

Q: Elaborate the importance of zakaat and how it can alleviate poverty?

Ans

Introduction

The system of zakaat is one of the important obligations of Islam. Allah Almighty has ordained for giving zakaat to establish a balanced system between the rich and the poor. When the rich gives a portion of its wealth to poor and needy, it reduces economic disparity. The aim of zakaat is to prevent concentration of wealth in the hands of few. It promotes circulation of wealth and helps alleviate the poverty. Zakaat has proven beneficial for both rich and poor. As it creates a sense of satisfaction^{in rich} when spent in the way of Allah. It purifies the wealth as well as soul. It promotes a sense of harmony, solidarity and removes resentment and envy that might arise from economic disparity.

The importance of Zakaat and its role in alleviating poverty

① Spiritual and moral significance

Being one of the obligations from Allah, Zakaat has great moral and spiritual

significance. It is a duty of muslim and by paying zakaat, it purifies soul as well as wealth. It produces a sense of closeness to Almighty Allah. As Allah says in Holy Quran,

"And establish prayer and give zakaat and bow with those who bow in worship and obedience"

(Surah Baqarah : 43)

② Zakaat produces a sense of responsibility

It instills a sense of courage, compassion and responsibility to support those in need. Alongwith this, zakaat provides humanitarian spirit, humility and humbleness. It prevents occurrence of crimes, theft etc. Mostly, people involve in immoral acts due to their basic necessity. Hence, zakaat fulfills needs of the poor reducing their involvement in unnecessary acts.

③ Zakaat Promotes distribution of wealth

Zakat ensures the distribution of wealth among rich and poor. It prevents concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. Allah has discouraged act of hoarding

and pleased with the act of spending in the way of Allah. This redistribution bridges the gap between the rich and the poor.

④ Zakaat helps alleviating poverty

This system of Islamic state provide supports to needy, poor, widows, orphans, and the elderly. It provide immediate financial support by giving money, clothing, food, shelter and healthcare to underprivileged.

⑤ It fosters unity and harmony in the society

As when the rich spends on the needy with humbleness, in the way of Allah, it reduces resentments and envy present in their hearts. It fosters a strong relationship and produce a harmonious society.

⑥ Zakaat promotes economic growth

By addressing ~~poor~~ poverty, the basic necessities of human are fulfilled. The poor then contribute to local markets and businesses. As the wealth starts circulating, the strain of poverty is reduced. Hence, an efficient system of zakaat promotes economic growth of an Islamic state.

7) Zakat improves socio-economic standards

The poor gets its necessities fulfilled by direct financial support due to zakat system.

Hunger and ^{basic} necessities compel the poor to involve in crimes. Zakat ensures circulation leading to economic growth and control of inflation.

Hence, it reduces immoral activities in a state.

It controls unemployment ratio leading to better socio-economic standards.

8) Zakat removes materialism

As prophet (PBUH) said that the greatest evil of my Ummah is love for its wealth.

When a person spends in the way of Allah, it means he surrenders his everything before will of Allah. It reduces importance of material things from his heart and convey the message of spiritualism.

9) Zakat promotes sustainable development

Zakat can be allocated for long-term projects such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure in impoverished areas. These investments lead to sustainable development and improvement of quality of life for

marginalized communities.

⑩ Zakat purifies the wealth and the soul

As Allah says in Surah Taubah,
 "Take from wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them to increase, and invoke Allah's blessing upon them."

[9:103]

⑪ Reward for paying Zakat

Allah has ensured that zakat never decreases your wealth rather it ~~will~~ increases it.

Charity doesn't decrease wealth. No one forgives another except that Allah increases his honour and no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him"

(Sahih Muslim)

Conclusion

Zakat is more than just a charity. It is a system comprehensively formulated by Allah that bridges gaps of social inequality. It ensures circulation of wealth and discourage the concentration of wealth. When zakat system is implemented effectively in

an Islamic state, it reduces economic disparity and promotes social justice and development.

It reduces poverty, improves socio-economic standards and satisfies the soul as well. Hence, this pillar of Islam creates a balanced society and prosperous society.

Elucidate how Prophet (SAW) is the perfect example for an individual?

Introduction

Prophet (PBUH) was sent by Allah as the ultimate guidance for mankind. Prophet Muhammad became a perfect example for an individual. His character, good moral nature, mercy, compassion and courage is not found anywhere. He was humble and forgiving of his enemies even when he could prosecute them. He was a good friend, great neighbour and excellent leader. He set ~~ex~~ examples of equality, justice and women empowerment. He emphasized on gaining knowledge and became an ultimate custodian of Islamic beliefs and worship. Hence, Prophet (PBUH) became an epitome of perfect model.

① Prophet (PBUH) as an epitome of human excellence

The last messenger of Allah was chosen due to his eternal excellence in every field of life. He is an ideal example as an individual for his ummah. He is a universal source of guidance for all, until the day of judgement. His excellence in behaviour, compassion, faith, leadership, companionship is unparalleled in the world.

② The excellent character and morality of Prophet (PBUH)

Before prophethood people used to call him "Al-sadiq" and "Al-Amin" due to his truthfulness and trustworthy nature. His moral character maintained by prophet (PBUH) throughout his lifetime. He encouraged patience, humbleness, and followed teachings of Holy Quran. His humble nature is evident from the example given below. Prophet (PBUH) used to pass through a street where a lady threw garbage over him daily. Once that lady became sick and didn't throw garbage. Muhammad (PBUH) not only asked about the lady but also went to ask for her health. This great example of humbleness inspired the lady and she accepted Islam in inspiration.

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Custodian of Islamic belief and worships

Prophet (PBUH) not only gave teachings of Islam but also practised himself with great courage. He offered daily prayers and even Tahajjud at night, he observed fasts frequently. Not only during Ramazan but also in Shaban, Muharam, and every Monday, Tuesday as well. He used to give charity and Zakat in the name of Allah. As Allah chosen him for guidance of mankind, he exemplified himself as a perfect guidee ^{from} Allah.

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Compassion and mercy - integral feature of his Sifah

Prophet's (PBUH) mercy for friends, enemy, companions, neighbours, animals set true example for human beings. He forgave his enemies even when he could persecute them.

Once Prophet (PBUH) headed towards people of Taif to convey message of Islam. The cruelty and brutal response of Taif people resulted in profuse bleeding from his entire body. His sandals became clotted to his feet. Allah sent Angel Gabriel and he said if prophet (PBUH) orders he would bring mountains to ~~collide~~ collide with each other and destroy people of Taif.

But Prophet (PBUH) prayed for their guidance and mercy instead of curse or revenge. It is said that heavens were moved by Prophet's prayer.

⑤ Prophet (PBUH) as a proponent of women rights

He always talked about kindness, respect and honour of women. He was a great husband. As he said,

"The best among you is one who behave best to their wives."

⑥ Prophet (SAW) as a great leader

He never stepped back or retreated from grounds of war. He united Muslims with his great leadership skills and established justice and equality. He valued consultation (Shura) and respected ~~opinion~~ opinion of his companions. As Allah says in Holy Quran,

"And consult them in the matter"

⑦ He manifested constant remembrance of Allah

Prophet (PBUH) said,

"Your tongue should always remain wet with remembrance of Allah"

He used to seek constant forgiveness from Allah.

⑧ Merciful towards Orphans and neighbours

He always took care of orphans and relatives. He emphasized on fulfillment of needs of orphans and needy people.

⑨ Established social justice

The Prophet (PBUH) supported and practised social justice and equality before Allah. He once said that even if his beloved daughter Bibi Fatima practice theft, he would cut her hands. This example highlights his emphasis on equality and justice.

⑩ His emphasis on knowledge and education

Prophet (PBUH) always gave knowledge of ethics, morality and his teachings were not confined to particular culture or time. His guidance applies universally, at all the time, till the day of judgement. He taught to practice knowledge in real life to gain its benefits in practical life.

Conclusion

Prophet (PBUH) became a perfect example for an individual. His actions and sayings ~~became~~ provided guidance for human beings at every aspect of life. Allah Almighty sent The Holy Quran as a message of God and The Holy Prophet (PBUH) as an example from God so that Muslims follow and achieve both spiritual and worldly fulfillment.