

~ (Test 4) ~

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MTWTFSS

~ (Q#01) ~

Responsibilities of Civil Servants

Introduction:

In Islam, civil servant is the servant of the public not their ruler as stated in the Hadith, "**The servant chief of a nation is the servant of that nation.**" Civil servants are crucial for the effective delivery of public services. That's why, those in authority should work for the welfare of the public by upholding Shariah. Leadership is seen as an amanah (sacred trust) and civil servant are accountable to both the public and Allah. Al Mawardi in Al Ahkam al Sultania and Al Ghazali in Naseehat ul Malook explain that leaders should be just, just honest and God-fearing. So public functionaries in Islam should be just, honest, insightful and free from greed and lust.

Main Responsibilities of Civil Servants

(1) Upholding Shariah

The main responsibility of civil servants should be to make sure that state policies are in line with the Islamic Shariah. A civil servant should have the ability perform ijtihad if a new problem arises. So he should follow the commands of Allah and avoid innovations or practices against Islam. As Al Mawardi states in Al Ahkam al Sultania,

'A ruler responsibility is to protect the religion from deviations and to make sure that state policies are in line with the Islamic Shariah.'

(2) Authority as a Trust

The authority given to a civil servant is a sacred trust (amanah) so he should try his level best to fulfil this responsibility with honesty and humility. As stated in the Quran,

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trust to whom they are due and when you judge between people do judge them with justice."

(3) Maintain Law and Order

It is the responsibility of a civil servant to protect its citizens from internal and external threats. so that people can live peacefully without any threat. Citizens should be able to travel freely and should be given enough authority to run their business accordingly. Prophet PBUH explains this responsibility as,

"Each of you is a shepherd and each of you will be answerable for its flock."

(4) Ensure Rule of Law

In an Islamic state, everybody is treated equally and no one is above the law. So civil servants should not fear the rich. As Prophet PBUH said,

"By Allah, Fatima, daughter of Muhammad, were to steal, I would cut off her hand."

This shows that everybody should be treated equally so he should dispense justice fear fairly. As

Caliph Ali said

"Justice is the backbone of Islamic administration. When justice prevails, people prosper and when justice fails, nations fall."

(5) Collecting Zakat and other taxes

A civil servant is responsible for collecting Zakat, jizya, ushr, kharaj and Khums. These taxes are collected for the welfare of the public so he should not misuse any of the funds.

The famous historian, M. ibn Fakhir al Jabari, narrates the following incident that one day Caliph Umar (RA) asked Salman al Farsi that "Am I a king or a Khalifa?" to which Salman Farsi replied that if you took even 1 dirham from the public funds unlawfully then you're a king not a Khalifa. Hearing this, Hazrat Umar started crying at the thought of misusing even a small amount by accident. This incident shows that civil servants should not do corruption and act right justly. Prophet PBUH said,

“Whoever is appointed as a zakat collector, let him not hide even a needle, but if he does, it will be a burden on him on the day of judgement.”

(6) Initiate public welfare projects

A civil servant should initiate public welfare projects like roads, bridges, canals, school, universities and other similar projects. As he is the servant of the public so he should work diligently for the service of the public. As Al Ghazali said that a leader should work for the welfare of the public.

(7) Amr bil Ma'ruf wa nahi anar munkar

Civil servants should prevent wrongdoing and work for the welfare of the public. As stated in the Quran,

“Let there arise from you a group of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is evil.”

so doing good deeds and actively persisting ~~wrong~~ misdeeds. He should act against injustice and wrongdoing.

(8) Self Accountability

A civil servant should have taqwa (God fearing) so he should continuously re-evaluate himself. This internal monitoring makes sure that he is working ethically out of his conscience. As stated in the Hadith,

"Be afraid of the curse of the oppressed as there is no screen between his invocation and Allah."

(9) Accessible:

A civil servant should be accessible for the public so that he could listen the grievances of the public closely. Moreover, to make the governance effective at the grassroots level, it is necessary for him to live closer to the public. Hazrat Umar used to instruct his governors, **"Avoid luxury and live close to the people so**

that they can listen to you."

Responsibility of Civil servants according to Hazrat Ali (RA)

A civil servant should act as a role model for his public as well as his staff. He should be impartial in justice and should never get influenced by backbiters, flatterers and corrupt people. In addition to this, he should be self-accountable and should work for the welfare of the public.

Conclusion

A civil servant has been granted with great duties. He is answerable for all his actions. So he fulfill his duty with wisdom, foresight and patience. He should work for public welfare because he is their guardian so he should consult with his staff before giving orders.

~ (Q#02) ~

Principles of Good Governance

Introduction

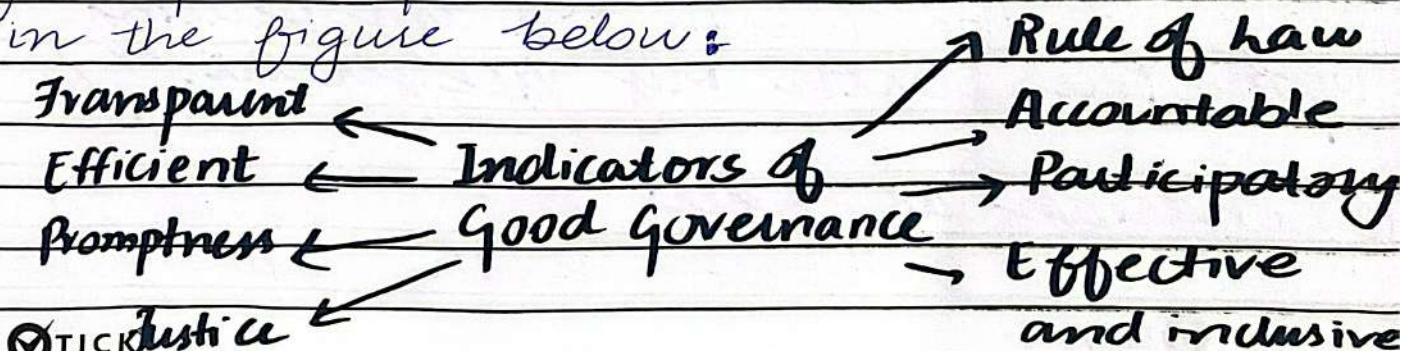
Good Governance in Islam is based on justice, accountability and service to the public. It is rooted in the belief that authority is a sacred trust from Allah and leaders are God's representative (vicegerents) on Earth. Good governance in Islam is participatory and consensus-based. No body is treated above the law. Administration in Islam combines moral responsible with practical governance.

Concept of Good Governance in West

According to United Nations Development Programme,

Good Governance is participatory, transparent and accountable. It is also effective, efficient and ensure the rule of law.

United Nations also gives eight indicators for Good Governance that are shown in the figure below:



Principles of Good Governance in Islam

(1) Attainment of Piety and Fear of Allah

The key principle of good governance is taghwa. The main goal should be to please Allah so when he knows that he is constantly observed by Allah for all his actions so he works for the welfare of the public to attain Allah's pleasure. As stated in the Quran,

"Those who if we establish them in the land, establish prayer and give Zakat and enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong."

(2) Authority as Saved Amanah

Allah has sent man as his vicegerent so he works endlessly for public welfare because this authority is a trust from Allah as Allah says in the Quran, "I am placing upon the Earth My Vicegerent."

(3) Shariah as Law

Shariah is the supreme law

which ruler should follow. Quran and Sunnah should be his primary source, but and if he is unable to find the explicit text then he may exercise ijma or ijtihad to solve any problem. Hazrat Abu Bakr said in his inaugural speech

"If I follow the Quran and Sunnah then follow me if I do not then remove me from my position."

So all state policies should be in line with the Shari'ah.

(4) Shurah as Consultative Body

Islam Governance is consensus based and participatory. Shurah is entrusted with three tasks that are selecting the leader, holding him accountable and making new laws through ijma. Shurah was the most effective under Caliph Umar (RA) rule. He said that **there is no Caliph without consultation**. This shows that a ruler should not give arbitrary orders. He should consult with his shurah. This avoids concentration of power in a single individual. Islam is against oligarchy that is concentration of powers in single hands.

(5) Transparency:

Government should be transparent. All government policies should be publically available. People should know where their resources are being utilized. This avoids the corruptions allegations against anyone.

(5) Hisbah (Accountability)

Officials should be accountable for their actions before the people and Allah. Officials should be self accountable. In addition to this, muhtasib or government bodies should do the external monitoring. This makes officials work ethically.

(6) Dispense Justice

Heads should dispense justice equally. No one should be treated above the law. Because a ruler's justice is the life of the nation. If justice dies the whole nation dies. Prophet PBUH says in the Quran.

"Whoever among you see something evil, stop it with your hands. If he

cannot then with his tongue and if he cannot then with his heart and that is the weakest of the faith."

(7) Quality Assurance:

A good governance is the one in which Another key principle of good governance is that in which public services such as food supply, health services and other services are make sure to meet the quality standards. It is the responsibility of government to make sure that every medicine or food available in the market meet the quality standards.

(8) Promptness:

Another key principle of good governance is promptness. Government should quickly solve public grievances complaints against officials should be registered immediately. Red tapism is a concept which is foreign in good governance. Even if there is a delay, time should be mentioned

(9) Ensure Price Control and Curb Monopolies

Prices should be controlled and they should be in reach with the general public. Hoarding is considered a sin as stated

"Whoever hoards food is a sinner."

So exploitation is not allowed in any case.

(10) Public Welfare:

Another key principle of good governance is to work for the welfare of the public. Bait ul Maal's (State Treasury) funds should be used for the welfare of the public. During Hazrat Umar's (RA) time, 2000-2500 dirhams were given to ordinary Muslims. Moreover, health education and some other services should also be free. Hazrat Umar (RA) also forgave a poor Jewish man from jizya and even gave him a stipend. He said that **he won't be just if he collected jizya from you when you were young and then left you in your youth.**

Conclusion

To conclude, Governance in Islam is based on honesty, transparency and accountability. Leaders should work well for the welfare of the public. Good governance protects individuals from abuse of power.