The Islamic Vision of Development in the Light of *Maqasid Al-Shariah*

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The Vision of Islam

- The Vision of Islam:
  To be a blessing for mankind (رحمة للعمران)
- To promote the well-being (فلاح) of all
- Isn't this the goal of all societies?
- Yes! The difference lies in the concept of well-being and how it is to be realized.
How to Realize well-being (Falah)?

- By helping realize the *Maqasid Al-Shariah* (Objectives of the *Shariah*)

Mقصود الشرع من الخلق خمسة، وهو أن يحفظ عليهم دينهم ونفسهم وعقلهم ونسلهم ومالهم، فكل ما يتضمن حفظ هذه الأصول الخمسة فهو مصلحة، وكل ما يفوّت هذه الأصول فهو مفسدة، ودفعها مصلحة (الغزالي: المستضفيٍّ، 1937، ج 1، ص 139).


"The objective of the *Shariah* is the well-being of the people, which lies in safeguarding their faith (*Din*), their self (*Nafs*), their intellect (*'Aql*), their posterity (*Nasl*) and their wealth (*Mal*). Whatever ensures the safeguard of these five principles serves public interest and is desirable, and whatever hurts them is against public interest and its removal is desirable" (al-Ghazali, 1937, Vol. 1, p.139 and al-Shatibi, Vol. 1, p.38.)
Some Clarifications:

1. Are these the only *maqasid*?
2. Are we bound by the sequence given by al-Ghazali?
3. Do we just safeguard or do we go beyond this to enrich and strengthen?
4. Are these *maqasid* independent of each other or are they interdependent?

- The human self
- Faith
- Intellect
- Posterity
- Wealth
Figure 1

Maqāsid (Objectives of) Al-Shari‘ah

Human Development and Well-Being

To be realized by ensuring the enrichment of the following five ingredients for every individual:

- **(Nafs)** The human self
- **(Māl)** Wealth
- **(Nasl)** Posterity
- **(Dīn)** Faith
- **(`Aql)** Intellect

Human development and well-being (Blessing for mankind)
Figure 2

Enrichment of the human self (Nafs)

Dignity, self-respect, human brotherhood and social equality (1)

Justice (2)

Spiritual and moral uplift (3)

Security of life and property (4)

Freedom (5)

Education (6)

Good governance (7)

Need fulfillment (8)

Employment and self-employment (9)

Equitable distribution of income and wealth (10)

Marriage and proper upbringing of children (11)

Family and social solidarity (12)

Minimization of crime and anomie (13)

Mental peace and happiness (14)

Wealth (Mal)

Intelect ('Aql)

Posterity

Faith (Din)

Human well-being (Falah)
Enrichment of Faith

Worldview
(Tawhid, Khilafah, Risalah and Akhirah)

Values
(Rules of behaviour)

Proper motivation

Education
(moral as well as material)

Justice, freedom, security of life, property and honour, honesty, fulfillment of all socio-economic and political obligations, patience, thriftiness, prudence, tolerance, mutual care and trust, etc.

Removal of poverty, need fulfillment of all, employment and self-employment opportunities

Equitable distribution
(Human brotherhood)

Enabling environment for righteousness, family integrity, social solidarity and political stability

Role of the state

Good governance

Enrichment of Self, Intellect and Posterity

Well-being of all
(Falih)
Enrichment of ‘Aql (intellect)

Emphasis on the maqasid in the interpretation of texts

High quality of religious and science education at affordable prices

Library and research facilities

Freedom of thought and expression

Reward for creative work

Finance

Expansion of knowledge and technological base

Enrichment of faith, self, posterity and wealth

Socio-economic and political development

Human well-being

Human development and well-being (Blessing for mankind)
Figure 5

Enrichment of posterity (Nasl)

Moral and intellectual development
Proper upbringing and family integrity
Need fulfilment
Healthy environment
Freedom from fear, conflict and insecurity

Enrichment of self, faith, intellect and wealth

Sustainable human development
Figure 6

Development of Wealth (Mil) (Trust from God)

- Education, research, and improvement in technology and management
- Security of life, property and honour
- Good governance
- Freedom of enterprise
- Employment and self-employment opportunities
- Removal of poverty, need fulfillment and equitable distribution
- Social solidarity and mutual trust
- Saving and Investment
- Optimum rate of development

Enrichment of faith, self, intellect and posterity

Well-being (Falah)

Human development and well-being (Nafs)

Human development and well-being (Nasl)

Posterity (Nasl)

Wealth (Mil)

Enrichment of faith, self, intellect

Human development and well-being
Figure 7
Human Well-Being: The Light of *Maqasid al-Shariah*

FAITH (*DIN*)

INTELLECT (‘AQL)  SELF (NAFS)

WEALTH (MAL)  POSTERITY (NASL)