



## Analysis of Women's Narrations of Individual, Social and International Effects of Women's Assembly in Arbaeen Hosseini

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study was to analyze the women's narration of the individual, social and international effects of the Arbaeen Hosseini assembly. The study population was women participants in the Arbaeen Hosseini March. The sample consisted of 12 women who had at least experienced the Arbaeen procession for once that were selected by snowballs sampling procedure. The research design was descriptive-analytical based on the data theorizing approach and was done using semi-structured interviews. In order to develop and deepen the theory, at each stage of the interview, which seemed to have a theoretical connection between the new concepts and the theory, the theoretical sampling method was used. Data analysis and encoding were also performed using Maxqda software. In total, 137 open source, 33 concepts, 14 categories and 2 major concepts were extracted from the data. The results of the study indicated the existence of many important effects of the presence of women in the Arbaeen Hosseini assembly as an international congress and meeting place of Shiites, which had a great impact on promoting the international view of the position of women in Shiism as much as possible. Women's participation in Islamic socio-cultural ceremonies should be like Arbaeen Hosseini.



## Extended Abstract

**Introduction:** The presence of women in political, social, and cultural activities is considered as one of the necessities of contemporary society. Such presence is very important in the Arbaeen Procession, due to the Arbaeen rituals is held more extensively every year. It is one of the instances of these activities. The women, next to their children and families, alongside men, take different roles as pilgrims and hosts. The women have more eager to participate in the Arbaeen procession every coming year. However, a review of the literature and studies showed that the issue of the effects of women's participation in the Arbaeen procession has not been considered specifically. In consideration of the research gap in this area, the present study aimed to analyze the women's narrations of the individual, social and international effects of the Arbaeen Hosseini procession.

**Method:** The research design was descriptive-analytical based on the data theorizing approach. Statistical population was the women who had participated in Arbaeen procession. The sample consisted of 12 women who had at least experienced the Arbaeen procession for once and were selected by snowballs sampling procedure. The research inclusion criteria were at least having one participating experience in the Arbaeen procession, having either master or Ph.D. degree and minimum age of 20 and a maximum of 43 years. First, subjects were interviewed by using a semi-structured interview. To develop and deepen the theory, at each stage of the interview, which seemed to have a theoretical connection between the new concepts and the theory, the theoretical sampling method, was implemented. The theoretical sampling was continued to the point of theoretical saturation that seemed new data repetition of previous data. Data analysis and encoding were also performed using Maxqda software. In total, 137 open source, 33 concepts, 14 categories and 2 major concepts were extracted from the data.

**Results:** The results of the research indicated that the presence of women in the Arbaeen Hosseini rituals as an international congress, had numerous individual and social effects. The individual effects that were extracted in this research were 7 cases, including: 1) Benefiting from the spiritual effects of Arbaeen pilgrimage (use of the spiritual effects and rewards promised in reliable books such as Kamil Al-Ziyarat for the pilgrimage of Hazrat Seyyed al-Shuhada (greetings to him) and special Arbaeen pilgrimage and responding to the prayer). 2) Supporting the “Wilayat”, the mandatory and succession of the Islam Prophet (PBUH) through identification with the family of Hazrat Seyyed al-Shuhada (PBUH). Women in this way and following the example of Hazrat Zainab (PBUH) should always endeavor to be the “wilayat” follower. 3) Giving up worldly belongings (despite the constant dangers on the pilgrimage route of Sayyid al-Shuhada (AS), but pilgrims always eagerly been walked this route for Arbaeen pilgrimage). 4) Legitimate austerity (the pilgrims refine and reform their souls with the austerity of the path and its tolerance). 5) Increasing patience (Arbaeen pilgrimage is a kind of practice of patience). 6) The experience of “Yosr after Osr” (it is mentioned in the Holy Quran that always there is an openness after bearing hardships). 7) Being grateful for material blessings (confronting the hardships in the path of the Arbaeen Procession, leads to gratitude for the blessings that have always been). Furthermore, the Arbaeen Procession had social and international effects on women's participation, including: 1) Creating the empathy of the faithful peoples towards each other with the focus on the friendship of the Ahl al-Bayt(PBUH). 2) Providing context to introduce the Muslim women



model. 3) Providing context to favorable religious nurture of children accompanied mother. 4) Introducing Imam Hussein (PBUH) to the world. 5) International reflection of the huge Shias assembly in the international media. 6) Synergy of women in different parts of the world. 7) Providing context for world peace.

**Conclusions:** The results of the study indicated the existence of many important effects of the presence of women in the Arbaeen Hosseini rituals as an international congress and meeting place of Shiites, which had a great impact on promoting the international view of the position of women in Shiism as much as possible. The Arbaeen Procession was known as the largest human assembly of the world in contemporary history, but also for centuries. The Arbaeen Procession has undeniable individual and social effects for all those who have eager for this great epic and It has always led to the growth and development of humanity and the dimensions of humanity in the followers of this path. Hence, this epic could be considered as a symbol of effective principles in nurturing humankind. Since the women and mothers in society have a direct effect on the upbringing of their children and in this way they can determine the future of any society. Participating in this worldwide conference can develop their souls and have an educational effect on the next generation. Women's participation in Islamic socio-cultural ceremonies should be like Arbaeen Hosseini.

**Author Contributions:** Dr. Leila Samani: discussing of ideas and general framework, selection of method and final review, registration, submission and follow-up of corrections and other responsibilities of the corresponding author. Masoumeh Shahriari: conducting interviews, encoding and extracting categories and conducting research. Dr. Mahtab Eidy: supervision of the interviews, Method setting and data analysis. All authors discussed, reviewed, and validated the final manuscript.

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