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Standards of Collective Economic Justice of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Muhammad Tahir Akbar

Representative: Daily Baithak Multan

786tiens@gmail.com

Abstract



This research article explores the standards of collective economic justice promoted by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Collective Economic Justice refers to the fair distribution of resources and opportunities within a community, ensuring that all members have access to basic necessities and economic well-being. The economic principles and guidelines set forth by Prophet Muhammad provide a comprehensive framework for promotion fairness, equity, and social welfare within a community. By investigating into the teachings of Islam, this research article aims to shed light on the Prophet's vision for economic justice and its implications for contemporary society. The Prophet highlighted the importance of charity, known as "Zakat" & "Sadqa" which involves giving a portion of one's wealth to poor. "Zakat" is obligatory for Muslims. Another key aspect of Collective Economic Justice in the Prophet's teachings is the prohibition of usury, or "riba". The Prophet encouraged collaboration in economic activities, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility. This cooperative approach aimed to uplift the entire community & reduce economic inequalities. The research also explores the Prophet's stance on ethical business practices, emphasizing honesty, transparency, fairness & prohibition of fraudulent activities. The principles of Zakat, prohibition of usury, economic cooperation, and ethical business practices serve as guiding beacons for building an economically just and compassionate society. Understanding and implementing these teachings can contribute to the establishment of equitable economic systems that prioritize the welfare of all members within a community.

Keywords

Economic justice, Social welfare, Charity, Transparency, Fairness, Zakat, Society.



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1. Introduction

This research article investigates the standards of collective economic justice that can be derived from the thoughtful guidance provided by the messenger of Allah. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) laid down a comprehensive framework for collective well-being, including economic aspects. His teachings emphasize fairness, equity, and compassion, offering timeless insights that continue to resonate across cultures and times.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the importance of a just economic system that benefits society as a whole. His teachings encourage the distribution of wealth in a manner that addresses the needs of the less fortunate, fostering a sense of communal responsibility and care.

The research aims to analyze specific instances from the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) where economic justice was represented. Prophet's life provides examples that can inform contemporary discussions on economic justice.

Understanding the standards set by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for collective economic justice can offer valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and individuals seeking to create a fair and just society. As we navigate the complexities of modern economic systems, revisiting these principles can inspire solutions that promote social welfare and reform society.

2. Some Qur'anic Verses on Economic Justice:

There are many verses in Holy Quran explores the collective economic justice. Some verses are given bellow for example.

2.1. Wealth Distribution & Charity (Zakat):

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْفِقُوا مِنْ طَيِّبَاتِ مَا كَسَبْتُمْ وَمِمَّا أَخْرَجْنَا لَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ - وَلَا تَيَمَّمُوا الْخَبِيثَ مِنْهُ تُنْفِقُونَ وَلَسْتُمْ بِأَجْدِيهِ إِلَّا أَنْ تُغْمِضُوا فِيهِ، وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَمِيدٌ.^[1]

Hey, you who believe in God, share some of the good things you have earned and the things God has provided from the earth. Don't give away things that are faulty or defective when you wouldn't accept them for yourself. Remember that God is self-sufficient and deserving of praise.

مَا أَفَاءَ اللَّهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْقُرَىٰ فَلِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ وَلِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَآبِنِ السَّبِيلِ كَيْ لَا يَكُونَ دُولَةً بَيْنَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ مِنْكُمْ ۚ وَمَا ءَاتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ.^[2]

Allah has given certain benefits to His Messenger from the people of other lands. These benefits are meant for Allah, the Messenger, his close relatives, orphans, the poor, and needy travellers. The purpose is to ensure that wealth doesn't only stay among the rich. Whatever the

Messenger gives you, accept it. Whatever he tells you to avoid, stay away from it. Be mindful of Allah, as He is strict in punishment.

2.2. Fair Trade & Business Transactions:

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ. [3]

Don't take or use someone else's money unfairly, and don't give bribes to the leaders hoping they'll help you take a share of people's money unlawfully, knowing it's wrong.

2.3. Avoiding Exploitation:

وَيَبِّئْ لِلْمُطَفِّفِينَ- الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَكْتَالُوا عَلَى النَّاسِ يَسْتَوْفُونَ- وَإِذَا كَالُوهُمْ أَوْ وُزِنُوهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ- أَلَا يَظُنُّ أُولَئِكَ أَنَّهُمْ مَبْعُوثُونَ. [4]

Bad things happen to those who give less than they should. When they receive something from people, they take the full amount, but when they give something back, they give less than what they received, causing a loss for others.

2.4. Justice in Trade & Business:

وَالْبُدْنَ جَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ لَكُمْ فِيهَا خَيْرٌ ۖ فَاذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهَا صَوَافَّ ۚ فَإِذَا وَجَبَتْ جُنُوبُهَا فَكُلُوا مِنْهَا وَأَطْعِمُوا الْقَانِعَ وَالْمُعْتَرَّ ۚ كَذَلِكَ سَخَّرْنَا لَكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ. [5]

And the camels and cattle, we have appointed for you as among the symbols of Allah; for you therein is good. So, mention the name of Allah upon them when lined up [for sacrifice]; and when they are [lifeless] on their sides, then eat from them and feed the needy and the beggar. Thus have We subjected them to you that you may be grateful.

2.5. Dealing Justly with Employees:

لَا يَهِنُكُمْ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُمْ مِنْ دِيَارِكُمْ أَنْ تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ. [6]

In simpler terms, the message is: "Allah encourages treating people who haven't fought against you or forced you out of your homes with kindness and fairness. Allah particularly loves those who are fair in their actions.

These verses highlight principles of economic justice, fairness in trade, charity, and the importance of just dealings in economic transactions. Keep in mind that

understanding the Quran often requires a deeper exploration and interpretation, and scholars may provide additional insights.

3. Some Hadiths on Economic Justice

The teachings of Prophet Muhammad, the last messenger of God in Islam, cover various aspects of life, including social and economic dimensions. In this compilation, we explore a selection of Hadiths that shed light on the standards of collective economic justice as advocated by Prophet Muhammad. These teachings provide guidance on principles that promote fairness, equality, and compassion in economic dealings within the Muslim community.

3.1. Hadith 1:

عن أبي هريره ، عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: " من لا يرحم لا يرحم.^[7]

According to Abu Huraira (a companion of prophet), Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said: "If you're not kind to others, you won't receive kindness.

This Hadith underscores the importance of compassion and mercy. Prophet Muhammad encourages believers to show empathy and kindness in their dealings, fostering an environment of economic justice.

4.

3.2. Hadith 2:

عن انس ، عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم، قال: والذي نفسي بيده. " لا يؤمن عبد، حتى يحب لجاره، او قال لاخيه ما يحب لنفسه.^[8]

According to Anas bin Malik (a companion of prophet), Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be upon Him) said: "You don't really believe unless you care about your brother as much as you care about yourself.

This Hadith emphasizes the concept of economic justice through the lens of brotherhood. Believers are urged to wish for their fellow Muslims the same economic well-being they desire for themselves, promoting an ethos of shared prosperity.

3.3. Hadith 3:

عن ابن عباس قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم " :اليد العليا خير من اليد السفلى، وابدأ بمن تعول^[9]

According to Ibn Abbas (a companion of prophet), the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) once said: 'It's better to be the one giving help than the one receiving it. Start by helping your close family members.

The upper hand is the one that gives, and the lower hand is the one that receives.

In this Hadith, Prophet Muhammad delineates the virtue of giving over receiving. It encourages those with means to contribute to the welfare of others, thereby fostering economic equilibrium within the community.

3.4. Hadith 4:

عن أبي هريرة، قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: إن الله قال: **انفق انفق عليك**.^[10]

According to Abu Huraira (a companion of prophet), the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "God said, 'O human! Give to others, and I will give to you.

This Hadith reinforces the reciprocal nature of charity and generosity. By spending on others, believers can expect the blessings of Allah in return, establishing a cycle of economic justice based on mutual support.

3.5. Hadith 5:

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال ما نقصت صدقة من مال، وما زاد الله عبدا بعفو إلا عزا، وما تواضع أحد لله إلا رفعه الله عزوجل.^[11]

According to Abu Huraira (a companion of prophet), The Prophet said, "Giving to others doesn't make you poor. If you forgive someone, Allah will give you more respect. And if you act humble, Allah will make people think highly of you.

This Hadith highlights the positive impact of charity on both wealth and social standing. Prophet Muhammad encourages a mindset of generosity and forgiveness, fostering economic justice through the elevation of individuals and the community as a whole.

3.6. Hadith 6:

عن عبد الله بن عمرو، يبلغ به النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم الراحمون يرحمهم الرحمن، ارحموا اهل الارض يرحمكم من في السماء.^[12]

According to Abdullah bin Amr (a companion of prophet), Prophet Muhammad said: "Those who show mercy will receive mercy from the Most Merciful. Show kindness to those on Earth, and the One above the heavens will show mercy to you.

This Hadith extends the concept of economic justice to include divine mercy. Prophet Muhammad links mercy towards others with receiving mercy from Allah, reinforcing the interconnectedness of ethical economic conduct and spiritual well-being.

3.7. Hadith 7:

عن ابي هريرة ، عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم. قال: الساعي على الائمة والمسكين كالمجاهد في سبيل الله، واحسبه قال: وكالقائم لا يفتر وكالصائم لا يفطر^[13].

According to Abu Huraira (a companion of prophet), Prophet Muhammad said: "Someone who takes care of a widow or a poor person is similar to a warrior who fights for Allah, or someone who prays all night and fasts all day." This implies that helping and supporting vulnerable individuals is highly valued in the eyes of Allah.

This Hadith elevates the status of those who care for the vulnerable in society. Prophet Muhammad equates their efforts with acts of worship, emphasizing the significance of economic justice in supporting the less fortunate.

4. Collective Economic Responsibility

Teachings of messenger of Allah, promote a sense of shared responsibility for economic welfare, fostering a community where everyone plays a role in uplifting others.

In simple terms, Muhammad (P.B.U.H) distributed wealth in a way that ensures the welfare of the entire community. This concept aligns with the Islamic principle of Zakat, a form of almsgiving where a portion of one's wealth is donated to help those in need.

Muhammad (P.B.U.H) emphasized fair trade practices and discouraged exploitation in economic transactions. He urged his followers to engage in honest and transparent business dealings, promoting a sense of trust and justice in economic activities. This approach not only benefits individuals but also contributes to the overall prosperity of the community.

Furthermore, Muhammad (P.B.U.H) advocated for the support of helpless members of society, such as orphans, widows, and the poor. This collective responsibility extended beyond personal wealth to encompass the well-being of the entire community. By caring for those less fortunate, individuals contribute to a society where everyone has the opportunity to grow well.

In essence, Muhammad's teachings on Collective Economic Responsibility emphasize the interconnectedness of individuals within a community. The well-being of one is linked to the well-being of all, and by practicing economic justice and compassion; followers contribute to the creation of a harmonious and prosperous society.

5. Economic Justice and Social Welfare:

Muhammad, the messenger of Allah, imparted profound teachings on economic justice and social welfare that continue to resonate today. His guidance emphasizes compassion, fairness, and mutual responsibility. In simple terms, Muhammad encouraged a balanced distribution of wealth, urging the affluent to share their resources with those in need. He gave the concept of Zakat, a form of almsgiving, where the financially privileged give a portion of their earnings to support the less fortunate.

Furthermore, Muhammad (P.B.U.H) promoted equity in trade and commerce, discouraging exploitative practices and emphasizing honesty and transparency. He emphasized the dignity of labor, recognizing the rights of workers and the importance of just wages. In his teachings, the messenger of Allah prioritized the welfare of the entire community, fostering a sense of social cohesion and mutual support.

Muhammad's teachings underscore the interconnectedness of society and the moral obligation to uplift the marginalized. His principles of economic justice and social welfare serve as timeless guidance, encouraging individuals to contribute positively to the well-being of the community and fostering an environment of empathy and shared prosperity.

6. Challenges and Solutions:

The research article explores the standards of collective economic justice as advocated by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In this pursuit, certain challenges arise, accompanied by potential solutions that can be implemented to address these issues.

6.1. Challenges:

There are some challenges in the following.

6.1.1. Income Inequality:

It is a big challenge, how wealth is shared among people, it can make it difficult for everyone to achieve fair economic treatment.

6.1.2. Exploitative practices:

Unfair business dealings and exploitative practices can undermine economic justice.

6.1.3. Lack of Economic Empowerment for the Marginalized:

Certain groups may face economic marginalization like immigrants who encounter challenges in finding stable employment.

6.1.4. Usury (Riba):

The prevalence of usury in the financial sector can lead to economic injustice as weak individuals may find themselves trapped in a cycle of debt with exorbitant interest rates, exacerbating wealth inequality.

6.2 Solutions:

There are some solutions of the challenges in the following.

6.2.1. Zakat System Reinforcement:

Strengthening the Zakat system, which involves the obligatory charitable giving, to ensure it effectively addresses the needs of the less fortunate and contributes to collective economic justice.

6.2.2. Islamic Finance Promotion:

Islamic banking system should be promoted that operate on principles such as profit and loss sharing, avoiding interest, and promoting economic fairness.

6.2.3. Social Welfare Programs:

Establishing and enhancing social welfare programs to provide a safety net for helpless individuals and families, aligning with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

6.2.4. Educational Initiatives:

Investing in education and vocational training programs to empower individuals, particularly from marginalized communities, and promote economic self-sufficiency.

6.2.5. Business Ethics Advocacy:

Encouraging business leaders and entrepreneurs to adopt ethical business practices based on Islamic values, fostering an environment of fairness and justice in economic transactions.

In conclusion, by addressing these challenges through practical solutions, society can move towards realizing the standards of collective economic justice as advocated by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). These measures can contribute to a more equitable and just economic system, aligning with the principles of compassion and fairness emphasized in Islamic teachings.

7. Conclusion:

In conclusion, the research on the Standards of Collective Economic Justice of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) sheds light on the timeless wisdom and principles embedded in his teachings. Through his examination of economic practices, it

becomes evident that the Prophet (PBUH) advocated for fairness, compassion, and the well-being of the community as a whole.

The standards set by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasize the importance of wealth distribution, charity, and the eradication of poverty. His teachings encourage a sense of responsibility among individuals and communities to ensure that economic prosperity is shared equitably. The emphasis on collective well-being underscores the Prophet's vision for a just and inclusive society.

In today's world, where economic disparities continue, the research highlights the relevance of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) standards of collective economic justice. Implementing these principles can contribute to fostering a more compassionate and equitable society, where individuals are not only responsible for their own prosperity but also for the well-being of their fellow human beings.

As we reflect on the Standards of Collective Economic Justice of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), let us consider how these timeless principles can inspire positive change in our contemporary economic systems. By incorporating these values into our lives, we can move towards a more just and harmonious society, reflecting the profound wisdom of the Prophet (PBUH) in addressing economic challenges and promoting collective well-being.

8. Results:

- This research aims to explore and understand how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) promoted fairness and justice in economic matters. Here's what we expect to find:
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized sharing wealth fairly among all members of the community, ensuring that everyone has enough for a decent living.
- The research discovered the teachings that encourage helping those in need, ensuring that everyone is taken care of, especially during difficult times.
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) likely advocated for fair trade practices and discouraged exploiting others for personal gain, fostering a just and balanced economic system.
- The study may reveal insights into how the Prophet (PBUH) promoted a sense of community responsibility, encouraging people to support each other economically.
- Expectations include finding teachings that promote honesty, transparency, and ethical behaviour in economic transactions, creating a trustworthy and reliable economic environment.
- The study may reveal insights into how the Prophet (PBUH) promoted interest-free financial system & got achievements in this field.

9. Recommendations:

There are some recommendations about the implement of collective economic standards in society.

- Implement systems that ensure fair sharing of resources and wealth among all members of society, in accordance with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
- Encourage businesses and individuals to engage in socially responsible practices that benefit the community. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the importance of considering the well-being of others in economic activities.
- Explore and adopt financial systems that align with Islamic principles, such as interest-free banking, to promote economic justice and prevent the exploitation of poor individuals.
- Promote the concept of charity (Zakat) as a means to support those in need and address economic disparities. Establish mechanisms to collect and distribute charitable funds effectively.
- Emphasize the importance of honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior in business transactions, mirroring the ethical standards advocated by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Encourage adherence to ethical guidelines to create a just economic environment.
- Foster a sense of community and collaboration in economic activities. Develop platforms that facilitate collective efforts and mutual support, aligning with the cooperative nature emphasized by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
- Implement educational programs to raise awareness about the economic teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and their relevance to contemporary economic challenges. This can empower individuals and communities to make informed and just economic decisions.
- By incorporating these recommendations, societies can strive to create economic systems that reflect the values of justice, compassion, and equality advocated by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

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