Belief and Respect in Multicultural Society: Religious Approach in the Globalised World

1Syed Shahid Ali, 2Atif Subail Siddiqui, 3Mahmud Ahmad, 4Mehdi Roslan Mohd Nor, 5Khadijah Mohd Khambali Hambali, 6Mohamad Zaid Mohd Zin, 7Ahmad Faisal Mahdi and 8Ahmad Asmadi Sakat

1Department of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India
2Department of Islamic Thought, Imam Mohammad Qasim Alnawawi Institute, Darul Uloom Waqf Deoband, 247554, UP, India
3Department of Akidah and Islamic Thought, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
5Centre for Islamic Thought and Understanding, University Technology Mara, 94300 Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia
6Faculty of Business Management, Universiti Technology Mara, 94300 Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia
7Department of Al Quran and Al Sunnah Studies, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

Abstract: Problem statement: This article begins with an effort to discuss the wisdom of discussing belief and religion in multicultural society in the world. Approach: The article focuses that human beings cannot reach to the entire truth even to the visible or experienced things through their wisdom, so to trace God’s existence based on mere intellectual capacity is baseless. The misconception regarding the unity of religions or religious pluralism is also discussed in this article. The article is written in the view of solidarity of entire humanity with the following of one eternal religion, as well as examines Islam’s major role as being the religion of God. Results: This article finds that revelation is needed beyond the human intellectual capacity. God guides humanity through the revelation on those matters, which are beyond human intellect. The concept of one religion, adhering to the teachings from God directly should be the central idea of human intelligence. Conclusion: The article finds that Islam has answered those questions, i.e., the God as a Creator, revelation, resurrection and the responsibility of human being as the most blessed creation of God. These questions are often raised in the mind of a common human being-a believer in God and often in the search of truth.

Key words: Belief, intelligence, God, religions, multicultural society, experienced things, human intellect, needed beyond

INTRODUCTION

Among every faculty that man has been bestowed with, one of the best is “intelligence” (Gottfredson, 1997). But, this intelligence is not perfect or absolute (Collins, 2009). Spencer has clarified, “absolute cannot in any manner or degree be known in the strict sense of knowing” (Spencer, 1970) because of, according to John Caird, “inherent incapacity of human intelligence to know the Absolute” (Caird, 1988). Intelligence can’t work beyond a particular frame of time and space. For instance, the concept of hereafter or akhirah almost in all religions is beyond our intellectual capacity. Those who wish to test this concept based on their intellect, they deny the existence of akhirah. Such perceptions cannot be understood by our intellect. Human intelligence can never perceive a circle without a center and a triangle without an angle. It cannot visualize a fourth direction.

Corresponding Author: Syed Shahid Ali, Department of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India