

# Comparison of Family Lifestyle in Heavenly Books

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## Abstract

The family system is the image of any society or civilization. At the moment, human rights in every civilization has been disturbed by family problems and it is not related to any particular civilization, but all civilizations including the African, Spanish, European and Japanese have been affected by it. As a Muslim, we believe in every heavenly book. The holy Quran and the rest of the heavenly books give a lot of importance to family life. The manner of spending family life described in the Quran is not only practical, but serves as a great example to be followed. If we take examples from the family life of the holy Prophet (pbuh), we will get guidance in every sphere of family life. Let us take the case of marriage. There are orders in every respect. There are instructions about observing Purdah, education of women, her interaction with men, payment of dower and returning the dower that a woman receives from her husband in case of Khula. Quran also talks about the Prophet's (pbuh) wives and nature of his relations with them and the numbers of wives that a person can have at one time. There are rules relating to marriage, divorce, widow and Khula. These are the most important aspects of the family life. Quran also provides solution to problems like domestic violence and sexual harassment. It also deals with present day issues of family life such as homosexuality, rights of spouses as well as rights of parents and children.

**Keywords:** Family life, Quranic lifestyle, civilization, women rights, divorce, marriage

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## Introduction

The family refers to such an organized group of people, whose origin is related to two people associated with marriage (i.e. husband & wife). And then their generation increases blood relationships and thus the family limits expand more and more.<sup>(1)</sup>

A group of people who are related to each other, such as a mother, a father, and their children is called family.<sup>(2)</sup> Family begins with the mutual relation of man and woman. Children are born, then they also become parents. In this process marital relations are built and spread into sub-families and tribes who ultimately form a society.<sup>(3)</sup> Providing a framework for the production and reproduction of humans, biologically and socially, is a primary function of the family. This can happen through the sharing of material data like house and food etc.; mutual rights and obligations of children and parents; and moral and sentimental ties.<sup>(4)</sup> The development and prosperity of society is related to the family's strength because the family is the primary unit of social life, whose main members are men and women. Sociologists say social welfare depends on strong family values.

Just as every Muslim believes in former prophets, he also believes in the earlier heavenly books. Although from the heavenly books, at present we only have the Quran in its genuine condition, while the Taurat and Gospel has changed so far that they cannot be called pure heavenly books. But still during the research stages, researchers also benefit from the Bible and use it as a primary source too. The reason for this is that the authenticity of the biblical authority is defined - that is the proven fact that the Bible is a modified and amended book. Therefore, when we conduct research from the Bible, we keep this fact in mind that the Bible can just help us to reach the truth and no final opinion can be established from the results of the Bible study. Secondly, a lot of care is taken to derive from the Bible in the matters of belief (Aqidah) and worship, while the study of Bible can be used in historical events and social issues

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<sup>(1)</sup> Feroz ud Din, Urdu Jamey Feroz ul Lughaat (Lahore: Feroz Sons, 1964), p1161

<sup>(2)</sup> Cambridge Advanced Learning Dictionary, (Cambridge University Press, Third Edition), e Application

<sup>(3)</sup> Khalid Alvi, Doctor, Islam Ka Masharti Nizam (Al-Faisal Nashiran o Tajran Kutab, Lahore), p.151

<sup>(4)</sup> Schneider, David, A Critique of the Study of Kinship (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1984) p. 182

like what the Muslim historians have done in the past.

With every passing day, the society is being evolved by evolutionary new flights. Due to the development of technology, wonderful inventions are being made and human life has touched the last bounds in the quest for prosperity. Travel vehicles have been given the shape of a restaurant. Remote control residences are being built. Man is preparing to fly in the air, but peace is still missing from human life. Modern investigations have proved that we are ever more depressed, even so we are living in the most progressive period of history. The only reason is that we have destroyed the family's institution in this race of development. The rise and fall of civilizations and societies is linked to the stability of the family life. If we deeply review it, then it will become clear that the identity of any nation is its family system, and that system decides the fate of the nation. Now, family life is completely disturbed and despite all the efforts nothing helps at all.

The Quran describes the family life of the prophets and saints, which are most suitable and practically most implementable. In this research paper, we will discuss and compare the style of life described in the holy Quran and other heavenly books and we will explain it in the contemporary and modern context.

### Birth of Human Race and Gender Equality

Allah is saying to the people that He created them from a single being and then populated you around the world. Quran has given universal equality to women. No religion has given similar examples before Islam, nor could any such example be presented after Islam. As The Most High said:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

"People, have fear of your Lord who has created you from a single soul. From it He created your spouse and through them He populated the land with many men and women."

This verse is not only mentions the beginning of human race,

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 1

but also talks of equal rights of women. And the way Islam protects the rights of women, no religion of the world can offer such example. After the creation of human, God divided then into nations and tribes (الاقوام والقبائل) so that they can recognize each other. The tradition of distributing families into the tribes in Arabia is coming from the pre-Islamic era. Allah says in Quran:

﴿وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

"We have made you nations and tribes so that you would recognize each other."

From this verse, it's also indicated that the reason to divide them into tribe is to make recognition of human, not for the purpose of discrimination.

Quran also describes a share of inheritance for the woman.

﴿وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ مِمَّا قَلَّ مِنْهُ أَوْ كَثُرَ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

"And for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, be it little or much - an obligatory share."

Some examples of women empowerment in Islam are given below.

### **Female Employment:**

Generally, objection is raised with reference to Islam that it is a conservative religion and does not provide complete freedom to the woman. Rather, it is propagated that Islam keeps women imprisoned. But, in reality, the freedom that Islam has provided to the woman has not been given any other religion. Even in the modern era, there is still a debate running around about working woman if religion allows them whether to work or not.

The God Almighty said:

﴿وَلَمَّا وَرَدَ مَاءَ مَدْيَنَ وَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ أُمَّةٌ مِّنَ النَّاسِ يَسْكُنُونَ وَوَجَدَ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ امْرَأَتَيْنِ تَذُودَانِ قَالَ مَا خَطْبُكُمَا قَالَتَا لَا نَسْقِي حَتَّى يُصْدِرَ الرِّعَاءُ وَأُبُونَا شَيْخٌ كَبِيرٌ﴾<sup>(3)</sup>

When he arrived at the well of Madyan, he found

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Hujurat 49: 13

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 7

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Qasas 28: 23

some people watering (their sheep) and two women keeping the sheep away from the others. He asked the two women, "What is the matter with you?" They replied, "We cannot water our sheep until all the shepherds have driven away their flocks. Our father is an old man".

According to the Quran, there is no issue with women to work, rather, the main issue is working with men. Since the veil is obligatory for women then it should be clear that if women want to work with men, they should care for their hijab/veil.

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Quran gives us an axiomatic instruction in the days of menstruation of women. As Allah says:

﴿وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْمَحِيضِ ۚ قُلْ هُوَ أَذًى فَأَعْتَزِلُوا النِّسَاءَ فِي الْمَحِيضِ ۖ وَلَا تَقْرُبُوهُنَّ حَتَّىٰ يَطْهُرْنَ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

"And they ask you about menstruation. Say, "It is harm, so keep away from wives during menstruation. And do not approach them until they are pure".

The instructions we get from this verse are as:

1. Don't intercourse with wives during menstruation, however, kissing is allowed.
2. People can sit together, eat together in these days.
3. Women are allowed not to say prayers and they can't fast in these days,

## Marriage, Wedding Laws and Rituals

Marriage has two main functions. It is the way adopted by human society for regulating the relations between the sexes and it furnishes the mechanism by means of which the relation of a child to the community is determined.<sup>(2)</sup> In the Quran Allah Almighty has encouraged man to marry, but purpose of marriage should be to gain the blessing of Allah Almighty and not sexual intercourse. Like:

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 222

<sup>(2)</sup> Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, Vol 8, p.423

﴿مُحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسَافِحِينَ وَلَا مُتَّخِذِي أَخْدَانٍ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

“Desiring chastity, not unlawful sexual intercourse or taking [secret] lovers.”

If a person does not have the ability to get married, then he should wait till he has the money. Getting married is a Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). But in the Quran, Allah gives Muslims authority to wait until they become rich and keep away from sexual intercourse.

﴿وَلْيَسْتَغْفِرِ الَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ نِكَاحًا حَتَّى يُغْنِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

“But let them who find not [the means for] marriage abstain [from sexual relations] until Allah enriches them from His bounty.”

"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."<sup>(3)</sup>

People started thinking about staying away from marriage, because it became a symbol of moral superiority in Christianity.

The concept of monasticism (الرهبنة) is also found in the Bible, while Islam negates any kind of monasticism, it emphasizes to carry out marriage which spreads the family system. The main terms and conditions related to marriage and Quranic point of view about family life would be given below shortly.

### **Engagement or Betrothal:**

The tradition of the engagement or betrothal was there before the advent of Islam. And this ritual was present in the Jews and was also present in Christians. In Islam, Quran also gives a man the right to send a proposal of marriage which is officially called Betrothal or Engagement. As Gad has said:

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Ma'ida 5: 5

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nur 24: 33

<sup>(3)</sup> Bible, Genesis: 2/22-24

﴿وَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِيمَا عَرَّضْتُمْ بِهِ مِنْ خِطْبَةِ النِّسَاءِ أَوْ أَكْنَسْتُمْ فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

"There is no blame upon you for that to which you [indirectly] allude concerning a proposal to women or for what you conceal within yourselves."

In Jewish religion, there is a concept of engagement:

"According to Jewish practice since early time, there are two stages in the marriage ceremony: betrothal and marriage."<sup>(2)</sup>

### Polygamy:

Quran allows Muslims to marry up to four women at the same time, but there is a condition to marry multiple women. You must have to be just, otherwise, you are not allowed multiple marriages. So, Islam is not cruel, it gives you choice but it's not free choice. There are some restrictions to follow. Allah says:

﴿فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنً وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبَاعَ﴾<sup>(3)</sup>

"Then marry those that please you of [other] women, two or three or four."

The Bible also proves that a person can do more than one marriage. There are two or more marriages mentioned in the Bible in many places. Like:

"If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated."<sup>(4)</sup>

In other place:

"Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah"<sup>(5)</sup>

A Jew can do a lot of marriages with full joy and desire. Examples of David and Solomon can be presented in this regard.

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 235

<sup>(2)</sup> The Jewish Encyclopedia, p.1272

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 3

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, Deuteronomy: 21/15-17

<sup>(5)</sup> Bible, Genesis 25/1

### Monogamy:

The Quran allowed men to marry up to four women. But this permission is not for every ordinary person. This permission is for the person who is worth it and who can do justice with their wives. God says:

﴿ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ ذَلِكَ أَذَىٰ ٱلَّذِينَ لَا يُغَوَّلُونَ ۗ ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

“But if you fear that you will not be just, then [marry only] one or those your right hand possesses. That is more suitable that you may not incline [to injustice].”

### Inter-Religious Marriage (النكاح بين المذاهب):

Islam allows Muslim men to marry women of Jewish and Christian faiths. But Muslim women cannot marry Jewish and Christian men. There is a wisdom hidden in this philosophy of Islam. Because the caste is usually named in the name of men, therefore, there is no harm in marrying women who are Jew or Christian.

God Almighty says:

﴿وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ إِذَا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ أَجُورَهُنَّ ۗ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

“And chaste women from among those who were given the Scripture before you, when you have given them their due compensation.”

Although, Islam allows Muslims to marry with the Jewish and the Christian women, but prohibits to marry to the polytheists. Today, a Muslim cannot marry a Hindu girl. As Allah Almighty has said:

﴿وَلَا تَنْكِحُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ حَتَّىٰ يُؤْمِنُوا وَلَآئِمَةٌ مُّؤْمِنَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ مُّشْرِكَةٍ وَلَآ أَعْجَبَتْكُمْ وَلَا تُنْكِحُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ حَتَّىٰ يُؤْمِنُوا وَلَعَبْدٌ مُّؤْمِنٌ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ مُّشْرِكٍ وَلَآ أَعْجَبَكُمْ ۗ﴾<sup>(3)</sup>

“Do not marry pagan women unless they believe in God. A believing slave girl is better than an idolater,

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 3

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Ma'ida 5: 5

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 221



even though the idolaters may attract you. Do not marry pagan men unless they believe in God. A believing slave is better than an idolater, even though the idolater may attract you."

The Bible's statement also meets Quranic education. The Bible also prevents to marry with the polytheists. Like:

"Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods."<sup>(1)</sup>

### Dower (مهر):

Before celebrating honeymoon, the wife is given something in the form of any money or gift, it is called the dower.

﴿وَاتُوا النِّسَاءَ صَدُقَاتِهِنَّ نِحْلَةً فَإِنْ طِبَّنَ لَكُمْ عَنْ شَيْءٍ مِنْهُ نَفْسًا فَكُلُوهُ﴾  
هَنِيئًا مَرِيئًا<sup>(2)</sup>

"And give the women [upon marriage] their [bridal] gifts graciously. But if they give up willingly to you anything of it, then take it in satisfaction and ease."

### Dower can be managed as follows:

- It must be given before the wedding night.
- It can be bargained with will of the wife.
- Don't take it back in the case of divorce.
- It's kind of family protection.

Regarding the dower, the Bible has its own viewpoint.

"If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged, he must pay the bride-price for her and marry her. But if her father refuses to let him marry her, he must pay

<sup>(1)</sup> Bible, Exodus: 34/15-16

<sup>(2)</sup> Nasir, Jamal J, The Status of Women Under Islamic Law and Modern Islamic Legislation, (Brill, 2009, ISBN 9789004172739) p.129

the father a sum of money equal to the bride price for a virgin."<sup>(1)</sup>

## Rights of Spouses (حقوق الزوجين)

In the examples of Quranic life, the way a man has been given importance, same is the case with woman. The Quran has described the woman's rights in detail. It has provided protection to woman as, in various places, men have been ordered to treat women with softness.

As Allah Almighty said:

﴿لِلرِّجَالِ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

"Men are the protectors of women because of the greater preference that God has given to some of them and because they financially support them."

In the Quran Allah says that women have the same rights as men. However, Allah has placed men some level above the women. As it's in the Quran:

﴿وَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَلِلرِّجَالِ عَلَيْهِنَّ دَرَجَةٌ﴾<sup>(3)</sup>

"And due to the wives is similar to what is expected of them, according to what is reasonable. But the men have a degree over them [in responsibility and authority]."

The husband as well as the wife have got rights, however, men have the edge over the women. Similarly, The Bible's statement is similar to the Quranic statement. The Bible also appoints man the head of the family organization. As it's in the Bible:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church."<sup>(4)</sup>

The Bible has ordered the wife to completely follow her

<sup>(1)</sup> Bible, Exodus: 22/16-17

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 34

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 28

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, Ephesians: 5/22-33

husband like people follow their God. As:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."<sup>(1)</sup>

"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."<sup>(2)</sup>

### Domestic Violence:

Violence and persecution of women in this society is extremely painful. More painful is that the violence and the intention to resort to it originate with the negative behavior prevailing in homes. The woman is the mother, the sister, the wife, the daughter, but her existence is made hell in this retrogressive society. Sadly, women's abuse, unnecessary restrictions, strong emotional and mental stress and daily fights on her primary and basic needs have become a norm in our society. Extremely aggressive people of the world do not feel ashamed of such violence.

The World Health Organization states that globally, about 38% of female homicides are committed by an intimate partner.<sup>(3)</sup>

Percentage of women who reported actual or attempted sexual assault by an intimate male partner is given in the table below (late 1990s)<sup>(4)</sup>

| Country     | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| Switzerland | 12%        |
| Germany     | 15%        |
| US          | 15%        |
| Canada      | 15%        |

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<sup>(1)</sup> Bible, Colossians: 3/18-19

<sup>(2)</sup> Bible, 1Timothy: 5/14, King James Version, (Bangalore: BSI Group, 2008)

<sup>(3)</sup> WHO, Violence against women: fact sheet no. 239, (World Health Organization, October 2013)

<sup>(4)</sup> Seager, Joni, The Penguin atlas of women in the world (New York: Penguin Books, ISBN 9780143114512, 2009) 4th ed

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Nicaragua | 22% |
| UK        | 23% |
| Zimbabwe  | 25% |
| India     | 28% |

Islam has solved the problem of domestic violence to a great extent. It has established family system on such lines and in case this path is followed then the house becomes a paradise and everyone who lives in a family enjoys happy life.

As Quran strictly asks Muslims not to harm them (women):

﴿وَلَا تُضَارُّوهُنَّ لِتُضَيِّقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

“And do not harm them in order to oppress them.”

In another place Quran describes it as:

﴿وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

“And live with them in kindness.”

In the Quran God says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَرِثُوا النِّسَاءَ كَرْهًا وَلَا تَعْضُلُوهُنَّ لِتَذْهَبُوا بِبَعْضِ مَا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَأْتِيَنَّ بِفَاحِشَةٍ مُبِينَةٍ﴾<sup>(3)</sup>

“O you who have believed, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion. And do not make difficulties for them in order to take [back] part of what you gave them unless they commit a clear immorality.”

Islam prohibits forcing women to marry and also prohibits that women should not be kept in one's custody by force. The only one case in which Allah has allowed to confine woman is that if she commits vulgarity.

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, At-Talaq 65: 6

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 19

<sup>(3)</sup> Ibid

## Sexual Harassment:

The Equality Act of 2010 of England has this definition:

“Unwanted conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of violating someone’s dignity, it covers indecent or suggestive remarks, unwanted touching, requests or demands for sex and the dissemination of pornography.”<sup>(1)</sup>

The United States' Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) collected the harassment data<sup>(2)</sup> as:

|   |
|---|
| 79% of victims are women, 21% are men   |
| 51% are harassed by a supervisor  |
| Business, trade, banking, and finance are the biggest industries where sexual harassment occurs |
| 12% received threats of termination if they did not comply with their requests                  |
| 26,000 people in the armed forces were assaulted in 2012  |
| 302 of the 2,558 cases pursued by victims were prosecuted                                       |
| 38% of the cases were committed by someone of a higher rank                                     |

Allah has strictly prohibited sexual violence in Quran:

﴿وَلَا تُكْرِهُوا فَتِيَاتِكُمْ عَلَى الْبِغَاءِ إِنْ أَرَدْنَ تَحَصُّنًا لِّتَبْتَغُوا عَرَضَ الْحَيَاةِ  
الدُّنْيَا وَمَنْ يُكْرِهِنَّ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ مِنْ بَعْدِ إِكْرَاهِهِنَّ عَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ﴾<sup>(3)</sup>

“And do not compel your slave girls to prostitution, if they desire chastity, to seek [thereby] the temporary interests of worldly life. And if someone should compel them, then indeed, Allah is [to them], after their compulsion, Forgiving and Merciful.”

Of course, like the Quran, the Bible's statement condemns sexual violence and prohibits it.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/16/facts-sexual-harassment-workplace-harvey-weinstein>

<sup>(2)</sup> EEOC Home Page "www.eeoc.gov"

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nur 24: 33

"But if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man force her, and lie with her: then the man only that lay with her shall die: But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; there is in the damsel no sin worthy of death: for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so is this matter: For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her."<sup>(1)</sup>

In order to avoid family calamities, Allah Almighty has set rules for sex matters in order to protect the family values.

### Extramarital Affairs (الشؤون الجنسية بعد النكاح):

Extramarital affairs are relationships outside marriage where an illicit romantic or sexual relationship or a romantic friendship or passionate attachment occurs.<sup>(2)</sup>

In Islam, if married people commit adultery, they should be stoned.<sup>(3)</sup> The punishment of fornication for men and women is to be whipped 100 times and to be stoned.<sup>(4)</sup> If both men and women have committed fornication with mutual consensus, then punishment will be given to both of them, but if one of them have persecuted, then the punishment will be given only to the oppressor. The person who is oppressed will be free.

The Quran handles every social matter very well. If a wife commits adultery, it is necessary that husband should present a witness. The purpose of presenting witness is that the woman should be protected from false accusation. Then on the other hand, Islam has also introduced a law of false accusation so that no one should be accused falsely.

As God Almighty has said:

﴿وَالَّذِي يَأْتِيَنَّ الْفَاحِشَةَ مِنْ نِسَائِكُمْ فَاسْتَشْهِدُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ أَزْوَاجَهُنَّ مِمَّنْكُمْ فَإِنْ شَهِدُوا فَأَمْسِكُوهُنَّ فِي الْبُيُوتِ حَتَّى يَتَوَفَّاهُنَّ الْمَوْتُ أَوْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ لَهُنَّ

<sup>(1)</sup> Bible, Deuteronomy: 22/25-27

<sup>(2)</sup> Definition of EXTRAMARITAL, [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Sunan Ibne Majah, H: 2605

<sup>(4)</sup> Sahih Muslim, H:3166

"Those who commit unlawful sexual intercourse of your women - bring against them four [witnesses] from among you. And if they testify, confine the guilty women to houses until death takes them or Allah ordains for them [another] way."

The Bible also condemns adultery after marriage, as:  
"Thou shalt not commit adultery."<sup>(2)</sup>

So, we can say that Bible and Quranic educations are at the same stage about extramarital affair.

### **Slander Act or False Accusation (إحد القذف):**

The Quran describes its punishment in the verse four of Surah al-Noor. In Quranic methodology, if the punishment of any crime is set, it is called in the Islamic term as Hadud (Arabic: حدود "limit, boundary"). In Surah Noor, a clear punishment is fixed.

In false accusations, there are two punishments<sup>(3)</sup>:

- 1: Those who accuse chaste women and then do not produce four witnesses, lash them with eighty lashes.
- 2: Don't accept from them testimony ever after.

The false accusation is forbidden in the Bible as it is forbidden in the Quran. The sentence of false accusations in the Bible is also more severe than Quran, which is beheading of claimer.<sup>(4)</sup>

Some Quranic terms related to the marriage will be discussed below shortly, which would explain the Islamic laws of marriage, the mutual rights of husband and wife and the solutions for the very trivial issues.

### **Zihār (الظهار):**

If husband mistakenly says to his wife you are to me like the back of my mother, then he has to pay a penalty.

It is also a way to protect the marriage.

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 15

<sup>(2)</sup> Bible, Exodus: 20/14, ; Deuteronomy: 5/18

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nur 24: 4

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, Deuteronomy: 19/15-21

God does not consider your wives whom you renounce by zihar as your mothers.”<sup>(1)</sup>

### Ilā (الإيلاء):

If a person swears that he will not perform intercourse with his wife, or at least more than four months, in order to punish her. So the maximum time is four months. Meanwhile, he can break his vow and divorce his wife.

“For those who swear not to have sexual relations with their wives is a waiting time of four months”<sup>(2)</sup>

### Liān (اللعان):

If a husband claims that his wife committed adultery but does not produce four witnesses. Then each of them has to take oath four times and the fifth oath will be the curse of Allah upon him.

“And those who accuse their wives [of adultery] and have no witnesses except themselves.”<sup>(3)</sup>

### Pre-Marriage Sexual Affairs (Fornication):

Muslim scholars say there are different levels of adultery. Any such act that results in sexuality is counted in adultery. Islam has set a punishment on adultery before marriage. But four witnesses are required to prove the offense.

Quranic interpretation of adultery is obvious and clear:

﴿الرَّائِيَةُ وَالزَّانِي فَاجْلِدُوا كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ مِّنْهُمَا مِائَةَ جَلْدَةٍ وَلَا تَأْخُذْكُمْ بِهِمَا رَأْفَةٌ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ﴾<sup>(4)</sup>

“The [unmarried] woman or [unmarried] man found guilty of sexual intercourse - lash each one of them with a hundred lashes.”

A 2002 survey by the Church Times in England found that less than half of the 5,000 readers questioned said it was wrong for men and women to have sex before they married. Over 25% also said it

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Ahzab 33: 4

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 26-27

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nur 24: 6-9

<sup>(4)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nur 24: 2



was acceptable for a couple to live together without ever intending to marry.<sup>(1)</sup>

Quran does not allow virgin fornicator, man or woman, to marry a pious man/woman.<sup>(2)</sup>

Like the Quran, the Bible also describes adultery as a big sin:

"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."<sup>(3)</sup>

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"<sup>(4)</sup>

The main purpose of forbidding of adultery is to protect the purification of Islamic society.

## Divorce

Islam has described the laws of divorce in a very detailed way. The most important thing is that the divorce system of Islam provides the protection and honor to the woman. And this not only gives honor to the woman but also provides a lot of rights to the woman. Like God Almighty has said:

﴿الطَّلَاقُ مَرَّتَانٍ ۚ فَإِمْسَاكٌ بِمَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ تَسْرِيحٌ بِإِحْسَانٍ ۗ﴾<sup>(5)</sup>

"A marital relation can only be resumed after the first and second divorce, otherwise it must be continued with fairness or terminated with kindness."

Man's temper is that when he decides in a state of anger, that decision doesn't prove too strong. Therefore, Islam has also given a respite for three months for divorce so that the husband could reassure himself again.

Allah explains his rules, if you want to divorce to your wives,

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<sup>(1)</sup> Ruth Gledhill, Article: "Church told to rethink bar on sex before marriage", (The Times, 31 March 2003).

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nur 24: 3

<sup>(3)</sup> Bible, Hebrew: 13/4

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, James: 4/4

<sup>(5)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 229

do not take back dower<sup>(1)</sup>. Even here women have been given importance more than men.

Quran fixes the waiting term for women in divorce:

﴿وَالْمُطَلَّاتُ يَتَرَضَّضْنَ بِأَنْفُسِهِنَّ ثَلَاثَةَ قُرُوءٍ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

“Divorced women remain in waiting for three periods.”

It's a great deal for women. The aim here is to protect the woman. If she is pregnant, it will be known within three months.

Bible has its opinion about divorce:

"When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house."<sup>(3)</sup>

### Halala (حلاله):

Halala involves the woman marrying someone else, consummating the marriage and then getting a divorce - after which she is able to remarry her first husband.<sup>(4)</sup>

﴿فَإِنْ طَلَّقَهَا فَلَا تَحِلُّ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدُ حَتَّى تَنْكِحَ زَوْجًا غَيْرَهُ﴾<sup>(5)</sup>

“And if he has divorced her [for the third time], then she is not lawful to him afterward until [after] she marries a husband other than him.”

Writer of the book “Muslman Khandan” says that halala is not lawful in Islam:

Halalah is valid only in one case while not being done with the intention of Halalah. Islam does not like it at all.<sup>(6)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Ibid

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 28

<sup>(3)</sup> Bible, Deuteronomy: 24/1-2

<sup>(4)</sup> Ahmad, Athar, "The women who sleep with a stranger to save their marriage" (BBC News, 2017-4-5)

<sup>(5)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 229

<sup>(6)</sup> Akhtar Siddique, Muslman Khandan Islam Ki Aghosh Mein (Lahore: Maktabah Islamiyah, 2012), p.114

### Khul'a (خلع):

Khula, is a procedure through which a woman can divorce her husband in Islam, by returning the dower (mahr) that she received from her husband.<sup>(1)</sup>

﴿فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِمَا فِيمَا افْتَدَتْ بِهِ تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ فَلَا تَعْتَدُوهَا﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

"In this case, it would be no sin for her to pay a ransom to set herself free from the bond of marriage. These are the laws of God. Do not transgress against them."

The Bible does not allow the woman to divorce.

Prophet (pbuh) advised Sabit Bin Qais's wife to take Khul'a and return back the garden which she had got as dower gift.<sup>(3)</sup>

Islam has given the option of divorce to a woman, which means that Islam honors the woman more than any religion in the world.

### **Parental and Children's Mutual Rights**

Parental respect is a cause of pride for us. We should serve them, take care of them, should not say hard words to them. We should also respect them in every respect, and when they get older, we should help them.

Every religion and civilization of the world agrees that the parents should be treated with respect and honor. In this regard, Allah Almighty has described it using unique methodology in his last book. For example, whenever God Almighty wants to focus on His obedience, immediately after this he has taught the parents obedience. Like:

﴿وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا﴾<sup>(4)</sup>

"Your Lord has ordained that you must not worship anything other than Him and that you must be kind to your parents."

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<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nisa 4: 4

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 29

<sup>(3)</sup> Sahih Al-Bukhari, H: 5273

<sup>(4)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Isra 17: 23

And then again God said:

﴿إِنَّمَا يَنْبَغُ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرُ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أَفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

Asking for blessing from Allah for parents:

﴿رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

"Our Lord, forgive me and my parents and the believers the Day the account is established."

Besides the Quran, other heavenly books have encouraged to respect the parents. Like The Bible also ordered to honor the parents and behaving well with them.

"Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon

The land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."<sup>(3)</sup>

"If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head."<sup>(4)</sup>

"Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."<sup>(5)</sup>

### Family love and care:

The desire to have a righteous and self-reliant child is a requirement of faith in Allah and the Hereafter, because every believer prays whenever he wishes for the child. He says: "O Allah, give me a righteous child.

﴿وَحَنَانًا مِّنْ لَّدُنَّا وَزَكَاةً وَكَانَ تَقِيًّا وَبَرًّا بِوَالِدَيْهِ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ جَبَّارًا عَصِيًّا﴾<sup>(6)</sup>

"We gave him compassion and purity. He (Yahya) was a pious human being, kind to his parents, not arrogant or a rebellious person."

It's a universal example of father (Jacob)'s love for his child:

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<sup>(1)</sup> Ibid

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Ibrahim 14: 41

<sup>(3)</sup> Bible, Exodus: 20/12

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, Leviticus 20/9

<sup>(5)</sup> Bible, Matthew: 19/19

<sup>(6)</sup> Al-Quran, Maryam 19: 13-14

﴿وَتَوَلَّى عَنْهُمْ وَقَالَ يَا أَسَفَى عَلَى يُوسُفَ وَإِيتَضَتْ عَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْحُزَنِ فَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

“(Jacob) turned away from them saying, "Alas, Joseph is lost!" He wept continuously in his grief until, in suppressing his anger, his eyes turned white.”

### Upbringing of Children:

Jacob advised his children to worship only God.<sup>(2)</sup>

Luqman advised his son, "My son, do not consider anything equal to God."<sup>(3)</sup>

### Female Infanticide (قتل الابنة):

Female infanticide is the deliberate killing of girl babies. It is also described as gender-selective killing or "gendercide". (Similar words like 'gynocide' and 'femicide' are used to describe the killing of females of any age. Female infanticide is more common than male infanticide, and in some countries, particularly India and China, is likely to have serious consequences on the balance of the sexes in the population.<sup>(4)</sup>

Allah has said:

﴿وَإِذَا بُشِّرَ أَحَدُهُم بِالْأُنثَىٰ ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مُسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ يَتَوَارَىٰ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ مِنْ سُوءِ مَا بُشِّرَ بِهِ أَيُمْسِكُهُ عَلَىٰ هُونٍ أَمْ يَدُسُّهُ فِي التُّرَابِ أَلَا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ﴾<sup>(5)</sup>

“For, whenever any of them is given the glad tiding of [the birth of] a girl, his face darkens, and he is filled with suppressed anger, avoiding all people because of the [alleged] evil of the glad tiding which he has received, [and debating within himself:] Shall he keep this [child] despite the contempt [which he feels for it]-or shall he bury it in the dust? Old, evil indeed is whatever they decide!”

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, Yusuf 12: 84

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 133

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, Luqman 31: 13-14

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/medical/infanticide\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/medical/infanticide_1.shtml)

<sup>(5)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nahl 16: 58-59

Again Allah says:

﴿وَإِذَا الْمَوْءُودَةُ سُئِلَتْ بِأَيِّ ذَنْبٍ قُتِلَتْ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

“And when the girl [who was] buried alive is asked for what sin she was killed.”

Islam not only gave the woman its right place but ended the murder of girls as well.

### **Birth Control or Family Planning:**

Infanticide is the unlawful killing of very young children. It is found in both indigenous and sophisticated cultures around the world.<sup>(2)</sup>

Islam prohibits daughter killing, as it's in the Quran:

﴿وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةً إِمْلَاقٍ﴾<sup>(3)</sup>

“And do not kill your children for fear of poverty.”

Bible study shows that there was no concept of birth control or family planning, but there were many descendants of the prophets. Like in the Bible:

"When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, he named him Seth. Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters."<sup>(4)</sup>

### **Fashion, Glamour and Hijab (veil)**

Islam has set a pattern of women's dressing, not only about clothes but how to walk, how to look and what parts of the body are to be hidden. Like Allah has said in Quran:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ .....﴾<sup>(5)</sup>

“O Prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to bring down over

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<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, At-Takwir 81: 8-9

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/medical/infanticide\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/medical/infanticide_1.shtml)

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Isra 17: 31

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, Genesis 5/3-4

<sup>(5)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Ahzab 33: 33

themselves [part] of their outer garments.”

And then said:

﴿وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَعْضَضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ﴾<sup>(1)</sup>

“Tell the believing woman to cast down their eyes, guard their chastity, and not to show off their.”

This verse describes the veil:

﴿وَقَرْنَ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ وَلَا تَبَرَّجْنَ تَبَرُّجَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ الْأُولَى﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

“Do not display yourselves after the manner of the (pre-Islamic) age of darkness.”

Like Quran, Bible teachings show that the Bible also prevents indecency and adultery. As mentioned below:

"There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel. Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog."<sup>(3)</sup>

"Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiced his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance."<sup>(4)</sup>

"Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness."<sup>(5)</sup>

In Islam vulgarity is unlawful, as God said in the Quran:

﴿وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ﴾<sup>(6)</sup>

“Do not even approach indecency either in public or in private.”

## Homosexuality

“Homosexuality, sexual interest in and attraction to members of one’s own sex. The term gay is frequently used as a synonym for homosexual;

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<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Quran, An-Nur 24: 31

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Ahzab 33: 33

<sup>(3)</sup> Bible, Leviticus: 23/17-18

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, Proverb: 29/3

<sup>(5)</sup> Bible, Leviticus: 19/29

<sup>(6)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-An'am 6: 151

female homosexuality is often referred to as lesbianism.”<sup>(1)</sup>

Allah punishes Lot's people with great punishment. His town was turned upside down. As Allah has said:

﴿وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ مَا سَبَقَكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِّنَ الْعَالَمِينَ. إِنَّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِّنْ دُونِ النِّسَاءِ ۚ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ﴾<sup>(2)</sup>

Lot told his people, " AND [remember] Lot, when he said unto his people: "Will you commit abominations such as none in all the world has ever done before you? Verily, with lust you approach men instead of women: nay, but you are people given to excesses!"

Homosexuality has been strictly prohibited in the Bible:

"There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel."<sup>(3)</sup>

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."<sup>(4)</sup>

### Gambling and Drinking Alcohol

In the light of the Quran and Hadith, drinking alcohol and gambling is prohibited for Muslims. As God Almighty has said in the Quran:

﴿يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَإِثْمُهُمَا أَكْبَرُ مِنْ نَّفْعِهِمَا﴾<sup>(5)</sup>

“(Muhammad), they ask you about wine and gambling. Tell them that there is great sin in them. Although they have benefits for men, the sin therein is far greater than the benefit.”

There is no obvious statement about the gambling in the Bible, but indications are found, while alcohol is not forbidden in the

<sup>(1)</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/homosexuality>)

<sup>(2)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-An'am 6: 151

<sup>(3)</sup> Bible, Leviticus: 23/17-18

<sup>(4)</sup> Bible, Leviticus: 18/22

<sup>(5)</sup> Al-Quran, Al-Baqara 2: 219



Bible. As it's in the Bible:

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's."<sup>(1)</sup>

### Conclusion:

Allah has given the most detailed guidance about the family life in Quran. These instructions are not related to other areas of life because the importance and survival of comfort of home is very important in the sight of God. The family is formed by adding individuals together, as well, communities are formed by families. The family system is the image of any society or civilization. Since electronic media has made civilizations very close and people of a civilization accept the effects of other civilizations very quickly. At the moment, human rights in every civilization has been disturbed by family problems and this problem is not related to any particular civilization, but the African, Spanish, European, Japanese, and indigenous civilization have all been affected by it. There is a lot of literary and reformatory work being done to improve the family life throughout the world. Various efforts are being made through different seminars, workshops, documentaries and renewal of curriculum at academic levels. But the main problem is that no plan or system provides complete solution in every way. As a Muslim, we believe in every heavenly book. Along with the holy Quran, the rest of the heavenly books also give a lot of importance to family life and also manage the regular family life.

The Bible has set the man as a head of the family. Besides this, the Bible commands the wife to follow the husband's order so that the family system could not be disturbed. But any civilization or book of the world does not provide family equality similar to Islamic civilization. The Qur'anic style of life is like a candle that has the ability to take out the world from the present darkness towards a bright and peaceful life.

The style of human life described in the Quran is not only practical, but also serves as a great example. Considering the examples of Quranic life of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), we will get a complete draft and procedure. In the case of marriage, the nature of

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<sup>(1)</sup> Bible, Exodus: 20/17

relations with the Prophet's (pbuh) wives, Umahatul-Mu'minin (RA), veil orders, teaching the women of manners of interaction with men, payment of the dower and women would have to return the dower in the case of self-separation (khul'a), number of wives for the Prophet, number of wives for public, regulations for marriage, rules for divorced and widow, procedures for divorce, Khul'a, wisdom of three divorces and determination of divorce time are the most important aspects of family life. Besides this, the Prophet (pbuh), the examples of Quranic life of prophets and saints are also described in Quran. Examples of love for the family and relatives are also found in Quran. Solutions for the domestic violence, sexual harassment and the Quranic way of dealing with modern issues of family life such as homosexuality, rights of spouses, rights of parents and children are also described in the Islamic teachings.