

Q8

How does the practice of Zakat (charity) in Islam address issues of social justice and economic inequality?

Introduction:-

In the Islam, Zakat is one of the important pillar of Islam. It means a portion of man's wealth designed for the poor. Zakat is rooted from Arabic word which means to increase. It is also known as purify. It makes the wealth grow and also purifies the wealth. It purifies the giver's heart from selfishness. Zakat, is like Salat was also made compulsory for the religion of every prophet. As far as social justice is concerned, Islam considers mankind as one family, all members of this family are alike (same) in the eyes of God and before the law revealed by Him. There is no difference between the rich and poor, between the high and the low, or between the white and black. There is no discrimination due to race or colour or caste or position. The only necessary thing is the man's character and intentions, ability and service to humanity. As Holy prophet said, the God will not look your face or wealth, but He looks to the deeds of yours and heart.

Zakat address the Social Issues:-

Zakat plays a key role to address the Social Justice. The aim of Zakat is to establish a self-supporting Society in which everyone gets a chance to fulfil their basic needs and to lead a respectable life. As Quran Says, who believe in the ghayb and practice salat, and spent out of what we have provided from them i.e. to give Zakat, spend on themselves, their parents, their children, their wives and also give charity to the poor and also in Allah's cause - 2:3.

Zakat is Compulsory:

Zakat is compulsory upon every adult, free muslim, who owns property to the extent of the prescribed rate, provided such property has remained in his possession for full one year. Zakat is payable in Gold, Silver, cash, crops, animals and agricultural lands. As Quran Says, Those who don't give Zakat (obligatory charity). They fear a day when hearts and eyes will be overturned on the day of judgement - 24:37.

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Zakat and Social Justice:-

Zakat a certain fixed proportion of wealth and of every kind of the property liable to zakat of a Muslim to be paid yearly bases. This benefits the poor in the Muslim Society. The payment of zakat is as important as the Salat is. Zakat is the major economic means for establishing Social justice and leading the Muslim Society to prosperity and security. As Quran Says, charity to the poor who gives in Allah's cause are restricted but give to the needy, and Allah knows it well 2:273.

Economic equality in Islam:-

In Islam the economic equality is promoted. Both women and men can do jobs for earning, or for livingly-hard. Economic well-being within the Islamic frame work. As Quran states that, Eat and drink of that which God has provided and act not corruptly, or making mischief in the world - 2:60. Islam urges Muslims to enjoy the boundaries provided by the Supreme Lord (God) and sets no quantitative limits to the extent of material growth of Muslim Society.

Islam forbid begging:-

In Islam begging is strictly prohibited. As Quran says, He who seeks the world lawfully, to refrain from begging, to cater to his family, and to be kind to his neighbour, will meet God with his face shining like the full moon. The economic goals of a Muslim Society should be to create such an economic environment that those who are willing to and looking for work are able to find gainful employment in accordance with their abilities.

Shariah is to promote the wealth of people:-

Shariah is to promote the welfare of the people, which lies in safeguarding their faith, their life, their intellect, their posterity and their property. Islam discourages acquiring wealth through unlawful means, exploiting others, subjecting them to wrong and injustice. Earning only by the right methods and abandoning all the wrong ones, and is considering wealth as a stewardship for which account is to be rendered by God. As prophet said, There is nothing wrong in wealth for him who fear God. But all wealth to be acquired through right ful means.

Economic Justice in Islam:-

Islam upholds the principle of economic justice. Islam equal treats all the individuals in society and before the law of Islam. As Quran Says, withhold not things justly due to others' - 26:183. It means every individual must get what is really due to him, and not deprived by his share, nor other's share.

Riba is prohibited:-

In Islam the concept of Riba is prohibited. All the commercial transactions are permitted except those bearing Riba. Each commercial transaction, all forms of business organizations and every financial instrument, therefore, must be free of Riba in order to be valid. As Quran says, Allah has permitted trade and prohibited riba - 2:275.

Equal wage to the employers:-

In Islam the principle of equality is upheld. According to Prophet, an employee (male or female) is entitled to at least moderately good food and clothing and to not being burdened with labour except what he (or she) can bear. Also Usman 3rd caliph said, Do not overburden your unskilled female employee in her pursuit of a living, because if you do so, she may resort to immorality.

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Do not overburden your male employee. If you do so, he may resort to stealing.

Conclusion.

In Islam the Zakat is very important pillar of Islam. The Zakat to be paid and it is mandatory. Zakat helps the needy to get food and other living things. Zakat also purify the heart of the giver. Zakat also promotes social justice. In Islam the economic injustice would not take place as it is prohibited by the Book of Allah Quran. As well as the social justice is to be upheld which is permitted by Allah.

Q3

How does Islam as a Din provide guidance for both individual & collective aspects of human life?

Introduction:-

Islam is a complete code of life. Islam is a Din, not just a Religion. Islam is not a religion in the common, distorted meaning of life of the word, confining its scope to the private life of man. Not only this but also covers various aspects of life. These aspects can be for an individual and for society both. Like Islam covers, social aspect, material aspect, moral aspect, economic aspect and political aspect. Modern educated Muslims also think that Islam is a din, not a religion.

Deen and Religion:-

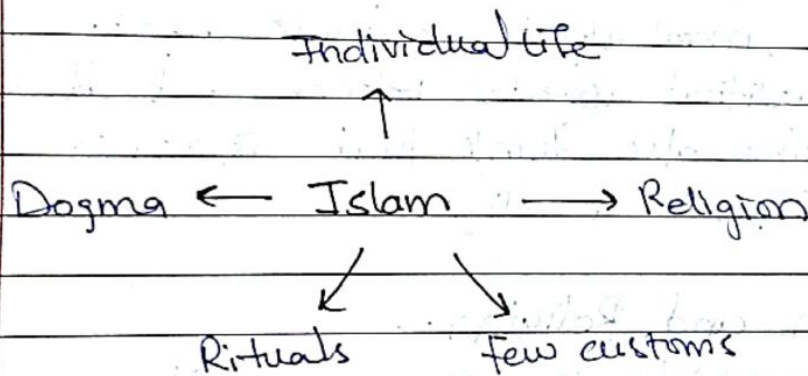
Deen, which means a complete code of life, while Religion deals with private affairs of life whereas Deen covers all aspects of life on an individual level and on a collective level.

As Quran states that 'We verily sent our messengers with clear proofs and revealed with them the Scripture and the Balance (i.e. the authority to establish justice) that mankind may observe justice and the right measure

and. He revealed iron (i.e. coercive power) wherein is mighty power and many uses for mankind and that Allah may see who helps Him and His Messenger through unseen - 57:25.

Islam as Religion:-

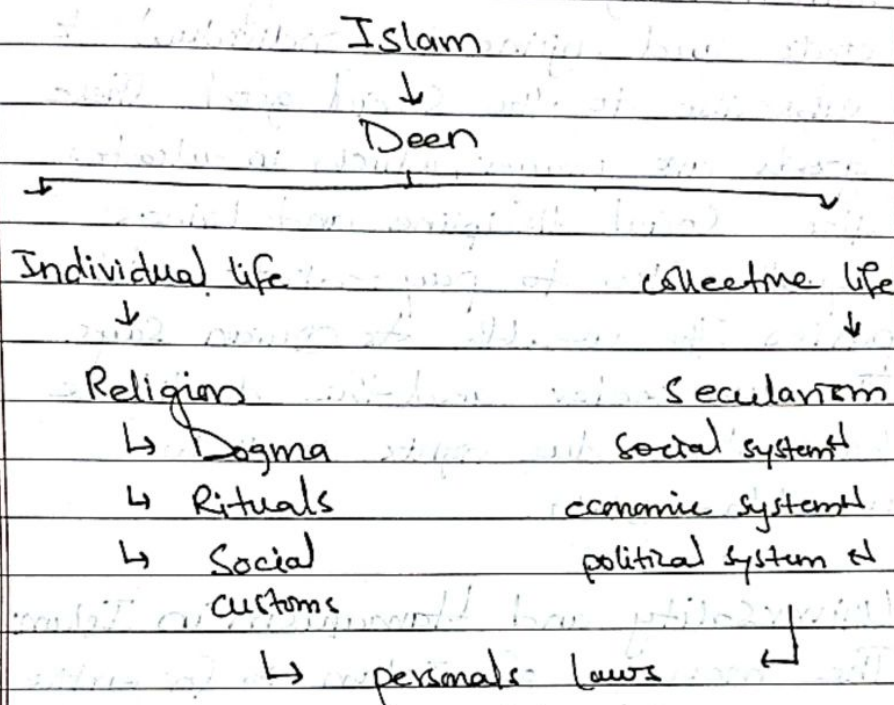
The word Religion is commonly used in a narrow sense. The scope of this word religion is commonly used in a limited ^{sense} to a set of dogmas which are some rituals for worship, and some customs to celebrate in human life.



Islam as Deen:-

Islam as Deen cover all aspects of life. It is a system of life where Almighty Allah (SWT) is worshipped and obeyed, not just in the narrow religious sense, but in a manner that includes all aspect of life.

As Quran says, And you see that the people enter Allah's Deen (Islam) in crowds —



Balance between the Individual and Society:

Another unique features of Islam is that it establishes a balance between individualism and collectivism. It believes in the individual personality of man and holds everyone personally accountable to God (on the Day of Judgement). According to the Quran, "Man shall have nothing but what he strives for — 53:39."

Sense of Social Responsibility:-

Islam also upholds the sense of social responsibility in man, organises human beings in a society and a state and enjoins the individual to subscribe to the social good. These goods are prayer, which inculcates the social discipline and brings equality. Also to pay zakat, which purifies the wealth. As Quran says, 'The aim-seeker and the destitute have their due rights in their wealth' - 51:19.

Universality and Humanism in Islam:

The message of Islam is for entire human-kind. God, in Islam, is the God of all the world and universe, and the Prophet is a Messenger for the whole of man kind. In the words of Quran, 'O people, I am the Messenger of God to you all.' - 7:158.

In Islam all men are equal, whatever be their colour, language, race or nationality. Islam address itself to the conscience of humanity and banishes all false barriers of race, status and wealth. The All creatures of God form the family of the God and he is the best loved of God who loveth best His creatures - Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H).

Collective System of Islam:-

Islam covers, at political level; Sovereignty which belongs to Allah; No legislation will be against the Islamic values; upholding mutual consultation; Making a clear distinction between a Muslim and a Non-Muslim; and upholding human and social rights. Islam in economic level; prohibits the riba and Allah own everything. Islam in social level, have no discrimination; Unity of human race all are equal.

Conclusion:-

Islam, thus, covers all the aspects of life that is why it called to be a complete way of life. Islam is meant to dominate all domains of life :: and all man-made system and ideologies. From individual level to societal level, covering individual rights and cover all fundamental human right; for collective level. Hence, Islam is being practice by wider sense. As Allah and Quran are the only guides in this world, which is for all muslim and for Non-Muslims as well.

Q7 Analyze the spiritual impact of Salah (prayer) on a Muslim's daily life:-

Introduction:-

The Arabic word for prayer is Salat. Salat is the most important acts of worship enjoyed by Islam. It is the foremost duty of a Muslim and the chief pillar in which the structure of Islam stands. There are several reasons why prayer has been given this importance. That are spiritual, ethical and moral. It also distinguishing feature between a Muslim and non-Muslim. As Prophet Mohammad said, Salat between a man and polytheism and unbelief is abandoning the prayer.

Spiritual impacts of Salat:-

There are many spiritual impacts of Salat, which are as follows:

- a) Keep away from indecency and evil. Salat help the human with the fear of God which is necessary to be kept alive in the heart of uninterruptedly which is the driving force of the keeping away from evil. As Quran says, Salat prevents man from evil and lewdness - 29:45.

b) Gives Mental Satisfaction:
Salat give peace of mind. Whenever it is practiced as a result of the Salat, the Lord is achieved without any mediation. As Quran says, O you who believe, seek help in patience and as-Salat. Truly, Allah is with As-sabirin. This help the man to be in patience and God will help him, which reduced its mind tensions.

c) Taharat (purification):
Taharat entails the physical cleanliness and spiritual purification. As Holy prophet says, Five times prayers with which Allah washes away all sins.

d) Reward of Hereafter:-
As for those people, who do not pray, the Quran tell us that in hell, which they will be asked by the dwellers of the garden. Quran says, 'for what causes you to enter hell, they will say we were those who do not practice Salat - 74:42-43. While those who practice prayer daily and with pure intentions. God will award them in heaven.

c) Seeks Guidance of Allah:-

prayer is also a means of seeking help and guidance from Allah. This seeking of help and guidance is linked with the daily prayer of a believer. When Quran says, you alone we worship, and you alone we ask for help for each and everything 1-5 :-

F) Feeling the presence of Divine :-

This means, that while in prayer, the divine presence is to be felt as a reality, because according to the Holy Prophet, we should worship Allah as if we see him, for though we do not see him, he sees us.

Conclusion :-

In Islam, prayer is very important to every muslim. It is necessary for every muslim to practice prayer daily. Prayer give physical and mental satisfaction. It help to keep away from the evil things. It help to seek purifies the soul. Prayer also connect the human to God. It help the man to seeks Guidance from the God.

Q6 What are the five Pillars of Islam, and how do they contribute to the development of both personal character and social harmony?

Introduction:-

In Islam the five Pillars of Islam are very important for personal and social growth. These Pillars are prayer (salat), zakat (charity), fasting (roza), Hajj (pilgrimage) and Shahada declaration of faith. These pillars are help humankind to growth in personal and societal level. The Prophet Mohammad said, Islam as been built on five, which is referring to the five pillars of Islam.

Prayer (Salat):-

Prayer is the chief pillar of the Islam. Prayer distinguishing feature between a Muslim and a non-Muslim. It is mandatory to all the Muslim to practice salat. As Quran states, what has caused you to enter hell; they will say, we were not those who used to offer the salat; nor we used to feed Al-Muskien (needy) - 74: 42-44.

It also promotes equality in the human kind as in the mosque all the man whether rich or poor are in same line of Namaz.

Individual and Social level:-

Prayer at Individual level, it promotes the positive nature in human being and keep away from evil actions. At Social level, it creates a sense of harmony, brotherhood and uphold equality at community level.

Zakat (charity):-

Zakat is another major pillar of Islam in which a portion of man's wealth designed for the poor. Quran says, to keep up prayers and give zakat to needy - 2:110. Zakat is also mandatory to all muslim. It make wealth growth.

Individual and Social level:-

Zakat at personal level promotes the purification of wealth and make wealth grows. At Social level, zakat helps the needy which assist livingly hood. It also forbids the bagging.

Fasting (Rozā):-

Fasting is one of the pillars on which the structure of Islam stands. In the Quran language, it means to abstain completely from food, drink and sex from the break of dawn till sunset during the month of Ramazan. Fasting is obligatory to every sane person, especially Muslim.

Individual and Social Benefits:-

At Individual level it create a sense of recognition that earning bread and butter is not easy job to do. It also create sense of control to the all desire of the human mind.

At Social side, it create sense of humanity that, have it feel if a person is hungry all the day. And to thank God (Allah) for all his benefits and also uphold equality.

Hajj (pilgrimage):-

Haj or pilgrimage to Makkah is the moth of the zil Haj is the fifth and the last of the acts of worship prescribed by Islam. Quran says, the first houses (of worship) appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Makkah), full of blessing, and a guidance for Al-Alemin (mankind and jinn) - 3:96. Haj is obligatory once in a life time for those Muslims who can afford it. Haj is the only pillar of Islam which requires both physical and financial sacrifices.

At Individual and community level:-

At personal level it requires alot of financial and physical sacrifices to conduct the haj. However, as prophet Muhammad said, anyone who visits the House of Allah, does not indulge in foul language and avoids the

disobedience of Allah, will become as pure and free from sins as a child (Muslim). At community level, it will uphold the respect to the community. Haj is an exhibition of brotherhood, equality and discipline. It affords an opportunity to Muslims from various countries of the world to become acquainted with one another and of discussing common problems facing the Muslim community.

Importance of five pillars in Islam:-

In Islam each of the pillar has its own place in the daily life of people, and change the live style of every Muslim.

Shahada, Monotheism and the belief in Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the last messenger of God is the central tenet of Islam around which everything else revolves, and reciting the Shahada in each day prayer to remind Muslims of this integral belief.

Salah - occurs five times a day, and offers five different opportunities for remembrance of Allah SWT and our purpose in this life to worship Him.

Fasting:- The month of Ramadan requires every Muslim to abstain from basic needs. Fasting gives Muslims the

opportunity to control the desire.

Zakat :- It is one of the important pillar which is greatly encouraged to be part of everyday Muslim life, it is obligatory to offer zakat once a year.

Haj :- During Haj, each Muslim must wear the same simple garments and perform the same ritual acts of devotion to Allah. It reminded that all are equal before God.

Conclusion :-

The five pillars of Islam are very important to a Muslim. These pillars are the core pillars of Islam and are to be upheld by every sane Muslim of this world. These pillars benefit the Muslim on personal level and as well as the social level. It reminds us of many things. Like brotherhood, unity, and equality. These pillars also help in hereafter life. Thus, these pillars are very important in Islam and for Muslims also, these pillars should be practiced by every Muslim, to get more closer to God.