

FAITH AND CHILDREN ISLAM

AZIZAH MOHD (AP DR)

AIKOL, IIUM

FORUM ON OUR CHILDREN OUR
FUTURE

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INTRODUCTION : FAITH IN ISLAM

- ▣ Islam is a divine religion revealed through the messenger of God (Allah the almighty), the teaching of which is manifested through the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet (saw).
- ▣ Islam rules that conformity with the Quranic Provisions and Prophets teaching is rewarded and non conformity without excuse is punished in the hereafter.

- ▣ Faith in Islam is basically refers to faith in Allah as the God and the Prophet Muhammad saw as the Messenger of Allah

- ▣ Faith in Islam is only complete when one has faith in Allah as the god, Prophet as messenger, Quran (the book from God that contains the teaching of Islam), the day of judgement.
- ▣ In addition, Muslims are to strongly believe that anything happened in their life is destined by Allah and that they must always redha with their fate.

Children In Islam

- ▣ Islam regards children as a bounty, source of happiness and trust from Allah the God. Children are bounties from Allah (s.w.t.). They are the most valuable property gifted by Allah (s.w.t.) to decorate the parent's life and their family. The Quran clearly states to the effect;
- ▣ “ Wealth and sons are allurements of the life of this world...”
- ▣ (Surah al-Kahfi; 18:46.)

- ▣ Islam rules that Children can only begotten through a valid marriage
- ▣ Birth from any relationship other than marriage is not recognized in Islam for eg cohabitation, fornication/ adulterious relationship
- ▣ It follows that in Islam, fornication or adultery is a serious criminal offence and deserve a severe punishment

Children Rights in Islam

- ▣ Islamic law outlines a comprehensive of children rights that deserve protection
- ▣ These are related in many sources of Islamic law (the Shari'ah)
- ▣ The Quran, the Sunnah, Secondary Sources e.g. 'urf and juristic discourse
- ▣ Children rights are also protected based on the General aim of the Shari'ah : i.e. Securing benefit to all mankind and protection them from any harm

Several Categories of Children's Rights

- ▣ Rights in family relationship
- ▣ Fundamental rights
- ▣ Rights to be Protected from any form of harm

Rights in Family Relationship

- ▣ e.g. Rights to nasab/lineage
- ▣ Enjoinment of marriage;
 - Marry women of your choice, Two, or three, or four; But if ye fear that ye shall not Be able to deal justly (with them), Then only one...” al-Nisa: 3,
 - Prohibition of approaching adultery
 - Adultery as a Criminal offence
 - Al-Nur: 1

- ▣ Right to care, custody and upbringing

- Right to Nafaqah
 - But he shall bear the cost of their food and clothing on equitable terms...
 - Let the man of means Spend according to His means: and the man whose resources are restricted, Let him spend according to what Allah has given him...
- ▣ Al-Baq: 233 & al-Talaq 65 : 7

Protection of fundamental rights

- ▣ Protection to life and good name
 - And if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people... al-Ma'idah; 5:32.
 - “ And do not kill anyone who Allah has forbidden except for a just cause.” al-Isra':33
- ▣ Hadith:
 - “ One of the rights of a child to be fulfilled by his parent is to mould good moral behaviour and to give him a good name” Al-Baihaqi
 - “ One of the rights of a child to be fulfilled by his parent is to teach him writing and to give him a good name and to solemnize his marriage upon puberty.”
 - “Verily you are called on the Day of Judgement with your name and the name of your father, therefore beautify your names” – Abu Dawoud

Protection from any form of harm

- Islam protects children from any form of harms eg
- Abuse, abandonment, violence, illtreatment, neglect, exploitation, forced labour etc

- General command to help one another and to do good to others
- Al-Quran, al-Maidah 5:2
 - “And help you one another in righteousness and piety”
- Surah al-Hajj, 22:77
 - “...And do good, that you may prosper
- Hadith
 - “The best deed after faith in Allah is to honor the command of Allah and to be merciful to Allah’s creatures
 - “Those who do not have mercy upon the minor (small child) and do not respect the elder are not from us” al-Tarmidhi

Protection from harm contd...

- “Abu Hurayrah reported Allah’s messenger (p.b.u.h) as saying; He who alleviates the suffering of a brother out of the sufferings of the world, Allah would alleviate his suffering from the sufferings of the day of resurrection, and he who finds relief for one who is hard pressed, Allah would make things easy for him in the Hereafter and he who conceals (the faults) of a Muslim, Allah would conceal his faults in the world and in the hereafter. Allah is at the back of a servant so long as the servant is at the back of his brother...” Sahih Muslim

Protection from harm contd...

- ▣ The principle of Maslahah;
- ▣ I.e. the main purpose of the Shari'ah is to secure benefits for the people or protecting them against corruption and evil/ remove harm
 - “And we have sent you (O Muhammad (saw) not but as a mercy (al-anbiya: 21;107)
 - “ O mankind! There has come to you a good advice from your Lord (i.e. the Quran ordering all that is good and forbidding all that is evil), a healing for that (disease of ignorance, doubt, hypocrisy and differences, etc.) in your hearts, - a guidance and a mercy (explaining lawful and unlawful things, etc) for the believers. (Yunus; 10:57)
 - Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah: The Shar'iah aims at safeguarding the people's interest and preventing them from harm in this world and the hereafter

Islamic Law vs International Instruments

- ▣ Whether the International Instruments are Shari'ah compliance?
- ▣ Yes, so long as it secures benefit and prevents harm to the children and does not contradict the principle in the Quran and the Sunnah
- ▣ The Islamic child protection principles was manifested and embodied in the Covenants of the Rights of the Child in Islam 2004.