



Challenges faces by Madarsa educational institute: A vital source of education for Muslims

Shaikh Yasmeeen Sultana¹, Dr. Kaneez Fatima² and Shaikh Arif Tajuddin³

¹ Ph.D. Research Student, Marathwada College of Education, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India

² Associate Professor and Guide, Marathwada College of Education, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India

³ Assistant Professor, Marathwada College of Education, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India

Abstract

Now a Days Madarsa Education is major source of education for Muslims in India. Madarsa is an Arabic word which means an educational institution. They were never limited to provide only religious education. But this concept has been changed and Madaras have become the centre of religious education only. Many a time Madaras are the only educational option available to Muslim children, especially in areas where no schools have reached the Muslim masses Marginalized Muslim communities are increasingly demanding more quality education from their Madaras. Madarsa Institution facing lots of challenges. Like, most of the Madaras in India are privately owned and Madarsa leaders may not feel a need to fulfill the community desires. Although Muslim parents are attracted to the safe environment of these schools, they are aware that a purely religious education will not help their children to earn a decent living, because of outdated traditional methods and technique of teaching and learning, with a negative outlook towards modern subjects and also due to lack of innovations, experiments and researches. This paper explore some challenges face by Madarsa, suggests some remedial measures also to improve the quality of Madarsa education for overall development of Muslim community.

Keywords: Madarsa education, challenges, Muslims

Introduction

No doubt today Madarsa Educational Institute Play a vital role in educating Muslim Minority Children. At least they are getting formal education from this institution. As Sacchar committee, Mahmud-ur-rahman Commission, Rakesh Basant Report, Many Research scholars shows Muslims are far behind from Education and they are backward in all stream. There are many Reason, In spite of that they are very 'Poor', unable to take education. Some of them taking education from Madarsa But after finishing Madarsa Education They are Unemployed, They are not able to get job with this education in society. They are unable to fulfill basic need of their family. They are far away from Mean Stream of Development. Why Madarsa Educated Peopole Not getting job? What are reasons behind their status? What challenges faces by these educational Institute? First let to know Madarasa, Madarsa Education, Challenges face by Madarsa Educational Institute.

Aims of the Study

- To Study the Challenges face by Madarsa Educational Institute.

Madarsa Education

The word Madarsa derived from Arabic word "Darasa" which means to impart a lesson or sabaque. To this word darsa the syllable "Ma" is added as a prefix, meaning will be the place at which the act (imparting lesson) is performed. Generally, Madarsa means the place of imparting knowledge. It is therefor, in colloquial language, educational institutions like pre-primary, primary, secondary school and Higher education even part time centers of Quranic education attached with mosques and full time and residential institutions of Islamic education. All are called as Madarsa.

Problems Faced by Indian Madaras

Madrasas are as Resource Poor as the Mainstream System of Education. Generally, madrasas are associated with people who are perceived as backward and who are not aware of scientific progress. This is one of the major reasons that reforms have looked to remove the fear of exposure to newer ideas, using teaching of modern/non-Islamic subjects.

Madaras, through which the Community ensures that its future generations acquire knowledge of Islam, have become a symbol

of Muslim identity in India. Often they are looked upon with suspicion by the wider society, despite the fact that they are involved in providing religious education to the Muslim community. There has been no evidence to suggest that Madarsas are producing terrorists. This exercise, even as it is insulting to the Community, has a detrimental and traumatic impact on the children studying in the Madarsas. It has been pointed out that the existence of Madarsas is necessary for Muslims as, apart from providing basic education, they serve as an important instrument of identity maintenance for the Community.

Many a time Madarsas are the only educational option available to Muslim children, especially in areas where no schools have reached the Muslim masses. Very often children go to the Madarsas not out of choice but due to non-availability and inaccessibility of other schools, and a near absence of education in their mother tongue. Modernizing Madarsas by the government has been a very contentious issue with many differing viewpoints amongst the Community. While there is a general acceptance of an urgent need for the modernization of Madarsas, the modernization scheme of the government have not really provided much relief to the community as far as quality education is concerned. Promises made with regard to modernization have proved inadequate as nothing much has been done. Science and Mathematics teachers appointed under this scheme have not been paid their salaries regularly. Besides, the salaries fixed are too low. It is widely believed that the help given to Madarsas is “on paper alone”. Giving computers to Madarsas has not been perceived to be of great help to the Community. However, Madarsa “modernization” does not mean only having science/mathematics teachers and installing computers. As mentioned earlier Madarsas need to be affiliated by regular education boards. What is really needed is to break the barrier of exclusion, to bring them to the Mainstream of Life at All Levels and to engage with Madrasas on Issues Pertaining to Present Day Issues and Realities.

Some major and important Challenges faces by Madrasa education system are stated as below

1. Absence of definite aims and objectives.
2. Lack of basic facilities like proper building, classroom and especially furniture, black board and other equipment's in some of the Madarsas.
3. Outdated traditional methods and technique of teaching and learning.
4. Isolation from modern developments in the area of natural sciences and social sciences and over emphasis on the traditional subjects, with a negative outlook towards modern subjects.
5. Lack of coordination among various Madrasas and Maktabas.
6. Defective system of examination & evaluation.
7. Poor quality of planning and administration.
8. Poor financial condition and management.
9. Low status of Teachers in the Society.
10. Totally Away from innovations in Teaching – Learning, Experimentations and Research.
11. Can Enlightened Minds be developed through Technical Training or Subjects like English or Mathematics?

Suggestions

Few suggestions for the improvement of Madarsa education are given below:

- First of all, the aims and objectives of Madrasa education in this country should be specifically well-defined.
- Enlarge the scope of Madrasas beyond religious education to school teaching subjects, like Science, Mathematics, English and Computer.
- An arrangement whereby Muslim students may be able to access both religious and school education is required to ensure their completion of education till at least eighth standard.
- Preparation of Imams, Muazims and Scholars of Islam with Research and experimental view.
- Infrastructural development is very important for the Maktabas and Madarsas, like classrooms, Furniture, blackboards etc.
- Quality education should be provided in Madarsas with emphasis on Information and Communication Technology.
- There should be a provision of teachers training programme for the teachers who wish to associate with Madrasa education. They should be either accommodated in existing training institutes affiliated with the universities, or there should be a separate system of training for them.
- It should be the responsibilities of the Union and state Government to provide adequate grants for these Madrasas and Maktabas.
- Availability of books and teaching learning materials at all levels of madrasas is necessary to enable Muslim children attain standards of the national education system.

Conclusion

This study highlights the present educational status of Indian Muslims, their enrolment in schools/ Madarsas, Madarsa education and Challenges face by Madarsa Educational Institutes; important initiatives being taken by the Indian government. The Madarsas will need to be revitalized to meet the challenge of the modern world. Strong emphasis will need to be laid on quality of education and expanding the base of science, information and technology, because this is the need of our present era of competition. The contribution of these Madarsas has been so important that one cannot strategize the educational development of Muslim community by neglecting or overlooking their services to the community. These Madarsas form a parallel education system which completely blocks the roads of economic growth and prosperity of the Muslims who resort to it and consequently Muslims are most backward religious community in India. So there is an urgent need to modernize or improve Madarsa education systems in India to educate the Muslims at that level which help them to compete to the children belong to modern education system.

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