

Write comprehensive note on Zakat system of Islam and its spiritual, moral and social aspects impacts. (2018)

## Introduction

In Islamic terminology, Zakat is the sum of amount which a muslim pays the poor and extremely needy people from his wealth. Zakat is obligatory for a muslims who have to consume money on the poor people. However, the holy Quran has prescribed the eight categories of the people who Zakat should be given. The main purpose of Zakat is to terminate poverty from the society and to get pleasure of Allah Almighty.

And establish Salaat (Muslim prayer) and pay Zakat (compulsory dues for the have notes) — Al Baqrah: 43

These are three main impacts of Zakat in the muslim society. These are spiritual, moral and social. Hence, Zakat system in Islam is aimed at supporting muslims financially that they do not become prone to wrong-doing.

# Zakat System in Islam

## a - Obligation of Zakat

Some scholars believe that the commandment of Nisab - e - Zakat was revealed in 2H, whereas distribution and collection of Zakat established in 8 AH.

## b - Commandments of Zakat in Makkah

In Makkah, Muslims would spend money beyond their need, so the commandment of Zakat, according to scholars, had already come in Makkah.

## c - True meaning of Zakat

The literal meaning of Zakat is "to purify" and "increase in a thing".

## d - Nisab of Zakat

Those Muslims who have the sum of amount of money more than their need shall pay 2.5 percent from their wealth.

In terms of silver, one shall pay 52 1/2 tolas, and 7 1/2 tolas from gold.

## e - Distribution of Zakat in Holy Quran

Alms are for the poor and the needy. For those employed to administer the funds. For those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled to truth; and for those in bondage and in debt. In the cause of Allah; and for the way

Allah. Thus it is explained by Allah. And Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom. (Al-Toba: 60)

Allah Almighty has described the eight people who are eligible for Zakat.

### i. Fuqarah and Masakeen

Those Muslims who are extremely poor persons. They do not have basic necessity (for example house, furniture, ~~clothing, bed~~ money) to trade. It means they do not have asset at all.

### ii. Amileen

This category refers to the collectors of Zakat. They are appointed by the state to collect Zakat from Muslims. He shall be given fourth part from the Zakat whether he is rich or himself. It is a reward for his effort and labor.

### iii. Mu - Allafate - Quloobuhum

The newly converts of Islam are recipients of Zakat in the Quran. It aims at strengthening their hearts and making them to follow Islam without any financial issue.

#### IV. Ar-Riqabah

It refers to freeing the slaves from Zakat. However, the word Riqabah is the plural of Raqabah which means "neck". There are two categories of slaves: one is freeing slave and second assisting the class of slaves in obtaining freedom. Second one is known as Muktatib who enters into a contract with his master.

#### V. Qardimeen

The fifth recipient of Zakat is the person who is in the state of debt. It means the debtor should be a poor person, who is at the stage of selling basic necessities (House, clothes, furniture and so on). There are two conditions whether he is eligible or not.

- His debt is more than his assets
- His net asset is below nisab

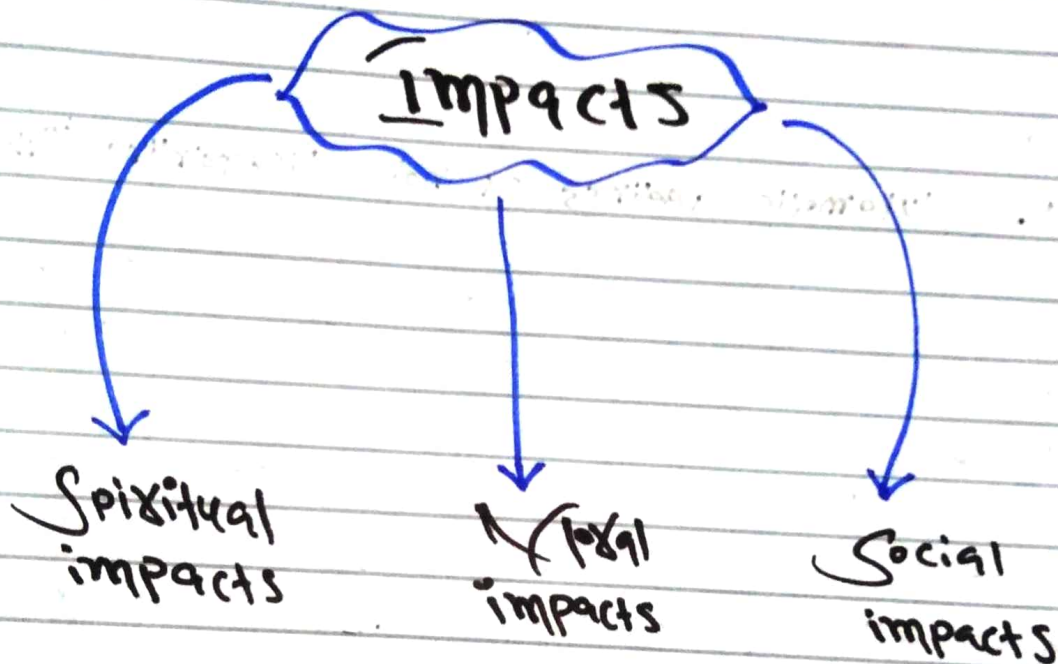
#### VI. Fi-Sabeelillah

To give Zakat in the way of Allah. It is aimed at pleasing Allah Almighty. According to jurists, it refers to disbursing Zakat on mujahideen (the soldiers) who participate therein. It is an act of pleasing Allah Almighty, earns him all forms of good deeds works.

## vii. Ibnus Sabeel

It is about the person who is wealthy at his place of residence but needy during his journey.

## Impacts OF Zakat



### i. Spiritual impacts

There are several spiritual impacts of Zakat:

- a. Strengthening one's belief  
A muslim gets good feeling on disbursing money from his wealth. They feel close to Allah (Almighty), and try to worship him.
- b. Thanks giving to Allah  
A muslim thanks Allah (Almighty) for the wealth he gave to him.

c. Able to answer in the hereafter

On the day of judgement everybody shall be accountable to things in the world.

They have to tell how they used their body parts and the wealth Allah bestowed to them. Therefore, Zakat is the way to please Allah and pass the examination on the judgement day.

d. Automatic feelings of not disappointing Allah again

When a muslim does an act of goodness, he feels it must have appeased his Allah. After that, he tries to repeat such an act to get his support. Similarly, when a muslim pays Zakat, he then tries to avoid doing sins to get wrath of Allah.

e. Purification of soul

One's sins diminish as one pays for the sake of Allah. Allah says "He who purifies himself, who remembers the name of his lord and prays, shall indeed be

successful: Surah Al-A'la. However,

Zakat helps a muslim to purify his soul by not being greedy.

## ii. Moral impacts

a. Zakat purifies wealth

In Islam, a muslim has to pay zakat for purification of his wealth. Holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said "He who sleeps on a full stomach while his neighbour goes hungry is not one of us."

b. A way to learn discipline  
Zakat makes muslims realize what is the importance of their wealth and where it should be spent.

c. It eradicates selfishness

Through zakat, a muslim fights his inner stubbornness of saving or accumulating money. According to a hadith, a person cannot be muslim if his neighbors are starving he lives an affluent life.

d. It encourages others to do

When a muslim pay zakat to any poor, other muslims also try to be like him. From individual level,

it eventually reaches on broader level. In modern time, one should take advantage of social media to encourage muslims to pay zakat.

### iii. Social impacts

a. Empowerment: poor to meet his needs.

Iskam allows Muslims to pay Zakat on only the poor and need people that they can feed their children or family.

b. Exacerbation of wrong doings

In situation of unemployment and bankruptcy, a person doesn't see difference between good deed and crime. They fall into robbery, theft and other evil doings. Therefore, Zakat helps them to open their source of earning.

c. Zakat removes greed

Zakat helps a Muslim from going towards greed. They accept it and use in good work.

d. It creates sense of equality

Some poor Muslims regret their extreme poverty, and also their faith decrease gradually. Zakat helps them financially and refresh their faith.

e. It helps to deal any health issue

Some poor Muslims are not able afford huge cost of a health issue or disease, but Zakat helps them to pay it.



## Conclusion

Zakat is the third pillar in Islam. It is mandatory for Muslims to pay it on poor and needy Muslims. The receipt receivers are categorized into eight categories that the Zakat should be given to. These are: Fuqaragan and Masakeen, Amileen, Mu - Alla fate - Quloobunum, Ar - Riqlab, Gaximeen, fi - Sabilillah and Ibnus sbeel. However, to practice Zakat has three main impacts: spiritual impacts, moral impacts, and social impacts. Hence, the society will function properly if Zakat is collected and given to rightly people.

“ One who pays Zakat, Allah will make their wealth increase ”

— Sahi Bukhari