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## Assignment: 2

- Q) Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah and their challenges according to the teachings of Islam.

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#### → Introduction:

The Ummah established about fourteen hundred years ago, today consists of fifty-seven sovereign states and comprises of over one billion people. The region is not only rich in natural resources but also exercises a monopoly in the production of items of vital importance such as oil, tin, coal, natural gas etc. However, in spite of its political and economic importance, the Islamic Ummah is divided and set against itself.

Muslim Ummah is currently facing a number of internal and external challenges; the external ones include challenges caused by western colonization, globalization, and ongoing international geopolitics of western power of which the Muslim states have become hostage. The internal challenges include political disunity, rise of rabid extremism, lacking

in scientific and technological advancement, moral decline, identity crises etc. A few of them are described in detail below:

### Internal Challenges:

#### → Intellectual crisis and stagnation:

The intellectual stagnation of Muslim countries threatens to imprison a significant proportion of humanity into permanent servitude. This backwardness in scientific and technological advancement is brought about by political, cultural and social conditions generated by colonialism, neo-colonialism, authoritarianism, economic underdevelopment, poor governance and the meagre resource allocation to research and development.

#### → Political Disunity of the Muslim World:

Muslim Ummah is plagued with disunity. The mission of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) was to bring peace and unity to the feuding tribes of the pre-Islamic days. However, after his demise, the Arabs returned to warring wars. The quarrel between Muslim nations are contrary to the teachings of Islam where ambitions for power struggle are prevalent and the Muslim world is divided and in disarray with Islam.

#### → Prevalence of Unbridled materialism and Moral decline:

Islam stresses a balance between materialism and spiritualism, between life in this world and the hereafter. Loss of spiritualism values in Modern Muslim societies has resulted in materialism where money is literally worshipped as an end in itself, not a means to an end. In the process of doing so, economies are devastated and people killed and starved.

Jamal-al-Din al-Afghani said:

"Muslims have lost their courage, their ambitions asleep, their hearts dying but the only thing prevalent among them is the lust and indulgence."

### External factors:

→ Globalization: Modern form of colonization:

Globalization in its current manifestation is benefitting the West as their idea of a borderless world would simply mean the unbridled flow of capital across borders.

Muslim countries have invested their accumulated wealth elsewhere and enriched the West instead. It is irony that Muslim countries despite being endowed with rich natural resources are playing in the hands of West led international financial institution (IMF, World Bank, WTO) fleecing the resources of Muslim Ummah.

→ Baggage of colonialism:

Under western domination, a liberal elite was created which treated its own faith with

indifference and unconcealed contempt. A sense of inferiority was injected into masses who were looked down upon for their simple Islamic way of life. During nationalist movements, it was this elite which gained political power in their respected areas. The westernized Muslim leaders could have united on a platform, the entire Ummah in the post-colonial period, contrarily, they preferred to remain divided.

### Solutions according to Islamic teachings:

→ Retrospection, Self inspection and Rectification:

Islam encourages one to be aware of his faults and focus on becoming better. It is crucial for Muslims to stop finding faults in others for their failures and start focusing on their inner selves to diagnose their problems and iron out pragmatic solutions.

→ Focusing on scientific education and IT:

Muslims lag far behind to other nations in almost every field of modern education, thus Muslims should develop a system of education that caters their religious and spiritual needs as well as contemporary requirements.

A passage in the Quran says :-

"Hence they should be both in agreement and concordant with the findings of modern science."

This shows that Islam encourages congruency with the truth attained by modern science.

→ **Need for Ijtihad:**

The institution of 'ijma' plays an important role in the socioeconomic and political life of the Ummah. There is a growing need for Ijtihad and renewal of understanding of new methods of progressing according to Islam in recent times. Religious scholars should play their role in promoting sectarian harmony in the Muslim world.

→ **Muslims should portray peaceful image of Islam:**

Islam emphasizes good deeds as part of faith. The Quran does promise victory for the believers but only those whose faith in God, leads to peace among people. Muslims need to effectively propagate that violence has no place in Islam. No religion taught violence, nor has any prophet propagated it.

→ **Reinterpreting the whole edifice of Islamic theology:**

What Muslims must do is go back to the teaching of Hdy Quran and sunnah. It is Allah's will that the world has changed. The faithful must look for guidance from Quran and genuine Hadiths in the present context, if this is understood then Muslims will be prevented from misunderstanding and won't be their own enemy, leading to success.