

Q1] Who are entitled to receive Zakat? How poverty can be alleviated with its distribution in Islamic society?

Ans] واقضوا اللئالة واللائكة واللعو مع امرائهم
(القران)

* Introduction: The Quran uses the term Zakat around thirty times. It is always mentioned with the term Salet. Zakat is as basic to Islam as other forms of worship such as prayer & fasting.

* Meaning of Zakat:

In Islamic terminology, zakaat is the sum of amount which a Muslim pay to the poor people of community.

The literal meaning of Zakaat is "to purify" & "increase in a thing".

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Its minimum amount has been fixed at 2.5 per cent of the wealth.

* Distribution of Zakaat:

Heads for the distribution of Zakaat has been mentioned in Surah Tuba.

"Alms are for poor and needy."
(Al-Quran)

* People entitled to Zakaat:

The following are the people who are entitled to Zakaat

(i) Fuqarah & Masakeen:

Those who are really poor persons. Who do not own property or asset at all. Who do not own any property or asset in excess of basic necessity. Who own property in excess of basic necessity but excess is below nisab.

② Aamilen: Aamilen are those persons who are appointed by the state for the purpose of collecting zakaat.

③ Muallaft'ul Qulub:

This category refers to the poor & needy Muslims for the purpose of strengthening their heart. This can also be given to those who are expected to convert to Islam.

According to Imam Shafi, a rich person may also receive zakaat under this category.

④ Ar-Riqaab:

Slaves of Muslims who have or intend to free from their masters of a kitabah contract.

⑤ Gaarimeen:

The word gaarim means debtor. Zakaat can be given to a person to pay his debts.

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said

I have been ordered to take Zakaat from the rich and distribute it among the poor.

It follows that the verse refers to a specific type of debtor, who is poor. His debts exceed his assets.

⑥ Ibnus Sabeel:

This category refers to a traveller who is in need during his journey & is deemed to be poor. Zakaat can be given to him according to his need.

⑦ fi-Sabeelillah:

fi-Sabeelillah means in the way of ALLAH. This category refers to those fighting for a religious cause or for Jihad.

① Alienation of poverty through the distribution of Zakaat:

The Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Poverty may lead to unbelief".

Thus, poverty is a threat to the faith & morals of an individual and the security & stability of society.

Following are important points in this regard:

① Equitable distribution of wealth:

The economic system of Islam has been founded on the eradication of usury & establishment of Zakaat & usher system. Wealth circulates from top to bottom through Zakaat system.

② Eradication of inflation through Zakaat:
Inflation, which is a major

reason behind poverty, can be eradicated through the system of Zakat as wealth circulates from top to bottom.

③ Role of Zakat in economic stability

Eight categories have been mentioned in Holy Quran. Among those six are directly related to poor. Zakat transfers wealth from rich to poor. The poor spends this money to fulfil their needs.

④ Zakat increases investment:

A great impact of Zakat is that it eliminates the concentration of wealth because if a person hoards money he would have to pay Zakat. So fearing that his accumulated wealth would decrease, he brings it into circulation by

investing in some profitable businesses. In this way he contributes in reduction to unemployment.

Circulation of wealth:

Zakat prevent the accumulation of the wealth in few hands.

"And it should not be that wealth is accumulated in few rich hands". (Al-Quran)

③ Conclusion:

It is the duty of every Muslim to help his brothers. Zakat can help the society flourish. The circulation of wealth ensures it.

"ALLAH has blighted usury and made almsgiving fruitful." (Al-Quran)

Q2] How Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the perfect example for all mankind.

Ans) انسان كامل (Al-Quran) هو خير من كل شيء

* Introduction:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the best role model in character, virtues & personality for the whole mankind.

A person asked Aisha P.A about the character of the Prophet. She said; "Don't you read the Quran?" The person replied in positive. She replied "The character of the Prophet was the Quran." He was also a great statesman & judge. He was a great arbitrator & teacher. Here are some of the key features of his personality!

"The best amongst you are the best in character & manners".
(Al-Bukhari)

⊗ Trustfulness & trustworthiness:

Prophet Muhammad was known for his virtue & noble conduct. From childhood till his last breath, he was trusted by the people. He stayed away from the bad practices like drinking dishonesty. The people of his time referred to him as "Al-Amin". He was also known as "Al-Sadiq". Because of these qualities he was respected by everyone.

⊗ Noble qualities:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was attacked by everyone in society because he was a perfect example of an honest, merciful & brave human.

"And we have not sent you, except to the world as a mercy to the world". (Al-Qura)

⊛ Social & Family life:

The lifestyle of Prophet is an excellent example for the whole of man kind. He taught equality, humanity & rights of women. He simply showed what peace & happiness are all about in family life.

"The best among you are those who behave best towards their wives."

He was a kind father. He was a loving grandfather and He was a baby & ideal husband.

⊛ A perfect teacher:

Prophet was a perfect teacher. He used to teach with love. He used to perform the tasks himself during his teaching. e.g. He performed Abulution in front of those who

did not know it.

⑧ Humanity of Prophet:

Sir George Bernard Shaw had said in his book that Prophet Muhammad is a wonderful man & he must be called the saviour of humanity.

Perhaps the greatest leader of all times was Muhammad.
(Times Magazine, July 1974)

