

Ayman Jabeen

067

Question:-

What are the contemporary issues of Muslim Ummah and their solutions in the according to Islam?

Introduction:-

The contemporary Muslim Ummah faces numerous challenges that are complex and interconnected with global dynamics. These issues are adversely impacting the economic, social and spiritual well-being of the Muslims around the world. Islam has provided a comprehensive framework for addressing these challenges, the Ummah has struggled to fully implement these teachings in the modern context. This has resulted in problems such as Islamophobia, rise of interest based economy, ~~and~~ sectarianism, the impact of globalization and the moral and ethic decline. By following the teachings of Quran and Sunnah, the Muslim Ummah can find pathways to overcome these challenges.

Contemporary Issues of Muslim Ummah:-

Following are the contemporary problems that the muslim Ummah is facing in the modern world:-

1. Islamophobia :-

Islamophobia is a widespread phenomenon characterized by fear, prejudice and hostility towards Islam and Muslims. This ~~fear~~ issue is present in both Muslim Western and non-western societies and is

promoted through negative media portrayals, ignorance and political agendas. Islamophobia creates discrimination, hate, violence and policies that marginalize Muslims. Because of this Muslims cannot practice their religion freely and safely.

One significant incident of Islamophobia was the "Christchurch mosque shooting in New Zealand" in 2019, where a white supremacist targeted Muslim worshippers, killing 51 people during Friday prayer. This incident highlighted the dangers of extremism against Muslims.

2. Interest-based economic system (Riba):-

The dominance of interest-based economic system poses a significant challenge for Muslims, as riba (interest) is strictly prohibited in Islam. This economic system fosters inequality, exploitation, and social injustices which are against the Islamic principles of equality, fairness and equity. Despite the clear prohibitions, many Muslims find themselves entangled in interest-based dealings due to the global economic structure.

3. Sectarianism:-

Sectarianism is another critical issue dividing the Muslim Ummah. It arises from differences in theological interpretations and historical grievances between various Islamic sects, primarily Sunni and Shia communities. These divisions lead to violence and disunity, weakening of Ummah and detracts from the core message of Islam, which emphasizes brotherhood and unity.

4. Globalization:-

Globalization has brought both opportunities and challenges for Muslims. While it has facilitated trade, access to information and global connectivity, it has also promoted Western cultural values that may conflict with Islamic teachings. Globalization tends to promote nationalism, secularism, materialism and individualism, often challenging Muslims to maintain their religious identity and values in a world dominated by modern ideologies.

For Example the adoption of modern secular lifestyle in countries like Turkey and UAE. This cultural shift challenges preservation of Islamic identity within these rapidly modernizing societies.

5. Moral and Ethical Decline:-

The moral and ethical decline in many muslim societies today can be attributed to factors such as materialism, secularism, and the weakening of religious education. The decline is evident in rising corruption, dishonesty and social injustices. Islam places great emphasis on good character. But the erosion of these values has caused significant harm to both individuals and communities.

Solutions According to teachings of Islam

1. Responding to Islamophobia with Patience and Wisdom:-

The Quran urges Muslims to respond to hostility with

patience and wisdom.

"Repel evil with what is better. Then the one you are in feud with will be like a close friend" (41:34).

The Prophet (SAW) showed resilience & patience in the face of persecution, as shown in his response to the people of Taif who rejected him. Instead of seeking for revenge he prayed for their guidance. This teaches Muslims to approach Islamophobia with education, peaceful dialogue, and by embodying the best of Islamic character. Muslim Ummah should engage in advocacy, create educational programs to dispel misinformation, misconceptions & and represent Islam positively in media and politics.

"To overcome Islamophobia, we must tell our own story, educate the masses, and build bridges of understanding" (Dr. Yasir Qadhi).

2. Promotion of a Just Economic System :-

Riba (interest) is strictly forbidden in Islam and Allah clearly mentioned in Quran, "O you who believe! Fear Allah and give up what remains of interest, if you should be believers." (2:278). Instead Islamic economic system like interest free zones, Profit sharing models, Zakat and Sadaqah should be promoted to reduce inequality of wealth. Islamic banking systems and Islamic financial institutions should be installed.

Maulana Maududi advocated for an interest-free economic system, saying, "Islam does not tolerate economic exploitation and insists on justice and fairness for all."

3- Preservation of Islamic morals and ethics:-

Islam encourages Muslims to engage with the world without compromising their religious identity.

“You are the best nation produced for mankind.

You enjoy what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah” (3:110)

Globalization should be approached selectively, allowing Muslims to adopt beneficial advancement while preserving Islamic morals and ethics. Media, technology and global networks can be used to share Islamic teachings, promote unity and resist secular ideologies. Scholars like Muhammad Iqbal encouraged Muslims to embrace modernity but remain grounded in their faith.

4- Promoting Unity :-

The Quran calls for unity among Muslims.

“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.” (3:103)

The Muslim leadership including scholars and community leaders should work together and foster inter-sect dialogue and understanding. As Imam Ghazali emphasized, unity within the Ummah is essential for its strength and prosperity. Islamic educational institutions can play a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and reducing sectarian tensions.

5. Educational Reforms:-

Restoring the ethical and moral decline within Muslim Ummah requires a return to Islamic principles and teachings. This can be achieved through educational reforms that emphasize Islamic ethics, youth development programs, and initiatives promoting justice, honesty and community service. Scholars like Shykh Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi have stressed the importance of returning to Islamic principles to combat moral decay.

The Prophet (saw) also stressed on the importance of good character. "The best amongst you are those who have the best character."

Conclusion:-

To conclude, the contemporary challenges faced by Muslim Ummah are not without solutions. Islam provides a comprehensive framework that addresses these issues - By adhering to the teachings of Quran and Sunnah, the Muslim Ummah can overcome Islamophobia, interest based economic system, sectarianism, globalization's pressure and moral decline. The Quran reminds us that change begins with the self - "Indeed Allah will not change the condition of people until they change what is in themselves" (13:11).