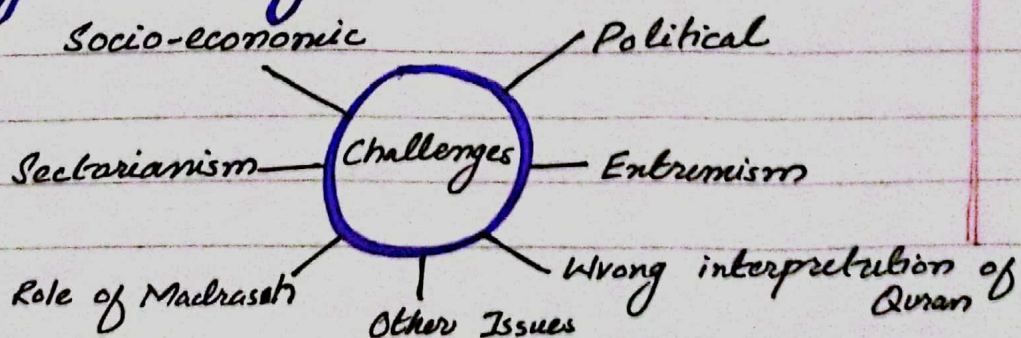


Q What are contemporary challenges faced by Muslim Ummah and their solution?

1 Introduction

Muslim Ummah, global Muslim community is facing several contemporary issues that tests its unity, resilience and adaptability. Social and economical decline, illiteracy, technological backwardness and political instability are some of the challenges faced by Muslim Ummah. Additionally, rising extremism and militancy in Muslim World has affected the global image. This has resulted in deprivation and marginalization of Muslim community at global level. Muslim world is vast and spread over of different regions but the challenges faced by community around the globe are more or less same.

2 Key Challenges



a Socio-economic Challenges

Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and population explosion are the terms that characterize the Muslim countries. Almost half of the Afro-Asian countries are below the line of poverty. 22 countries out of 57 members of OIC are considered as least developed countries. The overall combined GDP of all Muslim countries is only 5% as compared to the GDP of the rest of the world. According to global corruption Index of 146 countries, 35 Muslim countries are among top 70. This sums up the socio-economic condition of the Muslim Ummah.

b Political Challenges

Most of the Muslim countries have autocratic and dictatorial form of government. Political participation, democracy and representation is restricted. This has resulted in political instability and lack of political awareness among masses. This form of government gave

birth to militancy and anarchy when demands and representation of people are suppressed.

c Extremism

Extremism is another big challenge that hinders the development of Muslim Ummah. Militant organizations like 'Al-Qaeda' were formed with a goal to impose rigid Islamic rule through armed struggle. These militant organizations either work against their respective govt. or are against western and pro-western countries. There are almost seventy militant groups operating in Pakistan only and these groups have caused much damage to the country.

d Sectarianism

Rising sectarianism is an alarming challenge among Muslim Ummah. It leads to extremism and violence. The foremost sectarian issue is Shia-Sunni conflict. This has caused damage to Muslim Ummah on global level.

Iran - Saudi Arabia conflict is an example of sectarianism. This has weakened the unity of Muslim world on global level.

e Role of Madrasah

Madrasahs have played a vital role in promotion and preservation of Islam over the years. At the time of independence of Pakistan, there were 245 madrasahs, the number grew to 10,000 in 2002 and approx. 20,000 in 2014. US-Afghan war has mushroomed the growth of madrasahs. These madrasah follow outdated syllabus and are away from modern education. Often, they are involved in militancy and sectarianism violence. Reforms by the government are opposed and labelled as west induced.

f Wrong Interpretation of Quran

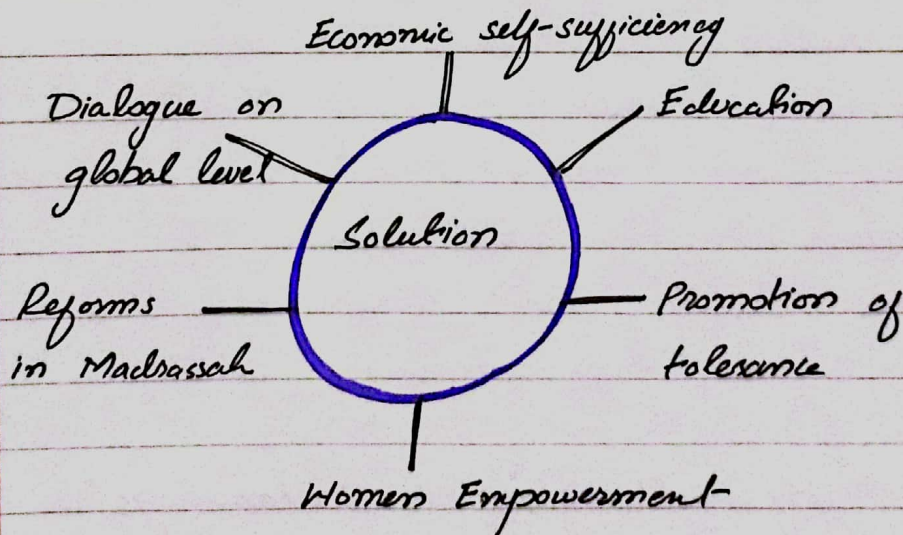
Wrong interpretation of Quran and Hadith without context to use against other sects is prevalent in Muslim world.

Often Hadith and Ayats related to jihad are misinterpreted to justify the killings of innocent civilians.

9 Other Issues

Other issues like wrong use of blasphemy law, Hudood ordinance and denial of rights given to women in Islam, are prevalent. Understanding of Quran by self is often discouraged by the scholars.

3 Solutions



a Economic Self-sufficiency

Muslim countries have to become self-sufficient in terms of economic. It is the only solution that can elevate Muslim countries global. When they will not depend on western aid then Muslim world would have a stance in global politics and will be able to promote a good image of Islam.

b Education

Education is the core need of any nation to make it strong economically and politically. There is a misconception among Muslim Ummah that western education will deviate them from Islamic teachings. But, Quran did not stop anyone from acquiring education.

"My Lord! increase me in knowledge"
(Al-Quran 20:114)

c Dialogue on Global Level

To eradicate sectarianism, Muslim world should have dialogue among global level to resolve issues and promote peace and tolerance among the Muslim world. This would lead to a united and strong image of Muslims on global front.

d Reforms in Madrassah

Reforms are necessary in madrassah system to have good output from these institution. Modern education should be introduced in Madrassah to equip the students with required knowledge according to fast-paced world.

e Promotion of Tolerance

Islam is the religion of peace and the foremost goal of Muslim Ummah must be the promotion of peace. Quranic ayahs and hadiths that promotes peace should be taught to the masses among Muslim Ummah.

3 Women Empowerment

Women empowerment can resolve a great chunk of challenges faced by Muslim Ummah directly and indirectly. Equal opportunities in education and employment will help in well-educated and self-dependent women. According to Islam mother's lap is the first learning place of child and an educated mother can raise an educated generation.

4 Conclusion

Muslim world is surrounded by multiple challenges. From socio-political to economic issue, extremism to lack of education all these factors are interrelated and the solution is simple that is promotion of peace and education. All these issues are directly or indirectly dependent on either intolerance or lack of education.