

CHAPTER FIVE

AKHALAQ (MORALITY)

Meaning of Husunul-Khulq

The concept *Husunul-Khuluq* refers to the good behaviors, righteous as well as virtuous deeds that when performed are rewarded by Allah.

Objectives of husnul-khuluq

The following are the aims of observance of husnul-khuluq:

- a) So as to ensure the completion of good character among the members of the society
- b) To integrate the good characters as part of religion to all the aspects of human life.
- c) To make people be practical in performance of good deeds for others to admire and emulate them
- d) To avoid misleading people especially by failing to practice what we preach.

Benefits of Husnul-Khuluq

The Prophet (p.b.u.h) says; “*Fear Allah (SWT) wherever you are, and substitute an evil with a good action and associate with others in good character*”. (Tabrani). The following are some of importance of performing Husnul-Khulq:

- Good morals eliminate crimes, quarrels and fighting among the people of the society
- Observance of the refined behavior enables people to be responsible, dutiful and accountable members of the society.
- Pervasive behaviors and sins will be minimal and therefore making such a lovely society
- Good morals enhance good and positive relationship with Allah, self and other members of the society since they help in removing the anti-social and ungodly behaviors.
- Good behaviors are the heaviest thing in the balance (*mizan*) on the Day of Judgement
- Husnul-Khulq are the sign and indicators of the most perfect believers.
- Performing of good deeds leads people to be close to Allah and thus promoting taqwa (piety)
- It is a sign of the nearest and dearest people to the prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h)

- It helps a person to ascend to the highest rank in the society both in this world and the next. Therefore, people become role models who are morally upright.
- Upholding good morals may be a basis for attracting other people to Islam.
- It is a prophetic way and among the reasons for the messenger-ship of prophet Muhammed
- Performing of Husnul-Khulq promotes peace and harmony in the society as people live without conflicts and misunderstandings

The marks of good character

The following behaviors show that an individual possesses husnul-khuluq:

- Having modesty (hayaa)
- Having gratitude (hamd) and thank giving (shukr) to Allah for the favors He has granted us.
- Having kindness to friends, relatives and neighbours
- Loving and hating for the sake of Allah
- Having little, futile and decent talks
- Avoiding slandering, backbiting, abusing and cursing other people.
- Having tolerance and gentleness to others

Characteristics of the faithful servants of Allah (Ibaadu-Rahman)

The Quran (25:65.....) identifies the following as the marks of the faithful (believers) servants of Allah who refer to as Ibaadu-Rahman:

1. They are those walk on Earth modestly
2. Those who when the foolish people address them, they reply them with peace
3. Those who spend their night while praying
4. They are those who pray that Allah should save them from Hell-Fire
5. And those who spend their wealth moderately without any sort of extravagance
6. They don't commit shirk but rather they observe the oneness of Allah
7. They don't kill innocent people
8. They don't commit adultery neither fornication

9. They ask for Allah's forgiveness to repent for their sins which they have committed
10. Those who enjoin the performance of righteous deeds
11. Those who avoid giving a vanity witness
12. Once they pass near senseless play, then they pass by with dignity
13. They do pray to Allah to grant them good spouses and children
14. They heed to the revelation of Allah and follow His teachings

Deeds that lead to piety and righteousness

Deeds refer to actions, code of conduct, mannerism or behavior. *Piety* and *righteousness* refer to the act of God fearing and upholding a conduct that is within Allah commandment and Prophetic teachings. The Holy Qur'an [Q 2:177] has clearly outlined the deeds that lead to piety and righteousness as the following:

- a) To believe in Allah, the Last Day, Angels, His Books and Messengers.
- b) To spend one's wealth, subsistence in order to please Allah (SWT) by helping one's relatives, orphans, the needy, the wayfarer and those who ask for assistance and freeing of slaves.
- c) To observe our prayers and give charity regularly.
- d) To honor our promises, pledges and treaties
- e) To exercise patience and firmness while suffering or when faced with any calamity
- f) Having tranquility to exercise the sense of security during difficulties
- g) Having the sense of contentment to show our satisfaction for the provisions given by Allah
- h) Being truthful in laws, deeds, actions and promises.
- i) Believers should restrain from anger

Taqwa (piety)

Piety refers to the sense of God-fearing that denotes the ability of a man to do what is commanded by Allah and avoid what has been singled out as illegal.

Ways through which Muslims in Kenya can show piety

The following are ways through which Muslims can manifest their sense of God fearing:

- a) By striving to please Allah sincerely by obeying His commands to earn His good pleasure
- b) By being humble, kind, gentle and polite for the sake of Allah
- c) Through being patient during when befalls with calamities and difficulties
- d) Through loving Allah by respecting and treating His creation well
- e) Through leading chaste and moral lives, that is keeping away from sexual perversions
- f) By devoting time to Allah through remembering, thanking and glorifying Him.
- g) Through keeping away from evil deeds and immoral places, and repenting to Allah once a sin is committed.
- h) By having love and fear of Allah.
- i) Through reading or reciting the Quran and observing its teachings
- j) Performing the five daily prayers, Fardh and Sunnah and observing other devotional acts.
- k) By living in peace with oneself and others.
- l) Being content with what one has.

Dhabtu-Nafs (Self-control)

Self-control is the ability to observe self-restraint or rather control against temptations, desires and emotions when faced with any exciting occurrence. The prophet (PBUH) said: *“The strong one is not he who knocks out his enemies; he is the one who keeps control over his anger”*. (Bukhari and Muslim).

Benefits of Exercising Self-Control

The following are significance of exercising self-control:

1. Allah (SWT) rewards a person who exercises self-control. Allah (SWT) says *“But as for him who feared standing before his Lord and restrained himself from impure evil desires and lust. Verily, paradise will be his abode.”* [Q 79:40-41]

2. It shields one from evil because man's *nafs* (soul) is the seat of all evils. Therefore, if one is able to control his *nafs* from reacting to different circumstances, self-control prevents the person from doing any evil deed.
3. It promotes peace and unity in the community in that it discourages one from causing any damage or harm to those who have wronged him or her.
4. It gives one peace of mind as it enables one to control his or her innermost desires or emotions and makes one soberly accept the situation at stake.
5. Prevents unnecessary fights and quarrels since it instills wisdom on how to overcome them.
6. It enhances the performance of other virtuous deeds such as patience, truthfulness, forgiveness, etc.
7. It develops Taqwa because it is a commandment from Allah (SWT).
8. Promote good health by preventing disease such as hypertension and mental illnesses.
9. It enables one to make worthwhile decisions when faced with problems.
10. It enhances self-discipline since it is inbuilt and operates within one's operational circles.

Kinds of self-control

The following are some of the situations where self-control is necessary:

- a) To Control oneself against anger when provoked for a quarrel or fight.
- b) When in a circumstance provoking bodily desires such as sexual perversion.
- c) When dealing with wicked or ill-natured people.
- d) In case of arguing one should control oneself against abuses and filthy words
- e) When talking one should have self-control against tongue to avoid slandering, backbiting as well.

Qanaa (Contentment)

Contentment refers to the sense of having inner deep satisfaction and appreciation towards which Allah Has provided. Prophets Hadith: Abu Hurairah (RA) reports in one hadith that the Prophet (PBUH) said,

“Wealth is not (found) in vast riches but wealth is (found) in self-contentment.”
(Bukhari and Muslim)

Benefits of Exercising Contentment

The following are importance of having Qanaa to a Muslim:

1. Allah (SWT) loves those who exercise self-contentment and rewards them accordingly.
2. It removes greed, envy and jealousy in the community and hence curbs corruption.
3. It gives one peace of mind as it avoids unnecessary ungratefulness and complaints of issues.
4. It enhances peace and harmony in the community because it reduces vices such as theft, gambling, suspicion, quarrels, murder, bribery among other vices.
5. It encourages one to work hard because Muslims have an obligation to strive hard to improve their conditions and living standards.
6. It draws one closer to Allah because He distributes His favors to whosoever He wishes among His creatures.
7. It promotes good self-esteem and self-discipline among people when dealing with their daily activities in all aspects of life.
8. Having self-contentment discourages one from begging as they all know that Allah is the bestowal of all the provisions.
9. It encourages sharing among people. If people feel the inner satisfaction with what they have, then would be able to share the surplus with others.

Sakina (Tranquility)

Tranquility refers to a state of observing calmness, innermost self-control and acceptance to the situation at hand when one is befallen with a calamity or hardship.

Incidences from History of Islam through which prophets showed calmness

Muslims should maintain calmness within their souls. They should remember the inspiring examples of the lives of our role models, prophets of Allah. Such incidences include the following:

- The prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h) and Abubakar Assidiq (R.A) showed perfect sense of calmness when they were in the cave Thaur. Their enemies reached there in searching for them. But they had to remain calm believing that Allah will protect them.
- On the day of the battle of Hunain, the prophet Muhammed remained calm when the companions were facing a defeat while they outnumber their enemy. He relied on the help of Allah.
- During the battle of Badr, the number of Qureysh was thrice of that of the Muslims. However, the prophet Muhammed prayed for Allah help and relied upon Him for victory. Then he remained calm expecting nothing but a win.
- The prophet Ibrahim (A.S) showed calmness when his people decided to throw him into the burning ember.
- Nabii Yakub (A.S) manifested a perfect sense of tranquility when his sons returned and told him that their brother Yusuf has been eaten by a wolf.
- Nabii Ayub (A.S) who was wealthy, healthy and living happily with his family but suddenly things changed. He became sick, poor and his family dispersed from him. He remained calm while hoping for the best from Allah.

Situations where exercising tranquility is necessary

Tranquility is needed in the following periods:

- During examination
- During planning
- During competitions
- During organizing for jihad or war
- After a death of a friend or relative
- During disasters such as drought, floods and fire

Benefits of exercising Sakina

The following are some significance of exercising tranquility to a Muslim:

1. It regulates emotions, thus enabling one to make a worthwhile decision in finding a suitable solution.

2. It enhances good relationship among people since it prevents unnecessary provocation, which may lead to misunderstanding.
3. It prevents one from over reacting to exciting situations, a conduct which may worsen the problem.
4. It encourages one to remember Allah (SWT) when faced with hardship or challenges. In addition, Allah (SWT) has declared rewards for all the believers who remember Him when in difficulty.
5. It is a source of wisdom and inspiration because one who remains composed and peaceful usually finds an amicable solution.
6. It prevents one from distress and other related illness such as hypertension, depression, anxiety that may damage one physical and mental being.
7. It provides the right avenues to observe other virtuous deeds such as patience, self-control, forgiveness, justice among other virtues.

Sabr (Patience)

Patience is the act of offering resistance, perseverance and endurance over an event or condition, which may be good or bad. In patience one restrains his soul, mind and body from what is harmful such as panic, anger, revenge, complain or other form of abuse.

Situations where exercising patience is necessary

Patience is needed in the following periods:

- In case of existence of something of fear, for example one is expected to have patience when tasted with serious sickness.
- When there is something of hunger, for example during wars or when the muslim lost his beloved one like his parents, wife, husband, children, friend or relatives.
- Emergence of loss of goods, for example in case of typhoon, or in getting of loss and facing bankruptcy in business muslims are expected to exercise sabr
- In case there are loss of lives, for example due to earthquake
- In case there are loss in fruits, that is in case of floods.
- When a Muslim is carrying out Islamic mission and his people are abusing and disobeying him

Patience takes different names according to different situations

The following are different names of patience according to various situations:

- a) During calamity it is referred to as perseverance
- b) During war it is referred to as bravery
- c) When controlling oneself from evils it is referred to as a shield (modesty/piety)
- d) When looking after other peoples' properties honestly it is called Amanah (trust)
- e) When observing the commandments of Allah is called obedience.

Ways in which a Muslim should practice patience during sickness

The following are ways through which a Muslim should practice patience during sickness:

- Through thanking Allah for His favours that He has bestowed upon
- A Muslim should avoid blaming Allah for the sickness
- A Muslim should accept the sickness as a trial from Allah and not a punishment
- By having faith on Allah for recovery
- An individual should ask forgiveness from Allah
- Through looking for medical help from the right source
- A Muslim should believe that a person is rewarded for being patient

Benefits of exercising Patience

The following are significance of observing patience in life of a Muslim:

1. Allah (SWT) loves and is with those who are patient. Therefore, patience is an act of worship and the basis of achievement in this world and hereafter.
2. It draws one closer to Allah (SWT) enhancing development of *Taqwa* (God fearing). Therefore, patience controls one from going against the commands of Allah.
3. It curbs worries hence promoting peace of mind. This can help Muslims to work peacefully and achieve the best in their endeavors.
4. Enhance cordial relationship among people through creating tolerance and understanding.
5. It promotes other righteous deeds such as love, trust and self-control and thus makes Muslims to have the refined righteous behaviors in all aspects.

6. It the Sunnah of the prophet and therefore one is rewarded unlimitedly by observing patience.
7. It assists in the establishment of peace in the community by preventing chaos and conflicts.
8. It instills leadership quality especially when making decisions and implementing them effectively.

Incidences from History of Islam through which prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h) showed patience

The following are situations from the history of Islam through which the prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h) exercised patience:

- The prophet Muhammed showed patience when the Qureysh refused him and his companions from worshipping in the Ka'abah
- When he was stoned in Taif, the prophet Muhammed prayed to Allah to guide the people of Taif instead of cursing them. This is an example of perfect sense of patience.
- The prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h) exercised patience during the Boycott of Banu-Hashim. Despite of all the difficulties he went through but he did not abandon his duty of preaching Islam.
- During the period of persecution and torture in Makkah, many Muslims lost their lives, wealth and even separated from their families. Even his daughters were divorced to humiliate him. But the prophet Muhammed (p.b.u.h) remained patient hoping that Allah will make Islam prosper.
- After the death of his son Ibrahim, Abdullah and Qassim, the prophet Muhammed upheld his patience despite the fact that the Qureysh called him a cursed one.
- The prophet Muhammed was born when his father is dead and even lost his mother at the age of six but still remained patient
- He was made to flee in his native land Makkah and migrated to Madinah because of the intense persecution
- He was being injured and his canine was removed in the battle of uhud but he did not curse nor pray onto them a punishment, but he remained patient

- After the loss of his two greatest supporters and helpers namely Abu-Talib and Khadija bint Khuwailid, the prophet remained patient for he knew that is due to the Divine destiny of Allah.

Factors that encouraged the early Muslims to have perseverance in the face of hardship

The following are the things that promoted patience among the Early Muslims during hardships:

- Unshakable belief in Allah
- Great leadership coupled with exemplary manners and attributes of the prophet Muhammed
- Their sense of responsibility and commitment was very high
- The Quran gave them encouragement since it mentioned pain, sorrow and self-sacrifice
- They were given glad tidings of victory over the infidels in the Holy Quran
- They were promised to enter paradise and good things in paradise

Amana (Trust)

Trust refers to the carrying out of one's duties, assignment, responsibilities, or tasks according to the expected principles laid down by Allah (SWT) and the community.

Benefits of Exercising Trust

The following are significance of exercising trust:

1. It enhances good performance of one's duty and obligation since one becomes accountable and responsible of his or her duty.
2. It establishes trustworthiness amongst the people and thus making them to entrust their properties with each other without any doubts.
3. It promotes good relationship between humankind and his Creator and among the humankind themselves. This enhances peace and harmony in the society.
4. Allah (SWT) rewards those who execute their duties diligently

5. It enhances God fearing and that one strictly follows Allah (SWT) commandment when performing their duties.
6. It curbs cheating, misappropriation, carelessness and other avenues that encourage corruption.
7. It equips one with leadership qualities. This is because the people appointed in the offices will not betray the trust neither misuse their powers.
8. It improves the socio-economic and political progress of a given community since the practicing of amanah avoids corruption, greediness and bribery.
9. It encourages one to uphold virtuous deeds in his or her life, such as patience, self-control contentment among other virtues.

Sidq (truthfulness)

Truthfulness refers to thoughts, words, and actions that conform to the norms and reality of a given community. Allah (SWT) says, *“O you who believe! Be afraid of Allah (SWT), and be with those who are true (in words and deeds)”* [Q 9: 119]

Manifestations of truthfulness

the following are situations where exercising truthfulness is necessary:

1. Being truthful towards Allah and Islamic sharia by worshipping Him sincerely.
2. Being truthful towards one's own soul by making it adhere to the laws of Allah
3. Being truthful with people by keeping ones promises
4. Being truthful by observing honesty in business and trade
5. Being truthful in matters relating to family e.g. marriage.
6. Being truthful when giving evidence and witness by telling the truth even if it is bitter

Benefits of practicing Sidq

The following are significance of exercising truthfulness:

1. It fosters a harmonious co-existence among people as it removes unnecessary suspicion, quarrels, chaos, fights and all sorts of conflicts.
2. It is a path to righteousness because it encompasses all the virtues
3. It is a commandment of Allah hence Allah (SWT) rewards all those who perform it.

4. It discourages social vices such as dishonesty and falsehood.
5. It encourages fairness in speech and action when dealing with one another. For example, in trade, giving evidence and fulfilling promises.
6. It purifies one's soul and mind from falsehood as it bars one from temptation towards evil deeds.
7. It encourages one to be God fearing because truthfulness starts with Allah (SWT) before it is extended to fellow humankind.
8. It presents an exemplary character which may help in promoting one's dignity in the community thus identifying them as role models.

Meaning of Suul-khulq (vices)

The concept *Suull-Khuluq* refers to the bad behaviors, ill-mannerism as well as vices deeds that when performed are disliked by the members of society and punished by Allah.

Intoxicants (Al-khamr)

These are substances whether solid, liquid or in gaseous form when taken interfere with the normal functioning of the body system and one's mind becomes befogged after their consumption either by drinking, inhalation or injection. It is prohibited to take intoxicants and there should be no loopholes sought for taking any of them.

Effects of intoxicants

The following are adverse effects of intoxicants on the social, physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Social and morals effects of intoxicants

1. Lowers one's dignity and respect in the community. For example, if someone is drunk can sometimes fall in dirty drainage canals, spoils his clothes with uncontrollable urine and stool.
2. Use of abusive language and igniting quarrels with almost everyone because the mind is befogged.
3. The state of intoxication affects the interpersonal relations and may lead to fights and quarrels.

4. May lead to divorce especially if the user neglects the marital responsibilities and oversteps the rights of their partners.
5. May lead to other vices like prostitution, raping, murder, suicide, accidents and gambling as the way the prophet Muhammed said that intoxicants are the mother of other vices.

Physical effects of intoxicants

1. Use of intoxicants can result into brain damage and thus making one an insane.
2. Excessive consumption of intoxicants lowers the immune system of the users and thus making them vulnerable to several diseases such as tuberculosis, heart attack and blood pressure.
3. The intoxicants can lead to hemorrhage and thus make someone bleed so much when gets injured. And sometimes affects the process of blood clotting adversely and even impossible.
4. The consumption of intoxicants can result into nervous disorders which can lead to imbalance.
5. Liver disorders like cirrhosis and failure in bladder control can be caused by using of intoxicants.
6. Extreme uses may lead to dependence on the intoxicants and make the users completely addicted.
7. It leads to loss of body weight among the user and make them generally weak.
8. It slows down the process of cells formation in the body.

Economic effects of consuming intoxicants

1. It is a wastage of resources and wealth
2. The consumers misuse time, which could be more valuable for other activities.
3. It may cause bankruptcy and general loss of wealth.
4. It encourages laziness and leads to poverty in the community.

Ten people who are cursed due to their association with Alcohol

- a) One who prosses alcohol
- b) One who is engage to work at a place where the alcohol is processed

- c) One who drinks alcohol
- d) One who carries alcohol
- e) One whom the alcohol is carried to
- f) One who serves others alcohol
- g) One who deals with alcohol
- h) One who devours alcohol in cones
- i) One who buys alcohol
- j) One from whom the alcohol is purchased

Rationale for the prohibition of intoxicants in Islam

The following are wisdom behind the prohibition of intoxicants in Islam:

1. To refrain Muslims from performing sinful acts: Intoxicants are the mother of all vices and since those who consume intoxicants are prone to vices such as adultery, fornication, theft as result of losing their minds
2. To promote sense of responsibility among family members: Many families are destroyed by intoxicants. For example, absentee and irresponsible parents who spend their time drinking alcohol hence neglecting their parental responsibilities
3. To preserve the health of human beings: Intoxicants are harmful to the health and well being of a human being. For example, some of intoxicants like bhang, cocaine can lead to diseases such as liver cirrhosis, anxiety, brain damage among others
4. To preserve lives of people: Consumption of intoxicants such as alcohol can lead to loss of many lives through road accidents
5. To preserve the precious time of the Muslims: Its consumption leads to wastage of time and open doors of vain talks in vulgarism manner. Therefore, Muslims can use their time in ibaadah.
6. To safeguard the wealth and property of the Muslims: The consumption of intoxicants also leads to wastage of money as much money is wasted in the bars and buying of beer
7. To promote health relationship among the people of the society: Leads to divorce as a result of failure to fulfill conjugal rights and providing basic necessities

8. To avoid the curse and wrath of Allah: One who uses intoxicants is cursed according to the prophet statement hence may result into displeasure of Allah on the servant

Drug Abuse

Drug is defined as any substance which when introduced into a living organism modifies one or more cells hence affecting the normal functioning of its body. On the other hand, Drug abuse is the use of drugs for other motives apart from curative and preventive. Drug use refers to the correct usage of the drugs according to the physician's prescription for the well- being of the body.

Gambling

It is a game in which people take chances and they either win or lose. All the games of such format are prohibited in Islam. In the marketing scene, the promotion of several commodities is accompanied with lotteries, raffles and other competitions where people are promised to win vehicles, houses, and trips to various places, electronic appliances and consolation prizes, to mention but some. The concerned companies give such games so attractive promotional names that potential customers are moved, they still remain to be forms of gambling that are sinful.

Effects of Gambling

The following are some effects of gambling:

- a) It leads to unequal distribution of wealth and properties therefore, promoting imbalance among people
- b) It gives people easy gains thus promoting laziness among the people in the society
- c) Chances of losing when gambling are very high thus bringing uncertainty and stress to the participants
- d) It can lead to unnecessary fights, quarrels, and abuses especially when cheating ways are used to win
- e) A gambler ends up accumulating debts or leads to heavy borrowing so as to play and play after losing frequently
- f) The excessive and easy gain through gambling can lead to other vices such as drinking of alcohol, fornication, adultery, greediness among others

- g) Gambling is a wastage of valuable time and misuse of leisure that which the gambler may have use it for other valuable activities such as prayers and reciting Quran
- h) Gambling can lead to depression, stigmatization and suicide for the losers in particular and family at large

Rationale behind the prohibition of gambling in Islam

The following is the wisdom behind the prohibition of games of chances in Islam:

- a) To ensure fairness in distribution of wealth and properties among people of the society: Gambling leads to unequal distribution of wealth and properties therefore, promoting imbalance among people
- b) To encourage people to work and earn a legitimate living: It gives people easy gains thus promoting laziness among the people in the society, but if avoided, people work hard to have halal gains.
- c) To preserve the people's minds against unnecessary stress: Chances of losing when gambling are very high thus bringing uncertainty and stress to the participants, by avoiding gambling one earns calmness.
- d) To promote peace and harmony among the people of the society: Gambling can lead to unnecessary fights, quarrels, and abuses especially when frauds and cheating ways are used to win.
- e) To preserve the wealth and properties of the society: A gambler ends up accumulating debts or leads to heavy borrowing so as to play and play after losing frequently. In order to avoid this unnecessary loss Muslims are discouraged to gamble.
- f) To protect Muslims against evils: The excessive and easy gain through gambling can lead to other vices such as drinking of alcohol, fornication, adultery, greediness among others. By avoiding gambling, Muslims are able to escape all these sinful acts.
- g) To safeguard the valuable time and leisure of the Muslims: Gambling is a wastage of valuable time and misuse of leisure that which the gambler may have use it for other valuable activities such as prayers and reciting Quran.

- h) The game of chances can lead to depression, stigmatization and suicide for the losers in particular and family at large. Islam wanted to preserve the minds of people from these adverse effects of gambling.

Ways in which the involvement in gambling undermines a person integrity

The following are ways in which gambling undermines integrity of person in the community:

- a) Turns a gambler into a liar and a cheat.
- b) Leads to wastage of money and other resources therefore, it turns a person to spendthrift.
- c) Leads to laziness, idleness and irresponsibility as the gambler forsakes and neglects respectable work, duty or job assigned to him or her to concentrate on gambling.
- d) It is an illegal way of acquiring wealth.
- e) Leads to moral, mental and spiritual corruption.
- f) May lead to stealing to get money to gamble and even to murder and violence.
- g) May lead to drunkenness and use of drugs.
- h) May lead to bankruptcy hence to hopelessness and despair where a person becomes suicidal.
- i) May lead to break-up of families/ marriages, thus leading to stigmatization and hence undermine human integrity.
- j) A gambler may easily forsake/neglect his religion.

How gambling can lead to a family breakdown

The following are ways through which gambling can lead to a family breakdown:

1. One loses self-respect and respect from the members of the family.
2. Gambling can lead to poverty in the family as a result of uncontrolled spending.
3. A gambler might be obsessed with accumulating wealth at the expense of looking after the family.
4. Gambling might lead to distress which may result into suicide.
5. Gambling deprives one time to attend to his family's needs.
6. Gambling can lead to other vices such as drinking alcohol, adultery and prostitution which break faithfulness between the couples.

7. Gambling can lead to frustrations which be vented to the spouses and children.

Ways through which Muslims can discourage gambling in the society

The following are ways through which Muslims can use to discourage gambling in the society:

- Guidance and counseling should be undertaken in madrassas, school and mosques, to enlighten the Muslims on the evils of gambling.
- Creating employment opportunities for the youth to act as a substitute for the vice especially for those who are unemployed and are out to make quick money.
- Appealing to the authorities to ban gambling and the venues where it takes place, this will discourage many people from engaging in the vice.
- Establishing recreational facilities e. g play grounds gym facilities, swimming pools, IT centres etc. especially for the youth who are more vulnerable and can fall into the vice.
- Parents to ensure that the youth are occupied in meaning activities while at home so as to avoid idling and thus engaging in the vice.
- Muslims individual/organizations to offer loans to other Muslims to start income generating projects and small businesses which will go a long way in discourage the vice.
- Gambling as a vice is taught in the IRE syllabus and also in madrassas and this equips the youth with the relevant knowledge to avoid the vice.
- Creating awareness on the evils of gambling through the mass media e.g. radio, television, internet.
- Organizing workshops and seminars for experts to strategize on the best way forward of containing/ fighting gambling.

Kibr (pride)

Kibr is a habit in which one feels too superior to others and treat others as inferior by despising them due to wealth, leadership position, knowledge possessed, race, family background or any other reason.

Islamic teachings on Kibr (pride)

The following are the Islamic teachings about pride (Kibr):

- A proud man will not enter paradise when he or she has even an atom weight of pride.
- Allah lowers down anyone who is proud.
- The arrogant and the proud will be gathered on the day of Judgement in form of a small ant.
- The proud are among the inmates of the Hellfire.
- The proud are among the three whom Allah will not speak with on the Day of Judgement.
- The proud are the most ungrateful people to Allah.
- Allah hates the proud and the arrogants.
- Pride is ridaa of Allah and anyone who vies for it shall be tormented by Him.

Effects of kibr to a life of a Muslim

The following are reasons as to why Islam discourages pride to a Muslim:

1. Allah punishes all forms of Kibr because it is a minor shirk. One will not enter paradise.
2. Pride weakens the faith of a Muslim and thus resulting into disobeying the laws and orders of Allah
3. Pride damages the relationship between men and women because everyone feels superior than the other. This can lead to unnecessary quarrels and fights.
4. It encourages vices such as hatred, suspicion and revenge. Thus, tempering with the peace and harmony of the society.
5. It may cause one being segregated and detested by others and may lead to disunity.
6. It interferes with the sound reasoning and one may make wrong decisions. This is because pride can reduce personal intellect and disregard the respect of others.
7. It is a quality of satan and thus making people to end up in the group of satan.
8. Pride can lead to self-destruction as the person feels superior and disregards some of his rights

Sexual perversions

Sexual perversion is a situation where one deviates from the norms of sexual behavior and indulges in behaviors that are sexually offensive. The only way in which sexual

relations become legitimate is through marriage between a man and a woman in a binding contract that Allah recognizes.

Acts that are considered as sexual perversion

The following illicit sexual behaviors are considered as sexual perversions:

1. Zina (Adultery and fornication)
2. Prostitution
3. Homosexuality (Lesbianism and gayism)
4. Incest
5. Bestiality
6. Rape and defilement
7. Masturbation
8. Polyandrous

Zinaa

This includes all the sexual intercourses undertaken outside marriage. It is classified into:

- Adultery: It is an illicit sexual intercourse when committed by a married person with someone else outside marriage relationship. The punishment of this sin is to be stoned to death.
- Fornication: It is an illicit sexual intercourse when committed by an unmarried person. The punishment of this sin is to be given 100 strokes.

Effects of zinaa in the society

The following are permanent negative impacts of zinaa in the society:

1. Violating the interests of the unborn children by making them illegitimate.
2. Bring feuds and murder between warring individuals and families.
3. Spoiling the future of the children already born by making them miss proper care.
4. Bringing loss of reputation and property.
5. Breaking the bonds of relationship permanently.
6. Destroying the good foundation of a family.

Islamic measures put in place to guard the society against zina

The following are ways through Muslims can use to stop zinaa in the society:

- a) Islamic teaching emphasizes that Muslim who attain the age of puberty should marry to avoid Zina.
- b) Prohibition of free mixing of sexes; men and women are not allowed to mix freely. e.g. in the mosques men and women pray in separate areas.
- c) Prohibition of acts that may lead Muslims to commit fornication adultery e.g. consumption of alcohol, engaging in dancing etc.
- d) Muslim men are allowed to marry a maximum of four wives, in case a man fell in love with another woman he should marry her instead of committing zina.
- e) Harsh punishment has been prescribed in the Quran on fornicators and adulterers (Q 24 2-3).
- f) Muslim women should dress decently i.e. they should cover their bodies with the exception of the hands and face. This reduces the evil of temptation which can lead to zina.
- g) Restrictions on men from visiting other men's homes in their absence, a man cannot visit another man's house if it's only the wife who is at home.
- h) Islam allows divorce in case a couple are unable to reconcile their differences to enables both parties choose suitable/ appropriate spouse.
- i) Muslim women should be accompanied by Muhrim when going on a journey.
- j) Islam prescribes reward for those who keep away for zina.
- k) Muslims are encouraged to practices piety to prevent them from engaging in immoral acts.

Prostitution

Generally, prostitution is the act of provision of illicit sexual services to a person in return for payment or any other favors.

Why prostitution is on alarming rate currently in the society

The following are several causes of prostitution currently in the society:

- Due to Poverty: Most of the prostitutes commit it to earn their living.
- The country does not condemn the acts but they call prostitute aiders from outside and authorize it by calling it as sex commercial/ sex workers.

- Peer pressure: Influence of bad companies is among the cause of prostitute, sometimes the following of trend of peers so as to have a feeling of doing what friends are doing can result into this vice.
- Seeking recognition: The need to be recognized and identified in the society through TV and Documentaries such as Magazines, social medias and websites.
- Uncontrolled sexual desires and curiosity to satisfy the need of exploring to settle the sexual pressure
- Having poor role model and family negligence: The failure of parents from taking their responsibility of guiding their children to the right way can result into prostitution.
- Watching fancy advertisements of prostitution and public sex which lead to false perception and understanding.

Ways in which a Muslim can assist in stopping prostitution

The following are ways through which Muslims can assist in curbing prostitution in the society:

- By discouraging free mixing of opposite sex. Islamically, with regards to gender lines and sex is strictly reserved for husband and wife.
- By discouraging divorces in the community, thus enabling the firm and steadfast relationships among people in the society.
- Muslims can stop prostitution through making marriages affordable and strictly confined the illicit relationships between a man and a woman.
- By punishing those people who found in prostitution according to Islamic laws.
- Muslims parents and guardians can curb prostitution by monitoring the relationships among the peer groups. This can be done by ensuring healthy relations and avoiding unnecessary long absenteeism from home.
- By declaring that all the social places and literature books such as pornographic magazines and sites where prostitution take place and showed that a banned and should be destroyed
- By proving enough awareness on the effects and dangers of prostitution through billboards, workshops, campaigns, seminars and Dawaa programs in mosques.

Effects of prostitution in the society

Prostitution as a vice has adverse effects as stated below:

1. It undermines the dignity of the woman who Allah has placed three grades higher than the man.
2. It promotes backwardness and lack of civilization when several people sleep with one woman.
3. It is misappropriation of money when people go to prostitutes.
4. It is a social evil which makes the community lose dignity
5. It makes people compare with animals who mate in the open.
6. It is a shameful act which is condemned by Allah (SWT).
7. It is a health risk because sexually transmitted infections can easily be spread.
8. It discourages women from giving birth so that they can go on with their business.
This inhibits procreation and makes these women miss the divine prestige of being mothers

Homosexuality

Homosexuality is the practice of sexual relations between same sex or gender. This is unacceptable in any civilized society and remains a haram and forbidden practice. It is divided into two;

- Gayism is an act of illicit sexual intercourse between two or more male partners by sodomization.
- Lesbianism is an act of illicit sexual intercourse between two or more female partners

Ways how a Muslim can eradicate homosexuality in the society

The following are way in which Muslims can help to stop homosexuality in the society:

- a) Having a healthy attitude towards having sexual intercourse
- b) By exhorting people to marry for proper reasons
- c) To show unmarried ones how best to preserve and enjoy marriage life
- d) To lessen the factors which may tempt people to look for sexual satisfaction outside marriage

- e) To severely punish those people who seek sexual gratification in non-marital avenues
- f) Immoral places, websites, pornographic literatures should be demolished
- g) By discouraging the company of those who have perverted ideas

Rationale for the prohibition of homosexuality in Islam

Homosexuality is prohibited in Islam because of the following reasons:

1. It can lead to the extinction of mankind because it prevents human beings from fulfilling the reproductive function.
2. It is against the natural way of reproduction which Allah has prescribed for human survival on earth and which was advocated by all prophets of Allah.
3. It destructs natural life as people become slaves of their lusts.
4. Leads to moral degradation and lack of respect to those who practice it.
5. Leads to life threatening diseases, some of which are unknown and have no cure e.g. HIV/AIDs.
6. It is unhygienic and disgusting way of fulfilling human natural desires.
7. Can lead to permanent body injury which brings about constant ailments to the person practicing
8. Leads to degradation of moral standards in the society, a society that practices homosexuality has no morals.
9. Threatens the basic fabric of family life and values, an ideal family should consist of a husband, wife and possibly children.
10. It will lead to punishment from Allah. All those who engage in this unnatural act will be punished severely by Allah.

Effects of homosexuality in the society

The following are reasons why Islam prohibits homosexuality in the society:

1. The involved go against the practice of formal marriage allowed by Allah (SWT).
2. Allah (SWT) curses whoever practices it.
3. It results the loss to human dignity.
4. It results in the infection and spread of diseases to those involved.
5. Women will lack husbands for protection and social security.

6. It may open avenues where women will also engage in open zinaa in competition with homosexuals.
7. Lack of procreation as homosexuality does not result to pregnancy.

Incest

Incest is the act of having illicit sexual intercourse between close relatives whom are within the prohibited degrees of marriage.

Why is incest considered as haram in Islam?

There are several reasons why incest is discouraged. Some of these reasons are as follows:

1. Incest is a sinful and criminal act. Therefore, it can lead someone into Hellfire.
2. Incest leads to genetic defects and hence resulting into deformities of children born.
3. Those who practice incest lose their dignity, reputation and respect in their societies.
4. It is a practice for animals.
5. Incest leads to degeneration of morals among the people of the society
6. Incest traumatizes the victim and ends up stigmatized.
7. It can lead to family break up due to the enmity created for example, if it will be between mother and son, then father will not stay with the wife and may decide to divorce the wife.

Bestiality

It is sexual intercourse between a human being and an animal. Such behavior is prohibited because it debases the person who practices it.

Why bestiality is forbidden in Islam?

The following are reasons why Islam condemns bestiality in the society:

- a) It is a sinful and curse from Allah (SWT) that which leads to punishment of Allah.
- b) It reduces the dignity of the individual involved.
- c) It is a merciless act to the animal in particular and inhuman generally.
- d) Women will have no husbands for security.
- e) Women will indulge in sexual perversion.
- f) Lack of procreation of human race.

- g) It is an irresponsible act to the owners of the animals not to protect them.
- h) It leads to the family unrest

Rape and defilement

Rape is having sexual relations with someone without their consent. In such a situation, the victim has no blame and cannot be punished but it is prohibited. On the other hand, defilement is any sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 18 years old, whether or not the child consents.

Effects of rape and defilement

The following are reasons why rape and defilement are considered illegal in Islam:

- Re-experiencing the trauma (uncontrollable intrusive thoughts about the rape)
- Social withdrawal and family disintegration
- Physical injuries
- Avoidance behaviors (a general tendency to avoid any thoughts, feelings, or cues)
- Irritability, hostility, rage and anger
- Bleeding from the private parts
- Chronic pelvic pains
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Unwanted pregnancies
- Loss of respect
- It creates a sense of mistrust in the partners

Circumstances which lead to rape and defilement

The following are some causes of raping and defilement in the society:

- a) Use of drugs and intoxicants like wines and marijuana
- b) Uncontrolled mixing of opposite sexes especially in discos and the like
- c) Wishing to have more laxity especially parents who do not mind what their children do
- d) Indecent dressing especially ladies whose dresses are in manner that entice men wanting to have sex with them without delay

- e) Absence of strong implementation of heavy laws that can punish the rapist and defilements
- f) Poverty which leads to extended family problems hence unrestricted relatives kept at home
- g) Some soap operas in Television, print Media that entice men to have sex with women
- h) Walking lonely in unsafe and secluded places
- i) Exposure to pornographic literature such as Magazines, films and pictures

Measures put in place by Islam to curb rape cases in the society

The following are ways in which Muslims can use to stop cases of raping and defilement:

- Avoiding intermingling of sexes this prevents frequent contacts of the opposite sexes
- It encourages Muslims to marry to prevent lust
- It has laid heavy punishment to those who indulge in rape
- It prohibits intoxicants which lead to rape
- Women are encouraged to dress well as loose and wide dresses as possible
- Men are not to enter other men's houses without the permission of the owners
- Women are to walk in the company of Maharam
- It discourages idleness and encourages earning their livelihood
- Parents are to take full responsibility on their children to stop exposing them to rape
- Lowering the gaze should be encouraged so as to avoid staring into haram things like scantily dressed women who can ignite the feeling of having sex
- Fasting so as to control excessive sexually urges especially to the unmarried youth

Masturbation

Masturbation: This is the act whereby a person satisfies him/herself by him/herself by using any means where at the end he or she produces the sexual fluids such as sperms.

It was narrated that: *"There will be some people who will be assembled on the day of Judgment with pregnant hands because of committing adultery. They used to make play of their genitals in the world."* Thus, masturbation is another form of zinaa.

Why Islam forbids Masturbation?

The following are reasons why Masturbation is unlawful in Islam:

1. Islam strictly forbids the waste of seminal fluids; therefore, one earns a sin by committing masturbation
2. This evil practice removes the normal bright look of the individual's face and make it looks melancholy and dejected
3. It is unhealthy since it causes pains on the back
4. Once it is committed frequently, one's vitality and sexual stamina is reduced

NB: It is only permitted when it is performed by the hands of a man's wife or concubine, for the husband has a right to the enjoyment of her hand as he has to the rest of her body.

Polyandrous

Polyandrous refers to the act of having pluralities of husbands by one wife. Women are not allowed to marry more than one husband at a time. While polygamy on the other side is allowed.

Wisdom behind prohibition of polyandrous

The following are reasons why polyandrous is unlawful in Islam:

- It is immoral act and therefore, one gets sin by practicing it.
- It leads to dangerous diseases such as STIs and HIV/AIDs
- Individuals who engage in it are ashamed of and lower their respect and reputation in the society
- It has no room for love but instead it can lead to hatred between members of the family
- It denies some people from getting their rightful heirs

Effects of sexual perversion on society

The following are the adverse impacts of sexual perversion on the society:

- a) May lead to divorce as a result of one partner's feeling and dignity being hurt by perverted sexual behavior of the partner.
- b) May lead to street children for instance in case of pregnancy outside marriage.

- c) Leads to unwanted pregnancies and unplanned children, hence leads to negligence of children.
- d) May lead to single parenthood as a result of rape before marriage, hence leading to stigmatization.
- e) Leads to committing criminal acts such as rape, abortion, dumping of babies and infant, this will lead to instability in the society.
- f) Leads to poverty as a result of having children outside marriage to support and cost of treatments for disease contracted.
- g) Contributed to rise and spread of STDs and HIV/AIDs.
- h) Causes mistrust and suspicions in the society and even proven guilty can result into imprisonment
- i) Leads to people neglecting their religious obligation as they sink deeper into the vice.
- j) Might end up being expensive for the nation and families as they seek to provide the people suffering from STD or HIV/AIDs with medicine and food.
- k) Leads to mistrust and suspicious leading to disharmony in families and society.
- l) May lead to other vice e.g. drug and alcohol abuse, abortion and even murder/suicide.
- m) It may lead to physical injuries due to use of physical violence
- n) It may result into losing of job due to sexual scandals and thus leading to suffering of the victims and the people depending on them.
- o) It may lead to school drop-out especially if is a girl child who has got unplanned and unprotected pregnancy either through being raped or with her consent.