

Part - II

Q2)

Introduction

To believe in hereafter is an essential part of Islam. It deals with the concept of hell and heaven, day of judgement and bodily resurrection. It has many impacts on individual as well as impacts on societal level.

Belief in Akhirah

The word 'Al-Akhirah' in Quran means the day of great rising or as a day of accountability. Every muslim believes in the life after death, in which he will be judged according to his deeds and will be sent to heaven or Hell depending on his deeds. To believe in Akhirah is ^{an} essential pre-requisite to enter into the fold of Islam. After death an individual enters in a state, that is called 'Barzakh' that is an interim period. Holy prophet (P.b.uh) said "You will have to die

like you sleep, and you will have to get up as you wake up" (Sahih Muslim). It can be seen that to die is necessary for every human being and after death comes a period of hereafter (آخرة) where everyone will live as long as they like. The impacts of Alchirah in an individual life are

Impacts On an Individual Life

1) Sense of Accountability

Belief in life after death instills a sense of accountability in an individual and an individual starts focusing on the good deeds only. He tries to stay away from bad deeds as much as he can as it can stop him from entering heaven.

2) Instills Sense of Responsibility

When an individual starts to believe in the hereafter he starts to look upon himself and gets extra careful in every action he does. He knows that this life is a gift from Allah and it is temporary, and once he realises this he becomes responsible towards his actions and tries to live a peaceful and virtuous life.

3) Increased Fear of God

When an individual believes in the life after death, he realizes that this whole universe is the creation of God, and it is He who controls it. Upon realizing this he starts to fear God and changes his behaviour and attitude towards the world. This increased fear of God saves him from many harmful things.

4) Develops Patience and Courage

An individual after believing in the day after death or the day of judgement realizes that it is only Allah that can grant death or life to anyone. This realization develops courage in him and he fears no one except Allah. It also develops patience in him as he knows that Allah is with 'Al-Sabirin' - those who keep patience.

5) Sense of Humility

Belief in Al-Akhirah makes an individual understand that this world is temporary and anything that is achieved in this world would stay here only. Developing this attitude makes him less arrogant about things and also develops humility in him and he tries to stay away from all things that can take him away from Allah.

Impacts on Society

1) Increases Brotherhood

Belief in the day after death, develops a sense of brotherhood among people in a society. People realize that everything is temporary and all the people here are companions of each other as there exist no competition between people. This develops a sense of brotherhood among people and they help each other in times of difficulty.

2) Reduces Inequality

A society that believes in the life after death comes to know that everything in this world is temporary and everything will be left here in this world. Realizing this people stay away from hoarding wealth and start giving it away to people who do not have much.

3) Peaceful Society

A society which believes in the life after death avoids to indulge in unnecessary conflicts as unnecessary conflicts are a waste of time. Harming others would be considered a bad deed and a bad deed can take you to Hell. Hence, a peaceful society is promoted.

4) No Jealousy or Hate among People.

If people in a society believe in the day of judgement, they do not hate or get jealous of each other. They start to realize that hating and being jealous of someone are two unnecessary things and a waste of time. Instead they use this time to preach people and guide them to the right path.

5) Lust Free Society

A society that believe in the life after death become steadfast in their action. Being steadfast makes them focus on good deeds and they avoid having bad thinking towards anyone. They know that Allah is watching everything and this worldly lust can take them to hell. Hence, a lust free society is promoted.

Conclusion

Belief in the life after death is an essential part of life and a prerequisite to enter Islam. It impacts the society and an individual's life in a very positive manner and slowly, gradually removes all bad aspects from society.

① 5) Introduction

Assessing whether Islamophobia or Extremism poses a bigger challenge to the global muslim community involves a nuanced analysis of the contemporary situation in the muslim world. Both Islamophobia and extremism have significant implications for the well-being of muslim-majority countries.

Islamophobia

Islamophobia refers to the irrational fear, prejudice, discrimination and hate directed towards muslim community. It includes negative stereotypes, hate crimes, and discriminatory policies. Islamophobia in a society can lead to discrimination, harassment and violence against muslims. As seen recently in the Scandinavian countries (burning of Holy Quran). Islamophobia is a global phenomenon, affecting muslims in the various parts of the world, including western countries and regions where muslims are in the minority.

Extremism

Extremism refers to getting extreme in anything or anything that is in excess. It also refers to the radical ideologies that advocate

for violence and the imposition of a particular narrative of Islam. Whereas Islam is completely against any form of extremism as it is mentioned "O people! Save yourselves from excess in religion because earlier communities were destroyed due to excess in religion" (Ibn Majah). Extremism can lead to security challenges, including terrorism and insurgency with consequences for the stability of the Muslim countries. Acts of extremism often result in loss of life, displacement of populations, and economic disruptions.

Contemporary Situation

1) Interconnected Challenges

Islamophobia and extremism are interconnected to each other. Negative stereotypes and discriminatory policies can contribute to feelings of alienation potentially creating a fertile ground for extremist ideologies.

2) Cyclical Relationship

Acts of terrorism perpetrated by individuals or groups claiming to represent Islam can fuel Islamophobic sentiments, creating a cyclical relationship between the two challenges.

3) Global Context

Both challenges have global implications and are

Date _____

exacerbated by geopolitical events, conflicts. Muslim-majority countries often face the dual challenge of dealing with internal extremist threats and external Islamophobia.

4) Efforts for Countering extremism and Islamophobia

International efforts to counter terrorism and extremism often include collaborations between Muslim-majority countries and global community. Initiatives to promote interfaith dialogue, cultural understanding, and counter hate speech contribute to addressing Islamophobia.

Conclusion

In the contemporary situation of the muslim world, it is challenging to unequivocally declare one challenge as bigger than the other. Islamophobia and extremism are intertwined and their impact is often felt simultaneously. The cycle of extremism feeding islamophobia and vice versa creates a complex environment that demands comprehensive solutions.

Effort should focus on fostering understanding between different communities, countering extremist ideologies, and promoting policies that address discrimination and marginalization. A holistic approach that tackles both Islamophobia and extre-

Date _____

emism is crucial for fostering global peace, stability and the well being of the Muslim Ummah.

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Introduction

Women according to Islam are an essential part of society and the teachings of Quran and Sunnah continuously talk about the rights of Women. Moreover, it was Islam at first who gave right to women and the western society later onwards used teachings of Islam to give rights to women.

Historical Perspective

In Ancient Civilizations women were completely marginalized and were treated very cruelly and harshly. In the Civilizations of Greece and Athens women were considered as minor. In the Roman Catholic Culture women was considered as a commodity and in English Common Law women were considered to be owned by men and according to John Stuart Mill wives were slave to men.

Rights and Status of Women

In Islam

1) Equal in the eyes of Allah

In Islam women are considered to be equal to men and Islam urges to give them rights and treat them equally. Islam does not blame Hawwa for the fault but it considers both of them equally at mistake and this shows equality in Islam. "Both were jointly wrong in their disobedience of God, both repented and both were forgiven" (2:36).

2) Right to Education

Women according to Islam have the right to be educated in the same manner as a man is. It is the responsibility of her parents to educate her and avoid discrimination as it is against the teaching of Islam. The following hadith said shows the importance of educating Women "Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every muslim" (Al-Bulchari).

3) Right to Inheritance

Women according to Islam have the right of inheritance. The share of inheritance is low as compared to men but still exists and should be given to women as it is their right. "Unto women belongs a share that which parents and near kindred leave, a determinate share" (4:7)

4) Right to Employment

Women in Islam are allowed to work and should be offered the same opportunities of employment as of men. The right of employment is emphasised in Islam and it does not focus on confining women only in the boundaries of the house.

5) Right to Vote and hold Political office

Women according to Islam have the right to vote and they are asked to come and choose their ruler through their votes. Women in Islam can also hold political office. They can stand in an election and once elected they can run the administration of the state.



Role of Women In Islam

1) Role as a Wife

Women in Islam are not considered to be the property of men and their role as a wife is very sacred and important. A woman cannot be forced to marry anyone she does not like. It is a sin for anyone to forcefully marry her. "It is God who did create you from a single soul and therefrom did create his mate, that he might dwell with her in love" (7:189)

2) Role as a Mother

A mother in Islam is considered to be the most important parent in Islam. Islam continuously urges Muslims to be good to their parents especially focusing on mothers. It is said in the Holy Quran that "It is enjoined upon a man to be good to his parents. His mother bears him in weakness upon weakness" (31:18).

3) Role as a Child

A child in Islam is not discriminated on the basis of sex. Islam was against the infanticide that existed in the past and it is said in the Holy Quran "And when a female infant is buried alive, it is questioned for what crime she was killed" (81:8-9)

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How a Muslim Woman is more empowered than a Western Woman

A muslim woman is more empowered than a western woman in many ways. A muslim woman is given certain exclusive rights in Islam, which west fails to include. A muslim woman is allowed to work and at the same time she is a responsible of her parents and also her husband. This makes her more empowering as there are many people who will take care of her. She is also empowering as Islam gives her the right to inheritance, which west fails to recognize. Moreover, Islam gives a complete freedom to reject the spouse chosen by her parents and it is a sin to force her to marry someone. Whereas, west also fails to recognize this.

Conclusion

Women in Islam were given rights before any other religion decided to give. It included all those rights at that time when no one thought to consider women even equal to a human being. However, media portrayed a West criticizes woman in Islam of not giving them rights.

Q8) Social Justice in Islam

Social justice is a fundamental principle in Islam, guiding the relationship between individuals and communities. It is rooted in the belief that all human beings are equal and have inherent dignity. Some aspects are

1) Equitable Distribution of Wealth:

Islam emphasizes on the fair distribution of wealth to address economic disparities. Zakat, one of the five pillars of Islam, requires Muslims to distribute their wealth to the needy.

2) Caring for the Vulnerable

The Quran and the teachings of prophet Muhammad highlight the importance of caring for the vulnerable members of the society including orphans, widows and the poor.

3) Fair Treatment and Non Discrimination

Islam condemns discrimination based on race, ethnicity or social status. The prophet Muhammad's last sermon explicitly emphasized the equality of all Muslims, emphasizing no one is superior over the other.

4) Legal Justice

Islamic Sharia aims to establish justice in legal matters. The judiciary is expected to treat all individuals fairly, regardless of their social standing. The principle of *Dhar* in cases of harm underscores the importance of justice.

5) Labor Rights

Islam emphasizes fair treatment of workers and recognizes their rights. Workers are entitled to just wages and safe working conditions.

Concept of Accountability

In Islam

The concept of Accountability in Islam is deeply rooted in the belief in the Day of Judgment, where individuals will be answerable for their deeds. This accountability extends to various aspects of life.

1) Accountability to Allah

Islam teaches that every individual is accountable to Allah for their actions. The Quran emphasizes that on the Day of Judgment, every person's deed will be weighed and rewarded in this world

2) Moral and Ethical Accountability

Islam places great emphasis on moral and ethical conduct. Muslims are accountable for their actions, intentions and treatment of others. Acts of kindness, honesty and justice are encouraged.

3) Responsibility for Stewardship

Muslims are considered vicegerents of Allah on earth. This includes responsible environmental practices, ethical business dealings, and the equitable distribution of resources.

4) Leadership Accountability

Those in position of leadership and authority are held to a higher standard of accountability. Leaders are responsible for ensuring justice, protecting the rights of the people and managing resources transparently.