

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Fulfilling People's Needs as a Duty and a Recommended Deed

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Do good so that you may succeed.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment. The Almighty Allah is the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful. He removes people's troubles, forgives their sins, and shows His Mercy to them in this world and the Hereafter.

Fulfilling people's needs is one of the noble values that our religion calls for, and it is one of the most beloved deeds to Allah. Islam considers those who possess this value as the dearest people to Allah, as our Prophet (PBUH) said: “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people, and the most beloved deeds to Allah are bringing happiness to a Muslim, relieving him from distress, paying off his debt, or preventing hunger from him. And helping my brother who is in need is dearer to me than secluding myself in this mosque (meaning the mosque of Medina) for a month.” Allah (glory be to Him) has promised those who fulfill people's needs safety, salvation, and relief from distress in this life and the Hereafter, as our Prophet (PBUH) said: “Good works protect from evil fates; and charity in secret extinguishes the wrath of the Lord, and protects against evil death; and maintaining family ties increases life span. People who do good in this life are the same people who will do good in

the Hereafter." He (PBUH) also said: "Whoever fulfills his brother's need, Allah will fulfill his need, and whoever relieves a Muslim's distress, Allah will relieve his distress on the Day of Resurrection."

In addition, fulfilling the needs of people is one of the characteristics of the chosen Prophets (peace be upon them). When Moses (PBUH) arrived at the water of Midian, he found a group of people watering their animals, and he found two women who were not able to water their animals until the stronger men finished watering their animals. When he knew their need, he approached them and watered their animals. The Almighty Allah says, **"When he arrived at Midian's waters, he found a group of men watering [their flocks], and beside them two women keeping their flocks back, so he said, 'What is the matter with you two?' They said, 'We cannot water [our flocks] until the shepherds take their sheep away: our father is a very old man. He watered their flocks for them, withdrew into the shade, and prayed, 'My Lord, I am in dire need of whatever good thing You may send me.'"**

And the Prophet's wife Khadijah once told him (PBUH) that: "By Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You keep good relations with your kith and kin, help the poor and the destitute, serve your guests generously and assist the deserving calamity-afflicted ones." His life (PBUH) was the best example to follow in fulfilling the needs of people.

However, fulfilling people's needs may be obligatory and may be recommended. It may be obligatory, such as paying *Zakah*, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. Through *Zakah*, people's needs are fulfilled, and their distresses are relieved, as Allah said, **"Take from their wealth a charity by which you purify them."** Allah also said, "He will replace whatever you give in charity; He is the best of providers." Our Prophet (PBUH) said: "Islam is built upon five pillars: the testimony that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, establishing

the prayer, giving the *Zakah*, making the pilgrimage to the House, and fasting during Ramadan."

When contemplating the Glorious Qur'an, one finds that the Almighty Allah mentions both *Zakah* along with Prayer, which is the greatest and most important obligation in Islam. This indicates the significance of *Zakah* and encourages people to adhere to paying it. Allah said, **"Keep up the prayer and pay the prescribed *Zakah*. Whatever good you store up for yourselves, you will find it with Allah: He sees everything you do."** Allah also said, **"...those who keep up the prayer, pay the prescribed *Zakah*, and are certain of the Hereafter."**

Fulfilling the needs of people covers the case of those who are assigned official responsibilities, whatever of the nature of these responsibilities. They should facilitate people's affairs as our Prophet (PBUH) said: "Facilitate things to people, and do not make it hard for them."

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Fulfilling people's needs may also be recommended through giving extra charity that supports the role of *Zakah* in achieving its societal role. Therefore, the Shari'ah urges and encourages it, as our Prophet (PBUH) said: Indeed there is a duty on wealthy aside from *Zakah*," then he recited this *Ayah*, **'Goodness does not consist in turning your face towards East or West. The truly good are those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, in the angels, the Scripture, and the prophets; who give away some of their wealth, however much they cherish it, to their relatives, to orphans, the needy, travellers and beggars, and to liberate those in bondage...'**

It goes without saying that the reward of charity is great and its fruits are multiple as the Almighty Allah said, **“Those who believe, do good deeds, keep up the prayer, and pay the prescribed *Zakah* will have their reward with their Lord: no fear for them, nor will they grieve.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Two angels descend every morning, and one says: O Allah, give him who spends something, in place of what he spends.’ The other one says: ‘O Allah, give destruction to him who withholds.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Indeed charity extinguishes the Lord's Anger and it protects against the evil death.”

How much we need to fulfill the needs of people through obligatory and recommended giving, whether it is obligatory *Zakah*, or recommended charity. In fact, helping the weak is a form of charity, relieving the distressed is a form of charity, helping those in need is a form of charity, and every good deed is a form of charity.”

We ask Allah to protect Egypt and raise its flag high among all countries of the world!