

Q: Write a note on contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah and their solutions.

Ans:

1) Introduction:

Muslim Ummah is facing various challenges which include both internal and external issues. Muslims have 57 states and more than 1.5 billion population. Despite huge population they have not progressed much due to multifaceted challenges. Islamophobia, economic underdevelopment, westernization etc have contributed to their decline. Joint Muslim actions should be encouraged for their economic liberalization and development.

2) Challenges Faced by Muslim Ummah:

Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah can be divided into

internal and external issues
which are given below:

2.1) External Issues of Muslim Ummah:

Muslim Ummah is greatly influenced by external factors which are as follows:

2.1.1) Geopolitical Risk and Religious Violence:-

Geopolitical instability creates a vacuum which leads toward religious extremism, and this religious extremism can be weaponized by external powers. It gives rise to religious violence and proxy wars which Muslim Ummah is facing now.

Case in Point: US invasion of Iraq led to rise of ISIS and US invasion in Afghanistan gave rise to Al-Qaeda which are still active in whole world.

2.1.2) Perpetuation of dependency and Dillusionment with Modern Systems:

Muslim Ummah has not used its resources properly and remained economic underdeveloped. Resultantly, it has to depend on institutions like World Bank and IMF. Their harsh policies contradict Islamic principles of self-reliance, zakat based system and Interest free finance. Further, they create a dependency cycle and countries can never get out of their trap. So, people find religion as an alternative to their frustration and it leads to unrest. These institution's interest align with west and they remain economically underdeveloped.

Case in Point: Most of Asian and African countries are in continuous debt trap.

2.1.3) Islamophobia Marginalizing Muslim Communities and Minorities:

World sees Muslims as terrorist although terrorism has nothing to do with Islam. Muslims are prone to these conspiracies and then it lead to the marginalization and oppression of Muslim communities.

UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres said:

"Islamophobia is one of the most serious form of contemporary racism."

2.1.4) Globalization - Neo-colonialism spreading western Ideologies:

Fast spreading western ideologies through new technologies and media ^{corrupt} subjugate youth minds. They become victim to these modernization tactics and forget their religion. It creates fear of future in men and women.

Maulana Maoodi in Islamic way of life said:

"Islam is not against modernization

"Westernization is an alien culture. Islam never opposed modernization; it opposes adoption of those ideas and practices which are contradicts its own ideologies."

2.1.5) Misinterpretation of Islam by Orientalists:

Islam has always been illustrated as a harmful religion by Orientalists. They had always strived to misinterpret Muslim's history and had shown their bad image. They influenced youth and presented a distorted picture of Muslims which spread expeditiously through media.

2.2) Internal Challenges of Muslim Ummah:

2.2.1) Intra-civilizational disunity and Inter-civilizational alliances:

Muslims have declined due to fragmentation brought about by alliances with other civilizations. This leads to their economic underdevelopment due to their exploitation of huge resources of oil, gas, youth). They missed these opportunities to lift Muslim Ummah and external alliances exploit them and results in internal division. Foreign factors acquire their interest and throw Ummah in wars which results in Mass migrations, economic exploitation, deaths casualties etc.

2.2.2) Lack of Research, Education and Technology:-

Muslims have the need to

prepare themselves for modern age. They are far behind in research, education and technological advancement. This results in their decline and are called orthodox. They need to modernize themselves to cope with modern challenges. They had left their religion out which unites them and gives direction in this modern era.

Allama Iqbal said:

"It is the fault of Muslims themselves if they are in decline, they have left Quran and forgotten their ideologies." own message."

2.2.3) Scantiness of Pursuance of Islamic teachings lead to Identity crisis:

Muslim leaders have not tried to build their youth on Islamic way which result in

identity crisis. Muslim youth is confused between modernity and tradition. Further, due to foreign propaganda, Islamic teachings are not being followed and found interesting to youth. So, Islamic teachings should be taught properly in order to prepare Muslim Ummah for greater purposes.

Malcolm X said:

“Future belongs to those who prepares for it today.”

2.2.4) Middle East Conundrum and

Middle East has been a Sectarianism

spot of most wars and conflicts.

Their leaders prefer their own interest instead of standing for Muslim Ummah. Muslims are

being oppressed and exploited.

Case in Point, Yemen-Saudi

conflict, Syria civil war,

Gulf-Saudi rivalry, Palestine-

Israel conflict.

3) Solutions to Muslims Issues:

The solutions to Muslim Community challenges as discussed are:

3.1) Strengthen Foreign policy and Diplomatic strategies:

Muslims leaders should stand on front stage and enhance their policies and diplomacies to stop Muslims exploitation. They should be strong enough to influence other civilizations and dominate them. They should believe in Allah and take bold decisions.

Allah said in Holy Quran:

إِنْ يَنْفَرِ كُمْ إِلَهُ فَلَا غَالِبَ لَكُمْ

"If Allah helps you, None can defeat you."

(Surah Aal-Imran)

3.2) Development of Modern Technology to cope up with Modern Issues:

Muslims should deal with modern

challenges with responding with logic and reason. They should also be modernize to cope up with issues otherwise they will continue ^{being} exploited as in Palestine today.

3.3) Solidarity and Joint Muslim Action: and Effective Role of OIC:

Joint Muslim Action through forums like OIC and Arab League will present their unity. Together, these 57 states can surely get their influence on all other civilizations. They can make ^{own} financial institutions like Islamic Development Bank to fulfil their own brother need.

Holy Prophet said:

"The Muslim Ummah is like one body; if one part feels the pain the whole body feels the pain."

3.4) Countering with Isla

Preaching modern Com system has Muslims sh projects in to counte This will saving Mu

3.5) Econo

Intra-OI
Muslim

if they and fol need to western intervene They c as th 48% of

Allah sa Indeed (Surah Al-Ara) for w

3.4) Counter Western^{media} Propaganda with Islamic Projects:

Preaching of Islam through modern communication and media system has become very easy. Muslims should work on developing projects in favour of Islam to counter western media influence. This will help in preparing and saving Muslim youth for future.

3.5) Economic Liberalization and Intra-OIC Trade:

Muslims can rule the world if they strengthen their economy and follow their religion. They need to become liberalised from western finance institution which intervene their state's affairs.

They can trade among themselves as they are rich in resources.

48% of global oil supply is from Middle East.

|| Allah said: إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَبْطِئُ الرِّزْقَ عَنْ يَشَاءِ

(Surah Al-Qura) Indeed, Your Lord extends Provision for whom He wills and whom He restricts.

3.6) Introspection to diagnose the issues and need of ijtihaad:

Muslims should identify their own issues and then reinterpret Islamic teachings according to growing issues. They ~~can~~ should agree on a common solution and work ~~for~~ ^{to} uplift of the Muslim ummah.

4) Conclusion

Muslim Ummah is facing challenges and are prone to wars due to internal and external issues. They should be united to counter foreign factors domination. Their issues can be resolved through effective role of Muslim leaders and following Quran and Sunnah.