

Describe the most notable features of Muslims in India in the light of their monotheistic religion and egalitarian social structure. (CSS-2006)

① INTRODUCTION

The Muslims of India have many notable features; among them, the most significant are their monotheistic religion and egalitarian social structure. These features encompass various aspects, including ideas of economic welfare and zakat, education and moral system of Islam, the role of Sufi saints, the practice of Islamic teachings, and the core Islamic values and teachings.

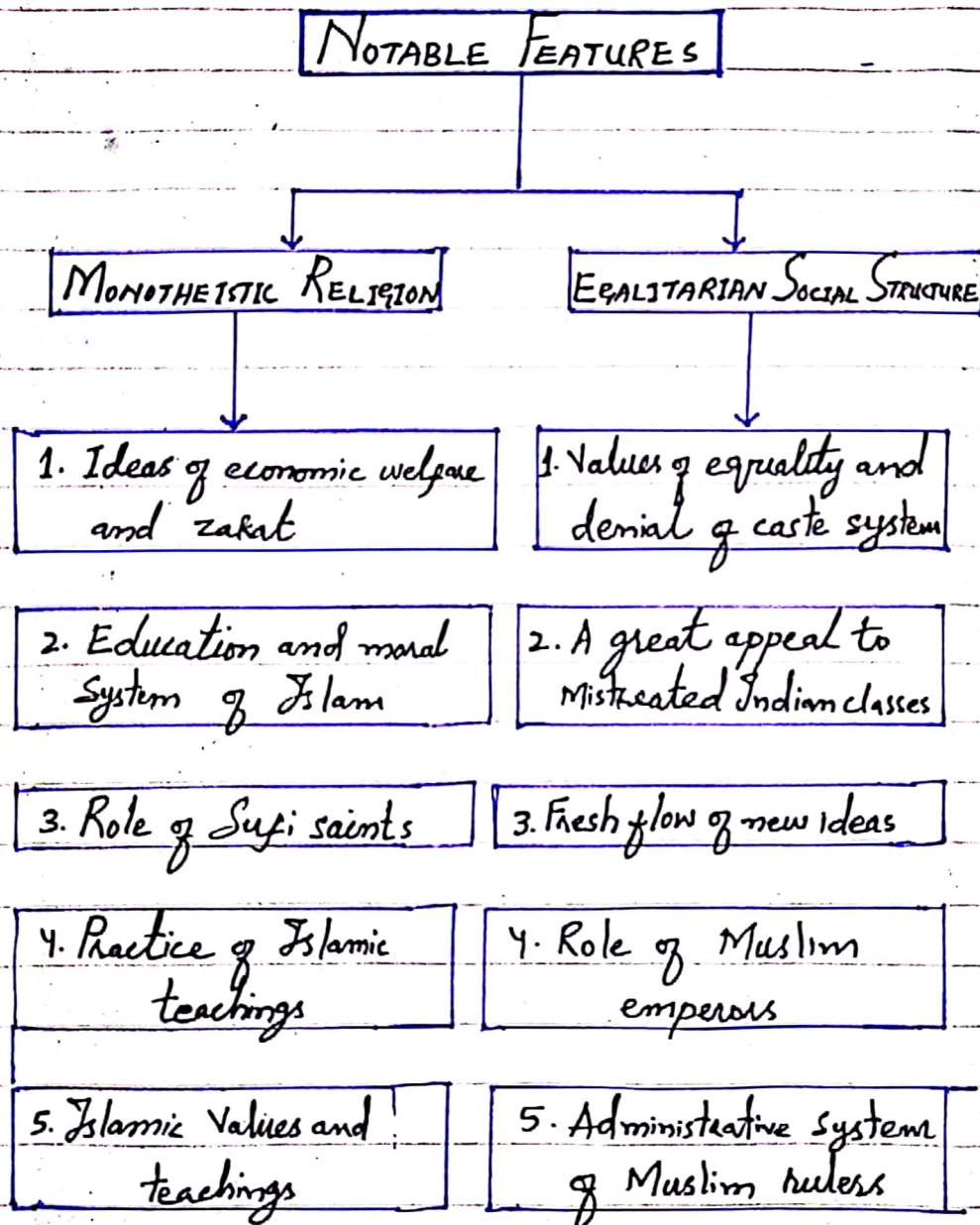
Additionally, the egalitarian social structure includes values of equality and denial of caste system, a great appeal to mistreated Indian classes, a fresh flow of new ideas, the role of Muslim emperors and the administrative system of Muslim rules. Together, these elements shape the identity and contributions of Muslims in India, enriching the country's diverse cultural heritage.

"Islam is not only religion but a complete way of life that emphasizes the oneness of God, social justice, equality, and compassion for all humanity"

- Ameen Rihani

2. MOST NOTABLE FEATURES OF

INDIAN MUSLIMS



3. MOST NOTABLE FEATURES IN THE LIGHT OF MONOTHEISTIC RELIGION

① Ideas of economic welfare and zakat.

Islamic teachings emphasize zakat, the mandatory giving to support the poor, which has deeply influenced the socio-economic responsibilities of Muslims in India. This system promotes social welfare and economic justice, benefiting society at large. (Khurshid Ahmad, Islam: Its Meaning and Message).

② Education and Moral System of Islam

Islam encourages the pursuit of knowledge as moral duty, which has historically fostered intellectual growth among Muslims in India. This emphasis on education established a strong ethical foundation within the community, strengthening character and promoting social harmony. (Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, The Muslim Community of the Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent).

3. Role of Sufi saints

Sufi saints, including prominent figures like Moinuddin Chishti, played a vital role in spreading Islam in India. Their teachings of love, tolerance, and spiritual unity attracted followers from diverse backgrounds, creating a peaceful and inclusive environment. (K. Ali, A study of Islamic history).

4. Practice of Islamic teachings

Indian Muslims' dedication to daily prayers, fasting and charity demonstrates the practical application of Islamic values. These practices instill compassion, honesty and community support, which have shaped the moral identity of Muslims in India. (Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, Islam and Peace).

5. Islamic values and teachings:

Core Islamic values like justice, mercy, and respect for others have profoundly influenced the Muslim community in India. These principles guide their interactions and contributions to the society, fostering peace and mutual respect. (Allama Maududi, Towards understanding Islam).

4. MOST NOTABLE FEATURES IN THE LIGHT OF EGALITARIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE

① Values of equality and denial of caste system

The core tenet of Islam is equality before God challenged rigid caste system in India, offering a more inclusive social framework. This principle made Islam appealing to those marginalized by the caste system, encouraging social equity. (Istiaq Hussain Qureshi, Ulema in Politics).

② A great appeal to mistreated Indian classes

The egalitarian ethos of Islam provided dignity and opportunity to the lower classes in India. By embracing Islam, these communities found a supportive social structure that valued their rights and contributions. (I.H Qureshi, The administration of the Sultanate of Delhi).

③ Fresh flow of new Ideas

Islamic principles introduced progressive ideas about social justice and equality in India, challenging established hierarchies and promoting reform within society. These values

reshaped social structures, aligning them more with principles of fairness.
(K. Ali, A study of Islamic History)

④ Role of Muslim Emperors

Mughal emperors, particularly Akbar, were notable for their efforts to foster tolerance and inclusivity, reinforcing Islam's egalitarian ideas through governance that valued diversity and merit.
(Stanley Lane-Poole).

⑤ Administrative System of Muslim rulers

The administrative system of Muslim rulers in India emphasized meritocracy enabling capable individuals from diverse backgrounds to contribute to governance. This approach strengthened social cohesion and highlighted the values of justice and fairness.

(Dr. Mubark Ali, History of the Muslims of South Asia)

5. CONCLUSION

In the end, the notable features of Muslims in India, shaped by their monotheistic beliefs and egalitarian social structure, significantly influenced their identity and contribution to society. The principles of Tauheed, charity, education, and respect for others foster a strong sense of community. At the same time, the emphasis on equality and social justice promotes inclusivity and enriches the cultural heritage of India, encouraging harmony among its diverse populations.