ATTITUDE OF ISLAM TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING

The concept of planning and burth control are two seperable entities in Islam which can not be treated without adequate reference to the two sources of Islamic sharia(quran and hadith). Bhence, there is a need to describe each term for adequate discrepancy between the two.

Family planning is basically the practice of period of childbirth between one child and the other. While birth control on the other hand, could be societal or individual, compulsory or deliberate preventing of pregnancy in order to reduce the population. The former is extensively allowed in Islam for the fact that women are enjoined to breastfeed their children for two years.(Q2.233) “Mothers may nurse(breastfeed) their children two complete years for whoever wishes to complete the nursing period”. This is supported by one of the reports of the holy prophet to have warned against suckling the chiold by its pregnant mother. Here, combining the Quranic verse and this tradition of the prophet(SAW) one can come to the conclusion that Islam calls for some checks on irregular competition and indirectly requires the use of some measures of contraception as far as both thehusband and wife are noit forbidden from having sexua enjoyment during the nursing period of the child.

Here, the stressing point basically is that, muslims can have preventive measures to space their child birth so far as this wil do no harm to their reproductive organs or prevent them totally from bearing children. Meaning that Islam frowns celibacy, castration, hysterectomy and many more to mention but a few.

Hence, Allah has warned about killing ones children out of fear of poverty for either parent or the child. Allah says “And kill not your children for fear of poverty. We shall provide for them as well as for you. Surely, the killing of them is a great sin”. (al.Isra31).

However, if pregnancy is reported likely to be present a serious risk to the life of the mother,the birthb should be totally prevented or the foetus may be terminated at the long run.

In Islam, pregnancy can alaso ve prevented temporarily for reasons like i9ndulgence and abject financial incompetence. Simply because it is also sinful before Allah(SWT) to put ones family(wife and children) under suffering all in the name of multiplicity.

The use of contraceptives and withdrawal before discharge are very substancial to this, but it is highly unislamic when it becomes muchg more complicating, turning to sterilization, using of hasrd chemicals, surgery, and damaging the womb, which are permanent not onlyto save the life of the wife but for other purposes, such is a grevioussin before Allah(SWT) and the sunnah of the prophet(SAW).

Buy and large, from the discussion so far, I can subsumed that Islam supports family planning but on the other hand, totally negates the practice of birth control(societal or individual) except and only except for tangible reason(s). some of which have been mentioned above. Therefore, the need to adequately understand the two diverging concepts calls for, if Islamic injunctions are to be observed.