

QURANIC REVELATIONS: PATHWAY TO ESTABLISH PSYCHO SOCIAL HARMONY IN SOCIETY

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India is the largest democracy in the world. In the last more than 6 decades it has worked successfully well to some extent. But in modern India, it has to face many challenges that need to be tackled in order to ensure true democracy. The largest democracy in the world, India is unparalleled in its diversity. The country is home to one billion people who belong to different cultural, religious, linguistic, social and economic background. But what has India achieved all these years?

Social issues (also social problem, social evil, and social conflict) refers to any undesirable condition that is opposed either by the whole society or by a section of the society. It is an unwanted social condition, often objectionable, the continuance of which is harmful for the society. India is facing a large number of social issues such as corruption, adultery, rape, gender inequality, Crime Against Women /Girls, religious conflicts, and many more. It is high time that the society gets relief from these undesirable social evils.

It's time to reflect now. We can cite hundreds of achievements that have made us proud of our country. Science, technology, space, sports, transport, communication, literature, entertainment, medicines - in every field, we have seen Indians making a remarkable name at the global level. India is no doubt one of the fastest developing countries of the world. But, these achievements are not enough to give us a true picture of our country. It is sad, but true, that even after so many years of Independence, India has to confront many social issues that are obstructing the development of the country.

As we Indians try to present India as a modern and developing country of the world. Truly India is making progress in the world with encouraging developments in science, economic and technical fields, but still, in the case of social development it is considered as one of the lowest ranked countries. Many Government and non government organizations are working on these issues to improve this situation which does not give any fruitful result .The main objective of writing this paper is to find out a logical conclusion to prevailing social problems in light of Quranic revelations .In this regard the researcher firmly believes that the solution of social problems is truly embedded in various religious scriptures. The researcher has made an effort to unveil Quranic Expositions for social evils. The Holy Quran extends comprehensive guidelines for success in personal as well as social life. It clearly says **“there is not for man except that [good] for which he strives.” (Surah An –Najm, verse: 39)**. Similarly, a nations transformations depends on its social awareness and struggle for improvement, as the Quran says, **“ _____ God does not change the condition of [a] people until they change what is in themselves _____” (Surah Ar-Rad ,verse:11) .**

While researcher was doing literature review in this area she found work of some eminent scholars of east like Zahid Parvez and Pervaiz Ahmed (2004) Human rights in Islam, Mc Cruddenc ,(2008), Ahmad ,N(2011),The Concept Collectivism in relation to Islamic and

Contemporary jurisprudence , Muhammad Ali Musofer (June ,2012) , Dr. Jaafar Sheikh Idris (Nov 2012), Holy Quran Translated by Irving T.B , Maudadi SAA,(2012), Dr Abubakr Sadiq Idris Wakawa (Sept ,2018) ,Aslam Abdullah (2018).

A deep perusal of available literature relating Quranic Revelations about social issues, it was observed that there is dearth of research work in Indian Context. This means that some specific social problems which are in rise today in our societal context are not comprehensively studied by the scholars of the Eastern World. This paper is a small attempt in overcoming some of these social problems in Indian context, by the help of Quranic Expositions.

Relevance of This Study: - The Quran is a comprehensive, all-encompassing, and complete code of ethics. Islam offers guidance for us wherever we are. This paper tries to elucidate implication side of Quran which if followed successfully will bring a great revolution in the society for its upliftment. The teachings of Islam address the universal issues of all humanity. Islam has a concern for environmental, economic, social and political problems. Islam offers solutions for all problems that face our modern societies. Human being is the focus of the teachings of Quran, whether this human being is poor or rich, black or white, an Arab or a non-Arab, male or female, old or young. Finally, Quran stands for moderation and cooperation for the good of all people. It regulates our relationship with our Creator, within ourselves, with each other, our families, our communities, and the whole world.

Problems High on Prevalence in our Society:-

1. **Corruption**
2. **Alcoholism**
3. **Adultery Rape, Prostitution and Fornication**
4. **Human Trafficking /Child Trafficking**
5. **Domestic violence**
6. **Female Foeticide/ Female Infanticide**

Social Problems and related Quranic Revelations:- Before discussing about Quranic revelations. Let us first focus on social problems which are on rise in the context of our country i.e. India.

1. **Corruption:-** Corruption is one of the evil acts practiced by human beings out of selfish motives. It not only the country but indirectly, destroys the balance of the social order also. Corruption is a form of dishonesty of criminal activity undertaken by person or organization entrusted with a position of authority, often to activities like illicit benefit. It includes activities bribery, embezzlement, prostitution or other illegal activities. It not only creates negative impact on economy of the country but, indirectly, destroys the balance of the social order also. In India also corruption is spread like an epidemic in all sectors including govt. and private. Different strategies have been adopted to overcome this problem, yet it remains under solved. By means of this paper researcher tried to illustrate Quranic expositions regarding corruption, which if followed religiously would guarantee a definite solution of this problem.

“And do not consume one another’s wealth by unjust means, nor offer it as a bribe to the authorities, so that you may deliberately and wrongfully devour a part of others peoples wealth. While you know (it is unlawful)” (Surah Al-Baqrah,verse:188)

And let not those who [greedily] withhold what Allah has given them of His bounty ever think that it is better for them. Rather, it is worse for them. Their necks will be encircled by what they withheld on the Day of Resurrection. And to Allah belongs the heritage of the heavens and the earth. And Allah, with what you do, is [fully] acquainted. (Surah Al-Imran,verse:180

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Islamic approach in fighting corruption is through transparent and honest leadership restraining from evil, illegal enrichment or any other form of corrupt practices prevented by Islam.

Prophet (PBUH) declare that:- “whoso from you is appointed by us to a position of authority and he conceals from us a needle or something smaller than that, it will be misappropriation (of public funds) and (he) will (have to) produce it on the Day of Judgment.”

Justice is the buzz word in our modern vocabulary. The Quran not only emphasizes justice but also recommends a step above justice, i.e., working for the good of others at the expense of one's interest. On the other side are those who are also true to their faith. They always give preference to the needs of the newcomers, even if they themselves are indigent and living a life of hardship. **(Surah Al-Hashr, verse:9)** The Quran reminds that people who are likely to achieve prosperity are those who change their personalities and no longer push others aside to selfishly fulfill their own needs. Realizing that the other person's need is more demanding they voluntarily allow them to fulfill it first.

The Quran recommends a simple maxim for justice **"O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well- acquainted with all that ye do."** (Surah An –Nisaa,verse:135)

2. Alcoholism:-Alcoholism is the most severe form of alcohol abuse and involves the inability to manage drinking habits. The effect of alcohol is not limited to the nervous system. Alcohol destroys all the parts, passages, and organs of the digestive system as well. Alcohol leads to more alcohol. It may easily push its drinker to the catastrophe of alcoholism, which is a fatal blow to both the mind and the body. The socio-economic problems due to alcohol have even more harmful effects on the community than the staggering health problems. Islam completely banned the use of alcohol 14 centuries ago. It did this by few verses (ayahs) of the Quran and few instructions by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

"They ask you about wine and gambling. Say, "In them is great sin and [yet, some] benefit for people. But their sin is greater than their benefit." And they ask you what they should spend. Say, "The excess [beyond needs]." (Surah Al-Baqrah, verse:219)

"O you, who have believed, do not approach prayer while you are intoxicated until you know what you are saying. (Surah An –Nisaa,verse: 43)

In the verse under discussion, ALLAH says that there is much harm in alcohol and that is the reason for its prohibition. As a rule, we see that ALLAH has prohibited those things for us, which are harmful for us, and this is what medical science is telling us nowadays. **Like we saw in the case of pork meat, blood and dead meat under (Surah Al-Baqrah, verse:173).**

3. Adultery, Rape, Prostitution and Fornication: - In this era of materialism man has become a victim of spiritual bankruptcy. Rape is a sexual, social and violent crime that has been continuously on the rise as the morals of the society decline and religious value. Zinā' or zina is an Islamic legal term referring to unlawful sexual intercourse. According to traditional jurisprudence, zina can include adultery (of married parties), fornication (of unmarried parties), prostitution, bestiality, and rape. Adultery, Rape and Prostitution are punishable in Islam, because they are indeed serious crimes which affect the entire society. In 2015,

there were over 34,600 rape cases and yet, as we can see, rape conviction rates continue to remain low. Women – both adults and minors – are getting raped and reports are coming in from all quarters of the country. Yet, there has not been any significant improvement regarding women’s security and safety. Women still have to feel scared to wander the streets at night, away from their homes, while rapists still roam free. India still has a long way to go in ensuring a safe and secure life for women.

According to a recent report of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), the total number of reported rape cases in 29 states in the period 2001 to 2013 rose to 2, 64,130. According to this report, on an average there are almost 56 rapes in one day in India.

STD- sexually Transmitted Diseases are the consequence of all these illegal sexual activities. Along with the physical trauma psychological effects can be much long lasting and have more adverse side effects. Islamic Law explicitly prohibits adultery and fornication as clearly mentioned in the following quranic injunction. **“And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse, Indeed it is ever and immorality and is evil as a way” (Surah Al-Israa, verse:32)**

Allah strongly condemns any kind of sexual relationships outside of marriage.

“And [lawful in marriage are] chaste women from among the believers and chaste women from among those who were given the Scripture before you, when you have given them their due compensation, desiring chastity, not unlawful sexual intercourse or taking [secret] lovers. And whoever denies the faith - his work has become worthless, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.” (Surah Al-Maidah, verse:5)

“Tell the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what they do.” (Surah An-Nur,verse:30)

“And tell the believing women to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment except that which [necessarily] appears thereof and to wrap [a portion of] their head covers over their chests and not expose their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women, that which their right hands possess, or those male attendants having no physical desire, or children who are not yet aware of the private aspects of women.” (Surah An-Nur,verse: 31)

Surah Al-Baqrah, verse :91.....Oppressions is worse than murder.

Surah An-Nur,verse: 33.....You shall not force your girls to commit prostitution, seeking the materials of this world, if they wish to be chaste. If anyone forces them, then GOD, seeing that they are forced, is forgiver, Merciful.

From the above Quranic exposition it becomes clear that any kind of illegal sexual behaviour is not permissible by the Islamic law.

4. Human Trafficking /Child Trafficking:-Trafficking of persons constitutes the third largest global organized crime (after drugs and the arms trade) and it is growing year on year. The United Nations defines trafficking as “any activity leading to recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or a position of vulnerability”. Almost 80 per cent of all worldwide trafficking is for sexual exploitation, with an estimated 1.2 million children being bought and sold into sexual slavery every

year, and India is the poisonous hub, for Asia and, some say, the world. End trafficking in India and the worldwide epidemic in human suffering caused by this crime will be greatly reduced. The trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is accompanied by potentially lifelong and/or life-threatening health consequences; it prevents victims from attaining the highest possible level of physical, mental and social well-being. Victims' health is affected by the trafficking process itself and also by sexual exploitation.

The Quran admonishes those men who oppress or ill-treat women:

"O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the dowry you have given them - except when they have become guilty of open lewdness. On the contrary live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If you take a dislike to them, it may be that you dislike something and Allah will bring about through it a great deal of good." (Surah An –Nisaa, verse:19) .

1. **Domestic Violence:-**Around 70 per cent of women in India are victims of domestic violence, which can be physical, emotional and mental. Domestic violence is not only the violence against women in matrimonial homes but also in their maternal homes. According to the report of "United Nation Population Fund" in 2012, nearly two-thirds of married Indian women are domestic violence victims and most of them are in the age group of 15 and 49 years. Some of the most common forms of domestic violence on women, which are recognised by Indian law are as follows:

- I.Marital rape
- II.Keeping a woman locked in the house
- III.Physical violence (beating, punching, kicking, slapping, twisting, burning or attack using a weapon) by husband and other family members
- IV.Taunting and demoralising the woman
- V.Name calling, blaming, stalking and isolation
- VI.Abusing children in front of her
- VII.Threatening divorce
- VIII.Asking for dowry

To prevent violence against women and to protect the women rights, Parliament passed "The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005". According to this Act, every woman who has been a victim of domestic violence as per the reasons given above can file a complaint to the police officer, protection officer, or magistrate. In such a case, the Protection Office must ensure the victim gets complete protection, custody and monetary relief by passing some legal orders.The problem is so severe that it affects people from all ways of life regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, age and religion. While domestic violence exists in both Muslim and non-Muslim societies, the position of Islam on the kind treatment of women is very clear as mentioned in the Quran and exemplified through the life and character of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

"The nobler among you in the sight of God is the more righteous among you." (Surah Al-Hujurat ,verse:13)

It is narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Said, "The most perfect of believers in belief is the best of them in character. The best of you are those who are the best to their women. And in another tradition, "The best among you are those who are kindest to their wives."

“O believers treat women with kindness even if you dislike them; it is quite possible that you dislike something which Allah might yet make a source of abundant good (Surah An Nisa ,verse :19)

“And among His signs is this: He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.” (Surah Ar-Rum, verse:21)

The Believers, men and women, are protectors one of another. They enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them will Allah pour His mercy: for Allah is Exalted in power, Wise.(Surah At – Tauba, verse:71)

Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that ye may receive admonition (Surah An – Nahl, verse:90)

In Islam, one cannot perfect their Worship to God, unless they perfect their relationship with others. The kind treatment of others, including ones spouse, can therefore not be ignored as an obligatory act of worship and sign of piety to God. As the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) related “ The best amongst you in the sight of God are those who are the best to their wives.”

2. Female Foeticide /Female Infanticide :-

Another social issue, rather a social evil, prevalent in our country is female foeticide - the practice of killing female foetus in the womb itself. Preferences for son over daughter, illiteracy, patriarchal social structure where men are superior to women, are some of the reasons of female foeticide. The result is that in India, the number of girls per 100 boys is going down with every passing decade. Leaving aside few states in South India and North East India and the two Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry, in almost all the states of India, the sex ratio is going down. As a result of female foeticide, we have seen a decrease in the number of females, adverse effects on women's health, increase in women trafficking.

The Union government has come up with laws and acts that prohibit pre-natal sex-selection tests and sex-selective abortions in India. This is why the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994 (PCPNDT) was introduced to prevent female foeticide in India. Still, female foeticide is a major social issue in the country.

Female infanticide has been present in our country for centuries. No wonder the female population of India is less than the male population. According to the 1901 census of India, there were 972 females for every 1000 males. According to the 1981 census, there were 934 females for every 1000 males in India and the latest statistics of 1991 tell us that for every 1000 males there are 972 females in India. One can realise from these census reports that the ratio of female population is declining every year. As per the latest Census in the year 2011, the total female sex ratio in India is 940 per 1000 males and the female child sex ratio is 944 girl children per every 1000 boy children of the same age group.

“When the female (infant), buried alive, is questioned, for what crime she was killed.” (Surah At –Takwir, verse: 8-9)

“And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Indeed, their killing is ever a great sin.” (Surah Al Israa, verse:31)

Islam not only prohibits female infanticide, but it forbids all types of infanticide, irrespective of whether the infant is a male or female. (Surah Al -Anam, verse:151)

Islam not only prohibits female infanticide but also rebukes the thought of rejoicing on the news of birth of a male child and not rejoicing on the news of the birth of a female child.

“When news is brought to one of them of (the birth of) a female (child), his face darkens, and he is filled with inward grief!?”(Surah An-Nahl, verse: 58, 59)

CONCLUSION

A quick glance at all the social problems discussed in this paper, along with related Quranic expositions to solve them, it may be concluded that holy Quran extends comprehensive guideline for a complete socially acceptable and peaceful life. Elucidation of each and every social issue prevailing in present day society , discussed in this paper is very logically illustrated in holy Quran many years ago. It teaches that it is the responsibility of human being themselves to improve upon their social conditions. The preservation of a social order depends on each and every member of that society freely adhering to the same moral principles and practices. Islam, founded on individual and collective morality and responsibility, introduced a social revolution in the context in which it was first revealed.

One thing more, researcher wants to stress that Quranic teachings are not limited only for people who have embraced Islam as a religion, rather than it addresses mankind as a whole. In fact, the Quran addresses human beings as "**Ya aiyuhal Nas**" (**O Humankind**) directly 306 times and indirectly more than two thousand times in its over 6,000 verses. The Quran repeats the message several times that the purpose of human efforts is to enable humans to dwell in an abode of peace, "**theirs shall be an abode of peace with their Sustainer ; and He shall be near unto them in result of what they have been doing.**" (Surah Al-Anam, verse: 127) and explains "**And [know that] God invites [man] unto the abode of peace, and guides him that wills [to be guided] onto a straight way.**" (Surah Yunus:25).

The main objective of this paper was to unravel Quranic expositions related to Social problems. These revelations cater humanity at large. All the problems faced by present day society especially in our country can be solved by implementation of Islamic Law. It is the need of the hour that irrespective of religious boundations, if above mentioned Quranic revelations are strictly adhered in any society, it can bring positive upgradation to its status. One thing more this revolution would not come in one day, rather work in this direction should begin from grass root level ie : from our family , the day child is born . Parents and other significant members of the child should try to imbibe this value based Quranic approach in childs personality. We as Muslims first of all have to role model our quranic teachings in our life so that next generation can easily follow them.

Social teachings of the Quran have extensive realm, and it is impossible to study all of them in this paper. Here, it is concentrated on those teachings that are called as social traditions, in order to clarify that how these traditions can be used in managing human social life and as universal, constancy and global laws of social sciences and humanities, since universality and certainty of social teachings and traditions of the Quran can help us to utilize them in our social life and making laws of social sciences and humanities.

The above mentioned social problems are just tip of the social issues affecting our country. It is not possible to get rid of these problems so easily. Solutions to them require efforts of all concerned. Not only the government but we, as citizens of our country, are equally responsible for the growth and development of our country .Thus, the message of the Quran is universal and eternal. The divine sets the standards through

messages delivered to human beings. It was left to individuals to seek the path of unity, dignity, universality, justice and peace not the path to argue with each who is better than the other or who would qualify for the grace of God and who would not.

In sum, Islam has given a high place to the social conscience by forwarding valuable ideals and examples of how to fulfil social responsibilities.

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