

Islamic Studies.

Question No. 2:-

Describe importance and philosophy of Zakat.

Answer:-

Zakat:-

Definition Meaning:-

The term "Zakat" has its origins in the Arabic language, which is the language of Quran.

The word "Zakat" is derived from the Arabic root "Zaka", which means to purify, to make pure, or to cleanse.

Contextual Meaning:-

Zakat is a fundamental religious duty in Islam, requiring Muslims to give a calculated portion (usually 2.5%) of their accumulated wealth.

Shariah Meaning:-

Zakat, according to Shariah law, is a mandatory form of charitable giving ordained in the Quran and Hadith. It purifies wealth, ensures social welfare and promotes economic equity.

Importance of Zakat:-

Fullfillment of Religious Duty:-

Giving Zakat is a religious duty for Muslims, and it helps fulfill their obligation to help those in need. The Quran states:

"And establish prayer and give Zakat, and whatever good you put forward for yourself - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do is seeing."

(Quran 2:110)

Economic Welfare:-

Zakat contributes to economic welfare and social justice. The Quran highlights the importance of helping those in need:

"But if they repent, establish prayer, and give Zakat, then they are your brethren in religion."

(Quran 9:11)

Philosophy:-

Economic Justice:-

The philosophy of Zakat is rooted in economic justice and wealth redistribution. The Quran emphasizes the obligation to share wealth:

"And in their wealth, there is acknowledged right for the needy and the destitute."

(Quran 51:19)

Social Responsibility:-

Zakat emphasizes social responsibility and the welfare of the community. The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) emphasized the importance of caring for the community:

The likeness of the believers in their mutual love, mercy, and compassion is that of the body; when one part of it suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever."

(Sahih al-Bukhari)

Spiritual Growth:-

Giving Zakat purifies the soul and cultivates spiritual growth. The Quran emphasizes the spiritual benefits of Zakat

"Take, [O, Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase, and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them. Indeed your invocations are reassurance for them. And Allah is hearing and knowing."

(Quran 9:103)

Moral Upliftment:-

Zakat instills moral values like compassion and empathy. The Prophet Muhammad

emphasized the moral benefits of zakat:

Charity does not in any way decrease the wealth and the servant who forgives, Allah adds in his respect; and the one who shows humility, Allah elevates him in the estimation (of the people)."

(Sahih Muslims)

Poverty Alleviation:-

Zakat significantly contributes to poverty alleviation. The Quran urges the support for those in need:

But the righteous- on will avoid it. [He] who gives [from] his wealth to purify himself."

(Quran 92: 17-18)

In summary, incorporating Quranic verses and Hadith reinforces the importance and philosophy of zakat, as well as its spiritual, moral, and social benefits, as taught in Islamic Teachings.