

ISLAMIYAT

(Q2)

Who are entitled to receive Zakat according to Quran? Elucidating social impact of Zakat, derive how can poverty be alleviated with its distribution in Islamic Society?

Introduction:

Zakat literally means to purify something. It is a way through which a person's soul and finances are purified. It is the only form of worship which can be taken **forcefully from the people**. The first Caliph did jihad against those who refused to pay Zakat. Moreover, Zakat purifies one's wealth and leads to the circulation of wealth among the poor. Finally, it also makes a man obedient to Allah as it is the duty of Muslim to fulfil Allah's orders. Allah says in Holy Quran:

“O you who believe! Obey Allah and His Messenger.”

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WHO ARE ENTITLED TO PAY ZAKAT?

In the Holy Quran, Allah has categorized a set of people who are entitled to receive Zakat and it is incumbent upon Muslims to pay them. Allah has said in Surah At-Tawbah, verse 60:

"And

"And give Zakat to those who are poor, those who are needy, to those who are in debt, to those who are the administrators, those in bondage, those whose hearts are in reconciliation, to the wayfarers and for the cause of Allah".

~ At-Tawbah (9:60)

1) The poor

Allah has made poor people the receivers of Zakat as they are unable to meet their needs.

2) The Needy:

Those people who do not ask for help and are in dire need of health wealth to meet their needs,

3) **In debtors:**

People who are burdened by debt are entitled to take Zakat.

4) **Administrators:**

The administrators of Zakat who are responsible for the collection of Zakat.

5) **Slaves:**

Those who are in bondage means that slaves are entitled to take Zakat.

6) **Hearts in Reconciliation:**

New converts to Islam are under the category of receiving Zakat.

7) **Wayfarers:**

Travellers who are away from their home town can receive Zakat.

8) **In the way of Allah:**

Allah says in the Ayat:

﴿ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ﴾

It means to give Zakat for the sake of Allah's will.

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF ZAKAT:

1) Zakat reduces crime rates:

As soon as Zakat reaches in the hands of people, it increases wealth circulation and reduces crime rates in the society. The Holy Prophet has rightly said:

"Poverty leads a man to disbelief".

2) Zakat makes people obedient to law:

Firstly, Allah has commanded man to pay Zakat which in turn makes a man obedient. Furthermore, after getting Zakat, an individual tends to follow the laws of the government as one's trust starts to build up in the incumbent government.

Therefore, Allah has placed great emphasis on Zakat for such reasons.

Allah says in Holy Quran:

“ And establish prayer
and give Zakat
and enjoin right and
forbid the evil ”

“ Surah: Al-Baqarah.

3) Zakat creates humility and sympathy
towards other people:

When a rich person begins giving alms, the purity of Zakat inculcates love, empathy and sympathy towards others. It makes one aware that it is Allah's greatness that He has provided countless blessing and makes one capable of giving ~~thanks~~ alms. Allah says in Holy Quran:

“ And do not waste
your reward in
reproach and
injury ”.

How CAN POVERTY BE ELIMINATED THROUGH ZAKAT:

Zakat System Prohibits Interest:

Zakat is a holistic approach through which the wealth reaches the poor from the rich. In banning interest, the poor would be able to fulfil his needs without providing any extra money to the banks and people. Allah says in the Holy Quran

"And Allah does not like those who take interest."

Zakat now flows from the richer to the poorer:

The system of Zakat can play a pivotal role in eliminating poverty. The major essence of Zakat is to collect money from the rich and give it to the poor. In the era of Holy Prophet, no one was left entitled to take Zakat anymore due to the already fact that he provided Zakat to impoverished people.

and provided them with financial wellbeing. Holy Prophet Says:

"Zakat is the way through which money is collected from the rich and provided to the poor".

Zakat ensures circulation of wealth:

Through Zakat, wealth does not stay accumulated in a few hands. Instead, it is circulated throughout the society which helps in eliminating poverty. This system also widens up the middle class which further works for the wellbeing of the state. Therefore, Allah has made it incumbent upon Muslims to give Zakat. He has rightly said in Al-Quran:

"Verily, Allah has ordered the Muslims to give Zakat".

Conclusion:

Therefore, the system of Zakat plays a pivotal role in eliminating

poverty from the Society. Moreover, it has certain societal impacts which lead the Muslims towards economic wellbeing and to the highest merit of morality.
