

Q: 60 – Title: I have a few question regarding zakat.

### Question

I have a few question regarding zakat.

- 1) Zakat can be given to the miskin. How do we define who is a miskin?
- 2) Zakat can be given to new muslims. How do we define 'new'? One mth, one yr?
- 3) Also Zainab radiallahu anha was given permission to give zakat to her husband Abdullah Ibn Masud radiallahu anho. Was Abdullah Ibn Masud Radiallahu anho poor? I also heard that the term 'zakat' and 'sadaqah' was used interchangeably at that time. Is that true?
- 4) I also have some relatives who cannot be described as very poor. They have a house and they make do with some assistance from relatives and they have no problem with 3 meals a day and clothing etc. Can they be given zakat?
- 5) Can we give zakat to a madrasa or zakat can only be given to madrasa to bear the expense of one poor student in the madrasa?

### Answer

**In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

**Assalaamu `alaykum waRahmatullahi Wabarakatoh**

1. There exists a difference of opinion amongst the Scholars regarding the exact definition of *Miskeen*  
. Some Scholars define *Miskeen*  
as “a person that begs” whilst others define

*Miskeen*

as “one who does not possess food at all”.

(*Badai' Al-Sanai', vol 2, pg 150, Dar Al-Ihya al-Turath*)

Some Scholars define *Miskeen* as “one who does not possess anything at all and relies on begging for his food and clothing.

(*Al-Durr and Radd, vol 2, pg 339, HM Sa'eed*)

There are other views as well. However, the outcome of all these views are the same *ie A Misk*  
*een*

is one who does not possess wealth or property to the value of  
*nisab*

, thereby being eligible to receive zakat.

2. Zakat could be discharged to any Muslim. There is no specification in the Quran, Hadith or in any book of the *Fiqh* (Jurisprudence) that Zakat should be given to new Muslims specifically. Any Muslim that does not own wealth or property to the value of *nisab*, in excess of his/her basic needs, is eligible to receive zakat.

3. Abdullah bin Mas'ood (Radiyahallahu anhu) was a poor Sahabi. (*Umdah Al-Qari, vol 9, pg 32, Rasheediyyah*)

Zainab (Radiyahallahu anha), the wife of Abdullah bin Mas'ood, was permitted by Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) to spend on her husband. However, this was *Sadaqah* (charity) and not zakat.

(*Ibid*)

.

It is impermissible for the wife to give zakat to the husband and vice versa. (*Badai' Al-Sanai', vol 2, pg 144, Dar Al-Ihya al-Turath / Aap Ke Masaail, vol 3, pg 395*)

The words *Zakat* and *Sadaqah* were not used interchangeably. Yes, at times the word *Sadaqa*

$h$  is used to refer to zakat. However, this is not a general rule.

*Example:*

Allah Ta'ala mentions:

[illegible]

*“Take Sadaqah (ie Zakat) out of their wealth through which you may cleanse and purify them”  
(Taubah: 103)*

Imam Qurtubi has mentioned that “whenever the word *Sadaqah* is generalised in the Quran, it refers to obligatory *Sadaqah* (zakat)”  
(*Tafseer Al-Qurtubi*, vol 8, pg156, Dar Al-Hadith)

4. In principle, any Muslim that does not own wealth or property to the value of *nisab*, in excess of his/her basic needs, is eligible to receive zakat. In the case of your relatives, it is understood that the only property they own is a home which is a basic necessity and does not make a person rich. Therefore, if the only property they own is a home and they do not possess any wealth or property in excess of their basic needs which equals to *nisab*, they will be eligible to receive Zakat.

5. Zakat could be given to a Madrassah in order to bear the expenses of the poor students who are deserving of zakat. However, it is important that these students appoint the Madrassah as their representatives in accepting Zakat on their behalf. If they have not appointed the Madrassah as their representatives, the Zakat will not be discharged. (*Badai' Al-Sanai', vol 2, pg 142/3, Dar Al-Ihya al-Turath*)

(□□□□□□□ □□□□□) □□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□□□□

( )

[illegible][illegible]

(□□□□□□ □□□□□) □□□□□ □□□□ □□□□□□ □□ □□□□□ □□ □□□□□□□□

[illegible][illegible]

( )

**I have a few question regarding zakat.**

---

**And Allah knows best**

**Wassalam**

**MI. Talha Desai,  
Student Darul Iftaa**

**Checked and Approved by:**

**Mufti Ebrahim Desai  
Darul Iftaa, Madrassah In'aamiyyah**