

Q 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?

OUTLINE:

① Introduction:

② People who are entitled to receive Zakat.

- (i) Al-Fuqara
- (ii) Al-Masakin
- (iii) Administrator of zakat
- (iv) Sympathizers
- (v) Freeing captives
- (vi) Debtors
- (vii) For the Cause of Allah
- (viii) Travellers.

③ Social Impacts Of Zakat

- (i) Reduces class differences
- (ii) Eradication of poverty
- (iii) Control the inflation
- (iv) Brotherhood among believers.

④ Zakat alleviates poverty

- (i) Spending zakat on the poor directly
- (ii) Invested in the projects of economic development
- (iii) To launch various entrepreneurship
- (iv) Zakat money for their children's education

⑤ Conclusion.

Introduction:

Zakat is the third pillar of Islam. It is a unique system of social security. Zakat is a financial form of worship that involves taking a portion of the wealth of the rich and distributing it among the poor. The function, nature and structure of Zakat lightens the beauty of Islam and reveals its compassion and dedication towards establishing social welfare and economic sustainability for mankind. There are eight types of people who are beneficiaries of zakat, according to Quran; The poor, The needy, Administrator of zakat, Sympathisers to Free slaves, Debtors for the cause of Allah and way fares. In terms of social impact, the institution of zakat is aimed at creating a collective social security scheme for needy Muslim.

People who are entitled to receive Zakat.

(1) Al-Fuqara (The poor)

Fuqara are the people who live below

the poverty line and don't have enough means to live a normal life like others.

Al-Masakin (The Needy)

Masakin are extremely needy and poor people. These people don't have any possessions or any form of income to fulfill the daily necessity of life.

Administrators Of Zakat

Zakat can be given to the people who are authorized to collect and distribute it among the needy and poor. For example, Edhi, Shahid-Ahmedi foundations.

Sympathizer (New convert to Islam)

One who have new converted to Islam are eligible to receive zakat if he is needy.

Freeing Captives (To free Slaves)

People who are enslaved by others and require money to free themselves from the shackles of bondage are eligible to receive zakat.

Debtors (who are in debt)

This category includes

two kinds of people.

Debtor (who are in debt)

person who carries the burden of reconciling between people until he becomes poor.

person who borrowed money but is unable to pay it back.

For the Cause of Allah (في سبيل الله)
This category also includes two kinds of people;

(i) The person who fights in the path of Allah against enemies of Islam such people are given zakat so, they could buy weapons and ammunition to ensure that their families

(ii) The person who preaches Islam and strives to spread the word of Allah so that non-believers are introducing to Islam.

Travelers (way-farers)

people who get stuck in a foreign land due to lack of provisions are entitled to receive zakat so, that they are able to fulfill the objective of their travelling and return to their homes.

Social Impacts Of Zakat

(i) Reduces Class Difference.

Distribution of zakat minimize the gap between various classes in a society by fulfilling the demand and supply gap.

(ii) Eradication of Poverty:

Poverty forces many people to turn beggary and it is highly disliked in Islam. Distribution of zakat effectively puts an end to beggary by ordering the rich and resourceful to include economically backward people in their riches. Thus, zakat serves as a medium to live a dignified life and fulfilling the needs of poor people.

(iii) Control the Inflation:

Zakat keeps wealth in circulation and prevents its concentration in just few hands. Circulation of wealth reduces income inequality and uplifts poor people to the rank of middle class people.

(iv) **Brotherhood among Believers:** Zakat is the only exchange of wealth that has no other reason or motive behind it except seeking the pleasure of Allah. In this way, zakat develops a strong bond of love and respect between the donor and recipients.

Zakat Alleviates Poverty

- (i) **Spending zakat on the poor directly**
Poverty is alleviated through direct spending of zakat on the poor. This includes distribution of cash money, crops, animals, clothes and foods.
- (ii) **Invested in the projects of development**
Zakat can be invested in project to stimulate local economy and create employment opportunities for underprivileged people. More and more development projects will create more employment opportunities which can help to alleviate poverty.
- (iii) **To Launch various. Entrepreneurship:**
Zakat can be used to launch programs in order to impart technical skills

and scientific knowledge to underprivileged people so that they become able to earn their own livelihood and become independent.

(iv) Zakat money for their children school:

Poor family who cannot afford to send their children to school can be given zakat for their children school, college and University fees. So, that they receive good modern education and become employees in various organizations.

Conclusion:

Zakat is the financial system that distributes the 2.5% of rich wealth to poor. It prevents class difference among people, control the inflation and eradicate the poverty. By ensuring the distribution of zakat poverty can be reduced and it create welfare among people. In a nutshell, zakat is the social system of finance that circulate money among rich to poor.