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Kinza Nawaz

Islamic Studies Test #02

Question #01

Minorities has significant importance and contribute in every society. Describe the rights of minorities in Islam and highlight the status of minorities in Pakistan.

Introduction:

Minorities play a vital role in shaping economic, social and political system of a state. Their protection reflect the moral and civilizational maturity of a society. Islam, a universal religion, stands as the pioneer recognizing the minority rights. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) laid down the foundation of an inclusive state in Madinah, granting non Muslims rights through charter of Madinah, the first ever written constitution ensuring religious freedom and social justice.

In Pakistan, founded on Islamic principles, the protection of minorities was embedded in the vision of Quaid-e-Azam. He guaranteed freedom of religion, belief, and worship to all citizens. These rights are also given by the constitution of Pakistan.

Rights of Minorities in Islam.

Islamic teachings establish the framework for the treatment of minorities, that's why Islam is known as Ahl-Dhimma.

• Equality in Humanity:

Islam declares all human equal. Allah says in Quran:

O man! we created you from a man and woman and made your nations and tribes so you may know each other. (Al-Quran)

Freedom of Religion:

In Islam, all humans are free to acquire

their religion. They are free
in their worship.

There is no compulsion
in Religion (Al-Quran)

Protection of Life and Property:

Non-Muslims life and
protected under Islam. The
Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)
once said whose context
is:

A person who kills a non-Muslim
will never smell the fragrance
of Jannah.

Political and Social Protection:

Non-Muslims pay Jizya. And
in return they got Zimmah
(protection from state).

Economic rights and Fair Treatment

Under Islamic Law, Non-
Muslims could freely engage in
trade, business and property.

Summary

Rights of Minorities in Pakistan!

Pakistan is a democratic state where minorities enjoy equality along with religious freedom. Their rights are reserved in the constitution of Pakistan.

Vision of Quaid-e-Azam

While making a separate homeland for Muslims, Quaid-e-Azam also guaranteed the rights of minorities.

Representation in legislation:

Minorities have their seats reserved in National Assembly, Provincial Assembly and also in senate. Currently, 10 seats are reserved in National Assembly and 4 in senate for Non-Muslims.

Minorities Religious Festivals:

In Pakistan Holi, Dewali, Christmas, Easter and Visakhi are officially recognized and celebrated all over Pakistan.

Employment Quota:

A 5% quota in federal and provincial level is fixed for minorities.

Educational Rights:

They have their own schools in which they are fully independent to teach their respective religion to their children.

Media and Political Participation

In Pakistan, Minority members actively participate in the politics and media.

Conclusion:

Islam's approach to minority rights is a model of justice and equality. From the charter of Madinah to policies of Caliphs, Islamic history protects the rights of non-Muslims. Pakistan, an Islamic state, provides protection to minorities through constitution and also practically. It protects their religious, political, economic and social rights.