

How the Islamic System Provides a Successful and Honest Public Service Framework

Across history and political thought, systems of governance have been judged by how well they serve the public. A successful public service system must be accessible, fair, financially sustainable, and resistant to corruption or elite capture. Within Islamic governance, the state is entrusted with safeguarding public welfare and ensuring that essential services such as health care and transportation are delivered equitably and transparently. The framework aims to eliminate privilege in access to public services while establishing accountability in administration and funding.

Public Welfare as a Core State Duty

In the Islamic governance model, the state is responsible for guaranteeing the basic needs of the population. Essential services that affect collective well-being, including medical care, transportation infrastructure, water supply, and energy, are classified as public utilities and must be administered in the public interest.

This framework is grounded in the principle that governance is a trust (amanah). Officials are accountable for ensuring fairness and preventing misuse of public resources. The goal is not merely service provision, but the establishment of justice and dignity in public life.

A defining feature of the Islamic system is its emphasis on financial transparency and responsible stewardship of public wealth. Essential services are funded through public revenues rather than profit-driven mechanisms that can exclude the poor.

Natural resources such as oil, gas, minerals, forests, and major water reserves are considered collective property. Their revenues are directed into the public treasury and used to finance infrastructure, hospitals, transportation systems, and social welfare programs. Because these resources belong to the community, their benefits must be distributed for the welfare of all.

The public treasury is supported through established fiscal mechanisms designed to promote social balance and economic justice:

Zakah supports poverty relief and social welfare. Kharaj, on the other hand, contributes to public spending through land taxation. Additional revenues may arise from state-managed industries and infrastructure projects.

This structure ensures that essential services are funded sustainably while preventing excessive financial burdens on individuals.

The model discourages reliance on interest-based debt, prioritizing fiscal responsibility and internal funding. This approach helps protect public finances from instability and ensures resources are directed toward social needs rather than debt servicing.

Health Care Without Privilege

Health care in the Islamic system is considered a fundamental right, not a commodity. The state must ensure that medical services are available to all, without discrimination.

Health services are designed to be free at the point of use, accessible regardless of income or social status, available to all citizens and residents, provided without discrimination. By removing financial barriers, the system prevents wealth from determining who receives treatment.

The health system includes state-run hospitals, clinics, emergency services, and preventive care programs. The state is responsible for ensuring the availability of medicines, training medical personnel, and maintaining facilities.

Preventive health care and public health education play an important role in promoting long-term societal well-being.

Private medical practice may exist, but it does not replace the state's obligation to provide comprehensive care. The presence of private options does not create exclusivity in access to essential treatment.

Historically, public hospitals known as *bimaristans* operated across major cities of the Muslim world, offering treatment to all patients regardless of status. These institutions demonstrated early models of universal and non-discriminatory care.

Public Transportation as a Public Right

Transportation infrastructure is essential for economic vitality and social cohesion. Roads, railways, bridges, and public transit systems fall under state responsibility because they enable individuals to access employment, education, markets, and health services.

Transportation systems are developed according to societal needs rather than profit incentives. Funding from public revenues ensures that infrastructure serves the population as a whole.

Affordable and reliable transportation strengthens economic participation and social inclusion. Equal access to mobility ensures that opportunities are not limited by income or geographic location.

Integrity, Accountability, and the Prevention of Elite Privilege

A key strength of the Islamic governance model is its emphasis on accountability and ethical leadership. Public officials are entrusted with managing resources responsibly and are subject to oversight to prevent corruption or favoritism.

Essential services must not be reserved for elites or high-profile individuals. Because they are funded through collective wealth and public revenues, they are intended to serve every member of society.

This structure seeks to eliminate systemic inequality by ensuring that access to health care, transportation, and other public services is determined by need rather than wealth or influence.

Conclusion

The Islamic governance framework presents a model of public service built upon justice, accountability, and universal access. By treating health care and transportation as public rights and funding them through collective resources and transparent fiscal mechanisms, the system aims to ensure that essential services remain accessible to all.

Through ethical governance, equitable funding, and a firm commitment to public welfare, this model seeks to provide a public service system that is both effective and honest, one in which dignity, fairness, and social responsibility form the foundation of governance.

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