

ISLAMIC STUDIES MOCKPART II

Q5

Introduction

Every community faces challenges and so too does the Muslim Ummah. The challenges to the Muslim Ummah have persisted over a long period of time and their intensity has increased exponentially. The challenge of Islamophobia presents a social and physical threat to the Muslim community which is external in nature.

On the other hand, extremism is the narrow interpretation of Islam which is mostly for the benefit of certain bodies.

This threat is internal in the Ummah. Both challenges present far reaching challenges for the Muslims and will be discussed in the context of the contemporary Muslim world in this answer.

Challenge of Islamophobia in the contemporary worldMuslim apartheid in western societies

Muslims face segregation and isolation due to Islamophobia. In today's integrated and multicultural societies, one cannot progress until he forms part of society.

Myra Juma
Baba 22

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social integration is necessary for progress. Islamophobia, the fear of Islam, forces the Muslim community into a corner and prevents them to form a cohesive part of society which challenges their progress.

Battle against The Hijab

The western community especially the so-called secular groups have developed an obsession with the hijab. This piece of cloth is considered a existential threat to their social fabric (Rafa Zakaria). For example, in France - the Hijab ban has been popularized to attack the Muslim community and force them to assimilate into French and overall western culture. This presents a threat to the ideals and practices of the Muslim community. The hijab was made compulsory in Islam in SAH and the Islamophobia forces Muslim women to not practice the true essence and teachings of Islam.

Racial profiling in employment prevents Muslim progress

Muslim men and women are discriminated against during the



employment process and after being employed as well. For instance, they may not be employed due to the way they look while having the right credentials for the job. For example, they may have a beard or wear the hijab. Moreover, they may be discriminated against at work. This was referenced by Arsalan Iftikhar in his book 'Fear of the Muslim Planet' which cited a study where Muslim women felt prejudice at their place of work. This ensures that the Muslim community cannot make economic progress as they have difficulties in employment.

Increased surveillance after 9/11

Muslims are constantly being monitored in the west due to Islamophobia. The FBI, for example, particularly monitors calls and activities of Muslim men and women. Moreover, after 9/11 there was an increased surveillance of mosques along with resistance to build new mosques (Arsalan Iftikhar, Fear of the Muslim Planet). This hinders the Muslims to fully and comfortably practice their religion as they are socially prevented.

Increased and Intense ~~at~~ airport checks

Travelling has become a source of anxiety ~~and~~ for the Muslims. If an individual watches the stereotypical image of a Muslim man or woman, he spends hours at the airport with increased questioning and sometimes, disrespect. This anxiety creates mental health problems for the Muslim community.

Excuse for war on Muslim countries

Islamophobia has wreaked havoc on the global stage as countries often go to war based on ideologies. Islamophobia can be cited as the reason for the Palestine-Israel conflict. The current war against Gaza since October 7th which has resulted in the death of more than 30,000 civilians is because western countries view Muslims as a threat. The subjugation and oppression of Gaza was ignored ~~to~~ since 1948 and now the retaliatory strike on October 7th is used as justification for terrorism. The contextual dynamics of the crisis are ignored ^(Furgan Khan, 'The Evolving Dynamics of the Israel-Hamas Conflict, 2023). Hence, Islamophobia presents existential threats to Muslim countries.

Increased instances of Muslim Targeting

Islamophobia is used as a cover to has resulted in gunmen targeting Muslim groups that are innocent. For example, recently, a man killed a 6-year-old boy in ~~Illinois~~ Illinois by stabbing him to death because he was Muslim. More incidents such as the Christchurch mosque ^{where 51 were killed,} attack in New Zealand, also presents challenge to the Muslim Ummah. What's interesting is, the Christchurch mosque gunman cited the concept of 'The Great Replacement' which is the increased migration of the Muslims as one of his motives. So Islamophobia is an excuse for blatant racism.

Challenge of Extremism in The Muslim World

Widening Schisms ^{in the Muslim Ummah} and Sectarianism

Extremism presents an internal threat in which the Muslim community becomes divided. The extremists claim to hold the True Islam whereas the same is claimed by the liberals (Khaled Abou ~~El~~ EL Fadl, The Great Theft: Fighting Wrestling Islam from The Extremists). This creates a wide gap between two different groups in Islam and causes disunity.

Increased sectarianism

The Muslim community was over the eight sects in their respective sects which creates another factor of widening gulf between the two. The teachings of the Quran are ignored which says

... انما المؤمنون اخوة

Indeed, All Muslims are brothers...

(49:10)

Hence, the Muslims remain divided.

Clash of civilizational mentality adopted

Extremism facilitates an us versus them mentality. This was promoted by Samuel Huntington in his essay 'The Clash of Civilizations'. The Muslim extremists follow this path and try to attack the non-Muslims by declaring jihad on them such as what ISIS-K is doing. The concept of jihad is ignored in this case and so are the rules.

"And fight in the way of Allah those who fight you and do not exceed limits, surely Allah does not love those who exceed limits" (2:190)

Economic isolation due to extremism

Economic isolation is deadly in today's world and extremism is isolated in the world community. For example, Afghanistan is isolated due to its fundamental interpretation of Islam and is not ~~being~~ recognised by the world community which means it cannot form economic ties effectively and progress. This results in poverty and hardship for the people.

Inability to focus on academic excellence and civilities

Extremism has led to the Muslim community unable to function along academic lines. Previously, scholars like Umar bin al-Khattab, Ibn Sina and Ibn Khaldun ~~had~~ among others had provided the Islamic civilization with progressive ideas in sociology, mathematics and medicine. However, centring on extremism has led to academic decline.

Overall, Extremism is a bigger challenge

Overall, extremism presents a greater challenge to the Muslim Ummah today as it is internal in nature. The true message and meaning of Islam is not followed. If internal challenges are remedied, the Muslim Ummah will present a stronger front to external challenges such as Islamophobia. Moreover, extremism has contributed to the fear of Islam and if the core of the matter is fixed then the Muslims will progress overall. The true message of Islam thus needs to be followed rather than narrow misguided interpretations.

"This day, I have perfected your Deen for you, completed my favour upon you and chosen for you Islam as your Deen".
(5: 3)

Conclusion

In conclusion, extremism within the Muslim community is a challenge due to increased sectarianism and division between liberal and extremist groups

and it also results in social and economic backwardness. Islamophobia also presents challenges such as economic downturn, mental health problems and bad or practicing the true Deen. However, all things considered, Extremism is the bigger challenge to the Muslims today.

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Q6.

Introduction

Islam is an all encompassing Deen that includes the principles of Good Governance. Muslim leaders are taught the main principles to ensure the society runs smoothly and welfare is the top objective. Modern states can benefit from these principles because a blueprint is provided for the Muslim community leader and no ambiguity is present. Some principles include taking care of the poverty-stricken people, collection of ~~to~~ zakat, protection of minorities and welfare approach in trade. In this answer, the principles of good governance and benefit to modern state ~~and~~ will be discussed.

Principles of Good GovernanceTolerance and protection of minorities

Good governance includes the protection for all especially minorities. In Islam, minorities cannot be forcefully converted and are free to practice their religion. This ensures peace and stability in the community. The Quran says:

لا اراة في الدين

"There is no compulsion in Deen."

(2:256)

This was practiced by the prof of Prophet as ~~with~~ Jewish, Christian and Pagan tribes lived in Medina and were under the same contract as the Muslims - The Charter of Medina (622 AD).

Collection of Zakaat

An efficient economic welfare system constitutes as good governance. Zakaat is a wealth collection from Muslims in order to distribute wealth in the community so no one suffers from poverty. This includes a 2.5% on wealth or 62.5 ^{tolas} grams of silver or 7.5 tolas of gold or 40 goats ~~among~~ or 5% on unirrigated land or 10% of irrigated land among other methods. Zakaat is not burdensome and indicates welfare in society and the economy.

Looking after soldiers and military personnel

Hazrat Ali (R.A.) highlighted the 20 characteristics of good governance to Malik Ashtar (Governor of Egypt) one of them

was looking after the military which protected the people of society. This would be through providing good lodging and welfare as well as effective training and discipline to ensure they were in good shape.

General Rule of Law

Good governance in Islam includes accountability for all no matter the status of the individual. The importance of this can be seen by the fact that Hazrat Umar (R.A) also presented himself in front of the court on some occasions to defend himself. Moreover, the Prophet also promoted this by example saying on the incidence of stealing that "Even if Fatima, daughter of Muhammad, had committed theft, I swear by Allah, I would have cut off her hands".

Fairness in Trade Practices

Trade practices should be fair and reliable. The seller should not ask for a higher price and the buyer should not heckle the seller unreasonably. This would ensure a fair transaction and

adequate profit for the seller.

welfare of the many over the few

The welfare of the mass majority should take precedence over the few. When majority is satisfied, the community will thrive. However on the other hand, if only a few (particularly the elite) are the only beneficiaries of good governance, there will be instability and discontent.

Abiding by the Islamic teachings and principles

At all costs, good governance should follow the teachings of Islam and never stray away. For example, one must not legalize haram things for the sake of secularism or liberalism. ~~It is~~ Instead, strict abidance of Islamic teachings must be maintained. The Quran says:

"And be steadfast in prayer, pay regular charity and bow your heads with those who bow down"

(2:43)

Ihsan

Adopting Ihsan at Najis in governance

In good governance, excellence should be strived towards. Instead of doing things without standardly, one should focus on doing things well in order to please Allah. As stated in the Quran, the reward for doing things well is that good things will come to those who practice Ihsan.

هل جزاء الايمان الا الايمان

Is there any reward for ihsan (good) instead of ihsan (good)

(55:60)

Acquiring benefits of Good Governance by modern states

Economic stability

Modern states can get benefits through economic welfare and stability. classism and poverty would be eliminated.

Capitalism has failed to look after the disadvantaged people and poverty and distress have increased in the west.

Thus, modern states can develop the economic distribution methods like zakat and benefit.

Reduction of corruption

Corruption would be reduced due to fear of accountability. Hisbaal leaders would be able to watch their actions and would try their best to avoid corruption. An example of this was during the reign of Hazrat Ali (R.A) who had misappropriated funds. Ziyad bin Abi'el who was the deputy governor of Basra was harshly scolded by Ali (R.A) who said that he swore by Allah that if he had misappropriated funds, large or small, he would be severely punished.

Increased work ethic and discipline

Modern leaders would be forced to try their best to please Allah. Rather than doing bare minimum and being lazy, the leaders would strive to be the best they can be. Allah says in the Quran: The Prophet said:

"Those who" And an amir (ruler) who accepts an office but does not make his utmost effort with sincerity (ikhlas), he will never enter Jannah

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with the other Muslims.

(Muslim)

Inclusion of all communities.

The communities under a good leader would be protected and their rights would be respected. A good leader would ensure that the teachings of the Quran are followed as ~~the~~ it says:

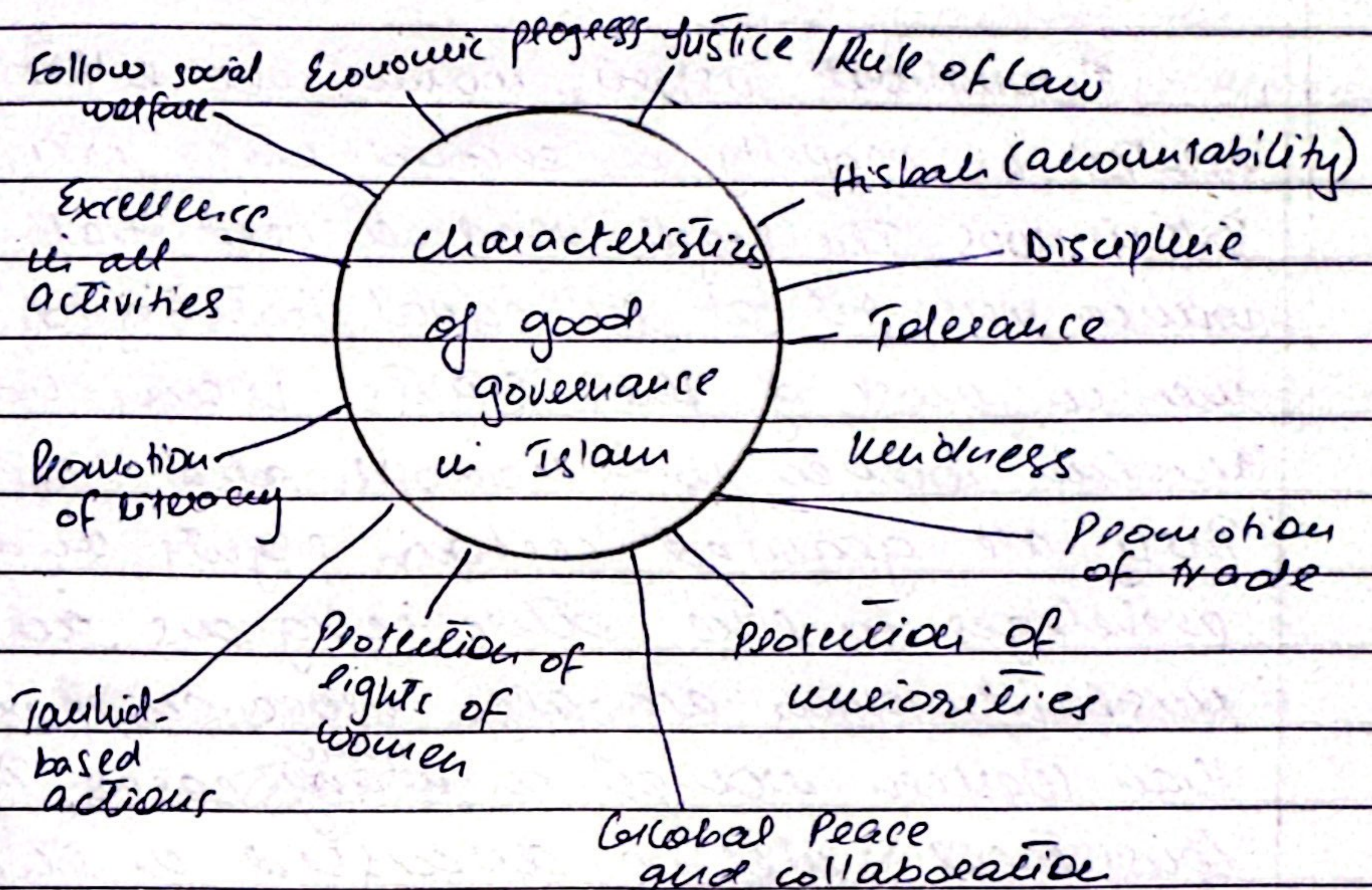
فَلْيَاذِمْ لِلشَّيْءِ فَلَئِمْنَ مِنَ الشَّيْءِ فَلَئِمْنَ
let those who want to believe, believe
and let those who want to disbelieve
disbelieve...

(18:29)

Blue print and strict instructions to avoid ambiguity

The modern leaders would be provided with a strict code of ethics and rules to follow so that they are not confused. Every action and how to achieve wefare is mentioned in Islamic teachings and Muslims would not be lost along ~~with~~ those who practice Islamic governance

Characteristics of good governance



Conclusion

In conclusion, good governance entails the adoption of the teachings of Islam in a practical setting. Moreover, modern leaders can benefit from Islamic teaching of good governance as it provides a straight-forward approach and adopts general welfare and prosperity. Moreover, it is citizen-centric.

Q7.

Introduction

Throughout history, women were either treated as property or second class citizens. Islam was the light that ensued that women were put at an equal footing to men in most of their rights. Islam holds Muslim women with honour and respect. They are granted certain rights and privileges unlike other religions. Muslim women are also more empowered than western women in ^{many} ~~many~~ cases. These constituents will be discussed in this answer.

Rights of Muslim womenRight to attain an education

Muslim women have the right to attain education for enlightenment. This also ensures that they are active participants in society and knowledgeable of the world around them. This was said and highlighted by the ^{Holy} Prophet (SAW)

"To seek education is incumbent on every Muslim (men and women)"

(Ibn Majah)

Marriage according to free will and choice

Muslim women are granted the right to marry whoever they choose. Moreover, they can reject proposals if they do not want to marry someone. No one can force a Muslim woman to marry including her parents, siblings, relatives or community at large. The Quran states

"No woman should be married without consulting her..."

(Sahih Bukhari)

- Right to life and sui of female infanticide

Since the time they are born, women have rights. ~~then~~ Baby girls cannot be killed based on their gender and must be raised properly and in parallel to the sons in the family.

"And when the female (infant) buried alive - is questioned, for what crime was she killed..."

(81: 8-9)

Right as mother

A mother is granted certain privileges and rights in Islam. Their position is upheld in Islamic society. For example when a companion asked the Prophet (SAW) who is worthy of his companionship, the Prophet replied 'mother' twice and then father. This shows the rights of a mother.

Right of wife

Islam grants rights to women as wife. The wife is to be loved and respected. The husband must help her in ~~her~~ easing her burden and emotionally fulfil her needs. The Holy Prophet (SAW) used to help in the home by doing the household chores and ease the burdens of his wives.

Status of women in Islam

Parallel to men

Muslim women have a status parallel to men. They are granted rights to own property, seek education and employment. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) also said that if a father took

case of his daughters the same as men, ~~that~~ ^{he} and the Prophet (S.A.W) would enter ~~paradise~~ ^{Day of Judgement}, like this (he held up two fingers) indicating together.

Status

Above men in some contexts

In parenthood, women are granted a status over men. As the previous example states: Mothers were granted worthy of company twice before fathers. Hence, mothers are elevated in status in some contexts.

Role of women

As social support for men

Women's ~~are~~ ^{role} is to provide companionship and emotional support to their husbands. Hazrat Hawa (R.A) was created out of the rib of Hazrat Adam (A.S) and provided support for him. Similarly, Hazrat Khadija provided support to Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W).

Producing future generation that is pious

As mothers, women's role is to teach their children ~~in~~ Islam and provide

the Muslim Ummah with pious Muslims.

Thus, the women in Islam are charged with the duty to inculcate Islamic morals and teachings in their children.

Muslim women empowerment greater compared to western women

Success in the Hereafter

Muslim women are empowered by the feeling of success in the Hereafter. They know that life is a test and if the right teachings are followed according to Islam, then they will be rewarded on the Day of Judgement.

"Every soul will be held (in pledge) for his/her deeds"

(74:38)

Confidence in their following the true religion

Muslim women are confident in their religion. ~~But~~ The women in the west are frequently confused and have lost life's meaning. Muslim women are more content knowing Islam is the true religion and

Allah is the only one to fear.

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

"Surely the (true) religion with Allah is Islam."

(3:19)

Protection from the male gaze

Women in the west sometimes dress for the male gaze and according to a patriarchal society which promotes a fashion industry run by men. Women are treated as sexual objects and objectified. Muslim women are free from such evils and are empowered by their modesty. They only dress to please Allah and don't care about societal standards or the male gaze.

Strong community for Muslim women and isolation for western women

Muslim women are empowered by their community which is strong. Muslim women are protected by their Muslim brothers and other Muslim women who look after their rights and privileges. Muslim

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women aren't victims of isolation and have a strong network. Western women can be isolated and lack a sense of close-knit community which creates mental health problems such as depression and leads to lack of empowerment.

Protection from men within the community

Muslim women can walk with confidence knowing they are safe around Muslim men. Muslim men are told to "lower their gaze" by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). Moreover, for ^{sexual} harassment and rape, there is strict punishment. For example, punishment for rape is 100 lashes.

Critical analysis

Women are deeply empowered in Islam but can only be protected if the three principles of Islam are followed. For instance, education is a right of Muslim women which is sometimes taken away due to cultural standards. But, if such as in Afghanistan. Hence, female empowerment can only ensue if Islam is truly followed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, women in Islam have a high status and are granted ample rights and privileges. Moreover, they have a vital role in society. They are more empowered by ~~it~~ compared to western women due to their trust in Allah, freedom from male gaze and protection from evil in general.

Q2.

Introduction

The doctrine of Akhirat (life after death) is a vital in Islamic teachings. Akhirat ensures that Muslims are wary of their actions and are constantly reminded of their life being temporary and a test. Akhirat deeply impacts the individual and society at large in many different ways such as providing a sense of purpose and instilling confidence in the Muslims. In this answer, the concept of Akhirat along with its impacts on the individual and society will be discussed.

Description of the Doctrine of Akhirat (Life Hereafter)

Life is temporary and a test

Life on earth is ~~is~~ classified as a test which is temporary. The eternal life will begin after this life has ~~finished~~ ended on earth. This concept is highlighted in the Quran and Ahadith. Thus, life on earth is a prelude to what will happen in the Hereafter.

Concept of Accountability

After humans have died, their deeds will be weighed. If the deeds are more good compared to bad, then they will be granted Jannah (Heaven). However, if their deeds are ~~not~~ more evil compared to good, they will be punished to an eternity in Hell.

"And every soul shall be held in pledge for his deeds"

(74:38)

Teaching of the Power of the All-Mighty

The concept of ~~Atthika~~ Allah's power puts into perspective the Power of Allah. It

desires that Allah can end all life and all His creation according to His will. He has not told us when the Day of Judgement will come but that ~~he will do it~~ it will commence according to His will.

Chronological events of Hereafter

Blowing of Trumpet by Hazrat Israa'el



All creation ceases to exist (everyone dies)



Second blowing of Trumpet by Hazrat Israa'el



Everyone resurrected for Judgement



Each soul held in place for deeds



~~Bad~~ Evil-deeds go to Hell and the Pious / Good granted Heaven (Jannah)



Eternal life ensues for all time to come

Impact of Ahlul-Bait doctrine on individual closeness to Allah and better relationship

Muslims work towards pleasing Allah



and develop a good relationship with their Creator. They know that Allah is the only one who can grant them Jannah and they work on improving their relationship with Him.

Tawhid practiced

Muslims realise that nothing and no one compares to Allah who is the Sustainer of the worlds and the All-mighty. Hence, they equate no one to Him and only worship Him to please Him.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

Allah bears witness that there is no God but He

(3:18)

Confidence in Islam being the true religion

Muslims develop confidence that Islam is the true religion and following another religion will not lead to eternal salvation. They thus only practice Islam and strictly follow its teachings. It is also said in The Quran:

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام
 Surely the (true) religion with Allah is Islam
 (3:19)

Facing hardship with perseverance

Muslims know that life on Earth is temporary and so face hardship with force and perseverance. They know everything is a test and don't give up easily. They develop resilience and strong will.

Impact on society of Aklilah Brotherhood and general welfare

The Muslim Ummah will want to progress together. They would help each other to achieve their religious goals. This would be to gain blessings individually and also promote social welfare.

انما المؤمنون اخوة
 Surely all Muslims are brothers...
 (49:10)

Striving to ensure their relatives achieve Heaven

Muslims will teach their relatives including their parents, spouses and

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children good morals so that they can collectively enter heaven. This would ensure a society that has good morals and values.

Increase in following pillars of Islam

Muslims will become staunch followers of Islamic teachings. They would follow the compulsory pillars of Islam and this way promote economic and social welfare such as through charity (Zakat) ensuring poverty is reduced.

"Be steadfast in prayer, pay regular charity and bow your heads with those who bow down"

(2:43)

Abstinance from evil and wrong-doing

Muslims will stay away from evil and wrong doing to achieve Heaven. This would promote welfare in society and please Allah. Some of these teachings are mentioned in the Quran:

"Give unto orphans their wealth" (4:2)

"Allah has blighted usury and made almsgiving

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fruitful." (2:276)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the doctrine of Ahliah promotes the concept of the life after death in which everyone will be held accountable for their temporary life on earth. Moreover, Ahliah impacts the individual through instilling faith and confidence in them. In society, brotherhood and general welfare is strived to be achieved.