Introduction:

Poverty is one of the most deplorable disabilities that can afflict a person or a nation. Unfortunately poverty seems to be increasing in the developing countries. Mankind as a whole has been alarmed by this phenomena of growing poverty. The issue of poverty has become so important that it led to a United Nations special summit in Copenhagen in 1992. The U.N. declared 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and 1997-2006 as the International Decade for Poverty Eradication. Most notable International organizations such as ECA, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and the World Bank have also come out forcefully to address the issue of poverty.

In the Islamic religion the poor is regarded with a lot of sympathy and dignity. Islam prohibits humiliating the poor and urges the rich to help them as a way of attaining salvation in the Day of Judgment.