CONCEPTS OF FAMILY IN ISLAMIC ARABIC SOCIETY AND WESTERN SOCIETY

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Abstract - Talking about family is talking about a network of connections , relations and concepts which forms the main core of a society, furthermore it also forms a value system of the pedagogical content to the person, to make comparison between two cultural contexts: the western civilized model and the Islamic civilized model for the expression of "Family" and its formation and the elements that are related to, would make a numbers of paradoxes between these two models, upon that it will have effects on different fields of knowledge such as Philosophy, Sociology and Religion. I'm not overstating if I say the size of the paradox between these two concepts reaches to a case of contradiction, as the western social and ethical crisis from this paradox can be approached itself, the illusions of modernism can be recognized through the effects are overshadowed to the changes that hit the western family and society, and the values of the western family itself, therefore the religious and philosophical beliefs would have effects on the prevailing manner of relations, and it also linked to the demographic (population), cultural and physiological variables (As it was confirmed in a study was made about the European Family). Here we will try to clarify the transformations of the concept of "family" according to the philosophy which is controlled by without omission of the forms that have been generated from and its implications.

Keywords - Relations, characteristics, Religion,

I. INTRODUCTION

If the person wants to know the stability of the family in the society and where it reaches in the way of superiority and luminosity... a person should have a look at the women's situation in their society because women are considered as a backbone for every family seeking stability.

With a few of contemplation in the real life the importance of the righteousness of woman's behavior in the family and then the society will appear to us, therefore righteousness of women in the family will lead to righteousness of generations as well, thus with her corruption will be more often their corruption, beside her effects on men whether husband, father or brother, the importance of the women's righteousness in the family is more important than the man's because the woman would have effective impact whether as guided or in corrupted way in configuring the behaviours and habits of children much more than the man for many reasons including:

effluent emotions, softness of temperaments that God gave it to her and ability to integrate and participation in their activities on the amount temperament and their souls, which has a significant impact to gain their love and getting their trust then they take her as ideal by the way she acts , also from her sayings, behaviours and all of her actions , by spending more time with them in their growing period while they are driven by their pure instinct and soft dough that can be easily formable and configurable whatever good things have been stamped on it will remain, as well as whatever bad things have been stamped on it will remain too, and then it will be difficult to change whenever the child grows, therefore many times if we notice virtuous and polite children then we start to search for the secret behind that, then we get to know that they have a virtuous, pious mother ,although even if their father is not as that example, and when we notice depraved and perverse children then we start to search for the secret behind that ,then we get to know that they have depraved and perverse mother, and perhaps they have virtuous, pious fathers.

1.1The main characteristics of the family in the Arab world

In the light of many studies taking place in different countries of the Arab World some the main characteristics of the classical family in Arab world will shown in the followings points:

1.Obedience: it has been established in the mind of the male since childhood that he is a bless for the family ,while the girl is considered as a burden for it and she is not important , also she is initiated to accept her status as a female since her birth which means less attention than what the boy gets. Since the children get the idea of obedience with the breastfeed (obey Allah... and those of you who are in authority) therefore the father and the husband are considred as a guardians, also the circumstance of the wife's obedience and the obedience of the children to their parents is the most highlighted part in the classical family especially the central authority of the father who is consdered as an image of a governor (father of people), linking the life of the family members to the householder makes it obligation and no way to escape from it. The obedience from the wife and the children are related to the authoritarianism domination from the man side which is seen by the child since his birth as the family gives him only a narrow field to achieve self-independence, once he grows up he starts to drop his persecution against his

sisters and then against his wife and the children as well.

2.keeping tradition in the family has the main role in the family itself, beside that the women, children and youths are involved in this category, all of them have a border and they must not cross it, from this point the woman does not share one place with her husband for a meal, if anyone of the children want to get something from their father, they have to ask it through their mother, the son have to keep the tradtional decent behavior toward the housholder who dictates his status in the family ,its not allowed for the son to smoke a cigarette in front of him , does not have to sit while his father is standing and have to stand up when he comes, and the woman does not talk with her husband unless he starts talking first, the husband should always keep his face frown to keep his status beside keep ordering the woman and children to keep his ascendency among them. All these these rules strengthen the distance between the family memebrs.

3.concentrating on the importance of the maleness and inferiority of the female , when a son get born the feeling of happiness starts, they receives him by trilling, while a girl will be received by sorrowful feelings with wishing and hoping to have a son afterward. More further giving the man a nikname derived from his father name even if he has not got a son yet, all these beside the pressure on the daughter to be dutiful to her brother and makes her feel that she is under his protection beside warning her from having a friendships with another boys once she grows up, and always reminding her that she is inferior and a reason for temptation and the weaker rib….act. According to the husband she is considered as something is paid for like any goods.

4.Women staying at home, do not go out, even many women after getting married do not go out at all but only to their graves afterward, this was considered as virtuous a long time ago, while men rarely stay at home, they go out at nights and working at day time while a woman stays at home with her children and smell of cooking and so on, which makes the man runs away from home too.

5.Choosing the partner in the classical family is under the authority of the family itself, therefore men's tradition, habits, behavior and values does not allow him to choose a wife for himself because it's considered as as family affairs and its not allowed for him to see or meet her before the wedding day, and also its not allowed for an adult person to remind his family about the necessity of his marriage, they are the one who decide the time of his marriage and they choose a suitable wife for him then they will pay a dower, usually it will be paid during engagement's celebration, social traditions and habits does not allow the girl to talk and discuss about her marriage, the processes will be finished through her parents or relatives and the dower will be paid to her family, they will spend it as they want, oftenly will be spent for buying a Jewelry or house's furniture, the marriage which has been arranged by husband's family is called (arranged marriage) because it was arranged by the man's or the girl's relative without giving them any chance to decide on marrige's matters. These were some features of the classical family in Arab countries untill the beginning of the 20th century and still taking place by the same values and shape in some societies that are existed today.

1.2 Family according to the Islamic concept

In the Islamic concept "legal Marriage" between a male and a female is considered as a solid basis which the family rest, from here we can realize the deficiency of the Juristic definition which is almost considers it as usufruct marriage.

The family in Islamic concept is not just a limited relation between the couple and the children, but it extends to the relations which are arising from alliance, affinity, which will be followed by more Rights and duties whether it's a financial like a legacy or morality like a devotion, Kinship or friendship. Extended Family**:** there are a social relation that takes place in the family which is considered as a united social for example: (through neighbourhood's relations), relations with the lower social class (servants) who Islam ordered to treat equally with the family members according to the humanity's values not according to a social's class values.

The Extended family gives their children a changes and sources of exemplary,Kindliness and tenderness, which will increase the child's sentiment sources.

Family in Islam has been established through a religious basis/ beliefs.

"Allah the highest" related the beliefs on his oneness with honoring the parents, as it was clarified in Quran "to follow the commitments which organizes the family it means believing in " Allah the highest", the puepose of creating family is to keep the law given by Allah that will make the family a worshippers".

The strong base for creating a family is the mercifulness, as Allah says: "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves wives that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy" (surah Al room.verse 21). Therefore the relation is not just a contract marraige , as the promoters are promoting for the case of "Women's Liberation" what is happening in the West (For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good). (surah Al nisa verse :19) also: "No believing man should hate a believing woman (his wife): if he dislikes a characteristic from her, of a surety, he would be

pleased with another from her." [Muslim]. Further the family is based on moral responsibility too: "All of you are guardians and are responsible for your wards. The ruler is a guardian and responsible for his subjects; the man is a guardian and responsible for his family; the woman is a guardian and is responsible for her husband's house and his offspring; and so, all of you are guardians and are responsible for your wards." [Al-Bukhari].

All these responsibilities are determined and demonstrated through religion's law and have been saved in jurisprudence books and it will have judicial warranties. As we indicate the deficiency of the Islamism's concept of marriage therefore it's not surprising that juris consults do not admit that the wife must take care of her husband and does home's duties.

1.3 Family according to the Western concept

The family in the modern Western concepts has passed through many different changes, maybe years of 1500 and 1789 are the two outstanding points in the history of this change,during the 1500 and at the beginning of 13th century was beginning of appearance for features of Industrial Revolution, in 1789 was the French Revolution and it was a result of what's called "Age of Enlightenment" (in 18th century especially at the first half of it) which is characterized by a pervasive of what is called "using mind" and the starting point of judging the existed situations.

philosophers and debater of "Age of Enlightenment" encouraged to reject the Feudal society, they encouraged to build a new society based on human's rights and freedom instead, Modernism is linked to the "Age of Enlightenment" and the Rationalities idea of it, in other words: to search for the guaranteed knowledge and to find a tool to control the power of nature and society. These historical points and intellectual transformations had big effects in social changes and shape of the family's life in Europe. But all these changes in the western community (European, American) regarding the sexual matters, family's structure and drug all were taken place during the sixties of 20th century; it was what is called (Cultural Revolution). But there are some differences between the two communities, while the social changes were integrated with the traditions and habits in Europe, a deep social division took place in America, but "David Brooks" confirmed in his book (Bobos in Paradise) that there are some signs are indicating that America soon will be equal to Europe through integrating the sixties cultural revolution into American's traditions and habits.

And now in the West and especially in America could be talked about the changes in the moral fabric of the family, not only about the small family by it's classical meaning but even about the families which are formed by the free choice and freewill (a group of people sharing a special type of habits or type of a certain values), more further now could be talked about varieties of family's formations too, such as those families who have got adopted children, a mixed families, homosexual families (female/female,, male/male), and the families who are formed by a modern technology. These variations considered as a group of available and various options, especially regarding to homosexuals, since the homosexuality has been changed from a "deviation " to an acceptable " choice" or "direction", in some countries such as Holland and even in some religious institutions and communities in America the homosexuals got a formal recognition and "rights" to get married and have been looked at more equal to normal couples (male/ female) regarding the rights.

These variations/ changes in the family's concept and its shape have formed by considering the classical family as a social historical shape, which it means it can be skipped to form a replacement or replacements once, based on freewill and the normal individual right regardless from the religions idea, which is resulted in many several circumstances such as an illegitimate child, AIDS, and the freedom of sexuality practices and so on.

In France as example, the percentage of birth outside marriage reached to 40% from the total of 1997 births, more than half of women 53% got their children without a legal marriage, having sex without a legal marriage has been increased in 1999 which is threatens the existence of the classical French families, according to the annual report of the demographic studies in Paris which is confirmed that the marriage become a habit "routine" which let too many people leaving it. The important thing regarding this situation reflects the philosophy behind it, and it's not considered in western modernism as a deviation but it's considered as a side effects, regarding the "safety of having sex" and innovation of protection it will be followed by either Adoptions, selling and renting women's wombs or by the artificial insemination to solve the problem of the Procreation in homosexual families, then comes the abortion to solve the problem of having illegitimate children and so on. Solutions are not only limited on the technology but it extends to the concepts as well, we saw how the homosexuality has changed from a "deviation" to a "choice", and how the prostitution have changed from unmoral situation to a legal situation, and how it became legally in United States and in entire Europe.

1.4 The Paradox between the two concepts

The central question here regarding to the understanding of the concept of "family" in the

western context, will be: in which philosophy the family is based on?

Some people think that the concept of the "Country" in the West has replaced the concept of "Family"; therefore, the country has become the mother of the people, Due to the fact that the government in our country did not have their role and their responsibility in the exact meaning (except regarding their authority which we have known it very well), therefore the Muslim family has been fortified and been self-restrained by their refusing the modernism.

According to our point of view this model is not accurate because it's not possible to change a foundation and replace it by entity such as a country, the whole issue starts from the changes which took place in the concepts that are formed by the western modernism, so the family has been formed according to the western concepts of the "right" of the individual person, from this point there were agreements for: (human's rights, women's right, Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and children's rights), which the United Nation continuously were trying to generalize and impose them to the whole world as it's considered as an ideal which has to be followed.

Fruther more it's important here to refer to the changes in the western family, particularly the European family, that the issue of "Women's Liberation" had a special role in the way of creating a new " balance of power" into the family with the usage of the Lutheranism opinions (belongs to Martin Luther) to repair the most important part of the social's map.

As example the Italian women started to be disinclined from pluriparity or childlessness at all , or even getting married, and they are seeking to change the status of the relation with men to the concept of pleasure, which it will be equal for both side to get it. thereby the preference of Biological function will take over the social function. Even the idea of "equality" in the view of women (centralized around the female) started to be changed, as the female is considered as an original and she can be dispensed from men totally and depend on herself and even having children without him.

According to the concept of "natural right" in the western system which is not related to religion, a new valuable system has been reformulated such as: Pleasure, Individuality, Independency, sexual freedom, and freedom of formatting the sexual choice (Homosexuality), and the woman owns her body, she is free to do what she wants, and the country is just guarantor/ a legal document to protect these rights. This idea of "right and equality" reformatted the concept of "Authority" so the family has changed from a foundation to a state, from this point it can be resorting to it to protect the rights of the: son, father, or mother, each one of them against the other by a parallelism way, therefore the role of the family will be diminished with the existence of the other foundations which are doing their role such as school, media and the society. Even the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (1979) considered the Motherhood as a social function as person can do it.

Here we can understand the meaning of the "emotional emptiness" which is happening among the young generation in the West, the French author "Michel Houseleeks" in his book (Elementary Particles) which achieved the highest sales records in Europe, He talked in it about the horrible image of the emotional emptiness in Europe.

The family according to the western modernism context is established according to a contractual basis, from this point the concepts and the values of the cohesiveness, solidarity, kindness and Parental Responsibility between the family members has been diminished, and then the emotional and morality responsibility will be ended totally when the child gets to age of 16, and the financial responsibility will be ended after few years as well from that. The cost of the violent crime in United States (except drugs) is around 700 Billion dollars every year, and this amount of money passes the gross of the individual average annual income in about 120 countries around the world.

Drugs users were estimated only in America by 12 million people, this even with a distinct decline in the average which started in 1991. Regarding the family in the Islamic concept it's been established according to the basis of the kindness which based on the religious faith, and from this faith comes out the commitment of the family laws, and in exchange for the individual's right in the Western concept comes the duties of religion, and in exchange for the unrestrained freedom comes out the moral responsibility,

The satisfying of pleasure in the western views takes place through the freedom of practicing as its considered as a right supported by freedom, While the satisfying of pleasure in the Islamic views happens through the marriage only and by taking the responsibility of taking a part to build up a perfect society and the perfect individuality, While the sexual pleasure forms the shape of western life, on the other side the sexual activities in the Muslim's life will be integrated because it's considered as shape of a worship, (In a man's intimate relations with his wife is charity.) (Muslim)

For all these considerations, we have found big differences between the social deviations in the West

and the deviations in the Islamic societies, although there is no accurate statistic.

II. TRANSFORMATIONS IN MUSLIM'S FAMILY

In the conditions of effects of cultural and economic implications new shapes and transformations appeared in the Muslim's family, we have seen some penetrations for the Islamic concept of the family, beside malpractices.
Examples of these shapes: Misyar Marriage "short-term marriage", Consensual Marriage, Usufruct Marriage, and so on. We do not deny that there are some moral penetrations represented in running away from the family responsibilities and marriage, therefore the prostitution has been appeared in some countries, as well as the Technical porn and so on.

But it is important to notice that these shapes and practices always remains in a shape of "penetrations " and it's not generalized in the community, and its limited circumstances in the general community, also the more important thing is that the community looks at these penetrations as "illegal" which makes it secret practices, beside that the values system have not changed even with the existence of these penetrations, although there is no accurate statistic.
We have explained that the family in the Islamic concept is considered as an extended family, from this point, would the predominance of the nuclear family into our communities will be considered as another penetration for the Islamic concept?

it's true that the house is considered as the material base which at some points sets the shapes of relation between the members who live in it, therefore we have found some family's definitions provides that the "individual house" and the nuclear family are related to the multiplicity of houses and the establishing idea of the "Independency" which is considered as an individual value in the Western context. But here we do not say that: the extended family is the Islamic family which is the nuclear family comes out from, as we mentioned that the lessons from here will be: the existing relations and the linkages, although the children became fathers, according to a religious/ faith base (Kinship‹‹honour the parents).

2.1 Globalization of Western Concept

The Divine Messages and the earth philosophies agreed that in the way of establishing and formatting a family, it will follow the values and religion law. But these concepts slowly started to be changed since the beginning of the previous century after the intellectual and scientific transformations which took place among these communities. These transformations had a big change in formatting and in the characteristics of the Western family values and that is manifested in reluctance of young people from marriage, Homosexual marriage, and in changing of Fornication's concept, and in having children without marriage. As a result of this fact the western societies started to have a decline in the moral values in favour of a new values, in ahead of it: Individualism, Competition, principle of benefit, Materialistic love, ignoring the spiritual and Moral side of the relation between the family members and that led to the disintegration of families into these societies, spread of sexual diseases, drug abuse, and committing crimes. The results of Media openness and the spread of wrong concepts among some Islamic families and the self /general-censorship that let the western values gradually moves into Islamic societies and made the family relations weaker, also the reluctance of young people from marriage have been increased and relations of affection, compassion, and the mutual respect among the family have been declined. One of the most important external factors that had a role for appearance of this situation is the modernism system that has used media to transfer the materialistic culture, Violence, and the cheap excitement. Regarding the internal factors that are found in the misunderstanding of the Islamic religion concept and the legitimate purposes of it, as well as the judicial practices which are in many times are biased toward the man, and the spread of some of inherited traditions which are wrong and far from the true of the fundamentals of true religion.

Finally, to repair any defect that happens in the Muslim family have to be through their first reference: the book of Allah and his prophet's teachings "sunnah", and through the cooperation between individuals, countries, Education systems, Media, and all kind of society institutions. The duty of these Authorities will be in the task of educating and enlightening the external and internal of the Public opinion and to face the enemies and expose their targets.

CONCLUSION

going back to "God" is the definitive solution for the societies ,as he is considered as precious of values, the concentrated religion teachings which forms a "Social theory" can represent a "healer" in the social field and brings back the cohesiveness, unity, and filling out the emotional emptiness of the social network relations, the spiritual relationship between God and the human establishes the image of moral values of the social relations, and the more far from religion in a society the more is the social gap between its members.

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