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Theme:

POVERTY ALLEVIATION (ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE)

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POVERTY ALLEVIATION (ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE)

From the definition poverty means; the state of being poor, naturally or conditionally. Poverty can simply mean; lack of something, it may be knowledge, inability to do something, lack of health and lastly money.

Literarily, everybody believes that when someone is not rich is being regarded as poor, the case is reverse, not only poor in wealth/money is fallen into poverty.

When someone is expected to have something and he/she didn't, that is poverty or poor, if someone is expected to marry and he/she is not engaged, talk less of marriage that is poverty. A reference to Quran chapter 24 verse 32 **"Marry those among you who are single or the virtuous ones among your slaves male/female; if they are in poverty God will give them means out of his grace; God encompasses and knows all things."**

1 billion children live in poverty(1 in 2 children in the world). 640 million live without adequate shelter, 400 million have no access to safe water, 270 million have no access to health services. 10.6 million died in 2003 before they reached the age of 5 (or roughly 29,000 children per day).

The poorest people will also have less access to health, education and other services. Problems of hunger, malnutrition and disease afflict the poorest in society, the poorest are also typically marginalized from society and have a little representation or voice in public and political debates, making it even harder to escape poverty.

CAUSES OF POVERTY TO OUR NIGERIAN STATE

- 1. The almighty Allah says in his glorious Quran chapter 16 verse 112. "God sets forth a parable; A city enjoying security and quiet, abundantly supplied with sustenance from every place, yet was it ungrateful, for the favour of God; so God made it taste of hunger and terror (in extremes) (closing in on it) like a garment (from every side), because of the evil which (its people) wrought."**

Now what makes their state to be turned to fallacy of trouble and poverty, they are ungrateful to what God does for them, No matter what God does for you, be grateful, if you are thankful for today you will surely receive abundant blessing. In Quran chapter 14 verse 7 **"and remember! Your God caused to be declared (publicly) if you are grateful, I will add more (favours) unto you; But if you show ingratitude, truly my punishment is terrible indeed."**

Our poor society caused by ungrateful, whatever that God did for you, try to be thankful and hope abundance.

2. Sin: these is capital offence that people are largely committed; including the young and old, the landlord and tenant, the boss and apprenticeship, the head and tail, most especially politician and their followers. All the nooks and crannies, people are highly committed sin, such as: rape, kidnappers, bribery and corruption, nepotism and favoritism, loan with interests, this loan with interested damage and perish the people, which poverty is continuously increase, in a first instance people would see it as help or empowerment but later is a great problem, the loan giver such as: LAPO, SEAP COOPERATIVE etc. all these Quran is stated in chapter2 verse 275. **“ those who devour usury will not stand except as stands one whom the evil one by his touch has driven to madness, that is because they say: “Trade is like usury,” But God had permitted trade and forbidden usury, those who after receiving direction from their God , desist, shall be pardoned for the past; their case is for God (to judge) But those who repeat (the offence) are companions of the fire: they will abide therein (for ever).”** These are the causes of poverty in our Islamic class.

SOLUTION TO ERADICATE POVERTY

Quran 2 verse 3 says: **“who believe in the unseen are steadfast in prayer , and spend out of what we have provided for them”**

When we critically look at this verse very well, almighty Allah in his mercy, bless and provide for the world; no one is poor, it is because this verse emphasis on what God did for everybody, and if God have provided for you spend it, an analysis to this are: if you have one million naira spend hundred thousand naira, if you have hundred thousand naira spend ten thousand naira, if you have ten thousand naira spend one thousand naira, if you have one thousand naira spend hundred naira, if you have hundred naira spend ten

naira, if you have ten naira spend one naira, although, spend it for poor among ummah not lavishly.

If populace can spend from what they have, poverty will be gradually elevated and eradicated. And what make people that are rich are avoiding to spend from their wealthy is they are fear poverty, and good Muslim should not fear poverty but fear Allah that can enrich the pocket of the poor or the rich.

In Quran chapter 65 verse 7 says: **“let the man of means spend according to his means; and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what God has given him. God put no burden on any person beyond what he has given him. After a difficulty, God will soon grant relief.”** this verse he buttress that, those that are rich, it is not because of you alone that God enrich you, but for the people surrounds you, and the verse further explained that no condition is permanent, if you have today spend from your wealth, because you can't predict what to happen in the next hour.

In another section of Holy Quran, he says: collect money from those that are blessed, and pray for them, and their forgiveness, with the money that you are collected, it will make the remaining money pure and well reserved. But it is only few know the essence of their wealth and spend it for Allah.

In Quran chapter 9 verse 103 says: **“of their goods take alms that so the mightiest purify and sanctify them; and pray on their behalf. Verily the prayers are a source of security for them: and God is one who hearth and know”** this verse is extremely explained two things, poverty alleviation and security. All these are occur with spending of wealthy. When we have security poverty, poverty is 70 percent deduced and people will be largely and expand work from near and far.

All my aforementioned comment, the almighty Allah in his elaborate mercy, he his most gracious and most merciful from his wealth and unlimited wealth. In Quran chapter 42 verse 19 says: **“God is gracious to his servants he gives sustenance to whom he pleases: and he has power and carryout**

his will.” The almighty Allah is willingly over everything and he is the overseer of the heart and the eternity.

3. Laziness: every human being, most especially Muslim should fight against laziness act and behavior, if people can always vigilant and vibrant in their various works and spend what they have to their relatives.
4. Learning: this is very important to alleviate poverty in our society. Learning must not be limit to a single phase, it must be all in one in learn, our children must have western education, Arabic education (ile-kewu) and entrepreneur. And people are set their pace on western education alone, while millions of graduate from different types of institution are jobless. When someone is jobless such person will be homeless and hopeless.

Also every human being as to plan ahead of everything and always thinks of life change both positively and negatively. If we Muslim can work on this poverty shall be likely pave-out.

5. Prayer: prayer is the key and way to every successful human being. Even almighty Allah in his incomparable Quran say, chapter 40 verse 60. **“ And your God says: call on me; I will answer your (Prayer) but those who are too arrogant to serve me, will surely find themselves in hell-humiliation.”** If we can publicly and privately pray, and in our prayer it has to be systematic. A prayer warrior must believe in oneness of God and his totality of fact, Good or bad.

Prayer is the key to all problems; it may be poverty or any other issues. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says: ‘Prayer is the sword of Muslim’ beginning to utilize your sword now and tackle any issues at your disposals. It is because is the way.

REWARD OF SPENDING OUR WEALTH (MONEY)

In Quran 3 verse 134 says: **“those who spend freely whether in prosperity, or in adversity ; who restrain anger and pardon all men; for God loves those who do good.”**

My dear listener is Islam let us be wealth spreader to all Muslim brothers and sisters in order to alleviate poverty in our Islamic community. It is because we are the most populated in Nigerian state, and we are the most suffering here and there.

Note: whatever you want to spend from your wealth, Quran as stipulate who and how to spend our wealth. Quran chapter 2 verse 215 says: **“they ask the prophet Muhammad, what they should spend (in charity) say: whatever you spend that is good , if for parents and kindred and orphans and those in want and for wayfarers and whatever you do that is good, God know it well.”**

EFFECT OF STINGY

This is the specific area that God himself dislike and forbidden the greedy act, in Quran chapter 9 verse 34 says: **“O you who believe! There are indeed many among the priests and anchorites, who in falsehood devour the substance of men and hinder (them) from the way of God. And there are those who bury gold and silver and spend it not in the way of God: announce unto them a most grievous penalty.”** When you stand aloof for this verse you can now see the punishment of those that are spend their money in a way of Islam. In Quran chapter 57 verse 24 says: **“such person as are covetous and command covetousness to men. And if any turn back (from God’s way), verily God is free of all needs, worthy of all praise.”** The Quran expresses the covetous act and greedy as a way of Satan, and those that are recommend covetous act to others, they will all perish without any significant of good. And Allah in his mercy is wide and he could grant mercy and bless upon the poor and the bourgeois that are spend their wealth.

In the life time of Prophet Musa (AS) one man and his wife are poor, send Prophet Musa to God for their livelihood to graduate from poor to rich, Musa report them to God and he reply; tell them that, they will rich but it will not more than three (3) years, when they do want

the money, it is now or at their old age? Musa tell them, the man say tell the God that it is when we are getting old, while his wife argue that, we want the money now, and we will used the money to invest on people's life, and when our years is over, they would render their help upon us.

Both agree to have the money now, the almighty Allah grant them the money, and they spend the money to the poor and beggars, when the time is over, their wealth comes buoyant more than beginning. They went to Prophet Musa and tell them that our time is over, while Musa tell God that you promise them three (3) years, and it is more than the year, The almighty Allah reply; there wealth will be continue increasing because they spend it for the needy and not lavishly.

God will eradicate poverty when all penurious, niggardly, miserly, avaricious and closefisted person change for good.