



*Equal
Participation
Movement*

promoted by
Association of Muslim Professionals

The urgent need for an Economic Agenda for Indian Muslims

Muslims form the second largest majority in India with 1 in 7 Indians being Muslims. It is known that Indian Muslims have the lowest monthly per capita expenditures among socio-religious groups. This is indicative of their low standards of living and also of their participation in growth of India. There is no doubt that Equal Participation of Indian Muslims in India's growth is an endeavor of national importance.

In 2006, a high-level committee led by Chairperson Rajinder Sachar submitted a comprehensive report on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India. The Central Government accepted 72 out of 76 recommendations from the report. In 2014, the Government reported that it has taken 43 decisions against 72 recommendations and has launched multiple programs, notably under the 15 Point Program for Minorities Development.

In 2014, a Committee led by Chairman Prof. Amitabh Kundu presented an analysis of developments since Sachar report. The committee observed (among other observations) that "The relative employment situation of the Muslims as also other socio-religious communities (SRCs) has not undergone much change since the adoption of the Justice Sachar Committee Report". It also observed that "Analyses of the levels of consumption expenditure and changes therein over recent periods show that the position of Muslims community in general and that of OBC Muslims has not improved relative to the other SRCs". While a lot

has been done for this cause, it is evident that the social, economic and educational status of Indian Muslims (and of other deprived socio-religious communities) leaves a lot to be desired.

Today, Muslims in India have the opportunity to benefit from the demographic dividend. Also, Indian Muslims must prepare to handle the potential disruptions in the jobs of the yesteryear owing to Industry 4.0 and the shift towards service consumption and trade (vs product consumption and trade). There is an urgent need to evaluate the possible impact of such disruptions on the economic activity of Indian Muslims.

While the debates around reservations / affirmative action, discrimination and governance of minority development programs are important, it is equally important that Indian Muslims accelerate grassroots actions for improving their deficient human capital characteristics through more informed economic choices. The community saw a renewed wave of focus on education over the last two decades and has reaped benefits. It is an urgent priority that Indian Muslims extend the education narrative to a holistic and sustainable economic development narrative. It is thus critical that all **stakeholders organize under a common Economic Agenda for Indian Muslims which takes a comprehensive long term view of Economic Development.**

The current state of grassroots actions on Economic Development of Indian Muslims

Multiple stakeholders are involved in efforts towards improving the economic status of Indian Muslims. These stakeholders include Government, Government Agencies, NGOs, Political Groups, Religious Scholars, Religious Groups, Muslim Business Houses, Academia and volunteers from Indian Muslim and other Communities. Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) has been an integral part of this set of stakeholders over the last decade. AMP identifies the following challenges to address in the area of grassroots action for economic development.

- Most of the grassroots action is in the form of **giving (zakat)** for addressing **survival needs** of beneficiaries. Such giving for survival needs, while important, often does not do enough to pull

families out of economic misery.

- The idea of **volunteering** (especially by the privileged few of the community) is emerging but is currently in its nascent form.
- The most powerful institution of Indian Muslims, **the mosque**, does not actively participate in influencing economic choices. This is in stark contrast to historical precedence from the prophet's (saw) days.
- Most of the grassroots action is **fragmented and there exists disparity among regions** due to lack of singular leadership and goals.

AMP resolves to contribute to addressing some of these challenges through the Equal Participation Movement.

Purpose, Vision and Mission of Equal Participation Movement (EPM)

PURPOSE

Organize all stakeholders under a **common economic agenda** which takes a **comprehensive long term view of economic development for Indian Muslims**.

VISION

A future where Indian Muslims **participate equally in building the nation** and **benefit equally from the economic growth of the nation**.

MISSION

The economic development efforts at AMP will:

- **build common understanding of goals and priorities** among stakeholders
- **conceptualize the right strategic programs and strike the right strategic partnerships** to drive long term sustainable improvement
- **build the network and ecosystem** for funding initiatives and driving on-ground change

Aspirations of EPM

1

REDUCE SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES

Muslims in 5-14 age bracket experience school drop out rates higher than national average. The EPM aspires to put **2 lac students back to school**, especially focusing on urban children where access to schooling is a lesser issue.

2

IMPROVE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Muslims who drop out of school often fail to get into skilled blue collar jobs due to lack of vocational education. EPM aspires to put **10 lac additional students (across gender and urban / rural) into prioritized vocational education**

3

IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Muslims between 15-25 age experience low attendance in higher education. EPM aspires to put **10 lac additional students (across gender and urban / rural) into prioritized professional higher education programs**.

4

INCREASE WOMEN'S WORK PARTICIPATION

Muslim women in India experience very low work participation rates. The EPM aspires to help **10 lac women find work opportunities in preferred roles and sectors**.

5

MAKE URBAN MIGRATION SUSTAINABLE

Urban migration amongst Indian Muslims is often unplanned and unsustainable leading them into poverty traps. The EPM aspires to help **2 lac rural youth find sustainable employment in towns (especially small and emerging towns) through preferred roles and sectors in a sustainable and planned manner**

6

SUPPORT THE SELF EMPLOYED TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE

A very high proportion of Muslim households are self employed. The EPM aspires to offer **10 lac self employed households the right digital, financial and business awareness to make informed decisions**.

7

IMPROVE PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED SECTOR JOBS

Muslims are concentrated in unorganized sector and a large proportion are casual wage laborers. EPM aspires to place **5 lac people from unorganized sector into jobs in the organized sector** (private, public, and overseas)

8

EMPOWER MSMEs AND VILLAGES TO GROW IN THE NEW ECONOMY

While urban migration will continue in the next few years to come, India's majority of the population will still be clustered in villages. EPM will work towards economic upliftment of Muslim majority villages. It also aspires to digitally empower 1000 Muslim majority villages.

9

BREAK BARRIERS TO INVESTING WEALTH IN HALAL WAYS

The EPM aspires to break perception and other barriers to help Muslims invest their wealth in halal ways.

10

SUPPORT NEW AGE START-UPS AND SMEs

The Equal Participation Movement aspires to help 100 clusters of artisans / small manufacturers secure investments and know how. The EPM will also provide support to young age Muslim start-ups in new businesses such as e-commerce, app based economy etc.

11

PROMOTE EQUITABLE HOUSING

Ghettoization amongst Muslims is a key barrier in access to education, healthcare, credit etc. The EPM aspires to address housing discrimination amongst Muslims and improve their housing conditions.