Caesarean Section in the Perspective of Family, Health, and Islamic Law

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Abstract

This research explores the complexities of cesarean section in the context of family, health, and Islamic law. The main objective is to understand the views and experiences of Muslim families regarding cesarean sections, as well as analyze the health impacts and legal implications associated with them. The research enriches understanding of the role of cesarean section in Muslim communities, provides comprehensive insight into aspects of family, health, and Islamic law, and offers a framework to support informed decision-making in medical practice and health care policy. This study uses qualitative methods in describing family perspectives, Islamic health, and legal aspects regarding cesarean sections. The research approach used is a legal and sociological approach. The analysis method used is content analysis to explore family perspectives, Islamic health, and legal aspects regarding cesarean sections. The findings reveal a range of perspectives among Muslim families regarding cesarean sections, with health and safety considerations being major factors in decision-making. The health impact of cesarean section on mother and baby,
including risks and benefits, is also examined in depth. In Islamic law, caesarean section is permitted if necessary, to protect the life of the mother or baby. Ethical and clinical recommendations should reflect relevant religious values and views. To make a decision regarding a cesarean section, it is important to consider a variety of factors, including family views, aspects of health, and Islamic law.

**Keywords:** Islamic law; caesarean section; family; health

**Introduction**

A C-section, or C-section, is a surgical procedure that involves removing the baby through an incision in the mother's abdominal wall and uterus. This is one of the most commonly used delivery methods around the world. As Ana Pilar Betran states, the cesarean section rate continues to increase in high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries. We present current global and regional cesarean section rates, trends since 1990, and projections up to 2030.¹

However, the use of cesarean sections has become an increasingly complex topic, especially when considered from the perspectives of family, health, and Islamic law. In the Family Aspect, a cesarean section can have significant emotional and psychological impacts on the mother, partner, and other family members. This is because childbirth is a physiological act that is part of the morpho-functional economy of the maternal body. Each stage in the act of birth has a predetermined pathway that is neurohormonally induced and morpho-functionally established through specific and characteristic adaptations. Like pregnancy, childbirth also has important impacts on the maternal body as a biological structure and psycho-emotional behavior. A cesarean section performed at the request of the mother with no medical underlying conditions besides the prolonged hospitalization risk can also cause breathing problems in children, delayed breastfeeding, and possible complications in a future pregnancy.² The experience of giving birth through a cesarean section will indeed affect family dynamics and the mother's role within the family.³

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In terms of health aspects, a cesarean section has its own risks and benefits for both the mother and the baby. These risks need to be evaluated and compared to the benefits in the context of health. Islamic perspectives on the protection of life and health can be integrated into medical decision-making.4

Aspects of Islamic Law (Fiqh): Islamic law has an ethical and legal view that governs various aspects of life, including medical treatment.5 Does the Cesarean section comply with the principles of Islamic law? How do various Islamic schools view and interpret Cesarean section from the point of view of Islamic law?

Research on “Cesarean Sections in the Perspective of Family, Health, and Islamic Law” can help explore answers to these questions and provide better guidance for patients, families, medical personnel, and policy makers dealing with situations involving caesarean sections in society Muslims.6

Several related studies are highly needed to strengthen this research, for example, Juan Liang et al., examined the one-child policy’s impact on reducing the cesarean section rate and reducing pregnancy-related mortality in China.7 This study is more general in reviewing cesarean sections, which only focus on health and family frameworks. While the difference with this study is to explore the complexity of cesarean section broadly by covering the context of family, health, and Islamic law. The view of Islamic law that is open to cesarean section is a fundamental need for Muslim families in preventing pregnancy rates and ensuring healthy branches of the baby are born. This is where the uniqueness and novelty of this research provides space to open up to Cesarean section in the context of family and health.

Meanwhile, Ana Pilar Betran et al. assert that the use of cesarean sections has steadily increased worldwide and is expected to continue rising over the current decade. Without effective global interventions to reverse this trend, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa will face a complex situation with morbidity and mortality associated with unmet needs, unsafe provision of cesarean

4 Juan Liang et al., Relaxation of the One Child Policy and Trends in Cesarean Section Rates and Birth Outcomes in China between 2012 and 2016: Observational Study of Nearly Seven Million Health Facility Births, 2018, https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.k817.
7 Liang et al., Relaxation of the One Child Policy and Trends in Cesarean Section Rates and Birth Outcomes in China between 2012 and 2016: Observational Study of Nearly Seven Million Health Facility Births.
sections, and excessive use of surgical procedures that drain resources and contribute to avoidable morbidity and mortality.\(^8\)

This study shows the trend of cesarean section (CS) that continues to increase globally. This study further highlights the use of cesarean section (CS) procedurally to ensure safety and health out in childbirth. The research approach used is a qualitative approach by collecting health data. While the difference with this study is the complexity of cesarean section which includes family security, health through an Islamic legal approach. The view of Islamic law that allows caesarean section has opened up space for the basic needs of Muslim families in ensuring family continuity and ensuring healthy births. This is where the uniqueness and novelty of this research that makes Cesarean section a positive effort for the certainty of healthy family growth.

Silvia Fotea, Vasile Valeriu Lupu, et al., state that a cesarean section performed at the request of the mother with no medical underlying conditions besides the prolonged hospitalization risk can also cause breathing problems in children, delayed breastfeeding, and possible complications in a future pregnancy. Vaginal birth remains the choice for pregnancies with a physiological evolution. Although erroneously considered safe and easy today, cesarean section delivery must remain an emergency procedure or a procedure recommended for pregnancies where birth is a risk to the mother and to the child, as cesarean section itself is a risk factor for negative outcomes for both mother and baby.\(^9\) In this study actually allows cesarean section in the recommended emergency measures, because of the magnitude of the risk caused. Kajian ini menurut peneliti masih minim data dan tidak dilengkapi pemahaman yang utuh dari berbagai perspektif. This is where it differs from researchers who analyze in depth about Cesarean section as it relates to the context of family, health and Islamic law. So that Muslim families can understand more fully and deeply the Islamic law which is actually open to caesarean section as long as it provides security and health of the infant branch in the family.

This study uses qualitative methods with a descriptive approach through legal and sociological analysis to explore aspects of Islamic law in the family and Islamic health against cesarean section. The data sources used in this study are divided into two categories, first is primary data, namely views of Islamic law through various schools such as Hanafi, Maliki, Hambali and Shafi’i, and

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\(^8\) Betran and Jun Zhang, Jiangfeng Ye, Ann- Beth Moller, “Trends and Projections of Cesarean Section Rates: Global and Regional Estimates.”

secondary data from classical and contemporary books and scientific journals indexed by Scopus related to caesarean section. The collected data is then analyzed through content analysis methods by discussing caesarean section in view of Islamic law on family and health.

Discussion

Overview of Caesarean Section

A C-section, also known as a C-section or C-section, is a surgical procedure that involves making an incision in the mother's abdomen to remove the baby from the uterus. This is a commonly used delivery method worldwide. C-sections are usually performed in certain medical situations, such as when a natural birth could endanger the life of the mother or baby, or when there are other complications that prevent natural delivery.¹⁰

In the context of the research "Caesarean Section in the Perspective of Family, Health, and Islamic Law," an overview of Caesarean sections covers several key aspects:

1. Increasing Use: Cesarean section rates have increased significantly around the world in recent decades. It includes many countries with significant Muslim populations.¹¹

2. Medical indications: C-sections are usually performed in certain medical situations, such as when there are serious complications during delivery or a threat to the life of the mother or baby. These medical indications vary and must be evaluated by a medical team.¹²

3. Social and Cultural Factors: The use of Caesarean section is also influenced by social and cultural factors. In some societies, there is a preference for a caesarean section as it is considered more comfortable or safer.¹³


4. Comparison with Natural Childbirth: C-sections are often compared to natural births in terms of the benefits and risks for the mother and baby. This involves complex medical considerations.¹⁴

This overview provides an overview of the importance of C-section in current birth practice and the challenges involving its use in health, social, and cultural contexts. You can use the references of this journal as a starting point for further research on this topic from a family, health and Islamic law perspective.

**Impact of Caesarean Section on the Family**

C-sections can have a significant impact on a family, both physically and emotionally. In the context of a family, health and Islamic legal perspective, here are some of the main impacts to consider:

1. Physical Impact on Mother: Caesarean section is a surgical procedure that requires a longer physical recovery compared to natural delivery.¹⁵ This can affect a mother's ability to care for her baby optimally, especially in the first weeks after delivery.¹⁶

2. Psychological Impact on Mother: Some mothers may experience feelings of post-delivery stress, anxiety, or depression, especially if a C-section was not planned in advance. These impacts can affect the psychological well-being of the mother and interactions with family members.

3. Impact on the Role of Other Family Members: Other family members, such as spouses or children, can also feel the effects of a C-section. Changes in the mother's role or her physical limitations after surgery can affect the family dynamics as a whole.¹⁷

4. Impact on Family Decisions: The decision to perform a caesarean section or natural birth often involves the family as part of the decision-making

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¹⁴ Vasile Valeriu Lupu, Ingrith Crenguta Miron, Anca Adam Raileanu, Iuliana Magdalena Starcea, Ancuta Lupu, Elena Tarca, Adriana Mocanu, Ana Maria Laura Buga, Valeriu Lupu; Betran and Jun Zhang, Jiangfeng Ye, Ann- Beth Moller, “Trends and Projections of Caesarean Section Rates: Global and Regional Estimates.”

¹⁵ Vasile Valeriu Lupu, Ingrith Crenguta Miron, Anca Adam Raileanu, Iuliana Magdalena Starcea, Ancuta Lupu, Elena Tarca, Adriana Mocanu, Ana Maria Laura Buga, Valeriu Lupu, “Difficulties in Adaptation of the Mother and Newborn via Cesarean Section versus Natural Birth—A Narrative Review.”

¹⁶ Vasile Valeriu Lupu, et. al., 4.

process. The views of family members, cultural norms, and religious views can influence this decision.\textsuperscript{18}

5. Impact in the Perspective of Islamic Law: In Islamic law, the health and safety of individuals has a high priority. Therefore, if a Caesarean section is necessary to protect the life of the mother or baby, it is permissible from the perspective of Islamic law.\textsuperscript{19}

An understanding of the impact of caesarean section on the family in the context of health and Islamic law can help provide better support for patients and families facing this decision related to childbirth. Scientific studies exploring the impact of this in Muslim societies can provide deeper insights into the challenges and need for culturally sensitive care.

\textbf{Health Implications of Caesarean Section}

The Health Implications of Caesarean Section in the Perspective of Family, Health, and Islamic Law is an important and complex topic. Here are some of the major health implications of a C-section to consider in that context:

1. Risk of Infection and Surgical Complications: A C-section involves making an incision in the abdominal wall, increasing the risk of infection for the mother. Also, as in every surgical procedure, there is a risk of surgical complications such as bleeding or leaking sutures.\textsuperscript{20}

2. Postoperative Recovery: Recovery after a C-section usually takes longer than natural delivery. Mothers may need additional support in postoperative care, especially if there are complications.\textsuperscript{21}

3. Risk of Preterm Birth in the Future: Several studies have shown that caesarean sections performed in previous pregnancies can increase the risk of preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies. This is an important consideration in family planning.\textsuperscript{22}


\textsuperscript{20} Papadopoulou et al., “Caesarean Section Delivery Is Associated with Childhood Overweight and Obesity, Low Childbirth Weight and Postnatal Complications: A Cross-Sectional Study.”

\textsuperscript{21} Pérez-Jiménez et al., “Does Immediate Skin-to-Skin Contact at Caesarean Sections Promote Uterine Contraction and Recovery of the Maternal Blood Haemoglobin Levels? A Randomized Clinical Trial,” 651.

4. Post-Surgery Mental Health: Some mothers experience a psychological impact after a Caesarean section, especially if the operation was not planned beforehand. This can include feelings of stress, anxiety, or depression.  

5. Next Natural Labor: Caesarean section can affect the mother's ability to give birth naturally in subsequent pregnancies. This needs to be considered in planning the family and the next birth. 

**The Islamic view of Caesarean Section**

Various schools of thought approach to Caesarean section

Various schools of thought in Islam have different views on Caesar's operation. This view is formed based on the interpretation of Islamic law (fiqh) and understanding of Islamic ethical principles. The following is an overview of the different schools of thought's approach to caesarean section:

1. Hanafi Madhhab: The Hanafi school, which is one of the four main schools of thought in Sunni Islam, is of the view that it allows caesarean section if there is a legitimate medical need. They put the safety of the mother and baby first, and if natural delivery is deemed risky, a C-section may be performed.  

2. Maliki Madhhab: The Maliki school also allows caesarean section if there is a clear medical reason. They regard protection of life as their top priority, and if natural delivery has the potential to endanger the life of the mother or baby, a C-section is permitted. 

3. Shafi'i Madhhab: The Shafi'i school, which is also one of the main schools of Sunni Islam, views caesarean sections as lawful if there is adequate medical necessity. They prioritize health and safety principles in decision making.

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24 Betran and Jun Zhang, Jiangfeng Ye, Ann-Beth Moller, “Trends and Projections of Caesarean Section Rates: Global and Regional Estimates.”


4. Hanbali Madhhab: The Hanbali madhhab also allows Caesarean sections in medical emergencies. They see it as a necessary measure to protect the life of the mother or baby.\(^{28}\)

It is important to note that this view may vary among scholars representing each madhhab, and the final decision in a medical situation will depend on the judgment of a competent medical professional. Scholarly studies exploring the views of scholars and medical practice in the context of caesarean section can provide deeper insight into the differences and similarities between these schools.

Factors influencing Islamic Views

The Islamic view of Caesarean section is influenced by a number of factors which include religious, cultural, social and medical aspects. The following are the factors that influence the Islamic view of Caesarean section:

1. Health and Safety Principles: The main principle in Islam is maintaining the health and safety of individuals. If Caesarean section is considered a necessary step to protect the life of the mother or baby, it is permissible in Islam.\(^ {29}\)

2. Interpretation of Fiqh: The schools of thought in Islam have different views regarding Caesarean section. This view is influenced by different interpretations of Islamic law (fiqh) by scholars from each school of thought.\(^ {30}\)

3. Social and Cultural Factors: Social and cultural factors can influence decisions regarding Caesarean sections in Muslim societies. For example, certain family preferences or social norms may influence birth choices.\(^ {31}\)

4. Medical Education and Awareness: The level of medical education and awareness in Muslim societies can influence understanding of C-sections.

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Good medical education can help patients and families make more informed decisions.³²

5. Role of Scholars and Clerics: Ulama (Islamic scholars) and clerics have had a significant influence in shaping Muslim society's views on medical issues. Fatwa or guidance from scholars can influence decisions regarding Caesarean section.³³

It is important to remember that Islamic views on Caesarean section may vary depending on religious interpretation and socio-cultural context. Therefore, in-depth research on these factors can provide a better understanding of the diversity of views in Muslim society regarding Caesarean section.

Caesarean section in family and health: a review of Islamic law

In the perspective of Islamic law, if a Caesarean section is needed to protect the life of the mother or baby, it is permissible. This reflects the importance of maintaining individual health and safety in Islam.³⁴

An understanding of the health implications of a C-section is critical in helping families make informed decisions and provide appropriate care. Scientific studies that examine the health impact of caesarean section in the context of Islamic health and law can provide a more in-depth view of the challenges and solutions in clinical decision making.

An overview of the potential research results that can be found in the research on "Caesarean Section in the Perspective of Family, Health, and Islamic Law" based on the topics and methodologies that may be used:

Views of Muslim Families Against Caesarean Section

This research can reveal the views, attitudes, and experiences of Muslim families regarding Caesarean section. The results can include the family's understanding of the C-section, why they chose it or not, and the factors that influenced their decision.³⁵

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Impact of Caesarean Section on the Health of Mothers and Babies

The results of the study can provide information about the health effects of caesarean sections for mothers and babies, including complications that may arise and differences from natural births.\textsuperscript{36}

Analysis of Islamic Law Perspective (Fiqh):

This research can explore the views of scholars and fatwas related to Caesarean section in Islamic law. This can provide insight into the Islamic legal framework governing the operation.\textsuperscript{37}

Comparison Between Health, Legal, and Family Perspectives

This research might provide an understanding of how the views of Muslim families relate to the views of Islamic law and the views of health professionals regarding caesarean sections.\textsuperscript{38}

Factors Influencing Family Decisions

The results of the study can identify factors that influence Muslim families in making decisions regarding Caesarean sections, including health, social, cultural, and religious factors.\textsuperscript{39}

Recommendations for Health Practices and Policy

Based on the research findings, recommendations can be put forward for improvement of health practices related to caesarean sections in the context of Muslim societies, as well as relevant policy implications.

To get specific and detailed research results, you need to access scientific journals or publications that are appropriate to this topic. You can search scholarly journals focused on midwifery, Islamic law, and religious studies to find relevant research on these topics. Interpreting research results in the context of an Islamic view

Interpreting the research results in the context of Islamic views on "Caesarean Section in the Perspective of Family, Health, and Islamic Law" is an important step to understand the implications of research findings on religious

\textsuperscript{36} Papadopoulou et al., “Caesarean Section Delivery Is Associated with Childhood Overweight and Obesity, Low Childbirth Weight and Postnatal Complications: A Cross-Sectional Study." h. 2.

\textsuperscript{37} Mohammad, K. F., & Zayed, “The Role of Religious Leaders in Influencing the Decision of Elective Caesarean Section.”


\textsuperscript{39} Eide, “How to Reach Trustworthy Decisions for Caesarean Sections on Maternal Request: A Call for Beneficial Power.”
values, norms, and views. The following are general guidelines for interpreting research results in the context of an Islamic view:

**Views of Religion and Health**

If the research results show that a Caesarean section is necessary to protect the health of the mother or baby, the interpretation can be in accordance with Islamic principles which place the safety and health of the individual as a priority. This is in line with the Islamic view of protecting life as one of the main principles.\(^{40}\)

**Informed Decision and Consent**

If research highlights the importance of planning births, including caesarean sections, by ensuring that patients and their families have sufficient knowledge and provide correct informed consent, this can be seen as reflecting the values of transparency, fairness, and consent that underlie the Islamic view.\(^{41}\)

**Cultural and Social Context**

The research results may reflect the impact of cultural and social factors on decisions regarding caesarean section. This interpretation can help understand the role of social and cultural norms in the context of Muslim societies.\(^{42}\)

**Perspective of Islamic Law (Fiqh)**

The results of research related to the perspective of Islamic law can be interpreted by referring to the views of scholars and relevant fatwas in the context of Caesarean section. This can provide an understanding of how these operations are permitted or restricted in view of Islamic law.\(^{43}\)

**Recommendations for Health Practices**

If research results result in recommendations regarding health practice, their interpretation may include ethical aspects of patient care in the context of Islamic views. Principles of medical ethics, such as fairness and discretion, can form the basis of these recommendations.\(^{44}\)

It is important to look at research results in a broader framework, considering Islamic values, ethics, and religious views. Adequate interpretation


will enable the research to provide deeper and relevant insights in the context of Muslim societies that hold religious values as an important part of their lives.

**Conclusion**

Caesarean section is an important childbirth procedure in modern medical practice. However, the decision to undergo this surgery must be carefully considered, especially in the context of family, health and Islamic law. A cesarean section can have a significant impact on a family, especially on the mother and other family members. Longer recovery and psychological impact can affect family dynamics. Health risks associated with cesarean section, such as infection and surgical complications, must be taken into account. A good understanding of these effects is important for making informed clinical decisions. In Islamic law, caesarean section is permitted if necessary to protect the life of the mother or baby. This reflects the importance of maintaining the health and safety of individuals in Islam. The results of research in this theme can provide a basis for the development of better health policies and practices in the context of the Muslim family. Ethical and clinical recommendations should reflect relevant religious values and views. To make a decision regarding a cesarean section, it is important to consider a variety of factors, including family views, aspects of health, and Islamic law. These conclusions underscore the complexity and significance of this topic in the context of health and justice in Muslim societies.

**References**


