

Bachelor of Arts (First Year)

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Course : Religion and Society in India

Unit: 03

Module Name: Major religions in India- Islam

Module No: 10

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- ✓ Islam is the second largest religion in the world and entered India in the 10th century A.D, But the Islamic culture started exercising its influence in a serious manner only after 15th and 16th century. It was Akbar who, at the end of the 16th century, began the policy of giving to the people of the country an interest in the state.
- ✓ India which has declared itself as a secular state has provided all the constitutional protection to the Muslims. Muslims here enjoy equal socio-economic opportunities and are guaranteed fundamental rights on par with the people of other community.
- ✓ Muslims are found throughout India though they are not evenly distributed in all the provinces. In the religious sense the word 'Islam' means 'surrender' or 'submission' to the will of God.
- ✓ It is important to note that Muslims consider Mohammad not the founder, but the consolidator or stabilizer of Islam. According to them, the original founder of Islam is Allah himself.
- ✓ Muslims consider three principals very sacred to them i.e. Belief in the God I- Allah, the Supreme lord of the universe, omnipotent and omnipresent and the sustainer of the world and mankind.
- ✓ II- Acceptance of the supremacy of prophet Muhammad and his teachings.
- ✓ The holy Quran which consists of the sacred views and teachings of Mohammad. One who does not accept these principles or any one proof these cannot be called a Muslim.
- ✓ **Five pillars of Islam:**

- ✓ 1-Profession of faith-The first pillar is the profession of faith: “there is no God but the God Allah”. Mohammad is the prophet of this God. All faithful Muslims believe in the sole God “Allah”, who is viewed as supreme, External and Merciful and creator and Provider.
- ✓ 2- Reciting Prayers (Salah): Every Muslim male and female must offer prayer five times a day.
- ✓ 3- Alms Giving (Zakat): The literal meaning of the word : “Zakat” is purification. Every Muslim must give a portion of his wealth to the needy and the poor and this is called “Zakat”.
- ✓ 4- Fasting (Sawn): A Muslim is expected to observe “fast” during Ramzan, the 9th month of Islamic calendar.

5-The pilgrimage (Hajj) : A true Muslim is expected to go on a pilgrimage or Hajj to Mecca, the birth place of Mohammad at least one in hi life time. The performance of hajj is obligatory for every Muslim male and female who is mentally, physically and financially fit.

- ✓ Every Muslim’s social life is guided and directed by two important forces namely :*i-Religious belief*- Which is dictated by the religion Islam. ii- *Islamic Law* (Shariat- The path to be followed)- which decides what is right and what is wrong, what should be done and what should not be done.

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Factors reflecting Muslim's social outlook:

- ✓ Muslims believe in only one God. Islam places high premium on leading a moral and a righteous life.
- ✓ The Muslim family upholds the patriarchal tradition.
- ✓ Islam recommends monogamy though Quran permits a Muslim to have four wives.
- ✓ Both men and women have the right to divorce.
- ✓ Islam does not consider women as “wicked” and “impure”. It permits even widows to remarry.
- ✓ Pardah system has been imposed on Muslim women. It refers to the practice of Muslim women wearing a gown or veil to over their face and upper part of the body.
- ✓ Of the various festivals the Muslim observe Bakrid Eid, Eidh Milad, Ramzan and Moharam.
- ✓ Muslims undergo various rituals during the course of their life such as Naming, initiation to learn Arabic and to read Quran, collective

prayers, the Zakat, fasting, the Hajj pilgrimage also add to the communal solidarity among the Muslims.

- ✓ Social changes in general take place at a relatively slow rate in the Muslim community. The hold of tradition is still strong among them.

Examples:

i-Though Turkey has abolished the Shariah law and the Pardah system in most of the other Muslim dominated nations they are still in practice.

ii-The patriarchal principle is still dominant.

iii- Islam has elevated the system of slaves but it has not completely done away with that institutions.

iv- Muslim women cannot offer prayers along with their men folk in Mosques but should do so on their own at home.

Protection of Muslim community and culture:

- ✓ The constitution of India protects the interest of all the minorities including the Muslims.
- ✓ They are well protected both at the national and state level.
- ✓ Government at both the levels have taken various measures to promote their welfare and protect their interest.
- ✓ As per 1991 census their numerical strength was 11.7% whereas as per census 2011 their strength is 14.2 % (172.2 million)