

Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah and their solutions according to Islamic teachings?

Introduction

The Muslim Ummah is facing daunting challenges in the contemporary world - but have caused serious damage to their development. Disunity among Muslims, Rise of extremism, western influence and Media's negative propagation of Muslims especially in the minds of youth, have not only disintegrated Muslim Ummah but also have caused economic frustration among Muslim nations. The slogan "divide and rule" has caused split in the Muslim Ummah and many walls have been erected amongst Muslims. Muslims have left the teachings of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Quran that has led them to astray and divide. If the entire Muslim Ummah comes together with unity and the end to such divides, there is no reason for problems to continue to evade Muslims.

i) Lack of Education

One of the most critical problems that Muslims face in the contemporary era is the Lack of Education, whether it is in the field of medicine, engineering, Science, religious or Socio-economic. Today, Muslim countries have some of the lowest rates of literacy in the world, Even the oil rich Muslim countries have not bothered to invest in education when small countries with no minerals such as Singapore and South-Korea have made impressive strides to provide cheaper and quality education to their citizens.

ii) Disunity Among Muslims

One of the most prominent challenge Muslims are facing is disunity among them which is against the teachings of Islam. Abdullah Ibn Umar reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said; "The Muslim is a brother to another Muslim". This depicts that how much Emphasis Islam lays on the Unity of Muslims. Internally, Muslims are divided on the basis of sects. It is irony of fate that sectarian violence in Muslim countries has caused more deaths of Muslims than an

US Military interventions. Hatred among muslims has increased to such level that some muslims proudly declare another muslim brother as infidel, causing further disintegration of the Ummah.

iii) Influence of the West:

In today's world, those who call themselves reformers or carry projects of philanthropy are under influence and following of west, and the media today plays a very important role in this negative propagation and changing of mindset in the muslim nations especially the youth, the youth are being told that whatever practice of Islam has been prescribed is backward and not for this time, Hence, Islam needs to be reformed under the current time.

iv)

iv) Rapid rise of extremism and terrorism

Another major challenge, confronting by the Ummah, of course, is the rapid rise of extremism and terrorism in some muslims, where ~~educati~~ Lack of education can not be considered as

a valid reason behind rise of extremism as, Osama Bin Laden, a person who formed Al Qaeda was a University graduate, and his chief Lieutenant Ayman-al-Zawahiri was general surgeon. The poor governance of muslim countries and their failure to prevent the spread of radical material in educational institutions, has in fact, caused the rise in extremism.

Terrorism is directly linked to the extremism. It caused when some extremists try to give practical shape to their radical thoughts.

v) Inability to Self-Reform

Another area which deeply requires attention is that, one is not wish to self-introspect but continue on to rectify others. The general public speaks out against leaders. Those in position, in return, bad mouth in public. It is vicious cycle. People need to set their priorities and focus on themselves rather than trying to please international nations. This is not only found with regards to general public leaders but is also very much a part of muslim culture as a whole.

Solutions

• Muslims must be United

All muslims should first establish Unity in order to counter challenges. This applies locally as well as internationally and is the overarching principle that cuts across all others. This is also about getting to know one another and appreciate each others history, culture and good values.

• All Muslim Countries Must Become Allies Of Eachother

All muslim states should become allies to eachother to form absolute Unity. It is not enough simply to do this in word, this must be bound in deed, in writing or in treatise which then become binding particularly among Muslim majority states, but also muslim countries communities across borders.

• Economy of Brotherhood

Muslim countries need to consider how they can further the goals of

Self-sufficiency and development, rather than just focusing mainly on providing food aid and emergency needs. In economic and scientific fields, the Ummah needs to achieve higher levels of development and prosperity.

• Media And Culture Matter

Global Media can play an important role in conveying the history and culture of other people and understanding issues of Muslims.

Interaction should be increased with media outlets and professionals, while encouraging accurate and factual/portrayal of Islam. Emphasis should be directed at avoidance of any link or association of Islam with terrorism or the use of Islamophobic rhetorics in the war on terror such as labeling criminal terrorist as "Islamic" fascists "Islamic" extremists.

• Justice in Muslim majority states

A society where the privileged and rich have more right to justice, and to avoid criminal sanctions than the weak and poor can never be considered a developed society. Rule of law

fair trial, anti-corruption, need to be developed and widely understood and become part of muslim public consciousness and culture.

Conclusion:

The muslim Ummah is currently grappling with a range of challenges that require attention and collective action. One of the key challenges is political instability, which hampers progress and unity among muslim nations. Social conflicts and division based on various factors, such as ethnicity and sectarianism, create tensions that hinder the overall strength and cohesion of the Ummah. To overcome these challenges, it is crucial for muslims to prioritize religious unity, promote dialogue, and work towards fostering peace, justice and understanding within muslim community and beyond. By addressing these challenges together, the muslim Ummah can strive towards a brighter future for all.