

Marriage and Family System in Islam and Other Religions

1. Sabih-u-Rehman

2. Zahida Afzal

PhD Research Scholar
Department of Comparative
Religion and Islamic Culture
University of Sindh Jamshoro

Visiting Lecturer,
University of poonch Rawlkot,
Department of Islamic
studies,Rawlakot,AJK,Pakistan

Email:

sabihurehmansolangi@gmail.com

Email:

zahidaafzal1987@gmail.com

Saeed Ahmed

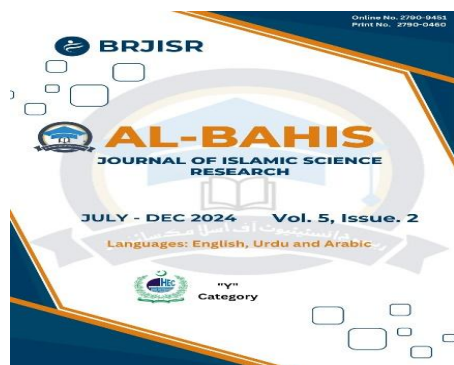
Research Scholar , Mentor & Lecturer, Islamic Studies, IBA-Public
School Ubouro

saeedsamo001@gmail.com

To cite this article:

1.Sabih-u- Rehman , 2.Zahida Afzal , 3. Saeed Ahmed ,July – Dec Vol.5 Issue .2 (2024)
English

Al-Bahis Journal of Islamic Sciences Research, 5(2),199-112 Retrieved
from



Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0
International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

OPEN  ACCESS



Marriage and Family System in Islam and Other Religions

Abstract

Islam is a perfect and comprehensive religion that guides every aspect of individual and collective life of man. While Islam has emphasized on worship and beliefs, it has also given great importance to the social system, especially the family system as the basis for the welfare of humanity. Family is the basic unit on which society is built.

Allah Almighty did not create man to live alone, but has given him a family, social and mutual relations system. Human life also begins with parents and extends to siblings, uncles, maternal uncles, aunts, paternal grandmothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, grandfathers, grandmothers and other relatives. These relationships are a shadowy branch of human life that supports it in all seasons.

Marriage and family are one of the most vital institutions in the human society which is the backbone of social stability, moral upbringing and cultural continuity. Religions have distinctive doctrines about marriage and family life and its nature, purpose and structure, based on their wider theological and ethical beliefs. The article discusses the concept of marriage and family in Islam and compares it to the other great religions namely Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism. The study will include Marriage objectives, responsibilities and rights of family members, the role of the family as a social and religious group. The article takes a comparative perspective, bringing to the fore the shared values and the different characteristics of these religious traditions. The results indicate that all religions give importance to marriage and family in ensuring social order and the transfer of moral values; however, they have different perspectives and practices based on their beliefs and traditions. Finally, the study concludes by identifying a balanced and healthy family system in Islam which comprises spiritual, social and legal components, and a few common values in other religions. This comparative knowledge is a part of interreligious dialogue and an understanding of the role of the family in modern society.

Keywords: Marriage, Family System, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Comparative Study, Religion, Society.

1. Introduction

After God created the earth, He established a family system in order to run the system of the universe. The first human being was Hazrat Adam (peace be upon him), from whose left rib Hazrat Hawa (peace be upon her) was born. It was known that the existence of husband and wife is the basic unit of the world system, without which the concept of settlement of the world is impossible.

The institution of marriage and family is one of the most persisting and important in human society. They offer the foundation for socialization, emotional, moral, and

cultural continuity within which individuals experience them. Family is one of the most important institutions that has been utilized throughout history in order to keep the society in order and to pass the values down from one generation to another. Consequently, marriage and family have been a significant part of the religious doctrines of the world's great faiths, with each faith having its own set of rules and guidelines for family relationships, responsibilities, and social behaviour.

The attitude towards marriage and family life has been influenced by religion since the beginning of time. Religious teachings do not only provide a purpose and nature of marriage, but they also provide ethical guidelines for spouses and their relationships with parents, children and the broader community. The idea of family is understood across the world but the family structure and roles are different and change over time depending on the religion or culture. It is important to understand these differences to understand the different ways in which society structures and maintains family life.

Islam considers marriage as a religious and legal contract which has spiritual and social aspects. It is seen as a way of gaining companionship, maintaining moral values, and creating a stable family. Islamic values within the family are based on mutual rights and responsibilities, respect for parents, care for children and good kinship relations. Family is considered the basis of healthy society and it is perceived as duty of religion to preserve it.

In the same way, the other large religions like Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism also value marriage and family. Although they have some similarities in terms of values such as commitment, responsibility or caring for the next generation, they have differing conceptions of marriage, husband and wife, and the structure of family life. These distinctions are due to the different theological and philosophical bases of each faith.

This article aims to explore the notion of marriage and family in Islam and how it differs from the other major religions. The study is aimed at finding the similarities and differences between these religious perspectives using a comparative approach. The article compares and contrasts their own views of marriage and family life and makes a contribution to others' understanding of the significance of religion in the construction of social institutions and in the promotion of human well-being.

The family system and our behavior

It is the tragedy of the present time that the family system as a whole is suffering from decline and degradation, this most important relationship of human life is stuck in the mire of conflicts, the growing trend of stubbornness and ego has made it a pretense of selfishness and violated its sanctity in such a way that Al-Aman and Hafeez. The shadow has become a dry trunk, there are thousands of cases of divorce and annulment of marriage reported in the courts, painful and heart-wrenching scenes of the forced handover of one of the parents in the courts are seen every day, thousands of young people who have a dream of future architecture in their eyes and cherish feelings worthy of putting bows on the stars, their future is at stake in the quarrel of their parents. How to get out of this alarming family situation and how to make the society a cradle of peace

and tranquility? For this, it is necessary to study the basic concept of Islam, which it has given for the revival and survival of the family system.¹

هَٰؤُلَاءِ لَكُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَّهُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُمْ عَلَّمَ اللَّهُ أَنْتُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَخْتَانُونَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَعَفَا عَنْكُمْ -

They are clothing for you and you are clothing for them. Allah knows that you used to deceive yourselves, so He accepted your repentance and forgave you.²

In Surat al-Nisa of the Holy Qur'an, the importance of family relationships has been highlighted, and the relationship with the womb has been declared as the foundation of faith. In it, along with adopting piety and fear of God, good behavior towards relatives was also ordered, that is, breaking ties with relatives is not only a social crime, it is also a Shariah crime.

In another place, it is stated in the Holy Qur'an that give preference to relatives in kindness and justice, that is:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ ۚ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.³

"Allah commands justice, kindness and giving (their right to) relatives." (Surat al-Nahl: 90).

A Quranic Verse on Tranquility and Affection in Marriage

One of the most frequently quoted and deeply moving verses about the essence of marriage is found in Surah Ar-Rum, which encapsulates the divine purpose behind this sacred union.

Here, Allah SWT reminds us that the foundation of marriage is to find *sakan*—a profound tranquility and comfort with one another.

”وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً ۚ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ“

“And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who give thought.”⁴

2. Literature Review

The family system and the institution of marriage have been the focal point of much attention from religion, sociology, anthropology and family studies researchers. There has been a considerable research interest in the influence of religion on family systems, marriage, and social norms in various cultures. Religious education is sometimes seen

¹ Abu Baker Hanafi Shiekhapuri, Islam me khandani tasawer, Mahanama Al-Farooq , Jamia Farooqia Karachi . <https://farooqia.com>

² Al-Quran 2 : 187

³ Al-Quran 16 : 90

⁴ Al-Quran 30 : 21

as a significant source of information on the role of marriage in a community, the community's approach to family life, and the community's view on social order.

Researchers in the field of Islamic studies have pointed out the religious dimension of marriage in Islam and its importance for individual happiness and social cohesion. Islamic beliefs say marriage is for companionship, to safeguard one's morals, and to keep family life going. It has been pointed out that the Islamic family system is founded on the values of mutual respect, responsibility, justice and cooperation within the family. The Qur'an and the Sunnah are complete sources of help concerning the rights and responsibilities of spouses, the nurturing of children and the obligation to respect kinship.

Research in the field of Christianity has revealed that in general, marriage is regarded as a sacred union that is ordained by God. Christian teachers have highlighted the spiritual nature of marriage, including the importance of love, commitment, sacrifice and fidelity. Family is considered as one of the basic institutions in the socialization of religious beliefs and moral values to the next generation. It has also been found that the practices of marriage and family have been greatly shaped by Christian doctrine in many societies.⁵

In the literature Hinduism is presented not as a contractual but as a sacred marriage. In the literature Hinduism marriage is presented not as a contractual but as a sacred marriage. As per Hindu teachings, marriage is a crucial phase in life that allows people to fulfill their religious and social duties. The family system, especially the joint family system, has been a central feature of the Hindu society. Research indicates that values like duty, respect for senior members and family solidarity continue to be integral to Hindu family life.⁶

Buddhism has a different array of beliefs: marriage is not seen as a religious ritual but rather as a social one. The Buddhist message is about ethics, respect, compassion and harmony in the family. While Buddhism does not set any strict requirements for the family, scholars have noted that its teachings foster a value that helps to sustain peaceful and stable family life.⁷

In the same way, the study of Judaism focuses on the importance of marriage as a covenant and on the family as the basis of religious and communal life. Family responsibilities, religious education, and the preservation of traditions are important to

⁵ <https://thewitness.org/christian-perspectives-on-marriage-and-family-life/>

⁶ <https://ijlr.iledu.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/V6I180.pdf>

⁷ <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/rs-religious-studies-gcse/relationships-and-families/buddhism/marriage-buddhism>

Jewish teachings. Good family relationships have been observed as fundamental to the Jewish social and religious world.⁸

There is some literature that offers insights into the marriage and family systems of various religions, but few comparative studies. Most of the studies available are on specific religions and not a systematic comparison of similarities and differences. Hence, the aim of this study is to make a contribution to the existing literature by providing a comparative study between the marriage relationships and family system in Islam and other major religions. This will allow a better insight into the role of religious beliefs in religious family institutions and religious behavior of people in other cultural settings.⁹

3. Research Methodology

This research is qualitative with comparative research method that aims to explore the concept of marriage and family systems in Islam and other great religions such as Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism. Mainly the secondary sources of data like sacred religious scriptures, scholarly books, and research articles in academic journals, relevant research studies on the topic of religion, family and social institutions are used in the research.

The teachings and principles about marriage and family have been explained using a descriptive approach in every religious tradition. Moreover, a comparative analytical approach has been employed to look into the similarities and differences between these religions in terms of aims of marriage, family structure, rights and duties of the husband and wife, upbringing of children and family values.

Content analysis of religious scriptures and scholarly interpretations is used to gain insights on the different ways in which each religious tradition views marriage and family life. Special focus has been placed on the Islamic teachings that stem from the Qur'an and Sunnah, with similar teachings from Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism being explored for balance purposes.

The aim of this methodology is to gain a holistic picture of the effect of religion on family institutions and to emphasize areas of social relations and family structure influenced by religious beliefs in various cultural contexts.

4. Marriage and Family System in Islam

Islam offers a well-rounded model to marriage and family life that takes into account spiritual, moral, social and legal aspects. The family is seen as the basic building block of society and its family stability as crucial to good individual and community health. Muslims have specific instructions on marriage relations, family duties, and child

⁸ <https://philosophy.institute/religions-of-the-world/early-jewish-social-religious-life/>

⁹ Marriage and Family: Their Value, Tasks and Protection in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism

rearing. The Qur'an and the Sunnah give great importance to building families upon faith, respect, compassion and justice. Islam attempts through these principles to develop a balanced family atmosphere, which in turn would lead to development of individuals and harmony in society.

4.1 Concept of Marriage in Islam

Nikkah (Marriage) in Islam is a legal and religious contract between a male and a female. It is not just a social arrangement but is a way of worship which serves religious and moral purposes. The Qur'an states marriage is based on love, mercy and calmness; it is a bond that allows the parties to help each other emotionally, spiritually and socially. Unlike celibacy, in Islam marriage is regarded as a nature's way of life and a desirable arrangement which enable individuals to discharge their responsibilities and to keep them within moral boundaries.

Understanding Key Concepts of Nikah

Before exploring the key Quranic verses on marriage, it's vital to understand the fundamental concepts surrounding Nikah:

Nikah: It refers to the marriage contract between a man and a woman, signifying mutual consent and commitment.

Mutual Rights and Responsibilities: The Quran emphasizes the importance of respect and fulfillment of rights in a marriage.

Family and Community: Nikah is viewed as a way to strengthen family bonds and contribute positively to society.

Key Quranic Verses on Marriage

Here are some key Quranic verses that reflect the principles of marriage:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْتَكِرُونَ -

“And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy.”¹⁰

This verse highlights that Nikkah is designed to bring peace and love into the lives of spouses, emphasizing the spiritual and emotional dimensions of marriage.

¹⁰ Al- Quran 30:21

وَأَنْكِحُوا الْأَيَامَىٰ مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّالِحِينَ مِنْ عِبَادِكُمْ وَإِمَائِكُمْ لَنْ يَكُونُوا فُقَرَاءَ يُعْزِمَهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ -

“And marry those among you who are single and those who are fit among your male and female slaves. If they are poor, Allah will enrich them from His bounty. And Allah is All-Encompassing, All-Knowing.”¹¹

This verse underscores the importance of community engagement in marriage, promoting the idea that all individuals, regardless of social status, should seek companionship through Nikah.

وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُقْسِطُوا فِي الْبَيْنَىٰ فَاَنْكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَىٰ وَ ثُلَاثَ وَ رُبْعَ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَلَّا تَقُولُوا

“It is made lawful for you to have two, three or four wives; but if you fear that you will not be just, then (marry) only one...”¹²

This verse discusses polygamy, clarifying the conditions under which it is permissible, and emphasizes the need for fairness and justice among wives.

Hadiths on Nikkah

Furthermore, the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) complement the Quranic verses regarding marriage. Here are notable hadiths:

“When a man marries, he has fulfilled half of his religion. Therefore, let him fear Allah regarding the remaining half.” (Al-Bayhaqi)

“The most complete believer in faith is the one who is best in conduct and the most kind to his family.”¹³

Islam considers consent of both parties to be a necessary requirement for marriage. The marital relationship is a right-holding and obligation-sharing type of relationship which is fair and respectful between the partners. By marriage, people create a family which is legitimate and helps to achieve social stability and moral integrity.¹⁴

4.2 Objectives of marriage in Islam

Islam outlines a number of key goals of marriage. It is one of the main functions to serve as a companion to husband and wife and give emotional support between them.

¹¹ Al- Quran 24:32

¹² Al- Quran 4:3

¹³ Sunan Tirmidhi , Hadith No. 155

¹⁴ <https://nikahplus.com/en/blog/nikah-in-the-quran-key-verses-and-their-interpretations/>

The human need for affection, security and understanding are natural needs and marriage provides a proper structure within which these needs can be met.

One of the key goals is to preserve moral values. Marriage protects people against immoral actions by giving them a legitimate way to fulfill human needs. It also helps it to be the root of procreation and the perpetuation of human society through children's birth and rearing.

Moreover, marriage contributes to social stability in terms of the development of powerful families that give positive contribution to the society. It promotes family members working together, taking responsibility and caring for each other, and fostering social connections in the wider community.¹⁵

4.3 Rights and Responsibilities of Spouses

The Islamic family system is based upon a balance of rights and responsibilities. Husband and wife have both the right to respect, dignity and fair treatment. Marriage is a friendly relationship, a cooperative relationship, and a mutual understanding relationship, Islam said.

Normally it is the husband's responsibility to provide financial support and ensure the well-being of the family. Among the duties that come with this responsibility are ensuring the needs of the household and safeguarding the interest of family members. The wife, however, is an important part of the family environment and also is important to the emotional and moral health of the family.

The Holy Qur'aan urges husbands and wives to discuss between themselves and settle their differences with patience and discussion. Relationship is not a dominating relationship, but a partnership between persons, who work together for a happy and stable family.¹⁶

4.4 Family Structure in Islam

The Islamic family is more than just the husband and wife. It includes parents, children, grandparents and other family members who are significant to the support and bonding of the family. Respect for parents is an important position in the Islamic teachings and is second only to the obedience of God in many of the verses of the Qur'an.

Family is the most important institution for the transmission of moral values, religious beliefs and cultural traditions. Social behavior, ethical values and religious behavior are

¹⁵ Waines, An introduction to Islam. Cambridge University Press, D. (2003)

¹⁶ Bowker, The Oxford dictionary of world religions. Oxford University Press. J. (2005).

learned in the family. Therefore, good family relations are considered to be the duty of the family of both religious and social matters.

Islam also promotes the idea of working together as family members and the significance of having family connections. When there is kindness towards family members, social solidarity is enhanced and a sense of collective responsibility is fostered.¹⁷

4.5 Importance of Children and Kinship Relations

In Islam, children are deemed to be a blessing and trust from God. Parents have the responsibility to meet their own physical, emotional, educational and spiritual requirements. Islam places much emphasis on raising children in a loving, disciplined and morally guided atmosphere.

Islam puts great emphasis on kinship relations aside from parental responsibilities. It is considered a righteous act to have good relations with relatives and social life is a vital part of this. Family members are encouraged to support each other in times of need, and to build relationships that are based on compassion, generosity and respect.

Islam, with its focus on marriage, family commitments, child rearing and kinship ties, creates a family system that is designed to cultivate individual health and social harmony.

5. Marriage and Family System in Other Religions

In the world's main religions, marriage and family are a central theme in their teachings. Marriage has different meanings, functions, and forms in different religions, but in all religions, the family is a crucial function in keeping society stable, instilling moral values, and passing on culture. Marital relationships and family life are viewed differently by the three religions of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism, which are based on different theological and philosophical views.

5.1 Marriage and Family system in Christianity

In the eyes of Christianity, marriage is an intimate and holy bond created by God and meant to be a bond of love, commitment and faithfulness. In some Christian doctrines marriage is regarded as a sacrament instituted by God to represent the union of Christ and the Church. Christian teachings highlight the importance of a long-term

¹⁷ Esposito, Islam: The straight path. Oxford University Press. J. L (2016)

commitment between husband and wife, and the importance of supporting one another, respecting and being compassionate.¹⁸

The Christian family is an effective institution for the religious education and moral development of its members. Parents have a duty to ensure that their children are nurtured as Christians and led towards spiritual development. Family life is supposed to be full of love, sacrifice, forgiveness and cooperation and these are values which are thought to be vital for harmony and stability within the family.¹⁹

5.2 Marriage and family system in Hinduism

The wedding ceremony is in the Hindu tradition considered to be one of the sacraments (Sanskaras) and an important event of human life. It is considered to be a spiritual and social bond, through which people perform their religious obligations and help sustain family lines. Marriage has been said to be a bond that expands beyond this world and is thought to last for a lifetime.

Traditionally, the Hindu family system is linked to the concept of the joint family, which comprises of multiple generations residing together, sharing obligations, and responsibilities. Some of the characteristics of the Hindu family are respect for elders, unity of the family and decision making within the family. Children are treasured and expected to carry on family traditions and culture. Religious beliefs and social values are passed on from generation to generation, via the family.²⁰

5.3 Marriage and Family System in Buddhism

As contrasted with some other faiths, in general, Buddhism does not consider marriage a sacrament of religion. Although marriage is not considered essential for spiritual salvation, Buddhist teachings provide ethical guidance for family relationships and marital life. In the family, the following principles are stressed: compassion, mutual respect, self-discipline and understanding.

The family life of a Buddhist is a cooperative and morally responsible one. Spouses are urged to support each other and build good marriages by being patient and kind. Children are expected to respect and care for their parents and parents have a duty to

¹⁸ The Bible. (n.d.). New International Version.

¹⁹ McGrath, Christian theology: An introduction. Wiley-Blackwell. A. E (2017)

²⁰ Klostermaier, A survey of Hinduism. State University of New York Press. K. K (2014)

educate and provide moral guidance to their children. These teachings help to build stable and peaceful family relationships.²¹

5.4 Marriage and Family System in Judaism

Jewish values emphasize the importance of marriage and family. Marriage and family are important in Judaism.

Judaism considers marriage to be a sacred covenant between a man and a woman and an important religious obligation. The family is the most important institution in Jewish religious and social life, providing the most important means for maintaining Jewish religious identity and culture. Marriage is considered as a way to build a family and obey God's commands.

Family cohesion, parenting duties and religious education are very important in Jewish education. Parents are expected to help their children to practice their faith and moral values. The bond and support among family members are particularly important in Jewish communities, fostering religious identity and social cohesion.

In what ways do marriage and family differ between other religions and Christianity? How is marriage and family different in other religions than Christianity?

Although there are some differing views on the nature of marriage and family in Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism, there are also some similarities. All agree that the family is a basic social unit and that having good morals, being responsible and raising children are important values. Marriage is typically considered to be a way of creating stable relationships, maintaining social order and transmitting cultural and religious traditions.²²

While the values are shared, they are universal in meaning in the context of human society, and the differences among traditions are due to the specific theological meanings and developments within their history.

6. Comparative Analysis and Discussion

The comparative study of marriage and family system in Islam and other major religions shows some common values and different interpretations on this concept in the teachings of these religions. There is also a common view of the family as the

²¹ Harvey, An introduction to Buddhism. Cambridge University Press. P (2013)

²² Neusner, Judaism: An introduction. Westminster John Knox Press. J (2015)

foundational institution which guarantees social stability, moral formation and cultural continuity, although each faith system has varying theological perspectives on marriage.

Islam regards marriage as a contract, a sacred bond, which brings together the legal, social and spiritual aspects. It emphasizes rights and responsibilities, family obligations and an even marital role. In the context of Christianity too, marriage is a ordained union, and a one based on love, faithfulness and commitment – a sacramental relationship. But, there can be different Christian views on the topic depending on the denomination, especially with respect to divorce and the authority of the husband.

Hinduism sees marriage predominantly as a sacrament (Sanskara) which fulfills religious obligations (Dharma) and the continuity of the family line. It's very understood and needs to pay attention to ritual significance and traditional family structures, particularly the extended family system. Buddhism, on the other hand, does not consider marriage to be a religious ceremony, but a social structure which is regulated by ethical values such as compassion, respect and responsibility. This is one area in which it is more flexible than other religions.

Marriage for the Jews is a religious obligation and covenant, which is an essential part, of religious continuity or religious identity in the community. The importance of family unity, parental responsibility and religious education within the home is emphasised.

There are some similarities in all of the traditions, however. Family stability, raising children in a moral way and caring for one another within a family are all important values in all religions. Furthermore, it promotes values such as commitment, responsibility, respect and cooperation that is required for a society to be run successfully.

However, the differences mostly stem from theological bases. Each of the religions has some part of marriage related to it, such as legal, covenantal, sacramental/religious, spiritual, ritual/duty-based or ethical.

From the above comparative study, it can be seen that the different religions have a similar vision of the importance of marriage and family for human flourishing and social stability, but they do not share identical understandings about the roles of these institutions.

7. Conclusion

Marriage and family remains one of the fundamental forms of society and faith in all human communities. In this study, the concept of marriage and family systems in Islam has been studied and compared with the concept of marriage and family systems of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism. The analysis shows that there are different theological and philosophical approaches to marriage among the religions and

that all religions share the same concern for the stability, continuity and moral development of society.

Islam provides a comprehensive blueprint for marriage and family life that covers the spiritual guidance, legal and social responsibilities. It emphasises the responsibilities and rights for one another, respect to family members, and the need for a strong kinship network. Christianity defines marriage as a sacrament, covenant of a man and a woman based on love and commitment. In Hinduism, marriage is a sacrament, a commitment of a man and a woman to fulfil the family duties and perpetuate the lineage and religious duties. Buddhism views marriage through a moral emphasis—largely a social bond—and Judaism views marriage as a sacred commitment to a family and religious pass.

While there are differences in the religious traditions, there are common core values that are emphasised, such as love, respect, responsibility, co-operation and child-rearing. The common principles show the universal value of family as the basis of moral and social life.

In conclusion of the comparative analysis of the marriage and family systems of the major world faiths, I would like to stress the diversity and unity of the different world religions. This learning benefits us, and helps us to develop interfaith understanding and respect for cultural diversity in our society now.

References



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC-SA 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)