

Q#1 Contemporary challenges facing by Muslim Ummah and their solutions according to the teachings of Quran:

(1) Introduction:

Islam is a deen which had faced challenges and opposition from its inception. In history it had challenges of opposition from Makkans, Muslims had to face persecutions and so on. Similarly, nothing much has changed for Muslims even today. Muslims are still facing challenges which are internal as well as external. Internal challenges include challenges like projection of Islam as a religion of terrorism, disunity among Muslim countries and etc. In the same way, external challenges include challenges like persecution on Muslim countries.

(2) Contemporary challenges facing by Muslim Ummah:

(a) Internal challenges:

Muslim ummah is facing the

- internal
- following current challenges:
- (i) Disunity among Muslim countries.
 - (ii) Intellectual crisis and stagnant.
 - (iii) Dependence on Western systems:
 - (iv) Lagging behind in scientific advancement.
 - (v) Dominance of Materialism and moral decline.
 - (vi) Weak economic status of Muslim countries.
 - (vii) ~~Power struggle among Islamic countries for influence.~~

i) **Disunity among Muslim countries:**
The first challenge that has been facing by Muslim Ummah is disunity. They are divided sectarian as well as power basis. Sectarian division include Shi'a and Sunni. This division is evident from Saudia Arab (Sunni dominant country) and Iran (Shi'a dominant country) rivalry. Similarly, they are divided ~~on~~ to prevail their own influence and pursue their own interests, this is also evident from ~~same~~ ^{the} rivalry of Saudia Arab and Iran on petrol. Because of these divisions issues.

like Kashmir and Palestine are unsolved.

(ii) **Intellectual crisis and stagnant.**

Muslims are experiencing intellectual crisis and stagnant all over the world. Countries which are economically strong are not even exception in this crisis. Main reason is lack of interest in the sphere of education which has been the legacy of Muslims since the advent of Islam. According to ~~times higher~~ Times Higher Education, only 17 universities from 9 Muslim countries in the top 1,000 universities of the world. It shows the severity of the crisis.

(iii) **Dependence on Western systems:**

Muslim countries are dependent on Western systems whether it be economic system of financial aid i.e. IMF or scientifically and technologically i.e. Military weapons. This is a result of intellectual crisis and stagnant. In recent pandemic, Corona Virus, OIC countries held so many meetings but not even a single

country tried to make Covid-19 vaccine. Even Arab countries depend on Western system and companies for extracting oil from their land.

(iv) Lagging behind in scientific advancement:

Muslim countries are not only lagging in intellectually and dependent on Western system but they also are lagging behind in scientific advancement. This is because they spend almost negligible amount of money on education which is evident from Times Higher Education ranking. Consequently they have to depend on countries like US, China, Germany, Japan for their IT requirements.

(v) Dominance of materialism and moral decline:

Another issue that is being faced by Muslim countries is dominance of materialism and moral decline. They are more indulge in corruption i.e. Pakistan, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq. Jamal al-Din al-Afghani (1839-97) said "The only thing that prevalent

among them is lust and indulgence."

Similarly, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, rich Muslim countries, are more inclined towards materialism than inclining towards Muslim countries i.e. Syria, Libya, Palestine, Kashmir who are suffering.

(vi) Weak economic status of Muslim countries:

Apart from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other Muslim countries, almost all the countries are economically weak. Because it is because they lack in education and scientific advancement which cause lack of industrialization and ultimately led to weak economy. According to a report total world's trade of OIC countries is less than that of China. Similarly, combine GDP of OIC countries is less than that of US.

(b) External Challenges:

- (i) Projection of Islam as a religion of terrorism.
- (ii) Persecutions on Muslims.

(i) Projection of Islam as a religion of terrorism; Islamophobia:

Islamophobia which is a result of projection of Islam as a religion of terrorism, is a challenge that Islamic world is facing. Western media has been projecting Islam as a religion of terrorism and Muslims as terrorists. As a result of the projection people all around the world has associated Muslim stuffs i.e. beard, mosques, headscarfs with terrorism. This Islamophobia and association of Muslims things is evident from current derogation of Quran in Sweden.

(ii) Persecutions on Muslims:

Persecutions on Muslims is a challenge as well as a result of Islamophobia. Muslims all around the world are suffering from persecutions whether it be in India or Afghanistan, Syria or Iraq, Kashmir or Palestine, Libya or Yemen, in France or Sweden and the list goes on. Turkish spokesman said, "60% of conflicts are the world today are happening ⁱⁿ Muslim countries!"

(3) Solutions of the challenges, according to the teachings of Quran

(a) Countering Islamophobia in the light of Quran & role of OIC.

Muslim countries individually and together at the platform of OIC have to ~~take~~ encounter Islamophobia. Muslim countries in their embassies can hold conferences and seminars and tell the ~~in~~ foreigners about the teachings of Quran i.e. "Whoever kills a man it is as though he has killed all humanity" (Maida: 32) and other verses and Hadiths about peace, respect for diversity. Media can also be a helpful channel in this regard. Same steps can be taken by OIC. These steps will help non-Muslims understand Islam better and undermining Islamophobia.

~~(b) Other steps OIC can take:~~

~~OIC can take other steps to solve other challenges of Muslim world.~~

(b) Other steps to tackle other challenges:

Other steps to tackle other challenges i.e. educational challenges ^{and} economic challenges. To increase ratio of education

Muslim governments have to increase the budget allocation for education and research. Also governments have to make aware masses of importance of education in Islam i.e. "Seeking knowledge is obligatory on ~~both~~ both Muslim man and woman". Similarly have to implement Islamic system of economy. Governments have to terminate policy of interest (Usur). ~~and~~ ^{This} will help in eradicating poverty and will attract more businesses and investments in the countries that will help boost their economies.

(4) Conclusion:

Challenges that are being faced by Muslim Ummah has caused a lot of damage not only to the image of Islam but also to Muslims. However, when there is will there is way, by taking measures these challenges can be tackled proficiently. And Muslim Ummah which has lost its glory can regain it.