

Attitude of Female Students towards Learning Islamic Concepts in Southern Punjab

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Abstract

Current study aimed to know the attitude of female students towards learning Islamic concepts. Female students of Bahawalpur were the population of this study. Two hundred students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur were selected as sample for this study. Data was collected through a questionnaire analyzed through SPSS and interpreted on the basis of mean scores. It was found that female students of The Islamia University of Bahawalpur have positive attitude towards learning Islamic concepts. It was recommended that universities should provide access to the students to authentic electronic resources for learning authentic Islamic concepts so that we may be able to establish a longer lasting peace and harmony in the Pakistani as well as global society.

Key Words: Attitude, Islamic concepts, Female students

Introduction

According to Islam, it is fundamental duty of Muslims to get education. There is no exception in this duty. Muslims whether male or female, have to learn some knowledge. There is classification of knowledge in Islam. A renowned Muslim scholar Imam Ghazali divided knowledge into Obligatory, Semi

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- Explaining concepts to people according to their mental level, knowledge/ and learning experience
- Explaining step by step
- Indirect instruction (to benefit all the audience and at the same time without embarrassing any particular person Using repetition
- Arguing and raising discussion
- Loud, clear and soft voice
- Stressing on preposition for stating an important fact

A Muslim teacher is expected to observe the above instructional principles to inculcate Islamic values and professional skills among learners. The teachers involved in instructional process and imparting education in Islamic Perspective must apply the above principles.

Final Thought

Islamic Perspective is a context which ensures the implementation of Islamic principles all spheres of human life. Teaching is a focal activity in Islamic perspective which inculcates desired attitudes and values among students to live a purposeful and productive life. Therefore, the teacher who is main pillar in process of teaching and learning must be equipped with certain professional skills, ethics and competencies having vision of the global innovations and inventions; with logical mindset and facilitating attitude.

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- xvi. Above all, the Muslim teacher should aim at character building of students and develop moral values, courtesy, ethics and professionalism among students to make them good Muslims, good citizens and good human being.

Teaching in Islamic Perspective

In Islamic Perspective, teaching is an interactive process between teachers and taughts/ students based on communicative approach. The principles of this approach have been envisaged in the Holy Qur'ān at different places and ways as *"Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching and argue with them with that which is best" (Qur'ān16:125)*.

Here a teacher has been ordered to use his/her wisdom in teaching by applying it in selecting suitable materials according to the age of students/ learners, their social background, learning experience, and level of education; applying instructional methodologies for explanation integrating logic in teaching, and effective communication skills for imparting Islamic education; and applying art of arguing by observing patience, and passion to the teaching profession dueing responding to the queries of the learners. Questioning or raising queries are regarded as basis of knowledge and the Holy Qur'ān encourages queries for the *satisfaction of one's soul (Qur'ān 2:260)*.

A Muslim teacher must follow the example set by the Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him and guidelines given in the Holy Qur'ān. A brief summary the instructional principles are given below.

- Using story telling method for understanding the past events and making inferences for learning lessons
- Explaining the concepts by example/and modeling
- Explaining Stories of righteousness to learners for motivating them for good deeds
- Providing physical example
- Initiating discussion
- Setting high moral standards
- Using concept of reward and punishment (Paradise and Hell)
- Competition to attain goodness

social and moral values to his/her students. A Muslim teacher has been playing different roles in the history including teaching, preaching, guiding, leading, and treating (diseases) or Hikmatand other areas for the benefits of Ummah. S/he has been working with people and for the people having good communication skills, ethics, understanding psychology of the students/listeners/people, and above all the knowledge of Islam and Islamic Principles. There are a lot of characteristics of a Muslim Teacher; however, s/he must possess the following characteristics.

- i. A Muslim Teacher should be God fearing
- ii. A Muslim Teacher should abide by the Islamic Principles
- iii. A Muslim teacher should have high moral grounds
- iv. A Muslim teacher should have sound character
- v. A Muslim teacher should be role model for students
- vi. A Muslim teacher should have unlimited patience and forbearance
- vii. A Muslim teacher should be abreast with modern innovations and inventions
- viii. A Muslim teacher should be visionary one and think about the future keeping in view the past and critically analyzing the present situation
- ix. A Muslim teacher should work as a missionary for seeking the consent of God and without any material desire or benefit
- x. A Muslim teacher should be competent in his/her subject and properly equipped with communication skills and professional ethics
- xi. A Muslim teacher must propagate Islamic values to the students and society by his/her actions/ character and speech or conversation
- xii. A Muslim teacher should be soft and kindhearted to make students enthusiastic for learning
- xiii. A Muslim teacher should be aware of the modern technologies and have sufficient skills to use them in teaching learning process
- xiv. A Muslim teacher should explain concepts to the students through examples; and relate examples with contexts.
- xv. A Muslim teacher should create positive motivation among learners

unmatched model of moral and social values even in the modern world. Throughout the Islamic history, a teacher occupied a high social status. The first verse in the Qur'ān encouraged learning and teaching. Those who possess knowledge and teach it to others are exalted and respected by Islam. The Qur'ān says (58:11), *"God will exalt those of you who believe and those who are given knowledge to high degrees."*

Similarly, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) regarded the teachers to be heirs of the Prophets by saying, *"The learned ones are the heirs of the Prophets – they leave knowledges as their inheritance: he who inherits it inherits a great fortune."* In Islam teachers correspond to the Ulama (the learned personalities) and described as the Heirs of the Prophets. Transferring knowledge to others is believed to be worthwhile activity of teachers in Islamic Perspective and affirms the importance of teaching knowledge as great fortune.

Teacher in an Islamic Perspective

Islam as revealed religion gives much importance to teaching and teacher. That's why a teacher occupies a nucleus place in Islāmic Perspective. A teacher is regarded as heir of the Prophet. It is a selected rank given by the Almighty Allah to those who are pious and abide by the Islamic laws. S/he becomes custodian of the Islamic values; ought to observe and propagate to the next generations and the societies through preaching for the welfare of the mankind. A Muslim has to be the role model for students as well as the community by setting high standards of living and interactions with people. S/he should be abreast with latest innovations and inventions to get benefit according to the interpretation of Islamic teachings. So, a Muslim teacher becomes a source of Islamic teaching as well as the interpreter of the contemporary situations. Therefore, s/he needs to be equipped with professional and social competencies, and communicational and interpersonal skills to make the teaching learning process effective and efficient.

Characteristics of a Teacher in Islamic Perspective

As teaching is an art (Hussain, 2010); therefore, a Muslim teachers is desired to have some professional competencies to transfer subject knowledge, and

based on activities. It stems in applying some theoretical framework to teach the students based on the theory of learning by doing (and according to Smith, 1995) critically analyzing theory and practice. It is in accordance with Bruner's (1990) three underlying processes that constructivism - knowing is doing; functionalism - knowing is doing something; and social contextualization - all knowledge exists in social interaction. Here according to Hussain (2005) learners create their own knowledge through their respective experiences and questioning in their situations. Bruner (1990) further asserted that children learn in the world in which they live and are exposed to. According to Bruner (1990), "..... knowledge requires a community, as well as a mind and a world" (pp. 327-342). Dewy regarded learning as reconstruction of experiences to build later life. It is evident that modern philosophy like Islam emphasizes on learning by doing in real contexts (social environments). Therefore, it provides sufficient grounds for teachers training through active pedagogy and activities –learning by doing or experiential learning.

Islamic Perspective

An Islamic perspective is a social context where observance of Islamic Principles and values is ensured; and all individuals of the society lead their lives according to Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him. The Islamic Perspective believes in Sovereignty of Allah Almighty and where mankind acts as His Vicegerent to live according to and implement the Orders of the Allah Almighty being answerable to Him for the deeds. The Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him is the Educator of mankind and role model for the Muslims. Therefore, a Muslim teacher must follow the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him and observe the Islamic principles and values and promote the same among students. S/he must be equipped with knowledge of Islam and modern professional skills. The blend of the two makes him/her capable of living a balanced life as a role model for the students. The world has witnessed to see the glory of balanced and exemplary system of Islamic education in the history.

Teacher in Islamic Perspective

In Islam Teaching is a prophetic and missionary profession. Therefore, a teacher in Islam holds a unique status and respect from the society for which the emperors wished. The history reveals that teaching profession has been (and is) a sacred and noble profession that the sons of the Khalifah felt honour to pick the shoes of their teacher. It was due to high moral standards and passionate attitude of the teacher. A Muslim teacher always presented

Islam differentiates between those (people) having knowledge and those (people) not having knowledge. The people having knowledge are better than those not having knowledge. Later on the United Nations Organization (UNO) also considered education as one of the basic rights by including it in its charter. This fundamental principle of Islam has become more obvious in the present century –the century of knowledge and competition. The current situation affirms the world to be a global village where knowledge is regarded as power; it comes and multiplies by involvement and sharing. Such power of knowledge is not only shared but also generated in the form of new knowledge leading towards development. Sharing of knowledge brings cultures and civilizations closer to each other becoming the source of social change, and peace and harmony in the (global) village. People can learn new skills and competencies from each other to bring into practice in their native countries for betterment. Nations excelling in knowledge appeared to enjoy the real power of it –ruling the nations.

Along with all such realities ‘the teaching and teacher’ are fundamental factors in all educational endeavours and knowledge seeking activities. A teacher occupies a pivotal place in imparting education and training and equipping students with life skills. S/he plays a nucleus role in educating the nation(s). Teaching and teacher are interrelated. Hussain (2010) regarded teaching as a passionate activity which aims at developing desired social and moral values among learners to live a peaceful life according to the principals of Islam. A teacher appears to be a role model for his/her students who idealize and try to follow him/her. Therefore, a teacher must observe high moral values and social norms along with professional ethics. Hussain (2012) further regarded a teacher as a reformer and intellectual of society transforming novice mind into intellect. It is a specialized task which needs certain professional skills and competencies. These professional skills can be developed through teacher training programmes including pre-service as well as in-service and continuous professional development programmes. Successful teacher training programmes produce competent teachers who according to Duffee&Aikenhead, (1992) create constructive minds. Transforming individuals having positive minds and being beneficial to the community is one of the objectives of Islamic Education and it appears in accordance with needs of 21st century –the globalization. Therefore, it seems imperative for a Muslim teacher to be abreast with latest knowledge and equipped with professional skills to realize the educational objectives in 21st century.

Modern and Islamic Theoretical Framework of Teacher Training

Islam is a practicing religion; and teaching profession in Islam is dynamic and

Teacher and Teaching in Islamic Perspectives

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Abstract

Islam is a revealed religion and complete code of conduct, and provides feasible guidelines in all spheres of human life. Islam gives much importance to education by affirming knowledge seeker as martyr. Similarly, teacher occupies a nucleus place in the teaching learning process. A teacher in Islamic perspective must have certain competencies, skills and professional ethics along with communication skills. This article briefly describes the status of teacher and teaching in Islamic perspective.

Keywords: Islamic Perspective, Teaching, Revealed Religion, Code of Conduct, Professional Ethics

Introduction

Islam is a revealed religion and complete code of conduct for the Muslims. Islam provides fundamental practicable principals and feasible guidelines to the human beings in all aspect of life. Islam emphasizes on living a peaceful life under the Decree of Allah Almighty –the ultimate purpose of life. Islam gives much importance to education and training. Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim irrespective of sex, and caste and creed in Islam. Islam gives much importance to education and seeking knowledge by declaring the person as martyr who dies in search of knowledge. It can best be understood by the first revelation upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace be Upon Him which affirms the significance of education. Educating Ashab-e-Suffah is an obvious example for the Muslims to follow. It signifies education and supports adult learning.

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