Chapter I

INTRODUCTION
Introduction

Islam is one of the major religion of the world. Islam originated in Arabia in the early seventh century, and later on spread all over the world. Islam is based on Quran and teachings of Prophet Mohammad (be peace upon him), Prophet Mohammad taught people every aspect of life, spiritual values, Social values, Economic values and Political values etc, to the humankind. Islam has advocated to its followers to follow path of prophet Mohammad without fail.

Religion as such provides certain code of conduct, ethical principles to enhance man's existence and his responsibilities towards other beings in the existence. Religion and philosophy in that way go together. If they work together there will be harmony in Society. Both are mutually complimentary. Hence Islam as a religion has Philosophical ideologies, like God, Soul, World, Man's emancipation and up upliftment of the suffering human beings etc., which are issues of both religion and philosophy. Hence the study of
Islam at the backdrop of philosophy and its modern development, its impact on society etc are most relevant in the present juncture.

**The Need, Aim and Objective of Study**

The interest in the believers of Islam is deteriorating day by day. The followers are not found to be serious and some doctrines are misinterpreted. Just to find out the reasons and resolve these problems the study is undertaken. Moreover, the philosophy of Islam is one of the greatest vision we find and to give new orientation so as to fit into the modern situation to build a Holistic, Harmonious and peaceful society.

The study also intends to shed light on the concept of Jihad, Family Planning, Women's Emancipation, Islamic jurisprudence, etc to give world view and relevance to the above basic concepts.

The objective of the Research is to have a comparative analysis of the essential aspects in the modern thought and the concepts in Islam and to find out whether the orthodoxy prevalent in the Muslims of the present day is due to the
inherent thought structure of Islam or whether it is due to historical reasons arising out of mis-interpretation of Quran and teachings of prophet Mohammad. Further, the study also aim at shedding light on the basic concepts of Islam, in order to bring better understanding among the followers and also to establish harmony and peace within and without the fold of religion. To create world view about women's emancipation and Islamic Jurisprudence and purifying the old doctrines so as to enhance better and co-operative life on earth.

**Methodology of the Study**

Methodology is the way to solve the research problem systematically. Without a proper methodology, the results are likely to be undependable and defective. Hence methodology denotes the methods and techniques used in the study undertaken by a researcher. In fact, research is an academic activity and an art of scientific investigation. Research is "A careful investigation or enquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge"\(^1\). Redman and Mory
defines research as a, "Systematic effort to gain new knowledge." 

According to Clifford Woody research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making deduction and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis. But some people consider research as a movement from the known to the unknown. It is actually a voyage of discovery research is thus an original contribution to the existing stock of knowledge making for its advancement.

It is important for the researcher to know not only the research methods or techniques but also methodology. It is necessary for the researcher to know the assumptions underlying the various methods and they need to know the criteria by which they can decide that certain methods and procedures will be applicable to certain problems while others will not. It all means that it is necessary for the researcher to design this methodology for this problem as the same method may differ from problem to problem.
From this, we can say that research methodology has many dimensions and research methods do constitute a part of the research methodology. Thus, when we talk of research methodology we not only talk of research methods but also consider the logic behind the methods. We use in the context of our research study and explain why we are using a particular methods or techniques and why we are not using others. So that research results are capable of being evaluated either by the researcher himself or by others. But it must be borne in mind that it is something more than a mere exposition of methods and techniques. We believe that it implies the clear exposition of the theoretical assumptions and the conceptual framework visualized in the study. The primary methods followed in this thesis are philosophical. We are arguing that it is philosophical for the simple reason that our primary source material depends upon the scriptures of Islam. For the purpose of the study following methods have been adopted; Historical, Analytical, Descriptive and comparative.
1) **Historical Method**

Research is based on the historical data, it is necessary to researcher to follow historical method. At times it would appear that all research is historical in its nature because to a very large extent, research depends upon the observations recorded in the past.

In the historical method we will be dealing with Origin of Islam and the development of Islam, Prophet Mohammad's life and His mission, Jihad and its history and reforms of Prophet Mohammad, Social practice of Arabs during Prophet's life time. This historical method will be very helpful to bring out Islamic concepts which pertaining to social, Economical and Political life of Arab's and Prophets reformation of these concepts, from these we come to conclusion, Islam and Prophet has given every aspect of human life, which give to human kind proper and well being of all. Thus it is said that historical data provides very useful information that goes a long way towards the solution of a research problem.
2) Analytical Method

In this method, the researchers have to use facts or information already available and analyze these to make a critical evaluation of the material. In this method, we are trying to analyze both. Islamic concepts and the view of Modern Philosophy, Islamic concepts are interpreted by scholars. By bringing all these different interpretations together a researcher is suppose to discover the quotations of that concept through the analytic method. In this research work I have taken viewpoints of certain Islamic Scholars. I have analyzed the viewpoints of Prophet, Quran and the Hadith. Through this analysis I have shown Islamic concepts provide peace, Equality and Humanity to the Modern World. And Practical Implication of Islamic concept is necessary for the modern world.
3) Descriptive Method

Descriptive Method includes surveys and fact finding enquiries of different kinds of research including comparative and correlation methods. The main characteristics of this method is that the researcher has no control over the variable and can only report what has happened or what is happening? and also help in identifying the factors that may explore fresh opportunities of the research. At present, the major purpose of descriptive research method is for the description of the state of affairs as it exists.

In this descriptive method, it is directed towards identifying the various characteristics of the research of Islam and Modernism, during the life time of Prophet, explanation of Islamic concepts and social customs of Islam and the reforms of Prophet thus this descriptive approach is more acceptable as need of Islamic concepts to the Modern World.
4) **Comparative Method**

In this research method an attempt is made to compare the growth, working as well as problems of similar institutions functioning in the same as well as different societies. It then becomes possible to find out how these institutions have kept pace with each other and if there had been certain lags then why? For this comparative method is very helpful in identifying the problems of different traditions. As we all understand any problem is not permanent one, which keeps on changing and when people of that world changes. The religious principles and practices may create conflict among the people and ultimately the religions or traditions will be divided in groups. Islam originated in Arabia, when there were Jew and Christians are performing idol worship and polytheism, but prophet and Islam fully opposed these practices, this is created conflict between the followers of Islam and opponents of Islam and Prophet Mohammad. In Arab killing infant female child is common practice in the pre Islamic or pre Prophet Mohammad period, but Prophet advocated killing of female child is offence. These
are some complete opposite type of practices which followed by the Arabs. The comparative method is useful to research because it helps in identifying the religious concepts which are responsible for the peaceful way of life to Modern man.
References:
