



CONSENSUS OF THE UMMAH

اجماع امت



The Consensus of Muslim Ummah (Al Ijma)

Meaning

Definition

Status of Ijmah in the light of Qur'an & Sunnah

**Examples of Ijmah (contemporary:
Declaration of QADYANIS as Non-Muslim)**

Types of Ijmah

Conditions & Criteria

Meaning of IJMAH

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graph TD; A[Meaning of IJMAH] --> B[Literal meaning]; A --> C[In sharia terminology]; B --> D[Ijma is to agree and to concur. determination, resolution and agreement upon something]; C --> E[The agreement of the "mujtahids (jurists) from among community of Muhammad (peace be upon him) after his death in a certain period of time upon a . rule of Islamic law"];
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Literal meaning

Ijma is to agree and to concur. determination, resolution and agreement upon something

In sharia terminology

The agreement of the “mujtahids (jurists) from among community of Muhammad (peace be upon him) after his death in a certain period of time upon a .” rule of Islamic law

Proof and Justification of Ijma' as a Source of Islamic Law.

The Qur'an: " O ye who believe! Obey Allah and Obey the Messenger and those charged with authority among you. If ye differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger..." (al-Nisa'(4):59)

The word 'uli al-amr means ulama' (scholars) of the community. Thus the agreement of the mujtahids is bound to follow.

Proof and Justification continue...

The Sunnah

There are many Sunnahs indicated that the Muslim community is infallible in their agreement.

- “My community will not agree on mistake.”
- “My people will not agree on an error”
- I prayed to Allah, the Exalted, that my community may not agree on error, and He gave it to me.”
- “Allah’s hand is over the community

Although each of this Sunnah is probable if it stands independently but collectively they are definitive and convey the same idea. This make adherence to ijma’ is obligatory on the muslims



CONDITIONS FOR THE VALIDITY OF IJMA'



Conditions



- The agreement must take place among mujtahids
- Mujtahid is a person who is qualified to exercise ijtihad
- The agreement must be unanimous.
- The mujtahids must belong to the Islamic community.
- The agreement of mujtahids must be held after the death of Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him)
- The agreement must be among the mujtahids of one period, even though some mujtahids of subsequent periods may differ from them.
- The agreement should be held on a rule of Islamic law (in legal matter).
- The mujtahids should have relied upon a sanad for deriving their opinion. Sanad is the evidence (proof) upon which the mujtahids rely on, for arriving upon an agreement.

Types of Consensus

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graph TD; A[Types of Consensus] --- B[Verbal  
الاجماع القولى]; A --- C[Practical  
الاجماع العملى]; A --- D[Silent  
الاجماع السكوتى]; B --- C; C --- D; D --- B;
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Verbal
الاجماع القولى

Practical
الاجماع العملى

Silent
الاجماع السكوتى

Verbal Consensus

If this consensus came down by way of speech, where the MUJTAHIDEEN had verbally specified the issue.

That is they said that they are unanimous on so and so issue or if each one of them had individually acceded to the fact that he is in agreement or that his mazhab confirms to it.

2) Silent or tacit ijma (ijma' sukuti):

It takes place when some mujtahid, one or more, give a legal opinion with regard to specific rule about a particular legal issue,

then the rest of them are informed of this opinion and they keep silent and they neither acknowledge it nor object to it.

The levels of Consensus

- 1)The ijmah of Sahaba (Unanimity of the companions of Prophet ﷺ)
- 2) Ijmah-e-Tabeen (Unanimity of the followers of the companions)
- 3)Ijmah-e-Ummah (Unanimity of the nation)

Examples of Consensus

- The collection of the Qur'an in a single volume.
- The second azan on Friday.
- The decision to not distribute land in Iraq among the conquerors

The Transmission of Ijmah

Acquired

- This is direct participation of a mujtahid in the consensus without any transmitters

Manqul

- This is established through reports which may be ahad or Mutawatir.

Principle of Ijma practiced by different schools

School of Law	Formation of ijma	rationale
Hanafi	through public agreement of Islamic jurists	the jurists are experts on legal matters
Shafii	through agreement of the entire community and public at large	the people cannot agree on anything erroneous
Maliki	through agreement amongst the residents of Medina, the first Islamic capital	Islamic tradition says "Medina expels bad people like the furnace expels impurities from iron"
Hanbali	through agreement and practice of Muhammad's SAWW Companions RAA	they were the most knowledgeable on religious matters and rightly guided

Conditions

- The agreement must take place among mujtahids.
- Mujtahid is a person who is qualified to exercise ijtihad.
- The agreement must be unanimous.
- The mujtahids must belong to the Islamic community.
- 4. The agreement of mujtahids must be held after the death of Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him).

Conditions continue

- The agreement must be among the mujtahids of one period, even though some mujtahids of subsequent periods may differ from them.
- The agreement should be held on a rule of Islamic law (in legal matter).
- The mujtahids should have relied upon a sanad for deriving their opinion. Sanad is the evidence (proof) upon which the mujtahids rely on, for arriving upon an agreement.

Types of Consensus

Basically consensus is of three types:

- **Verbal** الاجماع القولى
- **Practical** الاجماع العملى
- **Silent** الاجماع السكوتى