

# Creating An Islamic Index of Welfare

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# Welfare = GNP per capita

- Islam: Prohibition on pursuit of wealth for its own sake.
- Counterexample: Rich Sahaba.
- Explanation – they did not pursue wealth – rather wealth came to them as reward for their deeds.
- QAROON is example of man who pursued wealth
- LESSON: Wealth is COMPLEX issue in Islam

# Measuring Islamic Welfare?

- Lord Kelvin: Knowledge is only of what can be measured
- Fundamentals are non-measurable: Faith, Trust, Tawakkul, Ikhlas, etc.
- Measurable proxies may focus on wrong thing. Spending for show, for example.
- Trying to measure something may be harmful. – for example corruption. HIDE bad deeds, and DISPLAY good ones.

# Wealth is a Trial

- Sufficiency is ideal. More & Less are both trials:

*Q(89:15-16) Now, as for man, when his Lord trieth him, giving him honour and gifts, then saith he, (puffed up), "My Lord hath honoured me." But when He trieth him, restricting his subsistence for him, then saith he (in despair), "My Lord hath humiliated me!"*

# Success in Trial by Wealth

- “O, Amr, good (lawful) wealth for a virtuous man is an excellent thing.”
- Spending in path of Allah leads to tremendous rewards.
- Earning should be halal, use should be halal, disposal should be Halal. Contrast with Shoiab AND with current capitalist morality.

# Failure in trial by wealth

- Acquisition by Haram– you have won a lottery.
- Utilization in Haram – Israf or Tabzeer.
- PURIFYING HEART OF LOVE OF WEALTH:

*Q(3:92) Ye will not attain unto piety until ye spend of that which ye love. And whatsoever ye spend, Allah is aware thereof.*

# Success in trial by Poverty

- Bear with patience.
- STORY of AbuBakr and Other Sahabi who gave all for Tabook.
- Do not ask from others. Find work or try to do it.
- Richness is contentment of the heart. Tawakkul, Ghina.

# Failure in Trial by Poverty

- Poverty can lead to Kufr.
- Begging from others.
- Allah has humiliated me.
- Whoever has enough for the day, has all that the greatest kings enjoy.





# Construction of Wealth Index

- No direct relation to welfare.
- We are to struggle to remove poverty.
- Poverty will not be removed as a result
- Islam is action-oriented not outcome oriented.
- Measure struggle not results.
- Calisthenics, Jogging examples.