

Q2. Introduction

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. It signifies wealth which is spent in the path of Allah. It purifies the wealth and cleanses it. Mentioned with Salah many times in Quran, the importance of Zakat has been much emphasized. It is also the bedrock of the economic system of Islam. Zakat benefits not only the society but also the individual. It allows circulation of wealth in the society so each individual has sufficient means to survive. From spiritual perspective it breaks the love of wealth in a person and from a moral standpoint Zakat instils a sense of piety and righteousness in a person.

Importance and Philosophy of Zakat

Holy Quran lays great stress on the obligation to fulfill Zakat. It states:

وَأَقِمْ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتِ الزَّكَاةَ وَارْكَعْ مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ

“Establish prayers and give alms tax and bow down with those who bow in prayer” (2:43)

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This verse signifies that every muslim who have sufficient resources and fulfils the criteria of Nisaab must pay Zakat. Zakat is a purification of wealth. Like fasting purifies the body and Salah purifies the soul, Zakat purifies the wealth of a person. It also remind him that whatever he or she has it is the blessing of Allah Almighty. Allah, therefore, mentions repeatedly in Surah Ar-Rehman "So which of the favors of your Lord will you deny". Moreover, Zakat is not only a form of charity and help to other individuals, but rather it is an obligation that a person must fulfill for the sake of Allah. Therefore, the one who receives Zakat is also not shamed and rather dignified because it is not the commandment of Almighty that the other person is following. Furthermore, the economic system of Islam, which is based on justice and equity, claims Zakat to be its fundamental principle. Although Islam does not forbid a person from aiming to make profits, it does give us a system through Zakat that wealth is

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not concentrated in the hands of the few and basic needs of all individuals are met. Hence, Zakat, as a pillar of Islam, plays a fundamental role in individual and collective life of a person.

Spiritual benefits of Zakat

i) Breaks the love of wealth in a person:

Holy Prophet (PBUH) said: "The greatest evil of my Ummah will be the love of wealth", as we see that present day economies are based on profiteering and manipulation. However, Islam ensures that a person realises that the wealth he possesses is nothing but a provision from Allah and it is something that should not obscure his faith. Hence, Zakat detaches the love of wealth from a person.

ii) It cleanses the wealth and property of a person: Zakat is a source of purification of wealth. It allows a person to develop the sense that wealth must not be hoarded rather it must be spent for

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the welfare of others. It also gives the hope that wealth spent in the way of Allah adds to our good deeds and that Allah gives a far greater reward in return for the wealth spent in the path of Almighty.

iii) Avoid the wrath of Allah :

The Quran warns that individuals who do not pay Zakat will be severely punished in the Hereafter. Therefore, Zakat is a way to earn the pleasure of Allah and to avoid the consequences of hell in the Hereafter.

Social benefits of Zakat

i) Promotes social welfare of society :

Surah Taubah, verse 60, enlists the people who are to be given Zakat. These include the 8 heads of Zakat such as poor, needy, slaves, in debt, in the way of Allah, travellers, to reconcile hearts of people and collectors of Zakat. Hence, by giving the requisite amount to all the

needy people the welfare of the society is promoted. Moreover, it also establishes good ties with others such as relatives because they, if needy, have the first right to Zakat.

(ii) Removes social insecurity in people :

Zakat allows circulation of wealth such as every person's basic needs are fulfilled.

This eliminates poverty in the society.

Moreover it also leads to people avoiding sins such as suicide, beating of their children or committing crimes. Hence,

Zakat inculcates a sense of security in the people and allows everyone to live a respectable life.

(iii) Sense of collective responsibility :

The provision of Zakat ensures that each person recognises his obligation towards the society as well. Islam not only preaches 'Huqooq Allah' - rights of Allah, but also enforces 'Huqooq al Ibad' - rights of people. Hence, through Zakat one can realise and fulfil his collective responsibility and inculcate a strong sense

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of community.

Moral benefits of Zakat

i) Promotes righteousness :

Zakat encourages a person to live a life of virtue and righteousness. It is a reminder that every thing we have is just a gift of Allah and also Allah can take this gift away when He desires. Therefore, a person must try to live a life of virtue and for success in the Hereafter.

ii) Encourage moderate way of life :

Islam has giving a person right to enjoy life and earn profits by hardwork but it disapproves of hoarding of wealth and extravagant life style. Therefore, Zakat serves as the reminder that we must fulfill our needs and enjoy bounties of Allah but also not be excessive in it. Rather the extra wealth must be spent in the way of Allah and a moderate life style be adopted.

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iii) Accountability in life :

This life serves as a trial for the Hereafter. Allah Almighty tests some by giving them health and tests some by passing them through poverty. Hence, Zakat reminds us that the provisions we have are indeed a test by Allah and we should best utilise for good deeds and our overall outlook towards life should be to keep ourselves accountable for all our actions.

Conclusion :

Hence it can be concluded that Zakat is a pillar of Islam that significantly impacts the personal and public life of a person. As a means of purification, Zakat is a medium to get closer to Allah. It allows us to recognise our responsibility to the society and promotes welfare and peace in the society. If modern day states adopt a strict system of Zakat then they would be able to resolve issues of poverty and economic crises in the system and if individuals follow the obligation of Zakat they will be aptly rewarded in the Hereafter.

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Q6.

Introduction

Contrary to the perception of western world regarding inequality ~~of~~ between men and women in Islam, Islam is the religion which gave rights to women 1400 years ago when the society was toxically patriarchal and women were seen no more than second class citizens. The Arabia of age of ignorance was full of tyranny towards women. They were often buried alive, not given rights in property, had no social standing and were treated with disrespect. At the time ~~of~~ advent of Islam significantly improved the status of women. It forbade female infanticide, gave them rights in property and a wide array of fundamental human rights making them equal in status to the men.

Social rights of women

Islam elevated the social status of women. The Holy Quran has stated that Allah created mates from ourselves so we may find tranquility with each. ~~the~~ Islam considers both men and women to be equal

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in the eyes of Allah even though there are certain differences in their roles but the social status remains the same. Islam has enjoined women to get education just like men.

Holy Prophet (PBUH) stated: "Getting education is obligatory for every muslim".

Moreover, Islam protects the ~~right~~ right to life of women. It had strictly condemned practices of female infanticide. On the

contrary, it gives glad tidings to those who raise daughters. Holy Prophet (PBUH)

said that, "Whoever raise two daughters to maturity, he and I will be like this on

Day of Judgement (and he pointed to his two fingers)". Apart from this, Holy Prophet

(PBUH) proclaimed, "The best among you is the best to his family". This clearly indicates

that in Islam, women are given equal rights and opportunities. The life of Holy

Prophet (PBUH) and his interaction with his wives and his daughter is a great

example to practically demonstrate how Islam regards women in high esteem.

In the farewell sermon, Holy Prophet (PBUH) again emphasized the rights of

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women as he declared, " You have rights over your wives and your wives have rights over you ". We can comprehend from this that Islam lays great emphasis on rights of women.

Economic rights of women

Islam played a key role in lifting the economic rights of women. Whilst the present day west gave rights to inheritance to women in the 20th century, Islam had already given these rights back in the 7th century. The Quran gives in detail the laws of inheritance. Although some critics argue that Islam does not give women equal share of inheritance as to men but this argument can be refuted because Islam compensates women with much greater economic liberty than men. Firstly, women are exclusively entitled to own their property and income. They do not have responsibility to share it with their husbands or relatives. Secondly, Islam has commanded the men to take care of the economic needs of the women. He is obligated to provide for his wives and children. Thirdly, Islam

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also gives women the right to acquire Mahar at the time of marriage. Hence, keeping view all these matters, Islam has significantly improved the status of women in terms of their financial well being.

Religious rights of women

Islam has given equal rights and duties to women with regards to religion. It considers all human beings to be equal, the only merit of superiority is piety. Hence, women are instructed to follow the same rituals as of men. Moreover it provides women with leniency when required. In the case of child bearing women, they are exempt from fasting. Moreover, ~~moreover~~ they can postpone their prayers and fasts at the time of monthly periods. Although Islam gives the right to lead prayers to men, women can participate in religious activities at the mosques ~~at~~ as witnessed in the times of Holy Prophet (PBUH). Therefore, both women and men have equal standing in terms of their religious rights and duties.

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Rights in public sphere

Contrary to the current beliefs, Islam has also given women rights in public sphere. At the time of ~~some~~ Holy Prophet (PBUH), women used to visit mosques and discuss their issues. Moreover, we have the example of Hazrat Khadija (RA) who was a successful business woman and contributed greatly to the cause of Islam. Hazrat Ayesha (RA) participated in political spheres of the time and also commanded an army in war. Hazrat Umar (RA) appointed a woman to be inspector of the markets of Madina. Keeping in view these ~~examples~~ ^{examples} we can see that women have an equally important role to play in the public sphere as per the teachings of Islam.

Rights in private sphere

Women are to be treated with respect and dignity. Islam considers the role of women to be very important in private sphere. She is obliged to perform duties of child bearing and in turn she affects

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way a society is functioning. Therefore, women are to be respected in the eyes of Islam. Moreover, Islam gives women the right to divorce. The woman can legally end ~~there~~ a relationship with a man by opting for a Ikhula. Therefore, Islam does not bound a woman and allows her to end a marriage.

Conclusion

Therefore it can be concluded that Islam provides several rights to women. Compared to other religions and cultures, Islam is benevolent towards women and regards them as equal with men. Although there may be natural differences between the two genders but fundamental rights and duties are same for both. Islam gives a plethora of social, economic, religious, public and private rights to women and has played a key role in elevating the status of women in society.

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Q4. Introduction

Islam gives humanity fundamental principles of economic system. As a Deen it provides a complete code of life, thereby it lays groundwork for how a economic system should be setup and operated.

The state of Madinah was an ideal example of how the economic system should function in an Islamic state. Based on the principles of equity, justice, fairness and liberty Islamic system of economics is the golden mean of the present day polarity of capitalism and socialism. Following the tenets of economic system pointed by Islam, the present day economic issues of rising inequality, poverty, unemployment and economic crises can be dealt with.

Economic responsibilities of state in Islam

i) State is responsible to collect Zakat:

One of the major components of Islamic economic system is Zakat. It is a way through which every person gets basic needs fulfilled and the wealth is circulated

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in the society without being concentrated in a few hands. As per the guidelines of Qur'an and Sunnah, it is responsibility of state to collect Zakat and distribute it.

ii) Prohibit Usury:

Islam forbids interest based economy. Usury or 'riba' is condemned in Islam. Holy Prophet (PBUH) emphasized this fact in his farewell sermon as well where he ordained his followers to avoid ~~the~~ the use of usury. Hence, an Islamic state should run without interests because it results in exploitation of the poorer classes and is one of the biggest reason that present day societies face increasing economic disparities.

iii) Promote fairness and justice:

In the Surah Anam of Qur'an, the muslims have been commanded to assure justice in their merchandise dealings. They should not cheat in their dealings and opt for fair transactions. Moreover, Islam

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forbids anyone illegally occupying the assets of an orphan. Islamic economic system promotes trade with fairness and justice. Hence, the state is obligated to enforce justice and fairness in its economic system.

iv) It should assist the needy and the poor:

Unlike the present day states, Islamic state is supposed to be a welfare state.

Everyone should have the resources to fulfill basic needs of survival such as food and shelter. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "He is not a believer who eats ~~at~~ his fill while his neighbour sleeps hungry."

Hence, Islam commands Muslims to be concerned of the welfare of others. The same principle is of the state too. We saw in the systems of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the rightly guided caliphs after him that they used to use the *Bait-ul-Maal* to support all the poor and the needy and made sure that no one suffers from hunger.

v) It should not restrict individual growth:

Although Islamic state is a welfare state and orders a moderate lifestyle, it does not curtail a muslim from working hard to earn a rightful living and enjoying the provisions given to him by Allah. To emphasize it further Allah Almighty considers him a friend who works with dignity to earn his living. Hence, unlike socialism Islam does not instruct the state to own ~~the~~ all means and prohibit private profits, rather it allows individual to own private property as well as work freely to earn profits as long as Halal means are used and financial obligations such as Zakat are fulfilled.

Addressing economic issues through Islamic principles

i) Interest free economy and Zakat :

One of the greatest concerns of present day economy is that there is a great inequality between the rich and the poor. For example according to UNDP report 2018-19, in Pakistan top 1% earn 9% of the income and the bottom 1% earn 0.15% of the income

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and hence, the glaring disparity. The causes of which are interest based economy which exploits the poor. If interest is eliminated and circulation of Zakat is ensured then the wealth will be distributed and ~~eq~~ inequality will decrease.

ii) Welfare of the people :

Another present day concern in economy is growing poverty and unemployment. Islam ensures that every individual gets the fundamental needs fulfilled and hence, it orders these with resources to help their needy counterparts. The system of economic circulation is not only limited to Zakat, but Islam also commands the Muslims to do charity such as Sadqa in order to ensure well-being of collective ~~class~~. Moreover, if the principles of justice and equity are applied it will improve economy to elevate the status of poorer classes.

iii) Resolution of economic crises through hardwork and fair dealings :

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There are growing ills of corruption, adulteration and unfair practices in the economy today. Islam lays down principles of fairness, Halal earnings and forbidding of adulteration. Moreover, it restricts practices such as gambling or racketeering to avoid economic downturns. Hence, following Islamic practices and principles the ailments of economy can be healed.

Conclusion

Therefore, it can be concluded that Islam has given injunctions to the state to collect Zakat, avoid usury and promote free and fair economy. Moreover, the application of these and Islamic principles of fair trading, justice and equity would help resolve contemporary economic issues of poverty, inequality and stagnation.

Q2. Introduction

The term justice can be defined from a variety of perspectives. There are different as to what constitutes its definition and how it should be enforced. Yet justice in basic terms help to guide society towards betterments and prevents it from disintegrating. Islam has a comprehensive system of Justice. The Shariah of Islam provides the complete principles for justice. Islam has primary and secondary sources of Shariah which present the Islamic principles of justice and also gives the procedures to promote them. Almighty Allah is the greatest Judge of all and He ensures that His system of justice is fair and ~~for~~ likewise commands His creatures to follow the traits of justice in order to establish a peaceful and prosperous society.

What is meant by Justice

The concept of Justice can be viewed from multiple lenses. From a purely legal point of view justice is the enforcement of law and constitution and going against

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It is called injustice. As per the utilitarian view justice is a tool that provides greatest good for the greatest number of people. Conflict theorists view justice as an instrument utilised by the people in power to propagate their interests and to maintain their status quo. Great greek philosophers regarded justice as a trait due to which people specialise and do the thing they are best suited for. Islamic concept of justice is derived from the teachings of Quran and Sunnah and it is based on the concept of enjoying and promoting good (Al-Ma'uf) and prohibiting evil (Al-Munkir).

System of Justice and Importance in Islam

i) Shariah and its sources :

Shariah is the law of Islam, it is the basis of the justice system of Islam. The primary sources of Shariah are Quran and Sunnah. Quran is the fundamental guide for all muslims. As the word of Allah Almighty it gives us the principles

of justice in Islam. The Sunnah of Holy Prophet (PBUH) further elaborates the principles of justice in Islam and also provides through life of Holy Prophet (PBUH), on how the justice should be implemented. The secondary sources of Shariah include Ijma, which is the consensus of Islamic jurists and Ijtihad or Qiyas which is based on logical or analogical reasoning. These four sources lay down all the key features of justice in Islam.

ii) Forbid evil and promote good:

The basis of Islam is promotion of good in the worldly life and to prohibit evil misdeeds. This rule is the core of Islamic justice system. Enforcing things which promote good are just whereas those which are evil are considered as unjust. In the Quran Allah Almighty has instructed Muslims to be just in their dealings and promote good in the society.

iii) Fairness and equality:

In the eyes of Allah every person is

equal. No one has superiority over the other. This established equality means that the laws of Quran and Sunnah equally apply to all. Moreover, Islam promotes fairness in dealings and public affairs. This helps to ensure that no person is cheated upon.

iv) Maintenance of peace :

The importance of this Islamic justice system is that it helps to maintain peace. By holding each person equal and promoting virtues of good and prohibition of evil, the peace in society can be established. Everyone will feel entitled and no rights will be violated and everyone will fulfill their duties.

v) Dual system of accountability:

Islamic system of justice is important because it is not restricted to the worldly life. Every person will receive a judgement of their deeds in the Hereafter by the ultimate Judge. Therefore, not only does Islamic system

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ensure justice in this life but also in Hereafter.

vi) A virtuous life:

The exercise of justice ensures that society functions smoothly and each individual pursues a virtuous life. Every person will know that any transgressions will be punished and every one is accountable to the Law of Allah. Therefore, people will strive for a virtuous life.

Conclusion

Hence, it can be concluded that justice has multiple meanings. In Islam it refers to doing of good and avoiding evil. The sources of Shari'ah provide the fundamentals of Islam justice system. The implications of this system are a peaceful and fair society and well being of individuals.