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Write a note on Zakat and why it has failed to deliver?

Introduction

Zakat is one of the most important aspect of Islam. Allah repeatedly emphasized in Quran for Zakat. This answer will highlight the meaning of Zakat, its philosophy, heads, impacts and most importantly why it has failed to deliver.

Meaning of Zakat

Zakat is an arab word. It has literal and contextual meaning as well.

Literal Meaning

The literal meaning of Zakat is to purify.

Contextual Meaning

The contextual meaning of Zakat is purify wealth or income.

Furthermore, the Zakat is made obligatory on "2nd Hijri"

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"View of Hazrat Abu-Bakar"

According to the first caliph of Islam, Hazrat Abu-Bakar that

"Zakat can even be collected by force"

Philosophy of Zakat

The philosophy of Zakat can be identified through Quran and Hadith.

Allah stated in Quran and the explanation of those verses are;
"The Islamic state should be a welfare state".

Additionally, Allah stated in Surah-Bani-Israel and the explanation of those verses are;

"Do not kill your children due to poverty".

The prophet (P.B.U.H) said;

"Poverty leads to disbelief"

"Conditions of Zakat"

There are several conditions of Zakat are defined which are; the person must be a muslim, must be a sound minded, must not be a slave, and must be a financially state which means he or she is able to pay domestic expense, having no debt. These are several conditions of Zakat defined.

"Percentage of Zakat"

The percentage of Zakat is vary from material to material, but the percentage of Zakat is 2.5% on annual income. The percentage of Zakat is 20% on buried minerals. Furthermore, on 7 camels the percentage of Zakat is one goat, on 40 cows, and 40 goats the percentage of Zakat is also one goat.

"Heads of Zakat"

The Heads of Zakat are defined in Surah-tobah. According to Surah tobah, there are total 8 heads of Zakat which are; poor, needy, administrator, sympathizer, debt, slave, Musafir, and the cause of Allah. These heads are defined by Allah Almighty in Holy Quran.

"Not Eligible For Zakat"

There are 8 heads of Zakat, but in few conditions the ~~am~~ Zakat is prohibited which are; the amount of Zakat cannot be spent on mosques, the spouses cannot give to each other, to grand parents, and on children of grand parents. On these things the amount of Zakat cannot be spent.

"Impacts of Zakat"

There are several impacts of Zakat, but ~~three~~ are the main impacts which are spiritual, moral, and social.

1) Spiritual

Zakat impacts on ~~inspiritual~~ spiritual. The reason behind this is that, it removes greedy. Allah state in Surah. Taqasir and the explanation of those verses are;

"Zakat removes Greedy".

Secondly, it removes materialism. According to the prophet (P.B.U.H),

"The greatest evil of my ummah is to love wealth".

2) Moral

Zakat also impacts on moral as well because it is the shield against the crimes within the society. Secondly it promotes humility and humbleness.

3) Social

Lastly, the Zakat shows its impact socially as well. There are several reasons behind this, firstly, it removes class difference, eradicate poverty, circulation of wealth etc.

"Why it has failed to Deliver"

There are several reasons behind it due to which Zakat has failed to deliver. Firstly, due to interest based economy because both are opposite. Secondly, due to trust deficit, the people do not have trust on Zakat collecting institutions due to corruption. Thirdly, difficulty in collection because people now a days are not paying Zakat. Lastly, difficulty in distribution. The reason behind this is that, it is difficult to distinguish who is eligible or not.

These are the reasons in modern day due to which Zakat has failed to deliver.

"Conclusion"

In view of the above-arguments, the meaning of Zakat is to purify the wealth. This answer highlighted the conditions and heads of Zakat and its impacts as well. Furthermore, the reasons like corruption, difficulty in distribution and collect are the main reasons due to which Zakat has failed to deliver.