
**Impacts of the leadership qualities of Prophet Muhammad on society
with special reference to his commitment to serving others, social
justice and being merciful**

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ABSTRACT

Prophet Muhammad's commitment to serving others, social justice, and being merciful to society has had a profound impact on the world. His teachings and actions transformed the social and cultural norms of Arabia, championing the rights of marginalized groups, promoting social justice, and emphasizing the importance of mercy and compassion towards others. This commitment has inspired generations of Muslims to work towards a more just, equitable, and compassionate society. Today, the legacy of Prophet Muhammad's teachings continues to inspire individuals and communities around the world to promote social justice, serve others, and show mercy towards those in need.

Key Words: Leadership, serving others, social justice, Mercy.

Introduction to leadership qualities

Leadership is a crucial aspect of any organization or community, as it plays a key role in determining the success or failure of its goals. While leadership can take many different forms, certain qualities are essential for effective leadership. These qualities include vision, communication, empathy, integrity, and the ability to inspire and motivate others. In this paper, we will explore the importance of these leadership qualities and their role in achieving success in various contexts.

According to a study by the Harvard Business Review, effective leaders possess certain key qualities, including the ability to communicate a clear vision and strategy, foster collaboration and teamwork, and inspire

others through their actions and words (Goffee & Jones, 2018)¹. Similarly, a study by the Center for Creative Leadership found that empathy, integrity, and the ability to build relationships are among the most critical leadership qualities (Hooijberg & Choi, 2001)².

The importance of these leadership qualities is not limited to the business world. In fact, history is replete with examples of leaders who have exhibited these qualities in various contexts, from politics to social justice movements. For instance, Mahatma Gandhi's vision, communication skills, and ability to inspire and motivate others played a crucial role in India's struggle for independence (Gandhi, 1927)³. Similarly, the leadership qualities of Martin Luther King Jr., including his empathy and integrity, were instrumental in the civil rights movement in the United States (Bass, 1990)⁴.

Islamic leadership qualities

Islamic leadership is a concept that has been shaped by the teachings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions. It emphasizes the importance of certain qualities and behaviors that are essential for effective leadership within the Islamic context. These qualities include a strong commitment to justice, integrity, humility, compassion, and the ability to inspire and motivate others. In this paper, we will explore the importance of these leadership qualities in the Islamic tradition, drawing on examples from history and contemporary contexts to illustrate their relevance and effectiveness.

According to the Quran, the ultimate goal of leadership is to serve others and to promote justice and fairness in society (Quran 4:58). This emphasis on justice is a fundamental aspect of Islamic leadership, as it ensures that leaders are accountable for their actions and decisions and work towards the betterment of the community as a whole. The Prophet Muhammad himself was known for his commitment to justice, and his leadership style emphasized the importance of consultation, compassion, and humility (Quran 42:38).

Islamic leadership also emphasizes the importance of integrity and honesty, as these qualities are essential for building trust and maintaining

credibility with followers. The Prophet Muhammad was known for his honesty and straightforwardness, and he emphasized the importance of truthfulness in all aspects of life (Quran 33:70). Similarly, humility and compassion are seen as essential qualities of Islamic leadership, as they allow leaders to connect with their followers and to understand their needs and concerns (Quran 3:159)⁵.

Finally, the ability to inspire and motivate others is a crucial aspect of Islamic leadership, as it allows leaders to rally their followers towards a common goal and to build a sense of community and shared purpose (Ahmed, A. S. (2010)⁶. The Prophet Muhammad's leadership style was characterized by his ability to inspire and motivate his followers, and his teachings continue to inspire Muslims around the world today (Nahavandi, A. (2006)⁷.

In this paper, we will explore these Islamic leadership qualities in more detail, drawing on examples from Islamic history and contemporary contexts to illustrate their importance and effectiveness.

Qualities of Prophet Muhammad of serving others, social justice and being mercy upon others

The Prophet Muhammad is considered a model for Muslims in terms of his leadership qualities, which emphasized serving others, promoting social justice, and showing mercy towards all people. These qualities are derived from his teachings and actions as recorded in the Quran and Hadith, and they continue to inspire Muslims around the world today. In this paper, we will explore the qualities of the Prophet Muhammad that relate to serving others, social justice, and mercy, drawing on references from Islamic sources.

One of the most important qualities of the Prophet Muhammad was his commitment to serving others, which he demonstrated throughout his life. He emphasized the importance of serving others as a way to please God and to build a strong community. For example, he said, "The most beloved of people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people" (Tirmidhi 2329)⁸. The Prophet Muhammad also led by example, helping the poor and needy and providing for his family and community. His

commitment to serving others has inspired many Muslims to follow in his footsteps and to dedicate themselves to helping others in need.

Another key quality of the Prophet Muhammad was his commitment to social justice. He was a strong advocate for the rights of the oppressed and marginalized, and he worked to establish a just society based on Islamic principles. He condemned oppression and injustice in all its forms, and he encouraged Muslims to stand up for their rights and the rights of others. For example, he said, "Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or is being oppressed" (Bukhari 2447)⁹. The Prophet Muhammad's commitment to social justice has inspired many Muslims to work for justice and equality in their communities and beyond.

Finally, the Prophet Muhammad is also known for his mercy towards all people, regardless of their background or status. He emphasized the importance of showing kindness and compassion towards others, even in the face of adversity. He said, "Allah is not merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind" (Muslim 2319)¹⁰. The Prophet Muhammad's mercy towards all people has inspired Muslims to treat others with kindness and compassion, and to work towards a world where all people are treated with dignity and respect.

In conclusion, the qualities of the Prophet Muhammad relating to serving others, social justice, and mercy have had a profound impact on Muslims throughout history. His teachings and actions continue to inspire Muslims around the world to serve others, work for social justice, and show mercy towards all people.

1. The prophet Muhammad commitment to serving others

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was well known for his commitment to serving others, particularly the poor and vulnerable members of society. His teachings emphasized the importance of generosity, kindness, and compassion towards others, regardless of their social status or religious beliefs (Ali, Kecia.2017)¹¹.

One example of his commitment to serving others is his establishment of the "Sadaqah Jariyah" or ongoing charity. This was a

system of charitable giving in which people could donate money or resources to support community projects that would benefit others for years to come, such as building a well or a school (Khan, Qamar-ul-Huda, 2014)¹².

Another example is the Prophet's dedication to caring for orphans and widows. He encouraged his followers to treat these vulnerable members of society with kindness and compassion, and he himself set an example by providing support to those in need (Nasr, Seyyed Hossain, 1969)¹³.

2. The prophet Muhammad commitment to promoting social justice

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was deeply committed to promoting social justice and equality in his society. His teachings emphasized the importance of treating all members of society with fairness and respect, regardless of their social status or background (Esposito, John L. 2023)¹⁴.

One example of the Prophet's commitment to social justice was his support for the rights of women. In a time when women were often marginalized and oppressed, the Prophet championed their cause and encouraged his followers to treat women with dignity and respect. He also granted women the right to own property and participate in economic activities (Mernissi, Fatima. 1991)¹⁵.

Another example is the Prophet's emphasis on the importance of helping the poor and needy. He encouraged his followers to be generous and charitable towards those in need, and he himself set an example by regularly giving to charity and supporting those who were less fortunate (Ramadan, Tariq, 2007)¹⁶.

3. Being mercy of Prophet Muhammad toward others

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known for his mercy and compassion towards all living beings. He taught his followers to be

kind and merciful to others, and he exemplified this through his actions and interactions with others (Asad, Muhammad.1980)¹⁷.

One example of his mercy was his treatment of prisoners of war. During the early years of Islam, when the Prophet and his companions were facing persecution and aggression, they were often taken prisoner by their enemies. Despite this, the Prophet treated his captives with kindness and mercy, providing them with food, shelter, and medical care. He also encouraged his followers to treat their own prisoners in the same way (Armstrong, Karen. Muhammad, 2006)¹⁸.

Another example is the Prophet's interactions with children. He was known to be very gentle and loving towards children, and he would often play with them and hold them in his lap. He also taught his followers to treat children with kindness and respect, emphasizing the importance of nurturing their physical and emotional needs (Esposito, John L. Islam,2011)¹⁹.

Impacts of the prophet Muhammad commitment to serving others, social justice and being mercy to society

The impact of the Prophet Muhammad's commitment to serving others, promoting social justice, and showing mercy was significant and far-reaching. His teachings and actions inspired his followers to adopt similar values and behaviors, leading to a more compassionate and just society. Some of the impacts of his legacy are:

1. Emphasis of Prophet Muhammad on charity and social welfare

Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of charity and social welfare in Islam. He encouraged his followers to be generous and compassionate towards others, especially those who were less fortunate (Al-‘Amrawī, Muḥammad, 2018)²⁰. The following are some examples of his emphasis on charity and social welfare:

Giving charity is a way to purify one's wealth: The Prophet Muhammad said, "Charity does not in any way decrease the wealth and the servant who forgives, Allah adds to his respect; and the one who shows

humility, Allah elevates him in the estimation (of the people)" (Sahih Muslim)²¹. This hadith emphasizes that giving charity is a way to purify one's wealth and gain the blessings of Allah.

Helping those in need is a religious duty: The Prophet Muhammad said, "He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while the neighbor to his side goes hungry" (Al-Kafi)²². This hadith highlights the importance of helping those in need and fulfilling one's duty towards others.

Caring for orphans and widows: The Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of caring for orphans and widows. He said, "I and the one who cares for an orphan will be in Paradise like these two," and he held up his forefinger and middle finger (Sahih Bukhari)²³. This hadith emphasizes the importance of caring for orphans and widows as a means of gaining Paradise.

Importance of social welfare: The Prophet Muhammad established a system of social welfare in Islam, known as Zakat, which is a mandatory charity given by Muslims. The Qur'an states, "And establish prayer and give zakat, and whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do, is seeing" (Qur'an 2:110)²⁴.

2. Prophet Muhammad improved and given rights for women

Prophet Muhammad played a significant role in improving the status and rights of women in pre-Islamic Arabia. He gave them legal and social rights, which were not available to them before his advent (Ramadan, Tariq 2007)²⁵. The following are some examples of the rights Prophet Muhammad granted to women:

The right to own property: Women were given the right to own and dispose of their property as they wished. The Qur'an states, "And give to the women [whom you marry] their mahr [dowry] as an obligation" (Qur'an 4:4). This verse made it mandatory for men to give women a dowry, which became their property.

The right to inheritance: Women were granted the right to inherit from their family members. Before Islam, women were not allowed to inherit, and their property would go to their male relatives. However, the Qur'an changed this practice and stated, "For men is a share of what they have earned, and for women is a share of what they have earned" (Qur'an 4:32)²⁶.

The right to education: Women were encouraged to seek knowledge and were given the opportunity to do so. The Prophet Muhammad said, "Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim, male and female" (Al-Tirmidhi)²⁷.

The right to consent to marriage: Women were given the right to choose their own spouses and were not forced into marriages against their will. The Prophet Muhammad said, "A woman without a husband has more right to her own person than anything else" (Sunan Abu Dawud)²⁸.

The right to divorce: Women were granted the right to seek a divorce from their husbands if their marriages were not working out. The Qur'an states, "Divorce is twice. Then, either keep [her] in an acceptable manner or release [her] with good treatment" (Qur'an 2:229)²⁹.

3. Prophet Muhammad Improved treatment of prisoners of war

Prophet Muhammad was known for his compassionate treatment of prisoners of war, and he introduced several measures to improve their conditions. The following are some examples of the rights and protections he granted to prisoners of war:

Protection from harm: The Prophet Muhammad instructed his companions to treat prisoners of war humanely and not to harm them physically or emotionally. He said, "Do not kill any old person, any child or any woman" (Sahih Muslim)³⁰.

Provision of basic needs: Prisoners of war were provided with adequate food, clothing, and shelter. The Prophet Muhammad said, "Feed the hungry, visit the sick, and free the captives" (Sahih Bukhari)³¹.

Right to ransom: Prisoners of war were given the right to negotiate their release by paying a ransom. The Qur'an states, "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah. Indeed, it is He who is the Hearing, the Knowing" (Qur'an 8:61)³².

Release for teaching literacy: The Prophet Muhammad ordered that prisoners of war who were literate be released if they taught ten Muslim children how to read and write. This measure was aimed at promoting education and literacy among Muslims (Ibn Ishaq, 1955)³³.

4. Prophet Muhammad emphasis on education

Prophet Muhammad placed a great emphasis on education and considered it a crucial aspect of the Islamic faith. He encouraged his followers to seek knowledge and acquire education throughout their lives Safi, Omid, 2009)³⁴. The following are some examples of his emphasis on education:

The first word revealed to Prophet Muhammad was "Read": The very first word of the Qur'an that was revealed to Prophet Muhammad was "Read." This highlights the importance of education and learning in Islam.

Seeking knowledge is a religious duty: The Prophet Muhammad said, "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim" (Al-Tirmidhi)³⁵. This hadith emphasizes the importance of seeking knowledge as a religious duty.

Education for both men and women: The Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of education for both men and women. He said, "The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim, and Muslimah (female Muslim)" (Ibn Majah)³⁶.

Education is a path to paradise: The Prophet Muhammad said, "Whoever follows a path in the pursuit of knowledge, Allah will make a path to Paradise easy for him" (Sahih Muslim)³⁷. This highlights the importance of education as a means to attain Paradise.

Summary

Prophet Muhammad's commitment to serving others, social justice, and being merciful to society had a significant impact on the world. His teachings and actions transformed the social and cultural landscape of Arabia and shaped the development of Islamic civilization. Here are some of the impacts of his commitment:

Improved treatment of marginalized groups: Prophet Muhammad's teachings emphasized the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and respect, regardless of their social status, gender, or ethnicity. He championed the rights of women, children, slaves, and non-Muslims, which had a profound impact on the social and cultural norms of Arabia.

Promoted social justice: The Prophet Muhammad's teachings emphasized the importance of social justice and fairness. He established systems of social welfare, including the mandatory Zakat, which was a means of redistributing wealth to the poor and needy. His commitment to social justice inspired generations of Muslims to fight for the rights of the oppressed and marginalized.

Emphasized the importance of mercy: The Prophet Muhammad's teachings emphasized the importance of mercy and compassion towards others. He encouraged his followers to be forgiving and to treat others with kindness and empathy. His emphasis on mercy has had a lasting impact on Islamic culture and ethics, inspiring Muslims to show compassion and mercy towards others.

Overall, Prophet Muhammad's commitment to serving others, social justice, and being merciful to society has had a profound impact on the world. His teachings and actions continue to inspire Muslims to work towards a more just, equitable, and compassionate society.

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29 Qur'an

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