

# Application of *Maqasidu 'Sh-Shari'ah* in Islamic Finance with Particular Reference to It's Implementation In Nigeria

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**Abstract--** Looking at a crucial position occupied by *Maqasid al-shari'ah* in ijihad process of a valid examination of the text and provide protect interpretation to achieve the Islamic ruling, one will not doubt its significance to Islamic jurisprudence. The primary objective of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* is the realization of benefit to the people connecting their affairs both in their world and hereafter it generally held that the *Shari'ah* in all its part aims at securing benefit for people or protecting them against corruptions and evils. The aim of this paper is to elaborate literal and technical meaning, history, methodology, classification of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* and its identification in Qur'an and Sunnah. The paper also aims at explanation of the concept of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* of Islamic jurisprudence in order to appreciate its contribution towards comprehensive rational and realistic answers to contemporary financial issues, with particular reference to its implementation in Nigeria.

**Keywords-:** Bank, Islamic finance, *Maqasid al-Shari'ah sh, Maslahah*.

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE primary objective of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* is the realization of benefits to people in their affairs both in this world and in Hereafter. In order to achieve the highest objectives of *Shari'ah* in protecting man's wealth and property, the Islamic Finance system is required to accomplish several key principles that been underlined in the *Shari'ah* commercial law and to promote justice in its application.

Muslims ought to conduct their business activities in accordance with the requirement of their religion and to be fair and just towards others. Business activities in consequence, must be broadly inspired and guided by the concept of goodness and trust and regulated within those boundaries by legal framework; committed to values such as justice and the ban on interest *riba* and prohibition of hoarding *ihitikaar* and other malpractices. Productions and distributions, which are regulated by the Halal-Haram code, must adhere to the notion of justice, honesty and public interest.

Therefore, this paper examines the concept of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* of Islamic jurisprudence, its characteristics as identified in Quran and *Sunnah*, and its implications for contemporary Islamic finance, in order to increase awareness of the *Maqasid* approach in structuring and developing Islamic finance products, the paper also focuses on implementation of Islamic finance in Nigeria especially Islamic Banking sector which received the attention of most promoters in Nigeria. It further examines the implementation, challenges and prospects of Islamic finance system in Nigeria.

## II. DEFINITION OF *MAQASID AL-SHARI'AH*

The word *Maqasid* is the plural form of *Maqsad* means [1] object, goal, aim or intent. The term *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* derived from the Arabic words which means objective of Islamic law. Muslim Scholars agree to the fact that Islamic *Shari'ah* came to fulfill a general universal goal, the fulfillment of the well-being of human beings in this life and Hereafter and the ultimate of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* therefore is: to serve the interests of all human beings and produce benefits at same time protect them against harm and hardship.

*Abu Hamid al-Ghazali* defined *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* as follows:

The very objective of the *Shari'ah* is to promote the well-being of the people, which lies in safeguarding of their Religion, their lives, their intellect, their posterity and their wealth. Whatever ensures the safeguarding of these five foundations serves public interests and is desirable, and whatever hurts these foundations is against the public interest and its removal became benefit. [2]

According to *Imam al-Shatibi* *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* is:

The goal of prescribing the law is to free man from his whims, so that he may be the servant of Allah by choice, just as he is His slave (in matters about which he has) no choice[3].

Understanding these, definitions promote cooperation and mutual support within the family and the society. This is manifested in the realization of the uppermost objectives of *Shari'ah*, which rest within the concept of compassion and guidance that seek to establish justice, eliminate prejudice and alleviate hardship as well as fulfillment of the worldly and after-life well-being of humans.

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### III. CHARACTERISTICS OF *MAQASID AL-SHAR'AH* AND ITS IDENTIFICATION IN *QUR'AN* AND *SUNNAH*

Scholars in Islam generally considered *مصلحة Maslahah* to be the all-pervasive value and objective of *shari'ah* to the individual and community. The word *Maslahah* serves as a juristic device that has always been used in Islamic Legal theory to promote public benefit and facilitate the improvement at same time prevent social evil, corruption and injustice.[4] The Quran expression of this can be deduce from the following verses: "We have not sent you but as a mercy to the world" (Q 21:107). This also can be seen in the traditions of the prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) who said: "I have not been sent but to be a blessing to them".[5] In the verse of the Quran, the important purpose of the prophet hood to mankind is emphasized. This very important objective of (*Rahmah*) Mercy mentioned in above verse and *Hadith* is most clearly manifested in the realization of *maslahah* (benefit).

Islamic scholars have generally considered *Rahmah* to be the all-pervasive objective of the *Shari'ah* and have to all intents and purposes, used synonymously and interchangeably with *Maslahah*. They still maintained that the identification of the characteristic is based on an inductive reading *Istiqra* of the texts of the Quran and the *Sunnah*.

Ibn al-Qayyim clearly explains that the *Shari'ah* is based on wisdom and achieving people's welfare in this life and in the Hereafter. The *Shari'ah* is all about Justice, Mercy wisdom and good. Thus, any ruling that replaces justice with in justice, mercy with its opposite common good with harm, or wisdom with nonsense, is a ruling that does not belong to the *Shari'ah* even if it is claimed to be so according to some interpretations. [6]

### IV. CLASSIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT OF *MAQASID AL-SHAR'AH*

According to the Muslim Scholars, the benefits (*masalih*) of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* are juristic device that has always been used in Islamic legal theory to promote public benefit and prevent social evils or corruption. They can be categorized into three, which are Necessities, Convenience and Refinement

#### *Necessities*

The first category is the necessities that covers six areas which are the basic needs of human's existence, they are [7] 1.

Religion 2. Life 3. Intellect . 4. Lineage 5. Wealth 6. Dignity

Thus six necessities are the basic need of human's existence, whoever neglects them, would be creating chaos which will lead total disruption. Therefore, they should be protected and safe guarded in order to sustain their lives as much as possible. For example, in order to establish and attain the necessity of spiritual lives, Allah orders to believe in six pillars of *Iman*, He encourages the *halal* marriage and consumption of foods which are *halal* and *tayyib* in order to protect the descent life. [8] In every rules enforced by Allah, it contain of priority in protecting these six element. This is in line with prime goal of *Shari'ah*, which is the good, or benefit of man as vicegerents on the earth.

#### *Convenience*

The second category which is convenience refers to something that people require to avoid constraint and difficulties in their lives in other words, it is a benefit that seeks to remove hardship and severity: the main purpose is to eradicate hardship and difficulties, in fact people can survive without this their lives will be a bit difficult. And that will be contrary to what Allah the creator wishes for man.[9] Allah says: 'Allah intends every facility for you; He does not want to put to difficulties'. (Q 2:185). The prophet (SAW) also reported to have said: "And Allah impressed no difficulties on you in the religion". [10]

A great number of concessions here been granted, such as the shortening of the *Salat* Prayer and the forgoing of the fast by the sick ones and travelers, for the purpose of convenience. These concessions were classified as *hajiyaat* because they are aimed at preventing hardship: but they are not essential: people could indeed live without them if they were obliged to.

#### *Refinement*

The third category is refinement which refers to an act that will make human life easier and always in live with highest standard of moral conduct, so as to attain refinement and perfection in the customs of people at all levels. If people neglect it, it will not affect the whole life structure of making life difficult and hard but life becomes far from the moral virtues and good nature. [11]

*Shari'ah* encourages cleanliness of the body and attire for the purpose of worship, *Ibadah*, encourages offering charity to those in need, it also recommends supererogatory prayers and voluntary Fasting. In customary matters and interpersonal relation, it encourages *al-rifq* gentleness, *Husnul-khulq* pleasant speech, conduct, and so forth. The purpose of all this is the attainment of refinement and excellence in all areas of human conduct.

### V. CONCEPTS OF ISLAMIC FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Financial systems, Islamic finance feature banks, capital markets, fund managers, investment firms, and insurance companies. However, these entities are governed by both Islamic law and finance industry rules and regulations that apply to their conventional counterparts. . It is an interest free system which prevent transaction in prohibited activities as gambling, *riba* and other transaction that involve uncertainties.

The Foundation and essential feature of Islamic Finance is that it is interest-free. [12] Islam prohibits Muslims from taking or giving interest *riba* regardless of the purpose for which such loans are made and regardless of the rates at which interest is charged. *Riba* is a predetermined excess or surplus over and above the loan received by the creditor conditionally in relation to a specified period. The prohibition of *riba* was mentioned in four different verses of the *Qur'an*. The first verse emphasizes that interest deprives wealth of God's blessings (Q 30:39). The second verse condemns it, likening it with wrongful appropriation of property belonging to others (Q 2:276). The third verse enjoins Muslims to stay clear of interest for the sake of their own welfare (Q 2:278 & Q 3:130). The fourth verse establishes a clear distinction between

interest and trade, urging Muslims to take only the principal sum and to forgo even this sum if the borrower is unable to repay. It is also declared in the Qur'an that those who disregard the prohibition of interest are at war with God and His Prophet (Q 2:275). The following are some of the verses that condemned *riba* (interest) "But Allah has permitted Trade and forbidden *riba*" (2:275) "O you who believe! Fear Allah and give up what remains of your demand for *riba*, if you indeed are believers. If you do it not, take notice of a war from Allah and His Messenger; but if you turn back, you shall have your capital sums; deal not unjustly and you shall not be dealt with unjustly" (Q2:278-279).

The prohibition of interest is also clearly stated in several of the *ahaadeeth* (sayings of the prophet). The prophet condemned not only those who take interest but also those who give interest and those who record or witness the transaction, saying that they are alike in guilt.

Islamic financial institutions must ensure that all of their transactions are *Shari'ah* compliant not only in their forms and legal technicalities but more importantly in their economic substance which should be premised on the objectives outlined by the *Shari'ah*. This is as *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* in deed as *Shari'ah*-Oriented business entity,<sup>14</sup> the Islamic Bank is expected to be guided by the objectives of *Shari'ah*. [13]

In the first category of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah*, necessities *الضروريات* there are five key components that require to be protected and one of them is the protection of property or wealth (*maal*). In relation to Islamic Financial system, it is important to ensure the implementation of the system in line with the ultimate objective of *Shari'ah* which is to protect the property or wealth and being well distributed among the 'Ummah.

Therefore it is necessary to examine the objective of and property preservation as well as the general objectives of Islamic finance which categorized into three as follows: [14]

1. Preservation of wealth through the ownership and acquisition
2. Preservation of wealth from damage
3. Preservation of wealth through its circulation

#### *Preservation of wealth through the ownership and acquisition*

Islam reinforces natural will in man by inducing the appropriate psychological and moral State of mind to influence participation in economic activity. There are many Quranic Verses that affirm this such as:(Q 67:15) and(Q67:15) The prophet was reported to have said that, none of man ever took food better than that earned with his own hand.[15]

Furthermore Islamic economic goes beyond struggling for daily bread only, but also ensures good relationship between man and his creator and between man and his fellow men, in other words, Islam economics inculcates good behaviors and manner into human life in its practice and subject selfish interest to collective interest.

#### *Preservation of wealth from damage*

The preceding chapter has briefly explained the people's right to acquire, use and enjoy their wealth and property. The next focus is to emphasize the need to preserve the wealth from

being damaged and exposed to any form of harm according to the *Shari'ah* and this can be looked upon from two dimensions: protecting wealth from risk that can harm it, and protecting wealth from damage through its used for harmful purposes. [16]

In the longest verse in the Quran 2:282 explained the rules guiding the validity and validation of contracts and the fulfillment of stipulations has firmly took proper care of protection of wealth from damage .The verse clearly directs Muslims to record debts and business dealings and to take witness. This prevents the possibility of a party denying what took place, which could lead to a less of capital, is the dealing takes place during a journey, Allah allows collateral to be taken for the debt, if no record is taken. Allah suggests such actions so that debtors and business persons will become aware and responsible in fulfilling their respective obligations, therefore it is understood that trust of the other party is not sufficient, but steps must be taken to avoid fraudulence and unreasonable losses.

In another verse, Allah directed human beings not to expose their wealth to danger of destruction. Such situation can also occur in business and investment matters, whereby a major risk, if not managed properly, can bring about catastrophic damage that may paralyze a nation's economy and disrupt the life of the public.

In addition, for the purpose of this the following methods of acquiring wealth were been denounced in Islam such like Gambling, theft interest and usury, smuggling, usurpation of property and bribery.

#### *Preservation of wealth through its circulation*

Circulation can be defined as the transfer of wealth in the community among as many hands as possible without causing any harm to those who have acquired it lawfully. [17] The Quran has clearly indicated the need to prevent wealth from remaining in the hands of few persons. (Q59:7)

The circulation of wealth is a very important element of wealth preservation in Islamic law, which guarantees a balanced and harmonious society and sustainable economic development.

Islam permits sole proprietorship of business, partnership, as well as joint ventures so long as the articles guiding them do not contradict the principles of the Islamic economic system. There is unlimited scope for expansion in the size of commercial and industrial ventures. Islam recognizes various kind of partnership between two or more persons in commercial and industrial ventures [18]

*Wadiyah* (safekeeping) *Hibah* (Gift) *Mudarabah* (profit sharing) *Murabahah* (cost plus) *Murabahah*, *Musharakah* (joint venture) *Ijarah*(leasing or renting).

Furthermore, in order to achieve this objective the *Shari'ah* also establishes and prescribes financial measures that maintain the balanced society and reduce the poverty by providing a continuous source of income for lower class as follows: Institution of *Zakat* (compulsory alms), Monopoly, Inheritance, Bequest, Charitable acts and Interest-free loan

## VI. ISLAMIC FINANCE IN NIGERIA

Islamic finance refers to the financial system in which services, instruments and transactions are done in accordance with *Shari'ah* principles. The tendency is for people to see Islamic finance as simply being Islamic banking and the avoidance of interest. It goes beyond that. The bigger picture of Islamic finance includes such other areas as Islamic insurance, Islamic capital market, Islamic asset management. It also includes or involves other important principles, which encourage entrepreneurship, risk-taking, transparency, preservation of property rights and ethical values such as justice, fair dealing and fair pricing, mutual cooperation and respect of the other contracting parties. Indeed Islamic banking is only an aspect of Islamic finance that indeed that received much attention in Nigeria. [19]

The agitation for Islamic (interest-free) banking in Nigeria has taken quite a while. However, its manifestations started crowding from 1991 when government started taking responsive actions towards actualizing it. The Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act (Amended) of that year recognized banks that are established on the basis profit and loss sharing. Other manifestations include: In 1996 Habib Bank Plc opened a non-interest banking window but could not register significant success because of absence of framework for non-interest banking. In 2003, during *Obasanjo's* tenure Nigeria became full member of the Islamic development Bank. In 2004, approval in principle was granted to *Jaiz* Bank to operate fully fledged Islamic bank subject to meeting mandatory capital requirement of N25 billion. [20] In Jan. 2009 the Central Bank under Prof. Charles *Soludo* joined the International Financial Services Board as full member. The IFSB is an international standard-setting organization for the Islamic financial services industry. [21]

In March 2009, the Banking Supervision Department of the CBN released the exposure draft of the framework for the Regulation and Supervision of Non-Interest Banks in Nigeria for comments by Stakeholders. In Jan. 2010, the CBN Governor, *Sanusi Lamido Sanusi*, set up a non-interest banking unit in the CBN. In Aug. 2010, the CBN released the new banking model, which included non-interest banks among the specialized banks and will operate either at National or Regional level with capital requirements of N10 billion and N6 billion respectively. In Sep. 2010, the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) released its exposure draft on Non-Interest (Islamic) Deposit Insurance Scheme for comments by stakeholders. [22] The CBN has already issued the regulatory framework for the operation of the banks in Nigeria. The framework covers such critical banking issues as licensing requirements, instruments of transacting business, establishment of non-interest window by a conventional bank, prudential guidelines, risk management and auditing, accounting and other disclosure requirements. [23]

## VII. CHALLENGES FACING ISLAMIC FINANCE IN NIGERIA

There are number of challenges that have to be addressed for the successful operation of Islamic Finance in Nigeria. Some of these challenges are:

1. Unfamiliarity with the Islamic Finance system: the first problem is that despite the growth of Islamic banks over the last 30 years, many people in the Muslim and non-Muslim world do not understand what Islamic Banking actually is. The basic principle is clear, that is contrary to Islamic law to make money out of money and that wealth should accumulate from trade and ownership of real assets. However, there used to be a single definition of what is or not an Islamic banking product; or there is no single definition of Islamic banking. A major issue here is that it is the *Shari'ah* councils or board at individual Islamic bank that actually define what is not Islamic banking, and what is and what is not the acceptable way to do business, which in turn can complicate assessment of risk for both the bank and its customer. [24]
2. Lack of *Shari'ah* complaint Liquidity Management Instrument: Islamic bans invest their excess liquidity in interest-based instruments, which are liquidity management instruments that are the liquidity management instruments in the market, which places them at a competitive advantage with respect to their conventional counterparts. In addition, the current inter-bank market and the instrument used by the Central Bank for Monetary Policy Operations are all interest-based with no equivalent government securities or other money market instruments that are *Shari'ah* compliant, all of which are essential to avoid a liquidity bottleneck for Islamic banks when they come to operation. [25]
3. Lack of Knowledge of Accounting and Auditing Standard Pertinent to Islamic Institutions. The balance –sheet structure Islamic banks is unique and even though, the works of Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institution (AAOIFI) on accounting and auditing standard for Islamic Banking product is available. There is need to train conventional counterparts and auditors in the operation of the standard. [26]

### *Prospect for Islamic Banking in Nigeria*

Islamic banking in Nigeria has prospect for success. Other factors that are likely to increase the prospect include: [27]

1. Awareness Campaign that is ongoing by the CBN, NDIC, Media publications and other efforts by other civil organizations such as the one we are witnessing now.
2. Provision of deposit insurance cover by the NDIC
3. Possible patronage by the teaming Muslim population that had hitherto abstain from banking due to interest elements in the conventional banking.
4. Acceptance as potential alternative to the conventional banks
5. Possible patronage by ethical Christians
6. Global acceptance of the system.

It is hoped that with the backing of the government and the regulators and the market discipline that is expected from both the operators and the banking public the system will succeed for the overall good of Nigeria and Nigerians.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

The 20<sup>th</sup> century has witnessed the resurgence of the Islamic Financial System, the system is socially significant as it is widely gaining acceptance and attention all over the world especially in Muslim dominated nations. The purpose of Islamic Financial system is to identify and establish an economic order that conforms to Islamic scripture and traditions devoid of exploitation and selfish interest. More than 70 countries have Islamic banks that offer interest free alternatives to conventional banking system. Several countries such as Pakistan and Iran have gone so far to outlaw every form of interest: And banks in these countries have adopted formally and extensively Islamic method of deposit taking and loan making.

Hence, the Islamic finance is much more than just refraining from charging interest and conforming to the legal technicalities and requirements on offering Islamic financial products, but also a system, which aims at contributing to the fulfillment of the socio-economic objectives and creation of a just society. In the process of conducting business, Islamic financial institution, seek to bring about a lasting balance between earning and spending in order to achieve betterment for the whole community. This has been manifested as the higher objectives of Islamic financial system, which deeply rooted in *Maqasid al-Shari'ah*, the details of which has been succinctly presented in the paper.

The Government has to regulate the distribution and production of wealth in many ways. It also has to stimulate agriculture, commerce and industry by partaking in a bold way in those activities without monopolization them. There is however, a set order of priorities and the top place in it is assigned to the regulation of distribution and planning for the satisfaction of the basic needs of every individual member of the society. Therefore, we hereby recommend the followings:

- a. Responsibility of the state is to see that the system of *Zakat* and all auxiliary measures designed to take the surplus from the rich and distribute among the poor function effectively and in the spirit of devotion to Allah.
- b. Public property is to be managed by the Government in the best way that ensures maximum output and the same time preserves the free character by the endowment of nature. In addition, with regards to private commerce and industry, it is the duty of the Government to have an elaborate and effective system of *Hisbah* (market policing i. e on the spot checking of weight and measures, quality commodities offer for sale, proper gradation etc.)
- c. The Government has the responsibility to promote industrialism through creating an enabling environment and human capital development. The Government has the duty of guiding the free play of the natural economic forces, including unrestricted flow of goods and services to repel nationalism.

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