

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE IN ISLAM: GOALS, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Waqar Ahmad¹
Mir Akbar Shah²

Abstract

“Islam”, safely saying, is a political, economic, and social phenomena sometimes thought to be exclusively religious. It is neither a mystical doctrine nor a philosophy, but simply a program of life according to the rules of Nature which God has decreed upon His creation; its supreme achievement is the complete coordination of the spiritual and the material aspects of human life. Economy, being the integral part of humans’ collective life, is explicitly governed by the injunctions of Islam. Owing to the everlasting divine scheme for guidance and the changing circumstances over time Islam doesn’t provide an operation manual for human conduct, but clear and solid guidelines and principles capable to hold a viable system of economics for each and every age. Thus goals and values have been set and principles been provided through both divine message and divine messenger. Islam is not an ascetic religion and doesn’t deprive its followers from the good things provided by God in this world, rather it bounds economic well-being with principles of moral norms and values. This has been supplemented with universal brotherhood and social justice system which leads to equitable distribution of income provided that entities of the aggregate have freedom to earn a living within the context of social welfare and compassion in the society. Furthermore, economic conduct has been regularized through a three-tiered regulation system in Islam; firstly through divine rules, secondly through State’s patronage and, thirdly through moral constraints, unlike the steering or rowing governance of the state alone, under neoliberalism. It is through this attitude that Islam ensures the channelization of man’s powers and resources in such a manner as to lead eventually to general good. This paper is an appraisal of the basic goals, values and principles of economic governance in Islam.

¹-Ph.D. Scholar at Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar.

²- Lecturer, Islamia College University, Peshawar.
