



Upliftment of Muslims: A Vision for the Future

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ABSTRACT

This paper highlights the concept of Muslim and their upliftment in the society. Muslim is one who believes in the mission of Mohammad as Prophet, or one who says that there is one GOD and that Mohammad is "HIS PROPHET" or who believes in a number of other essential beliefs in GOD AND MUHAMMAD. A man can be Muslim even by profession or by conversion. According to Shariat if one of the parent is Muslim, the child will be Muslim. FOR the upliftment of Muslims all round development is required like social, emotional, moral and educational developments. Effective education always changes the behavior of human beings in the society in terms of knowledge, understanding, application, skills, values, positive attitudes, interest in right direction for the constructive works, scientific temper and best thinking power etc. SINCE independence, the development of all the communities has taken place in all area but unfortunately the development of Muslims are less in comparison to other communities of our country in the area of education particularly in professional and vocational education and employment in general. This paper also highlights some of the important suggestions for the all round development of Muslims in present and future.

KEYWORDS: Muslim, Upliftment, Education, Development, Vision

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India, our country, consists of several casts, culture, traditions, religions, languages, regions etc. Among the multicasts, Muslim is one of the Caste in our country. Muslim is one who believes in the mission of Mohammad as Prophet, or one who says that there is one GOD and that Mohammad is "HIS PROPHET" or who believes in a number of other essential beliefs in GOD AND MUHAMMAD. A man can be Muslim even by profession or by conversion. According to Shariat if one of the parent is Muslim, the child will be Muslim.

It is undeniable fact that the most important factor for the development of the human being is Education. Through education he could make natural, progressive and harmonious development of his/her innate powers in terms physical, social, emotional, intellectual and moral developments.

In the contemporary world he gets education through informal, non-formal and formal education agencies and institutions. In true sense, he receives education in terms of knowledge, understanding, application, skills, values, interests and attitudes. Effective education always changes the attitude of the people towards the development of the society and its social reformation and reconstruction in terms of various values, culture, norms, traditions and economic development.

India comes in developing countries, therefore, we must keep all the factors and features of developing countries in our minds whenever and wherever we have to analyze any problems of the people belong to any community, castes, creed, sex and colours. On the other hand we also keep in our minds that India has its multi-system and seasonal and regional imbalances.

At any moment, if we talk about the proper development of the country, we have to uplift its people in economic, social, cultural, political and education fields for the sake of effective participation in the national stream. Among the people of India, Muslims as a particular caste according to 1991 census has shown a decadal growth rate 32.74% as against 22.76% in case of Hindu. The total populations of Muslim are 14.5% and Hindus are 85.5%. Regarding historical development of Muslims, in one of the study Shaik (1981) found that "with the advent of the British the entire Muslim life suffered politically, socially and economically and no doubt educationally, and went into backwardness and retardation. The general trends which were set up in the field of education after Wood's Dispatch of 1853 and by subsequent commissions were considered irreligious by Muslims and they remained engrossed in their fantasies. There were no worthwhile leaders like Gopal Krishna Gokhale among the Muslim to lead the community".

No doubt after independence, Muslims come forward in the field of education only because of the impact of mass media and social awareness. High socio-economic Muslims try to send their kids in English Medium schools, but on the other hand a major part of the Muslim popu-

lation is not in a position to send their children in these schools due to low socio-economic conditions. They send their children in Madarasas or Maktabas or their children became helping hand in home and in farming particularly in rural areas.

Shaik further pointed out the relation between education and the employment opportunities of Muslim on the basis of his study conducted in Ahmadnagar at Poona. In 1977, in a population of 28000 Muslims, only 266 were employed in government or semi-government jobs, of whom only eleven were women. Forty eight out of 266 were in teaching profession and 85 in Government jobs, but this little data could not project the whole miserable condition of Muslim world in India in the field of education and employment. Even in the minority institutions, the opportunity is not given to the right Muslims to serve the institutions at the right time.

The overall situation of literary in our country is not so good in comparison to the other countries in the world. In our country only 52.11% people are literate, and out of this 39.42% women are literate. About 70% children leave the institutions without completing primary class. IN one of the study Gupta (1982) found that there was 87% drop outs among the girls at the primary level of schooling. Most of the parents withdraw their daughters from schools because of their dependence on girls for help for some work or other at home, on field or in the shop. The overall annual private costs of schooling girls in class VIII ranged between Rs. 295.20 and Rs. 438.15 per girl depending on the location of the school and its management. Even for class I the overall annual private costs of schooling ranged between Rs. 93.50 and Rs. 216.50 per girls. In this situation, the Muslim who are in hands to mouth to carry their life, we could not expect that they would be able to afford the heavy cost of education for their children for the future development for the sake of participating in the main stream of the nation. The growth rate of girls education in elementary stage is slower in rural area in comparison to the urban areas. There is the worst condition of the girls education among the Muslim population, particularly in rural areas.

For the upliftment of the Muslim in the country, they must be provided better education and better opportunities in each and every field whether it is social, economic, political and no doubt in different professions not only at the grass root level but also at the national level.

No doubt religion is very important factor in the life of the human beings and Islam plays a significant role for the complete development of Muslims for their enlightenment in each and every conduct of their life. It is the Holy Quran that inspires the Muslims to perform any work in the right direction. Therefore we have to provide the complete knowledge of the words of All Mighty God comes in the Holy Quran to the Muslim generation either through Madarsa, Maktabas or in homes by their family members. The main aim of education, according to Holy Quran is the creation of good, righteous man who worships God and builds up the structure of his life according to principles of Muslim jurisprudence.

The Holy Quran emphasizes observation, thinking and reason but Muslims remain traditionalists and resist modernization (Khan, 1987).

For the upliftment of the Muslim generation the various educationists, thinkers, philosophers, social reformers and no doubt politicians must come forward as Dr. Zakir Husain, Sir Saiyyad Ahmad Khan, Dr. Allama Iqbal and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad sacrificed their life for opening various educational institutions like Aligarh Muslim University, and Jamia Millia Islamia, and provided better ideas for the development of individuality emancipation from the various social constraints in the society.

Vision for the Present and Future Development:

If the Muslims of our country want to uplift themselves in all fields and safe from all types of barriers and constraints, in true sense, the following considerations must be kept in mind and these would become a good vision for them in the future.

1. True understanding of the Holy Quran.
2. True understanding of the significance of education.
3. Social and political awareness.
4. True political leadership of the Muslim politicians.
5. No doubt Job is essential for earnings but no correlation of education with the job more but for the good conduct of the life for the sake of better participation in each and every field not only at the grassroots level but at the national and international level.
6. Opening of the more educational institutions like Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Miillia Islamia by their own efforts.
7. Opening of Public Schools with English and urdu medium in the rural areas by their own efforts with the effective management of

registered education societies of Muslim Minority at local level for effective school education.

8. Introducing science, vocational and professional education from the Madarsa level to the higher level of academic institutions.
9. Keep best tolerance power and make sacrifice at any moment.
10. Increasing working hours in each and every field of their lives.
11. Better guidance by the elders to the young Muslim generation at every place.
12. Increasing the level of saving for good investment in the field of education and economic development.

There is a need for the proper awareness of education among the Muslims, particularly among Muslim women because it is general and universal truth that about half part of the population is constituted by women. If one woman is educated, then she will educate her whole family. Particularly, in the rural areas, where the parents hesitate even today to send their daughters in the school, there, the people are required effective motivation for the sake of coming towards providing better education in the institutions instead of having good food in their homes. At any moment, it is the responsibility of each and every Muslim to motivate, to help and to provide better guidance to the Muslim generation at every places. No doubt, at the national level some of the eminent persons are taking interest to make the Muslim generation aware fully about the significance of education. Uttar Pradesh Rabita Committee plays significant role in this direction, but we have to constitute various committees in each and every village and city (Mohalla wise) throughout the Nation for fully upliftment of Muslims in all fields. With the help of Government efforts the recommendations given by Sachar committee must be implemented from grassroot level to the national level for the upliftment of Muslims in India.

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