

Q) In the light of Islamic teachings explain the concept of Ummah also explain the right and duties of Muslim Ummah [20]

1) Introduction :

The Islamic concept of Ummah is deeply rooted in the teachings of Islam and holds a central position in the lives of Muslims. Ummah, in its literal sense, means "community" or "nation", but in Islamic context, it refers to the global community of Muslims who share a common faith, beliefs, and practices. The concept of Ummah emphasizes unity, brotherhood, and solidarity among Muslims, transcending geographical, racial and linguistic boundaries.

2) Concept of Ummah in Islam :

2.1) Unity and Brotherhood :

The Islamic concept of Ummah accentuates the unity and brotherhood of all Muslims. Muslims are considered part of a single community, irrespective of their nationality or ethnicity. The Quran highlights the concept of unity in the following words:



"And hold fast to the rope of God, all together, and be not divided".

## 2.2) Belief in Tawheed:

The foundation of Ummah is the belief in Tawheed, the oneness of Allah. Muslims share the belief in the absolute unity of God, the finality of Prophet Muhammad's prophethood, and the acceptance of the Quran as the last and complete revelation from Allah. The same belief is reiterated in the Shahadah which translates to:

"I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah"

## 2.3) Collective Responsibility:

Muslims within the Ummah are considered to be collectively responsible for one another's welfare and well-being. They are encouraged to help and support fellow Muslims in times



of need, both individually and as ~~an~~ a community.

### 3) Rights and Duties of the Ummah:

#### 3.1) Rights of the Muslim Ummah:

##### 3.1.1) The Right to Practice Islam:

Every member of the Muslim Ummah has the right to practice Islam freely and without any fear of persecution. This includes the right to perform religious duties such as prayer, fasting, giving charity and performing Hajj.

##### 3.1.2) The Right to Education:

Muslims have the right to receive / seek knowledge and education. Acquiring knowledge is considered a sacred duty in Islam, and it is essential for personal and societal development of the society. The Prophet <sup>pbuh</sup> accentuates the significance of seeking knowledge in the following words:

"Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim"

Maxim.....



### 3.1.3) The Right to Justice:

Muslims have the right to be treated justly and fairly within the Ummah at large. Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of equitable treatment and protection of individual rights. Whether it's the King or a beggar, both should be equal against the law, and the rule of law must prevail. ﷺ: Prophet <sup>Pbuh</sup> said in this regard:

"By Him in whose Hand is my life, even if Fatima daughter of Muhammad were to commit theft, I would cut off her hand!"

### 3.1.4) The Right to Basic Needs:

The Muslim Ummah has the right to access basic necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing. Ensuring that the community's members have their basic needs met is a collective responsibility.



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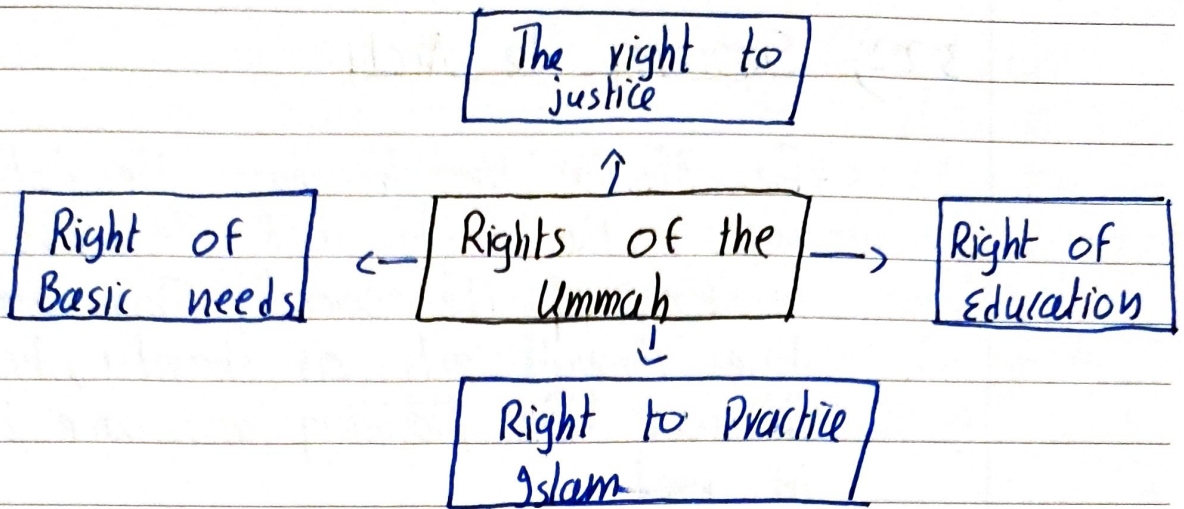


fig 1: Overview of the Rights of Ummah.

### 3.2) Duties of Muslim Ummah:

#### 3.2.1) Promotion of Good and Forbidding Evil:

The duty of Ummah is to enjoin good and forbid evil. They are encouraged to uphold moral values, promote righteousness, and discourage sinful behavior. The Holy Quran emphasises on this in the following words:

” امر بالمعروف ونهى عن المنكر ”

Enjoin the good and forbid wrong

Maxim.....



### 3.2.2) Supporting the Needy:

The Muslim Ummah has the duty to support the needy and the less fortunate members of the society. This can be done through acts of charity, helping the poor and providing assistance to those in need.

### 3.2.3) Preservation of the Environment:

Muslims are stewards of the Earth and have a duty to protect and preserve the environment. Islam emphasises sustainable practices and prohibits wastefulness and the misuse of natural resources.

### 3.2.4) Promotion of Peace and Justice:

The Muslim Ummah is called upon to promote peace and justice in the world. Muslims are encouraged to work towards resolving conflicts and disputes peacefully and upholding justice for all.

### 3.2.5) Respecting the Rights of Others:



Members of the Muslim Ummah are obligated to respect the rights of others, including their neighbours, family members and the wider community. Honoring contracts and agreements is considered a crucial aspect of personal integrity. The Prophet <sup>Pbuh</sup>, said in this regard:

"That person is not one of us who is not merciful to our youngsters and respectful to our elders".

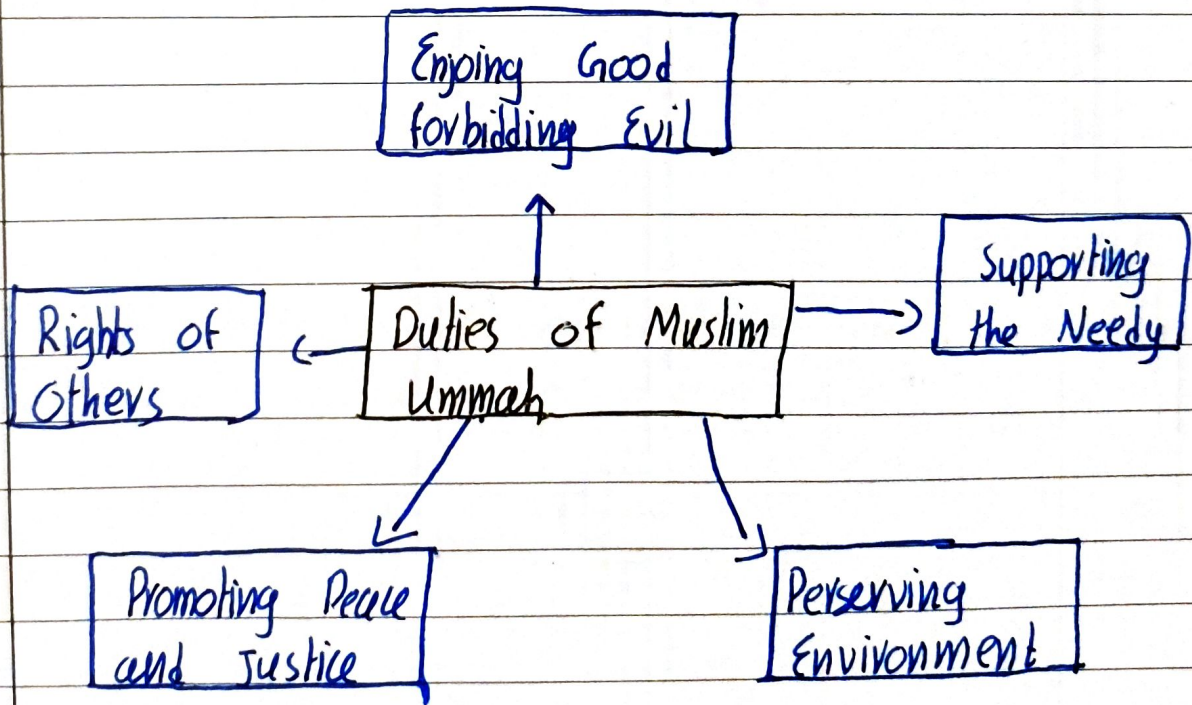


Fig 2 : Duties of Ummah

4) Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the concept of Ummah and the rights and duties of the Muslim Ummah in Islam emphasise unity, compassion, social justice, and the promotion of peace and well-being for all members of the community. It underscores the values of cooperation, solidarity and responsibility that Muslims are encouraged to uphold in their individual and communal lives.