

Education: An Islamic Perspective

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There exists a wealth of information in the Qur'an and Sunnah with regards to the themes on man and education. Education in the Arabic language refers to Tarbiyah, Ta'bid, Ta'lim. The first revelation (Al-Qur'an 96:1-5) that was sent to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) emphasized on reading and learning. In other places of the Qur'an the book, pen, tablet, thinking and contemplation have been mentioned that directly or indirectly refer to the process and tools of education. Supplementary to the Qur'an, one finds numerous Hadith that gives the glad tidings of great reward and honour awaits Muslims who make efforts to learn all that is valuable for the betterment of this life and for the hereafter. In Islam, the act of seeking knowledge is a form of Ibadah (worship). A philosophical understanding of the Qur'an explains that reading or learning is just not from the revealed Book of Allah (the Qur'an text alone) but also from the 'Open Book' of Allah that is the universe. As such, besides the Qur'an, Muslims have been commanded to learn from the signs and wonders of what Allah has created in heavens and earth (flora and fauna), which explain His Might, Majesty and Greatness.

The Islamic philosophy of education emphasizes on the total development of an individual; body, mind and spirit. In line with this principle parents and teachers should provide education that caters for an individual's intellectual, physical, moral, social, emotional, psychological, personality and spiritual developments. A mere intellectual development most aptly can cause an imbalance in the personality of an individual. Parents and educators should provide students with a holistic concept of education without neglecting any one of the aforementioned developments. The ideal Muslim education should aim at the transfer of knowledge, skills, values, culture, heritage, language, belief, etc. from one generation of people to the other. A well educated person in Islam should enjoy a good relationship with Allah, with his Self, with his fellow human-beings and the environment (flora and fauna).

What is expected of man at the end of his educational endeavors from a Western perspective is the formation of good a citizen while in the Islamic perspective is the birth of a good individual or good man, popular understanding of this concept refers to Insan al-Soleh (good man) or Insan

al-Kamil (perfect man). Muslim scholars are of the opinion that what is embedded to the concept of Insan al-Soleh is the concept on man being the Khalifah of Allah (the vicegerent of God). Man's position as the good Khalifah of Allah not only refers to man being a good servant to Allah, Who is his Lord and Cherisher of the universe, and by bowing down to His Will and recognizing the His Supremacy, but also as one who fulfills the Amanah (Trust) given to him. As the recipient of Allah's Trust, man is duty bound in making this world a better place for him and for others. In order for the Khalifah of Allah to effectively carryout his appointed duties, he needs knowledge and education. While Western philosophy of education very much emphasizes in the creation of a good citizen who limits his love and loyalty to the boundaries of his own country, the Islamic outlook on education stresses on the birth of a universal man who is not only having a loving, caring and sharing attitude towards others and nature, but also works for peace and harmony of the planet. For such a good individual, his philosophy of life will not be an ego-centric one. He does not say that "My home is my world", but rather says that "The world is my home".

All the aforesaid lofty ideas and ideals on education are missing as a result of modern time, due to colonization in the past and globalization at the present age. Driven by the market forces education, education all over the world, regardless in East or West, is mainly seen a passport for success that guarantees good income and others material gains. As such, education during this era of information technology has more or less become a commodity, rather than anything that deals with values. Since values do not get the centre-stage in the modern educational settings, the world is experiencing an erosion of values. Modern education with its concept on commodification of education is somehow failing in its effort to bring out the good part of man which is innate and latent. As a consequence of this, the world suffers from all sorts of mischief and corruption done by man; war fought for unjust reasons, pollutions of all kind caused on land and in the ocean, fraudulent banking system, etc. To remedy this chaotic situation, the educational system all over the world must focus on the creation of a good individual before an intelligent individual can be created.

IIUM Aspires to be the Premier Islamic University



IIUM Rector, Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim, receiving a mock cheque from a representative of the Ministry of Education.

Adapted by Alwaha

IIUM Rector Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim said IIUM is working to become the Premier Islamic University in the future.

This is in tandem with the university's 30th anniversary celebration of the university, she said. Al Liqa' Al Shaari No. 1, IIUM Gombak recently.

She pointed out that the university to grow consists of the core of Quality Teaching and Learning, Internationalisation and Talent Management.

Each one of these pillars is expected to contribute to the university's noble intentions and the Premier Global Islamic University.

The Rector also said he will play a role to assist Bangsa Malaysia by providing vocational re-skilling for the workforce.

At the end of the ceremony, he presented cheques worth RM100,000 (Berhad, (RM 30,000) and (RM 20,000) Nikmat of IIUM Endowment

USM Wins Top Award At MyGOSS Awards 2012



Source: Bernama

Universiti Sains Malaysia's Advanced Medical and Dental Institute for the i-Care2x product, a solution using i-Care on the Ubuntu operating system, won the top award at the Malaysian Government Open Source Software (MyGOSS) Awards 2012.

The product is a hospital information system accessible

Malaysia's Model for Early Childhood Education



Adapted by Alwaha

Malaysia can be a role model for much of the world in early childhood education and care (ECEC), according to several delegates at the 4th World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) in Qatar.

They felt that Malaysia should share its experience in

implementing educational programmes.

He paid tribute to the Malaysian prime minister, for a "very inspiring" role.

"Malaysia can be the role model for the members of Asean to improve their education system," said a reporter after the National Convention.

WISE was established in 2009 under the patronage of Sheikha Mozah bin Nasser Al Mubarak, the Emir of Qatar.

Rosmah, who attended the summit, said she was inspired by the vision of Sheikha Mozah, who is the patron of WISE.