

Islamic Studies

Q.2 Introduction

Zakat is the fourth pillar of Islam. It was made compulsory in the year 4 A.H. Zakat is important for the well-being of the Islamic community, as it enables circulation of wealth. It is also an essential part of the economic system of the country, as it makes it more equitable in nature. The rate of zakat is 2.5% of the total wealth and nisab is 75 tolas of gold. Zakat makes the society a well-functioning and integrated one.

The philosophy of zakat

The term zakat literally means to 'purify'. By paying the poor and the needy out of one's wealth, a person cleanses his/her wealth and makes it pure and lawful.

1) Rate of zakat

Zakat is given at the rate of 2.5% of one's entire

entire wealth, condition being that the wealth has been earned through lawful means

ii)

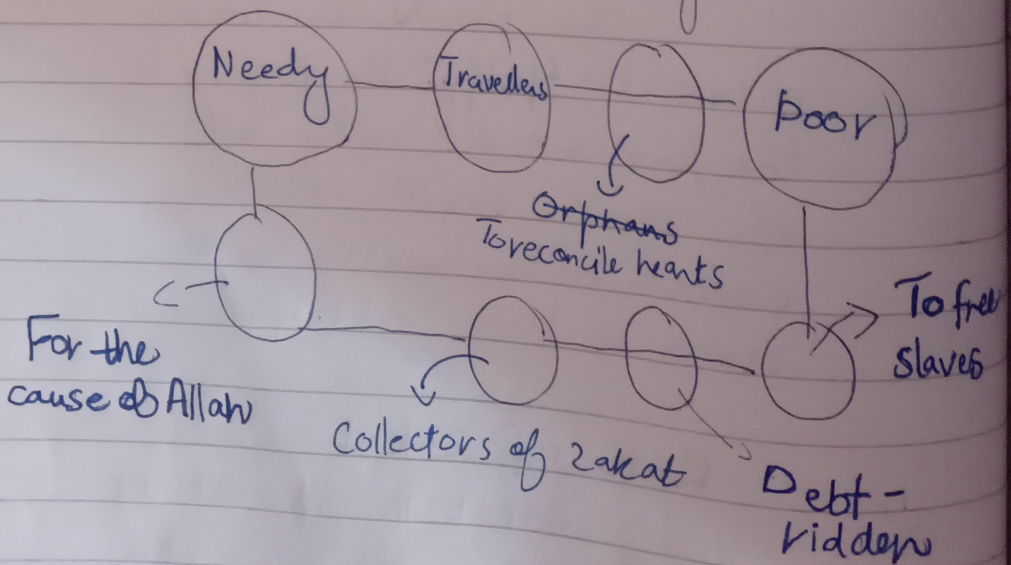
Nisab in Zakat

Nisab in Zakat is 9.5 tolas of gold or 52.5 tolas of silver. The nisab of Zakat has been decided after careful consideration.

iii)

Recipients of Zakat

The recipients of Zakat include the following



There are 8 recipients of Zakat. Zakat is not given to parents, children, and grandparents

The importance of Zakat

i) **Well-fare of the society**
Zakat is important for the muslim society as it leads to the welfare of the muslim state. Zakat does this by enabling every one to fulfil their needs and requirements

ii) **Circulation of wealth**
By giving out to the needy and the poor of the society, the rich helps circulate wealth in the society. This ensures that excess wealth is not in the hands of the few and is available for those who need it.

iii) **Promoting Equality in Society**

Through the distribution of wealth zakat promotes equality in society. This reduces the divide between the haves and the have nots in the Islamic society.

iv)

Purification of wealth

When zakat is given out, it purifies the wealth of the person who gives it out and makes it clean for his or her personal use.

Benefits of Zakat

i)

Spiritual Benefits

The Quran says

“And perform prayers, and give out charity, and perform haj, those who can afford it.”

Similar to prayers and fasting, zakat benefits the spirit by bringing the person closer to Allah. Zakat is a

form of worship and it is must recognized as spiritually fulfilling as other forms of worship.

ii

Moral Benefits

The moral benefits of zakat are that it reduces greed, avarice, and deception in society. It encourages people to stay on the right track and keep their conscience with regard to their wealth intact.

ii

Social Benefits

By making people realise and tend for those who are less well-off than them, zakat integrates the muslim society. It also reduces inequality in the society and makes people more empathetic towards each other.

Conclusion

To conclude, Zakat is an essential component of not only the economic system of Islam but also of its social, moral, and spiritual aspects. Zakat helps unite the muslim society further by decreasing ^{the} inequality and differences _{present} within it.

Q.3

Introduction

The Quran says

6 And when you judge,
judge between them justly. 9
(Al-Quran)

Justice refers to fairness and adherence to rules and principles while making decisions concerning anything. These decisions could encompass, decisions of life and death, about distribution of income or wealth, about share in property, and also about the political, social, and economic systems of Islam. Justice has to ^{be} practiced in every aspect of a muslim's life.

The system of justice in Islam

↓

Holding Accountable for one's actions

In Islam, be it anyone. The head of a state or a peasant. The person is held

accountable for his or her actions. If a person has done something wrong he or she would have to give a justification for it and if they cannot do so, then their actions would be penalized.

ii)

Transparency

Transparency is an important component of justice. Actions carried out in a transparent & manner are appreciated and they are not called in to question.

iii)

Justice by Holy Prophet (pbuh)

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) set an example of leading a life of justice for all to follow. The Quran says, 'Indeed in Prophet (pbuh) you have a beautiful pattern of conduct.'

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) was

known as Sadiq and Amin.
This was mainly due to his
fair and peaceful nature.
Throughout his life, in
all his dealing the Holy Prophet
(pbuh) exhibited justice and
fairness whether as a business
or as the leader of the
Muslim Ummah.

iv)

Justice by the Caliphate
When Hazrat Abu Bakr
became the first Caliph of
Islam, he said,

'And follow me if I follow
the teachings of the Quran
and the Sunnah and if I
am right. And do not follow
me if I do not follow the
teachings of the Quran
and Sunnah and if I am
wrong.'

This delineates the importance
of doing what is ~~too~~ right
as a ruler or an administrator.

All the caliphs during their reigns exhibited fairness and justice. They always followed the teaching of Islam and whenever an issue would crop up, they would deal with it in a just and equitable manner.

The judicial system of Islam

Islam has an established judicial system which deals with matters on all levels be they individual, communal or of state level in a judicious manner.

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said
"And listen even if a negro is appointed as your head."

This showcases that irrespective of a person's caste, creed or color, he must be listened to and followed, if he is

in the right and is acting justly.

On another occasion

the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said,

'Even if my own daughter Fatimah had stolen, I would have cut off her hands.'

This reflects the exceedingly just and fair nature of the Islamic judicial system established by Holy Prophet (pbuh). The system was the same for all.

Importance of Justice in Islam

Justice is an important aspect of Islam. Islam enjoins everyone to be just in their dealings and activities.

(i)

Building a Well functioning Society

A just society is a well

functioning society, as
people are able to reap
the benefits of their work
in an effective manner.

ii,

Constructing a prosperous society

It is a just society
which ultimately becomes
a prosperous society. When
things are done in a fair and
rule-based manner, the final
result is progress and prosperity.

Conclusion

In Islam, justice is
an important concept. It helps
the Islamic society function
as an integrated whole. Allah
admires those who are fair and
just and the Holy Prophet (pbuh)
too, enjoined the Muslims to
be fair and accurate in their
dealings.

ii

Q.5

Introduction

The Caliphate is system of governance and rule by the Caliphs of Islam. Caliphs are pious, righteous and God-fearing leaders or members of the Muslim Ummah. Caliphs are usually appointed based on their piety and rightful deeds. The first four rightly-guided Caliphs of Islam were Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Umar, Hazrat Usman and Hazrat Ali. These Caliphs were highly regarded in their community. They were looked upto for guidance and direction.

The salient features of governance and accountability under the Caliphate

i)

Rule of Law

Governance in Islam includes rule of Law as one its main aspects. Without

rule of law, governance is not possible in an Islamic society. Rule of law leads to a stable society.

(ii)

Justice

Justice is another important feature of governance in Islam. The Quran and the Sunnah enjoin Muslims to practice justice in every aspect of their lives.

The Quran says

“And when you judge, judge between them justly.”

(iii)

Consultation

In Islam, governance is conducted through a process of consultation. The concept of Majlis-e-Shura is exceedingly important in Islam. It is through consultation that a decision is made in an Islamic society. The Caliphs used the same process.

iv) Vicegerency of Allah

The head of a government or Caliph in Islam is, in effect the vicegerent of Allah ⁱⁿ the world. This vicegerent or representative must be head in all matters concerning the muslim state or the community.

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said

↳ And listen even if a Negro is appointed over you.?

v) Sovereignty of Allah

In governance in Islam sovereignty belongs to Allah. No matter what decision is made the head of a state or a government, the ultimate decision lies with Allah. Without the will of Allah nothing can happen. Thus, governance in Islam should be conducted based on this principle.

vi Accountability of leaders

The Quran says,

'You will be held accountable for your actions, and he will be held accountable for his actions'

(AL-Quran)

This indicates that each and every person would be held accountable for their actions. The leaders of the muslim state would not have to be accountable just to Allah (S:W:T) but also to the people he is serving.

vii,

System of accountability

As part of governance in Islam, a system of accountability has been established. Under this system people would be held accountable and answerable for their actions and undertakings. This system is an equalizer in the Islamic society. All will be held accountable irrespective of their caste, color, race, or creed.

Conclusion

Caliphate in Islam is an important concept. This concept encompasses leadership in the muslim community. The salient features of governance and accountability in caliphate are the same as the features of governance and accountability prescribed for the form of rule in Islam in general.

Q6 Introduction

Before the advent of Islam, the women of Arabia did not have any rights. They were treated like chattels and animals. The birth of a female child was looked down upon, moreover, many female infants were buried alive after their birth. This demonstrates how pathetic and miserable the lives of women were before Islam. Islam ^{has} bestowed many rights and duties on women. It has also helped improve the status of women in society and life.

Women Rights in Islam

1) Rights of a mother

Islam has given a very high status to mothers. The Holy Prophet (Pbuh) said, 'Paradise lies at the feet of your mother.'⁹

Islam encourages Muslims to respect their mothers and take care of them in old age and sickness.

ii

Rights of a wife

Islam has bestowed many rights to the wife. A woman has the right to obtain maintenance or *Haq-mehr* from her husband at the time of marriage. Moreover, a husband cannot marry for the second time without the consent of his wife.

iii

Right to choose who to marry

A woman cannot be forced to marry someone without her consent. Her consent is required before marrying her off to a person. She has the right to reject a person.

if she is not comfortable
with being with him.

(iv)

Right to own property
women have the right
to own property in Islam.
There is a share of owner-
ship for the male child
and also for the female
child in the inherited
property.

(v)

Right to acquire education
Both men and women
are encouraged to acquire
an education in Islam.
The Holy Prophet (Pbuh) said
"It is a duty of a Muslim
both male and female to
seek knowledge."

Thus, enlightenment and
knowledge were made important
pursuits for muslim men and
women.

vi)

Rights of a daughter

A daughter has rights similar to that of a son in Islam. She is entitled to the same inheritances to which a son is entitled. The daughter must obey her parents and the parents must provide for her.

vii)

Right to Seek Employment

women are not discouraged from seeking employment and earn a livelihood in Islam. If a woman wants to start a business, in Islam, she can do so. In fact, the first woman to convert to Islam, Hazrat Khadija (R.A) was a business woman.

viii)

Protection of honour

A woman's honour and dignity are to be protected in Islam. A woman must be

Treated with respect
and kindness. She must
also be given space and
time for her personal
growth and development.

Conclusion

Islam has honored
women with many rights and
privileges. It has, in effect,
improved the status of women
and has placed them on a path
of self discovery and betterment.
The women must be treated
as equal to men.

The Q'uran says

'And he created men and
women as equals, except that
men have a degree above women'
(AL-Quran)

On another occasion the Quran says,
'All are equal in the eyes
of Allah, except in terms of
righteousness.' (AL-Quran)