

Q: Write a comprehensive note on Zakat System of Islam and its spiritual, moral and social impacts?

Ans:

Introduction:

Zakat is the third and one of the most important pillars of Islam. Zakat is as basic to Islam as other forms of worship. It is the sum of amount a muslim pays to the poor people which is 2.5 percent of its annual earning/wealth. The Quran uses the term "Zakat" around thirty times for referring to the obligatory almsgiving. It is important for believers due to the fact that it fosters in them the sense of sacrifice and rid us of selfishness. Zakat imparts various positive impacts on social, spiritual and moral life of believers.

Elucidating the term "Zakat":

Zakat is defined in many ways

which are mentioned below

Literal meaning: The literal meaning of Zakat is "to purify" and "increase in thing".

Connotative meaning: In Islamic terminology, Zakat is the sum of amount which a muslim pays to the poor people of the community. Its minimum amount has been fixed at 2.5 percent of the wealth that has been in ^{one's} possession for one year, for the sake of Allah's pleasure.

Scholarly definition:

"Just as ablution purify the body and salat purifies the soul (in Islam). So Zakat purifies the possession and makes them pleasing to God." (Sachi'ko Mukata and William Chittick)

Importance of Zakat in the light of Quran and Ahadees:

There is no doubt that Zakat is of utmost importance which can be concluded

from the verses of Holy Quran

"Establish prayer, pay alms-tax, and bow down with those who bow down"
(Al-baqarah:2)

In another place the Holy Quran stated

"Those who, if established in the land by us, would perform prayer, pay alms-tax, encourages what is good, and forbid what is evil. And with Allah rests the outcome of all affairs" (Al-Hajj 22:41)

In the same way, in surah Fussilat the Holy Quran described

"Those who do not pay alms-tax and are in the denial of hereafter"

Similarly, the Holy prophet (PBUH) said

"I have been commanded to fight against people till they testify that there is no god but Allah, and they establish prayer and pay Zakat - - -"

In another place the Last prophet said

"Allah has made Zakat obligatory"

on You for this very reason that the remaining wealth of yours may become pure for you?

Masaib of Zakats:

The Allah Almighty through the Holy Quran guided about the recipients of Zakat which are as follows.

1- Extremely poor people:

These are the recipients who do not own or their property does not exceed basic necessities or the value of nisab.

2- Aamileen:

Aamileen are those person who are appointed by Islamic state for the purpose of Zakat collecting. They can receive salary from Zakat money but it should not exceed half of the amount of Zakat collected.

3- ~~New~~ Those whose hearts are allured to Islam:

This category of the recipients refers

to the poor and needy non-muslims who are given zakat for the express purpose of strengthening their hearts and making them follow Islam without any sort of disturbance.

4- To free those in Bondage:

It's permissible to pay zakat money to liberate enslaved Muslims to obtain their freedom. So can also use this money to free muslims captives from the hands of the enemy.

5- The Debt Ridder: (Al-Ghaarimeen)

A muslim who has many debts but cannot pay them off, then can be helped with Zakat money, but there are some conditions for this:

- (i) The debt of the money is permissible and necessary. e.g marriage
- (ii) To be unable to pay debt
- (iii) The deadline for paying off the debt has come.

6- For the Cause of God: (Fi-Sabeelillah)

This applies to the fighters in the

Cause of God, who are doing Jihad in the way of Allah by means of Pen, word or sword. Their maintenance is also obligatory from Zakat money.

7- Wayfarer:

He is the traveller who passed through a Muslim country and could no longer complete his journey to his homeland because his wealth ran out, so it is permissible to give him Zakat money, even if he was rich in his land.

8- The Needy: (Al-Masakin)

These are the people who do not have what is sufficient for themselves and their dependents. So they are eligible for Zakat money so that they suffice themselves and their dependents.

Impacts of Zakat on human life and society:

Zakat imparts various positive impacts on the spiritual, moral

and social life - which are mentioned
b/w

Spiritual impacts:

(a) Zakat removes greed and
inculcates piety:

Zakat removes
the greed from the hearts of the
believers. It creates taqwa (fear of Allah)
among believers as mentioned in the
Holy Quran:

~~"And the person will be kept
away from the Hell who is Mutaqi"~~

"The God-fearing shall be spared it. He,
who gives his wealth to purify himself"

(Al-Lail: 92-17-18)

(b) Zakat removes urge for unchecked
materialism:

The real enemy of the man
which keeps him away from the Islam
is the love of this world. So by giving
wealth in the way of Allah the sense of
materialism reduces. As the Holy prophet said
"The love of this world is the mother of

all evils" (Hadith)

3- Self Purification:

Zakat relates to a persons individual capacity. The alms gives - cleans his heart from greed and purifies it and acquires fear of God.

"But the righteous will be spared from it (fire) who donate some of their wealth only to purify themselves" (Al-Lail: 92: 17-18)

(Moral Impacts)

1- Zakat inculcates possession to strive in the way of God.

The muslims have been repeatedly exhorted in Quran to spend in the way of God. Therefore spending of personal wealth for this purpose ~~gets people~~ produces ^{develops} a sense in people to strive in the way of God. As mentioned in the Holy Quran.

"Spend in the cause of Allah and do not let your own hands throw you into destruction by withholding. And do good for Allah certainly the good does" (Al-Baqarah 2: 198)

2- Zakat creates a sense of generosity:

Zakat creates a sense of generosity among the believers. They know that the wealth they give in the way of God is not wasted and it is the real investment which will benefit them in hereafter life.

3- Zakat Purifies heart:

By giving zakat people's hearts become ~~kind~~ purified and kind.

"But the Righteous will be spared from its fire). Who donates some of their wealth only to purify themselves."

(Al-Qur'an)

(Solid Impacts)

Zakat ~~has~~ imparts multiple social impacts which are mentioned below

1- Individual welfare lies in collective welfare:

Zakat infuses in man the spirit of social welfare. This is the secret which Allah has described in the Holy

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"Whatever loans you give, "only" seeking interest at the expense of peoples wealth will not increase with Allah. But whatever charity you give "only" seeking the pleasure of Allah, it is they whose reward will be multiplied" (Al-Quron)

2- Material assistance of impoverished:

Zakat provides basic necessities to the poor Muslims. The prophet (PBUH) said:

"Verily, Allah has ordained the payment of Zakat on them (Muslims). It will be taken from the rich and returned to their poor." (Ahadees)

3- Circulation of wealth:

Zakat prevents the accumulation of wealth in few hands. It aims at equal distribution of wealth in the society. As Holy prophet said

"O Muadh! Collect Zakat from the rich and distribute it among the poor and the needy"

(Hadith)

Conclusion:

Briefly, Zakat is the 3rd important pillar of Islam. It has very important because it helps in poverty alleviation and also helps the needy. It imparts diverse positive impacts on individual as well as collective life in terms of spiritual, moral and social well-being.

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Q: Discuss the Holy prophet's Role as a Model for Military Strategy?

Ans:

Introduction:

The life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as a role model encompasses all aspects of life. The Prophet (PBUH) is considered to be the history's greatest military commander. He set the examples of sagacity and prudence. He was trust worthy, truthful and loyal to his converants and parts. The Holy prophet (PBUH) exhibited exemplary military leadership skills: protecting muslims and the nascent islamic state.

Principles of Warfare Introduced by Prophet (PBUH):

Sulaimon ibn busaladah narrates that whenever Allah's messenger appointed a leader on an army or on a battalion, he used to instruct him that whenever it happened that he arrived

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on the battlefield at night he would never invade the enemy till morning. He utterly forbade burning the fire and houses, killing the children, women or beating them. Corruption of village, killing of the animals and cutting down the trees was also forbidden unless they were badly needed and there was no other substitute. He also strictly prohibited killing of those who made covenants.

Qualities of Prophet as a Military Commander:

1- Strong belief in Allah:

The prophet (PBUH) had absolute belief in Allah whose message he was carrying in one hand (Qur'an) and sword in other.

2- Bravery:

Prophet (PBUH) was the bravest of the bravest and was

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never afraid of any kind of difficulties during the wars.

3- Outstanding Achievements:

By virtue of his qualities and leadership, without great loss the Muslims conquered more than two million square kilometers in a decade. Above all he united a fractious society which had a long history of unrest and unabated war.

4- Loving and affectionate:

Holy Prophet (PBUH) was loving and affectionate towards his soldiers. Every soldier wanted to sacrifice his life for prophet. At the time of Battle of Uhud when pagans surrounded the prophet, the devout companions faced arrows and swords on their hands and while coming back from the battle of Uhud a Sahabi was more

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worried about Prophet (PBUH) then his own son. The love for the prophet was an integral part of belief of every companions.

Military Strategies of the Holy prophet (PBUH):

(i) Philosophy of war:

The philosophy of war changed from personal benefit. The holy prophet gave the concept of ~~use~~ fight in the way of Allah for the propagation of his message.

(2) Preparation of war:

The Holy prophet (PBUH) said and always used to make great preparations for an imminent war. He maintained very strictly discipline and order among the ranks of the fighting men. As the Holy Quran described

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"Against them make ^{ready} your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies"

(Al-Anfal 8:66)

3- Espionage and surveillance of enemy:

Espionage is the crucial war strategy for risk assessment and better preparations. The Holy prophet (PBUH) took practical steps to find out the enemy's plan, the strength and nature of their weaponry. So Holy prophet (PBUH) deployed his companions over the Arabian peninsula for espionage purposes.

4- Secrecy in war planning:

Holy prophet (PBUH) was fully conscious of the military strategy and of need for secrecy. He always prepared his war plans very carefully and took every possible precaution.

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that it is not disclosed to other people than his close advisers.

5- Innovative was techniques:

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) always adopted new was techniques and strategies in order to thwart the plans of the enemy. Therefore, this method was used in battle of Ahzab when he ordered to dig out a trench.

6- Effective Strategy in the Battle field:

The Holy Prophet always took advantage of his position and selected a better place for fighting which benefits him in the battle field.

7- Reconciliation:

Irrespective of his military superiority, the Holy

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Prophet (PBUH) always tried best to get benefit through his compromise strategy as he did at the time of treaty of Hudaibiya.

Battles of Holy Prophet (PBUH):

There were 100 wars were led by or fought under the Prophet (PBUH) from migration of Madina in 622 to his death in 632. There were only 1058 casualties that happened in those 100 wars which include 259 Muslims and 799 non Muslims. This shows that Prophets war were for the reason to propagate divine message of Allah and not killing people.

Conclusion:

Briefly, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a great military strategist who fought and won many wars by causing less massacre. According to Napoleon Bonaparte

"Muhammad was a fearless soldier who defeated three times mightier forces as compared to that of him."