

## QNO 4. Economic Responsibilities of State and The Economic Principles of Islam

### Introduction:

An economic system is a means by which societies & states organize and distribute available resources, services, and goods across the state. According to Islamic view of economics, all the natural resources on the Land, sea and space being the Creation of Allah Almighty belong to the general public.

### Fundamentals of Islamic Economic System:

- 1) **Belief in Divine Guidance:** Every resource that is present in the Universe is actually owned by Allah. Thus it gives the sense of resources being "Ammanat".

Allah announces a great reward for those who provide the needy from what Allah Almighty has bestowed them. As in Quran, Surah Al-Baqara Allah says: "And give from what We have provided for them".

- (2) Islam encourages the use of resources and earning a respectable livelihood.

Quran guides us regarding the proper use of resources neither being too miser nor being spent in theft. Islam is a deen of balance so it guide a balanced way of using and sharing resources.

"But seek with what God has given you and do not neglect your share in this world" (Al-Qasas)

3. Based on the welfare of the society:

Any economic policy going against the welfare of people is prohibited by Islam. Unfair and monopolistic behaviors are discouraged.

4. A Balance between Socialism and Capitalism:

Islamic system recognizes the private ownership but within certain limits. These limits are defined by divine guidance. It doesn't follow Capitalism nor it prefers Communism. As Islam forbids unchecked materialism and asceticism both.

## Characteristics of Islamic Economic System

The basic characteristics includes:

- 1) Individual Liberty
- 2) Right to Property
- 3) Circulation of Wealth
- 4) Social Security
- 5) Social Justice
- 6) Individual and Social welfare.

## Specific Guidelines from Islamic System:

- (1) Production "الكاسب حبيب الله"
- (2) Consumption  
ولا تجعل يديك معزولة الى عنقك والا تبسطها على الرب
- (3) Distribution:  
لم لا يكون دولة بين اغنياء مساك

## Features of Islamic Economic System

- ① Recognition of Private Ownership  
Islam gives the right to own wealth but that is required to be used within the limits prescribed by shariah. As Quran mentions the state of individuals: In the Quranic verse, Surah Nisa: "For men there is a share of what they have earned and for women there is a share of what they have earned."
- (2) Circulation of Wealth  
Islamic teachings provide a proper system for circulation of wealth - through Zakat, Sadqat (voluntary donations), and Law of inheritance. Moreover, Allah has described the purpose of circulation of wealth in Surah Al Hashr "So that it may not circulate solely between the wealthy among you".
- (3) Creating Money out of Money (Interest)  
Islam disapproves interest once money is lent to someone rather it provide alternative ways.
  - 1) Two ways to Gain Money:
    - i) Invest and Earn
    - ii) Provide services and Earn
  - 5) Islam Recognizes Economic Inequalities  
Economic inequalities are considered so that the poor could be provided with some share for their survival.

## 6. Moderation:

It is a balance between extravagant and stingy life style. Islamic system favors and promotes moderation.

7. No set benchmark for earning of Profit unless there no illegal act involved, any element of deception and corruption is not allowed.

8. Sources of Revenue for Islamic state  
Revenue generation in Islamic state is founded in Zakat, Ghanimah, Jizya, Ushr and Kharsaj.

9. Islamic Code of ethics for Business:  
According to Islamic teaching one must not compromise his/her ethical and moral value for profit. As Hadith mentioned "Allah will never speak to those who sell their goods by taking false oaths."

10. Recognition of Economic activities with Non-Muslims and non-Muslim Countries:  
Holy Prophet SAW made contrasts and agreements with non-muslims such as that of Khyber to utilize land on the condition that half of the product of production would be their share.

\* Therefore, based upon these features of Islamic economic system we can say that the economic principles of Islam can help to address the economic issues of contemporary world.

In the contemporary modern world either Capitalism rules or Communism prevails, while Islamic system neither favors Capitalism nor promotes Communism. Islam is a just system that strongly prohibits the exploitation of larger number of people at the cost of minority. Similarly, it does not believe in equal share to all people without considering their efforts. One must be provided according to his need and his ability. Thus Islamic system believes in equity and moderation while strongly disapproving corruption and wealth accumulation. Severe punishment is accorded for those who collect wealth and do not spend for the cause of God's will.

Conclusion

Therefore, based upon the principle of Islamic economic system we can conclude that Islam provides the best possible way to come out of the economic web created by Capitalism.

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## Q:6 Women Rights in Islam

Islam has granted unprecedented right to women. It acknowledged the personhood of women, and assigned dignity to women.

The status of women in Islam is evidenced from Quranic teaching, Hadith and through Ijtihad.

In contemporary modern world Ijtihad has widened and recreates space for women. However, if we briefly analyze the ancient civilizations such as Athens and Romans, women were considered inferior and property of a man. They were known with respect to their relationship with a man.

Similarly, western writers and philosophers have not credited women with good remarks.

According to John Mills; "Subjection of Women", the wife is actually a bond servant of her husband.

Similarly, Mosaic law also assigns privilege to men by crediting him the right of divorce only.

On the contrary, Quran and Islamic teachings have provided specific relaxation for women even they have off from prayers and fasting during menstruation (for 7 days) and child birth (40 days).

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\* Women's Inhuman treatment in Arab before Prophet (SAW).

1. Feeling of Embarrassment at the birth of girl child -  
Quran clearly explains the scenario in the Surah "An-Nahl" how the people of Arab reacted when they hear the news of a girl's birth "his face darkens and he chokes with grief".

2. Female infanticide was a common practice: Arab use to bury the baby if it was a girl and Quran <sup>has</sup> mentioned this cruel attitude of Arabs in Surah At-Takwir that "when the girl, buried alive, is asked, For what crime she was killed?"

3. Women were treated as property  
Women were nothing more than commodities. A son used to inherit his mother once his father died like inheriting property. Islam granted status to women  
Islam has granted a respectable position to women as a child, as a wife, as a mother and as an individual.

As a child/ Adolescent: u

Holy Prophet SAW mentions "Whoever support two daughters till they are mature will come in the day of judgement (as pointed his two fingers <sup>held</sup> together".

\* Social aspect: (as a wife)

- Right to select spouse
- Right to Mehr
- Right to divorce (Khula)

• As mother :

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According to Islamic teaching, Mother holds Heaven below her feet.

Moreover, According to the famous writer Muhammad Qutub, his book "The Misunderstood Religion", He says that Islam occupies a unique position that it recognized and credited an independent economic status of women.

⇒ Economic aspects:

Economic aspects includes:

- a) Female Employment
- b) Female Inheritance

⇒ Political aspects:

According to A-Tabri, a woman can claim political leadership.

⇒ Islamic Concept of Equality

According to Islam, men and women are equal in sight of Allah.

Allah mentions in Surah Al-Ahzab that He "will not waste the worker of a works regardless of gender either male or female."

\* Islamic teachings:

1. Islam orders to respect mother abundantly.
2. Islam orders to treat and feed wives in the best possible manner.
3. Islam orders and encourages good treatment with daughters.



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• Islam orders to respect females in general as well.

Rights prescribed to Women:

I) Right to live

As Quran mentions:

• "Do not kill a soul, which Allah has made"

II) Right of having consent in Marriage

III) Right to education:

As Hadith mentions:

"seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every muslim."

(IV) Right to remarry

(V) Right to Divorce

(VI) Right to trade and Business

(VII) Right to inherit property, wealth

(VIII) Right to being provide with the basic necessities of life

(IX) Right to Charge for Breast feeding

(X) Right to have child maintenance in case of divorce.

Moreover, the socio-political right to women are evidenced from the era of holy caliphs as well. For instance, during the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar RA the election commission was headed by Abdu-Rehman who use to go to every house in order to take the votes of females.

Similarly, the freedom of speech was also credited to females, during Majlis-e-shura; a female told Hazrat Umar RA that he cannot decide "Mahr."

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Thereupon, based on the discussion we can conclude that Islam has revived the life style of females by leading them out of the darkness of old Arabs and Western civilization earlier than centuries ago. When rights of declaration was made women were given rights after huge struggle but Islam has credited all the rights to female without any movement or struggle.

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