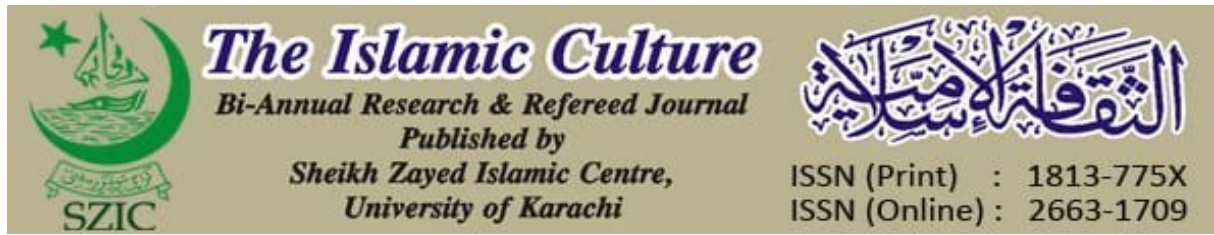


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## DRASTIC EFFECTS OF WESTERN FAMILY LIFE ON PAKISTANI FAMILY SYSTEM AND ITS SOLUTION IN QUR'ANIC PERSPECTIVE

**Dr. Bibi Alia**

Lecturer, Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies,  
Women University, Swabi, KP Postdoc Fellow(IRI)

**Dr. Shams u l Hussain Zaheer**

Associate Professor, Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies,  
Women University, Swabi, KP

**Dr. Zuha Qaisar**

Lecturer, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Postdoc Fellow(IRI)

### Abstract

Human beings are naturally social specie. depend on each other, in day to day life. Such may be material necessities or simple moral support. Nevertheless, there is nothing stronger than family bound. Islam signifies the importance of family. Family is the foundation of human society. Islam believes families, to be at the heart of Muslim community. Allah created family life to keep society together. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) married and remained in family system. Islam believes in collective life, which is not possible without family system. No one can deny that western world is strongly in clutches of premarital sex at is the early age of puberty, cohabitation in name of relationship, illegitimacy on kids, divorce is no more considered as bad, same sex marriage, encouraging old age homes and parent's loss control of kids once get major. Kids are no more under the supervision of fatherhood. Families give stability, security, cooperation, love and support for each member of family, however, west has lost such values. Islam promotes to follow the commands of Almighty Allah, within the limits so prescribed. In contrary, no such limits for non-Muslims, hence, in the west, the citizen has the choice to lead life as per his/her ambition. It is not a secret that the British remained in subcontinent for a substantial period of time. They also introduced their cultural values including family life. It should not be out of sight that the cultural values and other traditions in respect of family life, has not vanished after their departure from the subcontinent. Another aspect in the issue is that due to the phenomena of globalization, the cultural amalgamation of the western life in our society has been very easy. We are living in the modern era, where the world has become global village. The distance of the world is no more than a click. Excess to modern technology has made the contact so easy that one can access any one in other corner of the world in seconds. Such contacts have made the amalgamation of the world culture. Joint family system has been the trademark of our society, however due to the introduction of Western family life through various moods, has changed that to individuality. It is also noticed that the drastic impacts of Western family life, also resulted in the increase of rate divorce in our society. Even, the homemade food has now been converted into the hoteling. It has not been a very far story, that when guest used to visit families in our society, there used to be proper arrangements before their arrivals, however these days due to the western Civilization introduction, converted on to home delivery services. The important question in the context is how to cope with the situation, to avoid negative impacts of Western family life and Civilization in our society. We being Muslims are governed by the Holy Quran and the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Every aspect of life including family life is being prescribed, guided with details by Holy Quran and the Holy prophet (PBUH). We have no



*expenses of breastfeeding, lineage, Iddah (Time period), Law of Will, and Inheritance which include approximately 70 verses in the Holy Quran.* <sup>4</sup>

### **3.2. Human Being as Representative of the Law of ALMIGHTY ALLAH**

Allah says in Quran: “We can see the value of mankind in Islam”.<sup>5</sup> The angels ask from Allah “Wilt Thou place therein one who will make mischief therein and shed blood?” Almighty Allah replied in Chapter. II of Sorah Al-Baqara V. 30 that “I know what ye know not.”<sup>6</sup> Allah created human being a representative of His law on this earth. Humans are the supreme creation of Allah and made them from clay and mud, and shaped them in the form of humans and then blew His spirit unto him. This is described in Quran in Chapter. XV (Al-Hijr), V. 28<sup>7</sup> and Allah says that “Behold! Thy Lord said to the angels: I am about to create man, from sounding clay from mud molded into shape.” and then in Ch. XV (Al-Hijr), V. 29 Allah says that “When I have fashioned him (in due proportion) and breathed into him of My spirit, Fall ye down in obeisance unto him.” It should also be kept in mind that human being is the trustee of Allah. Allah commands: “We did indeed offer the Trust to the Heavens and the Earth and the Mountains, but they refused to undertake it, being afraid thereof: but man undertook it; He was indeed unjust and foolish.”<sup>8</sup>

It should be kept in mind that human being made from clay is free to choose one way or another one; the way of heaven or hell. And later on he will be rewarded with heaven or punished with hell depending upon his deeds he/she performs herein. Human being has been created according to echo of the nature as described by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). and his very status has already been clarified by Almighty Allah in the Holy Quran;

*“We have indeed created man in the best of molds” and “Then do, We abase him (to be) the lowest of the low”.*<sup>9</sup>

### **3.3. Respective Roles of Male and Female in Islam**

In Islamic societies the role of male is completely different from that of a female. Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet also command the biological difference between male and female and their roles. Holy Prophet says that “guardian of [his] family,” whereas a woman is expected to be the “guardian of her husband's home and his children.”<sup>10</sup>

The role under Islamic system is that the man has to act as guardian and earn while woman to look after the children. Man is the protector of female and other members of the family and shall also provide financial support to meet their requirements.<sup>11</sup> The role of a female as a mother, wife and sister is, to take care of the children and other household affairs. Nevertheless, such distinction as man and woman is to know each other and their prescribed duties. Allah says that “O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another.”<sup>12</sup>

### **3.4. Protection of Each Other in a Family System**

Islam gives concept of Ummah. Such concepts are coined in Islamic system, is that every individual in Islamic society to treat one another like brothers and sisters. The entire Muslim world is like a body and the same is reflected in Islamic family system. In an Islamic family system, every member of the family either male or female should protect each other. Such protection is in terms of material and moral support. It is the features of the family system in our culture that one member of the family, sacrifice for the others. It is noticed that one member of the family works for the rest of the family, to satisfy their needs.

### **3.5. Respect for Elders and Care for Youngers**

Islam provides that to respect your elders especially parents. Such respect is the Big Bowl of family system where the children are under the responsibility of the parents. The parents should ensure that their kids grow in a disciplined manner under the teachings of Islam. Right from the childhood to adulthood parents should keep in such a manner to follow the teachings of Islam.

Quran says;

*“And your Lord has decreed that your worship not expect Him, and to parents, good treatment.*

*Weather one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [as much as], uff, and do not repel them but to speak to them a noble word.”<sup>13</sup>*

### **3.6. Marriage (Nikah" or "Nikaah")**

The history of human being starts with the “Adam and Eve”. The Almighty Allah created the entire world with such origin. Marriage is the backbone of family life. The Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon him also lived married life. The harmony of the society is that the couple live under the social contract of marriage, which is under the guidance of Quran and Sunnah. The legitimacy of the children as well as issues of inheritance are regulated under the contract of marriages. Islam recognized the mode and manner in which Nikaah is to be performed. In our cultural values, the man always live with his spouse, who is validly married to him?

### **3.7. Hijab**

Hijab (حجاب) means the coverings worn by Muslim women. While Islamic head coverings can come in many forms, hijab often specifically refers to a cloth wrapped around the head and neck, covering the hair but leaving the face visible<sup>14</sup>. In Quran Allah says that “O Prophet! Enjoin your wives, your daughters, and the believing women that they should cast their outer garments over their persons (when abroad): That is most convenient, that they may be distinguished and not be harassed”<sup>15</sup>.

## **4. The Effects of Western Family Life on Pakistani Family Life**

Some of the aspects that greatly affected Pakistani family system are as under;

### **4.1. Collective Life Converted to Individual Life.**

Islam teaches collective life in a family. All members are the parts and parcels of a family. In western life, the focus is mainly on the individual life. The children after reaching to maturity are free and they have their own ways as they wish. The parents feel like, they are no more responsible and the children think that they have to see their good and bad. Another, astonishing aspect in western life is that the old age parents, at large scale, believed as burden on shoulders of young ones. They have developed old age homes for keeping the old parents.

The adverse effect of such individualism in Western structure of family has reached our society whereas the members of the society, especially the youth is more interested in individual life, rather than collective life in a family. Most of the time, the young generation is found busy in their individual life, either playing their games or busy on the internet. It is noticed that the youth is moving away from the collective life of family and has focused on individual interest. There was time when the Youngers used to sit with their elders on daily basis; however, the trend has changed now. The young lads keep busy in their individual activities and abandoned their elders. Such culture is being promoted from the western family life where individualism has succeeded collectivism.

### **4.2. No Ban on the Children to Express their Opinion**

In West the kids are encouraged to express their opinion. Children are supposed to move away, after the age of 18 years. Parents in the western families expect, their children to be more self-made and independent. Individualism is highly encouraged. Kids are also encouraged to express themselves without any hesitation, they argue with parents, if there is any difference of opinions. There is more

“freedom to speak”, in order to make decisions on their own part. In our society, the younger use to keep silent, until the elder asked or inquired about. In western society, as the younger are encourage to speak up in the name of freedom of speech. It is noticed with sorrows that, such freedom has been practiced in our society. In other words, the respect of the elders has been taken away, on account of freedom of speech and opinion. It is found that especially the Youngers try to enforce their opinion in the family. Such situation is more devastating when the younger is more educated than his elders in the family. Such culture is definitely borrowed from the western family life.

#### **4.3. The Roles of Men and Women**

In western society, the role of man and woman is that both of them work for their livelihood. There seem no distinguishable differences in the role of man and woman. Most of the time, the couple use to work jointly and both shoulder the financial responsibility of the family. It happens that, in such situation their children are neglected. The balance required in their rule is lacking. At the cost of repetition, Islam defines, the respective roles of man and woman specially, the husband and wife. The man has to cope-up with financial responsibility of his family and that is why he is called the protector of the family. The woman folk, has to look after the children and household affairs of the family. Being under the impression of western family life, the responsibilities of the man and woman have changed. Now they are treated to be two wheels of the vehicle and each has to shoulder his/her responsibility. Now, in our society woman goes outside to work in offices in shape of working lady, sometimes, at the cost of grooming of their children. The responsibility of the woman to look after the children and home is no more undertaken by the woman. Such responsibility is now understood to be the responsibility of both husband and wife.

#### **4.4. Socialization in the Name of Friendship**

Western society has developed the concept of socialization to have interaction with anyone outside his/her family. The phenomena has been developed in the name of friendship with other siders, may be man or woman, as the case may be. In our society, it was the culture that one cannot amalgam outside, especially woman but due to the propagation of western culture, such culture is no more the part of our society. It is noticed that girls keep relationship in their colleges and universities, after the culture of co-education. The isolation of woman folk, from the male section of the society has lost sight. The scope of “Na-Mahram” has been limited to a greater extent. Now, the members of the family use to attend the gatherings, outside the family, without any limitation or restriction. It is seen that even the marriages ceremonies are being solemnized in the western pattern. The functions are organized during such event where dances and other connected activities take place. We can say that all the patterns of the events of the western family life are copied and implemented.

#### **4.5. Nuclear Family System**

In our society we had joint family system from decades. The west has developed a system which is called Nuclear family system, where each member lives, without any bond with other members of the family. We are also going on the same foot prints and have adopted the nuclear family system, at the cost of joint family system. In near past the whole family system was controlled by a mother or grandmother but due the adoption of the nuclear family system the very family system has been damaged and replace by the nuclear one. The Younger members, either the daughter in law or daughter etc. has to follow the instruction of the mother or grandmother, as the case may be. There was always collective decision in the affairs of the family and very less scope for individual interests. The elders had to decide and the Youngers have to implement, regardless of the opinion of the Youngers. The decision of the elders always respected and considered to be wise decision. As a result of western trends, the joint family system seems to be a past story. The joint family system has split into a number of units, having no bond with the other unit, resulted into nuclear family system.

#### **4.6. Dress code**

In our society, both man and woman have to wear a dignified dress. The woman has to cover herself whenever she opt to go outside. The dress code introduced by the west have no limitation whatsoever, especially for woman. She can wear any dress of her choice, despite that she is covered in it or otherwise. The dress code, has reached our society and it is noticed that the concept of "Hijab", is no more being followed. The Hijab has been converted into "Duppatta", or even without any cover especially over the head.

#### **4.7. Western Food Stuffs**

In very recent times, simple foods were eaten by the family members. The lunch and the dinner has to be eaten in a collective sitting by the members of the family. The lunch used to be taken early in the day, around the Zohar prayer while the dinner was supposed to be eaten, soon after the Maghrib prayer. There was no tradition of going for hoteling outside. After the introduction of western culture, the concept of dinner in the hotel has developed. I deem it appropriate to mention that when a guest used to visit, a proper arrangement has to be taken, to welcome the guest. It seems that the guest is no more guest as he is to be entertained from readymade food from the hotel. I miss the arrangements that used to have taken place for the upcoming guest. Now, our kids always welcome to have dinner outside at any hotel. The simple food "Dall Chapati", "Sagg Lassi", has been replaced by Pizza, Chinese stuff and Maggi etc.

#### **4.8. Entertainment and Recreation**

It is not a secrete truth that in the western culture, people go to dance parties. The dance is thought in the schools and colleges, in order to learn the art of dancing. The parent feel proud, if their kid dance well. The school and college functions being organized in our institutions reflects the same scenario. The students dance on the floor, with appreciation from the audience. It is never noticed, what message is being propagated in such events. According to Abul A'La Mawdudi (1980) "Absurd and wasteful entertainments wherein thousands of people witness depraving scenes of crime and immorality are the very antithesis of healthy recreation". I feel no hesitation to state that we have blindly followed the dance culture of the west.

### **5. Conclusion**

In light of the above study we reach a conclusion for the reforming our society and avoiding it from more devastating situation of westernized culture. Same is drawn as under;

1. Islam is a complete code of life, prescribed the mode and the manner of life. I see no aspect of life, which is not explained in Quran and Sunnah. The bad luck is that we have either not learnt the lesson of Islam or failed to act upon it. It is a high time to follow the teachings of Islam. It is to be followed in collective as well as individual life. The examples set by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be upon Him), while living in the family is to be followed. The Prophet Muhammad has stated how to treat your wives, Youngers, elders and slaves etc. We need to follow the teachings of Islam in day to day affairs.
2. We have to come out of inferiority complex. It is astonished to note that we believe the western pattern/culture superior in the modern world. The code of life given by Islam is exemplary. The western style of life by no word can be replaced by the Quran and Sunnah. We believe and must believe that the family life settled by Islam is the best. We have no alternate to the system that is given by Islam and elaborated by Quran and Sunnah.
3. The phenomena of globalization have made the access of everyone in the other corner of the world very easy and cheap. The young generation has a very easy access to the internet and can reach any data/item in no time. The introduction of the western family life, in our society is through globalization as the world has become global village. We have no alternate but to live in the global village but the issue is that how to protect ourselves from the drastic impacts of the western culture. The access of the youth is to be restricted in such a manner that the social

media is used for education purpose and not otherwise. If no restriction is imposed on such access, it is hard to stop the intrusion of western culture in our society.

4. The role of the parents is important in the context that they must have strong and vigilant check on their children. The children should not be allowed to see any other material on the internet, without proper supervision. The lap of the mother is always considered to be an early school of a kid. From that place, the kid has to groom up. It is our duty to teach our children, the teachings of Islam and ensure that it is followed in day to day life. We must assure to our children that the best is ours system, rooted on the foundation of Islam. We have to set an example that we are following our culture and the kids shall follow our foot prints.
5. It is hard to disagree to the fact that the western culture is being promoted through electronic, social and print media. Our dramas and movies etc are based on western culture. We see in dramas that girls have their boyfriends. The poor girl to observe hijab while rich and educated girl shown liberal. Our daughters and sisters at home, being its audience, cannot be safe from its effects. Our dramas and movies, are not promoting our cultural values rather than western civilization. The institutions which are working as watch dog on the electronic and print media not perform their duties to sensor the material proposed to be telecasted. I recommend a strong check to be employed that any material, which is based on western culture, not be allowed to be telecasted.
6. And Also Islam is rejecting abnormal life like LGBT, Homosexuality, and individualism.

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