

Question:

What is the Islamic verdict with regard to the following situation:

A Muslim married couple have just become parents and they both have permanent jobs. The child is now 6 months old and the mother wants to return to work after maternity leave. The father has an income that can pay for all household expenditures but leaves no savings. The wife wants to return to work and in doing so wants to leave her child with a child minder. The father is not happy with this arrangement and would prefer his wife to take care of the child until an age where nurseries would be more appropriate. Is it allowed for this family to leave their child in the hands of a child minder? Could there be any valid reasons? What is lawful according to Islam from both parents' point of view on the topic? Please give evidences if any.

Could you please enlighten me on this issue.

jazakallah khair

Answer:

Assalamu Aleikum

The wife is obliged to look after the husband's child herself and cannot leave the house to go to work if the husband so requires as obedience to him. The evidence for his authority is found in Surah Nisa at verse 34. As for Muslim women working in a mixed environment: they can only do so according to divine law, even with the husband's permission, which is if either

1. she has the nisaab of Zakaat which she is required to invest or
2. if she is not being provided the basic needs and wishes to help her husband in this respect, otherwise she is not allowed to work in a mixed environment.

Anjem Choudary - UK Leader of Al-Muhajiroun