

THE RELEVANCE OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

The study adopted explanatory research design, qualitative research approach, the research strategy was cross-sectional survey, the sampling design were surveyed papers published by academic journals and papers published at the various websites. The Population was 6 authors, the source of data collection was primary source and the method of collecting data was research. The problem statement was "The relevance of Polygamous marriage in the 21st century" The objectives of the study were achieved and the literature review was investigation of authors's works published concerning the subject under study. The study examined the history, causes, side-effects, scientific views, importance and religious views on Polygamous marriage. The study generalized that Polygamous marriage was not important in the 21st century. The study recommended that pastors, deacons and elders of the various churches should educate their congregation to know and understand the causes and side-effects of Polygamy.

KEYWORDS: Relevance, Polygamous, Marriage, Century, History, Causes, Side-effects, Scientific, Review, Religious

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Introduction

The word "Polygamy" is derived from Late Greek known as "polugamia" which implies "state of marriage to many spouses". Polygamy is a marital relationship whereby a man marries more than one woman and a woman marries many men. A man who has married a lot of women is called polygyny. If a woman marries more than one man, she is called polyandry. The opposite of Polygamy is monogamy. Monogamy is a marital union whereby a man marries one woman and a woman marries one man but they cannot marry again until death. Throughout the world different societies encourage, accept or reject polygamy. Scientific studies specifies human sexual intercourse as mainly monogamy couple with minor cultural practice of Polygamy which is centered on world population and features of human reproductive physiology. Polygamy is rampant in many cultures especially in Isalmic society. Isalm permits men to get married to four wives but the men have to be justice in dealing with and take good care of them. The Qur'an instructs Muslim men to practice Polygamy. Majority of the societies permit polygamy.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To find out the history of Polygamous marriage

To find out causes of Polygamy

To find out side-effects of Polygamy

To find out religious views on Polygamy

THE HISTORY OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE

Polygamy began long time ago and had been practiced for centuries in the entire world. The Hebrew society partially were Polygamous and there was record that Polygamy occurred in classical China. In 1998 Ethnographic Atlas Code Book proved that 1231 societies observed 588 often practiced Polygamy, 453 were casual Polygyny, 186 practiced monogamy and 4 were polyandry. Recent research indicates that Polygamy is common than the previous day's and it is commonly found in a region called "Polygamy belt" in West and Central Africa. Burkina Faso, Mali, Gambia, Niger and Nigeria are countries that have highest records of Polygamy. It is practiced in Africa more than any other continent especially West Africa. In Sub-Saharan Africa is rampant and it is enshrined in their culture. About 11 percent of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa practiced Polygamy, 25 percent of Muslims population are Polygamous and 3 percent of Christian population are Polygamous declared in 2009. Pew proved that Polygamy has spread in West and Central Africa. Burkina Faso has 36 percent of Polygamy, Mali 34 percent of Polygamy and Nigeria 28 percent of Polygamous marriage. In West Africa the men like Polygamy so that they can produce males whose labor are regarded. The existence of Polygamous marriage is documented in 80 percent of societies in the world including the United States. Polygamy is accepted in more than 850 societies such as Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and Oceania. About 20-50 percent of wives are involved in Polygamous marriage. Millions of people in the world practiced Polygamy and Polygamy was developed as a course for the past three decades. In the Middle East and Asia Polygamy is lawful but not commonly practiced. In some countries especially West and Central Africa is legal and far-reaching but only 2 percent of the world population are Polygamous families.

THESIS STATEMENT: The problem statement of the study was "The relevance of polygamous marriage in the 21st century". The study found out the history, causes, importance, side-effects, scientific views on and religious views on Polygamous marriage.

CAUSES OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE

- The wealth of a man is determined by the number of his wives, children and cattle.
- The culture of Africa regards it as prestigious to man to marry more than one wife.
- If a man has a lot of wives, he can create political alliance and become strong tribal leader.
- In agriculture societies Polygamy enhances productivity and produce more food or cash crops for sale. This creates wealth for the family.
- According to tradition many Africans societies practiced Polygamy. The custom permit men to marry many wives as they like. The wives were married based on the local custom and the local world-view regard it as legal. This act was not seen as evil, immoral or sinful until advent of Christian Missionaries in Africa.
- Women and children were secured from external aggression and people felt proud of large family.

- Polygamy serve as a form of birth control through spacing of children with regards to sexual taboos that accompany breastfeeding.
- When a man or woman is unable to produce children. He or she may marry more than woman or man due to love for marriage.
- The family can compel the man to get co-wives because of urgent need which could be male child.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many authors have written papers about Polygamous marriage which educate the public to understand what Polygamy is and to be aware of the effect of polygamy. Notwithstanding the views of the authors, the study investigated into "The relevance of Polygamous marriage in the 21st century". Because of this, the study found out authors who have written papers concerning the subject under study. Toketemu Ohwovoriole wrote a paper entitled "What is Polygamy" on 2nd December 2021. The paper was reviewed by Sabrina Romanoff. Polygamy is defined as a marital relationship in which a person get married to more than one woman or man. It is unlawful or discouraged in many regions. Bigamy is a person who has married already without the knowledge of his or her partner. Before the establishment of urban communités, people were Polygamous. Due to the history of Polygamy, a lot of people willingly prefer Polygamous marriage than monogamy but nowadays Polygamy is out moulded in a lot of societies and banned in most countries. It is not legal in U.S, Europe, China, Australia and many countries. Many people are often confused with polyamory and Polygamy. Polyamory is accepted and legal. Polyamory is a relationship whereby a person has many partners and no one is married to each other. The partners know one another and understand they are involved in Polygamous relationship. In reference to (prb,n.d) an article written entitled "Polygamy in West Africa is one of the highest fertility rates in Africa and in the world". This caused by many factors such as subsistence farming, cultural and social norms that stress on having more children, higher fertility rates and Polygamy. Demographic and Health Survey Data indicate that the rates of Polygamy are high in many countries in the region where part of women in Polygamous relationship is above 30 percent in eight countries and below 30 percent in two countries namely Cote d'ivoire and Ghana. A lot of socioeconomic and cultural factors encourage Polygamy in West Africa like protection and the respect that goes with polyamory and chance for remarriage after widowhood. With regards to the views of the authors, the study found out the history, causes, side-effects, importance, scientific views and religious views on Polygamous marriage

SIDE-EFFECTS OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE

Children

- Children from Polygamous families go through physical and emotional abuse couple with rejection of parents.
- The abuse creates mental, social and poor academic performance among children.
- About 27 percent of adolescents from Polygamous families are not able to complete high school compared to 16 percent of children from monogamous family.
- A lot of children from Polygamous families have no hope to study in the Universities.

- Children from Polygamous families have more problems in peer relationships than children from monogamous families.
- Children from Polygamous families have poor relationship with their biological fathers.
- The Children are rejected by their fathers and their mothers and siblings take care of them.
- The Children of the first wives get more mental health problems.
- There are tension and stress among children in a Polygamous families.

Women

- Women in a Polygamous relationship are under esteemed and suffer from depression.
- According to studies American Muslims of divers ethnic groups concerning women in polygamous families complained that they were abused by their husbands.
- Polygamous marriage where the woman is the first wife the situation at home is stressful and the investment make by parents is poor.
- The women experience less marital satisfaction and pass through problems.
- About 4.9 women in Polygamous relationship are having more emotional problems than women in monogamous marriage.
- There is high rate of somatization, anxiety hostility and paranoid ideation and higher rate of GSI.
- The well-being of women in Polygamous marriages are negatively affected.
- Women in Polygamous relationship experience less life satisfaction.
- There is less chance for the Polygamous wives to get feelings of positive self-worth.
- There is competition for resources among Polygamous wives.
- It creates conflict among wives.
- It degrade the dignity of women.
- There is maltreatment and abuse in the Polygamous families.

Men

- The men have more Psychological problems.
- They experience higher rates of all mental health problems such as obsession and psychotism.
- They have problems with their adolescents in terms of relationship.

- They experience poor marital satisfaction.
- They encounter hardship.
- They ignore marital problems in the sense that plural marriage is accepted as loss of well-being.
- They suffer from heartache
- proper functioning of the family becomes a problem.

SCIENTIFIC VIEWS ON POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE

According to some Scientists Polygamy makes evolutionary for men. This is possible because Polygamous men are able to produce more children than monogamous men. Polygamous men experience blocked heart vessels and easily get heart diseases. Evolutionary Biologists claim that Polygamy is good for men and not women.

IMPORTANCE OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE

Polygamy helps the offspring of parents to inherit quality genes. Men are capable to produce more children and care for them by having sex with a lot of women. It enables women to unite to share the most appealing men. Many women practice Polygamy base on social class. The tribe of Kipsigis in Kenya prefer to be the third wife of a wealthy man than being the only wife of a poor man. Polygamy is not a new idea but man and man has practiced throughout history but monogamy became popular in modern centuries. From historical points of view Polygamy is considered as normal and good for many people for the past thousands of years. It may be accepted as good in this current state of the world. Practicing Polygamy makes sense but monogamy is the latest invention. For thousands of years people found it hard to live and had to search for food and shelter. Poly families were established as the means to live. Man was Polygamous by nature and it was found in our DNA. Polygamy is better than monogamy but there are different kinds of women available to man. The rate of becoming boring in relationship is minimalized. Many men fear the results of divorce and they decide to marry many women

RELIGIOUS VIEWS ON POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE

Buddhism: Buddhist consider marriage as secular and not religious but every Buddhist country has it's own views on Polygamy. In 1955 Thailand accepted Polygamy as legal while Myanmar banned Polygamy in 2015.

Christianity: The Roman Catholic speaks against Polygamy including many Protestant churches. The Lutheran Church allow some polygamists and Anglican Communion accept Polygamy due to some reasons in 1988. Many Christians reject Polygamy and have accepted monogamy. Some Christians argue about the New Testament's approval of Polygamous marriage.

Mormon: Mormon accept and practice Polygamy in the form of "plural marriage" right from 1847-1890. The U.S government made Polygamy as illegal in 1862.

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter covers research design, research approach, research strategy, population of the study, sampling design, source of data collection and method of data collection. The study used explanatory research design because it was best method of giving reasons for data collection from the field. The research approach used was qualitative research approach, the study was interested in the relevance of Polygamous marriage in the 21st century. The research strategy used was cross-sectional survey where the study surveyed the works of other authors, the sampling design were examination of papers published by academic journals and papers published at the various websites. The population of the study, the source of data collection and the method of data collection.

SAMPLING DESIGN: The study surveyed papers published by academic journals and papers published at the various websites.

POPULATION OF THE STUDY: The study considered 8 authors as the population.

THE SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION: The source of collecting data for the study was primary source.

THE METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: The method of collecting data for the study was research.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study found out that Polygamy is a marital relationship whereby a man marries more than one woman and a woman marries more than one man. The Hebrew society partially pray Polygamy and there was a record of Polygamy in classical China. The wealth of a man is determined the number of his wives, children and cattle. Children from Polygamous families go through physical, emotional abuse couple with parental rejection, women in Polygamous relationship were under esteemed and suffer from depression. Men experience poor marital satisfaction and hardship, Polygamy assists offspring to inherit quality genes. Every Buddhist country has it's own view on Polygamy, Roman Catholic church and many Protestant churches speak against Polygamy. Mormon accepted and practiced Polygamy.

CONCLUSION

The study investigated into causes, side-effects scientific views on Polygamous marriage but the side-effects outweigh the importance of Polygamy. Due to this reason, Polygamous marriage was irrelevant in the 21st century.

RECOMMENDATION

Churches

Pastors, deacons and church elders should educate their congregation to know and understand the causes and side-effects of Polygamy.

Government

Government ought to create platform to teach the public to be ware of the causes and side-effects of Polygamy.

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