SOCIAL AND MANAGERIAL VALUES BROUGHT BY ISLAM AND ITS IMPACT ON THE CIVILIZATION OF ARABIAN PENINSULA

Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Bukhari
Head Department of Islamic studies
National University of Modern Language, Islamabad.

ABSTRACT

Allah Almighty has raised Prophet Mohammed (SAW) in the society of Arabia and assigned to him the completion of the mission for which earlier prophets were ordained. The message of Mohammed (SAW) was for the whole of mankind. He presented a new the teachings of Islam in their pristine form and provided mankind once again, with the Divine Guidance which they had lost in its original form. He organized all those who accepted his message in to one Ummah and one effective social system for centuries and generations to com. The path of human civilization organized by the message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has completely changed the behavior, norms, values, lifestyle, does and don’ts of the Arab society only within the time of 23 years period.

The violent and cruel society of Arabian Peninsula had converted in to most human and peaceful society of that time and as case study for future generations and even today. The guidance of this civilization was taken from the Quran and practical demonstration of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) which had recorded in the form of Hadith. The reality of social system founded by message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was the real human social system based on justice, peace, equality, and freedom of living on the earth as vicegerent of Allah Almighty implemented His order to regulate the society with aptitude of theoretical and practical sciences. Human society can established only to follow the social system provided by Islam as if this religion can change the mindset of the cruel violent Arab society than it has the strong social capacity to change the mind set of capitalist and communist.

This paper will explore the cultural values brought by the message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and impact of these values on the character of Arabs. The first part of the paper will describe the importance of Arabian Peninsula and its cultural values. Second part is about the characteristics of social values brought by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Third will present the administrative and managerial values implemented by Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The last part will give summary and findings of the whole discussion. The reality of social system founded by message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was the real human social system based on justice, peace, equality, and freedom of living on the earth as vicegerent of Allah Almighty implemented His order to regulate the society with aptitude of theoretical and practical sciences. Human society can established only to follow the social system provided by Islam as if this religion can change the mindset of the cruel violent Arab society than it has the strong social capacity to change the mind set of capitalist and communist. The social system brought by the Islam is not meant for individuals only but for the society at large. This social system may reach the ultimate stage of perfect society as developed in Medina by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) expanded almost half of the world during the time period of pious Caliphs and left remarkable signs of productive societies for the centuries to come. That is the acme of civilization where virtue reigns in society and vice is subdued.
Key Words: Islam, Civilization, Social, Values, Traditions.

1. Introduction:

The social order and the religious-moral order are necessarily co-extensive in form and substance and both are embedded in the warp and woof of the general structure of society. Society and religion are almost together especially in cases when the social values are based on religious beliefs. In case of Islamic society religion is the core foundation of social behavior and practices. Religion gives purpose, meaning and often times a goal to social life. The human society and life lined by system belief in influential accepted and divine forces. The mass of ordinary life of a lay man recognizes and practices religion as distinct from a not to be faulted web of personal and social life(K.A. Hakim.1965). The social, economic and political system based on religion alongside worships conducted and applied by the individual and in such a strong way with an identified manner is only found in Islamic history. Even today Islam with its positive and effective teachings considered as the fastest growing religion not only in Europe and America , but also among the other part of the world( Martin 1998). Islam originated and progressed in an Arabian Peninsula so initially Islam has influenced the Arab customs and values in such an effective way that within a few years this society has established a strong social frame work for the centuries to come. The reason was only that Islam civilization is based on the value of education, which both the Qur’an and the Prophet (SAW) stressed. Islam has provided, for all ages in all circumstances, a comprehensive programme for human activities covering all kinds of human behaviour and extending to the individual and social life. As the ideology produced by Islam is fully inspired by faith in Allah and in the accountability of the life hereafter, it is bound to differ from an ideology that emanates from mere materialism The fathers of modern social sciences are busy emphasizing, intentionally or unintentionally, only the material aspects of human life in their disciplines (K.A. Hakim.1965). They seldom care to evaluate the ethical forces that could play a vital role in channelising human behavior towards the noble goal to which humanity is destined. Their silent, or rather negative, attitude in this field has mercifully snapped away from society the glorious virtues of human brother hood and mutual cooperation which are the panacea of an ideal society. Society is now replete with mistrust, class struggle and all other vices which are resulting from the half-way attitude of the evaluators of modern social sciences.

2. Social conditions of Arab before Islam.

According to the sound sources history of Arabian society before Islam was one of the ignorant, violent, and unjust societies. Almost all part of the peninsula was divided into tribes and tribal pride and ego was their part of their social values. Religiously there was no concept of worship of One god rather many idols along with the worship of God as partners and asistan. Even in Makkah and house of Kaba was no longer following the true religion of Prophet Ismael (AS) and Prophet Ibrahim (AS). Socially Arabian Peninsula before Islam was named as Jahiliyyah (Ignorant) because the social norms and values they were practicing were violent and cruel. They were deeply rooted in social inequalities and immoral practices (Watt. W. Montgomery 1974). ). Although some socially accepted qualities were part of their traits but overall the whole society was under the influence of class
discrimination and gendered violation. Economic and social system was designed and implemented by the rich class of the Tribe system. Poor class and slaves have only right to serve their masters (S. Annemarie.1992). This grouping of tribe system sometimes resulted in war which lasted on years and generations. The criteria of justice and equity had been decided by either the leader of tribe or by the influential members of that tribe. Social justice and equal rights were almost vanished. Women were only entitled as tool of entertainment and joy with no social and moral rights. Slave class was treated as animal even worse than animals. Male members of the family and tribe were considered as the supreme leaders. They could decide on whatever they wanted as long as women didn’t interfere. Women were treated as possessions known as belongings to pay debts. Social system of Arabs had no criteria to control even check the limit of polygamy and polyandry and they were rampant. Many major social crimes like prostitution, adultery, fornication, theft, highway robbery and kidnapping was part of normal routine even in some cases considered the sign of tribal pride and ego. The slave class had no right in the society even treated as cattle by their masters and were bought and sold at will. The lives of the slaves depended on the masters (M.Patrick.1990).


At the time when Islam arrived into the violent and unjust society of Arab it has influenced the social and moral lives of people of Arab in such an effective way that they have even change their social, economic, political and moral frame work of the whole society both at individual and collective social life. The teachings of Islam are inspired by and based on the concept of Divine unity. Islam seeks to establish a society rooted in the unity of mankind. In the treatment of human behaviour towards society, Islam recognises the existence of ego, but certainly does not allow it to encroach upon the rights of the fellow beings. Islam rather demands perfect development of individual selves living in society. More precisely, in the view of Islam, individuals are not the parasites of society; individual instincts , the life blood of a society are justifiably and balancedly recognised for the welfare of the society itself (J. M. Bloom, S. S. Blair 1974). .

4. Economic Freedom and social Equality:

The uniqueness of Islam in its formulation of socio-economic frame-work lies in the fact that on the one hand it prescribes guidelines for individual and social behaviour, empowers the state with adequate legislative and executive authority to enforce the prescribed obligations and, if necessary, to arrest all shortfalls by suitably adopting additional measures. And on the other hand, quite reasonably to the exception of all other exponents in the field, it seeks to create a strong moral consciousness among the individuals to fully realise their obligation to society. For instance, Zakat, according to Islam, is a tax 'to take wealth from the rich and to return it to the poor'. Precisely speaking, in Islam the individuals of society are entrusted with freedom of enterprise and utilization of the means of production.
5. Social and legal Security for Slaves:

Foundations established by the Islam were based upon the equality of all human beings as creation of Allah Almighty. Islamic social system regards all differences of birth, places, countries and continents. There is no distinction in Islamic social system based upon financial status and family. Islam has declared all human beings as equal in the eyes of Allah Almighty. No one has any superiority and inferiority in terms of family, color, race, origin and language.

At the time when Islam arrived slavery was so much in practice that it was a whole discipline not in Arab society but almost in major part of the world. Now the question arises how it was addressed by Islam. At many places in Quran slaves rights were regulated and facilitated with so much emphasize on it (Quran 2:178,16:75,30:28). According to the famous sociologist Lewis “ Islam has brought major positive changed to ancient slavery one of them was freedom of living and respect which was not entitle before that(S.Tamar.2004).

6. The women integrity and rights.

Islam states that men and women are totally equal in their humanity, and basic human responsibilities and rights; a concept that was radically new to the world compared to other civilizations at the time of the inception of the Islamic Message through the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), and remains so for many people of the globe until today. Islam also states that men and women have complimentary roles and obligations in society, which are commensurate with their natural physical, psychological and social inclinations and differences. The feminine qualities of women can only find fulfillment when they are taken into account in relation to men, just as the masculine qualities of men are not complete without the complimentary role of women in society. A great injustice is done by seeking to force upon them genderless equality where they are different and complement each other, or by forcing them to be unequal, and thus demeaning them, where they are truly equal. In the Islamic revealed scriptures, there are many eloquent expressions of woman’s equality with man and the special relationship and bond between man and woman. For instance, the Most Majestic says:

“Surely for men who submit to Allah and for women who submit to Allah, for believing men and for believing women, for devout men and devout women, for truthful men and truthful women, for steadfast men and steadfast women, for humble men and humble women, for charitable men and charitable women, for fasting men and fasting women, for men who guard their chastity and women who guard their chastity, for men who remember Allah much and for women who remember Allah much, for all of them Allah has prepared forgiveness and a mighty reward”(Al-Quran,33:35)

7. Human equality and freedom of living:

Allah Almighty has created all human beings with one single pair of Adam and Eve on earth and all people as ancestral nature are equal and must be considered equal as human being. The pair of Adam and Eve was a single group and with one type of nature, language, religion, creed, and pattern of life on earth. Afterward they spread with different languages, colors, race, tribes, nations, and
families. But according to origin and human race they are equal in the eyes of Allah Almighty. Islam gives respect to distinction of family, birth, gender, and nature of living life but there is no concept of human superiority and inferiority based on family, tribes, nations and race. The only honor has been given to human beings is based on piety of consciousness of Allah Almighty (Al-Quran,49:13). On the basis of this fundamental criteria human beings are respectable in the eyes of Allah if they have Taqwa (piety) and practically follow His commandments. No other criteria or distinction can make human beings superior or inferior.

8. Moral reforms and social change in life.

The correct way of life for man is to live in complete obedience to Him. Human beings are accountable to Allah Almighty for all their actions in this life. The time for representation an account will be in the life after this world. The moral code of Islam covers the smallest details of domestic life as well as the broad aspects of society. At the same time, the belief that whoever violates the Commandments of God in this world and dies in a state of Kufr (unbelief) shall have to bear eternal punishment however superficially nice a life he may have led in this temporary abode is an effective deterrent against violation of moral law. If this hope and fear are firmly ingrained and deeply rooted in one’s heart, they will provide a strong motive-force to inspire one to virtuous deeds. The whole concept describes that good and bad can only be decided by the laws of Shariah not by the social acceptance and collective interest of the people or influential powers of the society as it was the normal practice before Islam in Arab tribes. Additionally the powers should be decided by the Allah Almighty not by the human powers. Among the society of Arab the concept of life after death and accountability before Allah was almost disappeared before Islam. So gambling, wine drinking and polygamy were considered as normal practice.

Islam has addressed all moral evils which were creating social crimes and violating human integrity. The biggest among them was intoxication which was addressed gradually in order to remove this moral evil with the internal support of mind and heart of people in Arabs.

9. Findings:

Major changes brought by Islam in Arab civilization were followings.

- Islam has not separated spiritual life from material rather confined them in one system and purified their social lives through their religious beliefs and rituals which extended to their entire life.

- Islamic social system has mould the lives of Arab people in such an effective and healthy way that within a few years the whole Arab society became a symbol of peace, justice and human equality.

- Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has established social reforms through implementing the orders of Allah Almighty in a very strategic manner and practical demonstration .Such example cannot be found in human history that one man has changed the whole nation and society.
10. Conclusion:

Allah Almighty has raised Prophet Mohammed (SAW) in the society of Arabia and assigned to him the completion of the mission for which earlier prophets were ordained. The message of Mohammed (SAW) was for the whole of mankind. He presented a new the teachings of Islam in their pristine form and provided mankind once again, with the Divine Guidance which they had lost in its original form. He organized all those who accepted his message in to one Ummah and one effective social system for centuries and generations to com. The path of human civilization organized by the message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has completely changed the behavior, norms, values, lifestyle, does and don’ts of the Arab society only within the time of 23 years period. The violent and cruel society of Arabian Peninsula had converted in to most human and peaceful society of that time and as case study for future generations and even today. The guidance of this civilization was taken from the Quran and practical demonstration of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) which had recorded in the form of Hadith. The reality of social system founded by message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was the real human social system based on justice, peace, equality, and freedom of living on the earth as vicegerent of Allah Almighty implemented His order to regulate the society with aptitude of theoretical and practical sciences. The social system brought by the Islam is not meant only for individuals but for whole society even to all communities and nations as well. Similar to individuals, society also, after passing through the various junctures of spiritual elevation, may reach the ultimate stage of perfect society as developed in Medina by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) expanded almost half of the world during the time period of pious Caliphs and left remarkable signs of productive societies for the centuries to come. That is the height of human civilization where virtue has the sovereignty in society and all other factors are subordinate and submissive.
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