
The Prophet of Allah (P.B.U.H) said:
"There are two types of the dwellers of Hell whom I did not see. People having flogs like the tails of the Ox and they would be beating people with them and the women who would be dressed but appear to be naked, who would be inclined to evil and make their husbands incline towards it..." (Muslim 2128)

ATTIRE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) AND HIS COMPANIONS

The attire of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions serves as a lasting illustration of simplicity, modesty, and practicality. Their clothing mirrored the cultural practices of Arabia while remaining aligned with Islamic principles. Analyzing their clothing allows us to understand the values of modesty and humility that form the foundation of the Islamic dress code.

THE PROPHET'S MODEST CLOTHING

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) preferred attire that was modest, neat, and practical. He frequently donned attire like a thobe (an extended robe), an Izar (a lower piece resembling a wrap or sarong), and a Rida (a shawl or cloak worn over the shoulders). He favored simple materials lacking in excessive decoration, prioritizing modesty over luxury. Even though he was a leader, the Prophet (PBUH) did not pursue lavishness in his attire. He was satisfied with basic, locally sourced fabrics. This modesty in clothing acted as an illustrative example for his followers, emphasizing that spiritual value greatly surpasses material exhibition.

FABRICS & COLOURS OF HIS ATTIRE

The Prophet (PBUH) often donned clothing crafted from wool, cotton, or linen, materials that were easily accessible in Arabia. White was the color he favored, as stated in a Hadith:

"Dress in white garments, as they rank among your finest attire, and wrap your deceased in them." (Abu Dawood, 4061)

WOMEN IN ISLAM

Islam has given women a very high social position because it recognizes their rights and privileges in society and does not impose any restrictions that hinder their social growth and development. Women are essential members of the community and, given the opportunity, can play a more positive role in the development of the country.

Islamic women's clothing standards typically call for loose-fitting, non-transparent garments that cover the entire body—likely with the exception of the hands and face—and cover the head. A woman's culture and individual preferences will determine how these requirements are satisfied.

Islamic teachings address the concept of modesty from a variety of angles, (Boulanouar, A. Wood. 2006). Awra, an Arabic term that means "invulnerable insecurity" or "what needs to be protected" and refers to a person's private body parts, is physically associated with humility. The subject of awra' is more complex and challenging for women. Regarding non-Muslim women and men outside of her mahram (mahram), such as family members and those who are never allowed to marry her, a woman's awra is her entire body, with the exception of her face and hands.

ISLAMIC CULTURAL EFFECTS IN PAKISTAN

Culture plays a significant role in Pakistani fashion. Pakistani culture is heavily influenced by Islamic values, and this is reflected in the way people dress. In Pakistan, modesty is highly valued, and this is why modest clothing is the norm. The use of vibrant colors and intricate embroidery is also a hallmark of Pakistani fashion, and this is evident in Islamic fashion as well. Pakistani fashion has a unique blend of traditional and modern styles, with a significant Islamic touch.

Islamic Culture has grown significantly in Pakistan; the number of people wearing the Muslim attire has increased recently and is not restricted to some classes; the shift from traditional to modern to Islamic trend is clearly visible. (Swami et al. 1, 2014, Who researched about women's body image in Britain, where wearing the hijab is optional. The women who wore the hijab, at least some of the time, had more positive views of their bodies on average. They had less desire to be thin. They appreciated their bodies more. And they weren't as influenced by media messages about beauty standards. (Swami, V. and Benford, K. (2014)

FASHION TRENDS IN PAKISTANI WOMEN ATTIRE

The Islamic impact on Pakistani women's attire has changed over time and is still evolving with changing fashion trends. Among the most well-liked styles for Pakistani women's clothing are:

ABAYAS

Abayas are a traditional Islamic dress that covers the entire body, except for the face, hands, and feet. In Pakistan, abayas are often made with silk or chiffon and decorated with intricate embroidery or lace.

HIJABS

Hijabs are headscarves worn by Muslim women to cover their hair. In Pakistan, hijabs are available in various styles and colors, and they are often coordinated with the rest of the outfit.

SHALWAR KAMEEZ

Shalwar Kameez is the national dress of Pakistan, and it is also popular in Islamic fashion. Shalwar Kameez consists of long tunic top and loose-fitting trousers, and it is often paired with a dupatta, a long scarf worn over the head and shoulders.

KAFTANS

Kaftans are a loose-fitting garment that is similar to a tunic. In Pakistani fashion, kaftans are often made with luxurious fabrics and decorated with intricate embroidery or beadwork.

THE POPULARITY OF HIJAB/ SCARVES / ABAYA IN PAKISTAN

Women can dress comfortably, safely, and effectively by wearing the hijab, which also removes many of the inconveniences they face. This might be a good choice that is worthwhile to pursue over time. Even though Muslim clothing, particularly the hijab, is used as Whether this is a personal choice or a religious requirement is still up for debate, but Muslim fashion has a positive impact on how women develop their sense of self.

RESEARCH DESIGN: (SURVEY)

To identify the increasing proportion of Pakistani Women towards wearing Muslim attire has been conducted. 56 Pakistani women between the ages of 20 and 50 who dress in Muslim attire participated in the survey. The technique of judgmental sampling has been employed to find appropriate responders. Respondents were asked to rate the fourteen (14) previously identified factors in order to express their opinions using a structured questionnaire.

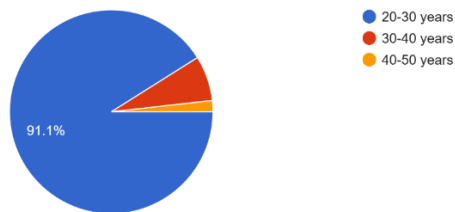
RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

91.1% of the 56 respondents belong to the age group of 20-30 years, 6.9% belong to the age group of 30-

40 years and 2% are above 40-50 years. Among the respondents, 89.3% are students, 6.7% are teachers and the remaining 4% are doing private job.

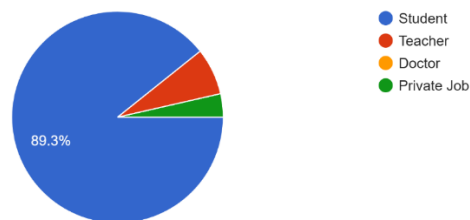
Age

56 responses



Profession

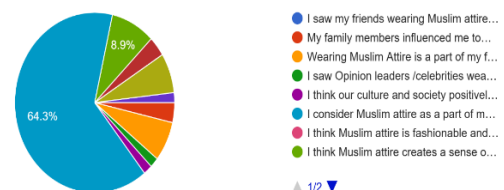
56 responses



It is observed that, most of the respondents are wearing Muslim attire at all times and they believe that today's women mostly wear Muslim attire from their belief on their religious duty. Moreover, family tradition influences them highly to accept this lifestyle as it is viewed that Muslim attire has a positive image in their culture. From the perspective of Pakistani women, wearing Muslim attire are getting social acceptance and they have been inspired by their opinion leaders in different sectors. Some respondents have been identified who have started to use Muslim attire after coming from Hajj/Umrah.

Why you wear Muslim Attire?

56 responses



SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE STATEMENT

We have given following 14 options to the surveyors:

1. I saw my friends wearing Muslim attire and was inspired by that.
2. My family members influenced me to wear Muslim attire.
3. Wearing Muslim Attire is a part of my family tradition.
4. I saw Opinion leaders /celebrities wearing Muslim attire and was inspired by that.
5. I think our culture and society positively view Muslim attire.
6. I consider Muslim attire as a part of my religious duty.
7. I think Muslim attire is fashionable and trendy.
8. I think Muslim attire creates a sense of security.
9. Wearing Muslim attire enhances the beauty.
10. I prefer Muslim attire in certain occasions. (Milad/condolences)
11. Protecting my hair from pollution is a reason to choose Muslim dress.
12. I chose Muslim Attire due to health reasons.
13. I started using Muslim attire after coming from Hajj/Umrah
14. Wearing Muslim attire is an institutional requirement.

CONCLUSION

Three factors have been found to play a significant role in the growing popularity of Muslim clothing among Pakistani women, according to the data analysis section. These include family traditions, the influence of opinion leaders, and religious obligations. Given that Muslim clothing is primarily a religious commitment, it is not surprising that the religious duty has the biggest influence. As a result, religious duty is the top factor for all respondents, regardless of their age or profession. Furthermore, the literature review indicates that the research done on Muslim clothing has a similar perspective.

The proportion of young Pakistani women who have begun donning the hijab or jilbab has sharply increased in recent years. Muslim clothing is now more than just a religious statement. More women are incorporating their personal style into Muslim attire. Women can now dress stylishly and modestly due to a new fashion trend that combines religion and style. Pakistani women's clothing is a unique blend of fashion and culture that reflects Islamic values. It offers modest yet fashionable apparel for women who choose to dress according to their beliefs. The sophistication and practicality of Islamic culture are demonstrated by the way it has influenced Pakistani women's attire, which also keeps up with the changing fashion trends.

REFERENCES

Al-Tirmizi 2784, Chapter 43, Hadith 56

Boulanouar, A. Wood. 2006. The Notion of Modesty in Muslim Women's Clothing: An Islamic Point of View. New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies 8, 2 (December, 2006): 134-156.

Hassan, H.S. and H. Harun, 2016. Factors influencing fashion consciousness in hijab fashion consumption among Hijabistas. Journal of Islamic Marketing, 7(4): 476 – 494. View at Google Scholar | View at Publisher

Ibn Maajah, 3640, Vol. 4, Chapter 32, Hadith No:91

Pew Research Center, 2015. The future of world religions: Population growth projections, 2010-2050.

http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/03/PF_15.04.02_ProjectionsFullReport.pdf

Sahih Muslim, 2077, Chapter 37, Hadith 49

Sahih Muslim 2128, Chapter 37, Hadith 190

Sunan Abu Dawood, 4061, Chapter 34, Hadith 42

Swami, V. and Benford, K. (2014). Body image and personality among British men: associations between the big five domains, drive for muscularity, and body appreciation. Body Image, 11 (4). 454-457.

The Holy Quran 7:26

The Holy Quran 33:59

The Holy Quran 7:26