

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON MUSLIM EDUCATION: ROADMAP 2047
25th MAY 2014 | BANGALORE

EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND COMMITMENTS

Seminar paper presented by

Prof Nazneen Begum,

BBMP Corporator

“Ho mubarak tujeh, manzil ka tassavar tho mila Wo tassavur jo chiraq e rahe tamer bhi hai”

At the onset may I pray Allah subhantallaah to bless our organizers success in their endeavor, in their desire to lead the community towards proper direction.

It is an area of primary concern that today Muslim community has submerged in the pool of ignorance which has led to its disastrous backwardness. We need to understand the power of education. EDUCATION is a power to command, it is a source to acquire, it is a spring of thoughts, it is a light to the pathway of sensible life, it is a treasure of knowledge, ocean of information, it is a strength of confidence, ability of convincing, a distinguishing factor and what not. How much do we possess of all these?

Are we empowered these days? ; are we progressing in any field?; are we the sign of dignity anywhere?; is there any soul on earth to appreciate us?; are we contributing in any sector?; are we able to command the govt. or able to convince the masses?; are we scientists, are we inventors? Are we at higher ranks and posts? Where are we? We are nowhere. We are floating in the glory of past, then we were everything and today we are at the receiving end with demands and not the giver category. No one bothers and attaches value for what we were but assesses what we are. In the highly competitive world each one is trying to be ahead of others but we are still beating the bush, sailing in the ship of ignorance.

Dropout rates among Muslims are the highest for all Socio-Religious Community. 57% of Indian Muslims have not even studied up to 4th standard and are functionally

illiterate. 28% of children of Muslims are totally out of schools. According to Sachar committee report under graduates are 4% (pg no. 69), post graduates are 2% (pg 68, 69), IIMS 1.35%, IITS 3.3%; the rest are lingering about between primary and middle school. There is some improvement in present days in urban area but not much difference in rural areas in the education.

Low profile in education has brought us down in the employment sector too. The number and percentage of Muslims in all government sectors of India has steadily declined from 31% in early 1947 to only 2.3%. A graphic picture of Muslim deprivation also emerges from the studies done by the National Council of Applied Economic Research summed up as "Muslims in India have a poor human development status. Wide spread illiteracy, low income, irregular employment- implying thereby a high incidence of poverty is all pervasive among the Muslims"

The article 45 of Indian constitution made it obligatory on the Govt. to achieve 100% literacy within ten years from the enforcement of the constitution in 1950 and Govt. shall provide free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years. But it has not become a reality even after 67 years of independence. Our country started with 20% literacy rate in 1950 is still struggling to achieve its goal and the worst tragedy is that Muslim community has miserably failed to share the performance in the promotion of education. Recently congress Govt. announced that it will implement free education system up to 14 years of age and 25% free seats for minority children in private schools too. But in reality it is a bundle of confusion and misconception. Free admission is from first standard only to subsequent standards and no free admission in all the standards (like 1-10th) Also 25% free seats in private institutes are facing their own hurdles. The 93rd Constitution Amendment 2001 enacting 'free and compulsory education for all children is a fundamental right' still remains a ray of hope. In spite of all these hurdles Muslims in south India are improving day by day for the last two and half decades still they have not been able to come up par with other communities, because of deliberate discrimination they are facing in every sector. Apart from this Muslims are very often subjected to Riots and communal violence. According to Ram Puniyani, the data from 1961 to 1992 shows that during these four decades 80% of victims of communal violence have been Muslims.' The brutal killing of over 2000 Muslims is a

ghastly reminder of an organized violence with tactic support by the ruling authorities that reached genocidal proportions in Gujarat in 2002. These are not the cursory incidents to wipe off from the memory but to peep into the disastrous scars left on the community. How are we to recollect, concentrate and perform in the arena of education where regular attention is needed?

CAUSES: - Although adverse circumstances played their own role in declining the community but we are also equally responsible, particularly in education sector for its deteriorating situation.

Sir Syed was the first to point out that the MUSLIM'S REAL PROBLEM was not political but educational. He insisted upon Muslims for a pragmatic approach to their problems but he was rejected, also labeled him as infidel (kafir). T.B. MACAULAY came to India in 1834 as a member of supreme council of India and initiated English education system which was implemented all over the country. His intention was "So that a generation may arise which will be Indian in birth and English in thought". We fell into its negative trap neglecting the positive aspect and miss the opportunity. All the Muslim clerics except Sir Syed Khan Rise to the occasion to oppose vehemently and inhibited the entry of Muslims from joining these English educational institutions, and those very few who joined in the beginning also discontinued because of pressures. Kuldip Nayer refer this as "As a result Muslims left behind in education at least two centuries compare to other communities. Main cause for the backwardness of Muslims today is their illiteracy." All the writers in the Mogul courts were non Muslims, mostly Brahmins, they and their children utilized the opportunity and got benefited to the maximum extend. Our foolishness dragged us towards labor category and petty business. What are adorable in us to be appreciated .We have become senseless creatures neglecting value based life.

Contrary to this Japan after 2nd world war in 1945 accepted the defeat as reality and completely subjugated to America. America not only captured and ruled all departments but also brought revolutionary changes with education system to change Japanese's patriotism. Teachers were terminated and U.S. mission was inculcated. With all these Japanese took a challenge, studied in the same English schools and came out as successful Japanese rather than Americans. They remained tactful and proved wiser than the Muslims of India.

In the light of the above it is high time for the Muslims of India to come down to realities and plan effective strategies to come out of the gloomy situation.

We are passing through the era of scientific culmination. Let us not lament over for what we have lost or float in the glory of past. We should join in hands to make a new INDIA with contribution in science, education and prove to be the pride of the country, and determine to emerge as the proud citizens and wanted citizens of the country.

Is it possible is the question? Why not! Muslims are the second largest in number next to Indonesian Muslims, being the largest minority in India should prove to be the creative minority and project our worth in shaping the country, thereby raising the community to a mighty lot. It all depends on our determination. Determination changes the direction of storm. After all education is around us, we should acquire, one need not go in search of it. Determination will give us the strength and courage to face everything and anything in the world. Second is the integration. We should get integrated for a cause, work together to educate the community. Education has to be pierced through the community at different levels in different manner that is school level college level and adult informal education too. Government schemes are helpful only to a limited extend, community has to shoulder the responsibility for its full fledged solution. All of us with different thoughts of school should come together and exert their might to orient the entire community on education. Zakath and charity is the helpful source to promote education. Part of it can be used for the treatment of helpless and aged persons; rest of it should be utilized to make the community educated and self sustainable. It should not be allowed to spend for unwanted customs, as it is happening these days. Needy people should use the amount for a purpose to improve the condition of life giving importance to education. We must strive seriously to bring this system, if desire to change the status of Muslim community. We are bound to bring awareness both among the givers and takers. Receivers need take it easy to spend away to their whims and fancy and remain empty handed next day expecting help again. Unfortunately it has become a habit with many of the people. They are used to spend on petty enjoyments ignoring the importance of education and not realizing the value of help they are receiving. At times donors strain themselves to help others which is often

not realized. Thus there is an earnest need to bring about awareness about control system of available resource that is nothing but Zakath, charity and donations from the community. At the same time community has to learn to utilize welfare schemes of Government to the possible extend.

Educational institutes are another source to be utilized for the purpose. They are convenient venue to assemble parents and students where strategic programs can be initiated. Programs should be linked with interesting events to attract beneficiaries and binding methods for to continue the mission. There are agencies which are misusing the schemes and our beneficiaries not only ignorant but also unable to go through the processes. Also discrimination, indifferent attitude discouragement in offices keeps them away from benefits. Many of the schemes remain on the news papers as show and for propaganda purpose. The only alternative left is for the community to take up the responsibility of transferring schemes from Govt. offices to beneficiaries. Mind you again that the beneficiaries are the under privileged and illiterates who can manage to obtain their benefits. Help extended in this aspect will give them moral courage and hope which they have lost. This way we can build rapport with these unwanted people and get response to implement our mission. Even middle class people are in need of such services, which are struggling and hesitant to express their problems. Actually it is they who are more concerned to improve their life condition and we will get better and fast result.

As already mentioned Zakath and other funds should be channelized for the purpose of education to the maximum extend except treatments and few serious issues. Fund has to be used to run coaching classes and prepare the students thoroughly well in the subjects. Existing schools and institutes can be used as passports to appear for examinations. We need not venture to start new schools and colleges of our own, as it will be laborious and time consuming with lot of problems, hurdles and expenditure. There shall be a separate sitting for a well planned strategy to commence such a program.
