

Necessity and usefulness of traffic rules and Islamic teachings (a research study)

Dr. Shahzada Imran Ayub

(Associate Professor, Division of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Education, Lower Mall
Campus, Lahore)

Mashhood Ahmad

(Ph.D Scholar, Dept of Islamic Studies, The University of Lahore, Lahore)

Muhammad Riaz

(Senior Subject Specialist (Islamiyat), Govt Ghulam Din Higer Secondary School, Mainagri)

Abstract

One of the great blessings of Allah Almighty on man is riding. In ancient times, humans used animals for riding, but with the passage of time, when man developed in other fields, he invented the vehicle to reduce the difficulties of travelling. After the invention of the vehicle, man needed a system that would help keep the traffic flowing and determine the person responsible in case of damage. So man introduced a traffic system. Nowadays, the use of vehicles for transportation is inevitable. But unfortunately, some people use it wrongly, due to which other people suffer and the person often suffers himself. Since the vehicle is a machine that is completely under the control of the driver, the full responsibility of the driver is also placed on him to use it properly. Because there is fear of loss of human life from its misuse. Undoubtedly, the public interest is kept in mind while creating this system by the government and it is the benefit of the people to follow these laws. Islam is a complete code of life, therefore we get proper guidance from the Holy Quran and Sunnah on this important issue of life. So, if we look carefully, we find that following traffic rules is not only our national responsibility, but also a religious duty. Because all these laws are made for the welfare of humanity and to protect them from harm, and this is what Islam has taught us, and if these traffic rules are not obeyed, many losses have to be faced. In this regard, some details are being presented in this article.

Key words: Road, Law, Traffic, Accident, Violation, Islam

A road user is a pedestrian or a rider who uses the road in any case. However, it is important to be aware of and respect traffic laws and road safety rules. Especially in today's era when there is a flood of cars and motorcycles on the roads due to the increase in the population and increasing purchasing power. Out of the forty-foot road, hardly ten feet is left for vehicles and motorcycles. As a result, roads are blocked everywhere. A ten-minute journey takes an hour, which causes trouble. Thousands of people lose their lives in traffic accidents every year due to violation of traffic rules. Of course, these accidents can be avoided because human error is usually behind traffic accidents, which can be controlled with little care. Most accidents happen on the signals where they try to cross the square in the presence of a red light by violating the traffic signals and putting their lives and others at stake. That is why it is very important to follow the traffic rules.

Meaning of traffic

Traffic is originally an English word. Its meaning is described in the Cambridge dictionary as follows:

“The number of vehicles moving along roads, or the amount of aircraft, trains, or ships moving along a route. People or goods transported by road, air, train, or ship, as a business”.¹

Traffic is defined in the Oxford dictionary in these words:

“The vehicles that are on a road at a particular time. The movement of ships, trains, aircraft, etc. along a particular route. The movement of people or goods from one place to another”.²

It is known that traffic refers to the movement and movement of passengers or people. Undoubtedly, today man is benefiting from all kinds of means of transportation, land, sea, air. Along with the progress of the times, the resources related to human life are also continuously advancing on the path of development, the dangers and problems have also increased where people have been provided with comfort and convenience from these resources. The journey of hours is being completed in minutes, but due to these high-speed rides, many problems have to be faced. Therefore, it is important to know the rules related to traffic and then try to follow them to avoid these problems.

Types of traffic

Types of traffic refers to places where traffic moves, such as vehicles on land, ships in the air, and boats and ships in the water. As Allah SWT said in the Holy Qur'an: "Indeed, We honored the children of Adam and blessed them with various rides, both on land and in water, and We provided them with sustenance, such as With various pure things and gave them various advantages over His creatures".³

Traffic is divided into three categories. Land traffic, sea traffic and air traffic. Land traffic refers to all

vehicles moving on land. Land vehicles include bicycles, motorcycles, cars, trolleys, wagons and all types of motor vehicles that run on land. This type of traffic affects the most people and causes the most problems. However, this traffic is further divided into two parts. One is the traffic of small vehicles and the other is the traffic of large and heavy vehicles. In addition to this, there is marine traffic, which refers to water traffic such as ships and boats operating in rivers and seas. The third type of traffic is air traffic, it refers to aerial traffic such as helicopters and airplanes, which travel in the air. The biggest advantage of this journey is that the journey which is done in hours by ground traffic is done in minutes by air. Air travel is the most important and the first means of modern means of travel nowadays. These people do not prefer land travel but prefer air travel.

Traffic rules and their importance and usefulness

It is better to be late than never, if we control our speed and continue our journey following the traffic rules, we can definitely reach our destination safely. It is possible that there will be a delay for a few moments, but this delay will lead to good and haste can lead to endangering one's life or someone else's life.

- **Pedestrians and Zebra Crossings:** Adherence to traffic rules is of great benefit to pedestrians who are given adequate time to cross the road. In this way, pedestrians can be saved from any kind of accident. This can be made possible only by following the traffic rules.
- **Convenience for Cyclists:** Adherence to traffic laws also benefits the cyclist, whose speed is slightly higher than that of pedestrians, but slower than that of all motor vehicles. Due to traffic rules, high speed vehicles are asked to pass on the right side and low speed vehicles are asked to stay on the left side. This law makes it easier for cyclists to protect themselves while traveling and ensures easy safe travel on their route.
- **Speed Breakers:** One of the advantages of obeying traffic rules is that the speed of vehicles remains under control. Speed signals also guide the traffic from place to place. Each vehicle has to choose its own route according to its speed and can enjoy its journey without affecting the speed. Similarly, speed breakers are used to prevent vehicles from over speeding. The use of these speed breakers not only controls accidents but also facilitates public crossing.⁴
- **Stopping at signals:** The use of signals prevents vehicles from getting blocked. It guides them completely in keeping them going. With the help of tri-colored lights in the square, it helps them in safe crossing from collisions. The aim is to avoid collision by stopping the traffic for a reasonable time.
- **Use of seat belts:** The use of seat belts in vehicles prevents drivers from being thrown from the steering wheel in case of sudden braking. If the driver does not use the seat belt, in the event of an emergency brake or a sudden accident, he will hit the steering wheel, which can also cause his death. So it turns out that using a seat belt can save us from death, so we have an advantage in obeying this traffic law.⁵
- **Emergency vehicles:** Humanitarian traffic laws differ for emergency vehicles such as ambulances, allowing them to run at their full speed, easy parking, crossing with red signals, etc. Some rules are imposed on other vehicles on the road out of sympathy for emergency vehicles. These include giving way to other vehicles or stopping at the sound of emergency vehicles.
- **Driving license:** The traffic law requires us to obtain a driving license before driving any type of vehicle. This has the advantage that it shows that we are an expert driver, it can then be used as ID, it identifies us to the officers in any emergency and if your wallet is lost. Its presence informs the recipient of our address and so on.
- **Wearing a helmet and installing glasses on the bike:** Motorcycle riders are advised to wear helmets and install glasses on both sides. The use of a helmet reduces the damage caused in an accident and the side mirrors keep you aware of the vehicles coming from behind.
- **Driving Prohibition for Minors:** It is also mentioned in the Holy Quran that children should not be entrusted with their wealth until they reach adulthood.⁶ Because they do not know their profit and loss and waste their wealth, so if the children are mentally retarded, they cannot even be allowed to drive any vehicle or motorcycle. The traffic law also states that it is prohibited for children to drive any type of vehicle or motorcycle until they become adults and get their driving license. In this way, accidents and other problems can be avoided.

Traffic rules and Islamic teachings

The whole life of a human being is connected with some law, this law helps to bring the human being to the destination with ease from the right path. In the laws of the Sharia, there are certain matters which have been expressly prohibited and some which have been expressly ordered, but there are some which have neither been expressly prohibited nor ordered, but they depend on the expediency of human beings, has been abandoned. So, regarding such things, the government has the right to make an administrative law according to the interests of the common people. The traffic system is related to the issues that concern the interests of the people, it is intended to protect the people, if this system is not there, it will be difficult for us to walk the road. Since it is the natural desire of every human being to reach their destination as soon as possible, if everyone starts to fulfill it at any crossroads, then they will surely suffer loss of life and money. To protect against these losses, the government has created a traffic system, which is the mandatory responsibility of every member of the society,

because obeying the ruling time in the work of good and public interest is the order of the Islamic Sharia itself. Therefore, the traffic system should be obeyed in all circumstances, in case of non-observance, one is the sin of disobeying the ruler and the other is the loss of life and property in case of an accident. Guidance is provided by the statement of Allah regarding obedience to the rulers:

((يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ))⁷

“O believers! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger ﷺ and obey those among you who are in authority.”

Similarly, obedience to rulers has been taught in some hadiths.⁸

The meaning of obedience is to follow what is ordered, and in the mentioned verse, "Oli al-Amr" refers to scholars and rulers. There is no doubt that following the traffic rules is obedience to the ruler. Because the ruler has created this system not for the benefit of any one individual but keeping in mind the public interest and by following this system both lives and property are safe while opposing it not only endangers the lives of people. It is possible, but sometimes a person himself becomes the cause of the death of his own life, which is forbidden. Therefore, it is stated in the Holy Quran that:

((وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا))⁹

"Do not put yourself in danger, surely Allah is Most Merciful to you. "

From this, it is known that the observance of all such traffic laws, which are intended to protect human life, is actually the observance of the law of Allah SWT. For example, one such law is to use a seat belt while driving a four-wheeled vehicle, which not only keeps the human body straight, but also prevents head and heart injuries in case of sudden braking, remains safe. Failure to fasten the seat belt leads to injury. In the event of an accident, the seat belt plays an important role in protecting up to 80% of injuries, especially chest injuries. That is why the government has made this law in which all people benefit.¹⁰

Similarly, speeding laws have also been made and speed limits have been set for people so that people can be safe from accidents. According to Section 75 of the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance, speed limits have been fixed so that no person exceeds them and does not become a source of loss of life and property to others. Therefore, it is important to take it into account. Various measures have been taken to control speeding such as speed warning boards, traffic police stationed at intersections, fines have been fixed, cameras have been installed along with the driver. The picture and number of the vehicle is also saved. High speed is not only legally prohibited, but Islam has also declared it undesirable, so in the Holy Quran, one of the characteristics of the righteous servants of Allah is also described as:

((وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا))¹¹

"And the servants of the Rahman are those who walk gently on the earth".

And in some traditions, while advising to avoid haste, it has also been described as an act of the devil.¹²

Therefore, it is better to keep a slow speed while driving and avoid haste, especially when the rush is high, this caution becomes even more important.

Avoiding mobile phones and wearing a helmet while driving has also been made legally mandatory and without a doubt, even in the observance of these laws, human beings have their own benefit. A person can be protected from many accidents and the damages caused by them if they are followed. While talking on a mobile phone, the mind of a person sometimes gets distracted by something else, which can lead to an accident. Similarly, if a helmet is worn, a person's head is protected in case of a fall or an accident, otherwise, his life may be lost due to head injury. So, while Islam has ordered to protect oneself, it has forbidden to put oneself in danger, in the same way, it has advised to protect others. As in a hadith, "A Muslim is one whose tongue and hands keep other Muslims safe."¹³ So, without a doubt, the person who is driving while listening to the phone can cause accidents and damages to others. That is why it is necessary to avoid all such actions according to law and Shari'ah. Similarly, people who are driving rough or crossing the road in violation of traffic signals are also legally prohibited because they can cause harm to others.

Undoubtedly, it is the right of every human being to benefit from the road, whether he is on foot or on horseback, but he must not cause any harm to others, as is clear from the previous hadith, and if he opposes this rule, He will be guilty and will be responsible for the resulting damage.

Therefore, in a hadith, the Messenger of Allah Muhammad ﷺ said:

«إِتَاكُمْ وَالْجُلُوسَ عَلَى الطُّرُقَاتِ»، فَقَالُوا: مَا لَنَا بِدُ، إِنَّمَا هِيَ مَجَالِسُنَا نَتَحَدَّثُ فِيهَا، قَالَ: «فَإِذَا أَبَيْتُمْ إِلَّا الْمَجَالِسَ، فَأَعْطُوا الطَّرِيقَ حَقَّهَا»، قَالُوا: وَمَا حَقُّ الطَّرِيقِ؟ قَالَ: «غَضُّ الْبَصَرِ، وَكَفُّ الْأَذَى، وَرَدُّ السَّلَامِ، وَأَمْرٌ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ، وَنَهْيٌ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ»¹⁴

"You people should avoid sitting on the roads." The Companions said: Messenger of Allah (PBUH)! we are forced in this matter because they are our places to sit and talk. He said: "Well, if there is such a compulsion, then pay the right of way." The Companions asked: What is the right of way? He said: "Keep your eyes down, do not hurt anyone, respond to greetings, tell good things and forbid bad things."

It is known that the person using the path must avoid hurting others. Aggressive driving, improper parking of the vehicle, use of vehicles that emit excessive smoke, use of loud musical instruments and harassing others by honking the horn for no reason are legal offences, similarly to this hadith. It is an illegal and immoral act.

Fatwa of the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia

According to Al-Arabiya TV channel, the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz Al-Sheikh, has reiterated his fatwa once again and said that violating traffic rules is a "big sin". Violation of the red light of the traffic signal is also a serious sin. In this fatwa, he has referred to the Quranic verse:

((أَنَّهُ مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا))¹⁵

"Whoever kills a person without revenge or to spread mischief in the land, it is as if he has killed all human beings, and whoever saves a person from dying, it is as if he has saved all human beings. "

This is not the first time that Mufti Azam has issued a fatwa against violating traffic rules. Earlier, he had issued a fatwa in 2010 saying that a person who kills another person by violating traffic rules should be punished. According to Gulf News, 17 people die in traffic accidents in Saudi Arabia every day, which is the highest rate in the world. In 2010, the Saudi Traffic Directorate revealed that one-third of traffic accidents are caused by violations of traffic lights.¹⁶

Disadvantages of not obeying traffic rules

Islam is a complete code of life. Its virtue is that it provides complete guidance in all areas of life and does not leave any area without guidance. Regarding traffic rules, there is guidance in the Holy Quran and Sunnah, as there is some guidance from the saying of Allah in which it is mentioned: "And keep your pace moderate and keep your voice low."¹⁷ Similarly, in the ahadith, there is an order to remove the painful thing from the path and the prohibition of causing pain to others. The laws of any country are also made for the convenience and improvement of the people and it is necessary for the people to obey these laws. If these rules are not followed, many problems arise. But unfortunately, some people do not follow these rules and suffer from various disadvantages. Following are some of the main disadvantages that we face due to not obeying traffic rules:

- Allah's displeasure. Because it is known from several Qur'anic verses that a middle course should be taken, one should not put oneself in danger, one should not kill others, one should not entrust the wealth of the young and less intelligent, etc.
- Disobedience to the orders of the Prophet (PBUH). Because the Prophet (PBUH) has ordered to remove the painful thing from the path, has forbidden to narrow the path and harm others.
- Refusal to obey the rulers. As it has been mentioned in the previous verse that Allah SWT has commanded obedience and obedience to the rulers in Ma'roof, then if the traffic rules are not obeyed, disobedience of this order also becomes a sin.
- Accidents. Traffic rules are arranged for the safety of human property and life, the result of not obeying them is bad in various forms. A bad result appears in the form of accidents. If investigated, the causes of these accidents are improper overtaking, speeding, competition, violation of traffic signals, use of mobile while driving, underage driving, not using helmet, use of seat belt. Don't do it and one wheeling comes out. Due to these accidents, precious lives are lost and financial loss is done separately.
- Loss of property in case of penalty. In case of violation of traffic rules, fixed fines have to be paid, which leads to loss of wealth, while in an authentic hadith, Prophet (PBUH) forbade wasting wealth.¹⁸

Obstacles to enforcement of traffic laws

It is the responsibility of the government and the administration to strictly follow the traffic rules and prepare the best plan for it. That is why the role of the government in the implementation and non-implementation of traffic laws is very important. But what happens is that the government does not take strict notice of law breakers and even if notice is taken, serious efforts are not made to control these accidents and law breakers, due to which the number of accidents and law breakers is increasing.

Another important role in the implementation or non-implementation of traffic laws is that of the public. Because these laws are mostly applied to the people and the people are not ready to follow them. Everyone wants to reach home first even if they have to break any signal. Speeding and the tendency to overtake each other also leads people to accidents and breaking the law. Driving under age and getting driving license while incompetent on the basis of relations, young boys one-wheeling on major highways, taking the vehicle from the wrong lane to save petrol and time and getting into trouble with the traffic administration. Non-cooperation is also one of the reasons why these rules cannot be followed.

Summary Discussion

Understanding the traffic rules and following them responsibly is the hallmark of any civilized nation. Traffic signs on the highways are our protectors. Their observance is the guarantee of safe travel, just as good education and training is necessary for progress in life, so knowing and following the rules of driving and highways before driving on the highways, is necessary. Only then can the flow of traffic be improved and various types of accidents can be avoided. The fastest means of transportation that man is using today is actually the grace and mercy of Allah Almighty. Since Islam is a complete code of life, we get proper guidance from the Book and Sunnah on this important issue of life. Therefore, if we examine carefully, it is known that the observance of traffic laws is not only our national responsibility but also a religious duty, because all these laws are made for the welfare of humanity and to protect it from harm, and Islam has also taught us the same. Many Quranic verses and prophetic hadiths are witnesses to this. Therefore, it is important to obey the traffic rules related to walking,

cycling and driving all kinds of vehicles. In the case of not obeying the traffic rules, the losses that have to be incurred include loss of life and property, loss of time, noise pollution and depression etc. and above all, there is also a violation of the orders of Allah and the Messenger. Therefore, by following the traffic rules, we can not only protect ourselves and others, but also play an important role in the development of the nation by being good citizens.

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