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DISAGREEMENT OVER CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

Education is an essential element in the development of children and plays a major role in shaping their personalities, morals, knowledge, and future. In Islam, parents are entrusted with the responsibility of providing proper guidance and education to their children so that they may grow into righteous and knowledgeable individuals. However, in contemporary society, disagreements between parents regarding children's education have become increasingly common due to rapid social and educational changes. Many parents today face difficulties in deciding whether their children should prioritise Islamic education or mainstream education, especially in an era marked by globalisation, rapid technological advancement, moral challenges, and increasing competition in the modern job market.

Some parents strongly support Islamic education because they believe that modern social issues such as weakening religious values, social media influence, negative peer pressure, and moral decline may negatively affect children's Islamic identity and behaviour. Therefore, they view religious schools and tahfiz institutions as important in strengthening faith (iman), discipline, and moral values. On the other hand, some parents prioritise mainstream education because they believe that academic qualifications, technological knowledge, communication skills, and professional expertise are necessary for children to succeed and compete in modern society. They are concerned that focusing mainly on religious education may limit children's future career opportunities and exposure to modern fields such as science, medicine, business, and technology.

These differences in opinion may create tension and misunderstanding within the family if they are not resolved through proper communication and mutual consultation. In some cases, children may experience emotional stress, confusion, and pressure due to conflicting expectations from their parents. From an Islamic perspective, education should not focus solely on worldly success nor only on religious knowledge, but rather should achieve a balance between spiritual and intellectual development. Islam encourages Muslims to seek beneficial knowledge that contributes to success in both this world and the Hereafter. Therefore, parents should make educational decisions based on wisdom, cooperation, and the overall welfare (*maslahah*) of the child in accordance with the principles of *Shariah* and *Maqasid al-Shariah*.

THE ROLE OF SHURA BY COOPERATING DECISION-MAKING BETWEEN PARENTS

Shura is a well-known concept in Islam because it was practised during the era of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through consultation and mutual discussion in resolving problems. Islam encourages parents to practise mutual consultation with respect, in accordance with divine guidance, and to avoid disputes that may lead to worse situations. This includes the issue of choosing an education system for their children, whether Islamic education or mainstream academic education. Parents are responsible for managing disagreements and discussions wisely without hurting the feelings of the other party. Therefore, there are several steps involved in engaging in consultation between parents to reach a mutual consensus, so that disagreements can be prevented from continuing over a long period:

UNDERSTANDING THE CONFLICT

Parents need to understand the objective of discussing matters that need to be resolved together. By focusing on the objective of the discussion, conflicts from either side that may lead to misunderstandings can be avoided. If conflicts arise, both parents should communicate and listen to each other's perspectives with respect. In this way, they can prevent prolonged and unnecessary disputes, such as extreme anger, raised voices, the use of harsh and offensive words, and even feelings of hatred between both parties. Islam highly encourages Muslims to maintain good communication and avoid unnecessary disputes that may damage relationships within the family institution. Allah SWT states: **“And speak to people good [words]” (Surah al-Baqarah, 2:83)**. This verse emphasises the importance of respectful communication when discussing sensitive family matters. In addition, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: “The strong person is not the one who overcomes others by strength, but the one who controls himself while in anger.” This hadith shows that emotional control and patience are important qualities in resolving conflicts peacefully. From the perspective of *Maqasid al-Shariah*, proper communication and emotional control help preserve family harmony and emotional well-being under the protection of lineage (*hifz al-nasl*) and intellect (*hifz al-‘aql*). Therefore, parents should approach disagreements calmly and wisely to prevent emotional harm to themselves and their children.

ISLAMIC APPROACHES IN RESOLVING THE DISPUTES

When discussing solutions regarding children's matters, parents should relate their decisions to Islamic teachings in every aspect of life, including education, society, and economics. Islam encourages parents to choose an approach that fulfils their responsibilities as servants of Allah SWT. However, educational choices that are not specifically Islamic are not necessarily wrong as long as they align with *Shariah* principles. Thus, parents must deliberate wisely and patiently to choose the best educational path that benefits their child's future. Parents also need to choose an approach that benefits their children in terms of religion, knowledge, and future development, while avoiding arguments in front of their children and practising respectful communication and consultation with each other. Furthermore, Islam teaches Muslims to resolve disputes through wisdom, patience, and mutual consultation (*shura*). Allah SWT says: **"And conduct their affairs by mutual consultation."** (*Surah al-Shura*, 42:38). This verse demonstrates that important family decisions should be discussed together to achieve the best outcome for all parties involved. In *fiqh*, the principle of *maslahah* (public interest) is highly important in determining decisions related to children's welfare. Parents should therefore consider educational choices that bring the greatest benefit to the child's religion, intellectual growth, emotional stability, and future opportunities. Moreover, Islam prohibits actions that may cause harm to others, as reflected in the legal maxim (*qa'idah fiqhiyyah*): "Harm must be eliminated" (*al-darar yuzal*). Therefore, parents should avoid actions such as arguing aggressively in front of children, as this may negatively affect their emotional and psychological development. Through wisdom, patience, and Islamic guidance, parents can resolve disputes in a way that protects family harmony and children's well-being.

REACHING MUTUAL AGREEMENT

After discussions from both sides, parents can reach a mutual agreement, which is an important step in resolving family disputes. Mutual agreement refers to a situation where both parents accept a solution through understanding, tolerance, and respect.

For example, parents can work together in deciding whether to send their children to a religious school while considering their children's perspectives. Therefore, mutual understanding makes it easier to reach an agreement that respects each other's views and maintains family harmony. This mutual understanding between family members will help children feel supported throughout their educational journey.

In addition, Islam strongly encourages tolerance, cooperation, and mutual understanding within family relationships. Allah SWT says: **"Live with them in kindness."** (*Surah al-Nisa'*, 4:19). Although this verse specifically addresses spouses, scholars explain that it also reflects the importance of maintaining compassion and respect in all family interactions. Parents who cooperate and tolerate one another's opinions are more likely to create a peaceful environment for their children. In addition, mutual agreement between parents reflects the Islamic value of *wasatiyyah* (moderation), where decisions are made in a balanced and fair manner without extremism. From the perspective of *Maqasid al-Shariah*, achieving agreement through understanding and cooperation helps preserve family stability and emotional well-being, which are essential elements under the protection of lineage (*hifz al-nasl*). Therefore, mutual understanding between parents is important in ensuring that children feel emotionally secure and supported throughout their educational journey.

IMPLEMENTING THE SOLUTION

The last step is to implement the solution that both parents have agreed upon sincerely for the sake of Allah SWT, while believing that He is the Best Planner of all. Both parents should work together to support their children by focusing on their welfare, interests, and educational needs. Through maturity, mutual understanding, and rational thinking, parents can become more open in discussions. Thus, parents should fully support the agreed educational decision and place their trust in Allah SWT without repeatedly bringing up past disagreements if the results do not meet their expectations.

Other than that, in order to raise children with proper education and moral values, parents should prioritise their children's emotional needs and provide the best education for them to develop good akhlaq and intellectual abilities. Islam encourages a loving and stable family environment to protect children's well-being, as reflected in *Maqasid al-Shariah* under the element of *hifz al-nasl*, which refers to the protection of lineage and future generations.

Moreover, Islam encourages Muslims to place their trust in Allah SWT after making sincere efforts and careful decisions. Allah SWT says: **“And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah.”** (Surah Ali ‘Imran, 3:159). This verse teaches that after mutual consultation and decision-making, parents should trust Allah and work together to implement the chosen solution positively. In addition, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ emphasised the importance of kindness and compassion within the family. A supportive and loving family environment helps children develop emotional stability, confidence, and good character. From the perspective of *Maqasid al-Shariah*, providing proper education and emotional support helps preserve the welfare of future generations under *hifz al-nasl* and protects intellectual development under *hifz al-‘aql*. Therefore, parents should continue supporting one another and avoid reopening past disagreements in order to maintain harmony and emotional well-being within the family.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, disagreements between husbands and wives regarding their children's education are increasingly common in modern society due to various factors. Therefore, parents should resolve educational disagreements through proper communication, wisdom, patience, and mutual consultation. Islam encourages both parents to balance Islamic and mainstream education to ensure that their children achieve success in both this world and the Hereafter. By respecting each other's opinions, prioritising their children's welfare or *maslahah*, and maintaining family harmony, parents can create a supportive environment that nurtures righteous, knowledgeable, and emotionally healthy children in accordance with the principles of *Maqasid al-Shariah* and *hifz al-nasl*, as these principles help preserve lineage and the emotional well-being of children.

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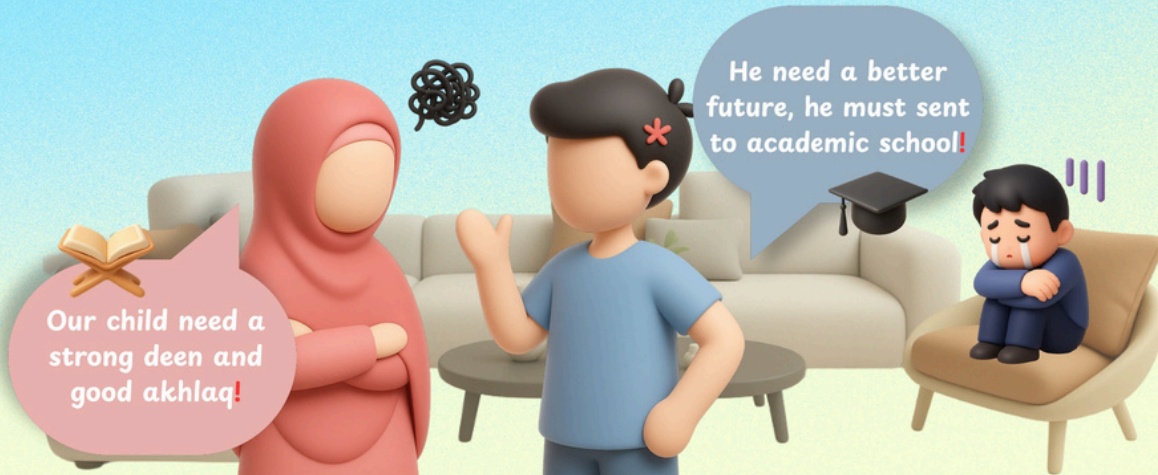
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Disagreement Over Children's Education

Parents argue about whether their children should prioritize Islamic education (religious school) or mainstream education.



Summary of the Issue

Family disagreement happens when family members have different opinions, especially between parents. In this case, the father prefers an academic school for better career opportunities, while the mother chooses a religious school to strengthen the child's faith and moral values. Their disagreement creates tension in the family and emotionally affects the child.

Proposed Solution to Disagreement



- ✓ **Understanding the conflict**
Communicate and listen to each other opinion.



- ✓ **Islamic approaches in resolving the disputes**
Discussing the conflict that related with Islamic approaches which benefits to the children's future.



- ✓ **Reaching mutual agreement**
Working together can reach mutual decisions even asking the children's opinions.



- ✓ **Implementing of the solution**
Parents should fully support the agreed decision and put their trust in Allah S.W.T.



Evidence from Qur'an & Hadith, Fiqh and Maqasid Shariah

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ
"O you who believe! Protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones."

*(Surah At-Tahrim, 66:6)

This verse highlights the responsibility of parents to guide and educate their children according to Islamic teachings.

وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا
"And say: My Lord, increase me in knowledge."

*(Surah Taha, 20:114)

This verse shows that Islam encourages Muslims to seek beneficial knowledge, including both religious and worldly knowledge.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:
"Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim."

This hadith emphasizes that education is an important responsibility for every Muslim.

The Prophet ﷺ also said: 'Each of you is a shepherd and each of you is responsible for his flock.'

This hadith reminds parents that they are responsible for making decisions that benefit their children's future and well-being.



المصلحة (Maslahah)
Prioritizing the Child's Benefit

- Parents should choose the path that gives the best benefit to the child (religion, knowledge and future)
- Parents should avoid arguing in front of children and practice respectful communication and interrogation between each other to maintain family harmony.
- Making decisions through mutual understanding (shura) between family help children feel supported in their education journey.

حفظ النسل
(Protection of Lineage & Future Generation)

- Raising children with proper education and moral values shape them to become righteous and responsible.
- Islam encourages a loving and stable family environment to protect children's well-being.
- Parents should prioritize the child's emotional need and provide education that nurtures both good akhlaq and intellectual development.

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