

Effects, Need and Importance of Research Art in Islamic Teachings

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Received: May 9, 2016

Accepted: September 16, 2016

ABSTRACT

Research is a process to establish facts and it carries to new conclusion or investigates exhaustively. Today, the religious seminars, universities and other Islamic institutions have been striving to create spirit of research in the field of Islamic studies. In this research article, I am going to present some essential points regarding Islamic teachings in this article which will certainly help in this great venture. I am sure that the Islamic world will find learned scholars in the form of new researchers who could solve the ideological, social, economic and political problems in a better way, facing by the Muslim world.

KEYWORDS: Quran, Hadith, Prophet (SAW), research, messenger, meditation, investigation

INTRODUCTION

The word “Research” is used in English language. “Re” means “again” and “Search” means “to explore”. So, research means the search and explore again and again. Several definitions have been stated, the difference lies only in its interpretation. However, the meanings and objectives are closely alike. Research is that mode of study in which the validity or non-validity of existing materials is judged in the light of universally accepted truth. The secret or vagueness of a task is discovered by the tools of research[1]. The needs of human beings are increasing day by day. Therefore, the importance of research has enhanced due to growing needs up today’s human.

Importance of Research in Islamic Thoughts:

Allah Taala sent Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) for the guidance of human beings and he conveyed his message completely to human beings and left two things for the guidance of Ummah (Quran and sunnah). Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) says [2]:

” ان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: تركت فيكم امرين لن تضلوا ما تمسكتم بهما كتاب الله وسنة نبيه“

That is why the Sahaba e kiram(RA) and their followers latter on, based their research on the Holy Quran and Hadith. Hadith is an explanation of Quran. As Allah says[3]”

” وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ)“

“We have revealed this Book (Quran) on you to explain it to the people”

As the Quran guides us on various religious matters, so it also guides us on the subject of research, thinking and wisdom. Many verses of the Holy Quran leads us to research and its significance. The Holy Quran stresses on meditation and observation on many occasions. Allah says[4, 5].

” أَقْلًا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا“¹

“Do they not ponder over the Holy Quran or their hearts are locked?”

” يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنْ جَاءَكُمْ فَسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَنْ تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِجَهَالَةٍ فَتُصْحَبُوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ“

“O Muslims! if a sinner brings some news to you, so investigate the matters, lest you should inflict a community unknowingly and deliberately, that might consequently embarrass. You like wore, on many occasions.”

All these above mentioned verses lay stress on research and meditation and such type of many verses exist in the Holy Quran. The Holy Quran states in detail in surah KAHAF, the story of Hazrat Musa (AS), when he approached Hazrat Khizar (AS) for further education and research and came to know about many matters while travelling with him.

The prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) has ordered us to ponder over all the matters of importance and resort to research in various issues of daily life.

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Hazrat Jabir (RA) has narrated[6].

”خرجنا في سفر فاصاب رجلاً منا حجر فشجه في رأسه، ثم احتلم.....الخ ”

“That we set out for a journey, a person in our convoy was hit by a stone and his head was braised, he had a wet dream and he conquered from his companions, did you allow me to take taymum? The companion replied that they could not allow him tayamum ,saying that the water was in his access and available , so that man took a bath and died instantly, when we meet the Prophet(SAW) and related that story ,the Prophet (SAW) replied that you people killed him wrongfully; The curse of Allah be upon them ,when they were unaware of the issue may they should asked about it, because if someone is not sure about a problem, the better way is to ask, investigate or search about that matter. It was sufficient for that man to do tyamum and bandage his wound and resort to MASAHA and wash the rest of the whole body.”

Allama Abu Sulaiman Alkhitabi writes in the explanation of this Hadith: ”Thus I can say that the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as monished them by issuing an edict without having the authority on the particular matters, and cursed them and declared them as a compilation of that murder[7]”

Since the edict was issued without any research therefore, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) spoke harshly about them ,and it is ordered that “the research and investigation lead us in the right direction and protect us from froing astray. Hazrat Abdullah bin Umara bin Aas(RA) narrated that the Holy prophet (SAW) said [8]

” إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ انْتِزَاعًا يَنْتَزِعُهُ مِنَ الْعِبَادِ وَلَكِنْ يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ بِقَبْضِ الْعُلَمَاءِ حَتَّى إِذَا لَمْ يُبْقِ عَالِمًا اتَّخَذَ النَّاسُ رُؤُوسًا جُهَالًا فَسَبَلُوا فَأَفْتَوْا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ فَضَلُّوا ”

Knowledge will not be lifted and returned to the sky, but it will be snatched and lifted by elimination of learned people (scholars). So, when there will be no learned people (Scholars, Ulama), they will select illiterate ,ignorant chieftains, and they will seek guidance from those ignorant people. Ignorant chieftains will issue edicts without any knowledge and consequently mislead themselves as well as the common folk. This Hadith shows that only research and investigation can save you from being astray .The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) put questions to his companions (Sahaba kiram) to incite their taste of research.

When Hazrat Maaz bin Jabal (RA) was sent as a judge to Yemen by Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) and asked him[9].

أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ- لَمَّا أَرَادَ أَنْ يَبْعَثَ مُعَاذًا إِلَى الْيَمَنِ قَالَ « كَيْفَ تَقْضِي إِذَا عَرَضَ لَكَ قَضَاءٌ ». قَالَ أَقْضِي بِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ. قَالَ « فَإِنْ لَمْ تَجِدْ فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ ». قَالَ فَسُنَّةَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ- لَمَّا أَرَادَ أَنْ يَبْعَثَ مُعَاذًا إِلَى الْيَمَنِ قَالَ « كَيْفَ تَقْضِي إِذَا عَرَضَ لَكَ قَضَاءٌ ». قَالَ أَقْضِي بِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ. قَالَ « فَإِنْ لَمْ تَجِدْ فِي سُنَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ- وَلَا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ ». قَالَ أَجْتَهِدُ رَأْيِي وَلَا أَلُو. فَضَرَبَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ- صَدْرَهُ وَقَالَ « الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي وَفَّقَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لِمَا يُرْضَى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ».

How you would resolve a trail? Hazrat Maaz bin Jabal (RA) replied, “We will decide it on the basis of holy Quran. The Holy Prophet (SAW) askd him if he could not find answer in Quran then? He replied that he would base his judgment on your sunnah. The messenger of Allah asked him if he could not find it in his actions and teachings (sunnah) then? Hazrat Maaz bin Jabal (RA) replied that he would resort to research, investigations and observation in solving a particular issue.

The Holy prophet (SAW) highly appreciated this answer of Hazrat Maaz bin Jabal (RA), patted his chest as a sign of satisfaction and joy and said that all glory to be Allah, who enables the messenger of his messenger to satisfy his Prophet (SAW).

The above mentioned Hadith vividly manifests in detail the importance of research. Hazrat Maaz (RA) replied to the questions of the Holy prophet (SAW), explained his methods of presiding his court as a judge and told him that he would seek guidance from Quran and from Sunnah of Holy Prophet (SAW) and also satisfied the Holy Prophet(SAW) by saying that if these exalted sources could not prove his way ,he would adopt the mode of research and that research would also be based on Quran and sunnah.

It has been 1400 years since the Quran and Sunnah were completed and afterwards several books have been written in every century about Tafseer (interpretation of Quran), sunnah and Fiqqah. Its proves that Muslims have done a great deal of their work in this regard, many of questions arise which type of topics need to be worked on?

Need of Islamic Research:

Islam is a universal and natural religion, which is a source of light for all the human beings till the day of Judgment. In the backdrop of so-called clash of civilizations, the difference of rites and customs and variations of respective cultures, new problems emerge daily and to tackle these problems, an intense need of research is severally essential.

1. Scientific Inventions:

With the development of science, many things are invented and it has brought a lot of facilities and comfort for human beings and has made their lives comfortable but it raised many questions. For example, a person is flying high in the sky, he has stepped on the moon and a person is traveling through a ship in the sea, how he will determine the time of prayers and fasting and directions of Qiblaa (KAABA)?

2. Medical Issues: What is the Status of gender change, Organs change and punishment on the basis of DNA test in Islam? There are many critical medical issues which need proper research in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

3. Economic Issues:

There are many economic issues which need proper research in the light of Islamic thoughts such as establishment of Islamic banking and elimination of interest from society.

4. Socials Issues:

There are many social issues which need proper research in the light of Islamic thoughts to solve these problems. For example, elimination of corruption, analysis of social norms and rites, and the use of internet, camera and television. To improve the Muslims societies and to make them according to the real soul of Islamic thoughts, a proper research and analysis is essential.

Effects of Research in Islamic Teaching:

Some effects of research are as under:

1. Acquisition of fresh information will be possible
2. Performance will enhance
3. Awareness of facts.
4. The eradication of superstitions
5. Protection from embarrassment.
6. To increase the scope of depth of knowledge.
7. Access to the real conclusions.
8. End of stagnancy
9. Knowledge of the secrets and mysteries of the universe.
10. The end of atmosphere of doubts.
11. Support of progress.

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