

Population Growth and Resource Constraint Phenomenon: Contemporary and Quranic Viewpoint

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Abstract

The main purpose of this paper is to explore the comparison of traditional and Quranic (Islamic) view of birth control in line with scarce resources. The comparative analysis is applied to seek the differences of two streams, contemporary and Islamic. Traditional theories focus on the birth control followed by the proposition that population is growing too faster than world resources which result reduction in living standards of the masses. Islam has its own plausible underlying theory and rejects the conventional theory of birth control. It is undoubtedly mentioned by Allah in the Holy book Quran that unlimited resources have been created by Him. Islam rather encourages more fertility rate as it considers it as basic instinct. The findings reveal that Islam contradicts conventional thought of population control. Islam also condemns using the contraceptives and permit for Azl (Islamic Contraceptive) under some specific conditions. Government intrusion is not at all permitted by Islam to disseminate controlling the birth rate. The findings also delineate that fertility plan is very much personal subject of spouses. Islam underlines that there are unlimited resources bestowed by the Allah (The Creator), and it is one of the main responsibilities of State to exploit these productive resources and deploy them in a productive way to increase the welfare of humanity.

Keywords: *Population Growth, Limited Resources, Birth Control Rate.*

Introduction

Population growth has been considered a foremost area of interest for the economist since the economic development process initiated in developing countries. Most of the economists think population growth as one of the potential threats to hinder the economic growth of the country. To overcome the issue of population growth, many theories and models have been constructed to address the issue on a serious note. Despite the fact, population growth was believed to be an impediment to foster the economic growth of a country. World Bank Report (2015) explains that approximately 7.5 billion people are living on the soil and the projected figure is supposed to be more than 9.2 Billion in 2050. These assessments for future have serious implication for the developing counties. More than 750 million people are joining the world, every year. Bongaarts (2018) disclosed the fact that by 2100 four billion population anticipated to be a part of this globe which leaves the world with serious concerns. Also recommended for the prudent fiscal policy to sustain the economic development in the long run.

According to United Nation Report 97% of this new population is a part of developing countries. Geographically, the pressure of the population is concentrated in Africa and Asia and Pacific, for instance it is projected by the United Nation that in 2015, these regions will be holding the major portion of growing population like 58% in Asia and Pacific and 23% in African countries. In fact, increasing number of population is considered to hold economic and social implication for the developing nations. In excess of three-quarter population reside in the developing nations whereas less than this reside in developed nations. Particularly the fast-growing countries in term of population China and India has raised many quarries in the context of economic stability over the time. Economic growth and increasing population derive the demand of goods and services globally and it further raises the questions to maintain the key sustainable indicators (Nepal & Paija, 2019). Growing population is being thought as one of the major obstacles to achieve the well-being of the poor masses, their issue of education, health and economic and social capabilities. Ahmed (2011) also underscored that increasing population recuts reduction in enjoying the economic fruits and put pressure on the economic resources. One another important issue regarding surge in population is whether a growing population will be absorbed in employment opportunities. To overcome the issue, traditional theories concentrates on the curative cum preventive measure to curb the issue of population growth. These preventive measures include contraceptives, pills, injection etc. Which are also questionable in term of health of human being and it also causes to reduce the productivity of people. Islamic perspective of increasing population is quite different. Although, the phenomenon of population growth cannot be denied Islam refutes the traditional view of population as a potential threat for economic growth. Islam considers the population growth as one and unique source of labor supply in the economy and allocate high weight to the labor as factor of production. Islam delegates the responsibility to the governance (State) to take care of people in the Islamic state rather to convince people to control birth control. Islam does not admit the dearth of resources comparing with population growth. Allah has bestowed the entire world with natural resources as per the requirements. Islam asserts in proper utilization of resources to feed the population. Allah has repeatedly repeated in Quran that Allah has endowed you the resources now it's all up to the human being how do they explore and utilize them. Islam emphasizes that human being does not interfere in the nature affairs otherwise it will have multifarious side effects on the life of human. Though, it is interesting know that there are certain circumstances under which Islam does recognizes the birth control measures. But these exemptions need to be studied under the Islamic framework with more precision and vigilance.

The main objective of this paper is to explicitly differentiate the concept of birth control and dearth of resources in line with the contemporary and Islamic school of thoughts. The comparative analysis is carried out to seek contemporary and Islamic viewpoints in line with population and resources available. This study also explores the exemptions regarding birth control under the Islamic jurisprudence.

Conventional Paradigm of Population Growth Phenomenon

Traditional economics takes population growth as one of the major diseases for the economic growth. Currently, number of terms has been assigned to this issue like infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, life expectancy etc. These terms assist to increase the gravity of a problem which further gives food for thought to economist to think and discover the new and artificial methods to control the birth rate. In all developing nations, birth rate is reported ranging from 15 to 40 per 1000 where same ratio has been recorded as 5 per 1000 in developed countries. It has also been highlighted by the United Nations that improvement in the medical advancement like vaccination for some vocal diseases' as small pox, yellow fever, malaria and also propagation of public health helped a lot to decline the death rates in all developing nations. Therefore, contemporary economists are also worried about the decline in death rates and increase in population growth. Because according to their point of view it is simply a burden on the available resources of the globe. They think that number of people and infer that it will reduce the per capita income, per capita health, per capita education, and per capita necessary in, per capita education. In addition to this, it will shift pressure to government to provide quality of public goods to growing number of people. It all happens when resources are stagnant and population continues to increase over the time.

The Traditional Models of Population

Many models have been constructed to address the economic consequences of growing population. Though these models have been beneficial for some of the countries but also hold certain built-in weaknesses.

Malthusian Population Trap

Reverend Thomas Malthus (1766 - 1834) came up with a proposition of association between population growth and economic growth. It is considered as milestone in the history of economics subject. Back to 1798, he wrote "Essay on the Principle of Population" and related the growing population with diminishing return. He ascertained that resources in this world grow arithmetically whereas population grows geometrically and finally growing population wipe off the available resources which further declines the quality of life of the people around. He concluded that due to diminishing return to the fixed factor land, food grow arithmetically and then less food left for the consumption and less land available to work. Therefore, growth in population is one of the significant impediments to foster the economic growth. Some economist called this theory as Population Trap which asserts that population has to be stopped because life sustaining resources grow arithmetically, which would be insufficient to maintain the growing population which grows geometrically. Consequently, it emphasizes that countries have to introduce methods to control the population keeping in view the future economic prospects.

The Microeconomics Household Theory of Fertility

In few past years, economists explored the microeconomics determinants of family fertility to highlight a better theoretical and empirical justification for declining birth rates in the world. A conventional classical theory of household and consumer behavior has applied the fundamentals of economics and optimization to explain the decision regarding family fertility size. In this model, children have been taken as a unique good for consumption. This can be justified in the case of developing nations where children are considered as investment (child labor). Therefore, children demand (C_D) in this model is driven by the household income level (I), net price of children (P_C), the prices of all other goods (P_X) and tastes for goods relative to children (T_X). In this model C_D represents the demand for surviving children, particularly in developing countries where infant mortality rate is higher.

That is, if other factors are held constant, the desired number of children can be expected to vary directly with household income (this direct relationship may not hold for poor societies; it depends on the strength of demand for children relative to other consumer goods and to the sources of increased income, such as female employment), inversely with the price (cost) of children, and inversely with the strength of tastes for other goods relative to children. This relation can be explicitly delineated mathematically. $\frac{\partial C_D}{\partial I} > 0$ It means that higher the household income leads to higher demand for the children. $\frac{\partial C_D}{\partial P_C} < 0$ This impression implies that higher the price of keeping children force to lower children demanded. $\frac{\partial C_D}{\partial P_X} > 0$ Represents that higher the prices of all other products relative to children causes to higher the quantity of children demanded. $\frac{\partial C_D}{\partial T_X} < 0$ Shows that higher the taste for other goods relative to children, then higher the demand for children. At last, children demanded in developing nations is driven by the income, price of the children in market, strength of the tastes of other goods relative to children and the prices of all other goods around.

Above mentioned traditional models possess the milestone nature in economics to analyze the population growth in line with economics. All other models stem from these two conventional models. Despite the theoretical and empirical strength, these models have been under severe criticism. Both models were not compatible in some of the developing countries. In addition to this some agrarian countries need more labor supply to furnish their agriculture sector. Some evidences showed that population growth does not have relation with economics in context of household preferences and religious, cultural and social elements also

determine the size of fertility in society. Even some of the conventional economists do not agree with the traditional model of population growth. They think that to maintain the growing population effect rather than cause. Living standards of the masses can be enhanced by taking appropriate measures by the governance.

Discrepancies in Birth Control in Traditional Economics

Some economist and some scientist of Social sciences view the situation from different angle and believe that population increase is not much dangerous as thought around the globe rather some other foremost indicators have been overruled in this area. They claim that population is not only one and fundamental issue regarding the living standards of people in the developing nations. They further add that population growth is required for some of the developing nations and region as well, and not a serious problem for them (Collinset, *al*, 1989). Becker et. al (1999) also found that there is little empirical evidence that per capita income is adversely affected by the higher population in more developed economies. Productivity may be affected by high Population because of traditional view of diminishing returns from more intensive use of land and other natural resources. However, larger populations make their space for greater specialization and increased investments in knowledge. Therefore, the substantial connectivity between greater population and per capita incomes is contingent on whether the investment on human capital and expansion of knowledge are stronger than diminishing returns to productive natural resources. Therefore, it needs to achieve pertinent and specific objectives for the prudent policy to increase the welfare of masses in the world. The reasons behind the pathetic conditions of people were misdirected and other important issues are responsible for the bad conditions of poor masses across the developing nation not population growth itself. The reasons are as follows:

Theory of Gwayen Dyer

Gwayen criticized the theory of Malthus in one of his articles titled as “Malthus The Faisenophet” published in Indian time 1984, he unfolded the fact that Malthus died 150 years back and his prediction about population phenomenon remain myth. He further added that though the population of world has increased geometrically but natural disasters (Flood, earthquakes etc.) and wars have caused smaller increase in population in reality. He further unfolded the fact that since the introduction of Malthus theory to up-till now, world population has experienced raise of 8% only. Concerning to world resources, they are reported to have experienced more growth than growth in population and present population is enjoying more resources and facilities than ever (Masood, 2009).

Underdevelopment

When corrective measures are taken by the state which improve the living standards of the people and maintain the self-esteem, population growth will automatically be adjusted in a given circumstances. Thus, population will not remain a problem rather it will support the development. It means that the real problem for the developing nations is underdevelopment not a population growth. As long as masses in the developing nation’s remains deprived, illiterate, unhealthy and prevalence of weak social safety nets, then population growth may potentially cause social security cause. Therefore, some economists believe that birth control schemes will not come up with desired results as in past.

Environmental Destruction and Depletion of Resources

Some economist opined that the dearth of resources and optimal utilization of these resources is problem nit the population, itself. One quarter of the population residing in the developed nations and consuming more than 80% of the world resources and vey less is left behind for the poor masses living in the developing nations. The utilization of resources is also causing the environment degradation through industrialization. The argument is that growing affluence and extra consumption in developed nations and rich class in developing nation created the social and economic issue, not the population.

Population Distribution

As per the third argument, increasing number of people is not causing the population problem, rather the distribution in space on the globe an issue. Some region in the world like parts of sub-Saharan Africa and some region within the countries like northern eastern and Amazon region are considered as under-populated in the context of accessible and potential resources. On the contrary some of the region are over populated and are facing lack of resources. Therefore, it is sole responsibility of a government not to focus on the control of population growth rather to utilize the available resources in a more productive manner to facilitate the population.

Subordination of Women

Women are exposed to the burden of poverty, illiteracy and less social mobility. In many ways, there don't have any authority to decide about fertility plan which increases the birth rate. The main premise of this argument is that due to the lack of economic choices, population growth is natural to increase over time. This argument confirms that if women have the economic and social choices, quality of health and education is improved, these elements will increase the awareness of regarding the small fertility pan which will be beneficial to lower down the population growth (Todaro, 1977).

Medical side effects of Controlling Birth Control

Notwithstanding the profound advancement in the medical sciences, in the context of contraceptives there are possibilities of negative impact on the health of man and woman. According to the traditional measures, to foster the economic growth there is need to reduce the population growth. For the reduction of birth control, medical sciences have come up with some new and different artificial methods, through which population control can be observed all over the world. With the passage of time, various issues have been observed in the usage of these medicines. Birth control measures with the artificial methods leads to serious consequences for health in future (Blank, 2016). The contraceptives include pills, injections, condoms etc. The side effects are as follows:

Blood Clots

Using the pills for birth control enhances the probability of blood spots. Higher the usage of pills gets higher the probability of blood clotting in the body like chest pain, swollen leg etc. According to Gilliamet.al (2004), seven women out of 1000 get the bloods clotting during using the contraceptives. It also results acne and gaining weight which promotes hampering the life.

Psychological impact

Implication of contraceptives also carries psychological impact for women. For example, it disturbs the attitude, moods and behavior of the women. The nonusers of contraceptives have double probability to experience bad mood over the time, in accordance with the research report of Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre in Australia. The report also unfolds the fact that it has serious implication when observing the emotional side of life. Hodgson *et. al* (2013) concluded that most of the women are psychologically reluctant to use conventional measure followed by their family members and friends' pathetic experiences.

Milk Production

Those females who are applying mother feed to their babies, when they take contraceptives specially pills or injections, it reduces the milk production which can be problematic for baby and mother's health as well. It also causes breast cancer for women and that can be fatal.

Artificial premenstrual symptoms

Water retention, mood volatility, breast gentleness, nausea etc. are the potential threats when taking contraceptives. It can reduce the health of female for the longer time period and ultimately decline the economic performance and efficiency at home to look after the home affairs. Bondt (2015) also disclosed that menstrual cycle is disturbed by the usage of artificial contraceptives methods.

Eradication of Fertility

Addiction of contraceptives in form of pills and injections eradicates the fertility of man and woman, which is absolutely against the nature. It affects the health of woman much more than the men (Marry, 2000). She also explored that due to the growing abortions rate it is affecting woman life pathologically which further reduce the tendency to give birth to children. Adoption of contraceptives leaves the treacherous sign for the rest of life for both man and woman (Vierke, 2017).

Islamic Viewpoint of Population:

Many agencies of United Nations Organization (UNO) mustering their energy to curb the issue of population all over the world followed by the premise that population is increasing faster than the means of production. The UNO has also expanded its operation all over the world specially in developing nations by hiring national and international NGOs. The past experienced shows that neither the population of this world has over grown nor resources have been static over the time.

Becker *et. al* (1999) concluded complex relation between population and per capita income comparing to finding of Malthusian premise, or neoclassical and endogenous-growth, models. Under conditions it happens to prevail in poorer, mainly agricultural, economies with scarcity of human capital and essential technology, higher population usually tends to lower per capita incomes, mainly along Malthusian lines. Islam holds an entirely different point of view about the issue of population. Islam believes in the ones of Allah, who has created the entire creature in the world. Allah has ensured in his Holy Book, Quran that He is only creator and hence, He will provide the food and other resources to the human being. As a matter of Fact, Islam does not recognize the absolute poverty which is set 1.75\$ per day but Islam admits the relative poverty in terms of relative of resources, income and production. Allah has endowed the globe with the natural resources, and now it is the sole responsibility of human to explore the resources and utilize them in a proper way which enhances the wellbeing of masses in the world. If it is believed that population is one of the potential threats for the economic growth that can only be mismanagement of mankind in term of state, institutions and individuals. The recent under world research has reported that population of the world can easily be fed from the sea food for a longer time period, beyond the wisdom of man. Due to the advancements of atomic energy, now there has been invention of many productive inputs that sea food can be generated so fast. In western world, many artificial techniques have been introduced which help to produce artificial food item in a large quantity which further fulfill the growing requirement of human being. Currently, 10% of cultivatable land is being used to feed the six billion people around the world Afzal ur Rehman (1997). Islam takes the growing population as increase in humanity and rise in the growing labor force as well. Allah has sent down the holy book Quran which guides the humanity in all sphere of life. It is a comprehensive directive about Ibaadaat (Means of worshipping of Allah) and Mamoolat (affairs to deal with human being). In the same way Islam also deliberately guide the human about the important issue of population.

Rejection of Absolute Scarcity of Resources:

The Quran refutes strongly and the pessimistic approaches related to the ill fate of human. Islam also points out the unlimited resources and potentialities in the land, soil and sea. Quran deliberately points out that:

اللَّهُ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَكُمْ الْبَحْرَ لِنَجْرَى الْفُلْكِ فِيهِ بِأَمْرِهِ وَ لِنَبْتَعُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٢﴾

“It is Allah who has made subservient to you the sea that the ships may sail therein by His command and that you may seek His grace, that you may be grateful”. (Surah 45, Verses: 12)

In another verse, Quran inform the humanity,

وَ سَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مِنْهُ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿١٣﴾

And he has made subservient to you whatever is in the heaven and whatsoever is in the earth, all, from Himself. Surely, there are signs in this for a people who reflect”. (Surah 45, Verses: 13)

In the given verses, people have been given assurance by the Allah that they will not be left to starve and this world has been bestowed by the unlimited resources. Now it is man responsibility to explore these resources and utilize them in a way which enhances the welfare of masses in the world. In modern world we can observe the speed by which growth in resources is reported in the world. A number of consumer and industrial products have been produced by the exploration and utilization of natural resources. Allah created such men, which invented large number of goods and services which enhanced the welfare and living standard of life. Therefore, world has experienced above mentioned verses in reality.

Quranic Viewpoint of Population Control:

Islam never recognized the myth that man cannot produce enough to fulfill his basic requirements of life, therefore he should design his preferences about fertility plan for the control of population growth. As mentioned above that Allah has provided the unlimited resources and these resources need to be explored and properly utilized. There is no possibility of dearth of resources from the creator of world, Allah.

Rather, Islam condemns checking population growth for fear of starvation and lack of resources. The holy Quran strictly prohibits population growth with the fear of starvation in these words;

قَدْ خَسِرَ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوا أَوْلَادَهُمْ سَهْوًا بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلَادُهُمْ بَعْضُهُمْ عَالِمٌ وَ حَرَمُوا مَا رَزَقَهُمُ اللَّهُ افْتِرَاءً عَلَى اللَّهِ قَدْ ضَلُّوا وَ مَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ ﴿١٤﴾

“And kill not your children for the fear of poverty, we shall provide sustenance for them and for you as well. Surely killing of them is a great wrong”. (6; 140).

Allah has warned not to kill the children for the fear of poverty and called this action as great sin. Allah has bestowed a number of resources and no justification is left to worry about the nourishment of children. Man has to work hard to explore the bestowed resources. Again, in Sura Al Inam, killing of children has been warned;

وَ لَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ مِنْ إِمْلَاقٍ نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكُمْ وَ إِيَّاهُمْ ﴿١٥١﴾

“And slay not your children for fear of poverty, we provide for you and for them”. (6; 151)

These verses of Quran strictly forbid the killing of children for the fear of poverty. It further implies that all sorts of family controls, family planning, abortions and even late marriages concept are being followed to check the birth control, are immoral in the point of view of Islam. Islam deliberately condemns all the modern justification for checking the population control in term of quality of education, and encourages man to strive hard for it. Islam reiterates that provision has been made for all of the mankind, and one should not worry about Islam emphasis that one should never think that increase in the population will decline the standards of life and deprivation. If man strives, he would find sufficient resources and provisions for himself and for his decedents. This is emphasized in Sura Al Anbiya in these words:

بَلِّغْنَا هَؤُلَاءِ وَ آبَاءَهُمْ ﴿٤٤﴾

“We gave provision to these and their fathers”. (21;44)

Islam discourages checking birth control for the fear of poverty and on the other side it encourages the young people and widows to get married. Islam promises prosperity and happiness and builds confidence in them by saying that Allah would render them free from want and poverty in these words:

وَ اتَّخُوا الْأَيَامَىٰ مِنكُمْ وَ الصَّالِحِينَ مِنْ عِبَادِكُمْ وَ إِمَائِكُمْ إِنْ يَكُونُوا فُقَرَاءَ يُغْنِهِمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَ اللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٣٢﴾

“Marry those among you who are single and pious of your slaves and maid servants. If they be poor, Allah will enrich them of His bounty. Allah is of ample means, aware”. (24; 32)

And also in Surah Al Nisa”

وَ إِنْ يَتَفَرَّقَا يُغْنِ اللَّهُ كُلًّا مِنْ سَعَتِهِ ﴿١٣٠﴾

“But if they separate, Allah will render them both free want (and provide abundance to compensate each)” out of His abundance”. (4; 130)

These verses explicitly narrate that bachelors and widows should get married and should not vacillate to marry for fear for poverty. Those who believe in false paradigms of population control, there is lesson for them in these verses that Allah has created ample of provision and productive resources for them and their children, and they should not avoid marriages or opting for late marriages on the basis of fallacious grounds. Islam, as a religion, refutes the concept of celibacy and recognizes parenthood as responsibility of human being. In today modern world, some people refuse to accept the duty of parenthood on the grounds of lack of resources which Islam really condemns. Islam point of view is very much clear that resources shortage does not exist man has to endeavor to bring the resources in productive form.

Holy Prophet SAW has laid stress on and often swayed his companions to get married. Holy Prophet, Muhammad SAW is reported to have said those who are able to marry should marry. Marriage is considered as one of the unique and important institution which eradicates the social evil from the society and gives respect to men and women. On the contrary to population control model of traditional economics, Islam encourages to have more children. Hazrat Jabir RAA states that Holy Prophet Muhammad SAW asked him to have more children. When Abdul Rehman Bin Aouf RAA told the Prophet SAW he had married a woman for a dowry of one piece of gold, the Holy Prophet SAW said” May Allah grace you (with children)”.

Ma’qil Inbne Yasaar RAA said: The holy prophet SAW said,

”تَرَوُّوْا الْوُدُوْدَ الْوُلُوْدَ فَاِيُّ مَكَايِرُ بِكُمْ الْاُمَمُ”

Marry that woman who is loving and fertile, for that I will be proud of your great numbers before the other Ummah. (Saheeh Abi Dawood, 1805)

Exemption in Population Control in Islam

Islam prohibits the restrictive practices of population control and encourages marriages and more children. The main premise behind is assurance of unlimited provision of resources in the land, soil and sea. The Holy Prophet SAW was fully acquainted with human nature and their future requirements. The holy Prophet SAW guided the human needs in this matter as well. In practice, we observe many cases when adopting the contraceptives potentially threatens the woman life. Adoption of these measures can impair the life of woman, the health of child and the immediate life of another new baby. In these cases, Islam gives the provision to use contraceptives or artificial method for the health of woman and her child. There is no

specific ground for applying these artificial methods in Quran, but from some of the verses a principle can be deduced to meet the requirement. In this context, verse of Sura Al Baqarah needs examination:

فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ وَ مَنْ كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَ لَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

“So whosoever of you is present in the month, he shall fast therein, and whosoever is sick or on a journey he can fast in other days. Allah desires ease for you, and he desires not hardship for you”. (2; 185)

The verse clearly shows that the Allah SWT does not want to put human in the difficult way of life rather He wants to make life easier and more comfortable.

In another verse the same principle was mentioned in the context of food:

إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةَ وَ الدَّمَ وَ لَحْمَ الْخَنزِيرِ وَ مَا أَهَلَ بِهِ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ ۖ فَمَنْ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ وَ لَا عَادٍ فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿١٧٢﴾

“He has forbidden you only what dies of itself, and blood, and the flesh of swine, and that over which any other than Allah has been invoked. Then whoever is driven by necessity, not desiring, nor exceeding the limit no sin is upon him. Surely Allah is forgiving, Merciful.”(2:173)

The mentioned food is strictly forbidden for the believers and it is considered sin if they eat intentionally. But Allah SWT has set the provision in case of starvation to death; he is permitted to eat forbidden things to save the human life without going beyond the limit. Again, Allah SWT is much curious to create ease and happy life for the human in the earth.

We believe that Holy Prophet Muhammad SAW must have possessed the information about the future and today life issues in the world. Holy Prophet SAW must have envisaged the situation when he replied to Abu Said RAA and his friends who resorted to “Azl (Discharge outside the vagina during the sexual intercourse)” and then he asked the opinion of Holy Prophet SAW.

“What do you practice? And he reiterated again and again for three times. Then he commented that there is no soul is to be till the day of Resurrection but it will come into life”.

Hazrat Jabir RAA also reported that people used to adopt Azl during the time period of Hazrat Muhammad SAW and Quran was also being revealed. Hazrat Muhammad SAW permitted to avail this Islamic device of birth control when necessary. It may be pointed out that use of contraceptives is strictly prohibited and in the above Hadith it is being permitted. It has two entirely different implications when comparing with tradition approaches of birth control. Firstly, as individual can resort to Azl¹ but not as a part of state policy. As we observe that state institution like family planning encourages individuals to have two kids or less. Islam indicates that it is very personal issue of husband and wife and it is main responsibility of State to provide the basic need for the growing population rather to advertise as a policy to reduce it. Azl can only be resorted with the mutual consent of husband and wife otherwise, it cannot be adopted. Secondly, Azl was never resorted for the fear of poverty and hunger as propagated by the traditional economist and international agencies like United Nations. It can only be adopted when there is probability of danger for the health issue of wife and child.

Conclusion

Traditional economists discourage the population growth and encourage contraceptive for the reason that growth in resources is less than the growth in population. This research concludes that their theories are based on the fallacious propositions which are not plausible at all. The world has experienced more growth

¹ Azl is an Islamic technique to control birth.

in resources in form of intellectual human capital and technology that utilized the available resources in a way which increased the living standard of all masses in multifarious way, ever enjoyed in this world (World Development Report, 2016). The results also divulge that Islam condemns the concept of population growth on the bases of misleading conceptualization of lack of resources and its lowest growth. Islam motivates youngers and widows to get married and encourages more children. Quran also reject the untrue concept of lack of resources. Allah SWT has described several times that Allah has created this world with unlimited productive resources and it is man core responsibility to explore the resources and exploit these resources for the welfare of the humanity the way western world has changed the world. The conclusion of the study reveals that in some specific circumstances Holy Prophet Muhammad SAW permitted contraceptive Azl (Islamic method to Broth control) Azl can be resorted when life of woman and new child life is in danger. Islamic Scholars are agreed upon to permit the birth control for the batter nourishment and brought up of the children. This study also explain that Islam permits Azl for controlling the birth and Islam also emphasizes that State cannot propagate any scheme to birth control as it is very personal issue of husband and wife. It is major responsibility of state to exploit the available resources and provide basic needs at its best.

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