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EUTHANASIA AND VACCINATION

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Euthanasia and vaccination stand as pivotal topics within contemporary ethical and medical debates, resonating deeply in discussions guided by Fiqh Mua'sarah, the modern application of Islamic jurisprudence. Euthanasia, a subject eliciting intense emotional responses, often divides proponents and opponents into conflicting groups rather than fostering rational discourse. This issue intertwines elements of humanity, autonomy, dignity, and compassion, sparking fierce debates within societies. While the inevitability of death remains an inescapable reality, contemplating end-of-life decisions remains a daunting prospect for many individuals across different societal strata, transcending age, wealth, religious beliefs, or social status.

In these discussions framed within Fiqh Mua'sarah, euthanasia is viewed by some as an assertion of personal autonomy, representing an individual's choice to control their destiny or a compassionate response to extreme suffering. Conversely, others regard euthanasia as tantamount to killing, contradicting the sanctity of life principle and denying the fundamental right to life. This sharp contrast in perspectives has been a focal point in medical ethics debates, prominently in the late 20th century and continuing to challenge aging societies in the 21st century. However, in regions like Malaysia, where religious practices from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity hold strong influence, the conversation around Euthanasia remains largely absent, potentially due to societal rejection of end-of-life practices.

In contrast, vaccination stands out as a significant milestone in modern medicine, lauded for preventing numerous deaths and reducing the impact of various diseases. Its effectiveness is evident in eradicating severe health threats that once posed a danger to society. International health organizations endorse vaccination as a safe preventive measure, playing a crucial role in controlling the spread of infectious diseases. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the rapid progress in vaccine development, expedited research, and streamlined approval processes have emphasized the vital role of vaccines in protecting individual and community health. These discussions within the framework of Fiqh Mua'sarah emphasize the ethical considerations and societal implications of both euthanasia and vaccination.