

Zakat system of Islam & its spiritual, Moral & social.

Meaning of Zakat:

- (i) **Literal meaning**
Zakat is "to purify"
& "increase in a thing"
- (ii) **Connotative meaning**
Zakat is the sum of amount which
Muslim pays to the poor. Minimum
amount has been fixed at 2.5 per
cent of the wealth that has been
in one's possession for one year,
for the sake of Allah's pleasure.

Introduction:

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is compulsory procedure for Muslims who meet the necessary criteria to donate a certain portion of their wealth.

Zakat is based on income and value of possessions.

Zakat as an obligation:

The obligation to pay zakat are found even in Makkan surahs because Muslims in Makkah would spend their wealth for the sake of Allah.

Most scholars believe that Nisab-e-zakat were revealed in the second year of Hijra.

while collection methods and distribution system were established 8 AM.

Susah Bagasah verse 2:110:

"And Establish prayer and give Zakat, and whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah."

Purposes of Zakat - Spiritual, Moral & Social:

- (i) Distribution of wealth by Zakat:
Zakat is an act of worship, but also in itself it is a unique distributive mechanism which ensures that wealth and property are not only controlled by the rich people of community and everyone can equally enjoy the provisions and resources of our Lord, The Creator and The All mighty Allah.
- (ii) Decreasing Inflation in community:
Zakat helps poor people to meet their essential needs even in a inflationary environment. It also increase the circulation of wealth that helps to uproots poverty. There are eight categories for the distribution of Zakat that are mentioned in the Holy Quran among those six are directly related to the poor community and low income groups. This shows the transfer

of wealth from rich people to poor ones. This not only brings inflation down but, also improves the economic stability

(iii) Increase in Investment in Zakat:
Zakat raises savings through investment since it is paid out of accumulated wealth. Invest the wealth to guarantee its evolution and preserve it from being consumed as indicated in the Prophet (S.A.W) saying:

"Do not let your wealth be consumed by Zakat"

(iv) Zakat increases Economic growth:
As Islamic financial system, Zakat enhances the volume of production which leads to rise in demand and supply in the economy. As when Zakat is distributed among the poor, Zakat is spend on various consumer productions which will rise demand for consumer goods. Zakat is an important tool that helps in stabilizing the economy.

Spiritual Benefits of Zakat:

(i) Zakat as a connection to creator:
Zakat works as a connector between its servant and its Lord, the All Mighty ALLAH.

ALLAH says in the Holy Quran:

"The believers have abundant love for ALLAH." (Al Bayasah 165)

A believer loves ALLAH more than his own life and wealth. ALLAH has put to test the Muslims love for wealth by imposing Zakat.

(ii) Grateful to ALLAH's blessings:

Zakat is the way a person thanks ALLAH's blessings by paying it in his path.

A Human thanks ALLAH's blessings of a Health body by physical worship ~~and~~ and thanks for wealth by paying Zakat and charity to poor community.

(iii) Satisfaction of soul:

By Zakat people help poor community of the society that gives them satisfaction and purifies their soul and wealth. This creates brotherhood bonds and compassion in the society.

Why Zakat fails to deliver:

- (i) Interest base economy
- (ii) Corruption in the distribution system
- (iii) Low public trust in Zakat institutions
- (iv) Inadequate data records and geographical factors to reach the needy ones.

Suggestions to improve the Zakat system:

- (i) Establishment of federal board of Zakat.
- (ii) Proper collection and distribution of Zakat.
- (iii) Low Interest base system and proper accountability of corruption in economy.
- (iv) Development of infrastructure to reach the rural areas.