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Islamic Studies

Q:1

Beliefs of Islams And The Doctrine Of Akhirat

Introduction:

Islam, the religion of peace, provides a complete set of guidance for man to follow for the welfare both in this temporary and the eternal afterlife. These sets of guidance also include fundamental beliefs as provided by Allah, the belief in which is necessary to enter the fold of Islam and to ensure impacts of those benefits which these beliefs inflict in man's life. Islam provides five basic fundamental beliefs i.e belief in unity of God (Tauhid), belief in prophethood (Risalat), belief in Akhirat, belief in Angels (malaikah) and belief in books (kutub). Strong and firm adherance to these beliefs by heart impact all social, moral and spiritual aspect of man's life and are crucial to ensure welbeing in life hereafter.

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Five Fundamental Beliefs of Islam:

i) Belief in Oneness and Unity of Allah (Tauhid)
ii) Belief in Prophethood (Risalat)
iii) Belief in Akhirat (Hereafter)
iv) Belief in Angels (malaikah)
v) Belief in Books (kutub)

(i): Belief In Tauhid - the essence of Islam

Tauhid means to belief in the oneness of Allah Almighty. To belief in oneness and unity of his attributes and action. To associate only Him as the creator of this universe and only He is capable to sustain it.

The importance of Tauhid is signified by it being a part of creed (kalimah) which is necessary to recite to enter the fold of Islam.

"LA ILAHA ILA ALLAH MUHAMMAD 'UR RASOOL ALLAH"

"There is no god except Allah and Muhammad (SAW) is His messenger"

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Three Types of Tawhid:

i) Unity in Person (Tawhid-al-Dhat)
ii) Unity in Attributes (Tawhid-al-Sifat)
iii) Unity in Action (Tawhid-al-Afaal)

Moral Impacts of Tawheed	Social Impacts of Tawheed
1) Sense of Accountability	1) Social cohesion
2) Piety (Birr)	2) Brotherhood
3) Humility and Honesty	3) Sense of Social Justice
4) Simplicity and Truthfulness	

(ii): Belief In Prophethood (Risalat)

Risalat means to belief in Prophets, who bought the message of Allah and guided people towards Islam and to belief in the finality of Prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) "Khatm-e-Nabuwat"

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In Quran Allah says:

"Surely, Allah has conferred a huge benefit upon you when He raised among you messengers from yourself, who recite to you His readings."

Characteristics of Prophets:

1) Humanity:

Allah did not appoint Angels and Jinns but Humans to lead as prophets in the universe.

2) Bounty of Allah:

In Quran Allah says:

"Allah knows best on whom to bestow prophethood"

Hence, prophethood is a bounty of Allah, it can not be acquired.

3): Infallability:

The actions and sayings of prophets are safe from any error and misleading.

4): knowledge and Divine message:

Prophets do not have any biases in their sayings rather it is a divine message but they spread towards humanity.

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(iii): Belief in Hereafter (Akharat)

Belief in Akharat means to belief that this world is merely temporary and transitional and will lead to an eternal life hereafter. Prophet Muhamad (SAW) said:

"You will die, as you sleep and you will be resurrected, as you wake up".

(iv): Belief in Angels (malaikah)

Angels are created of light and act as Creature who are always indulged in Gods prayer (ibadah) and tasks assigned by God to assist mankind. Belief in Angels is a part of a belief system of Islam. There are four major Angels Angel Jibrail, Angel Mikail, Angel Israfil, Angel Izrael.

(v): Belief in Books (kutub)

Allah's divine mesage has been sent to this earth via divine books revealed upon his messengers. Belief in the content and authenticity of these books especially Quran is fundamental for a muslim.

In Quran Allah says.

"And we have sent this book, which is perfect, so that you may judge among them fairly."

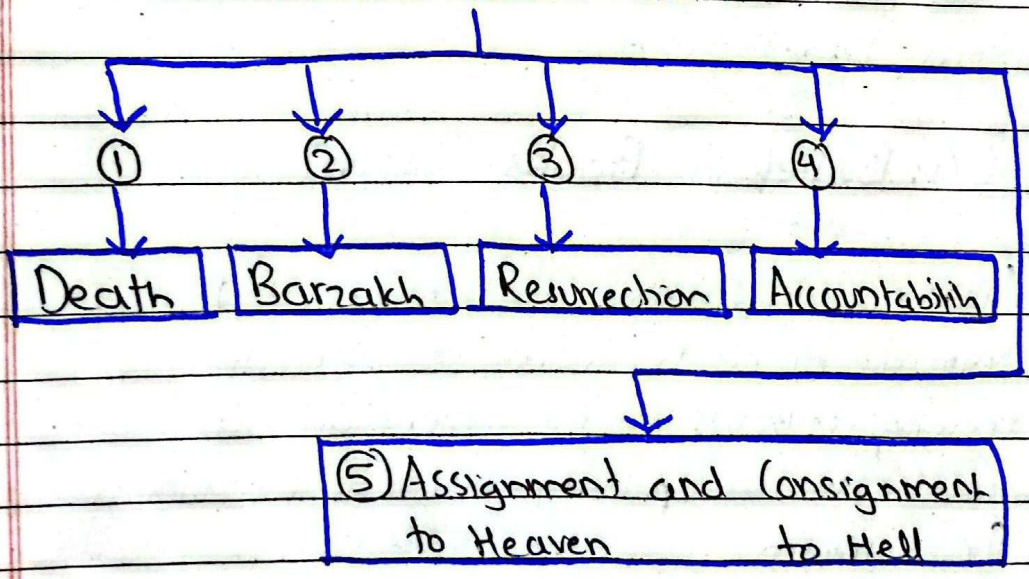
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Doctrine of Akhirat

Akharat means to belief in hereafter, and to belief that this world is merely transitional and any deeds performed in this life will impact the eternal life hereafter. Hence, this life and hereafter life are both complementary to eachother. The difference between a non-believer and a believer is also highlighed by muslim's firm belief in Akharat and accountability before Allah.

Stages Of Akharat
(The Final Hour)



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(i): Death

All creatures will have to inevitably undergo death; it a step away from this world towards the final realm, where all those will be held accountable before Allah for their deeds in this world. Hence, powerful or powerless, rich or poor, adult or a child, generous or sinful all have to taste death according to time mandated by Allah.

"Surely to Him we belong, and to Him shall we return."

-(Al Quran)

(ii): Barzakh:

Belief in Akhirat demands belief in Barzakh as a stage of Akhirat too. Barzakh in its literary context means "a curtain" "a barrier". It means a curtain between this world and the other eternal world.

It is the period between death and resurrection and is also termed as time spent in grave. In grave/barzakh period some extent of account ability which start to distinguish pious from cruel/sinful.

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(iii): Resurrection

Resurrection refers to wakening of the dead on the day of judgement. Upon the blowing of trumpet by Angel Israfel all those dead and buried within the surface of earth will be made to rise up for their final accountability before Allah. Belief in Akherat demands belief in Resurrection.

(iv): Process of Accountability

Allah will decide the doings of people and judge according based on the record of their good and bad deeds throughout life. In this process, all humans, no matter which race, caste, creed, color will be made to stand in a barren land, side by side. This is referred in quran as "Hashr". Here good deeds and bad deeds will be weighed against eachother on a weighing balance, and those with good deeds will carry their deeds in right hand.

Those whose bad deeds are more will carry them in left hand and will further be assigned heaven or hell based on those. Based on this Quran mentions.

"Some faces will be bright while others will be gloomy (on the day of judgement)"

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(V): Assignment of Heaven and Consignment to Hell:

Based on the judgement of Allah, which will be fairer than any judgement this world has ever witnessed, man will be assigned either paradise an abode of peace or hell which is an abode of fire, pain and filth.

Highest floor of Paradise will contain Prophets, Martyrs and those who never deviated from truth.

Lowest rank/floor of Hell will constain hypocrite.

Senario of World Before Akharat Approaches As Indicated by Quran

It is stated in Quran that the world will be full of ignorance, corruption, dishonesty, morality will be in doldrums before the final hour arrives. Such a World full of evil will necessitate the arrival of Qayamah to ensure provission of justice to oppressed.

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Reformation of Life of An Individual and Society Through Beliefs in Islam

(i) Impact on Individual Life:

1: Sense of Accountability.

Beliefs in Islam bring a sense of accountability and makes man responsible towards all duties because he is aware he will be held accountable before Allah for all his deeds.

2: Piety (Birr) in the heart.

Remembrance of Allah and belief in His Oneness brings piety and fear of Allah in heart. In Islam piety is given very much importance for it guides man to enjoin good and forbid evil. And man understands the reality and temporary nature of the world.

3: Morality and Modesty.

Belief system of Islam incurs in man morality and modesty and prevents him to astray towards evil doings. Islam lays a great emphasis on morality. Prophet (SAW) through his conduct provided excellent example of perfect moral character. Beliefs

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of Islam ~~de~~ bring modesty in man's character.
- Prophet (SAW) said,
"The best among you is the one who is the best in his character."

(ii): Impacts on Society:

1: Social cohesion and Brotherhood:
A firm belief in these five fundamental basics shared by all muslims, incurs a feeling of social cohesion and brotherhood among them and unifies them under Allah's belief system.
In Quran Allah says:
"And hold fast the covenant of Allah and do not become divided."

2: Accountability imparts Social Justice in man:
Belief of Islam incurs the feeling of accountability in man and makes him try his best to provide justice in this world for he will be questioned for his wrongdoings.
"And do not let the hatered of people deviate you from judging right between them".
Surah Al-maidah

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3: Ideal Society.

Beliefs of Islam incur feelings of modesty, honesty, accountability, piety, excellence (ihsan) in man, all of which are prerequisite for an ideal society.

Conclusion:

The belief system of Islam not only improves the individual's character in this world but also imparts great societal character. These five fundamental beliefs of Islam demand firm adherance to them to ensure wellbeing in this world and hereafter. The belief in Akhirat and the accountability on the day of judgement leads man to live a pious and life of piety in this world to ensure paradise is the final abode of a believer.

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Salat (Prayers) and Its Social, Moral, Spiritual Impacts

Introduction:

Salat (prayers) or is the second pillar of Islam and holds great importance in Islam. Prayers have been divided into four major types i.e Obligatory, semi obligatory, Sunnat, Nafl. Prayers have many benefits on individuals' social, moral and spiritual life as it imparts patience, discipline, self control, social cohesion, brotherhood, piety (bin), excellence in character in man and it is prayer which distinguishes a muslim from a non-muslim.

Types of Salat:

- Obligatory Prayers (Farz)
  - Farz-al Aayn
  - Farz-al-kifaya
- Semi-Obligatory Prayers (Wajib)
- Sunnat
- Nafl

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(i): Obligatory Prayers (Farz Namaz):

Obligatory prayers are those from whom no one is exempted and for which every person is will made to answer.

It includes:

a) Farz-al-aayn:

These include:

Daily five prayers: Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha

Jummah Namaz: It is obligatory for men to perform namaz jummah in congregation while females can perform it at their homes with Zuhr namaz. Khutba of Jummah namaz is obligatory.

b) Farz-al-kifaya:

This includes the prayer that if few people from community perform it than no one will be punished. but if the entire community doesn't pray it / perform it. the whole muslim community will be held accountable.

Namaz-e-Janazah (Funeral Prayer) is a farz-al-kifaya prayer.

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(iii): Semi-Obligatory (Wajib) Namaz:

These include:

a: Eid-ul-Adha, Eid-ul-Fitr Namaz: These are Wajib namaz with two additional takbirs and can be offered from sunrise dawn till noon.

b: namaz-e-Witr.

Witr namaz in Isha is also considered as Wajib by many scholars. It includes odd number of rakaats from three to eleven.

(iv): Sunnat namaz:

These are not obligatory namaz but were performed by Prophet (SAW) and hold benefits for humanity.

a: Namaz Tarawih

Namaz-e-Tarawih performed during the month of Ramadan is a sunnah namaz and is performed by men in congregation in masque.

(v): Nafl namaz:

These namaz can be performed at difficult times, lunar eclipse, solar eclipse, prayer for rain, seeking guidance and help from

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Almighty, to ask forgiveness for sins etc. These include: namaz Tahajud, Ishusuf, Ishraaq, Tobah etc.

Social Impacts Of Salat (Prayers)

1: Social Cohesion:

When muslims unite five times a day to offer prayers in a masque it leads eventually to increase cohesion among the society which naturally diffuses tensions among the people of society and inculcates feeling of mutual cooperation among members of society.

2: Congregational Prayers strengthen social bonds:

A sense of community is developed when muslims enter masques to offer prayer five times a day and on occasions like eid. This results in strong social bonds which leads to community's overall wellbeing.

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3: Social Responsibility.

Presenting oneself in front of community for prayers five times a day brings a sense of responsibility towards oneself and the society in general, which is one of the most fundamental aspect of namaz in congregation.

Moral Impacts Of Prayer (Salat):

1: Sensitivity to the Value of Time:

Performance of prayer five time a day on fixed time inculcate in man the importance and value of time, and man learns to efficiently allocate his time both for mundane and spiritual aspects of his life.

"Surely, Namaz is a timed ordinance for the believers."

(Al-Quran)

2: Patience and Perseverance:

Namaz inculcates feeling of patience in a man's character. Setting up a routine and having to perform prayer in a congregational setting brings patient behavior in man.

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In Quran Allah says:
"And seek assistance through patience and prayer. Surely Allah is with those who are patient."
- (Al Quran)

3: Prayer inculcates Humility in man's heart:
By standing among people from all caste, creed, color race for congregational prayers, man learns how to coexist, tolerance. This indulges the feelings of humility in man and makes him aware of the need of all factors of society and makes him humble

Spiritual Impacts of Prayers (Salat)

1: Piety (Birr):
Bowing before Allah five time a day make, man realize who he will be accountable to and only who deserves to be worshipped. This brings a sense of fear in man's heart from any wrong doing which might result in disapproval of God.

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"Be steadfast in your prayers and pay regular charity and bow before Whom everyone bows their head."

(Al-Quran)

2: Prayer- Wards off all evil intentions:

Salat purifies a man's heart and soul from all evil intentions and feeling and purifies man. Salat also brings self control and discipline in man and protects believers from getting astray from Satans actions.

3: Taharat (Purity)

Salat purifies soul of the person from all evil intentions and sins. Asking for repentance in salat wards off all sins of man and purifies the soul and heart of the believer.

Allah mentions in Quran regarding self purification

"Surely Allah loves those who purify themselves."

Conclusion:

Salat is the second and one of the most important pillars of Islam. Quran has repeatedly asked muslims to establish timely prayers and donot deliberately ignore obligatory prayers.

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In the society, performance of salat in congregation five time a day brings cohesion and brotherhood. Similarly, at moral level, salat inculcates piety, patience, humility, and importance of time and self discipline. Spiritual impacts of salat include tahrat (self-purification) and warding off of all evil intention, sins and inculcating self control.

Q:3

Dignity of Human specially Women and Its Maintainance

Introduction:

Dignity refers to special respect, status and value a person holds both at individual and social level. Dignity ensures that all humans are given equal rights, benefits, opportunities, respect, space to thrive and a voice to share concerns. All humans regardless of their caste, creed, gender, religion are deserving of self respect and dignity and this what Islam emphasizes on when it promotes tolerance and peaceful coexistance.

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Women on the other hand have been given a special status in Islam and Islam has taken special and important measures to preserve the dignity of women in the society. by giving/granting women rights in individual, social and economic and political aspects of life. Islam via the right of mehr, inheritance and divorce continues to protect and safeguard the dignity of woman.

Islam and the Concept Of Dignity of Human

(i): Equality of all:

Islam is a firm advocate of equality of all humans no matter their caste, creed, color, religion and thus protects the dignity of human by giving every human a right to life and a right to practice their religion freely.

Holy Prophet in his final sermon "Khutba Hujjat-ul-Wada" said:

"An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab. A black has no superiority

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over a white nor does a white have any superiority over black, except for piety."

(i): **Islam preserves the dignity of Human by giving every human the right to life:**

Islam lays huge emphasis on preservation of right to life of every human and condemns the manslaughter without any reason.

"Whoever killed a person except for in return for manslaughter or mischief, it will be as if he had killed the entire humanity".

(-Surah maidah)

(ii): **Preservation of Dignity of Human by giving Freedom to Practice their beliefs:**

Islam grants humans freedom to practice their beliefs and in a way ensures their dignity by not constricting their freedom.

"There is no compulsion in religion."

- Surah Baqarah

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Allah again mention in Quran:

"Whoever wants he should belief and whoever wants, he should disbelief."

(-Surah Kahf)

Islam and the Dignity Of Women

Historical context:

Before the advent of Islam, women not just in Arab but in Roman empire, ~~Indus~~ Hindu women, Athen womens were call subjects to the male counterparts of their family. They were denied any access to right to inheritance and provision of basic necessities, they had no say in their marriage decision, lineage was traced through men and they were completely ignored. Arab tribes used to burry their newborn daughters alive. Islam the religion of peace, bought with it the rights and recognition of woman as a complete person to prevent her dignity. and safeguard the provision of rights to women.

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Recognition of Complete Personhood of Women by Islam:

Islam gave women a status distinct from men and gave woman a separate identity so that she could be recognized in various aspects and domains of life respectfully.

"We have created you from a man and a woman and made you into tribes and communities, so that you may get to know eachother."

(Al-Quran)

This verse of Quran highlights the notion common among previous tribes which regarded men as being superior to women. Instead, Quran and Islam recognizes both as equals and both will held equally accountable before Allah for their deeds in this life.

Efforts By Islam to Maintain The Dignity Of Women

(1): Right to life: ensures women get a chance to live a respectful life:
Islam grants women an equal chance to life and all in domain by restricting

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pagan Arab tribes from killing their daughters. During that time verse of Quran was revealed to address this:

"And do not bury your children out of fear of poverty. For we will provide for them, as we provide for you."

- (Al Quran)

Holy Prophet (SAW) has also mentioned:

"Whoever does not bury their daughter alive and lets her live a dignified life and does not consider her inferior to his sons, he will surely be sent to paradise."

(Hadith)

(ii): Right to Inheritance ensures women live a dignified life without economically depending on anyone:

Islam grants women the right of inheritance, half quantity to their brother's share, to ensure women do not have to depend on someone else for financial assistance and are financially independent to support themselves in worse conditions. Right to inheritance, given by Islam, is a huge effort by Islam to preserve the dignity and right to respect and recognition

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In Quran Allah says.
"For man is his share from his father and near kin's property and for woman is her share from her father and near kin's property."

(iii): **Right to Mehr and Divorce preserves the dignity of woman after her status is raised to a wife.**
Mehr as a gift on the occasion of wedding given to woman is a symbol of recognition of her importance and distinct personhood and its about celebrating her value. Similarly, the right to divorce ensures that if any harm is being inflicted to a woman's dignity while being in a marriage bond she can exit from it via ~~the~~ using the right to divorce granted by Allah to ease her burden. This provision of right by Islam maintains woman dignity.

(iv): **Right to Political Participation.**
Women have been granted right to voice their political concerns and get elected in positions of authority if she desires. Islam does not restrict woman's political

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participation.

(v): **Right to own property and Run a business provides woman a chance to live a self earned respectful life:**

Islam has granted woman freedom to run their business just like Hazrat Khadija(RA) has been a famous and a successful bussiness woman of her time. Islam also grants woman a right to own property to gain financial security. These all provisions ensure woman's dignity is preserved in all time, and under all circumstances.

Conclusion:

Dignity of man and woman and especially woman has been laid much emphasis by Islam. Quran has multiple verses which indicate the rights of human to a dignified and respectful life. Woman by being granted economic, political, social freedom and the right to life, inheritance and divorce is given a dignified status which curtails all efforts to preserve a woman's dignity.

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Social Responsibilites Of A State

Introduction:

Islam is a complete code of life which provides guidance in mundane as well as spiritual aspects of life. Islam has inflicted a set of duties on a state to ensure the welfare of its citizens. The social system of Islam very clearly identifies the rights of each member of society and provides assistance to lead both individual as well as collective life. This comprehensive system has the potential to address the contemporary challenges ie rise of corruption, lack of accountability, violance against the oppressed.

Social responsibilites Of A State

(i): Ensure an egalitarian society:

Islam promotes the notion of an egalitarian society in which all classes are equal and no one is given an edge over the other.

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Islam demands from a state to ensure welfare and development of all factors of the society.

(ii): **Provide social justice:**

Provision of social justice to ensure no one is being oppressed in the state is the responsibility of the stage.

Hazrat Umar (RA) once mentioned that under his government if even a dog die, than he will be made accountable before Allah. Hence, it is states duty to provide justice to each and every member of state irrespective of her class, caste, creed, religion.

"And we have sent you this book, which is perfect, so that you may judge between them with fairness."

(-Al-Quran)

(iii): **Ensure the Protection of life, liberty and Property of its citizens.**

Islam gives the state the responsibility to ensure that the life and dignity of its citizens are being protected and to ensure the freedom of all its citizens in all economic, social, political domains of life.

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(iv): **Provision of Basic Life Necessities:**
It is the duty of state to provide its citizens with all basic life necessities ie means of livelihood, food, security, shelter, clothes and right to voice their concerns.

(v): **Provision of Security to minorities:**
Islam lays huge emphasis on rights of minorities. Provision of security and protection and the right to practice their religion freely within the territorial boundaries of a state is the states major responsibility.

Social System Of Life

(i): **Individual Aspect of Life: Society:**
The social system of life grants a comprehensive code on how to ensure provision of rights to individuals of a society. To ensure no one is oppressed or is underpaid or neglected. Rights of parents, children, neighbours, relatives have been laid huge emphasis.

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i) Rights of Parents:

Allah says in Quran:

"And pray to Allah and be good to your parents."

(Surah Luqman)

ii) Rights of neighbours:

Holy Prophet (SAW) said that that person will not be considered a believer who himself eats a full share of meal before going to bed but his neighbour goes to bed empty stomach, without food.

iii): Rights of relatives

Islam grants right to relatives that they be given zakat and financial assistance if they are unable to meet their needs

(ii): Collective Aspect of Society:

Islam grants comprehensive guidance on how welfare of society can be ensured on a collective level by ensuring each citizen gets their fair share of means of sustenance and basic necessities to sustain life respectfully.

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How can it help address Contem-porary Problems:

⇓

Promotion of an Egalitarian Society in which each member gets equal opportunities of life

⇓

It will address the problem of poverty

⇓

Poverty alleviation would improve the living standards, right to education, health, a safe and secure shelter. and economic independence of people

⇓

This will ultimately reduce crime rate, rise of violent public unrest

⇓

ensures that the society thrives without any disparity or injustice and class difference.

Conclusion:

Social system of Islam provides a comprehensive system to ensure rights, safety, security, livelihood and respect of each and every member of society. It ensures,

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rights of parents, relatives, neighbours and society as a whole are protected and no body is made to be marginalized. This comprehensive system can address the challenges of modern civilization in a systematic way by addressing the root causes and elevating the status of life.