



Islam and Society



Social system of Islam

Islam is a complete code of life which is based upon divine commandments revealed by Allah, the creator and the owner of entire mankind and all other creatures, to Mohammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) the last of His messengers and apostles.

Man, on account of his nature, is called as social animal. According to this nature, they are bound to live together and as a result a society is established. Islam, being a code for life, does not leave this important part of human life and grants a wonderful system for its believers. This social system of Islam, in case if it is applied and followed properly, makes the society utmost peaceful and an example of paradise in the world.

Islamic social system, by the dealings in between human beings, can be divided into two categories.

Sorts of dealings:

1- Social dealings:

All kinds of relations in between mankind and the classification of duties & rights between them are called as social affairs. This category is the part of our study plan.

2- Money dealings:

All kinds of agreements in between mankind in which money or any other asset is involved like sale, purchase, leasing, loan, usury, mortgage, trust etc are included. This is also called as corporate laws of Islam and is a vast part of Islamic teachings.

Social affairs:

Islam has provided a solid base and perfect root level guidance for its social system to make the society stable, durable and peaceful hence it may set an example for rest of the societies. Besides, Muslim society has been divided into different units so that the society members may recognize his rights and duties towards these fundamental units as a member of it. Here these are the basic foundations for Islamic society and the units given below.

Foundation for social system:

- 1- Equality
- 2- Equity/ Justice
- 3- Brotherhood
- 4- Unity
- 5- Sympathy

- 6- Sacrifice
- 7- Tolerance
- 8- Duty
- 9- Rights

Different units of Muslim society:

Islamic society, just like all other societies, is a collective mass of different units. Here these are the fundamental units of Muslim society given below,

- 1- Family
 - 2- Relatives
 - 3- Neighbours
 - 4- Mosque/Town.
 - 5- City.
 - 6- State.
 - 7- Ummah (The nation)
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Foundations for Muslim society

1:- Equality:

According to Islam, all human beings are originated by one couple Adam and Eve and this couple was created by Almighty Allah. He reveals in Surah An-Nisaa Ayah 1:

"O men! Fear your Lord who created you from a single soul (Adam), and from it created its match (Eve), and spread many men and women from the two."

Surah Al-Hujuraat Ayah 13, Allah says:

"O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into races and tribes, so that you may identify one another".

The progeny of this couple were initially a single group of people with one religion and same language. But, with the passage of time, their number gradually increased and they spread all over the earth and as a natural result, their languages, dresses, life style and thinking varied and widely differed.

But Islam describes that all human beings have equal rights of living and freedom as they are the offspring of one couple. There is no concept of VIP culture in a Muslim society.

Reference:

In his address at last Hajj, prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said,

"O people! Surely, your lord is one and your father is one. Beware! There is no supremacy for any Arabian over Ajami (Non Arabian) or for Ajami over Arabian, neither for white over black nor for black over white except with piety".

2:- Equity/ Justice:

Islam has the quality to provide justice to all and justice has been set as a right of Allah the Exalted to maintain peace & harmony in the society. In an Islamic society, every single person should be treated with equal justice if he deserves it on account of witnesses and evidences. All those elements which cause injustice in the society like bearing wrong witnesses, hiding facts, emotions, pressurizing, VIP culture, obeying illegal commands or any other possible cause are strictly condemned.

Allah says:

"And maintain justice, surely Allah loves those who maintain justice". (Al-Hujurat, 9)

By the study of Qur'an, we come to know that looking to the weak points of human psyche; Almighty Allah has particularly prohibited two of the human emotions to be the cause for injustice, love and hatred.

References:

Allah says:

"O you who believe; Be upholders of justice, as witnesses to Allah, even though it be against (the interest of) yourselves or the parents or the kinsmen, one may be rich or poor, Allah is better caretaker of both. So follow not the desires, lest you may

avoid justice. If you distort or avoid (the witness), then Allah is all-aware of what you do". (An-Nisaa, 135)

He further says:

"O you who believe! Be steadfast for (obeying the commands of) Allah as witnesses for justice, malice against a people should not make you avoid justice, make justice as it is nearer to piety (Taqwa), and fear Allah, indeed, Allah is all-aware of what you do". (Surah Al-Ma'idah, 8)

3:- Brotherhood:

According to Islamic teachings, all the Muslims, wherever they live, whatever the cast, colour and language they belong to, are brothers and they must behave with each other like real brothers. They should treat each other in a way that may not hurt or not cause to annoy anyone in the society. A Muslim should neither oppress or tyrannize his Muslim brother nor let others do so.

Reference: Allah says:

"All the believers are but brothers, so seek reconciliation between two of your brothers, and fear Allah, so that you may be blessed with mercy". (Al-Hujurat, 10)s

Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said:

"Every Muslim is a brother of other Muslim; neither oppresses him nor gives in other's custody".

4:- Unity:

Unity is also one of the basics of Islamic social system. It is very much stressed upon unity and collectiveness in Islam and Islam drives its followers to get as united as bricks in a wall or different parts in a body. Qur'an refers to the end result of weakness and disgrace in the world in case if Muslims get divided into various sectors either religiously or politically.

As per Qur'an, it is a great sin & fault departing from the collectiveness of the believers and there is a serious threat of hell from Allah the Exalted for such people who set some separate sector or way for themselves.

Reference: Allah says:

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the cord of Allah, and be not divided". (Aali-Imraan, 103)

He further says:

"And obey Allah and His messenger, and do not quarrel with each other, lest you should lose courage, and your prowess should evaporate, and be patient, surely Allah is with the patients". (Al-Anfaal, 46)

5:- Compassion & Sympathy:

According to Islamic teachings, every member in a Muslim society must have the sympathetic feelings for all of the believers. This characteristic is must to be adopted by Muslims that they should be kind, compassionate and sympathetic to

each other. Harshness and tyranny is strictly condemned in Islam particularly against a Muslim.

Islam refers to the duty of condolence for the Muslims who suffer from any disease, loss or any misfortune. It has also been considered as a great good deed which is reward able as well in Islam and has been declared as a right of relatives and neighbours too.

Reference: Allah says:

"And those who spend (for Allah's sake) in prosperity and in adversity, and those who control anger and forgive people, and Allah loves those who are good in their deeds". (Aali-Imran, 134)s

Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said:

"Surely, Allah is kind and He likes the kindness". (Muslim)

He further said:

"Be merciful upon those on earth, the One in the sky (Allah) will be merciful upon you".

6:- Sacrifice:

Islam teaches its followers to not to be selfish, greedy or egocentric. Instead, it commands to live for others in a way that you should prefer them over yourself. This is also a well appreciated good deed in Islam as it leads the society to its best.

Allah says:

"And (they) give preference (to others) over themselves, even though they are in poverty, and those who are saved from the greed of their hearts are the successful". (Al-Hashr, 9)

7:- Tolerance:

Tolerance is also an important teaching of Islam regarding the establishment of a peaceful Muslim society. Islam has clearly categorised the duties and the rights to the society members, and has emphasised its followers to not to cause any mischief in the society by taking some harsh step in case of not receiving the due right. Instead, Islam refers to the patience and ignoring it to avoid the disturbance in harmony and peace. As per Islamic teachings, surrendering from the right to avoid the mischief is a great good deed that leads to ultimate reward from the Lord particularly in afterlife.

Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said:

"Whoever surrenders from the dispute (of his right) even though the truth lies with him, a house is built for him in the paradise".

8:- Forgiveness:

Forgiving the people upon their mistakes is also an Islamic teaching that provides a solid foundation for maintaining peace and harmony in the society. This is what Islam stresses upon it and appreciates. Yet, this is not a law in Islam to forgive

all of the mistakes even the crimes of an offender; it may cause the villainies and the lawlessness in the society.

Instead, it is conditional and in some cases the punishment is also recommended to discourage the villainous people and bully peace breakers. Along with the promotion of forgiveness, the even retaliation especially in offences of murder or grievous hurts (i.e. Qisas) is also encouraged in Qur'an.

Allah says:

"There is life for you in *Qisas* O people of wisdom, so that you may be secured".

9:- Duty:

Duty and the responsibility is also the part of the basics of Islamic teachings towards a society. Islam insists upon its followers to be dutiful and responsible towards their units. These duties have been assigned by the Lord and are clearly classified to every individual.

This is a burning hot issue of contemporary times that in all the societies, man is given some rights and he is stressed upon receiving his due rights by hook or by crook which is badly effecting the peace in the societies.

Instead, in Islam, man has been decreed to fulfil his duty towards others rather than demanding the rights and this, in the end result, causes the rights to be delivered naturally to the deserving ones without any disturbance and mischief. To become a good Muslim, every individual should perform his duty gladly which is actually the right of others.

Reference: Allah says:

"And give the relative his right and the needy and the wayfarer, and do not spend wastefully". (Bani Isra'il, 26)

10:- Rights:

Every individual, in a Muslim society, deserves the due rights on the basis of equality and no one is allowed to deprive him from any of his rights. These rights have been preserved and described by Allah and his Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) in details.

Reference: Allah says:

"So give to the kinsman his right, and to the needy and the wayfarer. That is better for those who seek Allah's pleasure, and it is they who will be successful". (Ar-Room, 38)

Different units of Muslim society

1:- Family:

This is very first unit of Muslim society as it is very close circle a man is related to. A family is a collective mass of some persons like father, mother, husband, wife and children. According to Islam, every single person is committed to perform his duties towards his family whether he/she is a father/mother or husband/wife or a child.

In a family, every person deserves some rights and also assigned some duties. To become a good Muslim, every individual should perform his duty gladly which is in fact the right of other family members.

Rights:

- 1- Rights of parents.
- 2- Rights of husband.
- 3- Rights of wife.
- 4- Rights of children.
- 5- Rights of brother.
- 6- Rights of sister.

2:- Relatives:

The second unit of Islamic society is the circle of relatives which is in fact a collective mass of few families. It is a little wider circle and every individual member of this unit is responsible for the rights of other unit members.

Rights:

- 1- Rights of uncles & aunties.
- 2- Rights of nephews & nieces.
- 3- Rights of cousins.
- 4- Rights of in-laws.
- 5- Other members like father's or mother's cousins.

3:- Neighbours:

Islam has enjoined strictly upon its followers to be dutiful towards their neighbours as one is not considered as a complete Muslim whose neighbours are not satisfied and happy with him. Neighbours can be divided into three categories by the rights.

Rights:

- 1- Neighbour + Muslim +relatives.
- 2- Neighbour +Muslim.

3- Neighbour +Non-Muslim.

4- Neighbour in some assembly. (Temporary neighbour)

References: Allah reveals:

"Worship Allah, and do not associate with Him anything, and be good to parents and to kinsmen and orphans and the needy and the close neighbour and the distant neighbour and the companion at your side and the wayfarer and to those (slaves who are) owned by you. Surely, Allah does not like those who are arrogant, proud". (An-Nisaa, 36)

Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said:

"I swear by Allah, he is not a real Muslim whose neighbour is not safe from his harm". (Muslim)

4:- Mosque/ Town:

This is fourth circle of a Muslim society.

5:- City:

City level is the fifth circle of society.

6:- State:

State is the sixth unit level in a society.

7:- Ummah (The nation):

Being a member of Muslim Ummah, every person is responsible for its welfare.