

CHAPTER 5

AKHLAQ (MORALITY)

Meaning of the following concepts

- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)**

These are infections or diseases that are mainly transmitted from one individual to another through sexual contact such as HIV & AIDS, genital herpes, gonorrhea and syphilis, among others.

- **HIV** refers to **Human Immunodeficiency Virus** which is a slowly replicating retrovirus that causes the **AIDS**, which means Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

Causes of HIV and AIDS

The following are the ways through which HIV and AIDS can be transmitted:

- a) If a recipient of blood has a blood transfusion with an infected person
- b) An infected mother may pass the virus to her child during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding.
- c) Sharing of piercing and sharp instruments such as needles and razors which are contaminated with an infected person
- d) Having unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person
- e) Use of contaminated surgical instruments, for example, unsterilized knives or blades used during traditional circumcision.

Preventive measures for HIV and AIDS

The following are measures taken to reduce and prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS in the society:

1. Creating awareness among ourselves so as to know the risk and dangers of indulging into immoral behaviours that may lead to one getting infected. This can be done through sermons and conferences.
2. Muslims should avoid any irresponsible sexual behavior such as having sex before marriage or practising sex outside your marriage (zina).

3. Muslims should take precaution before marriage such as the bride and groom undergo medical tests before the *nikah*.
4. Avoiding any direct contact with blood without protective gadgets such as surgical gloves.
5. The blood should be screened before transfusion so as to avoid the recipient from receiving an infected blood of a HIV positive donors.

Ways in which Muslim can help in the campaign against the spread of HIV and AIDS

In Islam there are numerous remedies recommended to control the spread of HIV/AIDS. The following are some of the ways in which Muslims can help in the campaign against the spread HIV and AIDs in Kenya:

- 1) Creating awareness among ourselves so as to know the risk and dangers of indulging into immoral behaviours that may lead to one getting infected. This can be done through sermons and conferences.
- 2) Muslims should avoid any irresponsible sexual behavior such as having sex before marriage or practising sex outside your marriage (zina).
- 3) Muslims should take precaution before marriage such as the bride and groom undergo medical tests before the *nikah*.
- 4) Avoiding any direct contact with blood without protective gadgets such as surgical gloves.
- 5) The blood should be screened before transfusion so as to avoid the recipient from receiving an infected blood of a HIV positive donors.
- 6) A lot of care is required during child birth to ensure that the child is not infected. Safe child delivery should be done by a qualified medical practitioner. It should be done in a medical facility.
- 7) Muslims should advocate for legal marriage and easiness to its expenses, because that reduces the sexual urge of the unmarried people, which will attract them to engage in infected sex
- 8) Muslims should advocate for the implementation of zina's punishment to curb the spread of HIV through untreated sex partner

- 9) Women should dress modestly to reduce the temptations of mature males that may result into irresponsible sexual behavior that which may lead to HIV and AIDS.
- 10) Muslims can open testing and counselling centres for the infected individuals to get counselling and uninfected ones to know their status
- 11) Muslims who cannot marry are encouraged to be chaste by fasting and lowering their gaze to control themselves from zinaa which can led to HIV and AIDS.
- 12) Muslims should ensure that there should not be any solitary privacy (seclusion) between men and women who are of prohibited degrees.
- 13) Muslims are prohibited from taking all sorts of intoxicants that interfere with the ability to reason and gratify sexual urge thus minimizing the possibility of spreading the spread of HIV and AIDS
- 14) Muslims can create employment for the idle individuals or they can advise them to involve in constructive works to avoid idleness which is the source of all the evils
- 15) Muslims should practice polygamy so as to discourage extra-marital sexual affairs from infected person that may lead to infections
- 16) Muslims should avoid free mixing of different sexes to curb the falling into temptations which could lead to unwanted pregnancy or transmission of the HIV and AIDS.

Reasons why Muslims advocate abstinence in the prevention of HIV/AIDS

In most sins, a Muslim is prohibited from performing them, but in zina, one is warned not to come near it, leave alone doing it. Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an: *"And do not come near Zina, for it is a shameful deed and an evil way to other evils."* [Q 17:32]. The following are reasons why Muslims advocate abstinence in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STIs.

- Quran condemns Zina (adultery and fornication) and advocates abstinence. Failure to abstain from illicit sex is going against Islamic teachings and morality.

- Fear of Allah. Those who fear Allah will not engage in immoral acts that are forbidden.
- It should be the responsibility of every Muslim to protect him/herself from (HIV/ AIDs infection as it is incurable. "Prevention is better than cure."
- Abstinence helps to safeguard a person's Iman.
- According to Islamic principles of morality, the unmarried should wait until they are married and the married be faithful to their spouses.
- Indulgence in Zina leads to other vices e.g. drug and alcohol abuse, lying, cheating, family breakdown diseases, fights and quarrels and even death. Abstinence not only gives protection against HIV/AIDs but against other vices.
- Abstinence is in Keeping with the teaching of the Prophet (p.b.u.h).
- Even those who are infected should abstain in order to avoid further infection and from infecting others.
- Use of condoms is not acceptable to Muslims. It might lead to promiscuity in society.
- Abstinence instills self-discipline and responsibility to the Muslims.
- It was practiced by prophet and their companions.
- Muslims advocates abstinences as it was a message of all the prophets of Allah.

Ways in which polygamy prevent Muslims from contracting HIV/AIDS

The following are ways in which polygamy prevents Muslims from contracting HIV and AIDS:

- a) It enables the satisfactory of sexual and economic needs of the surplus women. Therefore, polygamy prevents them from engaging in zinaa so as to satisfy the same needs which may lead of contraction of HIV and AIDS.
- b) It stops immorality and prostitution. This is incase a married man loves woman who is not married he should marry her instead of engaging in immorality and prostitution which may later lead to contraction of HIV/AIDS.

- c) If a man is a businessman or driver who travels a long distance, it is advisable for him to marry a second wife in order to avoid having sex outside marriage which may lead him to contract HIV/AIDS.
- d) If there is a failure of the first wife to bear children, then it is allowed for the man to marry another wife instead of looking for a child outside marriage because it may lead to contraction of HIV/AIDS.
- e) A Muslim can marry more than one wife to help maintain a woman with orphans and widows. This will prevent such women from the temptation of engaging into immorality to provide the needs for the children, hence safeguarding them from contracting HIV and AIDS.

Islamic views on HIV and AIDS

The following are the Islamic views on HIV and AIDS:

- HIV and AIDS is real and not just a fantasy
- HIV and AIDS is one of the most infectious and incurable diseases
- Islam values human life and considers it as a gift from Allah, so no Muslim is at liberty to do whatever he or she wants with his or her body
- Individuals have been entrusted with life by Allah and are supposed to take good care of it
- Allah does not allow us to misuse or abuse the health body he has gifted us with
- No Muslim is allowed to accept personal freedom that leads to immoral acts that are forbidden by the sharia
- Muslims should assist the members of the society who have been infected with HIV and AIDS.

Misconceptions about HIV and AIDS

The following are some of misconceptions about HIV and AIDS:

- a) HIV is a death sentence. Therefore, if someone is HIV-positive his or her life is over. However, with modern treatment HIV can be considered a manageable chronic illness.

- b) HIV can be transferred by Kissing. The truth is that HIV is not spread through saliva.
- c) One can tell by looking if someone has HIV or not. HIV is tested.
- d) HIV and AIDS is a curse from God.
- e) HIV is the same as AIDS. HIV causes AIDS, but it can remain in a latent state for many years.
- f) HIV and AIDS can be transferred by breathing the same air, hugging, shaking hands or touching a toilet seat. However, HIV and AIDS is not spread through touch, tears, sweat, saliva or pee.
- g) Insects especially mosquitoes can spread HIV. The fact is that, mosquitoes do not inject the blood of the person they bit before to another person.
- h) If someone is getting treatment, he or she can not spread HIV.
- i) HIV and AIDS can be treated by having sexual intercourse with a virgin.
- j) An HIV-infected female cannot bear children. The truth is that, they remain fertile.
- k) The origin of HIV and AIDS was through human-monkey sexual intercourse.
- l) HIV and AIDS is genocide. That is, HIV is meant to kill only certain people or ethnic group at large.
- m) A person can contract HIV from infected water through swimming, drinking, bathing. The fact is that, HIV cannot survive in water.

Causes of STDs

The following are causes of STDs:

- a) STDs may be caused by either bacterial or viral infection. Those which are caused by bacteria include Chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhea while those caused by virus include genital herpes, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B.
- b) They can be spread through sexual contact with an infected person, such as those cause genital herpes and genital warts
- c) They may spread through moist skin contact
- d) Hepatitis B is spread by sharing personal items with an infected person including toothbrushes or sharp objects like needles and razors

- e) If a recipient of blood has a blood transfusion of contaminated and infected person
- f) An infected mother may pass the virus to her child during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding, especially the virus of HIV and AIDS if not medically cared for.
- g) Improper sanitation that which may cause skin diseases in the genital areas.
- h) Use of contaminated surgical instruments, for example, unsterilized knives or blades used during traditional circumcision.

Effects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sexually transmitted diseases have adverse effects to both the individual and the society. We are now going to look at some of the effects of these infectious diseases.

Effects of STDS to an Individual

The following are the adverse effects of STDS to an individual:

- If proper treatment is not administered STDs can damage a person's reproductive system resulting to infertility.
- They cause a lot of pain and suffering to the victim.
- Having an STD may weaken the immune system leaving you more vulnerable to other infections.
- Gonorrhea results in Pelvic inflammatory diseases (PDI).
- Chlamydia can lead to women being unable to bear children in future.
- HIV and AIDS has no cure
- STDs infection to a new-born child may lead to suffering or even cause death.
- HIV and AIDs causes trauma to the victim. An infected person may be rejected by other members of the society.
- The direct medical cost of HIV / AIDS is very high.

Effects of STDS to the society

The following are the effects of STDS to the society:

- Often the poor members of the society are burdened with treating the victims of the disease.
- Break up of families due to mistrust and feelings of betrayal between the couples and among different family members. And as you aware, Islam encourages very strong family bonds.
- Children whose parents die of AIDs are left orphans with nobody to take care of them. These destitute ends up suffering due to lack of affection and basic needs.
- When the bread winner passes on the beneficiaries will face difficulties in sustaining themselves.
- High dropout rates in education institutions. Children whose parents have been weakened by AIDs or died of the scourge may be forced to abandon their education.
- There is a demand for care for those living with HIV /AIDS in health institution. The able bodied and energetic population is forced to abandon their work in order to take care of their sick persons.
- Children whose parents and family members are terminally ill are forced to assume responsibility at a very tender age. They shoulder the economic burden such as earning an income in order to provide food and care for other family members.
- Creates a set-back in economic and social progress. The majority of the people living with HIV/AIDs are between 15 – 49 years. This denies the society the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour for agricultural and industrial development.

Islamic intervention to STDS (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

The following are Islamic Measures which can help in intervention to STDS:

- a) Islam calls for chastity and abstinence to avoid illegal intercourse that may lead to HIV and AIDS

- b) Islam calls for cleanliness to avoid spreading of diseases through dirty shared utensils
- c) Islam advises that one reason for the spread of HIV/AIDS is the increase in adultery and fornication
- d) Islam also advises that one reason for the spread of HIV/AIDS is negligence and carelessness
- e) HIV and AIDS as a disease has come as a trial to the Muslim Ummah to test our reaction
- f) All measures have been put forward in Islam to avoid illegal sexual intercourse
- g) Islam calls for unmarried people to wait until they will be capable or they are married

Meaning of Drug abuse

Drug abuse is the excessive and persistent use of any chemical or natural substance that alters the functioning of the body cells for purposes other than the intended preventive or curative reasons.

Commonly abused drugs in Kenya

The following are the commonly abused Drugs:

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|-------------------------|---|
| a) Tobacco | e) Cocaine |
| b) Khat/ Miraa/ Mugokha | f) Heroine |
| c) Shisha | g) Bhang/ opium/ cannabis sativa/ marijuana |
| d) Alcohol | |

Causes of Drug and Substances Abuse

The following are factors and reasons that contribute to the abuse of drugs in the society:

- a) Curiosity: Some people would like to experiment on something for the first time especially if it is always talked about in the society. They thus end up falling victims of drug abuse.

- b) The urge to escape the reality about problems and challenges that make them unhappy with their lives. For example, family disputes, financial constraints.
- c) Peer pressure from friends who deceive them that taking of drugs will make them feel relaxed only to make them lured into taking drugs.
- d) Lack of parental care and guidance which leaves the children vulnerable to anti-social behaviours especially among separated or disintegrated families.
- e) Frustrations and emotional stress where individuals are forced to perform beyond their limits in trying to achieve set goals or targets. Those who cannot cope with the enormous pressure exerted on them may opt for drugs.
- f) Illiteracy among the people who are ignorant of the side effects of drugs and other chemical substances abused.
- g) Unemployment that may lead to boredom and idleness among the people who have acquired education and are unable to secure jobs
- h) Abandonment and homelessness of children who may be deprived of basic needs and leaving them desperate only to make them turn to drug and substance abuse to cope with the harsh situation
- i) Fancy advertisement of drug that may lead to false perception, for example that drugs enhances power of imagination
- j) Low self-esteem that results into shyness that may influence a person to abuse so as to gain confidence and courage to perform the expected duties.

Effects of Drug and Substance Abuse

Some of the effects of Drugs are immediate, short term while others may last even after the person has stopped taking drugs. Drugs and substance abuse have a lot of effects on the individual, friends, family, and on the society. The following are of the effects of drugs:

Health related problems

The following are health-related problems of Drug Abuse:

- a) Drug abuse promotes poor health amongst users, which also affects their productivity at work, performance in school and responsibility at home. Among these health problems are:
- b) Marijuana and alcohol interfere with motor control and are factors in many automobile accidents.
- c) Users of bang (marijuana) and hallucinogenic drugs may experience flashbacks.
- d) Sudden abstinence from certain drugs such as heroin and cocaine results in withdrawal symptoms. For example, vomiting, muscle cramps, convulsions, and fever.
- e) Expectant drug users have a higher risk of low birth-weight babies.
- f) Drug abusers are at high risk of being infected with STDs since they may get involved in dangerous sexual activities and making wrong decisions.
- g) Drugs abuse cause cardiovascular conditions ranging from abnormal heart rate to heart attacks and even death.
- h) Injected drugs can also lead to collapsed veins and infections of the blood vessels and heart valves.
- i) Abuse of drugs weakens the body's immune system, increasing susceptibility to infections.
- j) Persistent use of hard drugs like cocaine and Bang may lead to stroke and widespread brain damage.

Social-related effects

The following are social-related problems of Drug Abuse:

- Many drug users engage in violence and criminal activity, such as burglary and prostitution in our villages, learning institutions and more so urban centers.
- Drug-related crimes disrupt peace within neighborhoods due to violence among drug dealers and threats to residents.
- Drug influence is responsible for accidents at home, at the workplaces, along our roads, at school and other places resulting into injury or even death
- Marital problems: When a family member abuses drugs he or she may engage in emotional abuse or violence. This may result in constant conflict within the family that may end up in separation or even divorce.
- Poor work ethics and subsequent dismissal. Drug addicts may fail to perform at their places of work or absent themselves.
- Parents who abuse drugs tend to neglect their children. They fail to provide the proper guidance that children need especially during their growing years. Teenagers who grow up in homes where adult or parent use drugs have a higher tendency getting addicted to drugs in future
- People who are addicted or under the influence of drugs are apt to behave irresponsibly. They may abuse others, engage in fights and quarrels among other social evils.

Economic effects

The following are economic-related problems of drug abuse:

- a) Legal problems: Substance abuse can lead to problems such as unpaid bills, driving under the influence and crime.
- b) Substance abuse causes the government to spend a lot of money mainly spent on treatment and prevention costs, healthcare, losses on job productivity and crime and social welfare.

- c)** It depletes family finances leading to poverty and inability to meet families' obligations including payment of school fees, purchase of food and other amenities, as well as investment in income earning enterprises.
- d)** Low productivity in work stations disrupts economic activities such as agriculture, industry, employment thereby leading to decline in economic growth.

Effects of Drugs abuse on the integrity of an individual

The following are the effects of Drug abuse on the integrity of an individual:

- a)** A drug user may bribe the security officials to avoid arrest
- b)** Once a drug user is in need of drugs he or she might even steal so as to get money to buy drugs
- c)** The influence of drugs may result in poor judgement of cases
- d)** The user of drugs may spend the available time wastefully instead of engaging into productive work
- e)** The user of drugs may miss to attend prayers because he or she is busy with drugs or fantasized.
- f)** A chronic drug user will always crave for drugs and may even tell lies to get money so as to purchase drugs

Islamic views on Drug and Substance

The following are Islamic views on drugs and substance abuse:

- The use of alcohol and other drugs is considered a major sin
- Muslims are required to stay away from khamr and any intoxicant as it is considered the mother of all evils
- The sins of drugs are greater than their benefits that people get from them
- It is considered to fog the mind thus inhibiting a person's sense of judgement
- Islam not only prohibits the use of intoxicants but also the sale of its raw materials to someone who will make wine or other intoxicants from them
- If a habitual drunkard dies, he will meet Allah like the one who worships idols
- Whatever intoxicants in a greater quantity is also unlawful in a small quantity

- Every intoxicant is Khamr (wine) and every intoxicant is haram (unlawful)
- Drug and substance abuse has become a common problem in the society and should be addressed by the Islamic Religious Leaders
- Muslims should formulate methods assisting drug addicts and curbing this challenge in the society
- Islam provides clear direction concerning intoxicants through the Holy Quran and Hadith
- The selling, transporting, buying, giving, making and abuse of intoxicants is forbidden in Islam

Factors that contribute to the rise of Miraa dealers in some of Kenyan society

The following are factors that contribute to the rise of Miraa dealers in some of Kenyan society:

- a)** In some are there are financial constraints and have poor family hence tends to be the providers of other members of the society so as to get a living
- b)** Lack of parental care and guidance about the effects and prohibition of Miraa. Some of the parents even chew miraa with their children for fun.
- c)** People see it as an easy way to be rich and wealthy, since there are many people chewing miraa at any cost regardless of time and economic status
- d)** Illiteracy and ignorance on the Islamic stand of miraa dealing, or some were being misdirected by bad sheikhs claiming that it is legal in Islam
- e)** Cultural-influence: most of the people in the society deals in miraa
- f)** Lack of heavy punishment and even placing of favourable laws. That is, dealing and chewing miraa is not illegal in Kenya
- g)** It is easy to purchase miraa since they are accessible and are sold to anybody regardless of age and financial status

Rationale for the prohibition of Khat (Miraa/ Mungokaa) in Islam

The following is the wisdom behind the prohibition of Khat in Islam:

1. Miraa is a major contribution to the breakup of family. For example, if the chewer of Miraa fail to provide for the family while has purchased miraa.

2. It is medically harmful to the physical and psychological wellbeing of the user. The mind of the user is fogged and left sleepless that may cause fatigue and hangovers.
3. It leads to wastage of money which would have been used to buy the necessities of life such as food, clothes and paying of house rent.
4. A lot of time is wasted during its consumption instead of being used in useful pursuits such as working on a productive project and business.
5. It interferes with the intellectual and mental capacity of the chewer of Miraa, therefore, leading to one engage in haram acts such as fornication and adultery.
6. It leads to loss of sexual desires (libido) and even infertility since during its consumption time it agitates for unnecessary sexual feelings that slowly weakens libido.
7. It keeps one away from observance of acts of ibaada such as swalah, dhikr and instead the chewer of miraa engage into vain talks and ignore swalah
8. It is a major cause of conflict in the society especially if the chewers of miraa start to abuse each other and result into unnecessary quarrels and fights
9. It leads to negligence of family duties. For example, the chewer of miraa may ignore to pay the school fees of his or her children, or providing them with medical care once they are sick at an expense of buying Miraa.
10. It lowers the dignity and the status of a person in the Muslim society. For example, imagine of a father chewing miraa as worse than animal. It is too disgusting.

Ways in which Muslims in Kenya could help in the fight against Drug and Substance abuse

The following are ways in which Muslims in Kenya could help in fight against Drug and substance abuse:

- Should follow the teachings of the Quran that prohibits Muslims from abusing drugs.
- Keep away from those who abuse drugs lest they induce you in the abuse.
- Emulate the life of the Prophet (s.a.w) and Muslims scholars by living healthy lives free of drugs.
- Should educate the public on the evils of drug and substance abuse/ create awareness on the evils of using drugs.
- Engage the youth in constructive activities e.g. games, sport, charity work / constructive use of leisure.
- Create employment for the youth and empower them to be self-employed.
- Establish youth centers where the youth can learn skills and trade.
- Obeying the law of the land / be law abiding.
- Report people engaged in drug and substance abuse to the authorities for appropriate action.
- Form organization/ group to fight against illegal drugs and collaborate with other organization engaged in the same mission.
- Provide guidance and counseling to the recovering drug addicts / rehabilitate drug addicts.
- Not to grow drugs and not to trade in them.
- Advocacy from stiff punishment from drugs dealers.

Conservation of the physical environment

Meaning of environment

Environment refers to the natural and unnatural elements present around us, and the processes associated with them.

Meaning of physical environment

This is the immediate environment of human which comprises the earth, trees, the mountains, animals, rivers, air human –made features such as factories, buildings and means of transportation among others physical aspects of the environment.

How Muslims can conserve the physical environment?

The following are some of the ways through which Muslims can engage in the preservation of the physical environment:

- Muslims should take part in forest preservation programs like tree planting.
- Muslims should avoid deforestation and get involved in formulation of policies to safeguard forests from destruction.
- Waste products and exhaust fumes or smoke, being emitted from ordinary human or industrial activities and the uses of modern and advanced technology, should be carefully disposed.
- Re-use of goods and recycling of materials and waste products should be encouraged as far as is possible, instead of disposing them off as trash.
- The most selective and least destructive means of pest control should be used by farmers to minimize soil and water pollution.
- Muslims should take necessary precautions to minimize the effects of natural catastrophes like earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions and storms.
- Muslims should avoid releasing waste products into flowing rivers and other water bodies but should construct sewerage systems for such disposal.
- By building well-spaced and ventilated houses and ensure cleanliness around the closest areas that Muslims live therein.

Islamic views on conservation of physical environment

The following are Islamic teachings on the conservation of the physical environment:

- Conservation of the environment is one of the basic principles of Islam
- Environmental conservation is a religious duty as well as social obligation expected of every Muslim
- Allah chose humankind as the caretakers of everything
- Allah created everything for the service of the man
- The prophet Muhammed also emphasized on the position of humankind as the caretaker
- The prophet Muhammed dealt extensively with conservation of resources, land reclamation and environmental hygiene

- The prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h) has clearly forbade destruction of trees, among other vegetation even during war times as long as they are still useful
- The Noble prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h) encouraged sustainable cultivation of land, kind treatment of animals, preservation of natural resources and protection of wildlife

Conservation of the moral environment

Meaning of the term 'culture'

Culture refers to the shared patterns of agreed behavior and interactions within a society or group that are learned through a process of socialization. **Islamic culture** is derived from the holy Quran and hadith. Islam has universal standards by which actions are classified as either moral or immoral.

Islamic views on the conservation of the moral environment

The following are Islamic teachings on the conservation of the moral environment:

1. Different cultures have different cultural practices known and practiced by its members. However, Islam has its own culture derived from Qur'an and Hadith.
2. Muslims are encouraged to abide by whatever is good and permissible and to leave whatever is bad and prohibited.
3. The immediate environment a person lives in and the people they interact with may positively or negatively influence them.
4. Islam has outlined the manners that Muslims should observe ranging from manners of walking, dressing, eating, sleeping among others.
5. Muslims are allowed to borrow from beneficial practices and innovations that are not against the Sharia.
6. Islamic culture should not be compromised with other unacceptable practices which may result in identity crisis or confusion among the Muslims.

Actions/ behaviours that Muslims can observe to conserve the moral environment

Muslims are urged to observe the following behaviours so as to conserve the moral environment:

- a) Muslims should constantly fear Allah and obey His commands.
- b) A Muslim should avoid all forms of vanities and excessive attachment to the pleasures of the world.
- c) Muslims should embrace and emulate the teachings of the Prophet (p.b.u.h).
- d) Constantly warning against evil practices such as slandering, falsehood, backbiting, rumour mongering among others.
- e) Implementing corrective measures or awarding punishment for moral crimes such as zina, theft, highway robbery, apostasy among others.
- f) Promoting modesty in the society for example the prohibition of Muslims to wear transparent clothes so as not to expose their body.
- g) In matters of food and drink Muslims should abide by Allah's commandment to eat and drink what is good and lawful so as to protect their health as well as safeguard their dignity
- h) Promoting good relationship amongst the Muslims by way of greeting each other, praying for one another, visiting the sick, accepting invitations among others. This will minimize vices such as hatred and jealousy.

Importance of conservation of physical and Moral environment

The following are reasons why it is important for Muslims to conserve their physical and moral environment of the society:

1. Allah has called upon humankind to appreciate the value of all his creation and conserve it.
2. To protect humankind from the effects of the harmful impact of destroying the environment. For example, global warming, desertification among others.
3. To co-exist peacefully with other creations like the wild animals who reside in forests.
4. To reduce chances of getting infected with diseases that may be as a result of pollution of the environment. For example, water borne infections like cholera, hearing problems due to sound pollution among others.

5. Any Muslims who conserves the environment earns rewards from Allah (SWT).
6. Human beings will be accountable to Allah over their stewardship of the environment.
7. It helps to prevent natural catastrophes such as flooding, drought and tsunami.
8. It enhances and preserve the beauty of the land and thus making the world attractive
9. It helps to reduce human and wild life conflicts and therefore promoting a balance ecological system

Ways in which Mass Media has eroded the Morals of the Muslim youth in Kenya

The following are ways through which Mass media has eroded the morals of the Muslim youth in Kenya:

- a) It has led to Distortion of Muslims identity where the mass media portrays images opposed to Muslims culture e.g. keeping of beard for men which is the Muslim identity is portrayed as unfashionable.
- b) Muslim youth labeled as extremists and fundamentalists.
- c) Advocating for western way of dressing where advertisements on television show that wearing of tight and short garments is fashionable.
- d) Muslim youth waste a lot of time watching immoral films and surfing the internet at the expenses of their studies and their Ibadah.
- e) Mass media encourage the youth to rebel against the acceptable terms in the society e.g. through film, songs hence the youth have become rebellious and disrespected towards elders.
- f) Distortion of Islamic teachings has made the youth less faith in their religion e.g. portraying polygamy in Islam as an avenue of spreading HIV/AIDs.
- g) Publishing/ broadcasting negative articles about Islam e.g. Islam mistreats women this makes the youth especially girls develop rebellious attitude.

- h) The youth have no respect for elders and they glorify use of vulgar language as a result of the songs they listen to and films that they watch.
- i) Television programmes and soap opera contain violent scenes and immoral sexual practices therefore compromising their religious tenet
- j) Mass media glorify drug abuse through fancy advertisement hence making the Muslim youths unconsciously inducted in to the habit

[How can a Muslim youth use the social media to promote good and forbid evils?](#)

The following are ways through which Muslims can use the social media to promote good and forbid evils in the society:

- Use the social media such as twitter, facebook, blog, skype, whatsapp to post relevant articles and lectures especially those that are directed to the youth
- Share with the others and show them information that promotes good and forbid evil
- Objectively enrich debates and discussions that serve youth positively
- Financially and morally support the minded people and media
- Boycott the media that promotes evils such as pornography, homosexuality by creating awareness about it and make people campaign against it.
- Establish a network or a page where Muslim youth exchange ideas and advice each other on Islamic issues or can be geared to educate the Muslim youth for example, free online Quran lessons.
- Donate the social media for charitable course such as One Shilling Foundation, famine among others.

[Ways of retaining Islamic cultural values in the changing society](#)

The following are ways through which Muslims can help to retain their rich Islamic culture in the today's changing society:

- a) Muslim should strengthen the family unit to promote and uphold Islamic cultural identity. Children and other members of the family should learn Islamic cultural practices, norms and beliefs from the older members of the family who should always remain role models.

- b) Muslims should seek Islamic knowledge so that they can know and understand their religious practices.
- c) Muslims should develop strong moral characters which will guard them from all kinds of evil and immoral culture. Every Muslim should be steadfast in the observing morals according to the teachings of Islam.
- d) Muslims must initiate many influential and positive Islamic media which shall be airing programs in the Islamic way in order to counter negative western media influence.
- e) Strengthening religious teachings through improving and increasing the Islamic learning centers, conducting lectures on Islamic values among others.
- f) Muslims should adhere to the teachings of Islam and strictly observe the acts of worship sincerely.
- g) Muslims should follow the Holy Qur'an and Hadith of the Prophet (p.b.u.h) which give guidance on Islamic cultural practices.
- h) Muslims should provide their children with positive leisure time and sport activities so that they may not be swayed by the un-Islamic practices they see around them.
- i) Muslims should organize for seminars and workshops to educate the youth on Islamic culture and warn them of the effects of the changing society.
- j) Muslims should uphold all the identified Muslims festivals in the right manner and avoid observing non-Islamic celebrations such as Valentine's Day, April fool's day among others.
- k) Parents should monitor the types of friends and company of their children so as to protect their children from negative peer pressure.
- l) Muslims should introduce the culture of reading to our youths and the Muslims in general so as to create awareness and learn the values and ideals of the Islamic culture.

Ways in which Muslims in Kenya help in the reduction of poverty in their community

The following are ways in which Muslims in Kenya can help in the reduction of poverty in their community:

- i. By the payment of Zakat. The payment of Zakat is obligatory as it is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims pay a certain fixed proportion of their wealth and on every kind of property liable for Zakat annually for the benefits of the poor in the community.
- ii. The payments of Sadaqa. This is alms (or anything) given in charity to help the poor and needy in the community.
- iii. The application of Islamic Sharia to protect the property of the most vulnerable in the society e.g. widows and orphans. They also safeguarded against exploitation and protected against human right abuses that could leave them destitute.
- iv. The work of Muslim charity organizations and non-Governmental organizations whose programmes are tailored to eradicate poverty and to help the less fortunate to improve their standards of living.
- v. Muslims provide, promote and encourage the education and training of the youths so that they can be equipped with relevant knowledge and skills for gainful employment and for the development of the community. Education and training also enhance equity, economic growth and expansions of employment opportunities.
- vi. Muslim organizations and individuals provide bursaries and scholarship to Muslims children who cannot afford school fees. This helps all Muslims youths regardless of their class to benefit from education.
- vii. By providing polytechnics and other post school institutions where schools leavers can be trained in technical/ industrial/ vocational and entire entrepreneurship knowledge and skills for job employment or self-employment.
- viii. The contribution of Muslim entrepreneurs in commerce and industry. These help in the creation of wealth and provision of employment for Muslims.

- ix. Through civic education where Muslims are sensitized in strategies of wealth creation e.g. entrepreneur skills, proper management and use of resources, dignity of work, evils of corruption; preservation and conservation of the environment and natural resources.
- x. Application of Islamic commercial law and ethics in business to safeguard the poor (and ignorant from being exploited and cheated/ the poor are accorded justice.
- xi. Muslims politicians and human rights activists have calling for and advocating for equitable distribution and allocation of resources and for the development (hence economic growth) and provision of necessary infrastructure and basic services (necessary bedrock in areas which had been neglected in the past.) This will greatly benefit Muslims who live in those areas economically.
- xii. Muslims have formed self-help groups which initiate income generating projects. These projects allow members to exploit their gifts, skills, talents, creativity and potential for self-development and the development of the community.
- xiii. Muslims are involved and participate in community development activities meant to bring development in the community e.g. water projects, co-operative movements agriculture/ animal keeping projects which are catalysts to economic growth and development.