

Role of Masjid in Society: Issues and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the importance of Masjid and its role in society, and also identify some issues and challenges in changing world. Furthermore these issues are discussed and solutions of these issues are also suggested, in this paper. The research targeted areas were six big cities of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa (KP), the data was collected through questionnaires and interviews. The finding shows that, now a days the role of Masjid in society is not too much impressive and constructive as it was in the past, because of unawareness of technological and social changes with passage of time. It is worth mentioning here that the central role of Masjid depend on the Leadership of Masjid. The core of this research explicit that Masjid Leader should be aware from the changes in the modern society, also they should cope with the new circumstances arising in the society by using their religious techniques in-terms of social awareness.

Keywords: Building of Masjid, Masjid and society and issues

1. Background:

One of the numerous graces which Allah has given to the Muslim Ummah is that He has made the entire Earth immaculate, so it serves as a Masjid, so in the business sectors, in the boulevards, or at schools and colleges, in the houses etc Allah is be worshiped. As indicated in the Hadith. The Prophet Muhammad (SWA) said: *I have been conferred upon five (things) which were not granted to anyone before me (and these are): Every apostle wassent particularly to his own people, whereas I have been sent to all the red and the black the spoils of war have been made lawful for me, and these were never made lawful to anyone before me, and the earth has been made sacred and pure and masjid for me, so whenever the time of prayer comes for any one of you he should pray whenever he is, and I have been supported by awe (by which the enemy is overwhelmed) from the distance (which one takes) one month to cover and I have been granted intercession.* (Sahih Muslim 521 a)

Since the Holy Prophet is sent for all mankind to show and guide them according to the wish of Almighty Allah. According to the Holy Quran: *“And We havenotsentyoubutasaMessengertoallmankind.”*(34, Verse-28)

The main duty of messenger of Allah (SWA) and his followers was to spread His Deen. Quran stated the duty that: *“O Muhammad! Say, this is my path, and I invite you towards Allah knowingly, I and my followers too and Allah is all Pure, and I am not one of those who associate others with Allah (Surah Yousaf, Verse 12)”*

Given that Islam's point of view connected with existence can be standard along with detailed, the Masjid must be the primary focus of most connected with life's good along with useful actions, in order to condition righteous era. As a result, it's the duty from the Islamic Point of view, along with attractive for those Muslims, to make Masjid everywhere. There must be network of Masjid everywhere to propagate the learning's Islam effectively.

According to a Hadith Masjids are called *“The gardens of Paradise”*. Messenger of Allah said, *“Allah will say on the Day of Judgment, where are my neighbors?” the angels will inquire, “who are the neighbors, O Allah!” Allah will reply, “Those who used to frequent the Masjid”* (Faza'il-e-A'maal).

Abu Saeed (RZ) reported that Messenger of Allah (SWA) said, *“Bear testimony to the iman of the person frequenting the ‘Masjid,’ and then He (SWA) recited the following Verse of the Quran”*

“He only shall tend Allah's Masjids who believes in Allah and the Last Day.”

(Al Touba, Verse 18)

2. Building of Masjid:

The expansion of Islamic State is directly related to the building of the Masjid. That's why Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) built a Masjid on priority base after arrival in Madina. Muhammad (SAW) took part in it with full zeal which encouraged his companions immensely. It proved fruitful in the establishment of Islamic state. It helped Muhammad (SAW) and his companions to practically implement the teachings of Islam.

Hazrat Usmaan bin Affan (R.Z.) reported that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said: *“If anyone builds a Masjid for Allah, Allah will build a house for Him in paradise (Jannah).”* (Muslim, Bukhari)

Mahmud b. Labid reported: *“When 'Usman b. 'Affan intended to build the masjid (of the Prophet) the people did not approve of it. They liked that it should be kept in the same state. Thereupon he said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (SWA) say: He who built a masjid for Allah, Allah would build a house for him like it in Paradise”*. (Muslim 533b)

Aishah (RZA) narrated:

“The Prophet Muhammad (SWA) ordered the construction of Masjid in all Dur and that they be kept clean and scented. (Tirmidi)

3. Role of Masjid in Society:

Some people have the idea today that Masjid only concerned with the efficiency of Salah, understanding that absolutely no other items are generally acceptable within it. Any person discussing contemporary problems in the Masjid, such as the political file corruption error with the Muslim rulers, or maybe problems pertaining to your fiscal or maybe your societal system associated with Islam, are generally not discussible in Masjid which is not true. There is another allegation against Masjid that any matter other the Salah is not allowed in Masjid, and specially that any worldly matter should not be discussed in Masjid, which is untrue and baseless.

Above allegations are not factual. Sharia does encourage muslims to discuss that social, economical and political affairs inside the Masjid, because Masjid is the central point of Muslim Ummah. This indicates that Masjid is the central point base point of Muslim Ummah to discuss important matter judicially. Moreover, the actual Islamic Shari'ah provides that the Masjid is usually required to perform numerous

critical functions inside Muslim group, along with the time-honored college students have got loyal substantial portions throughout textbooks associated with Islamic fiqh (Jurisprudence) displaying most of these functions. (Muhammad S. U., 2010)

3.1 Masjid as a Head Quarter:

Masjid is playing an important role in spreading of Islam and it is the place where strategies and policies are formulated and then run by Islamic state. Messenger of Allah (SWA) uses Masjid as a headquarter of Islamic state of that time. Meetings with representative of different tribes and states, Judge between two disputing parties, sign agreements, guiding and teaching his followers and so on all were be in Masjid. The First Khalifa of Muhammad (SWA) highlights his policies in his first speech delivered in Masjid. Abu Bakar (RZ) said:

"O you people! I have been given authority over you but I am not the best of you. If I do well, help me, and if I do wrong, then put me right. Truth consists in loyalty and falsehood in treachery. The weak among you shall be strong in my eyes until I secure their right if Allah wills; and the strong among you should be weak in my eyes until I wrest the right from them. If a people refrain from fighting in the way of Allah, Allah will smite them with disgrace. Wickedness is never widespread in a people but Allah brings calamity upon them all. Obey me as long as I obey Allah and His Messenger (saw), and if I disobey them you owe me no obedience. May Allah forgive me and forgive you."

3.2 Masjid as a Court:

Masjid hold the central point. The Masjid used to be a court where judges would sit to decide and settle disputes and complaints. The validity of Masjid as judiciary is unanimously accepted by different school of taughts.

3.3 Masjid as a University:

The importance of Masjid in Islam is undoubtedly quite clear. Mohammad (SAW) started the first ever academia (Ishab-e-suffa) in Masjid Nabawi. In Masjid the basic of creed the acts of worship and sharia are thought. Its policy is based on Quran and Sunnah with the aim of building and circles and debates. Masjid is such a university which resumes thoughts the year, open 24 hours a day and night, and it welcomes every one irrespective of age, gender, color and race. Since the early twenty century, Masjid and Madrassa plays a dynamic role in females, many females plays a tremendous role regarding their religious, Political and social activities (Masooda Bano & Hilary Kalambach, 2012).

Masjid is the only place where entry can be made without any fee. It does not create any differentiation between scholar and non-scholars. In fact everyone is welcomed any time without any cost. The management of Masjid is undertaken by the director of department of information and culture, who used to be appointed by khalifa, which is no more use now a days across the Islamic world. Now it is in control of the ministry of Education and Art. The appointed person by the ministry would be responsible for providing public libraries in the masjid, colleges and markets.

3.5 Masjid as a Hospital:

A'isha (RZA) said, *"Sa'd ibn Wadh was injured in the battle of the Trench, being hit in the medial arm vein by a man from Quraysh called Habban ibn Arqa, and the Messenger of Allah (saw) pitched a tent in the mosque for Wadh so that he could be near him and visit him. However his wound was bleeding profusely and he died after spending a month in the tent."* (Bukhari)

3.6 Masjid as a home for poor and travellers:

IbnMajahreportedthat'AbdullahIbnalHarithsaid, "We used to eat bread and meat in the mosque during the lifetime of the Messenger of Allah (saw)."

BukharireportedthattheMessenger of Allah (saw) reserveda corner of the mosque as a shelter for the poor who were known as the people of al-Suffah. Bukharireportedthat'AbdullahIbn'Umar (RZ)usedtosleepinthemosqueofthe Messenger of Allah (saw) when he was still young".

Aishah (RZA) narrated that, The Messenger of Allah said: "Publicize this marriage, and hold it in the Masjid, and beat the Duff for it."(Jami` at-Tirmidhi-1089)

4 Issues and Challenges Regarding Masjid and Society:

It isconcluded from the data gathered through questionnaire and interviews that now a days there are certain issues and challenges faced by masjids in Khyber PakhtoonKhwa . Actually the role of masjid depends on masjid leadership. The perception about masjid Imam is that it is only concerned with Sallah. On the other hand the Masjid Imam or leadership also bound himself up to Sallah. That's why the gap between masjid and people is becoming bigger. During interviews it was observed that most of Imam masjid are unaware from the frequent technological and social changes. It is concluded from the Questionnaire that 85% of Imams are unaware from the use of new technology like computer, internet, E-conferencing etc. 70% have no affiliation with any social welfare organizations. Although they have Religious degrees and knowledge but still have very less contribution in constructing an ideal society.

5 Implication for Researchers and Practitioner:

From the above discussion it is concluded that if we want to make ideal society then we have to wipeout these issues regarding masjid and its leadership. The imam masjid or leadership should be aware from the global as well as social changes. For these changes we should educate our Masjid Leadership. Certain steps have been taken by KPK government in this regard, in some Madrssa's in Khyber PakhtoonKhwa but its need further extension. Secondly it should be compulsory for Imam masjid that he must have any other university degree along with his religious degree. The gap should be filled as soon as possible.For this Masjid leadership should arrange some religious programs like debates, qirat competition, book fairsand short courses of IT, Arabic Language and grammar to attract people to Masjid, especially youth. And they should discuss social and technological aspects in Jum'ma speech in the light of Quran and Hadith. They must inform the youth and Umma about new advancement in every field across the world. They must review the same spirit and environment in Masjid which used to produced great scholars, scientist and philosophers.

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