
Shifting Social Norms to Wards the Role of Women in Islamic Family Law

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ABSTRACT

An abstract This research aims to describe and analyze the shifting role of women in the family from the perspective of Islamic family law, focusing on the changing social and economic norms that influence modern family dynamics. Traditionally, women are known as household managers and childcare providers, while men serve as the primary breadwinners. However, with women's increased access to education and careers and the push for gender equality norms, many women are now actively participating in the workforce, performing dual roles as professionals and homemakers. While this dual role contributes to the economic stability of the family, challenges in balancing professional and domestic obligations remain. In this context, Islam provides clear guidance on the role of women, emphasizing that it is permissible for women to work outside the home while taking into account Sharia values and family harmony. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a desk study, collecting data from literature related to Islamic family law, to explore the diverse views and interpretations regarding the role of women in the family

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1. INTRODUCTION

As the central figure in the family, women play a role in the family not only within the limits of certain domestic functions, but also in broader aspects such as social, economic, and educational. Along with the times, the role of women in the family has undergone significant changes. Women's functions in the family are often seen as limited to household tasks and childcare, while men are the main breadwinners. However, in the modern era, many women also play a role as breadwinners, some even becoming the head of the family. Rapid social, economic and educational developments have opened up opportunities for women to play a more active role in society, including in careers and the world of work. Increasing gender equality has encouraged women to contribute to various sectors of society outside the home, which in turn affects family patterns and structures. In this case, women are required to be able to balance their roles at home and in the social environment, which is often a challenge for them.

In the context of the modern era, there have been major changes to the social norms governing women's roles in the family. Greater access for women to education, career opportunities, and a growing awareness of gender equality have influenced society's view of women's contributions. More and more women are involved in the workforce, supporting the family economy, and even playing an equal role with men in family decision-making. These developments have led to a shift in the structure of family roles and changed the way society views the position and role of women. On the other hand, changes in women's roles also have a profound impact on the dynamics of family life, including childcare patterns, the distribution of roles in the household, and the quality of relationships between husbands, wives and children. This situation raises various

questions, such as how women can balance their responsibilities between family and career, and how these dual roles affect family harmony. Based on this background, this study aims to examine and explore in depth how the perspective of Islamic family law sees the shift in social norms related to the role of women in the family.

2. METHOD

This research applies a descriptive qualitative approach that aims to describe and analyze changes in social norms related to the role of women in the perspective of Islamic family law. This approach was chosen because the research focuses on an in-depth understanding of the social, cultural and religious contexts that influence the role of women, as well as how social dynamics affect the interpretation of Islamic law in the family environment. The type of research used is library research, where data is obtained from literature such as books, scientific articles, journals, laws, Islamic legal documents, and academic studies relevant to Islamic family law. Through this method, researchers can explore various views.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Women's role in the family

In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, women are naturally individuals with certain reproductive organs that allow menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding. This nature gives women the privilege to conceive, give birth and breastfeed, thus creating a close bond with the children they give birth to. This closeness makes women, both as mothers and wives, the center of education for their children, playing an important role in shaping children's character to become a superior generation. The existence of women as educators and shapers of children's character puts them in a more special position than men. In the family, women's roles are divided into three: as wives, mothers, and children. Each of these roles carries certain duties and responsibilities that are in accordance with their nature, as well as being a special privilege for women. In Islam, women are given a very noble position, where women and men have equal value and status. Islam stipulates that the rights and obligations between men and women are the same, but some are different. Although the functions and duties of each may be different, in terms of position, both are equal before Allah.¹ This is the role of women in the concept of Islam as their nature.

3.1.1. Woman as Mothers

The family is a social institution that plays an important role in the social welfare and survival of its members, especially children who are the next generation of the nation. Families play a vital role in the development and character building of children. Therefore, the family has a major impact on children's education. In this case, the mother has a very important role in the success of her children's education. However, the role of the father cannot be ignored either, as the contributions of both are very supportive in shaping the child's future.

3.1.2. Woman as Wives

Women in their role as wives can be a true friend to their husbands, by being ready to discuss the problems they face. When husbands need a place to pour out their feelings, wives can provide comfort and help find solutions. Thus, the burden felt by the husband becomes lighter, because of the support and attention from his wife.

3.1.3 Woman as Social Creatures

By nature, women are also social creatures who cannot escape their attachment to others. As with humans in general, women need to establish relationships with other individuals to fulfill their various social needs. Women's existence can be understood in various ways by various parties, but it is important not to forget the role of women in the family. This role includes the position as a wife, husband's companion, household controller, mother or parent, educator, and as the first foundation in building a family. Women also have a heart full of compassion and serenity, which is very important in social life. According to Hubies, an alternative analysis of the role of women can be seen from three perspectives relating to their position as household

¹ Andi, "Perempuan Dalam Islam (Mensinejakan Antara Peran Sosial & Rumah Tangga)," *Jurnal Al-Maiyyah* 8, No. 2 (2015): 173.

managers and participants in development or breadwinners. In the context of the household, women's roles can be divided into several areas that include domestic responsibilities and economic contributions

3.1.3.1 Traditional Role

The role of women as housewives includes all domestic work, from cleaning the house, cooking, washing, taking care of children, to everything related to household management. When viewed more broadly, the role of women as housewives is very important and has invaluable value in the formation of a prosperous family. There is no higher or lower position between mothers and fathers. The work of housewives, such as organizing the house, cooking, washing, as well as guiding and caring for children, cannot be measured by material or monetary values, because their contribution is enormous in creating Family harmony.

3.1.3.2. Transitional Role

The role of women also includes participation in the world of work to earn a living. Women's participation in the labor force is influenced by various factors, one of which is the need in the agricultural sector, where female labor is needed to help meet the basic needs of the family. On the other hand, the industrial sector also opens up great opportunities for women to work, as industrial development creates many jobs that are suitable for them. With these opportunities, more and more women are involved in the world of work. In addition, the challenges of life also encourage more women to work and earn a living to fulfill their family's needs.

3.1.3.3. Contemporary Role

Contemporary roles refer to a woman's role that is more focused outside the household, as a career woman. In this context, a woman is not only involved in domestic affairs, but also plays an active role in the world of work. According to Mary Astuti, in the discussion of gender roles and needs, women's roles can be divided into several categories, one of which is:

1. Productive Roles
Productive roles refer to roles that are rewarded with money or goods of economic value. This role is closely related to economic activities that generate income or goods. Examples of productive roles include being a farmer, tailor, teacher or entrepreneur.
2. Reproductive Role
Reproductive roles refer to responsibilities that cannot be valued with money or goods, as these roles are directly related to human survival. For example, the role of a wife, which includes conceiving, giving birth and breastfeeding children, is part of a mother's nature. In addition, the reproductive role also includes other tasks such as educating children, cooking, caring for plants, washing, bathing children, and sweeping. Although these tasks can be done with other family members, they are still considered part of a mother's primary responsibility in the family..
3. Social Role
Social role refers to a wife's involvement in social activities in the community. This role includes participation in various activities that can strengthen relationships between individuals in the community. Examples of this social role are participating in activities such as recitation, arisan, or joining community organizations. These social roles help a woman to connect with her surroundings and expand her social network.

3.2. Shifting Social Norms on the Role of Women in the Family

Along with the times, social norms governing the role of women in the family have undergone significant changes. In the past, women were more synonymous with domestic roles, such as managing households and caring for children. However, today, women are increasingly actively involved in various fields, including the economy, education, and leadership in the family. This shift is not only triggered by increasing awareness about gender equality, but also by changes in education, the economy, and the impact of globalization that brings new perspectives on women's roles and rights in the family.

According to Constitution 34 of Law No. 1/1974 on Marriage, the roles of men and women in the family are regulated as follows: The husband is obliged to provide protection for the needs of the household according to his ability, while the wife is expected to manage family affairs ideally. This article clearly states that both men and women have responsibilities in meeting the needs of the family, where men are expected to work outside the home, while women are expected to manage household affairs. Although both are involved in activities in the public sphere, this still carries heavy consequences for both. Therefore, the wife should focus

on managing the household to the best of her ability. Based on Constitution Law verse 31-34, it is emphasized that the husband is the head of the household, while the wife plays the role of a housewife.

However, there is currently a shift in roles and responsibilities in managing the household between husband and wife. This shift is mainly influenced by economic factors, the rise of professional changes, and social conditions that make married couples not only focus on household affairs, but also engage in earning a living to meet family needs. This change has created pros and cons among the community. In the perspective of Islamic teachings, a good life for women has actually been guaranteed, so they are not obliged to work if family conditions allow. However, when viewed from a legal perspective, the position of husbands and wives is equal in the eyes of the law, and both have the right to determine appropriate legal actions.

However, it is advisable for husbands and wives to discuss the decision of whether the wife should work or both should work. This consideration relates to whether the wife is able to fulfill her roles and obligations well, and how the two of them can jointly build an ideal family. One of the impacts of this shift in responsibility is the phenomenon where a wife has to migrate to earn a living for the family. Traditionally, it is the husband who should be responsible for the household economy. However, the reality today is quite the opposite, where husbands or wives sometimes have to go abroad to fulfill the economic needs of the family. This is problematic, whether due to urgent needs or the desire to seek a better livelihood. It is undeniable that every decision to work outside the city or abroad brings consequences, both for the husband, wife, and other family members in the area of origin. These consequences can be felt in the form of changes in family dynamics and relationships between family members who are separated by distance.

The existence of this shift is not without reason, several factors are also things that can influence the shift, not only the shift in the role of women in terms of earning a living for the family, but there are other factors that become aspects of shifting social norms towards the role of women in the family. Here are some factors that can influence social norms towards the role of women in the family, including:

3.2.1. Improving Women's Access to Education and Careers

The development of the education sector has opened up wider opportunities for women to develop their potential, which has a direct impact on increasing career opportunities. Today, more and more women are involved in previously male-dominated professional sectors, such as technology, healthcare, law, business and education. Women's participation in these fields not only provides an opportunity to achieve financial independence, but also strengthens their role and contribution in the family structure.

Modern women now have dual roles, as professional workers and stay-at-home moms. This requires them to have good time management skills and flexibility. The increase in the number of women entering the workforce has created a new dynamic in the division of roles within the family, with many families starting to implement a more equal division of household and childcare duties between husband and wife. However, for working women, the main challenge is balancing professional and domestic roles, which is often a stressful reality. They are required to make maximum contributions at work, while on the other hand, they also feel obligated to carry out their domestic responsibilities. The combination of these dual roles requires specialized time management skills and the ability to adapt to various demands. Women often face pressure to meet high expectations in both domains, both at work and in the family. This pressure often demands women's ability to make wise decisions in prioritizing between work and family, which can ultimately affect their emotional and psychological well-being. In this case, support from the work environment and family is crucial to help women carry out their dual roles in a more balanced and sustainable manner.

3.2.2. Influence of Gender Equality Norms

One of the main factors influencing the shifting views on women's roles in the household is the norm of gender equality. This norm refers to the principle that men and women should have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities in various aspects of life, including in the realm of family and household. Gender equality, driven by the human rights movement as well as government policies and international institutions, has changed society's view of women's traditional roles that were previously limited to domestic affairs and childcare.

Increased awareness of the importance of gender equality has led society to be more accepting of women as active contributors to professional and social life, not just as household managers. This shift in view is supported by various studies that show that a more equal division of roles within the household can improve the overall quality of family life. These studies also reveal that when couples share household and childcare responsibilities equally, marital satisfaction and the mental well-being of family members generally improve. This suggests that equality in role sharing not only benefits women, but also contributes positively to the emotional health of the whole family. Overall, gender equality norms have been a trigger for significant social transformation in how society views the role of women. This change signifies that the division of roles in the family and society is no longer determined by gender factors, but rather based on individual abilities, preferences and choices. This more inclusive understanding of gender roles opens up opportunities for women to achieve independence, both in economic and social aspects, and allows them to make greater contributions in various sectors of life, including in their roles as family members.

3.2.3. Women's Dual Roles as Earners and Household Managers

Women's dual roles as breadwinners and household managers reflect significant changes in the social and economic structure of modern society. Today, women not only play a role in meeting the financial needs of the family but also in driving economic growth and social contributions more broadly. This strengthens women's position as independent and empowered individuals. However, this dual role also brings challenges, particularly in terms of maintaining a balance between professional responsibilities and domestic obligations.

As breadwinners, women make a direct contribution to the economic stability of the family. Their income is often a valuable additional source for family needs such as children's education, health and overall well-being. As the cost of living continues to rise, women's role as contributors to the family economy becomes increasingly important. On the other hand, in the household sphere, women often bear the primary responsibility of managing domestic tasks, from taking care of children to managing daily finances. Effectiveness in household management requires time management skills and prioritization so that the various needs of the family can still be met.

The biggest challenge of this dual role is the high demands of both roles which often lead to psychological stress. At work, women are expected to excel and achieve targets, while at home they are required to be present and fulfill the needs of the family. This condition creates a "double burden", which makes women have to work harder to meet expectations from both sides. This pressure, if not managed well, can have an impact on their emotional well-being. Therefore, support from spouses, families, and work environments is important to help women navigate dual roles in a balanced way, while encouraging more equal role sharing within the family.

3.2.4. Islamic Family Law Analysis: Shifting Social Norms Toward Women's Roles in the Family

In Islam, the position of women in the family includes two main roles, namely as a wife and as a mother. As a wife, a woman acts as a partner to her husband in building and navigating the ark of domestic life. This relationship is based on the principle of complementarity and support, where husband and wife work together to create a harmonious, loving, and understanding family environment.

Women as wives also become friends with whom their husbands can discuss the challenges of life. In the Islamic view, marriage is not only a physical union but also an emotional and spiritual bond. Both parties, husband and wife, have equal rights and responsibilities, although their specific duties may differ. Islam advocates communication, mutual respect, and fair division of roles to achieve happiness and stability in the household. Women's role as mothers is also highly respected in Islam. A mother has a great responsibility in educating her children, who are considered the next generation. Islam views mothers as the first school for their children, providing early education on moral, moral and religious values. Mothers also play a role in shaping character and guiding their children to become good individuals who are beneficial to society.

Thus, the position of women in the family according to Islam is highly valued and recognized as the main foundation in forming a strong and blessed household. These two roles, as wife and mother, have their own privileges in the view of Islam and are considered a noble mandate and must be carried out with full responsibility and affection. As Allah says in Q.S. Al-baqarah verse 187 :

أَجَلٌ لَكُمْ لَيْلَةَ الصِّيَامِ الرَّفَثُ إِلَى نِسَائِكُمْ ۚ هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُنَّ ۗ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ أَنَّكُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَخْتَانُونَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَعَفَا عَنْكُمْ ۚ فَالْآنَ بَاشِرُوهُنَّ وَأَبْتَغُوا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۗ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا حَتَّى يَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمُ الْخَيْطُ الْأَبْيَضُ مِنَ الْخَيْطِ الْأَسْوَدِ مِنَ الْفَجْرِ ۗ ثُمَّ أَتَمُوا الصِّيَامَ إِلَى اللَّيْلِ وَلَا تُبَاشِرُوهُنَّ وَأَنْتُمْ عَاكِفُونَ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ ۗ تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ فَلَا تَقْرُبُوهَا ۗ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لِّلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ ۙ ١٨٧

Meaning:

It is lawful for you on the night of fasting to have intercourse with your wives. They are clothing for you and you are clothing for them. Allah knows that you could not restrain yourselves, but He accepted your repentance and forgave you. So now mix with them and seek what Allah has ordained for you. Eat and drink until it becomes clear to you between the white thread and the black thread, which is dawn. Then complete the fast until the night comes. But do not mix with them while you are in the mosque. These are the limits of Allah. So do not approach them. Thus Allah explains His verses to men that they may fear.

In this verse, it is clearly illustrated how the Quran illustrates the relationship between wife and husband like a garment where the relationship between wife and husband and vice versa to complement each other or perfect. Like clothes in life, apart from being a body protector, clothes can be a warmth of beauty covering the aurat, confidentiality and shortcomings. The duties and functions of men and women are to integrate and complement each other.

In the context of Islamic law, a wife's responsibility towards her husband and children is a very important aspect of creating a harmonious and prosperous family. As emotional and moral supporters, wives are expected to provide support to their husbands in facing various challenges, both at work and in daily life, as described in the Qur'an that wives should be a source of peace and love. In addition, wives are also responsible for managing the household, ensuring the cleanliness and comfort of the home environment, and maintaining family honor by behaving in accordance with Islamic values. Regarding children, wives have a crucial role in educating and shaping children's character, being the first teacher to instill religious and ethical values, and providing sufficient emotional attention and affection. In addition, wives are also responsible for maintaining the health and welfare of their children, This includes ensuring they get a good education and supervising their socializing. By fulfilling these responsibilities, wives not only fulfill their roles as required by religion, but also contribute significantly to creating strong, harmonious families that are able to face the challenges of life.

The role of women in the family has traditionally been identified with household and childcare responsibilities. Women are considered to be the main figure who manages and maintains family harmony, ensures domestic needs are met, and pays attention to the growth and development of children. However, rapid social change, especially in recent decades, has had a major impact on the role of women in various spheres of life, including the family. Today, more and more women are actively participating in the workforce and other professional fields. This not only increases their economic contribution, but also shifts the way society views the role of women in the family. Women today often fulfill dual roles as workers and mothers or wives, which demands skills in managing time and responsibilities. This shift has also led to a more flexible division of family roles, with husbands and wives sharing household and childcare responsibilities more equally.

However, this dual role often brings new challenges, especially in maintaining a balance between work demands and domestic obligations. Women are faced with pressure to excel in the workplace, while still meeting expectations within the family. At the same time, a more inclusive understanding of gender equality has led society to be more accepting that roles in the family do not have to be limited by traditional stereotypes, but can be adjusted based on the agreement, abilities and preferences of each individual in the household. As such, this shift in social norms opens up more space for women to achieve financial independence, take on diverse roles, and contribute more actively to both the family and society.

In the context of the family, there are several aspects that occur in shifting the role of women in the family is :

1. The shifting role of wives in sociological aspects

Social interaction is one of the important aspects of building a family, where this interaction takes place between father, mother and children. The family is the first place where children learn to

socialize, which then becomes the basis for their social interactions in the wider environment. This sociological aspect of the family leads its members to communicate effectively, for example through family deliberations, so as to contribute to better social relations in the community.

In the context of educating children, attention and supervision from parents, especially when one or both parents work out of town or overseas, is often reduced. This situation makes the presence of grandparents or close relatives indispensable to ensure that children still receive attention. Many children still need the direct presence and guidance of their parents or close relatives. Mothers have a very important role in the supervision and formation of children's character that cannot be easily replaced. Mothers are usually known for their patient and caring nature, which helps children develop a strong mentality and a sense of caring for the social environment. Through their humane and caring attitude, mothers help educate their children to interact ideally in the wider society by modeling a friendly and caring attitude towards others.

2. The shifting role of wives in the economic aspect

The facts show that economic problems often trigger conflicts in the family. According to the Islamic perspective, if a person is grateful for the blessings that Allah SWT has given him, his sustenance will be multiplied. However, many people focus too much on the economic aspect as a measure of household happiness. This view, according to Islam, can be a big mistake because it causes prolonged problems. Happiness in a family should be seen more from the harmony and peace that exists among its members, not in terms of material things. Islam teaches that an ideal household is one that can realize the values of *sakinah* (peace), *mawaddah* (love), and *rahmah* (mercy) in daily life.

Some families may not have much, but they are harmonious and loving because they prioritize honesty, trust, and gratitude. In these ideal households, life goes on without suspicion, major conflicts, or excessive complaining. In contrast, in materially wealthy families, conflicts often arise that negatively affect household harmony, such as disputes over property and protracted arguments. This can create a view in society that wealth is no guarantee of domestic happiness.

3. The shifting role of wives in education

Education is a fundamental process in building an ideal family, starting with the nuclear family that educates children from an early age. Children, especially toddlers, need attention from both parents to grow and develop optimally. In this case, ideally both fathers and mothers provide a balanced education to their children, including moral, character and religious education. Not only these aspects, parents also need to pay attention to their children's formal education to help them achieve their goals. Mothers, in particular, have a central role in their children's early education, including choosing good schools, taking their children to school, and making sure their children feel supported in their daily learning activities.

A mother is often the primary role model for her children through her loving attention and emotionally-based nurturing, which differs from a father's more logic- and discipline-based approach. A mother's involvement in daily guidance, such as providing direction, modeling, and empathetic nurturing, is an important part of a child's character development. For this reason, the role of the mother is difficult to replace, even if the father tries to replace his role. If conditions require the mother to work outside the city and the husband approves, then the husband needs to replace the mother's care role, including caring for and nurturing the child throughout the day. In this case, the father is expected to devote the best possible attention, love and care. Fathers must play an active and responsible role in ensuring that their children grow up well, including in the aspect of education until they become adults. That way, the roles of both parents can remain balanced and contribute to the formation of a harmonious family that supports the overall development of children.

The scholars are still debating whether a woman (wife) can work outside the home. To find out how the law of women who work or have a career can be seen from the fatwas of the scholars. There are two opinions about whether or not women can work outside the home. The verse used as a basis for those who argue that women should not work outside the home is Q.S Al-Ahzab verse 33 :

وَقَرْنَ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ وَلَا تَبَرَّجْنَ تَبَرُّجَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ الْأُولَىٰ وَأَقِمْنَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتِينَ الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِعْنَ اللَّهَ
وَرَسُولَهُ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا ٣٣

Meaning:

Remain in your houses and do not adorn yourselves (and behave) like the people of old. Establish prayer, pay the zakat, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Verily, Allah wants only to remove sin from you, O ahl al-bayt, and to cleanse you as cleanly as possible.

Some scholars who argue that women should not work outside the home use this verse as their primary basis. They interpret the phrase “And let you remain in your homes” as an order directing women to spend their time at home and focus on domestic duties, such as taking care of the household, husband, and children. According to Yûsuf al-Qardhawi, which explains the prohibition to leave the house except in an emergency, such as Surah al-Ahzâb (33) verse 33, is actually intended specifically for the Prophet's wives. Al-Qardhâwî explains that this verse is not an absolute prohibition for all women to leave the house or work outside, but rather an invitation to the Prophet's wives to maintain their dignity and honor as part of the Prophet's family. He emphasizes that the historical context of this verse relates to a special situation involving the Prophet's wives, and cannot be used as a basis for prohibiting all Muslim women from working or doing activities outside the home.

In his thoughts, Yûsuf al-Qardhâwî states that Islam provides freedom for women to participate in social and economic life, as long as they maintain Islamic values, such as dressing in a shar'i manner, maintaining interaction with non-mahram men, and still fulfilling their responsibilities in the family. Al-Qardhâwî also emphasized that women do not have to be imprisoned at home and they have the right to work, get education, and participate in public life, as long as they do not violate the principles of sharia. Al-Qardhâwî also mentioned that the strict prohibition of leaving the house only applies in an emergency, when leaving the house can cause fitnah or danger to women. However, under normal circumstances, women are allowed to leave the house and engage in social, economic, and political activities, as long as they remain in accordance with Islamic manners. This interpretation is more flexible and considers the conditions of modern times where women have many important roles in various fields. Ibn Kathir in Tafsir al-Qur'an al-Adzim mentions that the verses that talk about human effort, such as Q.S. An-Nisa: 32.

وَلَا تَتَمَنَّوْا مَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بِهِ بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ ۗ لِلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا ۗ وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا
كَسَبْنَ ۗ وَسَأَلُوا اللَّهَ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ٣٢

Meaning:

Do not covet (envy) what Allah has bestowed on some of you over others. For men there is a share of what they have earned, and for women there is a share of what they have earned. Ask Allah for some of His bounty. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing of all things.

Ibn Kathir indicates that women, just like men, have the right to participate in economic endeavors. However, Ibn Kathir also reminded the importance of maintaining Islamic manners and ethics in working, especially for women who interact in public spaces. The principle of maintaining honor and chastity is always an important thing emphasized by Ibn Kathir. In Tafsir Al-Maraghi, Ahmad Musthafa Al-Maraghi explains that women may work and earn a living as long as the work does not conflict with their nature and main responsibilities as wives and mothers. This tafsir states that work that is halal and beneficial to the family and society at large is allowed for women. Al-Maraghi also emphasizes the importance of education for women to be able to carry out this role optimally, both at home and in the workplace. Hadiths that show the Prophet Muhammad's positive attitude towards working women, such as his marriage to Khadijah bint Khuwailid, a successful businesswoman, are clear evidence that Islam supports the active role of women in economic and social life. Khadijah was not only known as a businesswoman, but also as the Prophet's main supporter, both financially and emotionally, which shows how much a woman can contribute in various aspects of life, including her career. In the hadith narrated by Ibn Abbas, the Prophet said:

نَعْمَ النِّسَاءُ نِسَاءُ الْأَنْصَارِ، لَمْ يَمْنَعُهُنَّ الْحَيَاءُ أَنْ يَتَفَقَّهُنَّ فِي الدِّينِ

Meaning:

“The best of women are women from among the Anshar, because they are not prevented by shyness from learning religious knowledge.” (HR Ahmad)

Some scholars have interpreted this hadith as a form of support for women's involvement in public activities, as long as it is done in accordance with the teachings of the Shariah. For example, Shaykh Yusuf al-Qardhawi in his work “Fiqh al-Mar'ah al-Muslimah” emphasizes that women are not prohibited from working as long as they adhere to Islamic norms, such as maintaining proper dress, maintaining interaction with non-mahram men, and not neglecting their primary duties in the family. In early Islamic history, the work and activities carried out by women at the time of the Prophet were quite diverse. Some worked as bridal dressers, such as Umm Salim bint Malhan, who became a nurse or midwife. In the field of trade, the name of the Prophet's first wife, Khadijah bint Khuwailid, is recorded as a very successful person. Another wife of the Prophet, Zainab bint Jahsh, actively worked up to tanning animal skins, and the proceeds of her business she gave in charity. Raithah, the wife of the Prophet's companion Abdullah bin Mas`ud, was very active in working, because her husband and children were unable to provide for their family. Al-Syifa, a woman who was good at writing, was also assigned by Caliph Umar Ra. to handle the market of Medina. Most of the women who worked at that time were not solely because of emergency conditions, although there were some who did so, but the work they did was an effort to self-actualize the skills they had. From these examples, we can see that women in the early days of Islam not only worked out of necessity, but also because they had specialized skills that allowed them to contribute to society. Islam made room for women to be involved in various fields, as long as it was done in compliance with Islamic ethics and values. This shows that women have played an important role in the history and development of Islamic society, both as housewives and as productive individuals in the economic and social spheres.

From the above, it can be concluded that Islam does not prohibit women, including wives, from working or having a career, as long as it is done in compliance with the values of the Shari'ah that maintain honor, chastity, and family responsibilities. The debate among scholars regarding whether or not women can work outside the home often refers to different interpretations of Qur'anic verses, such as Surah Al-Ahzab verse 33. Some of the more conservative scholars emphasize the importance of women staying at home and maintaining domestic duties, while others, such as Yûsuf al-Qardhâwî, provide a more flexible view. According to this view, the verse is addressed to the Prophet's wives and is not meant as an absolute prohibition for Muslim women. Broadly speaking, the scholars actually agree to allow a woman to work outside the home, but they provide clear boundaries that must be obeyed if a woman wants to work or have a career, especially if it must be based on permission from the husband. Where a wife who works with the blessing of her husband, she is still entitled to her right to maintenance, otherwise a wife who continues to work (career) while her husband forbids it, then the wife is considered to have disobeyed her husband, and resulted in the loss of the wife's right to maintenance.

4. CONCLUSION

The shifting role of women in the family has been one of the major changes in the social and economic structure of modern society. In traditional contexts, women were often seen as being solely responsible for managing the household, including domestic tasks and childcare, while men were the main breadwinners. However, with the advancement of education and the development of a career world that is increasingly open to women, many women now have wider opportunities to pursue higher education and enter various professional fields that were previously dominated by men. These opportunities not only increase women's financial independence, but also give them the space to contribute significantly to supporting the family's economic needs.

With the increasing participation of women in the workforce, the division of roles within the family has begun to shift. Many women today fulfill dual roles as professionals and homemakers, which requires time management skills and flexibility to fulfill responsibilities in both domains. In addition, the increasingly

recognized norm of gender equality has also encouraged many families to adopt a more equal pattern in the division of domestic responsibilities, with husbands and wives sharing roles in the household. This shift provides space for women to reach their full potential in their careers and family life, but also poses new challenges in maintaining the balance between professional commitments and domestic roles still expected by society.

However, while this dual role makes an important contribution to the economic stability of families, the challenges women face in balancing professional and domestic obligations cannot be ignored. This balance requires women to have high time management skills as well as adequate support from their spouse and family environment. In this context, Islam provides clear guidance on the role of women in the family, emphasizing that women may work outside the home with consideration of Shariah values, family harmony, and husband's permission. Therefore, although women can have a career, the success of an ideal family is more determined by the harmony and cooperation between husband and wife in managing the household and children's education, not solely by economic aspects.

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