

QUESTION NO.1

Characteristics of Islamic Civilization

Introduction :-

Islamic civilization is a society that promotes moderate and balanced lifestyle embedded with spiritual, moral and social teachings. This civilization is the implementation of Quranic teachings and Sunnah of Prophet SAW. It is based on Tauheed (Oneness of Allah), dignity of every human, equality in status, shared wisdom and knowledge. It ensures justice and rule of law in accordance with Islamic values. In short, Islamic civilization is a society where Islam is implemented as a complete code of life.

What is a Civilization?

According to Oxford, a civilization is an advanced society that includes culture, complex social structure, art and architecture. A civilization accepts change and advances rapidly.

What is Islamic Civilization?

Islamic civilization is a society where culture, social structure, mumalat (dealings and affairs among humans) are in accordance with Islamic teachings.

Characteristics of Islamic Civilization:-

Islamic civilization is based on primary teachings of Islam that are conveyed through Quran and Sunnah of Prophet SAW. Following are few characteristics of an Islamic Civilization :

1) Tauheed (Oneness of God):-

In an Islamic civilization, individuals have faith in the oneness of Allah Almighty.

As primary part of faith, Muslims bare witness in the oneness of called, commonly referred as Kalma-e-Tauheed in Arabic. It states that :

"There is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is alone and has no partner"

(Kalma-e-Tauheed)

This shows that in Islamic civilization, Allah Almighty is worshiped alone. It also has individual and societal impacts which positively contribute to the society.

a: Primary purpose of life: It gives a primary purpose to the life of believers.

As Allah says in Quran:

"And we have ^{not} created Jins and humans except for the purpose that they worship me alone."

Al-Quran

This means that individually no one is living a purposeless life in an Islamic civilization.

b: Promotes the concept of Brotherhood: As everyone worships one God, this promotes brotherhood among Muslims. It creates a sense of unity among Muslims. Allah says in Quran:

"Certainly all Muslims are brothers."

- Al-Quran.

2) Knowledge :-

The first revelation on Prophet SAW by Allah Almighty through is regarding knowledge and education. As Allah revealed on Prophet SAW in Surah Alaq:

"Read"

And again emphasized:

"Read in the name of Your Lord."

- Surah Alaq.

This shows the importance of education and gaining knowledge in an Islamic civilization.

This has individual and social impacts. Allah Almighty has made education compulsory on every Muslim despite gender and age. According to a narration of Prophet SAW:

"Seeking knowledge is a duty of every Muslim."

- Al-Hadith

This shows that Islam is a religion where has made wisdom and knowledge compulsory.

This is an important characteristic for an advanced civilization.

3) Justice :-

An Islamic civilization encompasses just and fair society. Allah Almighty has made justice an integral part of Islam. He, moreover, said to punish the one who is not just with others. According to a Quranic saying :

“O you who believe! Stand firmly for justice, and bear witness to God, even if against yourself, or your parents, or your relatives. Whether rich or poor, God takes care of both.”

Al-Quran

This shows that justice is an essential part of an Islamic society.

4) Rule of Law :-

Islamic civilization promotes rule of law among people. Prophet SAW also emphasized on the importance of rule of law and mentioned how previous civilizations were punished by God because they used to forgive

the rich for same crime they punished poor for. While stating this, according to a narration, Prophet SAW said:

"By God! I would have cut Fatimah's hand if she commit the same crime."

Al-Hadith

This reflects the importance of rule of law that Prophet SAW would not overlook the crime, even if committed by her beloved daughter.

5) Dignity and Equality:-

In Islamic civilization, every human has equal status. Despite gender, color, cast, region or status. It promotes equality among the believers. This is attained during multiple acts of worship as well. For instance, ~~dur~~ while performing Salah (prayer) everyone, rich or poor, stand together in front of their Lord. Moreover, while performing Hajj (pilgrimage), Muslims come together from around the world to please their Lord.

During the ~~last~~ ^{sermon} ~~summer~~ of Last Pilgrimage,

Prophet SAW stated :

"... No Arab has priority over non-Arab. Nor a non-Arab has any priority over Arab. White has no priority over black. Neither black has any on white...."

- Last Sermon

This shows that Islamic civilization promotes dignity of humans and equality among them.

6) Rights of Minorities :-

Islam has given rights to minorities living in an Islamic civilization. Islam has referred to minorities as Ahl al-Dhimma in Arabic. It translates to as protected people. Terminologically, it means that minorities are a direct responsibility of state.

Conclusion :-

Islamic civilization is a society which is build on tauheed, justice, rule of law, knowledge and equality among humans. The system is based on Islamic

teachings.

QUESTION NO. 2

Introduction :-

Public Administrative system of Islam, as in history, is comprehensive diverse social system. It suggests multiple ways to ensure good public administration. In Pakistan, there are few voids in public administrative system. These can be filled by proper implementation of Islamic Public Administrative System.

Islamic Public Administrative System:-

Islamic public Administrative system is based on justice among the people, welfare of citizens of Islamic state, accountability (Hisbah) of people in authority and shura (consultation) from people. Islamic system of public administration promotes ease for people by providing them with basic human necessities. Allah says in Quran

“Make things easy for each other and donot make it difficult. And bring glad tidings , and do not rusle with them.”

— Al-Quran

Allah Almighty has suggested to make an environment where people create ease for eachother and do not create difficulties. This is translated into the Islamic Public Administrative system.

Steps to Improve Public Administration in Pakistan:-

In light of Islamic system of public Administration , multiple steps can be taken to improve Pakistan's Public Administration. Few are suggested as follows :-

1) Imposition of Jizya:-

According to Islamic system , jizya (tax imposed on non-believers) can be imposed for generation of revenue.

This tax is corresponding to zakat ^{that is} paid by Muslims.

This would increase the revenue, and simultaneously increase the government spending for welfare.

2) Formation of Zakat Reserves :-

Zakat is an obligatory monetary worship for Muslims. Allah Almighty has mentioned zakat in Quran with Salah (prayer) which is also an obligatory worship. Allah say in Quran :

“ ... And we have only ordered them to worship God alone, perfect their religion, pray obligatory prayer (salah) and pay the prescribed alms (Zakat)..... ”

— Al-Quran

This shows the importance of Zakat. In Pakistan, Zakat is paid by a large group of people. Yet, poverty is not reduced. Government should collect this amount and distribute equally and justly among poor population. The remaining amount of Zakat should be added into the reserves which can be used for other public administrative work.

3) Eradication of Ribba :-

In Islamic public administration, ribba (interest) is Haram (prohibited). Pakistan, due to weak public administration, use is as a primary condition during trade. Eradication of ribba will improve the public administrative system. Promotion of Islamic Banking System in Pakistan is primary step towards eradication of interest.

4) Independent Judicial System :-

As Islamic system promotes rule of law and justice in the society, Pakistan's public administrative system should implement it in its policies. Allah says in Quran that :

" Stand firmly for justice "

- Al-Quran

Development of judicial courts alone is not enough for implementation of Islamic values. Justice coupled with rule of law is essential for improvement in society.

Judicial system should be independent of

external interventions from powerful and political personalities.

5) System of Accountability (Hisbah) :-

In public administrative system of Pakistan, there should be a proper system for accountability (Hisbah) of authorities leading the nation. This system should punish the corrupt authorities and hold them accountable for their crime.

6) Consultation (Shura) :-

As Islamic system suggests, the public policies should be made and implemented by Shura (consultation) of general public or their representative.

This was common and appreciated by Prophet SAW himself. This would increase unity and stability within Pakistan.

Conclusion :-

Islamic administrative system covers all the aspects which can be implemented in Pakistan's public administrative system.