

What are the disadvantages of concentration of wealth?
What economic measures are introduced by Islam to prevent this.

INTRODUCTION.

The accumulation of wealth holds tremendous implications for both for individual and society. It remains a hallmark of ~~society~~ social evils while paving the way for class system in society. These implications or disadvantages mainly encompass poverty, crimes, exploitation of workers, human trafficking and disharmony among people. To address these challenges emanating from concentration of wealth, Islam has discouraged this and suggested means to circulate wealth among people. These mainly encompass Zakat, means of trade, prohibition of usury, Sadqah, and means of business. Hence, the economic system of Islam tends to produce equitable distribution while discouraging hoarding money.

DISADVANTAGES OF CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH.

1) Poverty among the masses.

The concentration of wealth by certain segment of the society deprives society of equitable distribution of resources. Consequently, when people cannot get access to basic facilities and don't have sufficient income to fulfil their needs, poverty ensues.

2). Crimes to fulfil needs.

The crimes exacerbate in two ways in society: a) deprived people tend to snatch their rights by engaging in theft and murder. b) people resort to violence to generate chaos in the society. This happens when they lose trust in legitimate ways of earning. Hazrat Umar (RA) during his rule ended punishment for theft during famine. He was aware of the fact that poverty can compell people to do so.

3) Exploitation of workers.

Owing to the classist system, lower class workers are exploited to the greater extent to achieve their business objectives. This also generate resentment among people along with people (workers) have to grapple with health issues. Allah says in Quran: "It is he who made you successor on Earth and made some excel the others to test you through what has been given to you." This concentration of wealth produces avarice and generates indifference towards woes of others.

4) Human trafficking.

Human trafficking has become a prevalent issue in the society. To evade poverty and pursue greener pasture, people resort to illegal means. Consequently, human trafficking exacerbates. The issue remains tremendous in developing countries like Pakistan where many people have lost their lives in incidents.

5) Disharmony among People.

The poverty emanating from the concentration of wealth ensues classist system. Consequently, people at the top look down upon the others and people at the bottom blame others for their woes. This disharmony among people desist them for establishing order in society through cooperation.

MEASURES INTRODUCED BY ISLAM.

a) Zakat.

Islam has made obligatory for people (who are able to pay as per criteria) to pay Zakat in the way of Allah. This remains the most crucial way to avoid the accumulation of wealth. Allah says in Quran:

Remove Zakat from their wealth to sanctify

and purify them and pray for them.

In another place it is narrated in Quran.

"Give Zakat to destitute, needy, Amileen, Muallafat-ul-Kulooib, Raqab, Garmeens, Fisabellulah and Ibn-e-Sabeel" (Quran).

2) Sadqat.

Muslims are asked to voluntarily pay Sadqat in the way of Allah to seek his pleasure. The importance can be exemplified by the fact that Allah has directed alms giving along with Namaz in Quran. He says;

"Pray Namaz and give alms in the way of Allah" (Quran).

3) Means of business.

Islam has instructed two ways of business to address the needs of everyone in society:

a). Mudarabah: one will invest money and other will put effort. The 70% profit will go to investor and 30% to the other one. In case of loss, former will lose money, latter will lose efforts.

b) Musharak: both will put in what they have. The profit and loss will be decided through mutual consent. Holy Prophet (PBUH) says;

Donot consume eachother's property
but do trade through mutual consent.
(Hadith).

This will address the needs of everyone equally.

4) Prohibition of Usury.

Muslims have been prohibited from taking interests on loans. This not only produces poverty but also accumulate wealth in the hands of certain people. Holy Prophet says;

Usury has been prohibited for you
(Hadith)

5) Ways of business.

Islam has encouraged cooperation among people mainly in economic affairs. Allah has also set reward for those who understand the woes of others and cooperate with them in business affairs owing to unforeseen circumstances.

Those who cancel transactions, Allah has set highest award for them in Jannah.
(Quran)

CONCLUSION.

The classist system emanated from concentration of wealth has exacerbated various social evils. To address these challenges, Islam has strictly prohibited the concentration of wealth while

M T W T F S

DATE: _____

encouraging the fairer distribution of wealth among masses. Holy Prophet said: Those who hoard money thinking it is good for them. Nay, it will catch their neck in the day of Judgement. This signifies the importance of fairer distribution in Islam.