

Q. Who are entitled to receive Zakat according to Quran? Elucidate social impacts of Zakat, clarify how can poverty be alleviated with its distribution in Islamic society

Introduction

The Quran uses the term Zakat around thirty times for referring to the obligatory almsgiving which constitutes the third pillar of Islam. It is always mentioned in conjunction with the term salat. The importance of Zakat can be gauged from the fact that Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (R.A) proclaimed war on non-payers of Zakat. The beneficiaries of Zakat includes poor, needy and

Others. Moreover Zakat is used for the welfare of individuals and for the defence of religion. Zakat gives economic security to the Muslim community and prevents the accumulation of wealth in few hands. Likewise it alleviates poverty.

The beneficiaries of Zakat

The beneficiaries of Zakat includes poor and needy people who are living without means of livelihood and cannot fulfill their basic needs. Besides these, Zakat collectors, wayfarers and slaves are also masarif of Zakat.

Zakat expenditures are only for the poor and the needy, for those employed to collect zakat, for those whose hearts are

attracted to the Faith, for
freeing slaves, for those
in debt, for Allah's cause
and for needy travellers.

(Al-Tauba: 60)

Social impacts of Zakat

Help of the poor.

Zakat provide basic necessities to the poor Muslims. It fulfill basic needs of the people. Therefore, Quran has regarded the poor-due as a right of the poor on the affluent class of the society. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Verily, Allah has ordained the payment of Zakat on them. It will be taken from the rich and returned to the poor".

(Muslim)

Defence of Religion

Another important purpose and benefit of Zakat is that it is utilized for the defence of Islam. It is admitted on all the hands that the protection and support of religion is not an ordinary matter.

"Spend your wealth ~~and~~
~~your~~ in the cause of
Allah and be not cast
by your own hands to
ruin."

(Al-Baqara: 195)

Prevention of beggary

Zakat plays a vital role in preventing beggary by redistributing wealth and empowering individuals. It reduces economic disparities and provides a safety net for the vulnerable. This in turn enables individuals to maintain their dignity and become self-sufficient.

Prevents the hoarding of wealth

Zakat prevents the hoarding of wealth. By mandating a annual contribution of 2.5% on excess wealth and discourage ~~genera~~ hoarding.

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Creates social security

Zakat creates a comprehensive social security system by providing financial support to the poor, needy and slaves. It reduces poverty and income inequality. Moreover, Zakat funds social welfare programs such as food banks and healthcare services which support the vulnerable people.

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Decreases crime

Zakat plays a significant role in decreasing crime. It addresses the root causes of crime such as poverty and income inequality and provides a safety net for the poor and needy people. In addition, Zakat also promotes social cohesion and community development which in turn reduces inclination to commit crimes.

Sense of brotherhood

Zakat creates a sense of brotherhood by fostering a spirit of compassion, empathy and shared responsibilities among Muslims. It bridges the gap between the rich and the poor and promote social cohesion.

But if they repeat and establish worship and pay the Zakat then they are brethren in religion.

(Al-Quran)

A Balance between Communism and Capitalism

Zakat strikes a balance between communism and capitalism. Unlike communism, Zakat does not advocate for the abolition of private property rather it ensures that wealth is distributed fairly.

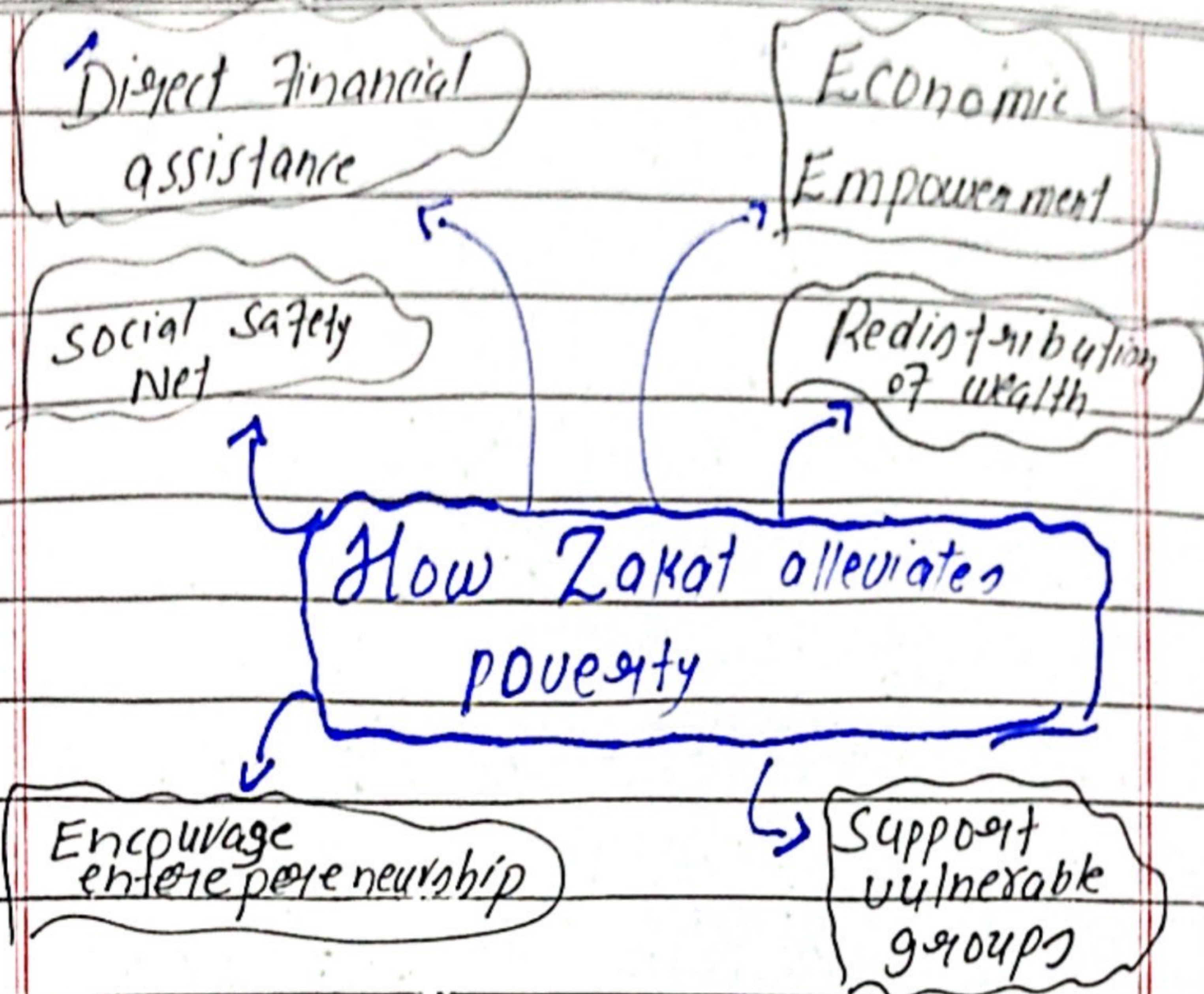
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On the other hand, unlike capitalism, zakat prevents the concentration of wealth and promotes social welfare.

To take from the wealth among them and distribute among the poor.

(Al-Hadith)



Zakat plays a vital role in alleviating poverty by providing direct financial assistance to the poor and needy. It supports human development initiatives such as education and healthcare.

Zakat enables individuals to acquire skills and knowledge to break the cycle of poverty. Additionally,

Zakat encourages entrepreneurship and self-employment that help the poor to become economically independent.

Conclusion

To conclude, Zakat is a fundamental pillar of Islam that plays a vital role in promoting economic justice, reducing poverty and fostering a sense of social responsibility. Zakat purifies wealth, souls, brings numerous spiritual, social and economic benefits to individuals. As a comprehensive system of welfare and development Zakat has the potential to address the root causes of poverty and promote a prosperous society.