

QUESTION # 02

ANSWER:

1. INTRODUCTION:

"Zakat" or "Alms" is one of the basic five worships of Islam. It is of profound importance for Muslims to give Zakat once a year, if they have certain amount of money. Allah commands Muslims to give Zakat to the needy and the poor to reduce class distinction and circulate wealth within the society. However, it has several implications at spiritual level such as closeness with Allah and purification. Furthermore, moral and social impacts includes empathy and humanity among Muslims for their poor brothers. Zakat reduces class discrimination and strengthens economic system of the state.

2. IMPORTANCE OF ZAKAT:

AND ITS PHILOSOPHY

i. Purification of Wealth:

Allah commands His followers to give "Zakat" so that the remaining wealth be purified. Allah says in

Quran:

فَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ رُكُودًا فَذَكَّاهُمْ
"La!"

"Take alms from their wealth so that the remaining money is made pure and clean."

ii. Circulation of Wealth:

Zakat is made obliged for the rich to give to the needy and impoverished community. This will create circulation of wealth among different groups and improve financial conditions of the poor. Allah has made different groups and provided different opportunities to testify their rationality and obedience. Similarly, Economic superiority of certain groups is a test for them to circulate wealth through the ordinance of "Zakat."

iii) Controlled Economy:

Allah has given basic instructions in Quran to have distinct economic system for an Islamic State. Allah ordered Muslims to Zakat to internally manage the economy of the state. Zakat will provide equal economic opportunities for every muslim. Despite of his race, colour or caste.

iv) Support of Marginalized Community:

"Zakat" is made obligated for every muslim to give once a year. If he has almost 7.5 tolas of gold or comparative merchandise. This Zakat is given to eight subgroups mentioned in Quran.

"Allah is only for the needy and the poor, and the caretaker of Zakat, and for those whose hearts are inclined to the truth, [for ransoming] of captives, for repayment of Debt, in the way of Allah and the wayfarer, an ordinance of Allah and Allah is knowing and wise."

(Al: Quran)

v. Obligatory Worship:

The importance of Zakat can be illustrated by the ordinance given by Allah as an obligation for eligible muslim. Allah repeatedly command muslims to give Alms in Quran:

“واقبم الصلاة وادوا الزكاة واركعوا معركم”

“And make up to your prayers and give your Alms and prostrate with those who prostates.”

(Al: Quran)

3. SPIRITUAL BENEFITS:

vi. Closeness with God.

The obligation of Zakat brings spirituality among muslims. Their belief within their God strengthen and see this world as temporary stage. They shatter the rings of fake world and observe the spiritual world without any external interference.

ii, Abstinence from Worldly Pleasures:

Providing Zakat to the needy from ones own income and belongings keep muslims to avoid excessive worldly desires. They do try to keep a balance within their finances and live a simple and peaceful life. However, it should be noted that Islam never supports asceticism, as illustrated by the advice of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) to Hazrat Abu Bakar at the Battle of Badr. He emphasized the right of "Nafs" and family over our belongings and existence.

4. MORAL BENEFITS:

ii. Empathy:

Zakat teaches muslims to be empathetic towards their muslim brothers. This brings humility among muslims towards the poor and impoverished community.

ii, Humanitarian Assistance:

The eligible candidates for receiving Zakat do not ^{only} include the poor community, but various categories and divergent groups of eligible people demonstrate that Islam focuses every social group. Zakat will assist humanitarian issues such as debt, slavery, poverty and institutional finances.

5. SOCIAL BENEFITS:

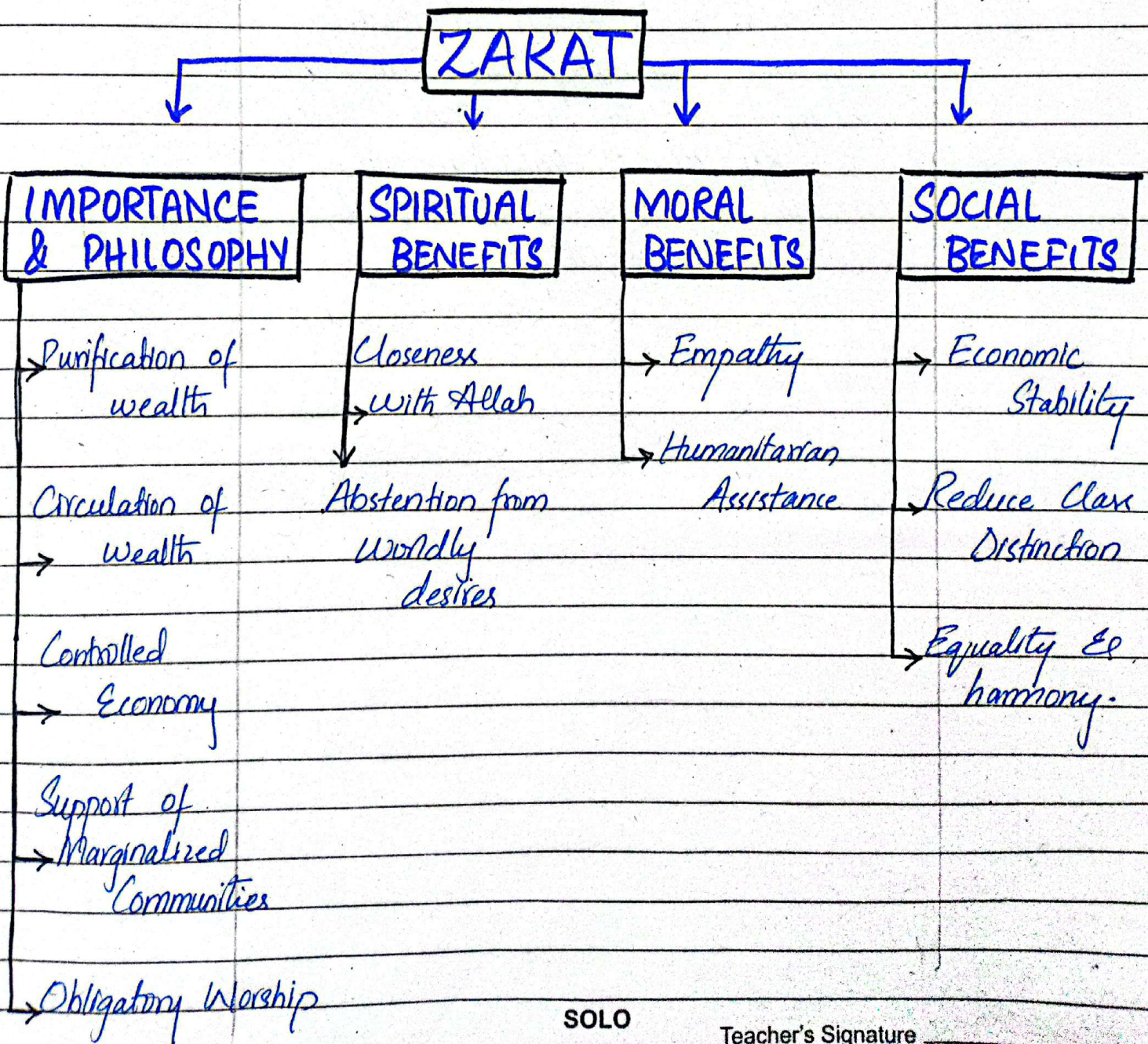
i, Economic Stability:

Zakat will stabilize the economy within the state by circulation of wealth among different groups. Every marginalized community will get opportunity to have economic participation.

Furthermore, minimum threshold of 7.5 tolas Gold to give Zakat provide a lenient economic setup for middle-class families as well. The profound importance of Zakat in Islam will stabilize economy.

ii) Reduce Class Distinction:

Financial Assistance to the poor provide ample support to access vast economic opportunities. Zakat narrow class gaps by providing economic access to less qualified community. Zakat has profound social benefits by reducing class discrimination.



CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell,
Obligatory worship of Zakat in Islam has deep philosophical importance to reduce class distinction and promote circulation of wealth. Furthermore, it has also many spiritual, moral and social implications such as closeness with Allah, humanity, empathy, equality and Brotherhood. Therefore, it can be said "Zakat" is of utmost importance for muslim to live progressive life within the society.



QUESTION # 04

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION:

Economic System of Islam involves a deep understanding of basic Islamic teachings and principles. Allah orders Muslims to keep balance economic system for every groups. It led responsibility on state to protect the economic needs of people by regulating economy, check on interest and prevalence of Zakat in Islamic State. The economic system of Islam can help to address the contemporary issues of Debt, interest, class distinction, corporate interest e.t.c. Therefore, Islamic Economic System provides a great opportunity for the world to integrate modern economic means within boundaries and religious principles.

ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF ISLAMIC STATE:

i. Prevent Interest based Economy:

Allah commanded muslims to avoid interest in any domain of life. It is responsibility of state to prevent interest based economy within country. Allah says in Quran:

” يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَذَرُوا مَا بَقِيَ
مِنَ الرِّبَا إِن كُنتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ ”

“O you who have believed, fear Allah and give up what remains (to you) of Interest, if you are believers”

(Al-Quran)

ii. Taking Zakat from Muslims:

Zakat is fundamental part of Islamic economic system. It is an obligation for Islamic state to take Zakat from eligible people.

However, it should be not that personal belongings of any individuals included two categories i.e.

- Maal-e-Batani (Internal Belongings)
- Maal-e-Zahiri (External Belongings)

Islamic state is made obligatory to take Zakat on External belongings, which are clearly visible and can also force muslims to give alms. This is demonstrated by Jihad against of Hazrat Abu Bakar (R.A) against the deniers of Zakat during his reign.

(iii) Leveraging Economic Gaps:

It is responsibility of Islamic state to leverage economic gaps among different groups of society. Many societies have wide class distinction resulting in social chaos and jeopardy. Therefore, Islamic state should provide feasible economic opportunities for less privileged people in the country.

ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES TO ADDRESS CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC ISSUES:

i) Balanced Consumption:

Islamic principles promote balance between income and expenditure. This moderation will create harmony of finances and economy in today's world. Nowadays, everyone seeks unattainable goals influenced by their peers. Thus, a balance means of consumption can counter this challenge. Hally Prophet (S.A.W) said:

"Moderation between Income and Expenditure is half the pleasure of 'Economic life' (Hadees).

Allah says in Quran:

"And those who spend neither in extravagant nor in misery, and there is ever just means between the two."

ii, Circulation of Wealth:

The basic principle of Islam related to circulation of wealth through Zakat address the deep polarity within society.

Islam implies circulation of wealth from the rich group to the less privileged group. According to recent ~~recent~~ states almost 49% of world economy lies in the hold of 1-1% of wealthy people. Considering this fact, circulation of almost half of wealth can create economic balance in society.

iii, Easy Debt Facilities:

The current world economic system incorporates interest based debt, which pushed Global south & below the poverty lines. Islamic principles of ~~Eco~~ interest-free based Economy will provide easy debt facilitation for poor countries to catch-up debt repayments. The current interest based debts given by IMF and World bank puts a toll on already eroding world economy. Thus, integration of economic principles of Islam will address this issue.

ISLAMIC ECONOMIC SYSTEM

RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN STATE

- Prevent Interest Based Economy
- Taking Zakat from Eligible Muslims
- Leveraging Economic Gaps

ADDRESS CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

- Balance Consumption → Extravagance
- Circulation of Wealth → Hoarding of Money
- Easy Debt Facilities → Interest Repayment Issues

CONCLUSION:

Thus in a nutshell, it is responsibility of Islamic state to stabilize economy & by preventing hoarding of money, interest-based trade and diminishing class distinction. However, many contemporary issues can easily be addressed by incorporating Islamic economic principles in modern economic systems. This will alleviate debt pressure from the poor state, leverage economic gaps and circulate wealth around the globe.



QUESTION # 06

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION:

Islam has given an utmost respect to women.

Through out history, women were devoid of basic human rights and were considered as second class

citizens as illustrated by Babylonian history, Greek and Roman history.

But after the advent of Islam, women were given profound importance in every domain of life. They are considered as an equal human and citizen within Islamic state. Apart from this,

there are several biological, physiological and psychological differences between both genders and thus Allah commands based on individual's capacity. Islam approach to human rights is based on equity, and thus give great privilege to women

WOMENS RIGHTS IN ISLAM:

i. SPIRITUAL LEVEL:

Islam does not distinguish humans based on gender or race, instead it categorize humans on highest spiritual level. Both men and women have equal access to attain spiritual superiority. Allah says:

"The closest to Allah among you (male or female) is one who is at utmost spiritual level"

ii. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:

Islam doesnot prevent women from attaining education. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) himself used to allocate time for teaching women. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said.

"*طُوبَى لِمَنْ سَأَلَ عِلْمًا فَهُوَ لَه*"

"Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every muslim (male or female)"

vii, LEGAL LEVEL

(a) Witness:

Previously, women were not given opportunity to witness in criminal or civil cases. However, Islam gave opportunity to witness in legal proceedings.

(b) Punishment to False Accusers:

Islam maintains respect for women by restricting doot of false accusations against the women. Allah says in Quran:

"Whoever, falsely accuse the chastity and morality of women punish without giving four witness, punish him with Eighty (80) lashes"

(Al: Quran)

iv, ECONOMIC LEVEL:

(a) Ownership:

Islam provide opportunity for womens to own or disown any economic property. However, western countries did not maintain ownership rights for muslims until late 1870s when special married women ownership bill was passed.

(b) Employment:

Islam assists women to have employment under certain conditions within Islamic boundaries. Over Islamic history, many muslim women pursued business such as Hazrat Khadija (R.A), medicine and law.

Islam provide great opportunity for women to have economic independence.

(c) Inheritance:

Allah commands followers to give half the portion of male inheritance. As the economic responsibility relies above male, she is provided with additional financial assistance through inheritance.

(d) Financial Burden:

Women are devoid of any financial burden in Islam. Before marriage it is responsibility of her father and brother to provide her. After marriage, it is utmost responsibility of her husband to give living necessities.

e. Marriage Gifts:

It is made obligatory on Muslim males to give marriage gift "Mahar", otherwise Nikkah or legal bond cannot be commenced. Furthermore, it is also responsibility of Muslim males to give financial assistance if women get "Khullah" or Divorce. And if she get pregnant, he is obliged to fund till the delivery.

iv. SOCIAL LEVEL

a. Marriage:

Islam orders its followers to take consent from women in marriage. No one could force her to marry someone without her wish.

It can be illustrated by incidence during life of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) when a girl approached him and said she was forcefully married. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) gave authority to the girl either to continue or dissolve marriage according to her own will.

(b) Partners of Males:

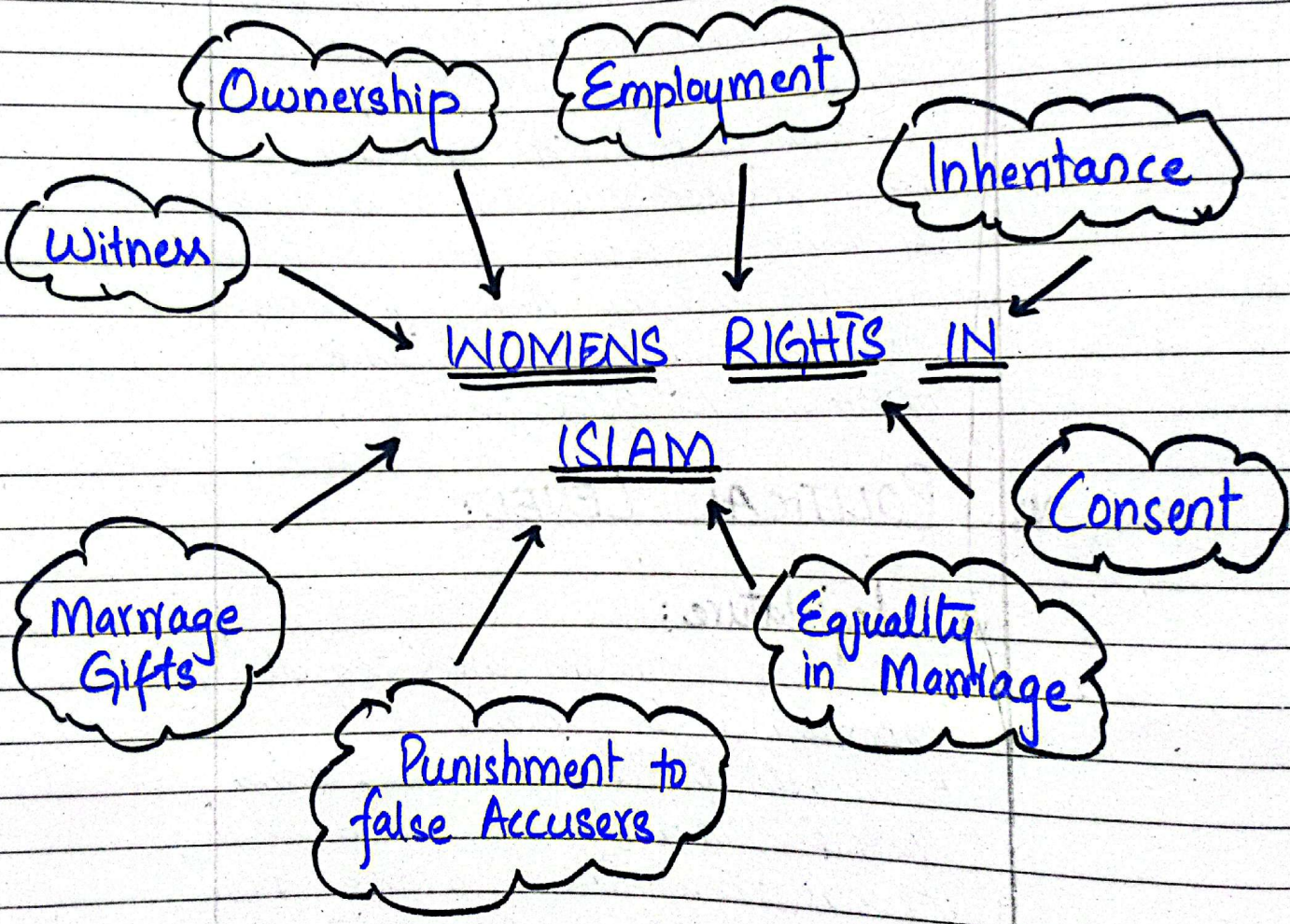
Before Islam, women were considered below males and were given less important in private life. However, Islam commands muslims to consider women as their "Mubsina" which means fortress against all evils, she is considered as a protector of male against any evil or deviation. Furthermore, women are considered as garments of their partners. Therefore, Islam gave balance importance to both partners.

VI. POLITICAL LEVEL:

(a) legislature:

Islam gives equal opportunities for women to participate in legislature. During Harsal Umar (R.A) period, it was requested to create a limit on "Meher." When the issue was discussed in open setting, one lady from back row stood and said "If Allah had not put limit of Meher, who is Umar to put a limit on it?"

To which Hazrat Umar (R.A) replied:
"Umar is wrong and the lady is ~~wrong~~ right"



CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded, that Islam gives huge importance to the rights of women in every domain of life. Islam gives right to equal spiritual, economic, educational and social aspect of women's life. Furthermore, it also relies responsibility on males to provide for her and complete her basic needs within Islamic principles.



QUESTION # 07

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION:

Humanity in contemporary world is considered social paradox. Due to increase focus on worldly needs and deviance from religious morals and values, many believes humanity as a false belief. However, Islamic social system and teachings indicates perfect guide to attain humanity in modern world without any difficulty. The basic principles of equality, harmony, brotherhood and strong family system could help subvert humanity in the world.

WHY HUMANITY HAS BECOME SOCIAL PARADOX:

(a) Deviation from Religious Beliefs:

Modern man has deviated from basic religious values and beliefs. He has focused his attention to worldly desires and goals, due to which humans feels less empathy towards each other.

(b) Human considered as a Commodity:

Comporary world has achieved so much that human himself is considered as commodity. Basic individual's right are overlooked many times as illustrated by recent wave of incidents of Human trafficking, ~~and~~ illegal migration, child abuse, domestic labor, prostitution and drug trafficking. All these social ills are due to less humanity in the world.

c. Increase Class Gap:

Increase Economic gap between the rich and the poor reinforces class distinction within contemporary world. The wealthy group exploit the resources of poor and work for their personal benefits leaving behind the poor on their own fate. The deep discrimination among social groups creates humanity as social paradox.

SOLUTION IN LIGHT OF ISLAMIC SOCIAL SYSTEM:

a. Equality:

Islamic teachings promote equal right for every human without any distinction of color, caste or creed. Islam believes every human is equal and is born from same origin. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said:
 "No Arab is superior than non-Arab, nor any Non-Arab is superior than Arab."

c. Brotherhood:

Islam promote brotherhood among muslim believers. They are considered as brothers and thus have empathy towards each other. The Islamic principle of brotherhood could harbor humanity in contemporary world.

d. Justice:

The prevalence of Justice in the society can create harmony and social order. Accountability of the wrongdoers and criminals will prevent challenges to humanity such as fraud and crime.

e. Strong family System:

Strong family system will enrich blood relations and harbors human values and morals. Children will adhere to religious ideologies and prevent any deviant behaviours or show wrong attitude towards any human being.

(f) Segregated Society:

Segregated Society will demarcate clear boundaries between opposite genders and keep chastity of women. The segregated domains in every field of life will prevent adulteration, fornication or criminal activities.

(g) Modesty of Women:

Sexual Objectification of women harbour many social ills in modern world. Islam promote modest behaviours and protection of women's ~~the~~ sanctity. The veil of women is obliged to protect her from external evils. However, strict actions are also been made of man to lower their gaze. Therefore, a balance approach within Islamic principles should be addressed to protect modesty of women in modern world.

HUMANITY AS SOCIAL

PARADOX

REASONS

- Deviation from Religious Beliefs
- Commodification of Human
- Increase Economic Gap

SOLUTIONS

- Equality
- Brotherhood
- Justice
- Strong Family System
- Segregated Society
- Protection of Modesty of Women.

CONCLUSION:

The contemporary world is facing the challenge of humanity as a social paradox due to various reasons. However, Islamic principles and Islamic social system can regain faith in humanity by promoting equality, brotherhood, harmony, justice and segregated society to support and protect sanctity of women.

