

Islamic Studies

Q No 1

Elaborate the principles of good governance in Islam

Introduction:

Islam is a deen which is a complete code of life. It doesn't only prioritize religious activities but also the social, economical as well. Good governance is a path or guideline that Islam and its history provide to its followers.

"A set of systematic rules followed by the executive of state is called governance" Woodrow Wilson

Governance in Islam:

Allah made his people as Khalifa who will follow the guideline of Quran and Sunnah.

The Khalifa - is the one who leads the people with Islamic

set of rules.

"If you are in
group of three people
make one the leader"

Al-Hadith

The governance is necessary for the
ummah, otherwise conflicts can arise.

Good governance is dependant on
many factors. Such as

Leadership:

During the tenure of four
rightly guided caliphs, Islamic
history depicts the image of true
leadership and good governance. The
rights of people were ensured
with the difference of color and
caste by the leaders.

"If a dog dies with
starvation at the bank
of river Euphrates, I
am responsible for him"

Harwal Umer R.A

Decentralization:

Good governance is only possible when the governance is distributed from top to down. The creation of provinces and districts administrations by caliph Umer (R.A) was the sign of creating quality governance.

Justice System:

Justice is the fundamental principle of Islam

"The best among you is the one who do just with others"

Al-Quran.

The creation of independent justice system in district and provincial levels in the rules of caliphs was to create good governance and provide protections to the rights of people.

Accountability:

The accountability of all the stake holders was necessary during the time of good governed period.

"Harat Ali made himself accountable and appeared in court regarding a piece of armour in possession of a Jew"

The other example of accountability was that when during the time of Haff hazrat Umar (RA) used to ask public about their provinces. The public use to provide reviews about the governors, chiefs and judiciary of their particular provinces. This is how those all bureaucrats were responsible for their acts.

"Harat Umar (RA) asked Salman Farsi, that I am a King or Khalifa, he replied if you use stakes properly for yourself you are a King"

By this event we can assume the ~~Khalifa~~ caliph himself used to remain accountable for their acts.

Security / Defence:

Assurance of security of the people was the responsibility of the government / state. The non-muslims used to give "Jizya" to the state for their protection.

Police:

Hazrat Umar (R.A) created a department of police for the social safety of the people of his rule. The police used to ensure the rights of all the people without any difference.

Intelligence:

This was a tactic that our Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.N) himself used to apply at times of war. The intelligence used to help

the authorities to take pro-active approaches for the welfare of the state.

Welfare State:

The protection of each and every individual was the responsibility of the leader of that time.

"Harraz Umer (RA) used to assign stipends for the needy people"

The woman who was boiling stones for their children when Harraz Umer (RA) entered and he asked her that your kids are crying why don't you give them food. She replied that she is boiling stones she has no food to provide them, they will sleep after crying. He asked her about that why she not ask the caliph of the time for stipend

"She replied! He is Caliph and his job is to know, I will ask him on the day of judgement"

this made Umar (RA) to run to the welfare state of the state and he himself picked the necessities on his own back, when his slave asked to carry he replied

"This is my responsibility and a burden on my shoulders."

This shows the basic principles of good governance.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, these are all the principles which must be followed to create a good governed state. It ensures the protection of fundamental rights of the people and makes the leaders remain accountable for their acts and responsibilities.

"The Prophet Muhammad was all-Leader, Scholar, Teacher, Guide, Military head, Chief Justice - at a time"
George Bernard Shaw

Q No 2:

(Hazret (Umer R.A)) and (Hazret Ali (R.A)) laid the golden rules for public administration and good governance:

Introduction:

The rule of rightly guided caliph's was started from 612 till ~~661~~ 661 AD. The era was spread of Islam, peace and prosperity.

Hazret Umer (R.A)

His era was of ten years from ~~612~~ 614-624. He was the second caliph after Hazret Abu Bakr (R.A). The Islam spreaded the most during his time and he rule a huge mass of land covering Asian-African region of current time.

Hazret Ali (R.A)

He was last among four and ruled during 656-61. His time was full of troubles as the last ~~prophet~~

caliph before him was killed by the violent people of the state and Hazrat Ali (R.A) was not willing of taking the lead but the insistence of the people made him to take the oath.

Letters of Hazrat Umar (R.A):

Hazrat Umar (R.A) followed the pathway of prophet (P.B.U.N) and used to write letters to the neighbouring states and inviting them to accept Islam and follow the rules and regulations for the welfare of people. The rights should be assured.

Rule of Law:

He wrote to the leaders to implement the rule of law that secures the rights of people and provide justice to them in all matters.

Accountability:

The accountability of all the heads / governors of the provinces of his rule was prioritized by him. His letters to them for the reporting of the conditions of the province and the welfare of the people made the governors responsible for the acts if not followed sightedly.

"Harat Umer (RA) himself used to ask the people of all the provinces regarding their governors, during the time of H.T.J."

Transparency:

The system of welfare, revenue collection and distribution during the time of caliph Umer (RA) was remained transparent. He kept acquiring the reports and used to audit them in the centre

to ensure the systems working,
as he was concerned about
every individual

"If a dog dies at the bank
of river euphrates, I
am responsible for his
starvation"

Welfare of People:

The needy people of his
time used to receive the stipend
from state. The widows, orphans
and elderly people used to receive
the stipend. As the non-muslims were
taxed for their security and
protection Harvel-Umer (RA) once
found an elderly man working
very hard, he asked him that whether
he doesn't receive stipend he replied
I do but I also need to pay
the tax, he asked some questions
three times from him and the man
replied the same. Umer (RA) went back
and after consultation from Shura he
discontinued the tax on non-muslim elders.

Letters of Hazrat Ali (RA)

At his time the capital was shifted in 'Kufra'. He used to write letters to the governors for ensuring good governance and good public administration.

Justice and Fairness

Hazrat Ali (RA) emphasized that all the governors and district administrators should ensure the justice among the people. The jury of the time must not discriminate any two and follow the Quranic and Sunnah guidelines for justice.

Protection of rights of people:

He focused on the protection of the rights of the public. The right of property of women and marginalized community must be ensured by the governors of the provinces. As the women

of arab was not used to have property and inheritance before Holy Prophet (P.B.I.U.) but after his teachings these rights were started to be delivered. Ensuring these rights were necessary as they were new to the public.

Competent Officials:

The selection of officials were ensured to be competent, as they were the one who deals with public directly. For this purpose Hadrat Ali (R.A) specified some criteria for the selection of the officials. The one who is selected as official must be able to provide

- ↳ Justice
- ↳ maintain law and order
- ↳ Create healthy society
- ↳ Protect weak against strong
- ↳ Follow the right and forbid the bad

Conclusion:

These were the letters which kept their rule favourable for the public and the administration has remained good and the rights of the people were protected.

Pakistan is failing to achieve good governance, these pathways can work as a guideline for the leaders and officials for maintaining public welfare and law and order.

As Islam is a deen so it is enough for the creation of healthy society by following these steps of Prophet (P.B.U.N) and Caliph's. No other system can create as good welfare state as Islamic teaching and rules can provide.

"The one who mercy on others will have the mercy of Allah"

Harvat Ali (R.A)