

Name: Rabiya Arif.

Roll no.: 34936-Rabiya Arif-058

Assignment no.: 2.

DATE: ___/___/___

Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah and Their solutions according to the teachings of Islam.

=> Introduction:

Islam is a complete way of life, there is no area of a human life that Islam has left unattended. From individual to collective lives of muslims have been ^{adequately} guided.

All people who believe in Islam falls under the community of believers known as "muslim ummah".

Muslim Ummah is facing many challenges ~~especially~~ specifically with regard to this modern time, including challenges related to unity, education, economic development, terrorism, extremism and misinterpretation of Islamic injunctions. As already mentioned that Islam deals with every aspect of human life so solution to these problem also lies within the teachings of Islam.

=> Muslim Ummah: Defined:

Generally the word Ummah means "mother source", and it refers to "a nation". Contentually ummah represents a community of the people who come together because

DATE: ___/___/___

of their shared belief in Islam, these people are from different backgrounds and nationalities but has one thing in common which is Islam. Muslim ummah is not geographically represented rather it is united by Allah for his divine plan.

=> Contemporary Challenges faced by Muslim Ummah and their solutions as per the teachings of Islam.

The current era has posed muslim ummah with many challenges sometimes their root cause is internal and sometimes external but their remedy is available within the folds of Islam.

① Lack of unity among Muslim Ummah.

The most serious problem muslim ummah is facing is the disunity of muslims. This disunity lies on the international level as well as ^{within} the countries. On national level muslim ummah is divided into sects, the conflicts of Shia - Sunni, deobandi - bareilvi is one example. On international level muslims are not on same page, they often watch their muslim brothers

and sisters being killed by a non-muslim state's invasion and they keep quiet securing their own interests, for example Israel have been committing atrocities in Palestine from a long period of time. and this violence is still going on but Egypt has been observed strengthening its trade relations with Israel even UAE's and Jordan's exports to Israel have increased.

Allah (SWT) says in Quran

”وَاصْبِرُوا كَمَا صَبَرْنَا وَاللَّيْلَةَ
وَإِذْ كُنَّا أَعْيُنًا عَلَىٰ قَوْمِكَانِبٍ
وَإِذْ كُنَّا نَقِيبًا عَلَىٰ الْكَاذِبِينَ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
”

”And hold firmly together to the rope of Allah and do not be divided.

Remember Allah's favour upon you when you were enemies, and he united your hearts, so you by his favour became brothers”

Surah Ale Imran Verse 103.

Allah guides muslims to live like brothers, by this verse. Allah has forbidden muslims to be divided.

DATE: ___/___/___

So, by following the Islamic injunction muslim should stand as one. in front of non-muslim enemies and this could not be possible without the elimination of sectarianism on national and regional level. and without focusing on the ends of Islam rather than their personal interests.

②: Curse of extremism and terrorism
Extremism and terrorism are linked with each other. Such curse emerge when some intolerant extremists try to give practical shape to their radical thoughts. Some extremist organizations are directed towards their own country's rulers. and some are directed towards the non-muslim states.

Afghan talibans were established to fight with the army of soviet Union to save Afghanistan from Soviet Union's invasion, talibans won the war but this radical approach remained their and it got so powerful that it took control of Afghanistan from Afghan government in 2021.

Al Qaeda has been observed attacking the western countries. Further

DATE: ___/___/___

Jamia al Islamia resort to violence in Egypt. This terrorism and extremism also gives birth to another issue of Islamophobia.

Allah says in Quran:

”لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدَرْتُمْ”

”الرِّشْرُ مِنْ الْغِي”

”let there be no

compulsion in religion,

for the truth stands

out clearly from

falsehood.”

(Surah Baqarah Verse 256).

Allah does not command force in religion, unlike this radical and extremist approach.

Allah says in Verse 22 of Surah Ar-Rum.

”And one of his

signs is the diversity

of colors and languages”

In this verse Islam promotes the tolerance towards those who are different from the other. Islam does not support force, rather it leaves a room for the co-existence. Further Allah forbids killing by saying that whoever kills one human he is as though he has killed all of humanity.

③ Muslim Ummah lagging behind in Socio-Economic development. Poverty, corruption, increase in population and unemployment are major issues of Muslim Ummah. World trade of all the OIC (Organization of Islamic Council) member countries altogether is less than the trade of China, and 22 countries of OIC are "least developed countries (LDCs)". Collective GDP of all Muslim States constitute only 5% of the World GDP.

On the corruption index 35 Muslim countries ranked among the top 70 corrupt countries. In majority of Muslim countries about 50% of population lives below poverty line. Muslim Ummah is in serious socio-economic distress. This instability causes the selfish attitude of securing country's benefits and not thinking as one Ummah. But Islamic injunctions can remedy it as well. Allah says in Surah Hujrat Verse no. 10

"The believers are but one brotherhood".

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has said that

"The Muslims are

like a single man.
 If the eye is afflicted,
 then the whole body
 is afflicted. If the
 head is afflicted then
 the whole body is
 afflicted.¹⁷
 (Sahih Muslim)

As per the Islamic injunction
 Muslim Ummah must help
 each other for getting out of this
 recession ^{like} Saudi Arabi ^{and Qatar} are rich in
 oil reserves, if they help
 their muslim brother countries
 with regard to trade at
 cheap price. and the other of
 muslim community will also do the
 same according to their resources
 surely Muslim countries's dependency
 on western world would lesser.
 Muslim community would finally
 think as one. and would be
 able to show their impact on
 international level.

(4): Unattentiveness towards Education.

Muslims witnessed their glory
 when they were ahead of the
 world in their research and
 knowledge but sadly this is not

DATE: ___/___/___

The case now, majority of Muslim countries's 50% population is illiterate. Benazir Bhutto has written in her book named "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy & The West" that more books are translated into Spanish from other languages annually than have been translated into Arabic in the past one century, further 15 Million citizens of Greece buy more books than all of the Arabs put together, further she wrote that Muslim world spends around 0.2% of its GDP on research and development while the west spends about 5%."

It is very apparent that this issue is not of being poor but it lacks attention!

As per the Hadith of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH)

"Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every muslim."

(Ibn e Majah)

Seeking knowledge is very much appreciated and encouraged in Islam. It is lack of knowledge and improper administration of education which causes religious extremism & terrorism.

⑤ Misinterpretation of Islamic Injunction, a major cause of Islamophobia & extremism.

Islam means peace, it promotes harmony and friendly relations.

One of the major challenges posed to Islam is its wrong interpretations, it is not just an issue regarding western world but also within the Ummah.

Misinterpretation of Islamic injunctions mixed with the radical material converted the locals of Afghanistan into the talibans. Similarly giving Jihad wrong interpretations and sidelining the verses and Hadiths regarding peace, co-existence, harmony, tolerance portrayed the wrong image of Islam leading towards the Islamophobia in the eyes of world.

As per the Islamic injunctions "Allah has placed man as his representative on Earth".

Being a representative of Allah places a human in great responsibility. So it is the responsibility of every muslim as well as of the Ummah to play a role in proper interpretation

of Islamic injunctions so that the right and authentic message of Allah would reach to everyone.

⇒ Conclusion:

Muslim Ummah is not in a very pleasant and desirable state right now but its remedy is not unknown neither is very difficult. Islamic injunctions are and will ^{always} remain available to help and guide the believers. Muslims had shown world the unmatched social, economical and educational glory while promoting peaceful and harmonious way of life and it has potential to it again. if it practices the teachings of Islam. In truest and purest sense.