



CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CHRISTIAN FAITH TODAY

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ABSTRACT

The paper examines the effectiveness of family planning whether or not family planning is in existence in Christian homes. It also identified the implications of family planning and corrects wrong views of family planning, as well as, examines the cultural views of family planning. The second issue raised in this paper is rapid abortion in Christian family in the contemporary Christian era. Abortion refers to, as the termination of pregnancy, as a result of that many women suffers chronic pelvic distress and appreciable lost of lives has resulted from such infection, are as follows: loss of lives, infertile, unstable marriage, earning disrespect. Abortion is a serious crime to God. Those women who have not yet tried abortion should not do so, religious leader should make necessary arrangement to educate their members on family planning and the dangers of abortion, in Christian families.

Keywords: *Contemporary, Issues, Christian, Faith., Today.*

INTRODUCTION:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) technical services (1971:483) defines family planning as a way of a thinking and living that is adopted voluntarily up on the basis of knowledge, attitude and responsible decision by individual and complete in order to promote the health and welfare of the family group who contribute effectively to the social development of the country.

According to Fajobu (1988), family planning tends to have different meaning and constitute to different people. And to him, it may be only mean "both spacing", fertility regulation, birth control, tutorial family, resource person to meet family needs responsible parental hood, contraceptive, mother and child health, family welfare fulfilment sexual needs" to mention few.

Azuzu (1988), explained it as a way of life within the family planning culture which is based on accurate knowledge of the natural signs and symptoms of the fertility inherent in human life from the moment of conception and a free sexual inform and mutual self responsible decision by married couple to achieve position the interest of health and welfare of their entire family group.

Demola (1988) says family planning is by mutual individual or couple space the process of conception pregnant and child birth as interval determines by both husband and wife in order to have the desire number of children that they can maintain.

Odunzo (1988), said family planning in who statement. He said family planning should be a decision for two (husband wife) neither the husband nor the wife should decide and inform the idea to the other single giver boy has rift morally, naturally, spiritually to practice family planning. The family is a corporate institution that needs democratic rules in order to be progressive and successful. Family planning is also choosing a life partner. God did not design as doll-babies walking sticks even robots that have new says or choice. There are different types styles people choose to live by the types of family the raise in the society

According to Wilson Robert (2002), reports sixty million adoptive are yearly through the world and that number increase as more countries legalizes the brutal destroying of innocent children who could be successful world leaders. This situation calls for the intervention of moralist, religionist and government.

Murdock (1934), the controversy over legalization of abortion starts from the conflict between those who value the women right to privacy and her absolute to choose or reject motherhood and those who seek to protect the result of the unborn foetus who is incapable of protecting its own interest. The paper will discuss the concept of abortion, causes, and effects of abortion from Christian perspectives and possible solution of abortion.

To begin with the issue of family we shall see the followings:

The meanings of family planning, importance, method, catholic view, protestant view and cultural view:

DEFINITION OF FAMILY PLANNING

According to Odunze (1988), family planning should be the decision of the two, couple not the person decision. While Demola (1988), says as is means by which the couples space the process of conception pregnant and child birth interval determines by both husband and wife in order to have desired number of children.

The World Health Organization (WHO), defined family planning as a way of thinking and living that is adopted voluntarily upon basis of knowledge, attitude and responsible decisions by individual couples in order to promote the health and welfare of the family group and contribution to the social development of the family needs, responsible parental hood, contraception, mother and child health, family welfare fulfilment Azuzu (1988), has view it as a way of life within the family planning culture which is based on accurate knowledge of the natural sign and symptoms if the fertility inherent in human life from the moment of conception and a free sexual inform and mutual self-responsible decision by married couple to achieve position, the interest of health and welfare of the entire family group.

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING

Ebun (1988), look at the necessity of family and said that family planning is very important for the health, survival and development of family. She also laid down some importance of the family planning as follows:

Health: both parents are prone to health and social problems. Health is the most precious gifts. A woman who bears many children or does not have enough time between child bearing tends to lack essential nutrients, most vital for the restrained and preservation of health after such delivery and the babies tends to have poor quality care, she has too many children and becomes easily tired and face ill easily, and she is prone having complications during pregnant and child bearing.

Ebun therefore, stresses on the health of the man that too many children, the health of the father is very grief, the father tends to provide the family needs, and this results to anxiety, parental stress and hypertension of all which combined to reduce the father's chances of survival or of living a normal happy life, she also stated that, it is very important for a woman to have on interval of 2yaesrs to 5years between pregnancies and stop at 2-4 children.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Godly livings for a family are very important for the family planning. Having many children great burden that tends to drain the financial resources which result is to poverty drop in standard of living and economic hardship. Those also result in old age, therefore, family planning enables parents, same and plan for their families.

FAMILY WELFARE

One of the best and most precious gift parents can bestow on their children is good and social education. The child needs to have devotion, commitments, guidance and understanding on the part responsible parents family planning enable them to have comfortable house, have necessary care and attention, good carrier in life self-reliance and independence of all at which ensure that they grow up to be responsible citizens.

INDIVIDUAL

The family planning promotes self respect and commitment this allows individual to set a goal and achieve it.

MARITAL ADJUSTMENT

Marriage is always known for love, assistance companionship and sexual satisfaction, relationship and not for having children. Family planning helps to keep the family happy and afford the couple the opportunity and leisure to enjoy each other's company, the fear of unwanted pregnancy which could lead to abortion material death and psychological could be avoided.

Odunze (1988), stated his importance of family planning as follows:

1. Economic or financial aspect: money has never solved all human problems sometimes wealth with or confusion or blinds people eye to another reality, facts and possible of life however, everybody wants to have a happy and stable family and must be accomplish by having a love articulated financial plan.
2. Sometimes, you wonder what goes on in the heart of young man and women who hurriedly got into early marriage stays unplanned.
3. Gathering material and some cases going on borrowing even from his enemies in order to buy some provisions for new baby. Mothers are thrown into confusion at this type of condition.

METHOD OF FAMILY PLANNING

Odunze explained various method of family planning as follows:

1. Traditional method: this method involves total absence; it did not help the overall marriage institution as it gives opportunity to the man flirt about as his wife is starve sexually. Another traditional method adopted as that if herbs and peppery ornaments grounded, cooked and drink by wives after sexual inter course with their husband and has to stop conception during evolution period wearing of rings and mature connection around

- the waist of some wives was another way of preventing pregnancy in traditional method.
2. The natural method: the prominent method is the natural planning method, is the billing method the billing method is a means by which a couple studies the daily signs of the woman to decide whether she is fertile or not, plan financially and economically by them.
 3. Physical aspect: basic academic education is a must for every child of any family, their different phases of education and the education of the family members should be adequately planned in all phase. There are many brilliant children who are not attending school because their parents cannot pay their school fees or charges.
 4. Social aspect: we are all social being by nature the family that give always a blessed and social family, for it is a part of family planning to make necessary plans to share your meals, home and things with others. Sometimes individuals are so selfish that even after marriage they refuse to change; rather they can contaminate their partner.

Socialization of the family should be planned for so as to turn the ugly selfish situation around for hospitality. The billing method, woman teacher should differentiate between feeling of dryness, moisture and witness at the opening of the virginal.

According to Golden (1981), natural family planning is spiritual way of life it is an attempt to explore full depth of male and female physiology so that in union with the creating children may be stable born in love and adequate care.

He further said natural family planning is divided into:

- (1) Withdrawal method
- (2) Self period method
- (3) Billing evolution method, and
- (4) Conceptive method.

Oduzue, states fact about conceptive method are:

There are several safe conceptive methods some several methods have to be used before a suitable one is found each couple can find methods which suit them.

A physical or family planning advice is the best option, a person to advice on a suitable method not a friend or relative, the method decide must be use regularly and as instructed.

There is no one method for each individual. Different methods suit different individual; the choice of method depends on several considerations. Other methods include hormone method, male sterilization, female sterilization, condom, and diaphragm methods. Now we shall move to the catholic view.

CATHOLIC VIEW ON FAMILY PLANNING

I felt that, they are having diligent views on family planning, good reasoning and wise counsel should prevail.

Catholic it is a responsibility of the couple to plan their family and considering health care, provision and quality of life making their decisions. It all means getting more than you can provide for your own house, makes you and infidel, simple states, it is more of a sin to get children more than adequately and comfortable care for. Although the bible and child bearing go with a lot of demand and responsibilities from the couple, catholic priests preaching that, it is not a Christian to see family planning with a narrow eye.

God still holds man responsible for all his decision and action in all areas of life in this earth. The reggits position is still in the main uphold by the roman catholic, that it is never right to take the life of an embryo or Foetus even if this means the only ways to save the mother's life. It is absolutely wrong for any family in the name of family planning to abort a child.

CULTURAL VIEW

Culturally, family planning is based on the knowledge of the natural sign and symptoms in human life from the movement of conception and a free sexually informed, and mutually self responsible decision making by married couple to achieve or promotes the interest of health and welfare of their entire family group. Culture has it that couple should make necessary plan for this family in order to have good family living some culture accepted, while others disagree with family planning issue. Next we shall move to the case of abortion.

CONCEPT OF ABORTION:

According Mike J. (1998), lamented that, an abortion is said to be a slight with medical assistance, the woman may carry the pregnancy to term while inevitable abortion is a situation in which the pregnancy cannot be sustained through medical or other intervention.

Then complete abortion now happens when all the products of conception have been expelled in a situation where by some of the products of abortion are retained, the abortion is said to be in complete, missed abortion is a situation in

which the Foetus dies in the mother's womb, the symptoms of abortion case and the product of conception are still retained on gestation (85-134days).

According to Encyclopaedia Britannica (vol: 1.28), defined an abortion as the cessation of a pregnancy before 28th week of pregnancy which may reduced or which may occur spontaneously. To this extends any loss or distraction of fertilized ovum or foetus before is consideration is abortion.

Murdock (1934), said available evidence suggests a that women do not tend to experience negative, emotional reaction on abortions. Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary also stated that abortion is the act of causing pregnancy to end early in order to prevent the baby alive, also it sees it as an operation to cause a pregnancy to end.

CAUSES OF ABORTION

Bala Shira (2004), maintained that the following causes abortion among adolescents.

- 1) Where pregnancy occurs against individual wishes this means an unwanted pregnancy; many girls tend to terminate their pregnancy when it happens that they do not want it and if they are not ready for it. This has almost been the cause of pregnancy termination among youths.
- 2) The unemployed mother who may find it extremely difficult to rear her child. When pregnancy occurs and the girl or the victim sees she will find it difficult to rear the child at birth. They choose to abort the pregnancy.
- 3) Also is to prevent shame, social stigma that may accompany unwanted pregnancy. As unmarried women to give birth to a child is a shameful thing. She tend to terminate the pregnancy to clear her from been shameful and her parents.
- 4) To save her educational carrier when a girl has good carrier she wanted to achieve and a pregnancy interferes she would abort it so that her education carrier would not suffer.

ABORTION FROM CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE:

Common view on abortion refers to God's perspective on abortion, in our discussion about God's perspective on abortion O. Donovan (2000), started with this questions as he asked, what does God thinks about those who performed abortion? He went further to explain that first here is what God said about shedding human blood in general.

For any life blood I will surely demand an account –who ever sheds the blood of a man, shall his blood sheds for in the images

of God has God made man (Genesis.9:5-6) concerning an innocent person which is unborn baby is included, here is what God says do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for i will not justify the guilty (Exodus 23:7): "cause be he that take reward to slay an innocent person (Deuteronomy 27:25). But your eyes and your heart are entertaining only upon own dishonest gain and shedding innocent blood (Jeremiah 22:7).

Humanly speaking, he further said, asking who is more innocent than a born baby? The man or woman who takes human life in the womb is sinning against God the giver of life. He further states some publication about those who shed innocent blood especially the blood of children and babies thus; They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters and the land was deserted by their blood. They defiled themselves by what they did (Psalms 106:38-39). Those are six things the Lord hates. Seven that are detestable to him, are naughty eyes, a lying tongue, hand that shed innocent blood (Proverb 56: 16-17). The practice of abortion has been consistently condemned by Christian moralist, though Christian opinion is divided on legitimacy of abortion it was permitted only when considered necessary to save the mother's life.

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO ABORTION

According to O. Donovan (2006), abortion has become a serious problem all over the world especially in Nigeria which its effects are increasing in yearly basis. Now the quick action in the near future our Christian youth's lives would increasingly be claiming as a result of abortion. To answer the question, there is no problem without solution, part from the action of God's people through prayers, sincerely guarding what we allow our eyes to see and physically leaving the place where temptation exists. In the above mentioned solutions except prayers the remaining held on the individual to observe them and absence from such actions accompanied by temptations.

Donovan further maintained that if there are such great differences of opinion on the subject among different groups, the whole people of God from all denominations must determine to come together as one body in unity in prayer.

CONCLUSION

The issues of family planning and abortion among Christian in our contemporary society has been examined sociologically family planning is relevant, but to an extent that, it does not cost loss of human beings or the violation of Biblical laws, regards family life existence.

In other word, abortion has also been identified and discussed. The result revealed the negative effects of abortion and its consequences in Christian families. Abortion has been seeing as a social menace on the Christian community. The paper recommends that there should be early education to children in the effects of abortion.

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