Western attitude towards women must be challenged - 22 /May/ 2011

Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei in a meeting with hundreds of Iranian women scholars and top personalities said Islam views women as master of family, adding that the Islamic system must do more to fully revive the genuine, Islamic status of women in society and family.

Ayatollah Khamenei in the meeting which was held on Sunday on the eve of the birth anniversary of Hadhrat Fatema Zahra (S.A.) and the day of women, congratulated the auspicious day and said the gathering of large number of women intellectuals shows the Iranian women were moving towards the apex of perfection and that the Islamic system has succeeded to raise intellectual women who hold their own opinion concerning different social issues.

Ayatollah Khamenei said problems of the world today stemmed largely from the west's wrong attitude towards the status of women in society and family and that the wrong attitude has triggered a crisis.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the west has established an unfair equation in society under which the men are the beneficiary and the women are the benefit, and based on the equation, the women must act in such ways as to satisfy the beneficiary. "This is the most immense oppression ever against women," the IR Leader said.

The IR Leader touched on an organized and gradual drive by the west to instill the nations with such wrong ideas as to status of women, and that to the same effect, if someone moves to condemn such behaviors that are fed by female attractions, he or she would be treated with western media's hue and cry.

Ayatollah Khamenei said another outcome of the western oppressive attitude towards women is its open objection to Hijab. "The west claims that Hijab is a religiously-motivated issue and must not be allowed to appear in atheist societies however its true motivation for that objection is that Hijab challenges its strategic policy in seeking women promiscuity," the IR Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that based on official reports of relevant global centers, the western attitude towards women has led to a fragile familial structure, speedy growth of shameful trade in women and the phenomenon of illegitimately-born children. He said the Islamic Republic should expressly and relentlessly challenge the western ideas concerning women and meet its responsibility in defending the true status of women.

As to status of women in the country, Ayatollah Khamenei said a legal lever was needed in order to materialize the Islamic views concerning women and family, adding that despite all good works done since the Islamic Revolution (1979), there were still many deficiencies as to how women must be treated in family.

"The family environment must become a safe, dignified and tranquil one for women so that they could do their best in fulfilling their main task which is to care the family," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said the issue of women and family would be set as topic of discussion and research in the seminars on strategic thoughts in the Islamic Republic of which two seminars have already been staged in the presence of the IR Leader.

Ayatollah Khamenei urged the intellectual women to join the seminar, adding that the women-related issue must be studied and tackled based on Islamic teachings and the findings must be followed in future planning.

Meanwhile, in the meeting, 10 intellectual women figures expressed their views concerning different cultural, social and political issues.