

Who are entitled to Receive Zakat according to Quran? Elucidating social impact of Zakat, clarify how can poverty be alleviated with its distribution in Islamic society?

INTRODUCTION:

In the Quran, Zakat recipients are mentioned in Surah Al-Tawbah (9:60). In Islamic society Zakat plays a crucial role in alleviating poverty redistribution wealth and promoting social equality. When Zakat is collected and distributed effectively, it directly benefits the poor and needy, helping to address their basic needs. This distribution of wealth ensure a more balance economic system and reduced the gap between the wealthy and poor. Additionally, the act of giving Zakat fosters a sense of empathy and responsibility among the affluent towards those in need. It encourages a spirit of communal support and solidarity, reinforcing the Islamic principles of caring for one's fellow human beings. Zakat also has a systemic impact on poverty alleviation. As receive financial support, they can engage income-generating activities to improve their socio-economic status. Overall, the distribution of Zakat in Islamic society not only provide immediate relief to those in need but also contributes

to long-term poverty alleviation by addressing both the immediate material needs and the underlying structural causes of poverty.

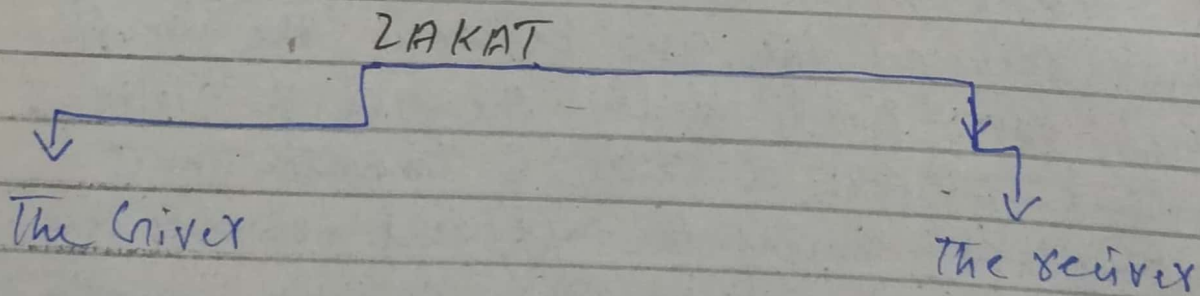
Meaning of Zakat

Literal Meaning:

The literal meaning of Zakat is to purify/increase, To grow or become mature.

Contextual Meaning:

Zakat is the money that gives for the sake of God, through which his/her 'small' becomes purify.



The Receiver of Zakat / Masarif of Zakat Allah (SWT) has commanded us to pay Zakat along with offering the five daily prayers.

"And perform the prayer,
and give alms (Zakat)
(Al-Baqrah: 110)

Allah ordered his prophet to collect Zakat from the people.

"Receive Contributions from their wealth, to purify them and sanctify them with it and pray for them" (Al-Taubh-103)

Allah himself make it clear in the Quran that who are the 'masarif' of Zakat in the following words.

Charities are for the poor, and the destitute, and those who administer them, and for reconciling hearts, and for freeing slaves, and for those in debt; and in the path of God, and for travelers in need an obligation from God. God is All-knowing most wise" (Al-Taubha: 60)

There are eight masarif of Zakat

① Fuqarrah:

Those who are permanently poor, Bagars and does not have clothes, shelter and meal.

② Masakin (needy)

Those who are temporary poor, 'Miskeen' they have a clothes, shelter and meal, for a few time they are under the economic crisis they can receive Zakat.

③ Amileen: (Collector)

Those who have a responsibility to collect Zakat. They are appointed to receive Zakat by the Groot etc. They take their salary from Zakat and remaining collected Zakat distributed among the masarif.

④ Muallafat al-aulub

To persuade those sympathetic to or expected to convert to Islam / recent converts to Islam, and potential allies in the cause of Islam.

5. Fi-Raqabi: (To free from servitude)
Slaves of Muslims who have or intend to free from their master by means of a Kitabah Contract

6. Qarimeen: A person who is under the debt that can receive the Zakat to overcome the debt.

7. Fi Sabilillah: (in way of Allah)
Those who fight for Deen or Cause of Allah, or for Jihad in the way of Allah.

8. Ibn al-Sabil: (wayfarers)
Travellers who are traveling with a worthy goal but cannot reach their destination without financial assistance.

Social Impacts of Zakat

① Circulation of wealth:

Zakat prevents the accumulation of the wealth in few hands. It aims to redistribution of wealth from rich to poor and needy. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said to Muaz bin Jabal when he appointed him as a governor of Yemen.

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

② Balanced Society:

The distribution of wealth (Zakat) ensures a more balanced economic system and reduces the gap between Rich and poor. Additionally, the act of giving Zakat fosters a sense of empathy and responsibility among the affluent towards those in need. 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 (Muslims)"

3. Poverty Alleviation:

In Islamic Society Zakat plays a crucial role in alleviating poverty redistributing wealth and promoting social equality. When zakat is collected and distributed effectively, it directly benefits the poor and needy which helps to address their basic needs. Zakat has a systemic impact on poverty alleviation. As poor receive financial support, they can engage in income generating activities to improve their socio-economic status. The distribution of zakat in Islamic Society not only provides immediate relief to those in need but also contribute to long-term poverty alleviation by addressing both the immediate material needs and the underlying structural causes of poverty.

4. Eradication of crimes:

Zakat is a concept of Islam that refers to the practice of giving portion of one's wealth to those in need. Zakat can indeed have positive impact on reducing crimes and improving social conditions in some cases. By redistributing wealth from those who have more to those who are less fortunate zakat can help alleviate poverty and address some of the socio-economic disparities that

Can contribute to criminal behavior. When individuals and communities are provided with the means to meet their basic needs they may be less likely to resort to criminal activities out of desperation.

5. Helps Strengthening unity and brotherhood:
Zakat, as one of the five pillars of Islam, holds a significant place in fostering unity and brotherhood within the Muslim community. Zakat promotes unity and brotherhood by equal and transparent distribution of Zakat.

Poverty alleviated with by the distribution of Zakat in Islamic Society.

Islam does not see anything in poverty. Rather, it considers poverty in Arisal and affliction whose consequences are feared. Prophet (Pbuh) prayed "O God! I seek refuge from poverty with lead to unbelief". Thus poverty is a threat to a faith and the morals of individuals and the security and stability of society. The society must therefore combat poverty as a general social problem. God has willed that Zakat is the best and most certain way dealing poverty. Zakat is design to alleviate poverty and promote social justice within the social community. When implemented effectively, Zakat can play a significant

role in reducing poverty by providing a structural and sustainable means of Zakat wealth redistribution. Here we know the Islamic system of Zakat can help alleviate poverty.

① Wealth Redistribution:

Zakat requires financial capable Muslims to give portion of their wealth to those in need. This systemic reduction of wealth helps channel resources from affluent to the less fortunate, reducing income disparities and providing a safety net for those struggling with poverty.

② Targeted Assistance:

Zakat is intended to benefit specific categories of people, such as the poor, the needy, those in debt, travelers and others. By categorizing recipients, Zakat ensures that assistance is directed to those who require it most, minimizing misuse and maximizing impact.

③ Empowerment:

Zakat does not provide temporary relief; it aims to empower recipients to improve their economic circumstances. By giving individuals the means to fulfill their basic needs, Zakat can help them focus on

in education skill development, entrepreneurship, ultimately breaking the poverty cycle of poverty.

④ Strengthening Communities:

Zakat encourages a sense of community solidarity. Those who give Zakat recognize their responsibility towards the less fortunate, fostering empathy and social cohesion. This collective effort can create a support network that helps individuals overcome poverty's challenges.

⑤ Economic Stimulus:

As Zakat funds circulate within the community, they can have positive impacts on local economy. Recipients of Zakat spend the money on goods and services, which in turn supports businesses and job creation, indirectly contributing to poverty reduction.

⑥ Incentive for Charitable Giving:

The practice of Zakat can inspire a culture of charitable giving ~~to a man~~ beyond mandatory obligations. Muslims who regularly give Zakat may also engage in additional acts of voluntary charity, further assisting those in need and contributing to poverty alleviation.

7. Preventing social unrest:

economic disparities can lead to ^{poverty and} social unrest and instability. By addressing these issues through zakat, societies can mitigate the potential negative consequences of widespread poverty, fostering a more stable harmonious environment. However, it's important to note that effectiveness of zakat in alleviating poverty depends upon proper collection, distribution and management of funds. Governments, charitable organizations, and communities play a crucial role in ensuring that zakat is collected and distributed transparently and efficiently to have the desired impact on poverty reduction.

Conclude:

Zakat is an important pillar of Islam that involves giving a portion of one's wealth to those in need. It can play a significant role in alleviating poverty by providing direct assistance to the less fortunate members of society, which mentioned in Holy Quran: Fugjarah, Masakin, Amileen, Muallafat al. Qulob, Fi Raggabi, Gormin, Fi Sabilillah and Ibn al. Sabil. In Islamic perspective, zakat has significant social impacts. It function as a means of

wealth redistribution, Balanced Society, poverty alleviation, Eradication of crimes and helping strengthening unity and brotherhood which contributing a more equitable and harmonious society. The distribution of Zakat in Islamic Society plays a crucial role in alleviating poverty. Zakat serves as a systematic and structured approach to help those who are less fortunate. By collecting a portion of wealth from those who have excess and distributing it to those in need, Zakat address poverty and at its root. This practice enables individuals and families living in poverty at its root. This practice enables individuals and families living in poverty to access essential resources such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare. Moreover, Zakat initiatives can lead to the development of sustainable projects and infrastructure that empower the marginalized and provide them with opportunities by self-sufficiency. This not only lifts people out of poverty but also contributes to the overall social and economic well-being of the Islamic society.