



Concept of polygamy in Muslims

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Abstract

In the pre Islamic Arabian society, the position of women was very bad. In those days, the customary laws of Arabia were all in favour of the males. The females were treated as properties and not as human being. The only object of a marriage was the enjoyment of sex and production of children. Limitless polygamy prevailed and a man could have as many wives at a time as he liked. There was no certainty in the matrimonial status of a wife. Women in those days were not better than the slaves and has no existence of their own in the society. From pre Islamic period to present, time has been change. After framing of Indian constitution male and female has equal status .women also have right to equality and equal protection of law, and right to life with dignity. The practice of polygamy is how ethical, moral and legal in present scenario. By this paper I have to inquire that practice of polygamy in Muslim is a essential part of his religion or not .the holy Quran is in favour or not.

Keywords: marriage, polygamy, Islamic period, equality, equal protection, dignity, ethical, moral, legal, practice, Quran, religion

Introduction

Polygamous nature of Muslim marriage

Under Muslim law, a husband is allowed to marry four wives at a time polygamy of four wives is, therefore, legally permissible. But there is some misunderstanding regarding this aspect of Muslim marriage.as a matter of fact the limited polygamy was allowed because of the social need of that time.in the wars of disbelievers, a large number of male Muslims lost their lives as a result of which the females outnumbered males in the society. There were several war-widows and orphans to whom nobody was ready to maintain and give protection. Rather such women were being exploited and children born to them too could not get any social status. To avoid injustice being done to them Islam permitted four wives so that one man could solve the problem of at least four females at a time. But in order to avoid any injustice towards such women this was allowed subject to a very strict condition which is laid down in Quran.

First and foremost, a man must treat his wives as equals and limit the number of wives to no more than four, no matter the financial situation or popularity of the husband.

“And if you fear that you will not deal justly with the orphan girls, than marry those that please you of (other) women, two or three or four. 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).”

Quran 4:3

Allah also warns the man against recklessness and lack of justice between the wives.

“The Messenger of Allah said: ‘Whoever has two wives and favors one of them over the other, he will come on the Day of Resurrection with one of his sides leaning.’”

(Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi, Saheeh by Al-Albaani, in Saheeh Al-Targheeb Wa'l-Tarheeb – no. 1949)

Second, a man cannot obtain other wives if he has no ability to provide for them.

“And let those who find not the financial means for marriage keep themselves chaste, until Allah enriches them of his bounty.”

Quran 24:33

Third, a man has not right to use multiple wives as a way to brag within the community, as Islam strictly prohibits extravagance of any kind.

“O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess.”

Quran 7:31

Polygamy is not about a man obtaining excessive sexual gratification, and it's not about women using their rights to manipulate their giving husband. Everyone has a role, and every role as a reason. In response to a non-believer's doubts about the benefits of polygamy to anyone other than the husband, Sheik Yusuf Estes said: “Islam is very much about ‘the rights’. The rights for the husband, yes, but the rights for the women as well as the rights for the children that are a product of their relationship in marriage. Therefore, the child has the right to know who his father is, and how would he know if the woman had more than one husband? And the wife has the right to be maintained properly. How will she know she's going to be provided for? (She can say) ‘Hey, I can look over here and see that this man provides very well for his existing wife, therefore he would have to treat me in the same way.’” The act of polygamy is all about choice and balances; therefore, polygyny in Islam is permissible, not a requirement. In fact, the majority of Muslim men worldwide do not choose the path of polygamy. This type of marriage is an incredibly daunting task to do within strict accordance of Allah's law.

The world is much different now in comparison to Arabia during the time these laws were revealed, so it's easy to understand why so many Muslims have fallen into the trap of believing that polygyny is a dirty and archaic practice. It's important for us to remember there is perfection in every law Allah (SWT) gives to us and great wisdom in the lifestyle of our Prophet (pbuh). Jealousy is a very real and uncomfortable experience for any woman in any marital situation, and one might assume that this amplifies in a polygynous marriage. The truth from Allah (SWT) is that while it's possible for a man to treat multiple wives equally within the laws of marriage, it is not always possible for a man to romantically love all of his wives the same, for this is a matter of the heart. Scholars agree this is the meaning behind this Ayat: "You will never be able to do perfect justice between wives even if it's your ardent desire."

Quran 4:129

And what wisdom does Islam give to the wives experiencing jealousy?

"Jihad is ordained for you, though you dislike it, and may be that you dislike a thing which is good for you and that you like a thing which is bad for you..."

Quran 2:216

Lust and heart filled eyes is never the best reason to marry, and it will never be what makes a marriage substantial and long-lasting. Sometimes widows and divorcees need a husband, a provider. Sometimes children need a father, a guardian. Modern society tells us that marriage based on lust is the best way to go, but everyday we watch these marriages fizzle out in divorce and unlawful infidelity.

Join together with your husband or wife for the reason Allah (SWT) tells you to, and love in all aspects (emotional and physical) will fall comfortably into place.

Conclusion

On the above discussion we may say that although four wives at a time are permitted yet the Quran is in favour of monogamy on the basis of verses of Quran progressive Muslim plead that since the fulfilment of the Quranic condition is not possible. Monogamy should be the rule of law. It is significant to note that the Indian Muslim in the recent year are in favour of monogamy. Now a day in the Indian Muslim avoid polygamy of four wives. Economic stresses, desire to live in a decent modern life and spread of education etc.... are some of the reasons due to which more and more educated Muslims in India now preferred to contract only one marriage at a time.

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