

Contemporary Challenges of the Muslim Ummah and their solutions according to the teaching of Islam.

Introduction:

The Muslim Ummah today faces a wide range of internal divisions, political instability, socio-economic underdevelopment, extremism and external challenges. Islam, however provides a comprehensive framework for addressing these challenges through the principal of unity, justice, knowledge and collective responsibilities. As the Quran declares

“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves.”

Challenges:

1. Internal Division

The Muslim Ummah is divided

into political blocs, ethnic identities and sectarian rivalries. • For example Saudi Arabia and Iran conflict.

→ This disunity weakens collective strength of Muslim states and makes the Muslim state vulnerable to external (infringe) interference.

2. Political Instability

Most Muslim countries experience autocratic or dictatorial rule, corruption, lack of representative institutions and independent judicial system.

→ These conditions generate mistrust, injustice and social unrest.

3. Socio-Economic Underdevelopment

Despite being resource rich, much of Muslim world suffers from poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, population explosion and inequitable distribution of resources.

→ In most Afro-Asian Muslim countries lives below the poverty line.

→ The collective **GDP** of Muslim world

is just about **5%** of the world GDP. More than half of Muslims countries have less than **50%** literacy rate. Out of **57** member of **OIC** states more than one-third (**22**) are "least developed countries" (**LDCs**).

→ This is the situation of Muslim Ummah.

4. Extremist Movements

There has been a steady growth of extremist movements and militant outfits across the Muslim world. For example Taliban in Afghanistan, in Egypt Muslim Brotherhood, and in Pakistan TTP.

→ Radical ideologies and misuse of religious texts lead to violence and global distrust.

5. External Challenges

External challenges facing by the Muslim Ummah are

- Islamophobia
- Globalization
- Scientific Backwardness
- Dependency on the Western powers.

These are the contemporary challenges faced by Muslim Ummah.

Solution According To Teaching OF Islam:

1. Promoting Unity

Muslim countries should promote unity and solve their issues among the states. The solution is

- Strengthen the OIC into an effective decision making body
- Promote inter-sect harmony through dialogue

Islam commands unity as Allah Almighty said in Surah Al-Imran (3: 103)

“And hold firmly the rope of Allah all together and not be divided.”

2. Accountable Governance and Establishing Justice

Islam governance rests on justice, consultation and accountability. The Quran commands (4:58)

“When you judge between people, judge with Justice.”

These issues can be solved by

- Establishing transparent and accountable institutions.
- Reviving the principle of Shura as practiced by the Khulafa-e-Rashideen.
- Ensuring merit based administration and rule of law.

3. Building Strong Islamic Economies

Islamic economic principle aim to establish participatory system through

- Strengthening Zakat, Sadqah and Waqf institutions.
- Expanding Islamic banking and interest free finance.
- Industrial and technological investment
- Fair distribution of resources

As in Surah Adh-Dariyat (51:19)

“And in their wealth is a right for the beggar and the deprived.”

4. Countering Extremism through Balanced Teachings

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said

“Beware of extremism in religion.”

The Muslim Ummah can encounter the extremist movement through

- Teaching the true concept of Jihad
- Religious education must be supervised by qualified scholars.
- Rehabilitation programs for radicalized youth.
- Encouraging debate and question in Madrasahs and universities.

5. Combating Islamophobia

Islamophobia arises from misinformation, geopolitical conflicts and media biases. Muslims must respond with wisdom and communication not with aggression. Muslim Ummah should do this to combating Islamophobia.

- Creating Muslim-owned global media networks.
- Strengthening global diplomacy
- Promoting peaceful coexistence like the Charter of Madina.

6. Increasing the Scientific Activities

Muslim Ummah should work to enhance the (musl) scientific researches and these approaches:

- Modernizing education system
- Critical thinking
- Establishing research centers and Universities.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said

"Seeking knowledge is Obligatory for every Muslims."

Conclusion:

There are many challenges that facing the Muslim Ummah, but Islam provides complete guidance to tackle with these problems. By following the Islamic teaching Muslim Ummah can solve their problems and also they can emerge as a global powers. Because, Muslim countries are rich in

resources they can control the world.

This is only possible when all the Muslim Ummah are united, have good relations with each other and support the trade, education and other activities among themselves.

Revival will begin when Muslims realign their lives according to Islamic teachings at personal, national and international levels.

As the Quran Promises (47:7)

“If you support the cause of Allah, He will support you and make your feet firm.”
