

Q#1

Good Governance in Islam and its Features

1. Introduction

ولا يجركم ثنان قوم على الا تعدوا

"And donot let the hatred of people deviate you from justice."
(AlQuran)

Islamic system provides principles in administration that are more comprehensive and incorporate both moral and spiritual dimensions. It addresses whole mankind without distinction of race, cast and creed. Therefore, Islamic system of governance reflects the very essence of Islam which is a complete deen for the whole mankind. The principles are derived from Quran and Sunnah. The more comprehensive features are commanding good and forbidding bad, amanah, justice, shura (consultation), accountability and brotherhood. These principles are to be implemented by those who are at the helm of administration. In Islam, the ruler is answerable about his public which makes the governance more appealing than other forms of governance prevailing in the world.

2. Features of Good Governance in General

i. Definition of Good Governance

The process of decision making and the process by which the decisions are implemented.

ii. Features of Good Governance As per United Nations (UN)

As per United Nations, good governance has eight features.

a) Consensus Oriented

Good governance needs the consensus of people in decision making. This consensus is reflected by the process of electing where people elect their rulers.

b) Participatory

The participation of people must be ensured in the decision making. The indirectly elected executive works with collaboration of directly elected people in the system. This way, the participation of general public is realized.

c) Rule of Law

Good governance demands the environment where rule of law is there. Rule of law means that there is accountability for all the lawmakers, citizens and rulers.

d) Effective and Efficient

Effective and efficient implementation is also mandatory for the good governance. Good governance means that resources are used effectively and efficiently for the good of public.

e) Accountability and Transparency

Good governance means the rulers are accountable and transparency is ensured in all the matters of public importance.

f) Responsive and Inclusive

The government must be responsive to the needs and demands of public. There must be inclusive environment rather than extractive institutions.

3. Good Governance in Islam

Quran is not the book of law but a guide for the establishment of peace in the society. The purpose of Shariah is to ensure justice and

balance.

i) Quranic Injunctions Regarding Good Governance

"Those who should we establish in the land, will keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate."

(Al-Quran)

"Those who we establish in the land, will enjoin good and forbid the evil."

(Al-Quran)

Furthermore, the Quran says

اعدلوا هو اقرب للتقوى

"Be just, this is closest to piety."

(Al-Quran)

ii) Principles of Good Governance in Islam

a) Amanah

"Authority is the trust of God."

The word amanah originates from three root letter a-m-n which means

peace, honesty and integrity.

"Amarah is a trust, which mountains, heavens and earth refused to accept due to its heavy burden."

(AlQum)

ii) Khilafat

Allah has made man His vicegerent on the Earth. The Islamic concept of leadership is the institutionalization of principles rather than personalities.

سید القوم خادمہ

The Ruler of nation is their servant.

The leader has the role entrusted to him as amarah by Allah.

iii) Shura

Shura is the cornerstone of Islamic governance system. In system, women are equal partners, non-muslims living under Islamic system are also members in decision making.

Shura in system can be compared with the consensus orientation principle of governance by UN.

iv) Justice and Accountability

Surely, Allah enjoins the doing of justice and doing of good.
(Al-Quran)

Justice and accountability are the two prominent pillars of good governance in Islam.

"Thus the Khalifa is the custodian of the people."
(Al-Quran)

v) Transparency and Rule of Law

O you who believe! when you deal with each other, involve future obligations.
(Al-Quran)

Transparency and Rule of law are essential components of Islamic governance.

vi) Public welfare

Quran introduce zakat system for the circulation and wealth and makes state responsible.

Hazrat Abu Bakr as Caliph declared Jihad against those who do not pay zakat.

4. Conclusion

Islamic governance system is the illustration of Islam upholding justice, maintaining consultation with people, giving people right to transparency, ensuring public welfare and declaring man as the custodian of affairs. In Islamic governance, ruler is not only responsible to public but Allah also. This double accountability enhances the prospects for the general public.

Q#2

Responsibilities of civil Servants

1. Introduction

واعزوا بالعرف ونصوا عن المنكر

(القرآن)

"Those who join good and forbid evil."

Islam emphasizes the ruler to play a role of custodian and make him responsible about the public. Islam gives the principles of Islamic Shariah to dispense justice, to maintain law and order and to enforce criminal code of Islamic law. Ruler is responsible for the maintenance

of rule of law and the initiation of public welfare programs. A careful analysis of the principles of administration in Islam depicts that personal character is the key to good governance.

2. Responsibilities According to Caliph Umar[ؓ]

a) Opening of doors for the complaints of general public

"Not to make reception halls so that you are accessible to everyone.
Caliph Umar."

3. Responsibilities According to Caliph Ali[ؓ]

a) A person with strong personal traits

Ruler should be pious, truthful, honest and God fearing.

b) Illustration of impartiality

The Ruler should be impartial and dispense justice with equity.

c) Striking down of corruption

The ruler must strike down corrupt practices and abuse of

authority

4. Concept of Public Administration and Civil Servants

"Public administration consists of all those operations having for their purpose the fulfilment or enforcement of public policy."

L.D. White

a) Elements of Administration in Islam

i) Intention ~ Reflection of personal trait of civil servant

Intention is the first stage where civil servant's personal trait must be reflected. Intending for some project keeping in mind the just, honest and fair practice is fundamental in Islam.

العمل بالنية

ii) Planning and Organizing

Planning and organizing also demands the impartiality. Kuller

must plan according to the will of people abandoning personal interests.

iii) Implementing & monitoring

~ a concept of accountability reinforced

Monitoring here refers to the monitoring of staff as well as the personal whims. Double accountability ensures transparency.

iv) Controlling and Evaluation