

DIVISION OF LABOUR IN THE CELL

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.

Upon reflection of the difference between a unicellular and a multicellular organism, we discover an important lesson for organisation and co-operation in society by the division of labour.

Unicellular organisms require more energy and materials for their survival than multicellular organisms.

A unicellular organism is exposed to environments all around and thus has to protect itself against the effects of the environment on all sides.

However, in multicellular organisms all the cells are not in direct contact with the environment and specific cells take up the protective function.

In this manner, the duplication of effort is avoided.

A unicellular organism has to perform all the functions of respiration, digestion, excretion, locomotion, reproduction, etc., and can only perform one function at a time.

On the other hand, in multicellular organisms there is a **division of labour** where every function is the responsibility of a particular group of cells --- e.g. Secretion is the function of the glands, movement is the function of the muscles, etc.

What can we learn from this?

If we apply the division of labour in cells to human affairs, we will find that division of labour in human beings leads to efficiency and the saving of time and energy.

This would mean that particular community functions should be assigned to particular individuals in order that the affairs of the society may be handled in an efficient way.

Since multicellular organisms react to the effects of the environment rapidly, we too can be strong in repelling evil by organising ourselves efficiently.

Listen to Al-Quraan in Sura Saffat (ch. 37): verses 1 – 6: -

“By those who range themselves in ranks, and so are strong in repelling (evil), and thus proclaim the reminder (Al Quraan)! Verily, verily your Allah is Wahid (one)! --- Rabb of the heavens and of the earth, and all between them, and Rabb of every point at the rising of the sun ! We have indeed decked the lower heaven with beauty (in) the planets, --- and for guard against all obstinate rebellious evil spirits ...”

All members amongst whom the labour is divided should commit themselves to the study of Al-Quraan so that they may gain the necessary guidance, knowledge and wisdom to handle the affairs of the Ummah in a way that would promote the good and noble cause of our Rabb.

Worksheet

- 1) If the cells in a person’s body ‘run wild’ and fail to perform their allotted functions, that person can eventually develop cancer. By using this as an analogy, what would happen if Muslims (the cells) of Islam (the body) fail to live by the noble teachings of the Quraan?

Concentrate more on the concept of Jihad-e-katala.

- 2) In numerous passages of the Holy Quraan our attention is drawn to the phenomena of nature --- why?
