32479 - Family planning

the question

What is the ruling on family planning in nations where there is a large number of inhabitants such as in Cairo for example?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

We will quote to you below a statement issued by the Fiqh Council (al-Majma' al-Fiqhi) with regard to family planning:

The meeting of the Fiqh Council held during its fifth conference in Kuwait 1-6 Jumaada al-Aakhir 1409 AH (10-15 December 1988) – after studying the research presented by members and experts on the subject of family planning, and listening to the debate that took place on this topic, and based on the fact that one of the objectives of marriage according to Islamic sharee'ah is to reproduce and preserve the human race, and that it is not permissible to undermine this objective, because undermining it goes against the texts and teachings of sharee'ah, which call for having many children, protecting them and taking care of them, because producing and caring for offspring is one of the five kulliyaat (holistic principles) which sharee'ah came to take care of – issued the following resolutions:

1 – It is not permissible to issue laws that limit the freedom of couples to have children.

2 – It is haraam to remove the ability of men and women to have children, which is known as sterilization, so long as there is no need to do so according to shar'i principles.

3 – It is permissible to use temporary means of contraception in order to increase the gaps between pregnancies, or to stop them for a limited period of time, if there is a valid shar'i reason for doing so, based on the couple's estimation and with mutual consultation and agreement,

subject to the condition that this does not result in harm and that the means is acceptable according to sharee’ah and will not damage any existing pregnancy.

And Allaah knows best.

Resolution no. 38 (1/5), re: Family planning.

See Majallat al-Majma’, vol. 1, p. 73)

For more information see Question no. 7205