SHOULD A PERSON BE OBLIGATED TO TAKE A MEDICAL CHECKUP BEFORE MARRIAGE

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Question (nos. 233): Should a person be obliged to take a medical checkup before marriage?[1]

Answer: Life was simple and honesty was the premise in the first generation. It was never their policy to hide and not disclose faults. This is why when the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) asked to marry Umm Salamah, she said to the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم), "Yaa Rasullullaah I am a woman prone to jealousy, I have dependents (children), I am old, and I cannot give birth." Thus, she clearly stated her faults. Hence the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to her, "As for me, I am older than you. As for your jealousy, I will make du'aa to Allaah azza wa jal that He rids you of it, and as for the children, then (their care) is upon Allaah and His Messenger."[2] The point of the story is that Umm Salamah was open about her faults and that was at a time wherein people were honest and medicine had not yet advanced.

Should a man marry a woman because of her deen without checking out these detailed issues, truly putting his trust and hope in Allaah that He will not disappoint him and following the example of the early generations, then this is a good thing. However if he decides that she should take a medical checkup, especially when there are signs and indicators that there is possibility that she may have a hereditary disease, then I do not see any problem with this. The

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[1] Arabic Source: http://www.almenhaj.net/broad22/mashhoor-display.php?linkid=562
[2] Hadeeth hasan: Al-Waadi'ee *Saheeh Al-Musnad* hadeeth no. 85

only problem that I see is if he makes this medical checkup mandatory as is the law in some countries.

Regardless of the discomfort (that may arise from the request), if any issues shows up, then this does not prevent the potential husband from overlooking them and accepting his wife as she is, and nor should this hinder the marriage if the man is aware of the problem and is willing to bear with it or the woman is aware of the problem and she is willing to bear with it.

If the medical checkup does take place, then it should be from an entity that is trustworthy whereby they do not reveal to other people their personal business. This often takes place when there exists hereditary diseases that are caused by certain factors. Thus, if a person wants to take the safe side, then there is nothing wrong with this, especially since this deen encourages children to be strong and healthy, and having children is from the objectives of marriage as the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Marry and have much offspring for indeed on the day of judgment I will boast about you to the other nations."[3][2]

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3 Al-Haafidh As-Sakhaawee said in *Al-Maqaasidul-Hasanah* regarding this hadeeth, "The meaning of this hadeeth has been narrated from a number of the companions. For Abu Daawood, An-Nasaa'ee, Al-Bayhaqee, and other than them have all narrated the hadeeth of Ma'qal bin Yasaar (that is raised to the Prophet), "Marry the affectionate woman who is able to bear many children for indeed on the day of judgment I will boast about you to the other nations." Ahmad, Sa'eed bin Mansoor, At-Tabaraanee in Al-Awsat, Al-Bayhaqee, and other than them have all narrated the hadeeth of Anas whereby he said that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) used to command them to get married and strongly prohibit them from castration., and he used to say, "Marry the affectionate woman who is able to bear many children for indeed on the day of judgment I will boast about you to the other nations." This hadeeth has been declared saheeh by Ibn Hibbaan and Al-Haakim.

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