



LECTURES: Journal of Islamic and Education Studies

Journal website: <https://lectures.pdfaii.org/>

E-ISSN : 2964-1470

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.58355/lectures.v4i3.177>

Vol. 4 No. 3 (2025)

pp. 443-460

Research Article

Hijāb, Choice, and Identity: Between Feminist Liberation and Islamic Modesty

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Received : June 13, 2025
Accepted : August 15, 2025

Revised : July 17, 2025
Available online : September 24, 2025

How to Cite: Razia Abdullah, & Dr. Showkat Hussain Dar. (2025). Hijāb, Choice, and Identity: Between Feminist Liberation and Islamic Modesty . *LECTURES: Journal of Islamic and Education Studies*, 4(3), 443-460. <https://doi.org/10.58355/lectures.v4i3.177>

Abstract. The hijāb, rooted in Islamic principles of modesty, is widely recognised as a core aspect of religious belief and practice. While the obligation of modest dress is established in Islamic sources for both men and women, interpretations of the hijāb, particularly regarding the extent of covering required for women, vary significantly across different cultural, legal, and theological contexts. Often positioned at the centre of global debates on gender and religion, the hijāb is alternately viewed as a symbol of piety, identity, resistance, or patriarchal control. This study analyses the hijāb, exploring how Muslim women understand and practice veiling within diverse socio-religious and feminist frameworks. The paper draws upon Islamic jurisprudence, feminist theory, and textual analysis to explore the Qur'anic and Hadith-based foundations of modesty, alongside the evolving discourses on