

THE ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF FAMILY IN AVICENNA'S PHILOSOPHY

Nutfullo Nasrulloevich Teshaev

Associate professor of Jurisprudence and socio-political sciences department, Bukhara State University
n.n.teshaev@buxdu.uz

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Abstract: In the following article, the multifaceted role of women in the upbringing of children is examined through the lens of Abu Ali Ibn Sina's socio-philosophical views. The research delves into the dynamics of the relationship between men and women within the family unit, highlighting how these interactions influence the overall development of children. The study further explores the qualities that define an ideal and wise woman according to Ibn Sina, emphasizing her impact on the spiritual and moral upbringing of children. Additionally, the article discusses the personal expression of parents and how their behavior and values shape the character and ethics of their offspring. The duties and responsibilities of both parents in fostering a nurturing and morally sound environment for their children are scrutinized. This comprehensive analysis is supported by an extensive review of Ibn Sina's works, alongside contemporary interpretations and sources that shed light on the enduring relevance of his ideas in modern contexts

Keywords: philosophy, morality, development, medicine, healthy lifestyle, spirituality, theology, teachings, astronomy, chemistry, literature, scholar, scientist, specialist, custom, ritual, education.



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Introduction

The work of the famous scientist Ibn Sina, the owner of unique qualities, "The canon of medicine" has been studied for many centuries as one of the main medical textbooks in the most prestigious universities in Europe, served as the fundamental basis of the concepts of "medicine", "healthy lifestyle" on a global scale, of course, has a deep living and scientific basis. More precisely, the whole scientific activity of the unique scientist influenced the development of the world in the spirit of humanism, development on a spiritual basis.

Methods

Abu Ali Ibn Sina (also known as Avicenna), a prominent Persian polymath whose works have significantly influenced various fields, including philosophy, medicine, and ethics. This research aims to explore how Ibn Sina perceives the concept of family and its spiritual dimensions, focusing on the roles and responsibilities within the family unit and their implications for moral and spiritual development.

Results and Discussion

This study employs a qualitative research design to explore the spirituality of the family in the philosophy of Abu Ali Ibn Sina. The research is structured to provide an in-depth analysis of

Ibn Sina's philosophical views, utilizing both primary and secondary sources.

Primary Sources.

Textual Analysis: The primary source of data will be the works of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, particularly those texts that address family dynamics, spirituality, and ethics. Key texts include "The Canon of Medicine" (Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb) and "The Book of Healing" (Kitab al-Shifa).

Secondary Sources.

Literature Review: A comprehensive review of existing literature on Ibn Sina's philosophy will be conducted. This will include academic journal articles, books, and dissertations that discuss his views on family and spirituality.

Contemporary Interpretations: Modern interpretations and analyses of Ibn Sina's works will be examined to understand how his ideas have been perceived and applied in contemporary contexts.

Thematic Analysis: The collected data will be subjected to thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and concepts related to the spirituality of the family in Ibn Sina's philosophy.

Key themes to be explored include the role of women in the family, the moral and spiritual upbringing of children, the ideal characteristics of parents, and the relational dynamics between family members.

Philosophical Analysis: The study will utilize philosophical analysis to interpret Ibn Sina's views, focusing on his underlying principles and arguments. This approach will help in understanding the conceptual framework that Ibn Sina employs to discuss family spirituality.

Expected Outcomes:

- A comprehensive understanding of Abu Ali Ibn Sina's views on the spirituality of the family.
- Insights into how his philosophical principles can be applied to contemporary family dynamics.
- Contributions to the academic discourse on Islamic philosophy and family studies.

Discussion

Among the Eastern luminaries, the encyclopedic scholar Abu Ali Ibn Husayn ibn Abdullah ibn Sina (980-1037) stands out prominently. Renowned for his prolific contributions, he introduced the region of Movarounnahr to the world through his seminal works. Ibn Sina's intellectual stature elevated him to titles such as "Sharaful-mulk" and "Shaykhur-rais", underscoring his esteemed status in both scholarly circles and leadership roles within society. His enduring legacy continues to inspire generations, shaping not only the intellectual discourse of his time but also influencing subsequent developments in philosophy, medicine, and the broader cultural milieu of the Eastern world.

During his teenage years, he grappled intensely with Aristotle's Metaphysics, finding it inscrutable until he delved into al-Farabi's commentary on the text. Over the following eighteen months, his pursuit of philosophy presented even greater challenges. During moments of perplexity, he would set aside his books, perform ablutions, then seek solace and clarity through prayer in the mosque. Late into the night, he persisted in his studies, with problems persisting in his dreams until their solutions emerged. Legend has it that he revisited Aristotle's Metaphysics forty times, committing its words to memory, yet their true significance eluded him until he acquired a concise commentary by al-Farabi for a mere three dirhams from a local bookstall. The sheer elation he felt upon this revelation, derived from a work he had anticipated would only deepen his confusion, prompted him to offer fervent thanks to God and provide alms to the needy.

The life and contributions of Ibn Sina are extensively chronicled in biographical sources and his own writings, with additional insights provided by his disciple, Juzjani. His scientific pursuits spanned a wide-ranging spectrum, incorporating elements from ancient Eastern culture, Greek science, philosophy, and the spiritual traditions of Central Asian societies. Ibn Sina's biography underscores his dedicated study of influential texts such as "Metaphysical Purposes" and "Fusus al-Hikam" by Abu Nasr Farabi. Over the course of his lifetime, he authored more than 450 works, each contributing significantly to various fields of knowledge and leaving an enduring

impact on intellectual discourse in the Islamic world and beyond.

According to the available information, we have access to a total of 242 works authored by the scientist. These works cover a diverse range of subjects: 80 delve into philosophical, theological, and mystical teachings; 43 focus on medicine; 19 explore logic; 26 discuss psychology; 23 are dedicated to medical science; 9 touch upon astronomy; 2 are centered around mathematics; 1 is devoted to music; 12 delve into chemistry; 12 explore ethics; 4 are in the realm of literature; and 11 address various scientific problems and engage in discussions with fellow scientists. This extensive body of work reflects the breadth and depth of the scientist's intellectual curiosity and scholarly contributions across multiple disciplines [1.78].

The works of Ibn Sina enjoyed widespread dissemination not only across Eastern countries but also in Europe during the Middle Ages. Beyond his significant scientific contributions, Ibn Sina infused his philosophical writings with profound insights, creating narratives such as "The Story of the Tayr", "Salomon and Ibsol", and "Hayy ibn Yakzan", which drew upon allegorical imagery and specific historical events. These literary creations by the scientist became esteemed global assets, exerting a lasting influence on scholars worldwide across centuries.

Among his notable works are "The Canon of Medicine", "Kitab al-Shifa" ("The Book of Healing"), "Kitab al-Najat", "Book on Souls", "Isharat wa'l-Tanbihat", "Quarazai-tabiat" (Pearl of Nature), and "Risalai tadbiri manzil" ("Treatise on the Preservation of Health and the Treatment of Illness"), among others. These writings continue to captivate specialists from diverse fields, highlighting their enduring relevance and profound impact on the development of knowledge and thought.

In the pursuit of knowledge, ethical conduct, and collaborative endeavors, humanity endeavors to achieve the pinnacle of perfection. Within the scientist's treatise "Tadbiri manzil", the assertion is made that human nature, throughout history, has not been inherently virtuous or corrupt. Rather, individual traits are shaped by personal and collective experiences in social interactions, ancestral customs, rituals, educational influences, and the deliberate cultivation of positive moral virtues. These multifaceted influences play a crucial role in molding both constructive and detrimental tendencies within individuals, reflecting the enduring impact of spiritual and moral guidance from others.

The treatise "Tadbiri manzil" continues to maintain its relevance in modern times. In his "Bird Story", the renowned scholar emphasizes, "O Real brothers! The idol of people does not fear future predicaments. The most cowardly person is one who avoids personal growth" [3.72]. Furthermore, the scientist conveys a steadfast belief in the infinite capacity for human moral improvement. However, he underscores that achieving this realization hinges on recognizing the authentic and boundless potential inherent in both individuals and society. He argued that those sincerely striving to address their shortcomings and ascend to the level of a perfect person (*insanul kamil*) must first acknowledge the negative aspects embedded within their own character. This holistic approach underscores the enduring wisdom and practical relevance of his teachings in guiding personal and societal development.

In Ibn Sina's masterpieces, a wealth of meanings, proverbs, didactic stories, and wise advice aimed at molding the moral character of individuals continue to resonate and offer guidance on virtues such as generosity, chivalry, and patriotism, making them pertinent even in contemporary times.

Abu Ali ibn Sina's contributions as a trailblazer in socio-philosophical thought included significant insights into the role of women in child education. He advocated that fostering mutual respect between spouses, engaging in collaborative efforts, and cultivating genuine family relationships are essential foundations for nurturing children effectively. These principles, rooted in his philosophical and ethical teachings, remain timeless and relevant for understanding familial dynamics and promoting harmonious upbringing practices.

Simultaneously, the scientist views a woman as embodying seventeen essential qualities and virtues that epitomize an ideal role model. These qualities include intelligence, faithfulness,

piety, devoutness, attentiveness, charm, affection towards her husband, obedience, purity of heart, discretion, dignity, seriousness, resilience to support her husband during challenges, kindness, patience, compassion, frugality, and generosity. These attributes collectively define the scientist's vision of a woman who exemplifies moral excellence and contributes positively to familial and societal harmony.

From the analysis of certain socio-moral issues within the weltanschauung of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, several conclusions can be drawn. The encyclopedic scientist continued the socio-philosophical traditions of Aristotle following the footsteps of earlier Arab thinkers such as Ishaq al-Kindi and Abu Nasr Farabi, adapting them to the historical context of his era.

While Ibn Sina's philosophical perspectives were shaped by the influence of Abu Nasr Farabi, he also articulated his views on specific historical and political conditions. The scholar focused on moral considerations influenced by these circumstances, making the integration of knowledge and morality a prominent theme in his works.

In contrast to ancient Greek scholars like Plato and Aristotle, who emphasized state-controlled education, Ibn Sina argued that the primary responsibility for education should rest with the family. He emerges as a pioneer in the history of global pedagogy, emphasizing the crucial role of nurturing the intellectual enlightenment of educated women in the upbringing of children [4.282].

Results

In Ibn Sina's work "Risalai tadbir manzil", he advocated that the application of the correct upbringing style within the family leads to children achieving happiness in their future lives. Within the section titled "Good qualities of women" in this work, Ibn Sina extols virtues such as wisdom, prudence, compassion, and humility as exemplary traits. He emphasized the crucial role of women as indispensable partners in nurturing families and raising children, alongside men who are their worthy companions throughout the world. This perspective underscores Ibn Sina's comprehensive view on the integral roles played by both genders in fostering harmonious family dynamics and ensuring the well-being of future generations.

In Ibn Sina's work "The Canon of Medicine", he asserted that during the upbringing and development of a child, the spiritual experiences of nursing women, including emotions like "anger, sadness, fear, and anxiety", can potentially be detrimental. It is advised to maintain composure and resilience in handling such situations to mitigate any adverse effects.

Ibn Sina stressed that the mutual attitude and respect between parents significantly influence the formation of a child's spirituality. Additionally, he promotes the idea of assigning specific responsibilities to each family member. As the head of the family, a man should ensure the essential, particularly material, needs of the family are met and uphold his commitments without exception. These principles underscore Ibn Sina's comprehensive approach to familial dynamics and the responsibilities associated with parental roles.

In the work "Risalai tadbiri manzil", a special chapter is dedicated to exploring the duties and responsibilities of parents in the upbringing of children, highlighting Ibn Sina's critique of wealthy individuals who overlook the significance of labor in a child's development. He asserted that physical education is equally crucial alongside mental and moral training.

Ibn Sina further elaborated on child upbringing in his work "The Canon of Medicine", emphasizing the importance of safeguarding a child's emotional well-being. He stressed the necessity of maintaining emotional balance by shielding them from intense emotions such as anger, fear, sadness, and apathy. Ibn Sina advocates for a constant readiness to fulfill the child's needs and remove undesirable influences. This approach aims to cultivate a well-rounded soul from a young age, which he views as essential for future success. Additionally, protecting emotional stability contributes to physical health by preventing temperament disorders that can disrupt humor balance and impact overall well-being.

These insights highlight Ibn Sina's comprehensive approach to child rearing, integrating

psychological well-being and physical health into the foundational principles of upbringing. His teachings emphasize the interconnectedness of emotional and physical development in nurturing children towards holistic maturity [2.23].

In his work “Risalai tadbiri manzil”, Ibn Sina praised women not for their religiosity but for their intelligence and rationality. He argued that a woman who lacks these qualities cannot effectively support her husband. Moreover, Ibn Sina underscored that a strong family foundation hinges upon love and loyalty between spouses. He vehemently denounces infidelity and advocates for gender equality, criticizing societal norms that undermine women’s rights. The treatise also delves into the daily responsibilities of family members.

Throughout his writings, Ibn Sina emphasized the critical role of instilling virtues such as modesty, diligence, humanism, and honesty in children from a young age. He placed particular importance on the exemplary behavior of parents in shaping their children’s development. Ibn Sina warned that inconsistent behavior by adults, especially parents, can negatively impact a child’s character formation. He stressed that effective upbringing should not only influence a child’s behavior positively but also foster psychological growth and practical skills.

Conclusion

In short, in his philosophical works, the esteemed philosopher and encyclopedic scientist Ibn Sina expounds upon the concept that achieving perfection requires dialectical harmony and the seamless integration of behavior with scientific inquiry. He posited that self-improvement and rectifying one’s shortcomings are essential steps toward attaining this ideal state. Ibn Sina emerged as a trailblazer in social philosophical discourse by meticulously examining the role of women in nurturing children. His writings delve into the qualities and virtues of an exemplary woman, stressing the responsibilities of both parents and the obligations of men within the family structure.

In his treatise “Risalai tadbiri manzil”, Ibn Sina delved deeply into the intricacies of domestic life and familial dynamics. He engaged in profound philosophical discussions on marital relations, underscoring the pivotal role of mutual respect in the upbringing of children and delineating the societal roles entrusted to women. Ibn Sina advocated for women to serve as supportive partners, faithful companions, and indispensable contributors to the upbringing of children. Furthermore, he champions gender equality and underscores the significance of women’s rights in society.

Despite navigating an era marked by pervasive feudal oppression, Abu Ali Ibn Sina dedicated himself to illuminating the path to enlightenment and moral perfection. His intellectual pursuits aimed to dispel ignorance and illuminate the way toward a brighter future, particularly for the youth of his time.

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