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<p>Article</p>	
<p>Al-Qur'an Rebuttal Against Childfree Lifestyle</p>	
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<p>ABSTRACT:</p> <p>The phenomenon of married couples who decide not to have children, known as “ childfree” since 2021 until now, has become increasingly widespread. This movement was pioneered by a public figure who has influence in society (influencer) , including a YouTuber named Gita Savitri and Paul Andre. They both decided not to have children on the grounds that having children or not is a life choice and children are a big responsibility. From the recognition of their status as public figures in society, the term childfree has begun to be widely discussed with various responses from the public, especially in Indonesia. In this study using qualitative methods with interpretation approach. Data collection was carried out using library research through two sources : first, observation data from observations of verses of the Koran related to this discussion either explicitly or implicitly about childfree and the hadith of the Prophet SAW. In addition to the verses of the Qur'an and hadith, supporting or secondary data were obtained from observation of books, journal articles, news events and other sources related to the theme of this study. Because this research emphasizes the aspect of interpretation, several interpretation books. One of the purposes of Allah's marriage mentioned in the Qur'an is to multiply offspring. As explained in the letter Al-A'raf verse 86. This is one of the arguments stating the rejection of childfree behavior, the Qur'an does not justify this. Moreover, making childfree from the start a lifestyle without any logical considerations and reasons that can be accepted by religion. Childfree may be taken if there are reasons that oblige a person not to have children, for example due to a serious illness, a disease which if she becomes pregnant will be life threatening, while still making medical recommendations a prior consideration, or someone who has been destined by Allah to be unable to have children.</p> <p>Key words: Childfree Lifestyle, The Qur'an's Rebuttal, Interpretation</p>	

INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of married couples who decide not to have children, known as “ childfree” since 2021 until now, has become increasingly widespread. This movement was pioneered by a public figure who has influence in society (influencer) , including a YouTuber named Gita Savitri and Paul Andre. They both decided not to have children on the grounds that having children or not is a life choice and children are a big responsibility. From the recognition of their status as public figures in society, the term childfree has begun to be widely discussed with

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various responses from the public, especially in Indonesia. If you look at the people of western countries, in fact the term childfree has existed since the end of the 20th century so this phenomenon is not a new issue. Unlike Indonesia, which is a new phenomenon in society.

Community groups that accept childfree choices, they think that having children is a choice not an obligation. Outside the religious context, it can be said that childfree is not something that is considered wrong if it is done with careful consideration before making a decision. The childfree phenomenon ultimately returns to the rights of each partner. There are factors that cause a person to choose childfree, including: career, trauma, economy and not being able to educate children.

Some married couples choose Childfree by preventing pregnancy. The desire to have sex with partners is natural, but they don't want to have children using contraception and birth control drugs. Islam considers that efforts to limit pregnancy are permissible as long as they are accompanied by proper reasons, but Islam does not allow preventing pregnancy. Here it is necessary to know the meaning of "limit" and "prevent", limiting a pregnancy means temporarily, while preventing pregnancy means not wanting to have children forever.

In a study conducted by Ryan Mardiyani entitled "Marriage Satisfaction in Couples Who Don't Have Children" describes the condition of a married couple who doesn't have children. That couples who do not want to have children tend to feel sad, lonely, dissatisfied and bored in the household. From this research it can be seen that couples who do not have children tend to be empty and frustrated in their individual and social lives

Research that has discussed childfree has been carried out by many previous researchers with various approaches. Starting from fiqh, social, religion to science. In the focus of this study, the researcher emphasizes the aspects of the verses of the Koran which discuss the childfree lifestyle, the researcher wants to refute the childfree lifestyle using the verses of the Koran. As far as previous research has been conducted, not much has focused on childfree studies in the context of the verses of the Koran

According to the Qur'an, the decision to be childfree is a decision that is contrary to the commands of Allah SWT, namely the command to give birth to noble offspring (QS an-Nahl: 72) and the command to multiply offspring (QS al-A'raf: 86). Meanwhile, childfree means the decision not to have children at all. For those who already have offspring, parents should not worry about the child's sustenance because Allah has guaranteed their sustenance later (QS al-Isra: 31). In addition, a child can guide his parents to heaven if the child is devoted and always prays for his parents (QS ar-Ra'd: 23)

METHOD

In this study using qualitative methods with interpretation approach. Data collection was carried out using library research through two sources: first, observation data from observations of verses of the Koran related to this discussion either explicitly or implicitly about childfree and the hadith of the Prophet SAW. In addition to the verses of the Qur'an and hadith, supporting or secondary data were obtained from observation of books, journal articles, news events and other sources related to the theme of this study. Because this research emphasizes the aspect of interpretation, several interpretation books that will be used include: Tafsir al-Mishbah and Tafsir al-Azhar.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Childfree

The term childfree is relatively new, especially to the ears of the Indonesian people, so this word does not yet have a word form that can be translated into standard Indonesian because it is still a new issue. Childfree is used by society to refer to childless marriages, this term for groups of couples who have a strong desire not to have children based on their own choice. according to the Cambridge Dictionary , childfree is usually used for people who choose not to have children, both in place and situation

Dr. Rachel Chrastil, a professor at Xavier University and author of the book *How to Be Childless: A History and Philosophy of Live Without Childre* , argues that the practice of childfreeness existed before the term appeared. It started before the French revolution in 1787, where 22% of young adults at that time chose not to have children. This continued until the 19th century / 1800's, in 1885-1915 in America one in five women chose not to have children. This practice continued until the second world war, after the war ended human passion began to emerge and most couples wanted to have children. Then at the end of the 20th century, the term childfree began to be widely known since 1970 by splitting into two groups, namely: couples who do not have children and do not want children.

From the theme put forward by Dr. Rachel in her work, it seems that there is another discussion related to childfree , namely the term childless . If childfree is a conscious decision to live without children not because of health factors, delay or prevention, then childless is the condition of someone who cannot have children because of health and prevention factors, not because of their own desires. It could be interpreted that a childless person really wants children, but the facts say otherwise because it is due to prevention and poor health conditions. this is done unconsciously or means losing something you want. Whereas a childfree person consciously and is not forced to choose not to have children due to a mental condition.

After knowing the definition of childfree from several expert circles, it can be seen that the choice of a partner to become childfree is not necessarily a personal decision. There are various reasons that need to be known regarding couples wanting to choose a childfree lifestyle . Such as economic, personal, psychological, medical, environmental and philosophical factors, for an explanation of these factors will be explained in the sub-chapters below.

Reasons for Choosing Childfree

Some of the factors that make a partner choose childfree are as follows:

1 . Economy

Before getting married, most people today are worried about the costs of running their household, such as electricity bills, water, vehicle taxes and so on. They are not sure they can navigate their household life in harmony because the costs are not small. Not to mention if you want to have your own home without depending on your in-laws. Under these conditions they choose a childfree lifestyle because a child adds to the burden on the household. Taking care of children is not enough just with parental love, you need to take care of them physically and spiritually, childbirth costs, costs for babies to adults to school fees up to the tertiary level.

Actually, a Muslim who wants to marry does not need to worry about household expenses or the needs of children. In QS an-Nur: 32 Allah SWT says :

And marry those who are single among you, and those who are worthy (married) from your male slaves and your female slaves. If they are poor, Allah will enable them with His grace. And Allah is Extensive (His gifts), All-Knowing (QS an-Nur: 32)

A married couple must have the competence and ability to carry out their rights and obligations after marriage. Husband and wife are required to work together, synergize and must go through obstacles in navigating the household. A child is not a burden in the household, if parents are willing to educate their children spiritually and materially, Allah SWT's promise is real that they will provide sustenance to their family. It's another thing if parents feel stingy and consider children as a burden on the family, of course the blessings from Allah SWT will not come down.

2. Social Phenomena

The large human population will further damage the earth. Climate change is not only making the earth warmer, but also causing financial losses due to human-made damage. So, one way to protect the earth from damage is not to breed living things. If the reason for choosing childfree is like that, then it can be said that childfree has two benefits, namely: as a form of counteracting damage and protecting living things.

In addition, other social phenomena are related to juvenile delinquency, parental violence against children, neglected children, children resulting from adultery and other phenomena like that. Children never ask to be born, their births are purely due to the actions of their parents, the amount of injustice to children from their parents creates a distinct impression on those who witness it, especially people who have a high sense of sympathy and empathy feel responsible for what happened. As a result, many parents do not want to have children, thinking that later their children will disrespect humans, like to fight and commit adultery. Trauma about this bad phenomenon is what causes couples to choose childfree

3. Psychological and Medical

Psychological factors, namely something related to the psyche and occur under the conscious or can be called trauma. The medical is something related to health or physical limitations. Psychological factors can occur due to many factors, such as one childfree who decides not to have children after three pregnancies and three miscarriages. So this couple voluntarily chooses to be childfree for the rest of their life, due to trauma from the failure that has occurred. Another example, as felt by a writer of the book *Childfree & Happy* when he lived in an environment that discriminated against him a lot because he was not from their group, he was an Irish-British crossbreed who made the Western lifestyle the center of his thoughts. It is this difference that causes him to receive a lot of bullying and insults, both from his schoolmates and from the surrounding community. He was frustrated and from this frustration he tried to convince himself not to let his child or other people feel what he had experienced. One of his efforts to avoid the recurrence of this incident is to choose not to have children.

Medical factors usually arise because of concerns about a disease that can be passed on to their children (genetic disease). An example is bipolar disorder, which is a disturbed mental condition that causes very extreme changes in the mood of the sufferer. Happiness can suddenly turn into sadness. These emotional changes have a lot of impact on the health of the sufferer. Reporting from halodoc.com, which contains an article entitled *The Genetics of Bipolar Disorder*, it is explained that a person who has a close relative who has bipolar disorder has a tenfold risk of being able to reduce the disease. This means that parents who have bipolar disorder have a great chance of passing the same illness on to their children.'

Apart from the causes of genetic diseases that can be passed on to children, other causes can also come from the condition of someone who really cannot have children because of infertility or a problematic uterus. This condition does not come from human will itself, but from the gift of God Almighty and humans cannot escape God's destiny.

4. Philosophical

Philosophical factors concern one's life principles. There are people who think it's better to spend money and time doing useful social activities than staying at home taking care of children. A Childfree thinks having children is just a form of narcissism. There are also those who think having children will only make children a topic of conversation, as material for showing off that their children are successful, if children grow up not according to their parents' expectations, for example stupid children, then children will be beaten and cursed at, even though they don't want to be stupid. They are too naive. Children are only a form of concrete manifestation that both parents have a healthy reproductive system.

Al-Qur'an Refutation Against Childfree Lifestyle

a. The purpose of marriage is to give birth to noble offspring, couples who make childfree as their lifestyle do not understand well about the purpose of marriage, which is to continue their descent by giving birth to children.

"And Allah made for you spouses (husband and wife) from your own kind and made children and grandchildren for you from your spouse, and gave you sustenance from good..." (QS. An-Nahl: 72)

Among the blessings that God gives to humans is that He makes every human being in pairs, male and female, in order to create a harmonious family, then they are given children from marriage. This verse shows that one of the goals of marriage is to give birth to noble children.

b. Allah Guarantees the Fortune of a Child , "And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. It is We who provide sustenance for them and for you. Killing them is truly a great sin."

The above verse was revealed regarding the custom of the ignorant people to kill girls and not give them inheritance. They think that having a daughter will be a burden in life, daughters are considered to be only a burden. Then the verse above was revealed as a prohibition against killing children for fear of poverty. In the letter Al-An'am verse 151 Allah says: and do not kill your children because of poverty This verse is Allah's command to the Prophet Muhammad to convey to the polytheists about the prohibitions that Allah has given in order to avoid humiliation, and as a form of obedience to Allah, namely by: not associating partners with Allah, serving both parents, and others, including the prohibition of killing children for fear of poverty

A childfree chooses not to have children than to have children with possible deficiencies. He chose childfree over having children with the worry of not being able to meet their needs. The idea of being unable to meet daily needs, living mediocly, and even living a miserable life, all of that makes many people choose to be childfree. Whereas Allah is the Giver of sustenance. Allah has the right to choose who He gives sustenance and who He does not give sustenance. But basically God has guaranteed the sustenance of every human being.

It can be concluded that the two paragraphs above indirectly reject the childfree lifestyle which chooses not to have children for fear of not being able to meet the needs of the children in the future, and also considers children as an obstacle to one's career

c. An order to multiply offspring, Childfree means refusing to have children born not because of coercion or physical limitations but because they voluntarily want it. Some of them think that it is better to choose childfree than for children to live in a broken world and to fix it

requires great effort. Whereas Allah ordered the opposite, namely to increase the human population. Allah's Word: and remember when you were few in number, then He multiplied you" (QS. Al-A'raf: 86) The above verse is a command from Allah to multiply offspring. In the interpretation of Al-Misbah it is said that many offspring is a divine blessing. Tabataba'i said that God's noble purpose in ordering to multiply offspring is because every human being was created by God in a variety of ways, they have different thoughts, shapes, and potentials. Humans are social creatures, so when there is an increasing number of human populations on earth, there will also be more differences that can strengthen human thinking, complementing any deficiencies. The more humans, the more needs they need, encouraging humans to find all ways to overcome their obstacles. A strong and qualified large group cannot be compared to a small group. Large groups will also have great power, and they will not be easily underestimated. This is one of the reasons God ordered humans to always increase the human population in this world. This verse is the argument for the Qur'an's rejection of childfree behavior due to environmental factors. Rasulullah SAW said: "Marry a woman who is compassionate and has many offspring, because actually I feel proud of the large number of you among all mankind." (Narrated by Abu Dawud).

d . the child's prayer will forgive the sins of the parents. "O Allah, forgive me and my parents. Both my mother and father, love them as they loved me when I was little.

CLOSING

One of the purposes of Allah's marriage mentioned in the Qur'an is to multiply offspring. As explained in the letter Al-A'raf verse 86. This is one of the arguments stating the rejection of childfree behavior, the Qur'an does not justify this. Moreover, making childfree from the start a lifestyle without any logical considerations and reasons that can be accepted by religion. Childfree may be taken if there are reasons that oblige a person not to have children, for example due to a serious illness, a disease which if she becomes pregnant will be life threatening, while still making medical recommendations a prior consideration, or someone who has been destined by Allah to be unable to have children.

Basically childfree arises from worries that are not necessarily true, such as fear of not being able to be good parents, fear that children will live on an increasingly damaged earth because of the increasing number of human populations in it, and other worries. Though God has placed the position of the child in human life into various forms. Both children as a coolant for their parents' hearts, children as one of the world's most valuable jewels, and other positions. So there is nothing wrong with having children, even in the hadith it has been explained that the prayers of pious children will continue to flow even though their parents are gone.

It is true that childfree is a choice, but don't let what we choose become something that will actually lead us to the abyss of regret, which makes us forget the existence of Allah and encourages us to disobey His commands. So thus, as people who are religious and people who believe in Allah, we should make life choices in line with Islamic law, uphold the Al-Qur'an and the hadith of the Prophet, and always try to uphold Amar Ma'ruf Nahi Munkar in our lives. in this world.

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