

Elaborate the concept and importance of Ijtihad and explain its principles.

INTRODUCTION :

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. Being a complete code of life Islam allows muslims to adopt such a method which can satisfy the muslim ummah on the issues which are hard to solved by the jurists, in the modern era. However, the concept of Ijtihad was exercised from the earliest days of Islam. Some learned companions of the Prophet (PBUH) such as Abu Bakr, Umar, Ali and many others exercised Ijtihad in matters which had no specific solutions in the Quran and the Sunnah. Its sphere and importance at that time was very wide. It covered all the aspects of religion, political and civil life. Al-Quran frequently urges its readers to ponder over its verses and use their intellect to comprehend the message by this verse / indication "Why are they not using their judgement and mental capacity". Al-Quran ALSO Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) laid / encourage this practise to unite muslim ummah so.

As a result Ijtehad has certain principle by engaging in that principles scholars are able to adapt Islamic law to the changing needs and circumstances of muslim societies while remaining faithful to the core principles of Islam.

② ORIGIN OF THE WORD IJTEHAD.

The root word of Ijtehad is "Juhd" which means "to try or strive". It is a process in which a scholar independently strive to find answers, reasons or solutions to the problem in light of Quran and Hadith.

"According to Imam Ghazali Ijtehad means "to expands one's capacity in certain matter and use it to the utmost".

③ CONCEPT OF IJTEHAD

The concept of Ijtehad is rooted in the Quranic injunction to use reason and intelligence in understanding and interpreting religion teaching. The

Holy Quran frequently urges its readers to ponder over its verses and use their intellect to comprehend the message. This has been further elaborated in Hadith whether the Holy Prophet reported to encouraged his companions to engage in Ijtihad and independent reasoning. The Holy Prophet ^ﷺ said " Judge upon the Book of Allah, if you don't find in it what you need, judge upon the sunnah of the Prophet still you don't find what you need then use your personal opinion".

The Holy Prophet ^ﷺ also said to Aqab Bin Aas " For a correct decision he would get the reward of ten good deeds and for a wrong decision the reward would be one good deed".

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LOBAL'S CONCEPT ON IJTEHAD

In his book, Religion Reconstruction of Religion thought in Islam he wrote " There is no room for Taalid (blind following) which is contrary to religion. He believed that Ijtihad should be made in the light of Quran and sunnah. He told that Ijtihad gives Islamic doctrine their dynamic nature and universal application.

Added to this he also appreciated the Ijtehad made by Turkish under the leadership of muntafa Kamal Atatürk in the guise of abolition of caliphate.

⑤ IMPORTANCE OF IJTEHAD.

Ijtehad has played a pivotal role in the growth and development of Islamic scholarship and has contributed to the rich intellectual and cultural heritage of the Muslim world. However its importance is as follows:

- ① Resolution of intra-religious conflicts like sectarianism - extremism
- ② Tackling challenges of modern times like Terrorism.
- ③ Development of Islamic law.
- ④ Reflection of flexibility in Islam.
- ⑤ Enhancement of comprehensiveness of Islam.
- ⑥ Preservation of Islamic principles in the face of overchanging and

g) and developing conditions of the world.

h) Problems like Transplantation, insurance, family planning, Tax system, right of private ownership, methods of elections, parliament and form of government can be solved through Ijtihad.

Moreover, through Ijtihad the problems of modern age could be solved which are as under:

i) Three divorce in one time.

j) Blood transfusion or donation in fasting.

k) Donation of an organ during and after the life.

l) Test Tube baby.

m) wearing western dress are the issues which could be solved in a present day through Ijtihad.

PRINCIPLES OF IJTEHAD

The principles of Ijtehad include the following:

MASTERY OF THE ISLAMIC

SOURCES :

Before engaging in ijtehad, scholars are expected to have a deep understanding of the Islamic sources and the principles of Islamic law.

AWARENESS TO THE CONTEXT

Ijtehad must take into account the context and circumstances of the issue being considered including the social, political, and economic conditions of the time.

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ADHERENCE TO THE ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

Ijtihad must adhere to the established principles of Islamic law, including the Quran, Hadith and the consensus of Islamic scholars. It must recognise the diversity of opinions among Islamic scholars and allow for multiple interpretation of the Islamic sources.

ETHICS AND MORALITY

Ijtihad must be guided by ethical and moral principles, and must not contradict the fundamental values of Islam.

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CONCLUSION :

Ibn Islamic
legislation Ijtihad plays an
important role and has
central position in the
whole process. Demands of
life changes day by day, thus
it becomes necessary to
take structural review of
Islamic laws keeping in
mind the spirit and importance
of Ijtihad.