115841 - Singling Out Ayat to Recite at Times of Hardship and Difficulty

the question

I wanted to ask you a question about some parts of the Quran that have been recommended to read in times of hardships and financial crisis. It is called "Manzil" in Urdu. I will tell you the verses that have been recommended and the book name that I know in Urdu.

Please let me know if Islamically it is OK to read them, the reason behind reading them is like making supplication to Allah.
1.the book name is "Mustand majmu'-e-wazaif" page 224-231. I think it is written by Muhammad Talha Kandulwi.
2. Verses from the Quran: Al-Fathiah, Al-Baqarah 1-5, al-Baqarah 163, al-Baqarah 255-257, al-Baqarah 284-286, al-'Imran 18, al-'Imran 26-27, al-A'raf 54-56, Bani Israil 110-111, al-Muminun 115-118 al-Saffat 1-11, Ar-Rahman 33-40, al-Hashr 21-24, al-Jin 1-4 and Surat al-Kafirun, al-Falaq, An-Nas, and al-Ikhlas.

Summary of answer

It is not permissible to single out certain verses of the Quran to recite for specific purposes, unless there is specific Shar`i evidence to that effect. Therefore, there is no specific surah to recite when in difficulty.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Singling out certain verses of the Quran to recite for specific purposes

We do not think it is permissible to single out certain verses of the Quran to recite for specific purposes, unless there is specific Shar`i evidence to that effect, such as if there is an authentic

hadith from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) concerning the virtues of a certain surah, which the Muslim may recite with the aim of attaining those virtues and benefits.

But if a person selects for himself various verses of Quran to recite, and claims that they may bring relief from hardship or help at times of crisis, and he compiles them in a book to be recited regularly by the Muslim as part of a recommended wird, then that is more akin to innovation (bid'ah) than following the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). It is better for the Muslim to avoid that and not follow this example or act upon it.

The entire Quran is blessing

The entire Quran is blessing and reward and goodness, but claiming that a certain verse has a certain effect, especially in the case of these claims that they can relieve difficulty and financial hardships, is something that requires evidence, and the author of this book has no evidence for the things he says, so attention must be paid to that.

The Standing Committee for Issuing Fatwas was asked:

In Uganda, if a person wants to call upon his Lord – du`a – especially for increased provision, he summons some of the learned and they come to him, each of them bringing his Mus-haf, and they start to read. One will read Surat Yasin because it is the heart of the Quran, a second will read Surat al-Kahf, a third will read Surat al-Waqi`ah or al-Rahman or al-Dukhan or al-Ma`arij or Nun or Tabarak i.e., al-Mulk, Muhammad, al-Fath and other similar surahs. The next day they do the same thing, and the day after that. But they do not read from al-Baqarah or al-Nisa. After that they say du`a. Is this way prescribed in Islam? If it is not, then what is the prescribed way, with evidence?

They replied:

"Reading the Quran whilst pondering the meanings is one of the best acts of worship, and calling upon Allah and turning to Him, asking Him to enable one to do good and to grant abundant provision and other kinds of good things is a kind of worship that is prescribed in Islam.

But reading in the manner described in the question – distributing specific surahs of the Quran to a number of people, each of whom reads a surah in order to say du`a after that asking for abundant provision and so on is an innovation (bid`ah), because that is not proven from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in word or in deed, or from any of the Sahabah (may Allah be pleased with them) or from the imams of the salaf (may Allah have mercy on them). Goodness is in following those who came before (the salaf) and evil is in the innovations of those who came later. It is proven that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever introduces anything into this matter of ours [Islam] that is not part of it will have it rejected.” Calling upon Allah in du`a is prescribed at all times and in all places, in all situations, in hardship and ease. What is encouraged by Islam is to say du`a when prostrating during the prayer, just before dawn, and at the end of the prayer before saying the salam. It is proven that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Our Lord descends to the lowest heaven every night when the last third of the night remains, and says: “Who will call upon Me, that I may answer him; who will ask of Me that I might give him; who will seek My forgiveness that I might forgive him?” (Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim)

And it is proven from Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “As for ruku’ (bowing), glorify your Lord therein, and as for sujud (prostration), strive hard in du’a ‘therein, because then it is more likely that you may receive a response.” (Narrated by Ahmad, Muslim, al-Nasai and Abu Dawud)

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The closest that a person is to his Lord is when he is prostrating, so say a lot of du`a then.” (Narrated by Muslim, Abu Dawud and al-Nasai)

In al-Sahihayn, it is narrated from Ibn Mas’ud (may Allah be pleased with him) that when the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught him the tashahhud, he said to him: “Then let him choose whatever du`a he likes and say it.” And Allah is the Source of strength.” (Fatawa al-Lajnah al-Daimah, 2/486)

On our website, in the answer to question no. 71183 , we have mentioned some of the du`as that

are prescribed in Islam for seeking help to pay off debts, which are proven from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Please read them and make use of them.

For more, please see these answers: 3219 , 22457 , 87915 .

And Allah knows best.