

Q² (2016)

What is meant by culture and civilization?
Describe the characteristics of Islamic culture.

Outline

i Introduction

ii Meaning of the concept of culture and civilization

iii The Significance of Islamic culture and civilization

iv Basic characteristics of Islamic civilization

- i) Freedom of will
- ii) uplift human rights and dignity
- iii) A system that ensure justice and honesty
- iv) cultural and economic integration
- v) Transcend Tribalism and Authoritarianism
- vi) Status women redefined
- vii) Accountability and Justice system
- viii) House of wisdom
- ix) Islamic Architecture and culture.

v Critical Analysis

vi Conclusion

Introduction:

Societies are governed through a strong system of culture and civilization.

both these terms have closely interlinked with each other but they have different implementation in a societies.

Broadly, civilization have upper hand in any developed state particularly in modern time. It revolves around politically, economically and social practicals that helps to govern a state e.g. China under President Xi. on the other hand culture is purely intrinsic mainly focused on norms, values, dignity of society. Importantly Islamic culture also focused on these principles. According to Dr. Hamidullah Islamic culture is quite unique which encapsulates most essential aspects that had been neglected by many other civilization. Islam ostensibly focused about Human values, dignity, Justice, Accountability and Rule of law.

Culture and civilization

Although both culture and civilization and have closely interconnected with each other. However they are differ in broader sense.

Culture Refers To beliefs, norms, values, morals, language shared by a group of people. It helps individuals and societies to govern their life and practices for further. In addition to this it shape how people think, behave & live

Civilization refers to material, organizational and institutional development of society shaped by external physical progress which are achieved through Science, Technology and economic development.

- In 21st Century the developed state followed their civilization traits to achieve further goals.

Significance of Islamic culture and civilization

Islamic culture and civilizational system is comprehensive and rationally based on Quran and Sunnah. In Islam both Quran and sunnah are primary source of not only culture and civilization but overall epitome. Both are credible and authentic based on primary Data. In this regard Islamic culture and civilization cornerstone laid by both these element which signifies moral values dignity Justice, Rule of law, equality before law and due to these Aspect. An individual and society can reach its tumultuous position and also help in progress of humanity.

In addition to this Islamic culture has set the universal principles for other civilizations like the Charter Articles of Madinah have been reflected in International law and UDHR.

It also provide solution to modern problems and conflict. So it is evolution process which can be evolved with passage of time with encapsulating of new ideas and tactics.

Basic characteristics of Islamic civilization

(i) freedom of will

Islam focused on individual will and his freedom based on human principles. Moreover, it signifies the moral accountability of an individual as well which can be treated according to his or her action.

"There is no compulsion in Religion"
Al Quran (2:256)

ii uphold human dignity and Human right

Islam grants inherent of dignity to all human beings being regardless of color, race, & religion or gender.

"Indeed we have honored the children of Adam"
Al Quran (17:70)

iii A system that ensure Justice and honesty

Islam has established a system of justice ~~decent~~ ^{moral} legal system which ensure justice and honesty in individual and collective life. These are binding in nature which are essential in Islamic culture to governing society economy and governance. Importantly, "Justice is backbone of Islamic civilization".

iv cultural and economic Integration

Islamic culture and civilization have huge contribution regarding economic integration which has been fulfilled through the concept of ZAKAT. It balance the society and remove economic inequalities in a institutionalized way.

During a reign of Umar Bin Abdul Aziz zakat recipients became scarce.

v Transcend Tribalism and Authoritarianism

Islamic culture has demolished immoral practices of society. Before Islam there was no established law, few individual holds huge power that created inequalities of society. Islamic culture has brought significant change and eliminate all ill practices like Tribalism and Authoritarianism.

All humans are ~~so~~ share common ancestor of Adam. That the whole essence of Islam culture.

vi Status of women redefined

Before Islam women were treated different in Arab culture. However, Islam has brought laws to re. and redefined women status. Since then women embrace all her rights across the world.

vii Accountability and equality before law

~~Islam~~ It is Islam culture which had ensure accountability and law. before Islam there was no regulative body which regulate all these aspects. ~~The~~ Since the inception of Charles Madina Accountability and eq^{ty} for practical implementation of law had seen.

viii House of wisdom

It's only Islamic culture which emphasises on openness and knowledge and intellectual. The more important is, Islam ^{view} see knowledge as an Act of worship

Critical Analysis

Civilization is broader aspects as compare to culture. culture is mainly about intrinsic developments of human and society which helps how to survive in a society while, civilization is all about extrinsic and based on practical implementation. It mainly shaped by economy technology and political system.

Conclusion

Islam culture broadly encapsulated on Quran and sunnah which helps to regulate a society in a proper pattern. According to Islam culture every human being are equal in front of God, there is no superior or inferior in Islam only dignity and character will be judged. Moreover, Rule of law is main essence of Islamic culture, society can be governed through effective way of governance and justice. Dignity of women which is paramount in Islam civilization and culture no any culture or civilization has given the value to women except Islam. It was charter of Madinah which regulate all their right and dignity of individual & society.