

IMPORTANCE OF COMMERCE AND TRADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY QURAN AND SUNNAH

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ABSTRACT

Commerce plays a vital role in Human life. It has a central role in the economy of each and every society. Interests of human beings in industries, agriculture or any other profession are for the purpose of commerce and trade. Because no one is self-sufficient alone in his needs.

Due to this vital and important role of commerce and trade in human life, Islam has given it the same importance. It not only persuades people to it rather gives its golden principles for the success of human beings in this world and hereafter. This article presents the importance given to commerce and trade by Quran and Sunnah.

KEY WORDS: Quran, Sunnah, Barter, Muslim scholars

INTRODUCTION

Commerce plays a vital role in Human life. It has a central role in the economy of each and every society. It is a source of income as well as a way of human practices. All the legal activities and actions of human being are directly or indirectly related to commerce. In its absence, human will abandon many activities that he performs. Interests of human being in industries, agriculture or any other profession is for the purpose of commerce and trade. Because no one is self-sufficient alone in his needs. No human can live alone in a society rather he has to perform many things collectively. And barter (exchange of goods and services) is one of these collective activities. In other words Exchange of goods and services for the purpose of earnings is called commerce or trade.

Commerce and trade is importance in individual life rather I would say its role magnifies manifolds in collective life.

Progress and betterment of societies and countries is dependent upon commerce and trade. The nature of the relationship of any county with another, indicates its strength

and power. And it is a fact that the ruling countries of the world are "ruling" because of their strong economic or financial position.

Products of a country when sold in the market of other countries, they strengthen their economic position and trade. And nowadays such countries are considered as powerful.

Being a complete code of life, Islam has not neglected this important portion of human life rather it has given due importance to it and crystal clear instructions about it.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SWA), himself was a trader and he introduced many basic rules and regulations in commerce and trade.

Islam not only inspires people for trade but also gives them such principles which are universal and results success in this world and hereafter.

Keeping in mind all the benefits of trade and commerce, many times people exploit it, in this situation, Islam gives us such instructions and constrains which keep people off from exploitation of others. And

it frightens them in the world hereafter from the bad results of bad trade.

On one side if Islam inspires people for commerce and trade, on the other hand, at the same time, it explains its restrictions and constrains, so that commerce could be used for the BETTERMENT of people not for their exploitation.

DISCUSSION

Trade has major role in the society of human being. It is concerned with all the aspects of human life. It is the primary base of any society. Trade is actually an act, and a source of earning money. It provides a main streamline to all human affairs. All human activities relating to industry, agriculture or any other profession, rotate around it. The products of industry or agricultural goods are for the purpose of trade. All kind of facilities of human life are dependent upon trade. Because a single person cannot accomplish all his requirements alone. Although, he produces several things and make their substitute to fulfill the other requirements, (1)

A country can be blessed if the traders and trading centers of it are fair in case they take care of the principles of Islam as well as of the country. They will be the victim of turmoil, bribery of irresponsibility if they do not act upon the Islamic teachings. People who do not follow Islamic teachings and always concentrate on the benefits and earn their livings illegitimately, they endanger the country and society, Allah will punish them for this. (2)

Trade is significant both individual and collective life. The relations of the countries can be developed and disturbed by trade. Its effects put effects over the relations of countries. Even it effects the internal and external politics of a country.

The elements of friendships and enmities can be developed by the trade. (3)

Islam considers trade as a legal means of earning money and persuades it as well. It has specified a few codes and conducts which administer the trade. A society can be effective and impressive if it follows these regulations. Due to having a dynamic significance the difference always remains therefore it was compulsory that Islam has given significance and some codes of conducts for it. (4) Islam has taught us the lesson of liberty and trade and made them the means of legal earning. Similarly, the conditions are also prescribed for them so that the people may not be part of cruelty. All These conditions are about internal and external trades.

DEFINITION OF TRADE

Trade is being defined in various ways:

1. Trade means to acquire profit regarding Islamic values.
2. Trade is actually a source of getting benefit after selling and buying something.
3. Trade means to spend money whether it present or with someone, so that the profit may be acquired.
4. Trade is a duty of trader through which he buys or sells for benefit. (9)

To sum up we can say that Trade is actually a source of earning profit by selling and purchasing.

In the light of the above definitions we can conclude that apart from the difference in the words, it has two same things:

1. To buy for the intention of selling.
2. To have an aim of earning profit. (10)

TRADE AND ITS PERSECUTION TOWARDS ISLAM

Trade is a virtuous act which effect, the society. It is above all professions. The lives of people and the system of universe is dependent upon it. (11)

According to the given Verse of the Holy Quran, Trade is a legal source of earning. (12)

“Oh Muslims! trade should be regarding your will and consent, don't usurp other's money. (It is fair in case of trade only)”. (13)

Allah prohibits us to earn money illegally But allows us for trade (that is selling and purchasing) should be according to your consent so that your money may be increased. (14)

In another place the H Quran says:

“If your dealings in different material or staff are not in written form, it is not sin”.

The commentator have described two reasons of this verse.

There is an order to acquire "Fadal" which is denoted by trade and there are two arguments.

1. According to Abdullah Bin Masood and Abdullah Bin Zubair (RA), you should demand "Fadal" during the days of Hajj because people perform Hajj along with trade.

2. Second argument which is concerned with the revelation of this verse that people should avoid trade during the days of Hajj because of decrease in virtue.

3. This verse also expose the fact that if a person has intention to perform Hajj and during Hajj he makes trade, he also deserves the blessing of Almighty Allah.

According to the proves about Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), he himself did trading and also said to others to do it.

Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), before the reception of revelation, was involved in trade. Hazrat Khadija (RA) was impressed from the truthfulness, and trustworthy attitude of him. She herself was a professional trader, therefore, she offered Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) to take her trading material to Syria for trade. She also promised to give him more than the

market rate. Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) accepted this offer. He went to Syria, sold the goods, bought new goods and returned to Makkah. Hazrat Khadija sold these goods and got double profit for it.

Arabs were traders before Islam. Every year their caravans set out. One set out in summer season while second one in winter. Many of The followers of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) were traders. They increased their properties in this legal way and the Holy Prophet did not stop them from doing so.

Imam Sarakhsi says: In fact Allah had made the trade a source for us to solve the problems of people and made trade a legal source because a deprived cannot find things all the time. He needs things from others. If he gets (things) by force then it will be the part of panic. Allah does not like panic. Therefore, trade is denoted legal, so that people can fulfill their requirements. (20)

One day Abdul Malik Bin Marwan asked his sons if you were not in the present condition what you would have been today ? Sulaiman answered that he would like to have been a king. Waleed replied that he would have liked to be a horse rider and fight in the way of Allah. Then he asked Yazid the same. He replied: My brothers left nothing for me. Abdul Malik said: Why they did not select trade, " That is your originality. (it is your ancestors profession)" The sons replied that trade is risky profession and persuasion and a trader cannot be a great personality. Abdul Malik said: It is compulsory for them to get education because if you become king and you are educated, you would take right decision. If you are deprived and educated then you will survive your life viz you will accomplish your requirements.

Islam not only called trade legitimate but also tried to persuade people towards it. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

“When you offer your prayer then be on your path and do trading”.

Imam Qurtabi says in the commentary of the this verse that It shows the compulsion of trade. In another verse it is described as. Imam Qurtabi said, when you are free offering prayer then scatter to accomplish your requirements and trade through these verses the selling and purchasing are observed,. Actually there in a commandment to do trade and to earn. All the legitimate resources are include in it. Due to which human being can accomplish their requirements.

Different Islamic scholars have the opinion that trade is also a part of life for a person who has resources for it. But if a person cannot work then he can do begging for its need. But if a person has resources, it is compulsory for him to utilize his capital and begging anything for him is strictly prohibited.

It is emphasized in this verse to scatter and mingle on the earth to trade and to earn with legal ways. For its proper meaning there is another verse as well.

“Other people travel for trade to earn, Viz those people who travel and they earn Allah’s will through trade”.

There are a number of Hadiths concerned with trade. Some of them are as following. “When Hazarat Muhammad (SAW) was asked about the standard earning, He said: (that standard earning is) earning through trade and to earn by hands”.

There is another Hadith which gives the idea that the best earning is earning by hands. (28)

Another Hadith discusses the importance of trade in these words:

“Earning has nineteen means, in which, nine are for traders, one is for industrialist and one is for craftman. (30)

Similarly Hazarat Muhammad (SAW) Said: Truth and trustworthy trader will be with martyrs at the day of judgement. (31)

It is fact that Many of the Islamic scholars were great traders, as they were following the teachings of Islam. So Muslims of the present world specially and all human beings can benefit from trade if they follow Islamic teachings in this respect.

CONCLUSION:

1. Islam has given due importance to commerce and trade.
2. The Holy Quran gives clear rules regulations for it.
3. The Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (SAW) has also given due importance to it.
4. The Holy Prophet (SAW) himself adopted trade as Profession.
5. Islam announces the rewards of the traders here and hereafter.
6. All the humans can be successful by following the teachings of Islam here and hereafter.

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