

Q. Contemporary Challenges of Ummah & their solutions according to Islam?

A. UMMAH:

This word, in Islam, refers to the global community of Muslims who share a common faith and moral values.

- Contemporary issues can be complex and multifaceted, reflecting both internal and external challenges.

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES FACED BY UMMAH & THEIR SOLUTIONS IN ISLAM:

1. UNITY AND SECTARIANISM:

The Ummah is facing divisions along the sectarian line, such as Shia vs. Sunni.

- This leads to conflicts and weakens collective strength.

It also reduces the respect the individual sects need to show each other.

SOLUTIONS IN ISLAM:

- Islam promotes unity & brotherhood.

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided." (Al-Imran, 3:103)

- Encouraging mutual respect, dialogue and collaboration among different sects can help bridge gaps.

2. ECONOMIC INEQUALITY:

- There is a significant economic disparity within and among Muslim-majority

countries leading to poverty & unrest.

- Disadvantaged groups within Muslim minorities & communities including refugees and the marginalized populations cannot access resources essential for survival.
- There are economic disparities between wealthy Muslim countries like Qatar, UAE and the less privileged Muslim countries like parts of South Asia.

• SOLUTIONS IN ISLAM:

- Islam promotes the implementation of Zakat
"And establish prayer and give Zakat"
(Al-Baqarah, 2:43)
- Islam also emphasizes on justice and fair distribution of wealth.
"So give the relative his right, as well as the needy and the traveler." (Ar-Rum, 30:38)

3. POLITICAL INSTABILITY:

- Many Muslim countries, including Pakistan as well, face political instability, conflict & corruption.
- Bad governance is also a rising issue.

• SOLUTIONS IN ISLAM:

- Islam preaches the idea of a leader who has excellence in education, is honest and trusted and pious as well so that he may make correct political decisions under the light of Quran and Sunnah.
- He must be fair and just to all, and

recognize the significance of accountability.

"And do not let the hatred of people prevent you from being just. Be just, that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is acquainted." (Al-Maidah, 5:8).

"Indeed, Allah loves those who are justly!"

(Al-Mumtahanah, 60:8).

4. ISLAMOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION:

- Today, many Muslims worldwide are subjected to prejudice, discrimination and islamophobia. For example, post 9/11, Muslims worldwide were harassed and called militants.
- Muslims face extremist's hate speech, regarding their Hijab and beards as well, under the name of "freedom of speech".

• SOLUTIONS IN ISLAM:

- Islam promotes the concept of unity and brotherhood.
- It teaches us to live with collaboration and unification - to promote friendly ties.
- Additionally, educating others about Islam & promoting interfaith dialogue can help combat misconceptions and build mutual respect.

"None of you has faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Sahih Bukhari)

5. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION:

- Lack of freedoms in various Muslim majority countries ~~have~~ ^{has} been prevalent.
- Other issues include unnecessary restrictions and

human rights violations.

- Examples of these include restrictions "by violence" on the muslim minorities in Kashmir and Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang being subjected to mass detention in camps.

• SOLUTIONS IN ISLAM:

• Islam advocates for the protection of human dignity and rights.

- It promotes education on human rights and the encouragement of legal reforms.

"Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes."

(Al-Mumtahanah, 60:8)

6. LACK OF EDUCATION:

- Last but not the least, another pressing issue faced by the Muslim Ummah is the lack of education.

• This causes a nation to be left behind in the race of knowledge and ~~bring~~ hinders their progress and growth itself.

• SOLUTIONS IN ISLAM:

- The first commandment sent on the Muslim nation through a revelation was 'Iqra' - 'read'.

• Investing in education fosters a strong sense of identity & purpose and promotes growth individually.

It is mentioned in the Holy Quran:

"Say, "Are those who know equal to those who

do not? 'Indeed only they will remember who are people of understanding!' (Az-Zumar, 39:9).

The verse underscores the value of knowledge, suggesting that those who are knowledgeable are superior to those who ~~are~~ not.

Hence, these aforementioned contemporary issues faced by the Ummah, amongst the many other issues can be dealt with under the light and guidance of Quran and Sunnah.
