

MICES RELIEF AND CHARITY CELL

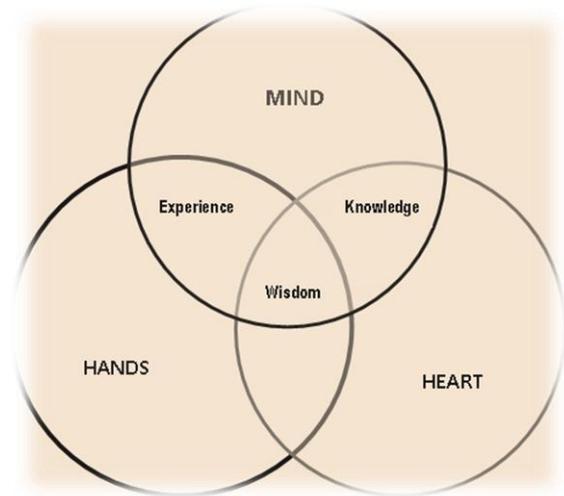


Poverty and hunger in the world is reaching ridiculous heights. There is more fruit in a rich man's shampoo than in a poor man's food tray.



Poverty cannot be alleviated Unless and until a balanced and controlled flow of money from the rich to the poor takes place. Every act of charity, should be supported strongly by the mind, the heart, and the hands. Only a coordinated merger of these elements backed with knowledge, wisdom and experience will make a charitable activity efficacious and effective.

A poignant story forms the backdrop for the formation of MICES. In early 1993, on a fasting day in Ramadan, a few God-fearing people of Areekode who always thought differently, were collecting information on the poor and needy people in and around Areekode for distributing Zakath. What they encountered during their casual survey was heartbreaking. They were shocked to find that many people in the neighborhood lived in utter poverty. Some of the families didn't have anything to eat for breaking the fast. Some of them plucked raw jack fruits, some others cooked tapioca, a few others resorted to porridge collected from neighborhoods. More touching was the reaction of the elders who opened up their hearts by shedding tears and hugging them! It was found that many families were under stress due to over-aged, unmarried daughters. Many parents could not even send their children to school. Some didn't have their own houses. Many were jobless.



The utter anguish of one family moved us greatly. The mother of the family was desperately trying to get some food for breaking the obligatory Ramadan fast. She searched through the nearby field where the leftovers of tapioca roots called locally as 'Kisr' after the harvest. While digging for Kisr she was bitten by a snake. A few neighbors took her to the nearby clinic. Fortunately she had a hairbreadth escape from death. Since she was the only earning member, literally the family was starving during the whole Ramadan. For them fasting was for the whole day and night!

The distressing state in which those people lived, motivated them to think of doing whatever they could do to uplift them. And that was the beginning of Malabar Islamic Cultural and Educational Society (MICES) by the end of the year 1993.

MICES Relief and Charity Cell is involved in a wide range of philanthropic activities such as Zakath distribution, financial support for educational purposes, rebuilding and repairing houses of poor people, distribution of sewing machines, cattle etc., for rehabilitating jobless women and medical aid for poor patients.

Since 1993, lakhs of rupees and material aids are distributed every year for such relief activities every year. No caste, creed language or religious barriers are considered for such aids. Zakath is distributed strictly based on Qur'anic instructions. No undue publicity is given for the charity activities of MICES. While many organizations publicize their insignificant acts of charity, MICES doesn't care for publicity and fear of elucidation.

Zakat is a balanced and controlled disbursal of wealth of the wealthy to the poor. As mentioned earlier poverty cannot be alleviated unless and until a balanced and controlled flow of money from the rich to the poor takes place. MICES distributes Zakat collections from its members, well wishers and friends strictly according to the Islamic strictures prescribed by Allah in Surah At-Touba', verse 60 which says:

﴿ إِنَّمَا الصَّدَقَتُ لِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْعَمَلِينَ عَلَيْهَا
وَالْمُؤَلَّفَةِ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَالْغَرَمِينَ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ
وَأَبْنِ السَّبِيلِ فَرِيضَةً مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴾

“As-Sadaqât (here it means Zakât) are only for the Fuqarâ' (poor), and Al-Masâkin (the poor) and those employed to collect (the funds); and for to attract the hearts of those who have been inclined (towards Islâm); and to free the captives; and for those in debt; and for Allâh's Cause (i.e. for Mujâhidûn - those fighting in the holy wars), and for the wayfarer (a traveller who is cut off from everything); a duty imposed by Allâh. And Allâh is All-Knower, All-Wise”

To ensure that such a holy process of wealth diffusion should reach only the really deserving poor people MICES used to conduct surveys in and around Areekode quite frequently.

From 2011 onwards Zakat distribution was modified so as to make it more meaningful and fruitful. Instead of distributing small amounts to many, few people are chosen every year and they are gifted with means of livelihood. Thus we wholeheartedly support the statement “give a man a fish; you have fed him for a day”. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime. This is one of the wisest statements ever made. why? Look at the first part: Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. It says that if you give a human an object he wants, he will not gain the necessary knowledge to be able to get it himself. Teach: to give another knowledge. Give a man knowledge on how to get things for himself, and he will be able to get food - fish - for himself.

MICES thus started presenting sewing machines, goats, aid for starting own business, shops etc. this was found to be more rewarding and lasting.

