

Research Article

Quranic Interpretation on Gender: A Study of Interpretations Through Maqāṣid Approach

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Received : December 12, 2025
Accepted : February 18, 2026

Revised : January 15, 2026
Available online : March 03, 2026

How to Cite: Shaista rasool, & Showkat Hussain. (2026). Quranic Interpretation on Gender: A Study of Interpretations Through Maqāṣid Approach. *LECTURES: Journal of Islamic and Education Studies*, 5(1), 15-34. <https://doi.org/10.58355/lectures.v5i1.195>

Abstract. The role and status of women in the Qur'an have been a crucial discourse because of diverse interpretative approaches with the classical and modern Muslim scholarship. Classical exegetes like al-Ṭabarī, Imam Qurtubi, and Ibn Kathīr often analysed verses about women within juridical and narrative contexts, reflecting the socio-historical circumstances of their era and perpetuating existing hierarchies. On the other hand, modern exegetes like Muhammad 'Abduh, Muhammad Asad, and the Indian scholar Abul Kalam Azad strove to reinterpret these verses through the lens of intellectual inquiry, universal principles, and the pressing ethical demands of their society. The other perspective generated by the Muslim feminist scholars of the modern era like Amina Wadud and Asma Barlas, have developed women-centred hermeneutics based on gender justice. This study conducts a comparative analysis of specific verses related to creation, marriage, divorce, polygamy, and spiritual equality. Despite diverse interpretive approaches, the study focuses on the interpretations based on