

Date: _____

Day: _____

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Q. NO. 1

1. Introduction:

Zakat (charity) is the fourth pillar of Islam. It plays a crucial role in Islamic society. Its importance can be manifested from this that, like salat (prayers), it is also mentioned several times in Holy Quran. It helps integrate a society through poverty alleviation, controlling inflation, and mutual cooperation.

2. Meaning of Zakat:-

(A) Literal Meaning:

Literally the word zakat means to purify or get purified.

(B) Contextual Meaning:

In Islamic context, the meaning of zakat is to cleanse/purify one's wealth by giving away its fixed portion to with regard to the commandments of Allah.

(3) Who are the receivers of Zakat?

These are eight Masarif (receivers) of Zakat according to Holy Quran who can get the Islamic charity. As the verse goes on

” انما الصدقات للفقراء والمساكين
والعمالين حايها ولو لفة قلوبهم
وفي الرقاب والغارقين وفي سبيل
اللّٰه وبين السبيل ۝“
(Al-Taubat 60)

“ These charities are for the poor, needy, the collectors of Zakat, The new converts, to release prisoners/slaves, the indebted, for the cause of Allah and to way farers.”

4) Role of Zakat in poverty Alleviation:

Zakat has an immense importance in Islam and its economic system, as it helps alleviate poverty from society. There are various rationales on which one can easily say that Zakat helps in poverty alleviation.

(A) Zakat is taken from wealthy and given to poor:-

It is mentioned in an Hadith, quoted by prophet (PBUH),

” توخذ من اغنياهم وترد للفقراء ۝“

“ It is taken from the affluent

ones and given to destitute.

Hence, by distributing the wealth of rich to the poor, helps in alleviating poverty.

③ Mandatory on each able Muslim:-

Zakat helps in poverty alleviation as it is mandatory on every able Muslim. Therefore, the donations by rich people substantiates the lives of downtrodden part of society.

④ Circulation of Wealth:-

Zakat is a good, and natural way of circulating the wealth. Hence, by circulation of wealth, hoarding is discouraged. This, automatically helps in controlling inflation and poverty in a society.

⑤ Establishment of Classless Society:

By paying zakat helps in establishing a classless society, where affluent people cooperate and help the downtrodden part of society to uplift them economically. Hence, zakat helps in poverty alleviation till the establishment of a classless society.

5. Conclusion:

Zakat, being fourth pillar in Islamic injunctions, shows

an immense importance. It is good in several perspectives; however, its utmost benefit is that it helps in poverty alleviation and establishment of a welfare state.

Beneficiaries of Zakat

- ① The poor
- ② The Needy
- ③ Collectors of Zakat
- ④ New Converts
- ⑤ Indebted ones
- ⑥ To Free slaves
- ⑦ For Cause of Allah
- ⑧ Way farers.

Q. 2

1. Introduction:

There are five beliefs systems in Islam. Among them one is belief in prophethood. Having belief is part of Iman. It is worth-noting that for being a true believer one must have to believe in all prophets of Allah Almighty. If one disobeys the one prophet, he one disbelieves. Similarly, doctrine of prophethood

has several impacts on life of individuals as well as on collective society.

2. Doctrine of prophethood:

Believing in prophethood is ^{much} crucial that it has been made the second part of Kalima. If any one denies any part of Kalima he indeed disbelieves. Similarly, Allah has sent several prophets for the guidance of people and believing in all of them is mandatory for every Muslim. Moreover, after prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the noble profession of prophethood came to an end. As Allah (SWT) states.

”
مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ ابًا مِنْ رِجَالٍ
فَلَمْ يَكُنْ رِسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ
النَّبِيِّينَ“

” Muhammad (PBUH) is not the father of any one of you, but the apostle of Allah, and a seal to prophethood.”
(Al-Quran)

3. Impacts of Doctrine of Prophethood:-

Main impacts of doctrine of prophethood are as follows.

(A) Impacts on individual life:

(i) Character building:-

Belief in prophethood helps in character building. As the holy Quran says that

” لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ
 أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ ”

” Indeed, the life of prophet is best example for you.”

(Al-Quran)

(ii) Guidance to right path:-

Allah has sent hundreds of prophets for the sole purpose of guiding the people to right path. Without prophets, one is unable to interpret the holy scriptures, and understand ones ways to spend life. These are the prophets which interpret the Islamic injunctions and guide us throughout the life.

(iii) Living a purposeful life:-

prophets tell us the purpose of our creation that why we have been created.

Hence, people extricate themselves from materialism and acquire spiritualistic ideals. These spiritualistic value render them live a purposeful life.

(iv) Hope and optimism:-

All the prophets have come to warn the people about punishments as well as rewards. ~~on~~ which are delivered on day of judgement. Therefore, people involve themselves in good conducts — mentioned by prophets — and become optimistic for their future rewards.

(8) Impacts on Collective Life:-

Doctrine of prophethood also shows & multifarious impacts on society. Main impacts on society are hereunder.

(i) Ensuring brotherhood and fraternity:

To believe in prophet helps build ties of brotherhood ~~in~~ among the people living in a society.

(ii) Unity and discipline:-

Prophets mostly preached about unity and discipline. They nullified the discriminations of each ~~and~~. Hence, ^{believe in} prophet hood promotes unity among the followers.

(iii) Promotion of Social Justice:-

All prophets talked about equality before law, whether one is poor or rich, one is powerful or powerless, one is master or slave, all are equal, before

before Law. Hence, doctrine of prophet helps in promotion of justice.

(iv) Establishment of pluralistic society;
 Doctrine of prophethood helps in establishing of a pluralistic society where all people cooperate, and help each other. They respect each other and their values

(v) Promotion of peace and harmony; -
 peace and harmony prevails in a society where people are bound to moral values, where exists rule of law, and social coexistence. As all these values are ensured by believing in prophethood, thus it helps in establishment of a peaceful society.

4. Conclusion:

To put a finishing stroke, prophet doctrine of prophethood is pivotal in Islam as it is part of belief. Similarly, its importance cannot be neglected when it comes to impacts of belief on prophethood on the lives of individuals and the people living in a society.