

Challenges of the Muslim World and The Possible Solutions to Them:

Introduction:-

Islamic world is stuck in very hard times of the history in making. This devastating downfall after centuries of glorious rule is due to disunity, sectarianism, intra Muslim states rivalry, in adherence to the political and economic system of Islam, confusion between conservative Islam and modernity and adaptation of the modern sciences and technologies. These factors took decades and centuries to bring us to where we are standing today in the global arena. And, likewise, decades of work is needed to be done to overcome these challenges.

Challenges, the Muslim World is facing:-

i. Disunity in the Islamic World:-

After being divided through centuries, the Muslim world today comprises of more than 57 states. These divisions were brought by different ethnic, cultural, sectarian, group interest based or geographical factors. And those factor later worked to make muslim states rivals to each other. Iran is rival to Saudi Arabia. Saudi is adversary to Turkey. The struggle to be the Sole Champion of the Islamic World continues among these key Islamic States. And, as Unity is strength, disunity is a curse and weakness.

ii The Curse of Sectarianism:-

Firstly, the societies within the Muslim states are divided into different sects and Secondly, this division is reflected on State-level policies and foreign relations. While Iran is perceived to be the leader of the Shia world, Saudi Arabia and Turkey tends to be the champions of Sunni States. Diversity could be the beauty of the Islamic world but, instead of making it a cultural, social and religious attraction to the outer world, we made it a monster, killing our unity and weakening our states.

iii Confusion among Islam and Modernity :-

Muslim world today is confused among choosing the conservative unchangeable social, economic and political rules of Islam and the Modern Western systems. For instance, Islam has a unique explanation for democracy, financial systems, interest (riba), social and individual freedoms, freedom of speech, individual rights, women's role in society and many more. Any of these explanation contradict totally or partially differ with the manmade modern discoveries. This confusion brings uncertainty, division and lack of vision into the Muslim states.

iv Sciences and Technological Backwardness:

Modern technology and sciences develop industry and brings innovation. The world needs it and pays for it. Muslims once were at the peak of technological advancement and then were they the rulers of world and empires. Today, the non-islamic states have undertaken this struggle of sciences and they are leading the world while the muslim world became the least important and non influential.

v Poverty and Economic Disparity:-

Majority of the muslim states and populations are facing

with harsh economic conditions. Nabi SAW said

"كاد الفقر أن يكون كفراً"
(الحديث)

Translation: "Poverty leads to the disbelieving"

And this is the reason that people from the Muslim world migrate to wealthy western states and prefer to be their second citizens rather than dignified citizen of a poor country. Also, the Muslim states are dependent on western aid and debt and consequently they and their policies are being capitulated.

vi The web of International System :-

The International system today is so complex and

Complicated. It has got some very powerful lobbies, top rich elites and multinational corporations which sometimes even influence strong countries and often times manipulate and get benefitted from weak and poor countries. Such international system let no individual or government to disturb the status quo. And therefore we see regime changes and assassination of Muslim leaders. This puts every sincere leader and rising muslim state in jeopardy.

The next paragraphs discuss workable solutions to these challenges.

Solutions to the Challenges Faced by the Muslim World:-

i Promoting Brotherhood and Unity:-

Allah says in the Quran;

"إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ"

"Muslims are brothers"

So promoting Islamic brotherhood will strengthen Muslim states and improve intra-Muslim states relations. This unity will develop strength and ensure collective development.

ii Improving Education and Technology:-

"الْحِكْمَةُ الْحَقِيقَةُ ضِيَاءُ الْمُؤْمِنِ
صِيًّا وَجَدَهَا، فَغَوَّ أَهْلُهَا"
(الحديث)

Translation: "Wisdom is the last property of the Believer, where ever

he finds it, he is most deserving of it."

Muslim world needs to invest its resource and efforts in the education and modern technology. This is the most important way out of the crises they are in.

iii Political Stability and Good Governance:-

Muslim states directly need political stability and objective driven policies and good governance. This will provide secure environment for business, industry and prosperity. Visionary leadership with strong political systems will provide the public opportunities to thrive and rise and eventually build a strong Nation.

iv Adherence to Islamic Principles and Identity:

Islam and Islamic Identity is the centre point of the Muslim world and people. Instead of being confused with modern ideologies and systems, we need to follow the supreme law of Islam and preserve our Identity in the best way we can. This only is the way which suits Muslim societies and mindset, and will bring cultural, social, political and economic development.

v A Strong Islamic Block:-

OIC has proved to be inefficient to be a strong organization. We need to improve it or bring another stronger block

of muslim Nations which is politically, economically, culturally and socially inclusive and intergrated. This will promote Intra-muslim states trade, relations and cultural ties.

Conclusion:-

To Sum up, Muslims of the world face diverse type of political, social, cultural, economic and global challenges. All these challenges are resistible but still complex. Change in Muslim's Approach is needed from an individual level to international level. Such positive initiatives will counter the problems which the Muslim world is facing and will guarantee our development and rise.