

Islamic Studies

Q.1 Is Islamophobia a threat to Muslims? Explain how Muslim societies can get rid of it.

Ans: Definition of Islamophobia:

Different scholars and experts have defined Islamophobia differently. Generally Islamophobia is defined as a "fear of or hatred against Muslims".

Etymology of Islamophobia:

The term is formed from 'Islam' and 'phobia' the latter a Greek suffix which denotes aversion or fear.

Manifestations of Islamophobia in non-Muslim societies:

The Runnymede Trust Report states that discrimination, hatred, violence, terrorism and killings are linked with Islam. The ~~misperceptions~~ misperceptions of Islamophobia are that Islam is

monolithic, static and unresponsive to change. Moreover, it has no values in common with other cultures. The believers of this religion are violent, aggressive ~~and~~, threatening and supportive of terrorism. While some scholars say Islamophobia is a form of racism, so yes Islamophobia is a threat to Muslims.

Islamophobia spread on social media during Covid-19 outbreak. In Germany 901 anti-Muslim hate crimes committed (146 targeted mosques) and over 31,000 hate crime cases were documented. Although, in UK, religiously aggravated hate crimes increased by one-third compared to the same period in 2019.

Causes of Islamophobia:

Western media played negative role to spread Islamophobia. Muslims viewpoint were underrepresented and depicted

as a threat to western culture and values. ISIS and Al-Qaeda are also held responsible for causing fear of Islam in the western world - these militant believe that they have a licence to kill everyone, and they portray themselves as Muslims. Their violent activities causes Islamophobia.

How Muslims can get rid of Islamophobia:
way Forward.

To curb the Islamophobia trend in the non-muslim world, joint efforts by the muslims world are need of the hour. In this regard, role of OIC is significant as it is mandated to look after the interests of the Muslim Ummah. There is a need to stop Sectarianism and other differences among the Muslim countries. The OIC and the muslim world make arrangements to Counter

Islamophobic and propagating literature on true face of Islam.

The United Nations can play an effective role to integrate the contents of global education systems which focuses on multiculturalism. The educational system should tolerance, forbearance and respect for different cultures, religions and belief systems.

The opinion leaders and International media should focus on objective analysis and reporting of facts pertaining to different cultures and Religions. Objective reporting can exterminate the Islamophobic misperceptions.

Last but not least, The world should realize that terrorist have no religion. They are enemies of humanity. The world should root-out Terrorism in all forms,

To conclude, Islamophobia is not challenge to Muslim world but also a threat to the western values. Islamophobia can be curbed out through international organisation's efforts to be made by Muslim world. Better future of humanity lies in interfaith harmony and respecting the religious and cultural differences.

Q.2 Explain the Concept of Ijtihad and highlights its importance as a crucial source of Islamic law.

Ans: The true origins of Shari'ah are infact Quran and Sunnah. But the position of interpretation is implicit in the origins of Shari'ah which guides us within the limits set by Quran and Sunnah.

Defination:

Ijtihad (Interpretation) means to try one level best but Technically it is meant for an effort which is made of acquiring knowledge of divine Commends to draw a conclusion from the basic origins of Shariah.

Allama Ahmaddi in his famous book "Al-Ahkam fi Ussul Al-Ahkam" writes:

"The men of letters have a specific meaning of interpretation. They think that an attempt done for the sake of getting correct knowledge of Shariah or its any subject.

In Shariah Ijtihad is called an attempt which is carried out to get information through the hidden gestures in the pages of Hadith and Sunnah.

Conditions possible for Ijtihad:

This is a very difficult job to deal and at the same time it is also of very important nature. A Suitable knowledge and common sense for drawing a conclusion is very necessary for Ijtihad.

Now consider the famous Hadith of Hazrat Muaz bin Jabal.

"If I can not find a solution of any problem in the Holy Quran and Sunnah then I shall try to form my own opinion."

There are three specialities of Ijtihad:

1. Only That man is capable of ~~Ijt~~ Ijtihad who has complete hold on Holy Quran and Hadith.
2. He should be able to reach out depth of the topic
3. He must be of very good character

and conduct with people.

Importance of Ijtihad in life:

Ijtihad basically is inevitable for human being till they are not involved in life routine. As a man is involved in life routine he faces many times many problems in performing his duties and tries to get to some problem solving method and in a muslims society a muslim is always prone to have some sort of better solution for his routine problems and he obviously falls with Ijtihad.