

QUESTION : 01

Write about the principles of good governance in Islam.

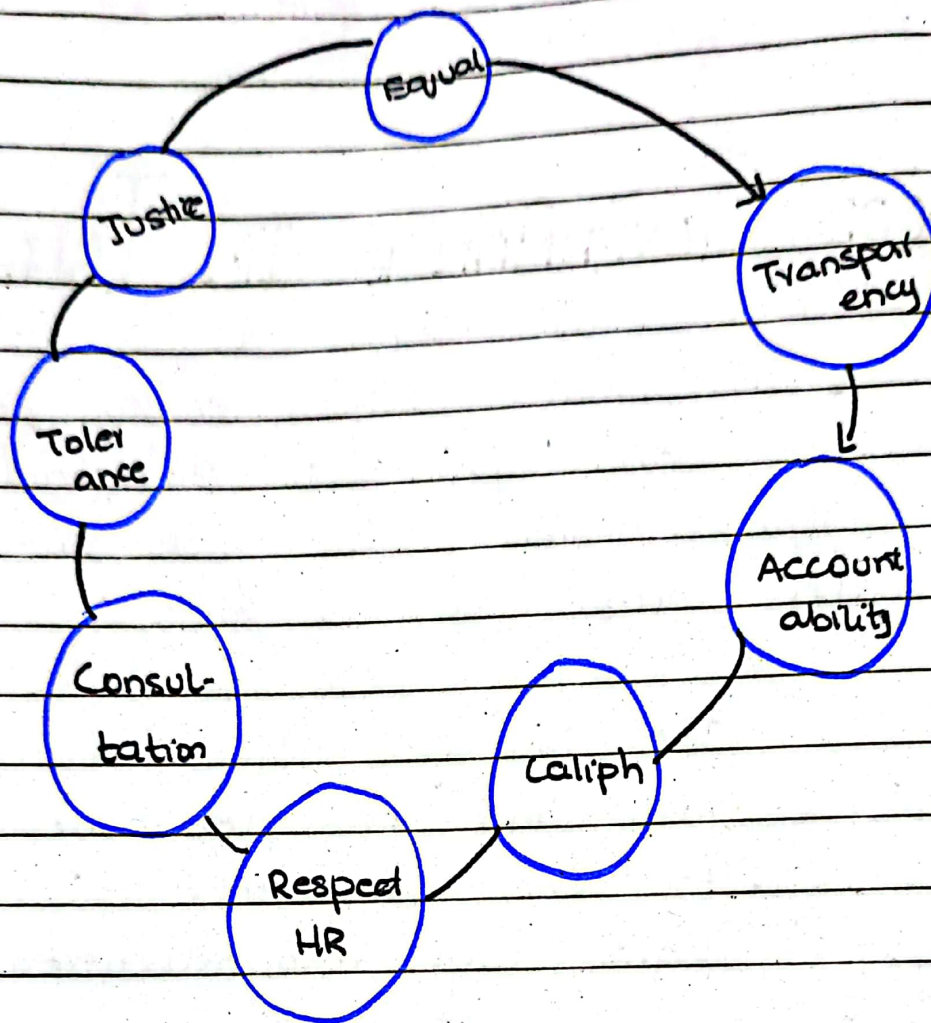
GOOD GOVERNANCE IN ISLAM

The word Islam is derived from an Arabic **SLM**, meaning surrender and peace to the teachings of Allah Almighty. The Holy Quran describes good governance as :

The law of justice, a just and principled order to the compliance of rights and responsibilities in a society.

Quran declares that people are the representatives of Allah where every man, whether the ruled or the ruler is accountable and answerable to Allah for their deeds on the day of judgement. The sense of accountability for administrators is only placed in Islamic governance system.

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

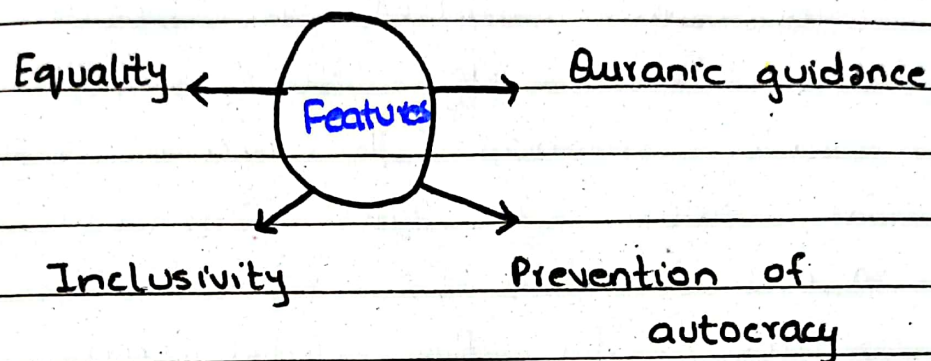


1. CONSULTATION

It is one of the most important constitutional principles in Islam, where good governance takes place through consultation. Al-Buran:

And consult them in important affairs. Then, when taken the decision, put your trust in Allah.

The second caliph, Hazrat Umar staunchly believed on mutual consultation on matters of administration, military or public welfare. He said **There is no caliph without consultation**, thus ensuring accountability and collective wisdom in governance.



2. EQUALITY

In Islam, equality is the significant value where all people are equal irrespective of race, color or language. Prophet PBUH was considered to be an ordinary man before the law in Madina.

It is evident that when there was recommendation to forgive thief who was from blue blood, Prophet said;

if my daughter Fatima had committed it, I would

have not spared her.

Similarly, during Umar caliphate, his own son was brought with an allegation of alcohol consumption.

Umar enforced punishment with his own hands on his son.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

The word 'hesab' is repeated more than eight times in Holy Quran, meaning 'to account'. Thus it relates to one's responsibility to account on God on all human matters. The Holy Prophet said:

Everyone of you is protector or guardian. A ruler is also steward for those who are under his charge; a man is steward toward family and children; a woman is steward in respect of husband house and honour. In short, everyone of you is a steward and accountable for those who are under his supervision.

The level of accountability in an Islamic state is quite evident from the time of Hazrat Umar, when once he was offering Friday prayer, he was asked about the source of cloak's fabric, showing transparency in leadership. In Islam, accountability is operated by accountable to higher authorities, to people and lastly by cherishing it to Allah hereafter.

5. TRANSPARENCY

Transparency is highly connected to the government system, with its institutionalization based on fair and just practices. It is clearly divulged by Allah in Quran as;

O you who believe! When dealing in transactions involving future obligations in fixed period of time, reduce it to writing. Let a scribe write down between parties truly.

Thus, it demonstrates that transactions must be written to avoid unfair use.

6. FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

Good governance requires complete freedom of conscience and tolerance, for a peaceful society. The Prophet says:

The best jihad is to speak justly before a tyrannical ruler.

It is the duty of a believer to enjoin the truth and forbid the wrong. And if someone observes evil, he should correct by hand, then tongue and least is to say bad in heart that is lowest degree of faith.

7. RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Respect for human rights is also one of the essential component in good governance. Islam pays due attention to the rights of mankind. Importantly, Islam regards human being as the best of all creations. The only religion in the world that honour the status of humans is Islam. Quran also says that ...

we have honored the sons of Adam

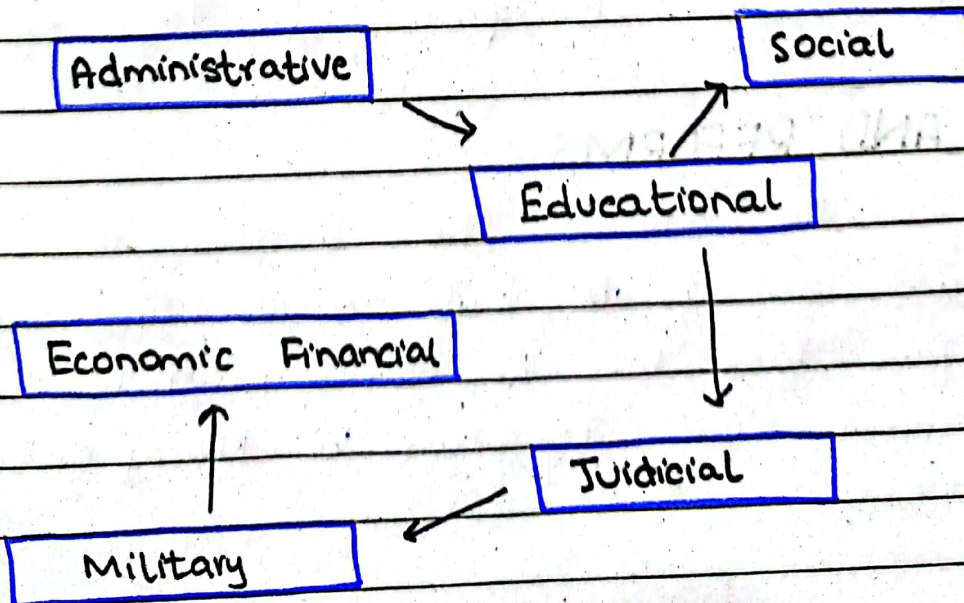
CONCLUSION

Thus, good governance requires the individuals to be the follower of Quranic teachings. Islam demands the mutual consultation among diverse groups of people, transparency and justice in systems along with the freedom of tolerance and respect for human rights. Thus, Islamic view of good governance is qualitative.

QUESTION : 02

REFORMS OF CALIPH UMAR

The second yet most significant Caliph of Islam is Umar Ibn Khattab, and he is known for his visionary leadership and administrative reforms.



ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

Administrative reforms were of significant value during Caliph Umar. He made the provinces of rapidly growing Islamic empires, for the effective governance. They were further divided into districts managed by deputy governors (wali) based on his prey and administrative strengths. He also established the advisory council i.e. institutionalized consultation. Important decisions like military campaigns, economic policies and legal matters were highlighted and discussed in this council.

JUDICIARY REFORMS

Hazrat Umar established separate legal codes based on teachings of Quran and Sunnah. The judicial system would comprise of appointment of Qadis to ensure transparency in legal affairs.

LAND REFORMS

He advised the administrators and generals to built canals and impose fair land tax to maintain state income. via irrigation or Kharaj system.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

The educational institute in Islamic state comprises of Madrasahs where quranic teachings are encouraged. Ulemas or muallimas were appointed for this welfare purpose.

SOCIAL REFORMS

Social reforms for the whole community including Muslims and non-muslims. The word 'dhimmi' for minorities is preferred, where they are guaranteed the basic religious, life and property rights and freedom. And emphasized on the protection of rights and honour of women and children.

MILITARY REFORMS

Hazrat Umar just founded the standing army providing the handsome salaries and provisions necessary. He also established military garrisons in Kufa, Basra and Fustaat along with the pensions for retired personnel and war veterans.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIVIL SERVANT

A civil servant is the representative of state or government elected on the basis of excellence and capabilities. They have been assigned certain duties for the smooth functioning of a state. He is accountable to the head or Allah in hereafter of his duties.

And fulfill every commitment,
Indeed, it is questioned.

FAIR IN HIS DEALINGS

The most important principle responsibility of a civil servant is to follow Quran and Sunnah or consensus, following honesty, fairness and true judgement in all affairs. Government officials who keep certain gifts or property in the name of gift from treasury of state, commit dishonesty. Holy Prophet said:

Whosoever is appointed on a position by us, he should

bring everything and whatever is given from it, he should take and restrain from taking as it is forbidden.

AVOIDING CRONYISM

The concept of cronyism means to show favouritism towards kith, kin and close associations, which acts as a cancer closely eating the peace and harmony among people. As the excuse of punishment of Thief, but Holy Prophet claimed if there was his daughter, he would punish her. Thus, civil servants must promote meritocracy.

SOLVE PUBLIC ISSUES

Civil servant is appointed to serve public so he must diligently resolve and address their issues. Holy Prophet

Simplify things for people, don't complicate them and give good tidings to them.

ABIDE BY FALSEHOOD

To be liar is the extreme of bad morality. Allah says:

Allah doesnot guide liar and disbeliever.

So, any muslim cannot be a liar and civil servant with the utmost responsibilities must value his position and keep his promise till his last.

BETTER ADMINISTRATION

A civil servant should always remain in search for providing its citizens a peaceful and better livelihood. The obvious glorious examples of pious caliphs lead to the better governance system in Islamic state.

CONCLUSION

All in all, civil servant as name implies, to serve the people so he is assigned with duties to make his state a peaceful place to live, acting as bridge between government and the public, facilitating public dealings on the behalf of government.