

CSS - 2016 - Q. 8

What are the contemporary challenges of Muslim world? Suggest its solution in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

Introduction:

The Ummah - the supra-national political community of Islam established by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) 1440 years ago today consists of fifty seven sovereign states, comprising of 1.5 billion people. It has vast territories, immense potential in human, material and geopolitical resources from part of its areas. It is not only extremely rich in natural resources but also exercise a monopoly or claims major share in the production of vital items such as Oil, tin, rubber, phosphate, jute, coal, natural gas and rock salt. However, after all this Muslim Ummah is divided and set against itself and is underdeveloped and backward. Therefore Ummah is facing certain external and internal challenges. To address these challenges effectively, Muslims in capacity of individuals, state and civilization need to take the task and arrest the stagnant and humiliating plight of the whole Muslim world by following Quran

and Sunnah.

Challenges faced by Muslim World

a) Internal challenges

(i) Intellectual crisis and stagnation:

The looming challenge for the muslim world is not the religious but intellectual.

They are not in the doldrum of weakness of faith but because of its intellectual stagnation brought about by political, social and cultural conditions generated by colonialism, neo colonialism, authoritarianism, economic underdevelopment and poor governance. Some of which can be attributed to the real or imagined influence of the increasing devotional religiosity of the masses. The stagnation is most dramatically manifested in the scientific and technological backwardness of the muslim world.

(ii) Political disunity of the Muslim World

Another internal challenge is disunity among muslim nations. And this disunity is majorly caused by sectarian system. Iran being a Shia country was isolated from Arab countries.

This disunity leads to underdevelopment, backwardness and pursuit of personal benefits and power by leaders. Currently due to this disunity Muslim world is silent on Palestine, Syria and Kashmir issues. Resultantly throwing the whole Ummah towards destruction.

(iii) Rich in resources but poor in management:

Though many Muslim countries are blessed with rich natural resources, yet they are unable to put such resources to the optimal use, to serve and defend Islam and Muslims against the conspiracies. And the rich Arab countries are plagued by unchecked lavishness, extravagance and prodigal expenditures running their invaluable resources. Their spending in education, science & social sector development is negligible.

(iv) Fundamentalism and rise of extremism:

Muslim Clerics and Ulemas instead of uniting Muslims have divided them into sects and declare others as Kafirs or enemies to Muslims and Islam. Youth and narrow minded people.

consider it their responsibility to do jihad against other groups resultantly lead to violation of peace and harmony. Afghani Taliban, Militant organization in Pakistan, Syria, Iran, Lebanon and in Arabian Peninsula are the current example of this.

(v) Prevalence of Unbridled Materialism and Moral decline:

Islam stresses a balance between Materialism and spiritualism but nowadays muslim rich leaders ^{have} started worshipping wealth and indulged themselves in moral decay. This then causes economic downfall and public has to suffer the consequences. Jamal al Din Afghani founder of Pan Islamicism said:

"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."

Mughals of subcontinent and Ottomans lost their empires for this lust and lavish livelihood.

b) External challenges

(i) Baggage of Western dominations:

During the Western domination upon muslim world in the nineteenth century the Muslim Ummah endured a twofold assault a) Political subjugation and b) alienation from its institutions and values. Islam was belittled and ridiculed and was made to appear backward, barbaric and a source of backwardness. The Ummah was deculturized in a way as it was ensured that it will not recover and recognize itself again into a vital force. It thus changed Muslim ideologies under the slogan of liberalism and divided muslims and till today every muslim country seems to feather its own nest.

(ii) Blasphemy against Islam:

West has always threatened and hurt Muslim world through its humiliating and blasphemous content against Islam. In 2005 Denmark's newspaper Jyllands Posten published blasphemous cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In 2011 Terry Jones burnt Holy Quran in a church of Florida. In 2012 a

blasphemous movie "Innocence of Muslims" was made by US production. These acts by West and calling it freedom of speech is a major challenge to Muslim World.

(iii) Discrimination against Muslims:

Muslims experience discrimination and intolerance in Muslim majority countries. In India mosques are torn and temples are built on their places. In Palestine Muslims are facing terrorism of Israel for 6 months. In Western countries Muslims are being mocked for their religious appearance and considered terrorist. Many universities does not allow students with scarf and hijab. All these conditions poses threat to the development of Muslims and their economic and educational stability.

Solutions in the light of Quran and Sunnah:-

(i) Unified response of Muslim Ummah:

Sectarianism and division between Muslims has raised extremism and caused Islamophobia. To deal with the

challenges Muslims need to be united politically, religiously and ideologically. This unity will bring intellectual growth, development and success of Muslim world.

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۗ

And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.

(Al-Imran 3:103)

Surely you have nothing to do with those who have made divisions in their religion and become factions

(Surah Al-An'am 6:159)

The believers are but one brotherhood, so make peace between your brothers and be mindful of Allah, so you may be shown mercy.

(Al-Hajrat 49:10)

(ii) Focusing on scientific education and IT:

Muslims lag far behind the other nations in almost every field of education and thus it must be an area of concern for all the Muslims in the world. Muslims should develop a system of education that could cater their religious and spiritual needs.

as well as contemporary requirements.

--- Prophet "Are those who know equal to those who don't know?"

None will be mindful of this except people of reason.

(Az-Zumar 39:19)

Above verse of Quran reflects the importance of reason and education

And it is He who spread the world earth and placed there in firmly set mountains and rivers; and from all of the fruits He made therein two mates. He causes the night to cover the day. Indeed that are the signs for those who reflect.

(Ar-Ra'd 13:3)

Quran emphasises learning and understanding and indulging in scientific innovations.

(iii) Eradicate Militant terrorism and create a peaceful image of Islam:

Muslims should effectively propagate that violence has no place in Islam and Islam is the religion of peace. Allah gives victory to those who

have firm faith in Allah and those who work with patience and peace.

"... Whoever takes a life - unless as a punishment for murder or mischief in the land - it will be as they killed all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity..."

(Al-Maidah 5:32)

"... Do not spread corruption in the land."

(Al-Amkabut 29:36)

Quran promotes harmony and peace

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also made treaties, showed mercy to the enemies, promoted morality and tolerance and emphasized diplomacy and collective security.

(iv) Establishing economic organizations for Muslim countries:

Muslim world should make a joint organization to promote their economy and introduce a single

currency for all. Alongwith this interests should be completely eradicated any vice policy should be normalize. In this way better economy will strengthen defence system of countries and protect their sovereignty.

"Allah has made interest fruitless and charity fruitful. And Allah does not like any ungrateful evildoer."

(Al-Ankabut 2:276)
Baqarah

Sayiduna Jabir (R.A) narrates that "the Prophet (PBUH) cursed the one who consumed interest, the one who gives it to the others, the one who records it, and its two witnesses" and said "They all are equal".

(Al-Hadith)

Conclusion:

In the view of challenges faced by Muslim World, they should bring a paradigm shift in their policies, administration and economy. To combat the challenges they have to be equal in all senses of development to the developed countries, Quran

and, sunnah promote worldly growth as well as religious expansion. For this Muslims have to keep brotherly relationships with each other and defend each other's interests. In this way the threats to the Muslim Ummah can be countered.

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Challenges to the Muslim World

Internal

External

Intellectual crisis

Political disunity

Poor management

Extremism

Materialism

Western domination

Blasphemy

Discrimination

Solutions

Unity

Education

Eradication of terrorism

Economic development