

Islam and the Economic Dilemma

The cause of the economic dilemma is the impossibility of providing the human being with all his needs and desires, in the appropriate time, place and form. That is called "Relative Scarcity".

Importance of the relative scarcity:

1- It is considered a motive to work and earth construction.

Allah says (It is He who made the earth tame for you - so walk among its slopes and eat of His provision - and to Him is the resurrection.)

"هو الذي جعل لكم الأرض ذلولاً فامشوا في مناكبها و كلوا من رزقه و إليه النشور"

2-It is a test from Allah (**And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient**)

"و لنبلونكم بشئ من الخوف و الجوع و نقص من الأموال و الأنفس و الثمرات و بشر الصابرين"

Aspects of the economic problem:

Firstly, the economic resources (the production factors)

It includes the following:

1- Work: The human effort to produce a service or a commodity.

It is not easy to provide the required powers and efficiencies. This issue may demand some time, training and preparation.

2- Capital: Part of a fortune which contribute in the production process.

It is found in machines, tools and buildings.

3- Natural resources: Includes land and the surrounding resources. Allah the Almighty only knows the volume and the types of these resources.

Modern science reveals to us every day a new resource and uses , In addition , their abundance differs from one region to another in terms of quantity and type as they goes through several stages before they reach the final proper form of the productive process (such as refining etc.)

Secondly: the human needs

Man's needs and desires vary according to his environmental circumstances; the civilization's standard and the media and propaganda effects. The needs should be characterized in the Islamic concept by the following:

- 1- They should be in the frame of the allowed needs.
- 2- They should be in the frame of the basic requirements of life, such as food and clothing... etc.

Accordingly, the exaggeration in consumption and losing the desire leash, leads to gushing, prodigality and improvidence which are considered the characteristics of lack of majority in the Islamic concept; hence the human needs are limited.

In addition to these needs, there are the spiritual needs which are in the same importance as the material needs.

Thirdly: the production methods

To produce any commodity, the producer faces many production methods that differ in their potentiality and general revenue. For example: to produce a car, some specific criteria should be used that fit the areas and geographical zones where the car will be used, for example, in sandy lands... etc.

- But it should be:
- Not harming the society
- Allowed in Islam

Adequacy of the economic resources:

The relative scarcity does not mean insufficiency of the resources to fulfill an earthly desire. But we focus here on the sufficiency of resources worldwide, to secure a good life for humanity.

Allah says: (وإن من شيء إلا عندنا خزائنه وما ننزله إلا بقدر معلوم) (And there is not a thing but that with Us are its depositories, and We do not send it down except according to a known [i.e., specified] measure.)

- **Malthus theory text** (The population growth exceeds the earth's resources)

When population outstrips food, misery (famine, disease, war) checks growth, creating a cycle.

Checks on Population:

Positive Checks (Misery): Factors that increase death rates (famine, disease, war, poverty).

Preventative Checks (Restraint): Factors that decrease birth rates (moral restraint, delayed marriage, family planning).

This theory is wrong because of following points:

1-The size of some resources such as land are fixed, but for other resources like forests and fish they are renewed.

2-The emergence of alternatives to natural resources that ends or disappear

3-The studies proved that Malthus predictions are not true

Context of the Theory Today:

Although not realized on a global scale, Malthusian ideas continue to influence contemporary discussions about resource scarcity, the impact of climate change, and population pressure in some poor developing countries that rely heavily on traditional agriculture.

- Is the rarity of resources the main reason for starvation incidents in some countries?

1. The difference in distributing fortunes and the population
2. The inability and failure of the people to use what Allah has given them
3. Exaggeration of the people in their needs
4. The spiritual crisis that made people behave badly towards poor and needy because they want to fulfill their desires
5. Testing and examining from Allah