1836 - Wife and children eating from the husband’s haraam earnings

the question

In many Muslim families, the men work in selling wine and pork and the like, and their wives and children hate this, while knowing that they are living off their menfolk’s money. Are they to blame at all in this case?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Allaah says (interpretation of the meanings):

“So keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him as much as you can…” [al-Taghaabun 64:16]

“Allaah burdens not a person beyond his scope…” [al-Baqarah 2:286]

Wives and children who are not able to earn their own halaal income are permitted to take what they need from the husband’s earnings from unlawful sources, such as selling wine and pork etc., after they have tried to convince him to find a halaal income and look for other work. They can take what is their right from the father, and this should be enough just to cover their needs, without being extravagant. And Allaah knows best.