

CONCERNING THE YOUNG TEENAGE GIRLS WHO POSTPONE MARRIAGE TO PURSUE THEIR STUDIES

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Q: There is a trend spreading, where a young woman or her father refuses marriage to anyone who may propose to her on the basis that she must first complete her secondary or university studies or until she has studied for a number of years. What is the ruling concerning this and what is your advice to those who do so whereas in some cases some of the young women reach their thirties or older without being married?

A: The ruling concerning this is that it opposes the command of the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ said; **“If there comes to you one whom you are pleased with practicing his religion and possessing good manners then allow him to marry (your daughters)”**.²

In addition, he ﷺ said; **“O young people! Whoever has the ability to get married then do so for indeed it causes the gaze to be lowered and the private parts to be protected.”**³

In avoiding marriage, one misses the benefits of being married. Therefore, I advise my Muslim brothers who are guardians over the women as well as my Muslim sisters not to prevent marriage on the basis of completing one's studies or to teach. Moreover, if the woman is able she can stipulate to her husband that she desires to stay studying until she completes her studies. Likewise, she can stay teaching for a number of years or two since she will not be busy with children. On the other hand, women advancing in university studies in those things that have no necessity to benefit us are an issue that should be looked into.

¹ Fataawaa Haammah li-Shabaab **“Important Rulings for the Muslim Youth”** Pages 50 – 52

² As related by at-Tirmidhee; who said it was Hasan.

³ As related by al-Bukhaaree and Muslim.

Women Rulings



Therefore, that which I view is that the woman should complete her elementary studies and become proficient in reading and writing so that she may benefit from the knowledge of reading the Book of Allāh and its **Tafseer** (Qur'ānic commentary) along with the ability to read the prophetic narrations of the Prophet ﷺ along with its explanation. Indeed that will suffice unless she is progressing in studies that are necessary such as medicine or the like and there is nothing objectionable in her studies such as free mixing, etc.