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**ETHICS OF DIALOGUE AND RELATING WITH OTHERS FROM  
THE QUR'ANIC PERSPECTIVE: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF  
MODERN EXEGESIS**

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**Abstract**

This research studies the ethics of dialogue and relating with others as embodied in the Qur'an based on exegesis written by contemporary exegetes. It concentrates on verses which highlight the most appropriate manner to deal with others. The ethics of dialogue and relation comprises the whole aspect of sociological context which could be actualized in the form of concept of knowledge for human benefits. In view of lack of proficiency in Arabic, the most appropriate and convenient way of understanding the Qur'an is to look into the views of contemporary exegetes. Ethical guidelines in the Qur'an surveyed in this study may help the readers to be sensitized on handling relationship problems, religious and communal tension which have plagued our world today.

**Keywords:** Dialogue, Qur'an, Contemporary Exegetes, Manner and Ethical Guidelines

**Introduction**

The Qur'an which represents the main source of guidance within the domain of the Shariah delineates different aspects of ethics for dialogue and relation in order to maintain peace and justice. The occurrence of tension and conflict is mostly due to harshness of words uttered by an individual while dealing with others. The diversity of race, cultural and religious backgrounds may cause different ways for expressing oneself during interaction with others. Hence, the ethics of dialogue and relation are the most important element which determines the peaceful co-existence within a community. The message (Al-Qur'an) given to the Prophet (pbuh) emphasizes the importance of human relation. The ethics of dialogue should be actualized especially in the midst of the society which is characterized by multi-religious communities. The Qur'an lays down the principles of ethics for interaction among people with the goal of creating common understanding. The present study attempts to highlight the views of exegetes on the verses of the Qur'an pertaining to ethics of dialogue and relating with others.

## **Background of Study**

The guidance of the Qur'an emphasizes on the importance of dialogue and relation in different ways and different levels. The emergence of misunderstanding and even dispute is resulted from the use of wrong way of dialogue and relation with others. Human being cannot negate the importance of communication with others. The verses of the Qur'an describe about the system of dialogue and communication. The dialogue in the Qur'an should be conducted with the use of the concept of truth and sincerity. The breakdown of family structure takes place whenever both (husband and wife) do not communicate with the use of ethic. Likewise, misunderstanding among different groups in the community (during the collective work) in different institution is also due to the wrong way of dialogue. Even, the Qur'an address the about the ethic of dialogue and relation with those who have differences opinion, which is to be conducted with the use of ethic. These days, media and communication give tremendous influence of human beings and even shaping their thought either positive and negative about the certain thing happen in the community and global level.

The research focuses on the Qura'anic ethics which represents clear and discerning guidelines for mankind. In view of the diversity of race, cultural and religious background are likely to trigger many relationship problems, religious and communal tensions among mankind. As the Qur'an was revealed to mankind as a source of mercy and guidance, it teaches Muslims to respect and cooperate with others. Thus, the study highlights the views of exegetes on the verses of the Qur'an pertaining to ethics of dialogue and relating to others.

## **Objectives**

The objective of the research lies in responding these following questions:

1. What is the ethic of dialogue and relation in the Qur'an?
2. How Modern Muslim exegetes deal with verses related to dialogue and relation?
3. What is the ethic of individual and inter-group dialogue?
4. How dialogue should be conducted between those who subscribe to different religious affiliation?
5. What is Qur'anic guidance on dialogue who have different ideological orientation?
6. How people should conduct dialogue with their superiors in the work place?

## **Methodology**

The research methodologies are as follows:

1. Collecting and reviewing evidences in the Qur'an related to different aspect of dialogue and relation
2. To assess the guidelines of dialogue and relation in the Qur'an
3. To give the detail on views of modern Muslim exegetes in handling the verses related to dialogue and relation
4. To describe contextual meaning of dialogue and relation in the Qur'an
5. To analyse the existence of different ethnical, religious groups and how to build the dialogue on the basis of the textual evidences.

6. To analyse the dialogue between staff and their superiors in the workplaces

## Findings

The ethic of dialogue and relation in the Qur'an throughout our study comprises the following aspects:

1. Terminological terms in the Qur'an which deals with dialogue and relation are *al-hiwar*, *al-mujadalah*, and *mahajah*. Another aspect which is closely connected with the ethic could be referred to the different expression such as *qawlu ma'rufun* (lit. gentle word), *mawizah al-hasanah* (good advice), *qawlan layyinan* (soft words) and *qulu li al-nas husna* (kindness of the words), and even *qawlan sadidan* (goodness of the word).
2. The Qur'an confirms diversity of human cultural as religious affiliation. Hence, to maintain peace and harmonious relation, the Qur'an laid down the principles of dialogue and relation which should be observed by all religious adherents to avoid crisis in the community.
3. There are ample evidences in the Qur'an related to dialogue and relation especially with People of the Books such as Jews and Christianity. It highly encourages all humanity who belong diversity of belief to observe the ethic and principles of dialogue to maintain peaceful co-existence with all religious followers.
4. Modern Muslim commentators of the Qur'an are of the view that the ethics of dialogue as contained in the Qur'an become prerequisite to promote harmonious life among diversity of faith in the community.
5. Other dimension of ethical dialogue links with the family. The happiness of the family relation is largely determined by the level and ethic of dialogue between each individual member.
6. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of observing ethic of dialogue for children while dealing with parents. Children are prohibited to use harsh words which could annoy the feeling of parent especially when they reach to the age of retirement.
7. The Qur'an records the ideal example to be conducted within the family as reflected within the story of Lukman who gave the advice to his son.
8. The Qur'an is also concerned about the dialogue with people who have high authority in the community. Each individual should conduct the ethic of dialogue when they deal with people who possess the power. They should not accuse them with the use of rudeness of statement. Whatever the lapses in the hands of rulers, each individual should use kind words to change and bring them into the right track to follow the truth and justice.
9. The Qur'an records the example of relation between Prophet Musa and Pharaoh in which Prophet Musa was required to demonstrate humbleness and simplicity when he met him to conduct the dialogue by selecting kind words.

## **Conclusion**

The Quran was revealed to mankind as a source of mercy and guidance. Mankind despite living in diversity of culture, lifestyle and religious beliefs, needs to work hard and cooperate for world peace and stability. More than ever before, mankind needs to learn and acquire the true ethics of dialogue and relation to sustain peace and harmony all around the globe. The need for good communication and dialogue among the seven billion people of the world will be the decisive factors in overcoming the major problems faced by the world, like conflicts among nations in the East and West, racism, extremism, terrorism, sectarian violence, bigotry, war, etc.

Wrong and unethical communication either in face-to-face dialogue or through the social media among people of different culture and religion most likely can trigger a confrontational situation among the various groups that can destroy peace and harmony enjoyed by the citizens of this planet.

In this regard, the Qur'anic teachings call Muslims to respect and cooperate with others regardless of their religious belief, custom, culture and origin. The Qur'an has laid down the basic guidelines for a peaceful coexistence at many different levels. The ethics of dialogue and relation is essentially for all frameworks of communication may they be between husband and wife, between parents and children or between an individual with other segments of the society. Thus, the Quranic ethics represents clear and discerning guidelines on the basis of fraternity. It has presented a good model for a peaceful coexistence and cooperation among mankind. In fact, it embodies the principles of ethics of dialogue and relation which guarantee a better life for everyone.

**Output:** 1. Ethical guidelines for dialogue on relating with others from Quranic perspective.  
2. A Ph.D. student benefited in undertaking the research work.

**Future Plan of the research:** The manuscript was sent out and under evaluation by Hamdard Islamic (Scopus) and hopefully it will be accepted, insyaAllah.

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