

Application Of The Principle "What Is Overwhelmed And Consumed Is As Nonexistent" In Neonatal Food Security: An Integrative Jurisprudential And Medical Study

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ABSTRACT

This study addresses a prominent contemporary application of a fundamental jurisprudential principle—namely, "what is overwhelmed and consumed is as nonexistent" In the context of neonatal food security issues. The research explores the permissibility of using food and pharmaceutical products that may contain trace amounts of impure or prohibited substances, and the extent to which this principle aligns with international medical standards permitting negligible levels of contaminants without posing a health risk.

The study begins with a Sharia-based theoretical foundation of the principle, followed by an analysis of its practical contexts and an exploration of potential integration between Islamic jurisprudence and modern science to ensure the safety of infant food and medication. A combination of descriptive, inductive, and analytical methodologies is employed, based on reliable Islamic legal and medical sources.

The study concludes by emphasizing the importance of adopting the principle "what is overwhelmed and consumed is as nonexistent" in shaping food and medical policies, in a way that protects infant welfare without conflicting with Islamic legal rulings.

Keywords: *Jurisprudential principle, overwhelmed and consumed, newborns, food security, medical nutrition, food impurities, jurisprudence of medical issues.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Caring for the health of newborns is a cornerstone in building healthy societies due to the sensitivity of this age group and their rapid response to nutritional and environmental influences. Ensuring that their food and medicine are both safe and compliant with Islamic law is one of the most significant challenges facing Muslim communities, especially amid global integration with pharmaceutical and food industries, which may involve trace amounts of impure or prohibited substances.

A central dilemma arises for experts in jurisprudence and medicine: is it religiously permissible to use such products when the trace substances are fully consumed and have no discernible effect, even though they are not medically harmful? Here, the importance of jurisprudential maxims established to serve the higher objectives of Sharia emerges, foremost among them being the principle: "what is overwhelmed and consumed is as nonexistent," which holds that a negligible, non-influential component absorbed within a greater mixture is religiously disregarded.

This study aims to highlight and activate this foundational principle within a modern medical framework, through a practical examination of its applications in the domain of infant food security and its role in guiding legal rulings related to newborn nutrition and medication.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

The study addresses a contemporary jurisprudential and medical dilemma, summarized as follows:

Is it religiously permissible to use food and medicine for newborns that contain minute traces of prohibited or impure substances (e.g., alcohol or pork derivatives) if these substances are fully consumed and leave no trace?

Does this Islamic legal principle align with international food safety standards, such as those of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)?

And how can this principle be operationalized within child-targeted health and food policies?

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study aims to:

1. To establish the scientific foundation of the principle "what is overwhelmed and consumed is as nonexistent" through jurisprudential sources.
2. To examine the applications of this principle within modern food and pharmaceutical industries, particularly those targeting neonates.
3. To analyze the compatibility between Islamic legal concepts and scientific criteria for acceptable contamination levels.
4. To propose practical strategies for implementing the principle within national health and nutrition regulations in Muslim countries.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study adopts descriptive, analytical, and inductive approaches.

The descriptive method is used to present the principle's concepts from classical and contemporary jurisprudential works (e.g., Al-Zuhayli, 2006; Ibn Muflih, 2003).

The analytical approach is employed to examine juristic opinions, reconcile differing views, and derive conditions for applying the principle to contemporary issues.

The inductive method gathers modern applications from food and pharmaceutical contexts and analyzes them against both Islamic and scientific standards, referencing credible reports such as the WHO's infant food safety guidelines (2021) and toxicological studies on acceptable pollutant levels (Gibney et al., 2013).

4. FINDINGS

1. The principle "what is overwhelmed and consumed is as nonexistent" is firmly rooted in Islamic jurisprudence and is applied in rulings on purity, food, and impurities, based on the objectives of alleviating hardship and facilitating ease (Ibn Taymiyyah, 1987; Al-Razi, 1420 AH).
2. The principle permits the use of substances containing impurities or forbidden elements if these are fully consumed in the mixture and leave no sensory trace (Al-Nawawi, n.d.).
3. This principle parallels modern scientific standards that allow for minimal levels of contaminants, known as "maximum permissible limits," as defined by the FDA and EFSA.
4. Scientific reports indicate that the presence of alcohol or animal proteins in foods—if below harmful thresholds—poses no risk to infants (WHO, 2021; EFSA, 2022).
5. Applying the principle can help reduce food and pharmaceutical waste and lessen the economic burden on healthcare systems and families.

5. DISCUSSION

The study revealed a remarkable convergence between the Islamic legal standard derived from the principle and modern scientific benchmarks adopted by international bodies.

Islamic jurisprudence, in recognizing the irrelevance of a fully consumed substance, mirrors modern toxicological principles which emphasize the "safe dose threshold".

Jurists like Al-Nawawi and Ibn Taymiyyah stated that the disappearance of impurity characteristics—such as color, taste, and smell—is sufficient to deem the substance as consumed (Ibn Taymiyyah, 1987; Al-Nawawi, n.d.), a concept closely aligned with the absence of chemical or biological effects in food science.

In practice, food and pharmaceutical industries use components that are entirely consumed during processing, such as alcohol as a solvent or enzymes derived from non-slaughtered sources (Gibney et al., 2013).

A study published in the *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition* noted that trace contaminants like heavy metals and insect fragments naturally occur in infant foods but within non-harmful limits (Fewtrell et al., 2011).

Thus, the principle of "what is overwhelmed and consumed is as nonexistent" can serve as a flexible and scientific jurisprudential reference that ensures infant food and drug safety without falling into unnecessary stringency or laxity.

Importance of Surgical Nutrition in Neonates:

Medical literature strongly supports early implementation of parenteral or enteral nutrition for premature or congenitally ill infants, as it significantly increases survival rates and reduces complications such as necrotizing enterocolitis (Cilieborg et al., 2012; WHO, 2021). Guidelines recommend intravenous nutrition as a critical necessity when the gastrointestinal system is undeveloped (Koletzko et al., 2019).

6. CONCLUSION

The principle "what is overwhelmed and consumed is as nonexistent" is a foundational legal maxim that can be effectively applied in today's context to set precise religious standards for foods and medicines, especially for newborns.

This principle helps reconcile the preservation of religion with the preservation of life, particularly when pure alternatives are unavailable or when the prohibited components are fully consumed and imperceptible.

Therefore, the study recommends:

- Promoting collective jurisprudential and scientific ijihad to establish "safe halal" standards for infant nutrition.
- Developing national regulations based on the principle to define religiously acceptable impurity thresholds.
- Incorporating this principle into medical fatwa frameworks related to infant nutrition and pharmaceutical treatments.

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