

# **Dr Qaradawi on Poverty Alleviation--From His Book Poverty; How Islam Removes It**

Summarized by Shah Abdul Hannan\*

In the above book, he first explains various views on poverty. In some religions/ some religious groups, poverty is considered blessing, Dr Qaradawi rejects this view. Jabaria philophers think that poverty or richness is given by God, it cannot be hanged. He rejects this and says that Allah has asked us to do business and work to improve our condition. The Capitalists think that it is the fault of the person. Dr Qaradawi rejects it as economic system is more responsible for poverty. He also rejects communist view to change poverty by bloody revolution.

He then discusses Islam's view on poverty. Islam rejects that poverty is blessing; he says that Islam thinks that poverty weakens faith, moral conduct, family ties and social stability

He then discusses Islamic strategy for removal of poverty. The first step is doing labor, finding job, working in own fields, self-employment. The state should help by undertaking development work.

The second important provision in Islam is that close relations should take care of totally unable people and those who are temporarily unemployed.

Third step is organization of Zakat at state level or social level. People should be made self-employed with assistance from Zakat. The best way to give Zakat is to provide him in a manner that he never asks for assistance. Zakat was first social insurance scheme of the world.

Fourth strategy is that state should spend from its' general revenues as much as needed to remove remaining poverty.

Fifth way is using voluntary Sadakah and Waqf income.

Dr Qaradawi then discusses Islam's victory over poverty in early Islamic history because of Islamic provisions.

During the reign of Umar, the second Khalifa, poverty was eliminated from Yemen and the governor there sent excess Zakat to capital Madina.

During the reign of Umar ibn Abdul Aziz, The Umayyad Khalifa, poverty was removed from African Muslim areas, in fact from whole Muslim world. No body was found at that time that needed Zakat or charity.

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