

Question

Explain the concept of accountability in Islam?

Answer

1 Introduction

Accountability means responsible for the actions and answerable for its outcomes.

Accountability is important to maintain equality and Justice in society. In Islam accountability means answerable to Allah for your actions, as well as before the individual and society. It is not for only specific community or class however it applies on everyone, regardless of class, status or race. Accountability is tested in every sphere including spiritual, social, political, economical and personal.

Importance of accountability in Islamic value system

Islamic values and teachings are based on the three core principles.

- ↳ Tauheed (Oneness of God)
- ↳ Adl (Justice)
- ↳ Khilafat (Vicegerency)

01) Tauheed (oneness of God)

Every muslim has a belief in tauheed that there is only one God who is running this entire world. Tauheed help individual to connected with Allah and make him remember that he is answerable for his actions to Allah. The one who belief in one God (Allah) alway remember that he is being watched by Allah and he has to answer to Allah for his good and evil deeds.

In Surah Akhlas the oneness of God is mentioned and every muslim has to belief in it.

02) Adl (Justice)

Another important principle of islamic teaching is Justice. In Islam, Justice is mandatory for accountability. A person who maintain Justice in public and private life can ensure accountability.

Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h) focused on Justice

Date: _____ Day: _____
and accountability, all his actions and decisions were just and honest.

A noblewoman commit a theft (incident)

A noblewoman who commit a theft, named Fatima, people and Prophet companions emphasized for leniency, but Prophet said

By Allah! if Fatima daughter of Prophet, stole, I would cut off her hand

This incident shows that Justice is equal for everyone, even for Prophet's daughter.

Holy Prophet always promoted equality and Justice. And he said everyone is accountable for his/her actions.

03) Khilafat (Vicegerency)

The third core principle of Islamic value system is Khilafat (Vicegerency).

“And said the Lord to the angels, I have
am going to place a ruler”

(Al-Quran)

Allah send human being as a khalif on earth. Every one is accountable for his actions and decisions. Allah has send muslims on earth to workships, commit good deeds and relations with others. Muslims are answerable for their moves on earth. Everyone has to take a decision that doesnot hurt or unjust with other.

Importance of accountability in Islam

- > Spiritual
 - > Economical
 - > Social
 - > Political
 - > Personal

→ Spiritual Accountability

• Answerable to Allah

Muslims are accountable to Allah for their actions in society. Muslim has to answer about prayers, Zakat, Fastings and evil acts.

Date: _____ Day: _____
Namaz → Muslim is answerable for offering Prayers 5 times a day

Zakat → Paying 2.5% of earning to poor and needy. Everyone is answerable for paying and not paying zakat

Fasting → Every muslim has to do fasting in the month of ramzan, and if anyone doesnot then he/she is answerable for it.

Evil deeds → Every individual has to answer his good or bad deeds. Accountability for committing evil deeds and why.

→ "So whoever does an atoms weight good will see it
and whoever does an atoms weight of evil will see it"

(Surah al-Zalzalah)

→ Political Accountability

• Just and honest leader

A leader should be honest and just in his actions as mentioned in Islamic principles. His decisions align with equality and Justice. A ruler has to answerable to God and people for his actions.

Multiple Muslim philosophers, Imam Ghazali, Al Farabi, Ibn Khaldun focused on the Qualities of a Muslim ruler and leader. They mentioned in their theories and philosophy about the Muslim ruler and Islamic law. Muslim rulers should be just, honest and accountable to people for his decision and actions.

• Accountability in Public Services

Workers who work in government and private organizations are accountable to people and organizations for their actions. Development of a

Date: _____ Day: _____
state and organization is depend on
the transparency, governance and accountability

→ Economical Accountability :-

• Prohibition of Riba (interest)

In Islam Riba is Prohibited and every muslim is bound to follow it as affect the growth of economy in society. Islam doesnot teach us about the spiritual and rituals , however about economic affairs. People should focused on islamic law in economic affairs , as they are answerable to God and people

• Work with honesty, equality and responsibility

People are accountable to be honest and responsible in their duty. Every individual has to fulfill his duty and answerable for his actions to organization and Allah. Islam focused on working with honesty, equality and responsibility.

Date: _____ Day: _____
And emphasized on avoiding dishonesty, nepotism, bribery and corruption.

→ Social Accountability

• Behaviour with Elders, parents and Neighbours

Accountability in islam is not only in islamic affairs but also in social matters. People have to respect their elders, Parents and neighbours. Obeying Parents, respecting elders and fulfilling the needs of neighbours are emphasized in islam. For these acts, we are accountable to Allah and society.

A person who donot follow the society rule (respecting elders, obeying parents) called deviant in society. And violating the principle of Allah is also a sinner in the eye of God

• Helping the Needy and Participating in Welfare activities

Date: _____ Day: _____

Muslims Participate in social welfare and help needy to purify their wealth (called Zakat) and thanksgiving to God in a way. People help poor in a form of 'sadaqa' to protect themselves from evil eye and unexpected incident in a form of helping others. In Islam, Prophet Muhammad and Quranic verses also focused on helping those who are in need.

Hazrat Ali (R.A) always mentioned in his book *Najul Balagha* about helping poor and social welfare activities.

→ Personal Accountability

Accountability for inner and outer reformation

Muslims are accountable for their inner and outer reformation to Allah. Restoring inner self with worship, rituals and outer self with performing good deeds, Justice and

Date: _____ Day: _____
and answerable for their actions to
own self for peace. People ensure
accountability in life for inner and
outer Peace.

- Character building

Ensure accountability to build strong
character. Muslim should focus on
accountability in every action to
build character. Islam teaches individuals
to build their character as Prophet
Muhammad.

Prophet Muhammad is the best model
for all mankind

Muslim can learn character building
from Prophet, as he is the best Model
for all mankind. When People work
on character building, they focus on
accountability.

Conclusion

Islamic teachings focus on the
importance of accountability. As accountability
is essential in all sphere of life.