

Q:

What are the contemporary challenges to the Muslim world and their solutions in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

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1. Introduction:

currently, Muslim ummah is facing many challenges in this changing world. These include the lack of unity among countries of Muslims, lack of economic growth, and no quality education. Moreover, terrorism and extremism in the name of Islam have further worsened the situation and further fueled the Islamophobia. However, measures could be taken to curb these issues.

2. Challenges faced by Muslim Ummah:

A. Dis-unification among Muslim Nations

There are 57 Muslim countries in the world and their power, if unified, could be enormous.

However, they are highly disunited and divided on sectarian basis and personal interests. This ultimately compromises the image of Muslims.

B. No economic means:

In this modern world, economic power is the ultimate one. Muslim Nations are far behind in global economic race. This economic weakness ultimately makes them vulnerable to suppression and propaganda.

C. No Quality Education in Muslim countries:

Muslim countries are lagging behind in race for quality education at International level. Whether it be in schools, University or in research, all the brighter students in Muslim countries have to go in western institutions.

D. Extremism:

One of the major problems faced by Ummah is extremism. It has highly damaged the image of Muslims everywhere. Moreover, it has given rise to the terrorism and hatred.

E. Terrorism in the name of Islam:

Many terrorist outfits such as ISIS or Al-Qaeda, all are operation in the name of Islam and misusing it. This has given notion to the western world that all Muslims are terrorists. Resultantly, Muslims are facing hatred everywhere across the globe despite the fact that they themselves are the victims.

F. Islamophobia:

All the factors such as terrorism, extremism, personal hatred and prejudice against the Muslims, and propaganda, have given rise to the phenomenon of Islamophobia. This phenomenon include hating or fearing Muslims ^{and} everything related to them. Primarily, this phenomenon was development post 9/11 terrorist attacks. These attacks by terrorists were linked to Islam and ultimately harm its image.

3. Solutions to curb challenges faced by Muslim Ummah:

A. Education Reforms:

- At School and Colleges level
Subject specialists of Islamiat should be selected to teach. Seerah of prophet (PBUH) should be included in the curricula. Students should be made aware regarding contemporary problems and how Islam guide to tackle those problems.

- At seminaries level

At seminaries (Madrasas), contemporary knowledge should be integrated along with religious tolerance on sectarian basis.

Ultimately education will equip the students with power to face the world. As Prophet PBUH has also said.

"Seeking knowledge is compulsory on every Muslim"

~ Hadith.

* B. Individual's Responsibility:

Every Muslim has the responsibility to represent the positive image of Islam. He must propose good and condemn evil, as Allah swt says in the Glorious Quran:

”تَاْمُرُوْنَ بِالْمَعْرُوْفِ
وَلْتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ”

“You encourage good’
and Forbid Evil”

~ Al-Imran.

C. Reforms by Governments of respective Muslim Nations:

All the respective governments should impose strict regulation regarding sectarian divide by proper legislation. Moreover, a proper dispute resolution mechanism should be made consisting of the head of every sect to maintain harmony among different sects of the country. This will stabilize the country and will equip it to further encourage the policies at global stage.

D. Increased International Cooperation of Muslims:

Cooperation will equip Muslim countries to counter any mischief happening against Islam and Islamic countries. For that purpose, a pro-active approach of OIC (Organization of Islamic Countries) is a must rather than a reactive one.

E. Positive Role of Media:

^{Electronic} Media and social media are the primary and key tools to counter propaganda against Islam. In this modern world, Islamic countries have to come at par with modern world in 5th Gen warfare. An International news outlet specifically representing Islamic narrative should be introduced.

F. Responsible Approach by clergy:

The Religious clergy has the highest responsibility to unite and teach the ways of Islam and represent its positive and image of moderation. As Allah SWT says in the Holy Quran:

"And Thus we made
you a moderate Ummah"

~ Al-Baqara.

4. Conclusion:

No doubt, Muslims are facing enormous challenges in the world, but they have got the capacity to fight and curb these challenges by taking appropriate measures and bring back the lost glory of Islam.