INTRODUCTION

(The present society being a dynamic one is undergoing rapid and radical changes due to scientific and technological development. In such a challenging complex society, an individual has to keep pace with changing and ever progressive world. For all this, the basic thing needed is Education. Because education plays a vital role in the development of human potentials. Every nation has its own system of education to meet the challenges of changing times. The global aim of education is development of an individual in every respect, whether of physical, mental, social or emotional.

Every individual's development leads to the Nation's progress. Even if a meagre section of the society is underdeveloped the Nation can not boost of its progress. The Muslim women being a minority within a minority are recognised as educationally backward section at the National level by the New education policy 1986. Education at backwardness is leading to economic backwardness which in turn is responsible for social backwardness. This is a vicious cycle within which Muslims are living with a ghetto psyche. )
In spite of Indian government's and state government's efforts to raise the status of Muslim women who compared to their Hindu counterparts, are in the most unenviable position and no efforts has been made so far to find out the factors responsible for Muslim women's backwardness. We have very stray research work in this aspect and even these research findings reveal the diplorable situation of Muslims.

The present study therefore, attempt to examine the educational and socio-cultural aspects which influence the status of Muslim women in India with special reference to Aurangabad city. Education being the major instrument used by our Government to uplift the weaker section of the society, we have attempted to examine the contribution of education in the improvement of the status of Muslim women in Aurangabad. Since educational opportunities are equality available to all sections of the population and if any section of the population does not avail then fully this may be due to some restrictive components present in that section. Muslim women seem to be religious Law Al-Quran because Al-Quran makes compulsory for acquisition of knowledge for every Muslim men and women.
Accordingly, the present attempt is directed to the identification of variables which hinder the progress of Muslim women, which in turn lowers their status.

Thus with an assumption that Muslim women are educationally backward minority at National level the following backward minority at National level the following objectives were designed to carry out the project work.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1) To study the educational attainment of Muslim women which is a precondition for the upliftment of status of Muslim women.

2) To study the educational, religious, social economics, occupational and cultural responses of Muslim women.

3) To study the impact of, religion on the women in particular and on the community in general.

4) To study the pace and magnitude of traditionalism which impaires the path of progress of Muslim women.

5) To study Muslim women’s reaction towards change taking place in their society though at a snails pace.

6) To suggest some ways and means for the amelioration of the Muslim women in the progress of the Nation in general and progress of the community in particular.
Aurangabad city is the divisional head quarters of Marathwada region. In Maharashtra, Aurangabad is next to greater Bombay as far as Muslim population is concerned. But the Muslim masses living in the city slums lead a pitiable life due to lack of proper educational facilities and dearth of basic amenities which lowers their status in the society.

In simple terms for the purpose of the present research work, we can define status as the position of an individual in society by virtue of having to perform certain roles. Here social position includes educational attainment, her position in the family, occupational hierarchy, politics and religion.

Thus opportunity to acquire education, freedom in spouse selection and her involvement in family decision to opt for desired profession spend money as per the need and interest, to have share in the property and lastly to freely participate in outside familial activities used to evaluate the status of any individual.

The procedure as per the design of the study was partly historical, partly survey type and partly evaluative. Historical method was essential because the
present backwardness of Muslim women could be based on the past traditionalism. Survey method was also been employed to get the factual information regarding various aspects of Muslims women's life. Evaluative technique was also used to come to correct assessment of the problem.

The data gathering device most suitable for the present research was thought to be the questionnaire. A questionnaire was thus prepared which covered the many variable which influences the status of Muslim women. Right from the family background covering her educational, occupational, economic, other opportunities, family to her opinions regarding the present changing trends and their influence on their family.

The method adopted to gather information was schedule cum interview method. Most of the Muslim women were either illiterate or even if they were literate were not to the required level of so a questionnaire was prepared and the same was filled in through interviews in most of the cases.

Area within limits of Aurangabad city was selected for the present study and the Muslim population of Aurangabad city as per 1981 census was 124872. Muslim male were 64436 and females were 40436 to asses the status of
Muslim women 600 married women were randomly selected who could have a deeper insight and could help to trace out the variables influencing the status and find out the reasons for having a lower status.

Chapter I EDUCATION AND WOMEN, deals with the importance of education and its need in the present scientific and technological progressive world. An attempt has also been made to trace Educational status of Muslim women in India taking a brief history of the past. Identification of the factors which came in the path of progress of Muslim women measure to be taken for the upliftment of this educationally backward minority was also discussed.

Chapter II STATUS AND WOMEN, concept of status and its definition is attempted. In this chapter an attempt has been made to display the status given to women in different world religions and famous civilizations of the world. Status of Muslim women in different countries has also been discussed. At the end of the chapter keeping in view the Indian women's status, her status in Aurangabad was also discussed.
Chapter III DESIGN OF THE STUDY. The operational definition of the status has been dealt in this chapter. The aim of the research project objective of the selecting study of Aurangabad for research setting along with its brief history was discussed. Selection of the population and sample, method and questionnaire were the other things discussed in this chapter.

Chapter IV ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE with the help of the computer, tables were prepared by analysing the data on the basis of family structure, age, education, income, place of residence, and parent's education. In this way average values, analysis of the questionnaires and interpretations of the finding were calculated.

Chapter V SUMMARY AND FINDINGS AND SOME REMEDIAL MEASURES are included in this chapter. On the basis of facts and figures gathered through a keen and careful survey, This chapter presents a gloomy picture in the field of education. This chapter also hints at some new avenues for further researches in this regard.