

Q. Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah and their solutions in the light of teachings of Islam.

Ans. INTRODUCTION:

In the present global scenario, the state of the Muslim world can be best described in the words of Abu Sulayman, a prominent Persian Islamic scholar, who says "Internally weak, relatively backward, frustrated, conflict-ridden, and controlled as well as abused by foreign powers."

There are currently fifty^{seven} Muslim majority countries in the world, and Islam as the second-largest religion in the world, yet they are caught up in external and internal ills. "According to Human Development report 2021 by United Nations, only Gulf countries have higher value of human development index, having high infrastructure, and technological advancements. While rest of the Muslim countries lie at the lowest value, Pakistan being at 162nd position out of 191."

→ Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah:

Muslim countries are in the schedules of a number of challenges.

1) Economic and Humanitarian Crisis:

Many Muslim countries are in deep crisis, particularly economic. The economic prosperity plays a very vital role in the development and growth of a country. Stable economy paves way for a stable growth of all spheres of the country.

The stark reality is that violent conflicts, both internal and external, have extracted human, economic and political costs.

Taking into account the examples of Palestine; experiencing dreadful violence at hands of Israel; Iran; shackled in multiple sanctions from the west, and currently the worst economic condition of Pakistan.

2) Muslims are termed as extremists:

The global image of Muslims is being tarnished, and linked with terrorism, extremism, and radicalism.

Such contrast is terrible, and is increasing Islamophobic worldwide. It is very easy for west to paint matters in starkest possible terms between black and white, good and evil, west and Islam.

Since 9/11 till today, west has spread that false notion: Muslims

are always terrorist but whites are not. Also a number of Terrorist organization have been linked to muslims, that persists no reality. It is therefore tragic, that this association of Islam and Muslims with terrorism has gained international currency.

3) Lack of Unity Among Ummah:

Though having muslim majorities, and practicing Islam as religion, Muslim Ummah lacks unity. Many of the external ills have been on the rise because of the fact that as unity is fragile, and easily fragmented. The west has taken advantage of the dividencal, and posed Ummah with conflicts and crisis.

Despite having an intergovernmental organization, having fifty seven members, Organization of Islamic Cooperation has failed to cater issues faced by muslim countries e.g. Palestine.

Personal interests, as well as increased western influence has paved way for this divide. The message of Quran of brotherhood, and unity has been forgotten, and compromised for personal gains.

4) Western Domination and Secularism:

Poor socio-economic conditions in the muslim countries, not only has caused muslims to depend on the west for resources, but also they have been influenced by western ideologies of secularism.

Similarly, western way of life has also promoted materialism to the level that quest of money has prevailed in the society.

As a result, moral degradation has become part and parcel of the muslim society. Muslim identity has been compromised due to increased distance between them, and teaching of Islam.

→ Solutions in the light of teachings of Islam:

The downfall of current state of muslim countries is due to the lack of practicing Islamic teachings. Islam is a complete code of life, and its teachings provide solution of every possible challenge muslims are facing. This is the reason Islam has been chosen by Allah for muslims.

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

Truly, Islam is the only deen in the sight of Allah.

1) Return towards teachings of Islam:

For every aspect of life, Islam has provided guidance through Quran, and Sunnah.

Muslims have ruled the world for decades, that was possible by dint of following, and practicing Islamic teachings at heart. As Allah Ta'ala mentions in the Quran: Al-Baqarah, 143

وَأَزَلْنَا بِكُمُ الْاٰمَةَ وَاٰمَاتُ وَاٰمَاتُ

And, in the same way, (O Muslims) we have made you best Ummah fair to all, with tolerant and balanced outlook.

This signifies that Allah has made Muslims in the best of wishes, and they have been provided with best of sources: Quran and Sunnah, to follow. It is the Ummah who has gone by so far with these teachings, and caught up in the shackles of multiple socio-economic and moral crisis.

The only way possible to rise up again, to make our houses in order is by practicing teachings of Islam in its true essence. We must take benefit from it, and revive the long forgotten essence of Muslim Ummah.

2) Restore Unity and Brotherhood:

The reason of fall of muslim Ummah is due to the discord among them. Sectarian crises have divided muslims globally. Islam does not preaches divide in any case. As Allah SWT mentions in the Quran: Al-Hujurat:10

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَتْبِعُوا لِبَنَاتِهِمْ

The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers.

Islam emphasizes unity, equality, and solidarity among muslims. The concrete unity among muslims will pay pave way to overcome a number of challenges they are shacked in. Fostering mutual harmony and solidarity will also help in withering western domination over muslim countries.

Many socio-economic challenges such as poverty and violence against muslims across the world can be dealt effectively.

3) Restoration of Muslim Images

The widespread image of muslims and Islam as violent and extremist religion must be restored via spreading true

preachings of Islam. As Allah
mentions in Quran: Al-Mumtahanah:8

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.
Despite this interpretation and projection
of Muslims as extremist, Islamic
teachings are to remain cordial
and non-violent. Islam promotes
justice and peace, which shatters
west hateful bias against Muslims
and Islam.

Adopting Islamic teaching in true essence
and shaping our character accordingly
will pave way in restoring tarnished
image of Muslims globally. To spread
awareness about Islam as peaceful
religion, modern means, such as media
should be adopted and content
should be produced which counters
the western narratives.

→ CONCLUSION:

Muslims, worldwide are no doubt
shackled in multiple internal and
external crises. The reasons are not
only external ills but also internal
weaknesses. Muslims are blessed with
Islam as deen, and most of it
should be made by practically
implementing its teachings in our
lives and worldly matters.