Notion of Islamic Charity: An Impulse for Moral Economy

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ABSTRACT

Charity, advocated by every religion of the world, is means to bring about justice in society. Justice being the essence of religion is emphasized by Islam in the form of Zakat, which is obligatory upon all those who embrace the faith. It has been made into an institution in order to give it permanence and regularity. The Islamic framework of charity constitutes the concept of Zakat in the form of obligatory charity and Sadaqah, donation as Volunteer charity. In Islamic morality, there are two sets of rights and obligation for a Muslim: the rights to worship God and the right to serve the humanity. Islamic moral value system does not neglect the humanity at large and gives a due share to provide the help to the people of the world. Thus charity is given to the needy, poor, scholars, charity organizations and welfare of the society at large. The concept of moral economy is based on the good faith and welfare of the humanity. It emphasize on the welfare and social security of the humanity and the marginalized group of the society. This paper is intended to give a comparative view about the different notions of the Islamic charity (Zakat, Sadaqah and donation) and to highlight the forms of charity in Islam, their differences and their impact on the society and the formation of the moral economy. Islamic concept of charity and social security has never been debated in the light of the moral economy. This paper will discuss the interrelation between forms of charity in Islam, their impact on society and social security and development using an analytical methodology. The paper will conclude on how development of Islamic charity and its fair distribution could lead to alleviate and eradicate poverty contributing to the welfare of the humanity.

Keywords: