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Cawangan Melaka

iSHEC

4th International Islamic
Heritage Conference 2021

2 Sept 2021
Virtual Conference

Melaka, Malaysia

4th International Islamic Heritage Conference

2021



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**Integrated Education in Kerala: The Pioneering Role of
Sayyed Ismail Shihabuddin Pookkoya Thangal of Panoor
(1936-2010)**

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Introduction

- The analysis on integrated education pioneered by a Kerala scholar Sayyed Ismail Shihabuddin Pookkoya Thangal of Panoor (d. 2010)
- Locally known as Panoor Thangal
- Born in January 1936 at Karota in Manjeshwar, formerly belonging to the South Kanara district and passed away at seventy-four years old on Monday of May 2010
- Received education in India and proficient Arabic, Urdu and English languages

Contributions to Integrated Education

- Sayyed Ismail wrote books in Arabic and Malayalam on *tafsir, hadith, aqidah, tarikh* and *akhlaq*
- *His most prominent work is 'Alā Hāmishi al-Tafāsīr: Ta'līqatun 'Ala Tafsīr al-Jalalayn. His commentary was the first Quranic commentary in Arabic completed by a Keralite scholar.*
- Universities and colleges outside and within India have designated Sayyed Ismail's works as part of their curriculum
- This publication has been used as a reference work for theological studies by several universities including in the Gulf region such as Qatar University

The Concept of Integrated Education

- When he started his career as a teacher in various centres of *dars* and *madrassa*, he envisioned an educational system that combined religions and modern worldly subjects for a life to be lived in this world
- Producing a holistic personality was his ultimate ambition and goal in delivering education to the community.
- The educational institutions that he has developed have the concept of integration whose syllabus not only focuses on religious areas but also promises to transform young people into real architects of modern India.
- He had a desire to combine religious education with modern education

The Implementation of Integrated Education in Kerala

- He established al-Madrasah Zahrah Islamic Arts and Science College. The college was eventually known as Jamia Zahra until today.
- Jamia Zahra is an educational institution formed in 1975
- Jamia Zahra educates people from pre-school to post-graduate levels through a variety of institutions.
- Jamia Zahra has now completed 48 years of dedicated service, enhancing Kerala's Muslim community's educational and cultural life in particular

Conclusion

- Indeed, efforts made by Sayyed Ismail in bringing the integrated form of education to the local people in Kerala is a continuation of the struggle of many contemporary Muslim scholars in the world.
- The establishment of various educational institutions under the umbrella of Jamia Zahra is a manifestation of his belief that only education can uplift the life of the people, Muslims and non-Muslims.
- Despite being little known to the people in India and other parts of the Muslim world, his contributions are worth being brought to public knowledge.