

THE IMPACT OF FAMILY COHESION IN ACHIEVING SOCIETAL PEACE IN LIGHT OF THE NOBLE QUR'AN

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Abstract:

This research aims to explore the consequences of family affection and cohesion, and the extent of their influence in achieving societal peace, by deriving the objectives and Qur'anic guidance relevant to this topic. It also seeks to highlight the positive outcomes resulting from realizing these aspects, reflecting beneficially on both the individual and the community. The study adopts the inductive–deductive methodology built upon analytical reasoning. Its findings reveal, among other results, that the family constitutes the foundational unit in the reform of societies, leading to the rectitude of the entire nation. Furthermore, family stability plays a pivotal role in achieving societal peace by strengthening the community, instilling moral values and virtue, and safeguarding youth from deviant ideologies. The research also shows that a righteous family has profound impacts upon the nation's prosperity and advancement. **Key Recommendations:** Develop practical, evidence-based steps—grounded in credible studies—to enhance family stability, ensuring the proper establishment and functioning of families in ways that contribute effectively to the realization of societal peace.

Keywords: Family cohesion – Societal peace – Sustainable development – Qur'anic objectives

INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah, the Revealer of the Book, the Defeater of the confederates, and the Creator of humankind from dust. May peace and blessings be upon the noblest of humankind, Muhammad—His servant and Messenger—and upon his pure family and righteous companions, and upon all those who follow their path until the Day of Judgment.

The Noble Qur'an is a beacon of goodness and a lamp of guidance, revealed by Allah, Exalted is He, to lead humanity out of the darkness of misguidance and disunity into the light of guidance and success. Whoever reflects upon its verses and follows its guidance will find his path upright, his affairs sound, and his life prosperous, attaining well-being in both this world and the next.

Indeed, the Qur'an serves as a reformatory foundation for all human affairs, whether individual or collective. Within it lie light, guidance, and sound direction; by adhering to it, happiness is attained, life becomes balanced, and societies prosper.

This research aims to shed light on a significant dimension of social construction and the realization of peace and stability within communities, in accordance with the purposes and guidance of the Qur'an. Specifically, it focuses on one of the most crucial contributing factors in achieving societal peace—**family cohesion**.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the primary Qur'anic guidance that strengthens family bonds and contributes to achieving societal peace.

2. To derive from Qur'anic verses the key factors that promote family cohesion, which in turn facilitates societal harmony.
3. To clarify the interdependent relationship between family cohesion and the realization of social peace.

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

1. The importance of this study lies in its focus on practical and applicable measures that promote societal peace through the enhancement of family cohesion—thereby reinforcing communal solidarity and unity.
2. It also contributes to building effective and stable societies by elucidating the essential Qur'anic guidance necessary for constructing cohesive families that uphold security and social harmony.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

The core question of this research is: How does the Qur'an address the concept of societal peace, and what are the key objectives and insights that can be extracted from its verses to establish such peace in the contemporary context?

The applied scholarly approach

The study employs the **inductive–deductive approach**, tracing Qur'anic guidance and objectives related to the subject and extracting them from the relevant verses of the Noble Qur'an, followed by analytical discussion to infer their implications for family and social stability.

RESEARCH PLAN

This paper consists of an **introduction**, **two main chapters**, a **conclusion**, and a **list of references**.

The introduction presents the objectives, importance, methodology, and structure of the research.

The chapters are as follows:

- **Chapter One:** Definition of Societal Peace
- **Chapter Two:** Qur'anic Guidance Influencing Family Cohesion
- **Chapter Three:** Effects of Family Cohesion in Achieving Societal Peace

Chapter One: Definition of Societal Peace

First: Definition of “Peace” (al-Silm)

A. Linguistic Definition:

The trilateral root *sīn-lām-mīm* (س ل م) generally denotes soundness, safety, and freedom from harm or defect. Thus, *salāmah* (السلامة) signifies a person's safety and well-being from afflictions or injury.[11]

B. Terminological Definition:

In terminology, *silm* refers to a state of harmony and mutual tranquility prevailing among members of a community—meaning that the society is free from internal conflict, division, or disorder. [2]

Second: Definition of “Society” (al-Mujtama‘)

A. Linguistic Definition:

Al-Mujtama‘ derives from the root *j-m-* (جمع), meaning “to gather” or “to unite what was scattered.” Thus, it denotes a collection of individuals or elements brought together from different places, even if not fused into a single entity.[9]

B. Terminological Definition:

A society is defined as a group of people bound by a common system, shared interests, and collective cooperation toward achieving mutual goals, unified by values of justice and reform.

Third: Definition of “Societal Peace” (al-Silm al-Mujtama‘i)

Societal peace has been defined as “the state of human harmony and internal concord within the social environment, constituting a fundamental element for the progress and advancement of the community and its members.” [2]

Chapter Two: Qur'anic Guidance Influencing Family Cohesion

The family serves as the fortified shield and secure refuge that protects and strengthens its members. A person gains true stability and strength only within a cohesive and upright family unit, which in turn forms the nucleus of a sound and peaceful society.

The Qur'an highlights several factors that contribute to building a cohesive family, which naturally leads to achieving societal harmony. The following are among the most significant insights and divine directives related to this subject:

First: One of the most important factors for the success of the family, which is the nucleus of a righteous society, is for parents to fulfill their role toward their children. The Qur'anic verses have addressed several matters that parents should adhere to:

1. The necessity of caring for the children's path, religion, and beliefs, which is derived from the fact that the Prophets of Allah, peace be upon them, were keen on the religion of their children, as indicated by the prayer of Abraham and Ishmael, peace be upon them: "Our Lord, make us Muslims [in submission] to You and [raise] from our descendants a Muslim nation [in submission] to You" Arabic: رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمَيْنِ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ Transliteration: Rabbana waj'alna muslimeyna laka wa min dhurriyyatina ummatan muslima laka [Al-Baqarah: 128]. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all humans to be diligent in this regard.
2. The importance of good role models in upbringing. The Qur'an points out the strong influence of parents' actions on their children, as illustrated in their saying: "and the god of your fathers" Arabic: وَإِلَهُ آبَائِكُمْ Transliteration: Wa ilaaha aabaa'ikumul [Al-Baqarah: 133]. Souls are naturally inclined to follow their parents; if the parents follow the truth, it is accepted as truth, and if they follow falsehood, it is followed as falsehood.
3. Guidance that calling to religion is most appropriate when carried out by close relatives, as is the case with the Prophets. This is supported by the verse: "And Abraham and Jacob instructed their sons, [saying], 'O my sons, indeed Allah has chosen for you this religion, so do not die except while you are Muslims'" Arabic: وَوَصَّي بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبَ يَا بَنِيَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمُ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ Transliteration: Wa wassaa bihaaaa Ibraahimu baneehi wa Ya'qoobu yaa banii innal laaha istafa lakumul deena falaa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoona [Al-Baqarah: 132].
4. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of being reassured about the children and knowing their level of piety, companionship, and other traits, as derived from: "Or were you witnesses when death approached Jacob, when he said to his sons, 'What will you worship after me?' They said, 'We will worship your God and the God of your fathers'" Arabic: أَمْ كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ حَضَرَ يَعْقُوبَ الْمَوْتُ إِذْ قَالَ لِبَنِيهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ بَعْدِي قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَإِلَهُ آبَائِكَ Transliteration: Am kuntum shuhadaa idh hadara Ya'qooba al-mawtu idh qala libaneehi ma ta'budoona min ba'dee qaaloo na'budu ilaahaka wa ilaaha aaba'ika [Al-Baqarah: 133].

Second: Among the factors contributing to the success, stability, and cohesion of any family is the fulfillment of children's duties toward their parents. The Qur'an provides important guidance on how children should behave toward their parents for the family to be upright and its affairs to prosper. These include:

1. Children should not be annoyed by their parents' questions, especially when the parents are elderly, as no one is more caring or merciful than one's parents. This is exemplified by the sons of Jacob, peace be upon him, who responded promptly to their father without showing any irritation, as stated in:

"When he said to his sons, 'What will you worship after me?' They said, 'We will worship your God and the God of your fathers'" Arabic: **إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبْنَيْهِ مَا إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبْنَيْهِ مَا إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبْنَيْهِ مَا** **Transliteration:** *Idh qala libaneehi ma ta'budoona min ba'dee qaaloo na'budu ilaahaka wa ilaaha aaba'ika* [Al-Baqarah: 133].

2. It is necessary to reassure parents and comfort them, as indicated by the phrase: "We worship your God" — the sons of Jacob did not say "We worship our God," but rather, "We worship your God," meaning, "We follow your way; there is no disagreement from us in what we worship and our devotion to Him" [12].
3. Demonstrating respect toward parents. By saying, "We worship your God," the sons of Jacob acknowledged the special status of their father, aligning themselves with his position. Similarly, children should honor their parents in this manner [10].

Chapter Three: Effects of Family Cohesion on Achieving Societal Peace

The Qur'anic verses call for the reform of the family because it is the foundational building block for the righteousness of societies, which leads to the well-being of the nation and the construction of civilization. The family is the backbone of society, and Islam has given the family great care, providing all necessary components for establishing a sound societal foundation. Therefore, family integrity has immense importance due to its wide-ranging positive effects on the nation, ensuring the proper order and welfare of its members.

The Prophets, peace be upon them, were aware of this reality, as indicated in the Qur'an. They highlighted the importance of family righteousness and its fruitful outcomes. For instance, in the story of Abraham, peace be upon him, in Surah Al-Baqarah, Abraham prayed for the righteousness of his progeny: "And [mention, O Muhammad], [Abraham] said, 'And from my descendants'" Arabic: **قَالَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي**

Transliteration: *Qala wa min dhurriyyati* [Al-Baqarah: 124].

This was further emphasized in the prayer of Abraham and Ishmael, peace be upon them, for their descendants: "Our Lord, make us Muslims [in submission] to You and [raise] from our descendants a Muslim nation [in submission] to You" Arabic: **رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ** **Transliteration:** *Rabbana waj'alna muslimayna laka wa min dhurriyyatina ummatan muslima laka* [Al-Baqarah: 128]. Parental care for their children is one of the most crucial factors in the soundness of the family, because righteous offspring are the natural outcome of righteous parents. It is also an indication of the importance of praying for the righteousness of one's progeny, as individual righteousness ensures the family's righteousness, which in turn ensures societal well-being [4][6].

Abraham and Jacob, peace be upon them, were careful about the religious guidance of their children, as shown in: "And Abraham and Jacob instructed their sons, [saying], 'O my sons, indeed Allah has chosen for you this religion, so do not die except while you are Muslims'" Arabic: **وَوَصَّيْ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَيَعْقُوبَ بَا بَنِيَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمُ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ** **Transliteration:** *Wa wassaa bihaaaa Ibraahimu baneehi wa Ya'qoobu yaa banii innal laaha istafa lakumul deena falaa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoonaa* [Al-Baqarah: 132]. The responsibility of the head of the family continues until the last moment of life, ensuring the safety of his family and the soundness of their beliefs.

Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said: "Whoever neglects the education of his child in what benefits him and leaves him to waste has severely wronged him. Most children's corruption originates from the parents' negligence, leaving them without teaching the obligations and Sunnah of religion. They lose them while young, so they do not benefit themselves nor their parents when older." [3]

Thus, family righteousness is closely linked to successful upbringing. Righteous children are the fruit of conscious, effective upbringing, which provides the family with stability and cohesion.

The greatest effects of family righteousness:

1. Achieving societal peace, which in turn brings other great benefits, such as mutual affection, communication, love, and mercy among the members of society. This reflects positively on the society as a whole. A nation is made up of households, and without a household, there is no community. The feelings of compassion and the drive for cooperation are strongest in the natural bond between parents and children, then among close relatives, and eventually extend to the whole society [5].
2. Strengthening the society and its resilience, because a complete society is made up of strong families—the building blocks. A strong society cannot exist without strong families, so the strength or weakness of society is measured by the cohesion or fragility of its families [7].
3. Instilling ethical values and virtues in the community. In the family, morality is cultivated, which influences the broader society. The righteousness or corruption of society depends on the righteousness or corruption of families.
4. Protecting youth from misguided ideologies and deviant doctrines. The family is the primary environment for nurturing, educating, and developing the minds and spirits of the young. For example, Jacob, peace be upon him, cared about the religion of his children even on his deathbed: "Were you witnesses when Jacob approached death, when he said to his sons, 'What will you worship after me?' They said, 'We will worship your God and the God of your fathers'"

Arabic: كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ حَضَرَ يَعْقُوبَ الْمَوْتُ إِذْ قَالَ لِبَنِيهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ بَعْدِي قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَإِلَهَ آبَائِكَ

Transliteration: Kuntum shuhadaa idh hadara Ya'qooba al-mawtu idh qala libaneehi ma ta'budoona min ba'dee qaaloo na'budu ilaahaka wa ilaaha aaba'ika [Al-Baqarah: 133]. Protecting children from false doctrines and deviant beliefs is a crucial pillar in building a righteous Muslim family. It is recommended for a person to advise his children and all family members to remain upon Islam until death [13].

5. Righteous families contribute to the cultivation and development of the earth. Families are the foundation upon which all aspects of civilization and urbanization are built. They are central to societal development and prosperity. This meaning is emphasized in Abraham's prayer for the Sacred City (Makkah) to be secure and abundant in blessings: "And [mention] when Abraham said, 'My Lord, make this a secure city and provide its people with fruits'" Arabic: وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ Transliteration: Wa idh qala Ibraahimu rabbi aj'al haadha baladan aaminan warzuq ahlahu mina ath-thamaraat [Al-Baqarah: 126]. Similarly, Abraham and Ishmael, peace be upon them, prayed for their descendants: "Our Lord, make us Muslims [in submission] to You and [raise] from our descendants a Muslim nation [in submission] to You" Arabic: رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمَيْنِ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ Transliteration: Rabbana waj'alna muslimeyna laka wa min dhurriyyatina ummatan muslima laka [Al-Baqarah: 128]. This means: "And make from our progeny a Muslim nation as we are Muslims, so that Islam continues and the earth is cultivated through the strength and cooperation of the community" [5].

6. Righteous families lead to psychological stability for individuals. When a person feels they belong to a righteous family, it provides inner peace. A sound individual should belong to a family with a known father and grandfather, as well as a known mother and grandmother.

Thus, achieving family righteousness has immense effects on societal peace. Through it, life is stabilized, souls are comforted, and eyes are pleased.

The social meanings achieved by a righteous family include:

- Protecting society from moral corruption and disease spread. This is reflected in the hadith of the Prophet ﷺ: "Whoever is able to marry, let him do so, for it restrains the gaze and preserves chastity. And whoever cannot, let him fast, for it is a shield for him." [8]
- Preserving lineage and maintaining family ties. By doing so, societal security is upheld, kinship ties are maintained, and relatives' rights are fulfilled.

- Fostering solidarity. Islam emphasizes solidarity within the family, as it naturally extends to solidarity across the entire community.

RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

1. Family stability plays a central role in achieving societal peace by reinforcing strength, virtue, and resilience, and by protecting youth from destructive ideologies.
2. A righteous family contributes to the prosperity and moral security of the nation.
3. Any development or progress of society depends directly on the soundness of its families.
4. Family righteousness establishes psychological well-being and fosters social solidarity.

Recommendations:

It is imperative to establish practical, evidence-based frameworks that promote family stability and cohesion through comprehensive educational, social, and faith-based programs designed to sustain societal harmony.

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