Revitalizing Education: Unveiling Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s Vision for Empowering the Muslim Ummah

Suhailah Hussien¹, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Lone²

¹Associate Professor, Department of Social Foundations & Educational Leadership, Kulliyyah of Education, IIUM, Malaysia
²Higher Education Jammu and Kashmir, India
Email: ajazlone88[at]gmail.com

Abstract: The revolutionary philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal enlightens and encourages the whole Muslim Ummah in general and the Muslims of the Subcontinent specially. Despite being a philosopher and poet, Dr. Mohammad Allama Iqbal addressed the root causes of the issues that plagued Muslim countries by considering and advocating for improvements of the educational system. He believed that reformation & transformation could be done by fostering self-awareness, advancing education, and distributing information. This article aims to clarify the education strategy that results from Iqbal's conception of education. The objectives of the study are: to investigate the views of Iqbal about Educational thoughts; to search out the main purpose of education and design curriculum in the light of Iqbal's Educational thoughts; to explore Suggested Teaching Methodology and the role of an ideal Teacher in Iqbal Philosophy. Qualitative research method is used for the study. Findings of the study showed that Muhammad Iqbal's educational thoughts indicate holistic approach of nurturing an individual. His study focused on reviving the spirit of intellectualism in academics. Inculcation of spirituality in education system, based on Islamic ideology is the ultimate aim of education. The effect of this aim will be reflected in curriculum design, teaching methodology and personality of the teacher. Muhammad Iqbal's initiative is still applicable today, because education has a worldwide impact on daily life, forming devout believers or people who are seen to be well-advanced.

Keywords: Iqbal, Education, curriculum, teaching methodologies, ideal teacher

1. Introduction

Iqbal is one of the most renowned Muslim philosophers and scholars of the subcontinent. He has given the actual meaning to education. And given the questions of the purpose of education, the purpose of human life and the purpose of this universe as well, he deals with education collectively to resolve contemporary issues with the comprehensive purpose of compliance to education. (Shakir 1989)

Allama Muhammad Iqbal presented his educational thoughts in the poetic form. He considered education as the most substantial means for individual and collective development. His philosophy of education emphasizes a holistic approach for the development of individuals and society. In his view both material and spiritual needs are important. (Siddiqui 2012)

Though intellectual growth is undoubtedly a crucial component of the development of the "Self," or "Khudi," "ego" as he refers to it, Iqbal's educational philosophy goes beyond this. The intellectual self, however, is merely one component of our complete self's activities in his eyes. Therefore, according to Iqbal, educational learning attempts to improve a person's character. He proposes doing this through connecting oneself with God and nature and by being receptive to the impulses that life experiences present to us in order to enliven us. For Iqbal, science is a tool. Therefore, the study of science and technology is a crucial component of Iqbal's educational philosophy since it almost mystically opens young people's eyes to untold realities (Ali & Hussain, 2017).

Objectives of the Study
1) To investigate the views of Iqbal about Educational thoughts.
2) To search out the main purpose of education and design curriculum in the light of Iqbal's Educational thoughts.
3) To explore Suggested Teaching Methodology and the role of an ideal Teacher in Iqbal Philosophy

2. Research Questions

1) What views Iqbal had about Educational thoughts?
2) What are the main purposes of education in Iqbal's view, designed curriculum?
3) What are the recommended teaching methodologies and the role of an ideal teacher in Iqbal philosophy?

1) Main Purpose of education in Iqbal's Ideology

The main purpose of education is to make a person a clairvoyant; it makes him aware of the secrets of the universe. Iqbal's ideology of education is the real intuitive education, which makes a person aware of the spirit of obedience to Allah and the Holy Prophet (Nudrat & Akhtar, 2002).

Aims of Education

According to Iqbal education should not be gained for worldly achievements only. Success is necessary in both dimensions,
in this world and hereafter. Deep study of Iqbal's philosophy of education depicts that Iqbal has derived aims of education from the Holy Quran and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Allama is of the opinion that self-consciousness is vital for human development. A person cannot flourish unless he recognizes his/her self. It is due to this potential that he recognizes his Lord/Master. Self-consciousness is knowing one’s responsibilities, purpose of the creation of the universe, focusing on character building, living a purposeful life, benefiting humanity and loving God and His creation (Ali & Hussain 2017).

Iqbal profoundly laments that the Muslim youth has obtained their thoughts or in their psyche. Iqbal says that at whatever point I take a gander at you, I don't know whether it is you or another person. In these refrains he strongly contends their point (Arif & Zamir, 2019).

The idea of (khudi) enhances a person's intrinsic abilities forms the basis of Iqbal's theory of education, upon which the rest of his philosophical framework is based (Nudrat & Akhtar, 2002).

Basic purpose of education is to educate people about change for the betterment by bringing out their latent potentials, best qualities and directing them towards virtue. According to this viewpoint, if a person stops efforts or struggles for life and becomes passive, their uniqueness (khudi) would lose and their skills will go untapped (Saleem 2006).

2) Curriculum
According to Allam Iqbal religious sciences and natural sciences should be included in the curriculum. In his opinion The Holy Quran is the major source of religious and natural sciences. These both are part of the same subject. Both sciences invite human beings to ponder into the creation and purpose of the universe. Allama enjoys including philosophical sciences in the curriculum. Philosophical sciences consist of logic, philosophy, aesthetics and metaphysics. (Zamir, 2019).

These sciences help in the development of selfhood and character formation. These disciplines are imperative for acquiring knowledge and absolute truth. Iqbal recommends history to be a part of curriculum. He says that history is vital for national integration, character formation and acquiring the truth. According to him, nations who forget their history, lose their identity. Allama Iqbal emphasizes adding literature in the curriculum. He is of the opinion that literature brings about consciousness of life and passion for action. This helps in developing selfhood and character formation (Iqbal, 2013).

Allama Iqbal suggested the Curriculum; history, religion, culture and Civilization science and instructional Technology. According to Allama Iqbal the curriculum needs to be designed in light of the basic foundations of Quran and sharia. The curriculum that is not designed with the foundation of Shreya’ it is just following the devil. For the social, material, and spiritual advancement of humanity, humanities and social sciences as subjects are crucial. (Goraha1989), Arabic and other languages like Persian, in particular, should be taught in schools as part of the curriculum. The students and teachers should be aware of their obligations, as well as suggestions for teachers and curriculum improvement. Iqbal would undoubtedly agree with this principle, which is recognized in the modern reconstruction of curriculum and methods that aims to integrate social activities and occupations from daily life into academic work and encourages methods of self-activity, problem-solving, and projects. Thus, religion and science should be settled in amicability, since religion and
science can make people accomplish an extraordinary obligation in the approaching time period. In this sense, education has to be reformed by implementing a curriculum that focuses on the humanist side of learners and addresses issues like monotheism, prophet hood, freedom, and independence of will in selecting one's future (Ali & Hussain 2017; Saleem 2006).

Allama Iqbal's view is that we should observe the educational system of the entire globe and analyze it critically till the final findings and its effects on the educational process and then adopt the basic or fundamental changes according to the circumstances of the particular area (Arif & Zamir 2019).

3) Teaching Methodology
Main purpose of education is not just for Rote learning. This learning process should be activity based that provokes thinking, particularly critical thinking. The questioning technique also enhances the level of Intellect so a student must be of awakened mind with questions that need to be answered is actually the main purpose of education. Project technique is an approach to introducing illustrations that begin from significant things. The utilization of this technique is taken in view of the suspicion that critical thinking ought to be connected with the subjects that examined similar issues (Nudrat & Akhtar, 2002).

Inactively retaining knowledge, methods of learning do not give insight. Further, Iqbal says that a man shouldn't rely just on scholarly contemplations yet he ought to do some activity-based learning connected with knowledge, this obtained information through activity will engrave in mind and provide ground for recreation according to the situation. Iqbal is not in favor of class discrimination in Academics. Students need to connect with nature in each educational experience to develop the mentality of learning interest, talent and imaginative vision (Minajuddin, 2009).

4) Role and Responsibilities of an Ideal Teacher
In order for pupils to mature and become capable of carrying out their responsibilities as creatures of Allah SWT, the teacher must guide in their spiritual and physical growth. Ideal teachers particularly are urged to focus their educational efforts on developing mature personalities and must also take certain steps. The obedience of Ismail AS struck Iqbal to think’ It was “Faizan-e-Nazar” or the dignity of the school’ who taught Ismail the manners of children?

Iqbal says individual differences occur amongst individuals. Thus the teacher needs to consider variations and uniqueness of individuals so that rational thinking and creativity can be developed in students (Ali & Hussain 2017).

The teacher's primary duty is to cultivate spiritual understanding and recognize the challenges that the pupils face. The main role of the teacher is to identify the correct and un-doubtful knowledge, skills, and aptitude of the students and to inspire them to participate in learning that are crucial to the educational process. An ideal teacher spreads the truth and instructs others without seeking praise or seeking notoriety in the public eye. He sincerely adheres to Islamic teachings. He should be a role model for his students and have high moral and ethical standards. A teacher's ability to inspire students to study is crucial to the educational process. He or she should also develop their own spiritual awareness. In addition to being understanding and kind to the pupils, he should reduce or simplify complicated ideas and begin learning from basic to complex. Students should emphasize the purity of their souls and not be arrogant about their education. Students ought to

role of the primary significance who guides the pupils towards a final descent destiny in this life and the next. Muhammad Iqbal saw these qualities in a good teacher.

Man is Khalifa on the earth for the entire humanity. It is his duty being “khalifah Allah”, to arrange, manage, and develop the world. All of humanity's happiness, peace, and security depend on us. The nature of individuals and the environment must be examined by teachers as they explore and expand the knowledge. According to Muhammad Iqbal, fostering an individual's uniqueness requires providing them with a stimulating environment. According to Muhammad Iqbal, a good teacher cultivates in his pupils right awareness of their surroundings, encouraging them to acquire a critical sense of it.

Teachers play a vital role in the education system. Their role is very crucial. They are nation makers. They preserve and transmit rich national values, purify the spirit, and develop unity in the nation. They guide the nation on how to get rid of the darkness of ignorance and move towards the light of knowledge (Minajuddin, 2009).

Iqbal says individual differences occur amongst individuals. Thus the teacher needs to consider variations and uniqueness of individuals so that rational thinking and creativity can be developed in students (Ali & Hussain 2017).

The teacher's primary duty is to cultivate spiritual understanding and recognize the challenges that the pupils face. The main role of the teacher is to identify the correct and un-doubtful knowledge, skills, and aptitude of the students and to inspire them to participate in learning that are crucial to the educational process. An ideal teacher spreads the truth and instructs others without seeking praise or seeking notoriety in the public eye. He sincerely adheres to Islamic teachings. He should be a role model for his students and have high moral and ethical standards. A teacher's ability to inspire students to study is crucial to the educational process. He or she should also develop their own spiritual awareness. In addition to being understanding and kind to the pupils, he should reduce or simplify complicated ideas and begin learning from basic to complex. Students should emphasize the purity of their souls and not be arrogant about their education. Students ought to

It was Faizan-e-Nazar or the dignity of the school

Who taught Ismail the manners of obedience?

According to Iqbal, it is crucial for the teacher to instill in his pupils a deep awareness of their numerous relationships with their surroundings in order to encourage the development of innovative and imaginative goals. Teacher is able to incorporate God's character and attitudes into his student life. In Islamic system of education, instructors or mentors take the
study the Quran and the Hadiths and must respect their elders, teachers, and parents. Allama had a view that teachers are the backbone of the nation, therefore; there should be an organized, well pattern and systematic procedure for teachers recruiting, selection and induction. According to Allama, the teaching profession is not like other professions. It is the most honorable occupation, and teachers are the most revered people. They should be future-oriented and pay close attention to their line of work. They should focus their attention on their profession and should be futuristic.

5) Education of Women

Famous saying; “The hands that move the cradle, rule the world”

In the educational thoughts of Allama Iqbal, there are also hints about the education of women. According to Iqbal; the effects of western education on the life of a woman was devastating. The result of the western civilization is that the woman, who was created by nature to be a mother, has started refusing to be a mother and she has started considering having children and rearing them as an obstacle to her freedom. Modern education has created a woman to be a mother’ given the essence of love and self-sacrifice. But the result of western civilization is that a woman's heart is filled with materialistic feelings.

If a woman's education and training is in a seminary in which there is no interference of religion, then knowledge and every skill she will learn will be a cause of death for her feelings of love and affection. She will be completely oblivious to her goals and duties. If women, especially Muslim women, want to study in modern madrassas, it is important for them to first strengthen the foundation of their religion so that Western science cannot force them to build a misguided and wrong building on it.

For him, the education of a man is only the education of an individual, while the education of a woman is the education of the entire family. Iqbal wanted to establish an Islamic university in which education and learning would be given from a pure Islamic perspective. He was a strong supporter of a separate Islamic university for women.

6) Iqbal’s Concept of Ishq

The element of Ishq “adoration” is also a prominent feature in Iqbal's educational thoughts. The qualities of Ishq are common among Urdu poets, but they are more inclined towards virtual love. With Iqbal, these conditions appear as true love; ish-I haqeeq. His love is connected with self-awareness “khudi” and if love is like that of Hazrat Ibrahim, then the reality of Nimrod's fire also disappears. (Qasmi 1988) According to Iqbal, today's Muslims are the descendants of Hazrat Ibrahim and are examples of contemporary western colonialism, oppression, brutality, hatred and nihilism. For a Muslim of the twenty-first century, there is a need for Ishq Iqibrihi and Ibrahimi's faith. In today's age, the Islamic nation should be taught the love of God like Hazrat Ibrahim (RA). Such an education in which there is no fear. The Holy Qur'an has set the goal of their lives in order to achieve success in this world and the hereafter. In today's era, the faith of the Muslim Ummah became weakened; it has started to believe in non-Allah, while the first requirement of faith is Tawheed. If you don't believe in Tawheed, then you fall into the darkness of Shirk. In Islam, Shirk is the biggest sin and that is the reason for the downfall of Muslim Ummah. For the maturity of our faith, Iqbal taught the lesson of monotheism for the renewal of our faith. Iqbal expresses it like this:

Ishq jumped freely into the fire of Nimrod
Intellect is the focus of attention now
(Kulliyat-e-Iqbal, 2018, 103)

According to Iqbal; love teaches self-awareness, and if love is like Hazrat Ibrahim's, then the reality of Nimrod's fire also vanishes. According to Iqbal, today's Muslim is the descendant of Hazrat Ibrahim and is an example of contemporary western colonialism, oppression, barbarism, brutality, hatred and nihilism. There is a need for Ibrahimi of the 21st century Muslim. They should be taught the love of God like Hazrat Ibrahim (RA) and the love of Ishq Iqibrihi (R.A.) for faith. There is need of such Islamic educational system in which there is no fear. The Islamic nation should make the study of the Holy Qur'an the goal of its life in order to achieve success in this world and the hereafter.
7) Critics on Current Education System

There are far reaching effects the western education system had on Muslim youth. In the educational thoughts of Allama Iqbal, there is a lesson to be aware of the negative effects of Western education. Western education has created a state of apathy and atheism in the young generation. Its effects Not only in contemporary Western colleges, but also in Eastern-style schools and monasteries, Western practices are being adopted in Eastern universities, colleges and schools, which have deprived life of sincerity, feelings, emotions and ethics.

According to Iqbal, the current education system has achieved great scientific progress in the world. Man has learned to fly in the skies and swim in oceans, but he could not learn to walk on the ground like a gentle human being.

I have a complaint, O Lord, from the chiefs of schools
Those are giving lessons to the king kids to slavery & play dust
(Kulliyat-e-Iqbal 2018, 202)

The one who arrested and made numerous scientific inventions could not recognize his destiny and his own profit and loss. Man is unaware of self-realization. The education system is responsible for this in balance because the system is given by the British rulers to the Muslims of the sub-continent, behaving like a slave.

The educational system of the madrassa choked out your throat, where did the voice of La Ilaha Illallah come from?
(Kulliyat-e-Iqbal 2018, 368)

Iqbal says that getting secular English Education; you can get a job, but you can't awaken the true spirit of your children. This can make the child's world, but the goods of the hereafter are incomplete, while the real preparation should be for the hereafter. Iqbal is angry with such schools, schools, colleges and universities where the voices of La ilahailah Allah do not resonate.

The educational system of the madrassa choked out my throat, where did the voice of La Ilaha Illallah come from?
(Kulliyat-e-Iqbal 2018, 368)

May God introduce you to a storm?
That there is no moment & motivation in the waves of your sea
It is not possible for you to be free from the book you are merely a book reader, not a book owner
(Iqbal, Zarb-e-Kaleem, 91)

8) Iqbal's Hope for the Bright Future of Muslim Ummah

The dream of the establishment of Pakistan is also a proof of the vision of the poet of the East. His dream was considered as a fantasy. Hindus and British were strongly against Pakistan and enslaved the Muslim Ummah. Hindu imperialism and British colonialism spread full propaganda against Muslims of the subcontinent. (Asif, 2019). But by the grace of Allah, the poet's dream of East was interpreted in the form of the establishment of Pakistan and a new Islamic state rose. (Amran, 2012)

In the context of the twenty-first century, Allama Iqbal's concern was to establish the concept of Islamic society and Muslim Ummah. The promotion of Muslim Ummah, Islamic society can only ensue when the state of Iqbal's theory of "self" in Muslim believers would be strong and powerful. Among his attributes, purity, pure intention, good morals, cheerfulness, divine agency and obedience to God are prominent. For the development and promotion of the Islamic nation in the modern era, it is necessary to establish a society free from caste and regionalism. The foundation of Islamic society should be established on brotherhood, love and justice. As Iqbal (2002) mentioned in Bang-e-Dara

سیق پہہ صدافات کا اعلان کا شجاعت کا ایا جاگے گا اجسے
کام دنیا کا امامت کا

Learn again the lessons of truth, justice and bravery;
The task of leading the world will be taken from you

In the modern era, the humanity of the Islamic world has died. (Mas’ud, 1986), There is a wave of regional, geographical, linguistic, political, economic and social prejudice, hatred, corruption and contradictions. In Iqbal's educational ideas of the modern world, he taught sincerity, compassion, brotherhood, prosperity and well-being, expansion and comfort and good morals. This can only happen when the Muslim world adheres to the principles of the Qur'an. In the educational thoughts of Iqbal the teachings of the Qur'an have a very deep impact. In most of the poems and themes of Iqbal, the effects of the Qur'anic teachings are very prominent and that is actually the only solution to all academic issues'.

Volume 12 Issue 8, August 2023
www.ijsr.net
Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

DOI: 10.21275/SR23822221025
3. Conclusion

Allama Iqbal’s concept of education is solely Islamic concept of education after carefully examining it. In his concept of education, it is advised to satisfy man's spiritual as well as material needs. With the logical advancement in the current age, the Muslim country ought to keep up with its Islamic pride and Islamic character. Modern world progress is not kind to mankind in its capacity. Iqbal opposes education that leads to social deterioration rather than reform; for Man, western education and civilization have unavoidable consequences that are equivalent to human death. This knowledge is ineffective according to Iqbal, who asserts that women are inferior. Religious education is also required in schools that teach only worldly knowledge, and it should be organized specifically for women. Iqbal referred to it as the "death of knowledge and skill" in the absence of religious education because those nations develop feminine rights and feminine values are nurtured rather than ethical and religious education and values. According to Iqbal Western school system promotes general materialism. This propensity will thus sabotage the part of human profound qualities. This framework can't give a general materialism. This propensity will thus sabotage the values.

Religious education and civilization have unavoidable consequences that are equivalent to human death. This knowledge is ineffective according to Iqbal, who asserts that women are inferior. Religious education is also required in schools that teach only worldly knowledge, and it should be organized specifically for women. Iqbal referred to it as the "death of knowledge and skill" in the absence of religious education because those nations develop feminine rights and feminine values are nurtured rather than ethical and religious education and values. According to Iqbal Western school system promotes general materialism. This propensity will thus sabotage the part of human profound qualities. This framework can't give a healthy lifestyle between profound and actual viewpoints. Men who follow the Almighty's instruction should ideally have a mature personality that reflects fundamental life's lessons they have learned from educational experiences. With respect to this, the possibility of Muhammad Iqbal is to restore this equation and reapply in class.

References