

IJMA (Consensus)

MEANING: Arabic word
Ijma literally means agreed upon. So the contextual meaning is agreement upon a religious matter.

INTRODUCTION:

Ijma is the secondary source of law. According to Imam Al-Ghazali (R-A)

Agreement of the community of Muhammad (PBUH) on a religious point

Due to fast spread of Islam after the death of Holy Prophet (PBUH) new problem arose the solution of which was not available through Quran and Sunnah, thus resorting to consensus. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) enunciated the rule

"My people shall never be unanimous in an error"

(Trimdhi, Ibn Maja, Ibn Hanba)

Like Ijtihad, Ijma is also subjected to future modifications. In Surah Abh-Shura Allah Almighty say

who obey their lord and establish Prayers,
who conduct their affairs by consultation,
and spend out of what We have bestowed
upon them (Ayah 38)

EXAMPLES OF IJMA FROM PROPHET (PBUH) AND HAZRAT ABU BAKR (R-A)

Prophet (PBUH) consulted companions on non-religious matters. As Allah Almighty mentioned in Holy Quran

"Take council with them in the conduct of affairs"
(3: 159)

Similarly, during the battle of Uhud the companions proposed to fight out of city. Prophet (SAW) did not agree but still went ahead.

Hazrat Abu Bakr (R-A) during his Khilafat collected the Holy Quran. He said:

"Praise be to Allah who has kept among us those who remember what the Prophet (PBUH) said"

TYPES OF IJMA

Scholarly consensus has a number of nuances and facets, but the broadest of those considerations are of two types.

1- Explicit Ijma ('azima or Ijma Qawai)

Explicit Ijma is when all mujtahids openly declare their opinion regarding a particular occurrence either in words or action after it has been ascertained that they have been consulted to give fatwa on the matter.

1- Implicit Ijma (Tacit or Silent Ijma)

Implicit consensus is when some mujtahids offer their view on the subject, while others remain silent about it even though it is confirmed that they were privy to the inquiry.

So Ijma can be regular (i.e. by words or deeds), Irregular (i.e. silent support), Ijmah ul Ummah (i.e. by Prophet (PBUH) companions) and Ijmah ul Ulema (only by the scholars)

LAWS OF IJMA

1- Compilation of Quran:

The Holy Quran was revealed during the span of 23 years. So it was not in the form of book rather memorized orally by companions. During the battle of Yamamah many companions embraced martyrdom. So with the suggestion of Hazrat Umer (R.A) and Ijma of remaining companions the process of preservation of Holy Quran in the form of book was carried out.

• Concept of 2 Friday Adhans:

Only 1 Friday Adhan was there during the time of Holy Prophet (PBUH). However, during the rule of Hazrat Umer (R.A) the Muslim Empire had grown exponentially so with Ijma a 2nd Adhan was added. The first Adhan is given to alert the people so that they do not miss the wajib khutbah of the actual Friday prayer.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MUJTAHID

The learned men of Islam have laid down certain qualifications, in the light of Quran and Sunnah, which a person must possess for acting and for being accepted as a Mujtahid

1. He should be expert in Arabic literature and philology, so that he may be able to decide properly between the different connotations of the same word.
2. He should be high calibre Scholar of the Holy Quran and his study should be so intensive and extensive that whenever he has to consider a given problem, he should be capable of keeping before his mind's eye the whole sweep of Quranic thought and all relevant verses.
3. He should have the Traditions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) memorized. so that whenever he has to concentrate on any problem, he may have all the connected Traditions, even those indirect ones before him, clearly and vividly, to guide his thinking both appropriately and comprehensively
4. Further, he should be an expert in both the science of Historical criticism (Riwayat) and logical criticism (Dirayat), so that he may be able to view the worth of various Traditions, under study in their proper perspective.
5. Above all, he should possess piety and a true Islamic character, and his heart should be imbued with what the Quran called "fear of God"

PROCEDURE/ FORM OF IJMA

1. Legislation: According to Dr. Allama Iqbal it is the duty of parliament to conduct Ijma.
2. Global Muslim Consensus: According to Dr. Hameed ullah a council at world level i.e World Islamic Ijtehad council should conduct Ijma. or organizations like OIC
3. Hajj: Ijma can be conducted during Hajj where all Muslims are gathered at a single platform.

IJMA NEEDED IN MODERN DAYS

Ijma is needed nowadays on issues like women empowerment, banking issues and use of technology.

Good and try attempting a question