

Islamic Values and Social Work

Islam is a complete code of life. It not only deals with man's relationships with his creator but also his relationships with other human beings. Islam believes in the oneness of Allah and the Prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH). Islam is not only a religion but also an agent of good social order and sound social security. It does not limit itself only to moral and spiritual aspect of man's life. It deals with all aspects of man's life in the world i.e moral, economic, social etc. It aims at creating a society where man can live peaceful life and enjoy satisfactory, constructive personal and social relationships. It also stresses on democratic participation for contribution to the progress of the society. An analysis of the principles of Islam shows that the important values of social work are part of Islam. Some of these values are discussed below:

Dignity and Worth of the Individual

The value of social work is deep-rooted in the recognition of the worth and dignity of individual. It considers man as the centre of the whole universe. It believes that every man has got worth and importance which should be fully recognized by others. This value of social work is also inherent in Islam. Islam has a deep respect for the individual. It proves man as the vicegerent of Allah on earth. The holy Quran says: "Behold, the lord said to the angles, I will create a vicegerent on earth."

Equality and Equal Opportunity

Social Work follows the principle of equality. It believes that every individual has the equal right to comfortable living. Islam also holds the principle of complete equality. The Quran propagates, *"surely we have created you of a male and female and made for you tribes and families so that you may be identified"*. On another place, it is said, *"the most honorable of you with Allah is the one among you who is most careful of his duty."* The holy prophet said *"the white man is not above the black nor the black above the yellow". All men are equal before their maker."*

Similarly Islam also provides equal opportunities to his followers for the solution of their problems and development.

Social Justice

Social justice is very important value of social work as well as of Islam. Social work stresses that social justice is necessary for the better solution of community problems. We

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can see many examples of social justice in Islam i.e., rulers were also under the limits of social justice and were treated just like common people in any case. In actual practice, Islam has given the system of justice to modern world.

Dignity of Work and Labor and Self help

Self help is main principle of social work which indicates that problems of individuals groups and communities must be solved with their own efforts and resources.

Islam also preaches its follower to work and labor for themselves with their own hands.

The holy Quran says *“Verily God never changes the condition of people unless they change it for themselves.”*

Co-operation

Social work always motivates and encourages people to develop fellow feeling, cooperation, mutual aid and to help the needy and the distressed. Islam has given the same idea. The Holy Prophet says, *“The best of all activities is the social service”*.

He (PBUH) always says people to help the needy and the underprivileged. We can see the best example of co-operation at the occasion of Migration to Medina when people of Medina fully cooperated with the Muslims who came from Makkah.

Responsibilities and Obligations to Others

Social work believes that every man has obligations to the society at large similarly; Islam sets before man two categories of responsibilities:

- i) Responsibility to the Creator
- ii) Responsibility to the fellow beings

The second responsibility is very necessary for a Muslim. Allah will forgive carelessness regarding responsibility to the Creator but Allah will never forgive that one who does not care his fellow beings. The Holy Prophet says *“The person has no faith who eats full belly and his neighbor remains hungry.”*

Income Distribution

Social Work aims at to help the community people to live a rich and full life. It is possible only when resources of community are utilized for the welfare of all community people without discrimination.

Economic system of Islam is best way to solve the socio- economic problems of people which believes in income distribution among people. Islam has given a fine system of income distribution for the well-being of poor in form of economic institutions i.e. Zakat, Sadkat, Qarz-e- Hasna, Ushar, Bait-ul-Mal etc.

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