

Q. Elaborate the concept and importance of Ijtihad and explain its principles. (2022)

## 1- Introduction

Ijtihad literally means to discover, strive, put one self of out, and work hard. In Islamic legal terminology, it means "the process of deriving the laws of the Shariah from its sources". In order to perform a muslim man or woman should be thoroughly familiar with the science of Quran and Sunnah. Any muslim with some knowledge of religion can perform Ijtihad on certain matters, particularly those of personal concern. There are also some principles to perform Ijtihad: otherwise

it cannot be exercised. Over and above, there are some degrees of Ijtihad to perform, which include Ijtihad fi Sharh, Ijtihad fi Madhab and Ijtihad fi Masail. So, above mentioned are the brief explanation of Ijtihad, importance and principles.

## 2. The Concept of Ijtihad

The word "Ijtihad" has root word "Juhd", whose meaning is to strive or to try. It is such process in which scholar, with having adequate knowledge of Holy Quran and Sunnah, performs to discover the solution of any contemporary issue, which is not mentioned in the Holy Book or Sunnah. Unlike Ijma, whose

unanimous consensus of scholars is required, Ijtihad can be exercised or performed by any individual, who must have adherence to Islamic laws. It is exercised to find solution of any problem. For example, if alcohol is forbidden. So if a thing, which has same alcoholic effects is also forbidden in Islam. Muslims, sometimes, justify any forbidden (Haram) as Halal due to modern time and contemporary need; a thing which is forbidden in Islam shall not be made lawful.

Example The Quran has prohibited Pork. This is a revelation based ruling. However, raising the questions and asking for rationality of

Why it is forbidden is a wrong act. Some people, on pretext of old time, argued that in that time the people were nourished in filthy condition; therefore it was forbidden in Islam.

### 3- Importance of Ijtihad

a- To find the solution of today's issues a muslim scholar can take help from the Holy Quran and Sunnah to look for the way forwards of going issues. If two main sources have not mentioned them; he could make his own from the knowledge of Holy Quran and Sunnah.

2- To eradicate corruption

Now, the Muslims do not exercise the Ijtihad due to several reasons and factors. Muslims should restart the process of Ijtihad to eradicate the corruption on federal and provincial level. This is the reason why our leaders do not allow the permission of exercising Ijtihad.

3- The way to reduce terrorism

The terrorism has become rampant in every corner of the world. It is abundant in muslim countries, especially, Afghanistan. So, the terrorists' mindset of Ijtihad and extremism can also be modified or changed through Ijtihad.

#### 4- Co-education in Islam

Coeducation system is a very debatable and critical issue in muslim countries. The religious and conservative people do not permit their daughters to get higher education due to coeducation system. Ijtihad is a way to solve this misunderstanding of muslim people.

#### 4- The Principles of Ijtihad

There are three principles of Ijtihad.

- a. Ijtihad - Fi - Sharh
- b. Ijtihad - Fi - Madhab
- c. Ijtihad - Fi - Masail

#### a) Ijtihad - Fi - Sharh

Absolute independence in legislation is the gift of God.

He can use his own independence judgement. Theoretically, any muslim can attain this degree, but one of principles of Jurisprudence that of the confirmation of this rank is dependent on many conditions. Following are these conditions :-

- i) He should have perfect acquaintance with literal meaning of the words.
- ii) He must know Quran with all explanations.
- iii) He should have perfect knowledge of Hadith - or atleast thousand of them.
- iv) He himself should be rich.
- v) He also has profound knowledge of all the sciences.
- vi) A complete knowledge of the four schools of Jurisprudence.

## b) Ijtihad fi Nadhab

This degree has granted to the immediate disciples of the great Imams who have elaborated the system of their matters.

## c) Ijtihad fi Massal

This is the degree of special independence. They can solve cases which come before them, giving reasons for their judgement or decide on case which have not been settled by previous Mujtahidin; but in either case, their decisions must always be in absolute accordance with the opinions of the Mujtahid of the first and second classes.



# Conclusion

Hence, the meaning of Ijtihad to find the solution of any problem, which is not mentioned in the two main sources of Islamic law: the holy Quran and Sunnah. Considering the importance of Ijtihad, Muslims can deal their problems via Ijtihad on individual or nation level. Besides, to follow Ijtihad, one has to fulfill the all requirements of it; then he or she can exercise.