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Contemporary challenges of muslim ummah and their solutions according to the teachings of islam?

Introduction: The muslim ummah was established by the prophet Muhammed (PBUH). Today, there are fifty-seven muslim sovereign states with population of (1.9 billion). They comprise ($\frac{1}{3}$) of total membership of the United Nations. The countries are rich in natural resources. They are very important politically and economically, but due to lack of advanced intellectual abilities the islamic ummah is divided and are against of one another.

challenges of muslim ummah

(A) Internal challenges:

① Lack of intellectual advancement

Currently, the world is growing rapidly with scientific and technological development. But, the muslim countries are still stuck to the political, cultural

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and economic condition generated by the colonialism, clergyman and dictatorial monarchies. That's why, they are going through poor governance. They are economically weak. They are not able to compete with contemporary world. Even though the great revolution brought by Islam in 7th century with the revelation of Quranic verses.

→ In Surah Al-Imran

→ Emphasize that human mind is always active regardless of time, because reason always thinks and strives to gain knowledge.

→ It is also mentioned that "Nothing is created without purpose. Glory to be you!"

② Modernization and Ummah

Most of the Muslim countries are backward because of the clash between the westernization and Islamic tradition.

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As, President Pervez Musharraf said westernization and modernization are two different concepts. Muslim Ummah need not to mix them. Modernisation is the need of the hour of muslim ummah.

- The dynamic of Islam are not static. Such as, the concept of Ijtima and Ijtihad keep the religion in step with the changing time.

- Gaining knowledge, learning skills, good governance and seeking modern technology must be the main priority of muslim Ummah to counter the contemporary challenge.

"Reopening of muslim minds" is necessary.

(3) Political disunity of muslim world

sectarian conflicts among muslims is the biggest issue that brought disunity, division, backwardness and disappointment among muslim. It changes their foreign policy, political

structure and strategic interests.

As, we can see the political disunity of muslim ummah in Israel-palestine issue.

The muslim world neither have capability nor have unity to address palestine's genuine issue in international level.

④ Rich in resources and poor management

It is just because of limited focus on modernization most of the countries are underdeveloped and uneducated.

That's why, their management is poor they cannot utilize the resources effectively.

(5) Fundamentalists and rise of extremism

Islam is not followed, in its true sense.

The fundamentalists have made it so

rigid. The followers are already lack of

rational thinking due to lack of education.

As a result, people become so violent.

(6) Middle eastern crisis:

Already in 20th century the middle eastern muslim countries were involved in sectarian conflicts and proxy wars especially, Iran and Saudi Arabia. But after "(Arab spring 2011)" failure conditions became more worse. A

Arab spring failed to establish stable and democratic governments in various countries. Arab spring has turned into Arab Autumn.

Libya stands disintegrated,

- ① Syria is bleeding.
 - ② Iraq is under the barbarous hegemony of the ISIS.
 - ③ Egypt's secularists are pitted against the Islamists.
 - ④ Saudi Arabia attacking its fellow brethren in Yemen.
 - ⑤ Israel committing genocide of the Palestinians.
- Overall, middle eastern countries

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all facing serious regional conflicts.

(7) Prevalence of unbridled materialism and moral decline:

Islam stresses a balance between materialism and spirituality in this world and in hereafter. Muslims lost the spiritual spirit of the Islam. They forget the teachings of Islam in true sense. Therefore, money is considered as the most important thing in life.

Jamal al-Din al-Afghani the founder of Pan-Islamism said that "The Muslims have lost their courage, their ambitions asleep, their heart dying, but the only thing that is prevalent among them is the lust and indulgence."

(8) Failure to portray real, pro civilization and pro-development image of Islam: Islam is the only religion that eradicated ignorance in the Arab and brought

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Peace and justice, but after the fall of Islamic empire in (1258) Muslims suffered bad governance, violence, fundamentalism and extremism. It was also because of backwardness and poverty the extremist parties got emerged. Such as, Al-Qaeda, Daesh and ISIS. It damaged the image of Islam to the world.

(2) External challenges:

(A) Domination by western colonies:

At the time of downfall of Muslims the western nations were so strong. They dominated the weaker nations. Muslims became politically oppressed and alienated from the Islamic values. Islam was portrayed as barbaric, violent, backward and a source of embarrassment. The Muslim Ummah was de-culturalized. Muslims were considered as inferior and

westerns were considered superior.

(2) Globalization

This is the idea of western nations. It is a generalized free international trade among the countries. Initially, this concept was rejected by some muslim scholars, but later they joined economic activities with other countries. It was considered interest base, effortless and unequal distribution of wealth. As Islam prohibits from these things.

(3) Cultural advancement and technological innovation:

Muslim countries struggled hard to catch up with advanced nations.

It is threat as well as blessing. Due to technological advancement Israel has destroyed palestine and brought regional warⁱⁿ the middle east. on the other hand, it has boosted economies of the muslim countries if compared them

solutions according to the teachings of Quran and Sunnah:

① Economic system in Islam:

Islamic economic system is effective in every situation. It is the guarantor of human survival.

Currently, the major issue of Muslim Ummah is weak economy.

In the Quran Allah says;

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَا كُنَّا لَكُمْ لِيَلْبَسُوا مِنْهَا ثِيَابًا

“And verily we have given you a place to dwell in the earth and we have provided for you therein!”

It teaches us to earn money efficiently and in right way. It is obligatory to save money for himself and for his family so that he cannot become an other.

The prophet said;

“The upper hand is better than lower hand.”

Allah appreciates the efforts of his

People. It teaches go and earn money and discover things. I have created the universe for purpose.

Unified Response of ummah.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said;

"The one who looks after and works for a widow and for a poor person, is like a warrior fighting for Allah's cause or like a person who fasts during the day and prays all the night."

When the intention is pure and only the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala is intended, that is worship.

From this we conclude that Islam promotes collective systems and unity. So

Muslim ummah must be united to fight for the cause of economic development.

• OIC Needs to play effective role

To uplift Muslims OIC can play a significant role to promote trade and increase awareness through education.

Muslims must play active role in globalization.

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with past.

Eradicate Extremism:

Muslim scholars must promote strong family system and protect one another and all the human being.

→ In Quran it's mentioned;

"Wealth and children are the adornment of this worldly life."

A strong family system do not produce terrorists.

In Quran it is mentioned;

"The whole of the muslim is sacred to his fellow muslim, his blood, his wealth and his honour."

The Quran clearly rejects sectarian conflicts. It promotes strong bonds with one another.

Need for ijtihad and ijma:

Muslim ummah need to improve their status according to need of the time. They must work on technology and science.