

QUESTION: Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah and their Solutions according to teachings of Islam.

INTRODUCTION:

Muslim Ummah is a term which describes muslims as a group who share religious practices, culture and beliefs, most importantly they believe in one God and the teachings of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H). The spirit of unity among Muslim Ummah cuts through cultural, ethnic and social ways. At some points this unity weakens and resulting in religious and cultural disputes among them. Although this can be overcome through proper counselling and religious guidance given to the people. This also give rise to poverty and injustice. Although through fostering international cooperation we can revitalize the Muslim Ummah.

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF MUSLIM UMMAH:

External Problem:

- The modern form of colonization:

The concept of colonization is the biggest threat to the Muslim Ummah. The historical concept of colonialism includes getting the piece of land forcefully and stay over there. But

this modern colonization is operated using international organization, multinational businesses and other strategic ~~to~~ alliances to influence the muslim nations. This is causing political instability, cultural dominance and economic exploitation.

Allah says in Quran:

"Do not oppress and you shall not be oppressed"

(Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 279)

As through the modern colonization perspective the Muslim ummah is facing the external challenge.

Hegemony of Western Organizations:

Many western organizations including world bank, IMF and united nations have made laws which influence muslim nations to obey them. This will lose their sovereignty and are compelled to embrace the political system, cultural norms and economic models.

As Quran says:

"Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied with you until you follow their religion"

(Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 120)

Weakness of Muslim Organizations:

There are multiple muslim organizations including Arab League, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and other regional entities. They all share

The common religion yet they have internal conflicts. OIC is composed of 57 nations with majority of muslim nations but still it did nothing as in civil war in Syria.

As in Quran it is said:

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided..."

(Surah Al-Imran, verse 103)

Internal Problems:

Disunity among Muslims:

Although Muslims share same religion yet they are divided along political, ethnic and sectarian lines. There are multiple sects of which they are divided such as Shia-Sunni. According to Pew Research Center, in a survey of 2025 there are about 87-90% Sunni and 10-13% Shia community.

Allah says in Quran:

"...And remember the favour of Allah upon you when you were enemies and he brought your hearts together so that by his grace you become brothers"

(Surah Al-Imran, verse 103)

Multiplicity among Scholars:

There are scholars who have multiplicity among their views. Although Islam gave us plurality in ideas but at some concerns it causes a serious threat. Many Muslim countries including

Pakistan and Egypt there is a conflict among the Salafi, Sufi and Deobandi school of thought. The major problem happens during the jurisdiction and government policies. Still 20% of the Muslim communities are recognized through different sects according to Pew Research Center survey.

As Allah says:

"If you disagree with anything refer it to Allah and the Messenger."

(Surah An-Nisa, verse 59)

Rise in Extremism and Terrorism:

Muslim Ummah is suffering from extremism at a higher edge. ISIS and Al-Qaeda - the extremist groups who considered themselves are the preachers made the biggest terror mistakes in the nations by killing people. They did what is considered as the worst deed. As Allah says in Quran:

"Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption done in land, is as if he had slain humanity entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved humanity entirely"

(Surah Al-Maida, verse 32)

In 2020 a 67% of all terrorism related

deaths occur in muslim majority nations. Thus extremism is a major challenge for muslim ummah at this time.

Rich Resources but Poor Management:

The muslim nations are all rich in resources but they do not have proper management for that. This will result in poverty, inequality and unemployment. The wealth should be distributed among the poor community. As it is said in Quran:

"The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed of grain which grows seven spikes. Each spike contains a hundred of grains."

(Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 261)

Solutions:

Unity among Muslim Ummah:

Muslims should all live together and have brotherhood among them. There should be no division of sects among them. A common path should be followed and practiced. So, that there would be equal status of all the individuals.

It is stated in Quran:

"All believers are but brothers"

(Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 10)

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Thus all should follow Allah and his messengers there will be no Shia-Sunni beliefs. As through unity among Muslims most of the battles can be won.

Return to Quran and Sunnah:

Allah has blessed Muslim Ummah with a Holy book - Quran which has all the lessons which guides us in our daily life.

We should need to follow this in every perspective of life. Alongside he has blessed us with Holy Prophet whose life is a role model for us to follow.

We should need to return back to those teachings instead of following any scholar and getting confused.

Allah says in Quran,

"Indeed Allah does not change the condition of people until they change what is in themselves"

(Surah Ar-Ra'd, verse 11)

Establishment of Justice:

As a Muslim Ummah we should need to establish justice through the teachings of Islam and make all the laws according to the Quran guidance and Sunnah. Our Courts should also follow this book in law making. Policies should also be viewed on this perspective. We need to withhold justice and does not ~~make~~ ^{do}

injustice with anyone.

Allah says in Quran:

"Stand firmly ~~against~~ for
justic, even against yo-
urself"

(Surah An-Nisa, Verse 135)

Economic Self Reliance and Fair Distribution:

Being a member of Muslim ummah it is responsibility of every citizen to give zakat and sadqah.

As it creates a fair revolving of money in the society. It prevents the culture from facing enormity and poverty.

The nation will not collapse and will work in a great manner. Allah also give us order to give zakat from our earnings.

Allah says in Quran:

"So that wealth may not circulate only among the rich"

(Surah Al-Mashr, verse 7)

Moderation and Rejection of Extremism:

Extremism is a major issue faced by Muslim community. It should need to be handled. All the extremist should be removed and a proper beliefs and core values should be revolutionized. The teachings of Quran and Holy Prophet should be followed. This also reduces the factor

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of terrorism. Muslims should practice the core values, beliefs and faith.

In Quran it is said:

And thus we made you a middle nation (Ummah wasat).

(Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 143)

Critical Analysis:

At times Muslim Ummah is superior to all because they follow the teachings of Islam properly but now they are lacking in all aspects. This is just due to the way people are distracted from original path and started practicing according to their own relief. They forgot the original practices being taught. This can be bring back to the previous prime time by educating them back and giving this nation a sense of direction.

Conclusion:

Muslim Ummah is following contemporary challenges in this period of time, which may be due to the different sects, extremism and lack of education.

By following the preachings of Quran and Sunnah a perfect example of Muslim nation can be created. We all need to put our efforts in it.