

**The Role of Family in Social Harmony: In the Light of Islamic Sharia'h and
Pakistani Society**

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Abstract

The Creator has created mankind from a couple, which is the basic Unit of society. This couple has different names in which Husband and Wife is more famous. A male and a female get start their life together in the result of an agreement which is known as Nikah in Muslim society. They not only fulfil their physical need from each other but take a lifetime responsibility of their kids as well. They both need proper guideline to fulfil this responsibility in a good manner. In this context, the divine revelation, in shape of Quran & Sunnah, has laid logical, golden and most beneficial teachings in a great detail for this Unit. Actually, this Unit, family, has a great role and importance in the stability and disability of society. Elucidatory, family has different roles likewise Social, Economic, Political, Religious and Ethical role. Unavoidable, a stable, educated, organized and morally equipped family is mandatory for an organized and stable society. So, harmony and affection in husband and wife plays vital role in Social Harmony. In this Article, Pakistani Society will be observed and analyzed in the light of Islamic teachings.

Key Words: *Family, Spouse, Social Harmony, Moral Values, Stable Society, Relationship, Pakistan Society.*

Introduction

Allah almighty has created mankind from a couple and inbuilt sociality in his creation. In this regard, family has a key role in his social life that comes into existing from sexual relation of a man and woman. So, advancement and decline of the society is dependent upon this unit of society. Obviously, when and wherever this Unit is unified and integrated, society will be stable and prosperous; and wherever it is decentralized and deconcentrated, society will be dispersed and ill-mannered. Moreover, family has great importance in Islam that its protection and perpetuity have been declared one of the fundamental elements of Shariah. In this article, a family system has been discussed in details in the light of Islamic teachings and perspective of Pakistani Society. Concluding, family system could be strengthening by eradicating different obstacles likewise patriarchal dominancy of male, unacquaintance of female from chores, standards of selection of couple and influences of other societies.

Importance of Family in the Light of Islamic Teachings

Actually, a family is based upon a Husband and a Wife along with other blood relatives. When Husband and a wife give birth to a child, they become parents. Elucidatory, mother becomes paradise for children and Allah almighty attaches his willingness to father willingness. Inevitably after having rank of parents, they become responsible for physical and spiritual look after of their offspring. Amazingly, Allah almighty has bestowed manual of their Rights and Duties. As it's obvious that a family is formed by the marriage contract of a man and woman along with their children but the blood relations of the Husband also increase circle of the family. Besides, Islam also considers the protection of lineage as one of the five objectives of Islamic Law.¹ The starting point of mankind starts from Adam (A.S) and Eve (A.S) as it is mentioned in the Quran.

"وَقُلْنَا يَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنْتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ"²

And we said, "O 'Adam, dwell, you and your wife, in Paradise.

Islam is a natural Deen and Allah almighty has made couple for all his creature including Mankind, so that they could get themselves relaxed and satisfied. Its described in the Holy Quran:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ³

“And it is among His signs that He has created for you wives from among yourselves, so that you may find tranquility in them, and He has created love and kindness between you. Surely in this there are signs for a people who reflect”.

Naturally, men and women are interdependent and needs each other. Allah almighty named this natural desire as a Dress. Dress has two aspects, one is to hide their private parts and second one is to look beautiful. When a man and a woman get marry they not only hide their weaknesses but also looks beautiful. The Holy Quran describes:

هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُنَّ ⁴

They are apparel for you, and you are apparel for them

In this verse, couple are called dress for each other that always attached with body. This natural and strong relationship not only protects private matters but also guards from dangerous external matters. It is not only a source of fulfilment of natural desires but also guarantees and protects coming generations. In short, it's the start and ultimate end of the society. The Holy Quran ascribes:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ⁵

“O men, fear your Lord who created you from a single soul, and from it created its match, and spread many men and women from the two. Fear Allah in whose name you ask each other (for your rights), and fear (the violation of the rights of) the wombrelations. Surely, Allah is watchful over you”.

A great Islamic theologian Muhammad bin Jareer Tibri explains this verse in his Quranic Exegesis. He is of the view that:

ومنبههم بذلك على أن جميعهم بنو رجل واحد وأم واحدة، وأن بعضهم من بعض، وأن حق بعضهم على بعض واجب وجوب حق الأخ على أخيه، لاجتماعهم في النسب إلى أب واحد وأم واحدة، وأن الذي يلزمهم من رعاية بعضهم حق بعض، وإن بُعد التلاقي في النسب إلى الأب الجامع بينهم، مثل الذي يلزمهم من ذلك في النسب ⁶

It indicates that all mankind is offspring of a man and a woman. In this context, they have rights and duties amongst them. Concluding, they are attributed to a father and a mother, that's why it has been made necessary to respect each other rights due to lineage.

Apart from other wisdoms, Islam has ordered to get marry to protect society from mishaps. Besides, adultery has also been declared unlawful to protect lineage. Allah almighty describes in the Holy Quran:

وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْيَتَامَىٰ فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَىٰ وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبَاعَ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ ذَلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَلَّا تَعُولُوا ⁷

If you fear that you will not do justice to the orphans, then, marry the women you like, in twos, in threes and in fours. But, if you fear that you will not maintain equity, then (keep to) one woman, or bondwomen you own. It will be closer to abstaining from injustice.

As Natural need, Quran commands all mankind to respect the rights of each other.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَاتُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

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“O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into races and tribes, so that you may identify one another. Surely the noblest of you, in Allah’s sight, is the one who is most pious of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware”.

Moreover, Quran Says that:

فَاطِرُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضِ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ اَنْفُسِكُمْ اَزْوَاجًا وَمِنَ الْاَنْعَامِ اَزْوَاجًا يُدْرِكُكُمْ فِيهِ لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ⁹

“He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you pairs from among yourselves, and pairs from the cattle. He makes you expand in this way. Nothing is like Him. And He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing”.

The Prophet (PBUH) also emphasizes on the equality and merit in the society. The classification and categorization amongst mankind is merely for recognition instead of proud and extra leverages.

“All Mankind is from Adam (A.S) and Adam (A.S) was from soil”.¹⁰

Foundations of Stable Family

As its obvious that family is unit of the society and stable unit is needed for stable society. Explicatory, golden principles for a stable family have been mentioned in the Quran and Sunnah. The Holy Quran ascribes that whenever there occur mishaps in this unit, do arbitrary among them.

وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ شِقَاقَ بَيْنِهِمَا فَابْعَثُوا حَكَمًا مِنْ أَهْلِهِ وَحَكَمًا مِنْ أَهْلِهَا إِنْ يُرِيدَا إِصْلَاحًا يُوَفِّقِ اللَّهُ بَيْنَهُمَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا خَبِيرًا ¹¹

“If you fear a split between them (the spouses), send one arbitrator from his people and one from her people. If they desire to set things right, Allah shall bring about harmony between them. Surely, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware”.

The above verses show the importance of a stable family because it’s key to stable society. In this regard, Quran and Sunnah have mentioned rights and duties of individuals of the society in great details.

Sermon of Nikkah

As its obvious that family is Unit of society and family is based upon a long lasting relationship of a man and a woman. According to Islamic teachings, man and woman can only start their marriage life in the result of a Sermon of Nikkah. The holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has chosen the following verse for the Sermon of Nikkah.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا¹²

“O men, fear your Lord who created you from a single soul, and from it created its match, and spread many men and women from the two. Fear Allah in whose name you ask each other (for your rights), and fear (the violation of the rights of) the womb relations. Surely, Allah is watchful over you”.

Establishment of Mankind

Family system is not only protector of family members but it also savior of human race. It has protected human race in different societies in different shapes. The Holy Quran addresses this topic in various verses. Especially, Surah e Nisa, one of the longest Surah of the Holy Quran, has addressed it from different aspects.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا¹³

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Mercifulness/ Affection

Mercifulness plays vital role in the stability of a family. When parents got aged and their children grow up, there occur so many obstacles in the progress and stability of a family. In Such case, the Holy Quran guides us to have good relations with parents.

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ¹⁴

Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and do good to parents.

Moreover, Allah almighty orders believers to do good to their parents, especially when they become aged and need help.

إِمَّا يَبْلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا () وَأَخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذَّلِيلِ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيْتَنِي صَغِيرًا ¹⁵

“If any one of them or both of them reach old age, do not say to them: uff (a word or expression of anger or contempt) and do not scold them, and address them with respectful words, and submit yourself before them in humility out of compassion, and say, “My Lord, be merciful to them as they have brought me up in my childhood”.

Imam Buqai says while elaborating the importance of Merci that Allah almighty has attached it with his al Rehman. ¹⁶ Besides, Abdul Azeem Islahi is of the view that respect to parents in a family comes first and then other relationships respectively in an Islamic Society. ¹⁷

Promotion of Moral Values

Moral Values are backbone of family and society. Obviously, men are neither robot nor machine that merely does his work without feelings. In human society, Moral Values have great effects that’s why Islam emphasizes to follow and promote moral values.

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ¹⁸

“And those who say, “Our Lord, Give us, from our spouses and our children, comfort of eyes, and make us heads of the God-fearing”.

According to Islamic teachings, parents are not only responsible for physical take care of their kids but also accountable for their, mental and spiritual development. Furthermore, parents are also directed to pray for good being of their children. At the end, this newly born family would be beneficial for society and collective cause.

Family and Teachings of the holy Prophet (PBUH)

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is role model for all mankind. He guided humanity in all aspects of life. More, He (PBUH) not only guided us in family matters but also acted upon all those teachings. The Prophet (PBUH) says while highlighting the importance of wives.

حَيْرُكُمْ حَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِمْ وَأَنَا حَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي¹⁹

“The best of you is he who is best to his family, and I am the best of you to my family”.

Moreover, the Prophet (PBUH) high pointed the importance of Nikkah in these words:

النِّكَاحُ مِنْ سُنَّتِي فَمَنْ لَمْ يَعْمَلْ بِسُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي²⁰

“Marriage is my sunnah, whoever does not follow my sunnah is not from me”.

Furthermore, the Prophet (PBUH) said that:

حديث انس بن مالك ،قال :سمعت رسول الله ﷺ يقول ،من سره ان يبسط له رزقه او ينسأله في اثره فليصل رحمه²¹
Narrated Anas bin Malik (R.A), the Prophet (PBUH) said that whoever is please that his sustenance is extended and his age is blessed, he should be kind and merciful.

Besides, the Prophet (PBUH) emphasized on merci and kindness in society in these words:

عن ابي هريره ،قال :يا رسول الله ان لي قرابة ا صلهم ويقطعونى واحسن اليهم ويسينون اليى واحلم عمهم ويجهلون على فقال ﷺ ل عن كنت قلت فكا نماتسفهم المل ولا يزال معك من الله عليهم مادمت على ذلك²²

Narrated by Abu Huraira (R.A) that he asked the apostle of Allah, “I have some relatives and I show mercy to them and they do not show mercy. I show kindness to them and they do evil to me, I treat them with tolerance and they treat me with ignorance. Then the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, “If the matter is as you say, then as long as you continue to do so, then a helper from Allah will be with you against them”.

Analysis of the Role of Family in Islamic Society

As per the role and importance of family in human society, Islam also considers it a key factor and game changer of the society. Moreover, Islam also gives emphasis to respect of sanctity of relationships and racial purity. Additionally, Islam has laid numerous golden teachings to establish an ideal society based on moral values. In this regard, Islamic teachings urge youth (both male and female) to get married on time, so that they could escape their selves for illegal and immoral activities. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said;

قال رسول ﷺ: من اراد ان يلقى الله طاهرا مطاهرا فليتزوج²³

The Apostle of Allah (PBUH) said, “Whoever wants to meet Allah pure from immoralities he should get married”.

اذا آتاكم من ترضون خلقه ودينه فزوجوه الا تفعلوا تكن فتنه في الارض وفساد عريض²⁴

Additionally, the Prophet (PBUH) said that if someone comes to you (to propose your daughter) and you have no objection on his character and religion, do marry him. If you do not do so, there will be mischief and seduction widespread on the earth”.

The above verses and narrations highlight the importance of a stable family in our society. Additionally, the adoption of above mentioned golden teachings are mandatory for a stable family. Because, a stable family provides responsible individuals to society. The family fosters the continuity of mankind under the shadow of legal and moral protection. Besides, the survival and reformation of Culture and Civilization is also associated with family. In this regard, the Prophet (PBUH) said:

تَزَوَّجُوا الْوُدُودَ الْوُلُودَ فَإِنِّي مُكَاثِرٌ بِكُمْ الْأُمَمَ²⁵

“Marry the affectionate and fertile women, I will be proud of other nations because of your great numbers”.

The Role of Family in the Welfare of Society

Society and social life has been established to survive and fulfil his natural and fundamental desires of mankind. The ultimate goal of human being is to establish a welfare society that could only be possible when mankind succeed in the foundation of an ideal family. Dr. Khalid Alvi, former VC of University of the Punjab, is of the view that:

“The strong and integrated society is depended upon strong and disciplined family and welfare institutions of the society. Due to the stability of these institutions, the society is progressed, developed and blessed with stability. Obviously, these are the means by which the necessities of life are fulfilled and causes of the rise of Society and Civilization.²⁶ Furthermore, Dr. Alvi highpoints the common inheritance of all societies in these words, “Social harmony, self-discipline, awareness of social responsibility, fulfillment of goals, taking care of rights and duties are the common heritage of all societies”.²⁷

Social Role of Family

Actually, family has different roles like social, political, economic etc. Explicatory, family has great influence in the society and enables individuals to fulfil their social responsibilities properly. In his way, woman, as a key pillar of family, has great importance according Islamic teachings. The holy Prophet (PBUH) high pointed her role in the society.

لا تزوجوا النساء لحسنهم فعسى حسنهن ان يرديهن ولا تزوجوهن لا موالهن فعسى اموالهن ان اتطغيهن ولكن تزوجوهن على الدين²⁸

“Do not marry women because of their beauty, perhaps their beauty will turn them back, and do not marry them due to their wealth, perhaps their wealth will overwhelm them, but marry them over religion”.

Moreover, the Prophet (PBUH) has given stress over the character and good relations amongst wife and husband, which is key to stable family.

انما الدنيا متاع، وليس من متاع الدنيا شيء "افضل من المرأة الصالحة" ما استفاد المؤمن بعد تقوى الله اله من زوجة صالحة، ان امرها اطاعته، وان نظر اليها سرته، وان اقسم عليها ابرته، وان غاب عنها نصحة في نفسها وماله²⁹

The world is but an enjoyment, and there is nothing of this world's enjoyment “better than a good wife.” The believer does not benefit from anything, after God's piety, than a righteous wife. When he commands her, she obeys him; when he looks at her, she makes him happy; when he swears to her, she fulfils it and when he is absent from her, she protects herself and his money.

The above narration gives us key to stable family, which leads to stable society that is a pious wife. Cogently, she is not only the whole universe for her husband but initial and most influential institution for their children as well. This institution set the direction of society. Besides, this is the only Institution based on racial and blood relations, where new generations are grown up and looked after.

Moral Role of Family

Family is Unit of society and the very first educational institution for children. It starts from living relationship of a man and a woman in the result of Nikah. In the result of Nikah, circle of family extends to children and other relationships. Meanwhile, offspring should

be equipped morally from this institution too because there is no one more sincere to them than of parents. Numerous verses of the Holy Quran and narrations of the Prophet (PBUH) have been revealed in this regard. Concisely, few narrations of the Prophet (PBUH) are described in the line below:

من عال جاريتين حتى تبلغا، جاء يوم القيامة أنا وهو، وضم أصابعه³⁰

Whoever takes care of two slave girls till their grown up, he will be with me on the day of resurrection and he joined his fingers.

At another place, the Prophet (PBUH) said:

من كانت له جارية فعلمها فاحسن اليها ثم اعتقها وتزوجها كان له اجران³¹

“A person who educates his slave girl well and then frees her and marries her has two rewards”.

Abu Dawood has narrated a narration in his book.

من عال ثلاث بنات، فادبهن وزوجهن واحسن اليهن، فله الجنة³²

“A person who takes care of three daughters, educates them well and gets them married, for him will be Paradise”.

Muhammad bin Yazid has also described a narration, in which the Apostle of Allah (PBUH) said the same reward for a good father who takes care and educates his daughters well.

من كان له ثلاث بنات فصبر عليهن واطعمهن وسقاهن وكساهن من جدته، كن له حجابا من النار يوم القيامة³³

“A person who has three daughters, patient with them and feed, water and clothe them according to his efforts, these daughters will be a veil for him from Hell on the Day of Resurrection”.

The Prophet (PBUH) advised the believers to have good behavior with kinfolks especially daughters. Moreover, He (PBUH) said that taking care of divorced etc. sister is also charity (Sadaqah).

ان النبي ﷺ: الا ادلك على الصدقة؟ ابنتك مردوة اليك، ليس لها كاسب غيرك "

“Shall I tell you about charity? A daughter of yours who comes back to you, after marriage, and has no one to earn her money except you.

The above narration explicates that as per social structure, when our sisters and daughters get married, we feel that she is no more our responsibility. But, it should be kept in mind that whenever our sisters, daughters etc. need our help, we should be there to help them. Because we have blood relations to each other and we are the only shelter for them.

Our beloved mother, Ayesha (R.A) also narrated an hadith of the Apostle of Allah in this regard. She said that

A woman came to me with two daughters. She found nothing with me but a date, so I gave her that. She divided it among her daughters and didn't eat of it and went outside. After a while, the Prophet (PBUH) came home and I told him (PBUH) about her. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Whoever is put to the test of daughters and treats them well, they (daughters) will be a barrier for him/her from the fire of Hell.”³⁴

The holy Prophet (PBUH) advised and ordered the believers not to make differences amongst their children. Once, a Companion of the Prophet (PBUH) gifted a male servant to one of his sons and wanted to make the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) a witness. Therefore, he expressed his wish in front of the Holy Prophet. He (PBUH) asked, “Have you given all your children a slave? He said No. He (peace be upon him) said, "I do not bear witness to anyone except the truth.”³⁵

Moral Education Role of Family

Family is the very first educational institution for new generation. This is the family, which incarnates Islamic teachings, cultural values, mental and physical nourishment in the children. In this way, children observe their parents as a role model. Surprisingly, if there is well educated and valuable role model available for children, they will be automatically beneficial and responsible citizen for society. Conversely, if children are deprived of a good role model, there will be no proper guideline for them. In this way, family would be failed to produce pious, well-mannered and well educated individuals. Additionally, Mr. Juma Khalil also emphasizes on a pious role model, so that children could observe and follow pious mentors. It will boost up hidden talent of children that can be beneficial for

society.³⁶ Thus, it is mandatory for parents to provide their children a quality education and pious moral environment. Consequently, they will not only provide pious individuals and responsible citizen to society but they would also be benefited in their entire life. The Holy Quran described the conversation of Luqman (A.S) with his son in these words:

يَا بُنَيَّ إِنَّهَا إِنْ تَكُ مِنْتَقَالِ حَبَّةً مِّنْ حَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ

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(Luqman went on saying to his son,) “My dear son, in fact, if there be anything to the measure of a grain of rye, and it be (hidden) in a rock or in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Surely, Allah is All Fine, All-Aware.

Interestingly, it was such a great advice that Allah almighty made it part of eternal Quran. If our kids found such moral values and golden teachings practically in early childhood; how would they be fruitful for society? In short, parents have a great role in the development and moral nourishment of their children. In this regard, the holy Prophet (PBUH) said, “No father can give his son a better gift than to teach him good manners”.³⁸ Family life is a corner stone of society, on which we establish tremendous building of Civilization. In such a way, family becomes a means of transmitting cultural heritage and values of the society to the next generations. A great Islamic scholar of our time, Justice Mufti Taqi Usmani, is of the view that it is distinction of the holy Prophet (PBUH) that He (PBUH) made the Ummah aware that children should not be educated only from a worldly point of view, but should also keep in mind that there is an afterlife responsibility associated with it.³⁹

The holy Quran addresses the believers to escape their selves and their offspring from the fire of Hell.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ.⁴⁰

“O you who believe, save yourselves and your families from a fire, the fuel of which is human beings and stones, appointed on which are angels, stern and severe, who do not disobey Allah in what He orders them, and do whatever they are ordered to do”.

Allah almighty has established human society on the basis of Family. This is a very systematic and organized initiative that fulfils all the necessities and fundamental desires. Illustrative, the teaching of self-sacrifice for the care of the family, their support, their expenses for their legitimate comfort and peace leads to an increase in the greatness of the institution of family. Allah almighty ascribes rights and duties and internal system of family in these words:

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ.⁴¹

“The believers, male and female, are friends to each other. They bid virtue and forbid vice and establish Salah and pay Zakah and obey Allah and His Messenger. Those are the ones whom Allah will bless with mercy. Surely, Allah is Powerful, Wise”.

The above verses and narrations described salient features believers that work together with respect of their rights and duties. This desired combination of family members and individuals not only stabilize and strengthen the society but also bring the moral values and civilization to the highest level. This ideal environment enables parents to promote spirituality amongst their children, which distinguish mankind from the rest of creature. Concluding, family produce complete, civilized and well organized individuals. Moreover, it's obvious that mother role has been excellent in human history that's why Islam teaches and urges her to play a vital role and utilize utmost energy in strengthening this institution stable and well organized. In this regard, the Apostle of Allah (S.W.T) was asked about characteristics of a good wife? He (PBUH) replied, “the one whom her husband sees is happy and when he gives orders, she obeys them”. Besides, Shah Waliullah was of the ⁴² view while explaining household duties of a wife that the following are included in the primary duties of a wife: “She has to perform the services of preparing food, drinking and clothing. Moreover, she has to educate his children and protect his wealth and perform all household affairs in an efficient manner.” ⁴³

Ethical Role of Family

Family is the very first institution for the children. The holy Prophet (PBUH) were very conscious about the mentoring and training of new generation. Explicatory, narrated by

Anas (R.A), the Prophet (PBUH) said, “O my son, when you enter the house, say Salam to the family because it will be blessing for you and family.”⁴⁴

Additionally, the Prophet (PBUH) said:

”مُرُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ سَبْعِ سِنِينَ وَاضْرِبُوهُمْ عَلَيْهَا وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ عَشْرِ سِنِينَ وَفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَهُمْ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ”⁴⁵

“When your children reach the age of seven years, order them to pray, and when they reach the age of ten, beat them for not praying, and separate their beds”.

Islam teaches the believers to from birth to death, so that they could escape from Satanic tricks and maintain their worldly standard.

Factors undermining family stability

Islam teaches us complete and perfect teaching regarding stability of family. Unfortunately, we couldn't establish a stable family large wise because there exists elements that destabilize family structure. We observe these elements in the following line.

Muhammad Umar is of the view while addressing the elements that destabilize family. He says that after observing the family feuds and misunderstanding between wife and husband; there is only one cause that is not following the golden teachings of the holy Prophet (PBUH) laid in the Quran and Sunnah. It results the destroying of both even whole family.

The number of faults, defects and bad moods that arise in this area of life is due to nothing but the fact that the married couple ignores the message of mercy of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his misguided patterns in their marital relations and affairs. And he begins to act recklessly, the results of which are disastrous for the life of both or one and they appear in the form of destruction of houses.⁴⁶

Unconsciously, majority of Muslims consider Islamic teachings limited to worships and rituals. It resulted that Islamic teachings are ignored in social, economic and other sphere of life.⁴⁷

There is an urgent need for education and training not only of girls and women, but also of fathers and of all men, the worst enemy of the rights of women is not Islam but ignorance and illiteracy, to which we may add the determining role of traditional prejudice.⁴⁸

Besides, Munir Ahmed Khalili added an element of destabilizing family that those who are busy in religious and preaching activities are always ignore their social and family responsibility.⁴⁹

Degrading the Importance and Status of Family

Man is social animal and need society for his survival. In this way, family plays vital role in the integrity of society. Tragically, family members especially youth don't pay attention to have some time special for family members. That's why, this institution is growing fast towards decline. There are some flaws that extend gaps between family members which results decline of the institution. These elements are below mentioned.

- **Domineering Behavior of Men**

One of the key factors of destabilize family is the dominate behavior of men who dictate their off-springs. Whenever, a family member disagree with his opinion; he considers it a crime. Such behavioral approach is not only against the Islamic teachings but also cancer for good relationship and pleasant atmosphere at home.⁵⁰

Mulana Maududi (R.A) is of the view that it's because of ignorance of Correct Islamic Concepts. He further says that the lack of Religious education, this has led such estrangement of Muslims from the Muslim Marital law that even well-educated Muslims are not aware of the common issues involved in this law.⁵¹

Improper Use of Caretaker

Allah almighty has declared men caretaker of women. Misinterpretation, men don't use it properly and consider themselves the supreme power of family. This behavior leads to distrust or even break up. Consequently, society become deprived of responsible individuals. Islamic Shari'ah taught men how to deal with their spouses even in unbearable situations as well. The holy Quran describes it in these words.

وَالَّذِي تَخَافُونَ نُشُورَهُنَّ فَعِظُوهُنَّ وَاهْجُرُوهُنَّ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ وَاضْرِبُوهُنَّ فَإِنْ أَطَعْنَكُمْ فَلَا تَبْغُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ سَبِيلًا⁵²

As for women of whom you fear rebellion, convince them, and leave them apart in beds, and beat them. Then, if they obey you, do not seek a way against them.

Absolution of Women from Responsibility

Women have great and key role in the establishment of family. They not only give birth to children but also take care of whole family. Even since, women have been freed of their responsibility, there has been destruction in the family system.

Criteria for Selection of Marriage

Actually, male and female have different criteria for Marriage in different societies. The holy Prophet (PBUH) has confined this criteria in four features likewise Family Tree, Beauty, Wealth and Deen. Moreover, the Prophet (PBUH) emphasized on Deen after describing all these standards that believers should give preference to Deen, while having Nikkah with women. This criteria can give right direction to the family as well as the whole society.⁵³

Contemporary Pakistani Society

The reasons for which the Qur'an has given this honor to parents are in place and permanent, but from the eyes of Muslim parents, the glory of time has obscured the prophetic mission. Consequently, the system of training, education and priorities of children has been changed in Muslim Societies. Instead of training, Muslims are doing the same thing that holder false ideas are doing to keep their children ahead in the world race. The most devastative role in family chaos is the media, in every broadcast whether a drama, a film or an advertisement, there is no program that does not play disorder with family values. On top of this, there are the disasters of the internet (social media). Due to the deadly effects of mass media, we are facing court marriages, illegitimate friendships, increasing divorce rates, and breaking up of families. Curative, family system should be escaped from internal and external challenges by training children and promoting Islamic values along with educating modern technical skills. Besides, hatred of immoral western culture, timely Nikkah to fulfil sexual desires and freedom of un-Islamic rituals might guide youth to right direction.

Strong Relations amongst Family Members

According to Islamic teachings, all family relations based on godliness and piety. Allah almighty says in the holy Quran, “O men, fear your Lord who created you from a single soul, and from it created its match, and spread many men and women from the two. Fear

Allah in whose name you ask each other (for your rights), and fear (the violation of the rights of) the womb relations". Therefore, the more society emphasizes the importance of family, the more people will try to create and maintain their own families. Contrary, if the society in itself is corrupt, in which sexual immorality is rampant, it's obvious that no one will accept the burden of a responsibility on his shoulder that requires a family life. Nature demands an Islamic Principles based society that is endorsed by western philosophers well. George Peter Murdock is of the view that family provides numerous services to individual and society. Explicatory, it provides sexual satisfaction to married couple confining them to legitimate ways only. Besides, they give services to society by giving birth to children.

Conclusion

Islam introduces this fact that sociability is incarnated in the nature of mankind. Tacit, family is the most important and basic unit of society which comes into existence through marriage between man and woman. The Prophet (PBUH) established a series of mutual rights and duties to establish a stabilize society by following which social chaos such as individualism, mistrust and anxiety can be combated. Islam advocates and emphasizes balance and moderation in the relationship between the individual and the community. It requires that the status of the family should be maintained the unit of society; so that the initial center of society can work effectively for wider collective consciousness and well-being. Character of a good family is that it fulfills all its duties. Family harmony means strong relationship between wife and husband. The head of the family, whether of an agricultural or an industrial society, should be of such character that every individual of family is confined to obey his orders. A society in which there is no restriction on the relationship between wife and husband in the family system, children are not an integral part of the family and elders are not respected, that society is prone to sexual immorality and criminal negligence, devoid of compassion and sympathy. Fortunately, Religious Scholars contribute to family harmony and emotional security of the individual in the society. The basic cause of Contemporary social chaos is family disorder. Irresponsibility in sexual relations, frequent divorces, controlling of reproduction and lack of respect for the elderly persons are the evils that have destroyed stability and peace of the society.

Recommendations

1. Family is also an institution of Tarbiyyah like Masjid and Madrasa of society. So, attention should be paid to improve this institution.
2. Ulema should increase their activities for family and social harmony in the light of Quran and Sunnah.
3. The government should make and implement laws according to Islamic teachings to improve the family system.
4. Society improves only with family harmony, so research on such topics should be done to highlight its importance

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