

Contemporary challenges Faced by Muslim Ummah and their solutions in the light of Islamic teachings

Ans Introduction: The word Ummah is an Arabic word meaning community or nation. In Islamic context, it refers to the "community of believers", thus the muslim world. During 8th century, the muslim ummah was regarded as a great civilization, performing effectively in political, economical, spiritual and educational sectors. However, in the 21st century the muslim ummah is facing severe challenges.

1. Political Disunity and Conflicts: The Muslim world is internally divided on the basis of sectarianism. Many muslim countries are fighting among themselves such as Iran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria and United Arab Emirates. Despite having 57 member OIC body, there is no collective action taken by the members on the humanitarian crisis faced by the muslim countries.

2. Extremism and misinterpretation of Islamic principles. It is one of the major challenges faced by the muslim ummah. Owing to the grievances faced by the people, they get engaged in terrorist organisations. The rise of terrorist groups after the fall of USSR have accelerated the mass killing of people, resulting in the tarnishing of the image of Islam in the world. They often misinterpret Islamic principles and persuade the youth into suicide bombings. For example In 1990s, a group in Algeria named Armed Islamic group misinterpret the meaning of 'takfir' and declared everyone as ~~the~~ unbeliever, who did not follow them in insurgency, resulting in 20,000 deaths.

3. Educational stagnation and Scientific Decline. It is the root cause of all the major challenges faced by Muslim Ummah. The Lack of education results in youth radicalisation. Although

During the golden Age of Islam, Muslims excelled in science and technology. They contributed a lot in Renaissance of the Europe. However, in the 21st century: The Muslim world contributed only 5 percent to the global scientific output. A small country named Spain contributes more than the whole Islamic world annually. In many muslim countries, the literacy rate is lower than 50 percent.

4. Weak governance and Corruption: The muslim world faces weak institutional frameworks, which results in high rate of corruption. Many muslim countries are under authoritarian regime. According to the Report of CPI: around 70-75% of the muslim countries score below 50 point

5. Economic Inequality and Poverty. Many muslim countries have concentrated wealth due to oil reserves and natural resources, while other muslim countries face extreme poverty. According to some reports, the muslims are among the most

displaced communities such as Palestinians. According to UN, over 36,000 Palestinians were displaced.

6. Cultural Confusion and Identity Crisis

After globalisation and colonialism, the Muslims face severe identity crisis due to the Western culture dominance.

Due to the excessive use of social media, the youth is highly influenced by the Western culture, leaving their own values behind.

7. Islamophobia: is a fear, prejudice and hate directed at Islam. It is a major global threat faced by the Muslim Ummah. As a result, many innocent lives are being taken. For example, in 2019, a white supremacist attacked two mosques in New Zealand, resulting in 55 deaths. Similar attacks were taking place in Britain and the USA. According to some reports, approximately 1000 cases were registered by the Muslims in 2021.

who faced threats due to Islamophobia.

Solutions in the light of Islamic teachings.

1. Islam promotes unity, it condemns division.

Allah says in Quran

Hold ~~the~~ rope of Allah all together and do not become divided

Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him also said The believers are like one body

The Muslim should focus on the unity despite of prioritizing their own national interests.

2. Islam does not promote extremism, it preaches humanity.

Allah says in Quran

Killing an innocent person is equal to killing all of the humanity.

It is also written in Hadith that The extremists will be destroyed.

The Muslims should reform the religious education and moderation should be encouraged

3. Islam emphasizes on learning. As the first word of the Quran revealed to prophet peace be upon him was Iqra, meaning read.

prophet Muhammad also emphasized upon gaining knowledge.

Seeking knowledge is mandatory.

During the battle of Badr, prophet peace be upon him told the prisoners that those who would teach at least ~~to~~ ten muslims, would be released.

In the current times, the madarssah should be reformed.

4. Islam teaches justice and accountability.

The governance of caliph Umar (A-S) is often cited as an example in the western world.

The governments should establish a welfare-state model to consolidate its governance and eradicate corruption.

5. Islam has institutionalise zakat, sadaqah, and exploitation and interest rate. The practical solution can be the establishment of fair trade among muslim countries and effective zakat system to eradicate poverty and concentration of wealth.

6. Islam promotes a balance between modern life and Islamic values.

7. The muslims should promote positive Islam identity in the world.

Conclusion: The challenges faced by the muslim Ummah are self-inflicted. In order to eradicate the problems, the muslim Ummah must focus on the islamic teachings and principles.