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I INTRODUCTION

Muslim Ummah is the whole community of muslims that is bound by the religion Islam. The unity of muslims have much significance in the Quran and Sunnah. The muslims are considered as brotherhood and are equal in the eye of Islam. However, there are many challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah such as extremism, disunity among muslims, sectarian conflicts and weak O.S.C. Moreover, the muslims lagging ^{behind} in economy, education and science and technology are also some challenges faced by Muslim Ummah. If the Muslim Ummah takes bold steps then the whole Muslim Ummah can be united and collectively make progress.

II

WHAT IS MEANT BY UMMAH

II-A Definition of Ummah

Literal meaning of Ummah is to intend
to 'follow a religious leadership'.

In Islamic context, Ummah refers to the
whole muslim community bound together by religious
Islam

II- Significance of Ummah in Quran

Allah has mentioned ummah in
Quran:

"And we have made you a
middle most nation so
that you may witness
against mankind"

(Al-Baqara)

II - a Role and Responsibility of Muslim Ummah According to Quran

In Quran Allah says that :

"Those who, should we
establish in the land...
... enjoins good and
forbid evil."

(Al-Quran)

III CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES FACE BY MUSLIM UMMAH

III a - Extremism and Terrorism :

A Challenge to Muslim Ummah

Muslims all over the world are facing the huge problem of extremism as well as terrorism. Extremism is the holding of extreme religious or political views. However, terrorism is the practical manifestation of extremism.

III-b Disunity among Muslims;

A challenge to Muslim

Ummah

Muslims have been disunited at every front. There is a sectarian divide as well as division on their political interest. Allah has ordained Muslims to be united.

And hold firmly to the

ropes of Allah and be

not disunited

(Al-Quran) III

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III-c Sectarianism among

Muslims: A challenge

to Muslim Ummah

The Muslims are divided on the basis of sects. All the people of different sects declare the people of other sects as infidel.

Example

Saudi Arabia and Iran are divided

on their sectarian basis

III-d Lack of Organized

Political Party that represents
whole Muslim Ummah

There is no single party that is strong and powerful and represent the interests of whole Muslim Ummah. OIC is a political party of Muslims but it has failed to fulfil the interest of whole Ummah.

Example -

OIC, representative of whole Muslim Ummah, has failed to solve the crisis of Palestine and Kashmir

III-e Muslims lagging Behind

in Education

Muslims are lagging behind in education and research based knowledge. The total universities of OIC member states are 500 as compare to 5000 universities in USA. And there is no single university of muslim which

is in top 500 around the world (Islam and Democracy by Benazir Bhutto)

III - f. Weak Islamic States Economic System

Although the members of OIC possess important straits and natural resources, the total trade of OIC countries are less than China. However, the total GDP of the OIC member states are less than United States.

III g. Authoritative Rule of

Muslims in the States

Muslims are ruling over their state which is ^{in nature} authoritative. Example Saudi Arabia, Iran etc. Islam does not like authoritative regimes and support consensus over matters.

In Quran Allah says:

"And consult them in the affairs"

(Al-Quran)

IV - SOLUTIONS TO THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF MUSLIM UMMAH

IV - A OIC must be strengthened

As OIC has failed to protect the interest of muslim Ummah, it should be reformed and strengthened. If muslim Ummah will collectively put effort, the platform can be made effective.

IV - B. Need of Ijtihad

There is a need of Ijtihad in current times owing to the contemporary challenges. Ijtihad is the rational reasoning of these ~~religious~~ matters ~~in light with~~ where the Quran and Sunnah are silent. So, Ijtihad must be revived in the countries.

IV - C Muslims must give away

the extremist and violent

identities

Muslims must realize that Islam is a religion of peace and there is no place of violent and extremist ideologies in Islam. So, the Muslims must refrain themselves from extremist and fascist ideologies. Tolerance must be taught through education.

IV-D Zakat institution must be strengthened and poverty must be reduced.

Muslims ~~cannot~~ must operate Zakat in their countries as according to the spirit of Islam. With the circulation of money, poverty will be reduced. And the Muslims economic conditions will be better and they will have say in global political affairs.

IV.E Focus on Education and Science and Technology

As the current investment of OIC member states in Research and Development is low. The whole Muslim countries spend only 0.2 pc of the GDP in Research and Development.

and United States spend 5 per cent of its GDP.
So, there must be more spending on education and
Research and Development by the Muslim countries.

CONCLUSION

Muslim Ummah is facing multiple
challenges such as extremism, terrorism, disunity
among Muslims and sectarian divide. Moreover,
there is a lack of strong representative political party
of Muslims and Muslims are lagging behind in
education and economy. However, there are some
pragmatic solutions which can be given to the Muslim
Ummah in order to make their condition good.

Muslim Ummah must strengthen OIC, revive Ijtihad,
give away their extremist tendencies, ^{make} Zakat institution
strong and focus on Science and Technology. Muslim
Ummah must revive their potential and rule the
world like in history.

Q: 2

IJTIHAD

Q.2 I INTRODUCTION

Ijtihad is the essential part of Islam law and legislation. The person who do Ijtihad is the Mujtahid. According to George Bernard, he held religion Islam in high estimates because of its wonderful vitality and it has the assimilation power to adapt to the changing conditions and challenges over time. So, Ijtihad is the basic instrument through which Islam can adapt any change and condition. Ijtihad is the reasoning done by rational approach and there is a requirement of the person who does the reasoning, the Mujtahid, that he must be pious, must have deep knowledge of Quran and Sunnah and have knowledge of Jurisdiction and the changing conditions of the time. The Ijtihad is important in the current time as it gives solutions to those problems which are not mentioned in Quran and Sunnah.

II - MEANING AND CONCEPT OF IJTEHAD

II-A Meaning of Ijتهad

The literal meaning of Ijتهad is to strive for something. The contextual meaning of Ijتهad is that According to Prof. Coulson:

Ijتهad is the general process of juristic endeavour to ascertain the tenets of shariah. The person who does Ijتهad is called Mujتهad.

II-B Importance of Ijتهad in Quran and Hadith

Jihad has much significance in the Quran as well as Hadees. In Quran Allah says

فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّهُ كَيْفَ يُؤْتِي الْحِكْمَ مَن يَشَاءُ

Search out the knowledge

(A.1 - Quran)

ayat
 This signifies the search of hidden knowledge
 by use of judgement and reason

Incidence of Muadh Bin Jabal (RA)

On the appointment of Muadh
 Bin Jabal (RA) as the governor of Yemen, Harret
 Muhammad (S.A.W) asked Muadh that what
~~rule he will use~~ ^{adjusts} ~~with you~~ ^{if you}. He said that he will
 refer to Quran and Sunnah. Prophet (S.A.W)
 replied what if you do not find guidance in
 both of them. He then replied:

I will exercise my judgement
 and act upon it.

III QUALITIES OF MUJTAHID

III a - Mujtahid must have deep knowledge
 of Quran and Sunnah

III b - Mujtahid must be pious and
 follows the Deen of Allah

III - c He must deal with justice

III - d He must have deep understanding of the Islamic laws, commandments and the mystic...

III - e He must have perfect understanding of modern day problems and their complications

III - f He must have complete familiarity with the contemporary developments and reasonable appraisal of modern exigencies

IV. IMPORTANCE OF IJTIHAD IN MODERN TIMES

a- Ijtihad gives the solutions to those problems that is not normally present in the Quran and sunnah

b- Ijtihad tells that Islam is not a dead religion and it can assimilate itself with the changing circumstances and time.

c - Ijtihad provides the connection between Islam and democracy.

It signifies the consensus of the muslims on a particular matter that depicts democracy

d - Ijtihad increases unity among muslims

e - Ijtihad comes where the Quran and Ahadees are silent

f - **Examples:**

The use of covid vaccines, the heart transplant and the use of Airplanes. These are the ^{of the} same problems in which Ijtihad had been used.

CONCLUSION:

Ijtihad is the use of rationality and wisdom to give solutions of the modern and existing problems. The pre-requisites of the

person who does Ijtihad, Mujtahid one that he must be pious, he should have deep knowledge of Quran and Sunnah. He is also well-recognized of the situation of the world. Ijtihad has great importance in the world as it gives solutions to those problems that are not mentioned in Quran and Sunnah
