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# Exploring the Foundations of Islamic Education: Perspectives, Characteristics, and Alignment with Sustainable Development

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## Abstract

Education stands as a cornerstone for societal progress, offering pathways to individual fulfillment and collective prosperity. Yet, amidst diverse interpretations and value systems, the essence and objectives of education remain subject to ongoing debate and negotiation. This paper embarks on an exploration of the concept of Islamic education, drawing insights from a rich tapestry of traditional and contemporary literature on Islamic pedagogy.

By delving into the foundational principles of Islamic education, this study illuminates its distinctive characteristics and sheds light on its compatibility with the ideals of sustainable development. Through a comprehensive analysis, the paper elucidates the intrinsic connections between Islamic educational philosophy, cultural values, and the broader aspirations of sustainable development.

Central to this exploration is the recognition of Islamic education's emphasis on holistic development, fostering the integration of spiritual, intellectual, and moral dimensions within the educational framework. The study underscores the significance of Islamic values such as compassion, justice, and stewardship in shaping educational practices that not only nurture individual growth but also contribute to the well-being of society and the environment.

**Keywords:** Islamic Education, Islam, Culture, Educational Characteristics, Sustainable Development, Integrated Education, Ethical Values, Knowledge Acquisition

## Introduction:

Education is essential since it helps to direct one's life in the right direction. Because education is inherently dynamic, it has the power to motivate people to better themselves as individuals while also empowering them to become the caliph of God. Many Muslim intellectuals have advocated forcefully for the establishment of an integrated education system. In order to ensure that its implementation is successful, it will need to be carried out only after it has been subjected to rigorous and appropriate analysis as well as preparation (Setiawan,2020)

The goal of Islamic education is to form Muslims who have fully realized potential in all aspects of their being, including their spirituality, physicality, emotions, intellect, and social lives. As a result of this, the goal of Islamic education is to cultivate a decent citizen who is morally upright, observant of religious precepts, and open to the advancements that come with contemporary technology. Sadly, the fact is that Islamic educational institutions are experiencing issues in terms of both the content and the structure of the education they provide. To begin, the curriculum suffers from a dualistic approach that must be addressed and resolved by the integration of Islamic knowledge and information pertaining to socio-scientific topics (Sahin,2018)

The Almighty God bestowed significant methodologies and objectives upon the Islamic nation, and he provided it with the opportunities to look for answers and means, to divide stages, to establish budgets, to review steps, and to formulate policies while remaining within the general framework and fundamental parameters.

There is a broad agreement among a large number of people that religion plays an important role in today's world. This shows that a large number of people have the belief that this perspective is correct. Religion is put at the absolute pinnacle of the list of values because the great majority of people feel that it exemplifies everything that should be held in the highest regard (Al Halbusi, Williams, Mansoor, et al., 2020; fawaris,2022;Arda et al., 2017; Chan & Cheung, 2012; Zaim et al., 2021; Zuhri, 2018).

The realization of this is beyond the capabilities of the human intellect, but integrated development is founded on a form of complete vision of the natures, their connections, their interaction and effect through the past, present, and future. This demands a great deal of spiritual energy, in addition to self-discipline in the areas of impulse control about cravings, whims, sacrifice, and giving. In addition, it is a way of behaving that is governed by principles rather than the necessities of political activity. (Fawares, 2021). The holy revelation is considered to be the primary wellspring of wisdom in Islamic philosophical thought. While the modern educational system only acknowledges knowledge based on inquiry and observation, the Islamic educational system typically has difficulty adapting to the rapid pace of development of scientific advancement. This is due to the fact that the Islamic epistemological belief is denied in the subjects and courses that are taught in the modern educational system. Because of this, the integrated system that teaches knowledge of both religious and secular sciences has to recruit and select professors who have a thematic grasp of the Quran in addition to their scientific expertise. This is done so that educators have the opportunity to creatively mix Islamic knowledge with other types of information (Campanini and Higgitt, 2022).

### I. Definition of Islamic Education:

Understanding the fundamental distinctions between Western culture and Muslim civilization is of the utmost importance. Plato developed the first educational philosophy to be developed

in western civilisation, which was given in Hellenistic Greece, the birthplace of western culture. This educational philosophy did not incorporate any divine revelation into its framework and instead relied solely on human reason. Alternatively, in Islamic civilisation, all educational systems were predicated on the dual existence of the human being, taking into account both physical and spiritual aspects. As a direct result of this, it became clear that the tenets of Islamic education will forever be composed not just of human reason but also of divine inspiration along with it. The aims of Islamic education were derived and articulated by Muslim scholars on the basis of this divine revelation that was given to the community (Tolchah, & Mu'ammam, 2019). The majority of Islamic scholars have come to a consensus over the three Arabic phrases that together define what it means to have an education with in Islamic context. There are two phrases in the Qur'an that explain and clarify the aim of education. Both of these terms can be found in the same verse. The first concept to be introduced is 'tarbiyah,' which derives from the root word 'raba' and could be defined as 'to increase and grow.' In the Qur'a-n God says: 'And lower unto them the wing of submission through mercy and say: my Lord! Have mercy on them both as they did nurture me when I was little' (Al-Qur'a-n, 17. 24).

Therefore, the first term suggests that the purpose of Islamic education is to foster and protect the child. "ta'lim" is the second word for education that is mentioned in the Qur'an. It is derived from the root "alama," which can be translated as "to know" (Amri, Afifuddin, & Bin-Tahir, 2018). This term makes it very clear that the transmission of knowledge is intended to be one of the goals of Islamic education. On the other hand, the Qur'an is not the only primary Islamic source that makes mention of Islamic education (Ayuningsih, Syafaruddin, & Amiruddin, 2020). In addition, the Prophet Muhammad's Sunnah<sup>1</sup> includes a variety of sayings that touch on the subjects of education and knowledge. When the Prophet himself made the call for individuals to educate themselves, he specified the strongest call possible.

## II. The Model of an Integrated Education:

An integrated education places an emphasis on the unification of knowledge rather than simply the installation of one's own knowledge, and it somehow models or imitates the strategy, method of implementation, and techniques that are used in the teaching and learning that takes place in a traditional classroom setting. An Integrated Education is one that focuses primarily on implementing Islam as a whole with some of the philosophies of promoting a strong belief and knowledge, the balance of the physical element and the soul, the world and the hereafter, the thoughts, the heart, the mind, as well as the search for and application of Revealed knowledge (Demina, et al., 2019).

A person's ability to comprehend and maintain the Islamic religion, the rules, and the morality in one's life may be taught and trained via the process known as integrated education (Bashori, Prasetyo, & Susanto, 2020).

The goal of an integrated education is to create balance in one's mind, spirit, and body by bringing together the various facets of life's knowledge in a manner that is congruent with the growth of "ummah" and its teachings, the relationship between humans and God, and the relationships between the various aspects of one's own being. In most cases, the primary goal of an integrated education is to achieve a level of mental and emotional brilliance that is unparalleled. The education process as a whole, as well as the growth of knowledge, is governed by this system, which also takes into account the spiritual, physical, and mental

dimensions in its operation. An education in Islam is known as an Integrated Education, and it is founded on and directed by both the Quran and the Sunnah (Muntari, Slamet, & Subagyo.2018) The incorporation of Islamic education into integrated education necessitates the incorporation of four domains, namely knowledgebased education, physiological education, civic education, and spiritual education. In addition to this, the Integrated Education does not recognize a dualistic relationship between education and knowledge, but the Islamic Education concept emphasizes the significance of gaining relevant information. In accordance with the Islamic point of view, knowledge that is considered to be ambiguous should be thoroughly analyzed and, if necessary, rectified (Bahri,et al.,2022).

### **III. The Dynamic Of Islamic Education:**

Education is a process that prepares young people to live out and perhaps fulfill their destinies in a manner that is more effective and efficient. Having an understanding of Islamic education as a process of preparing the younger generation to fill the role, transferring the knowledge and Islamic values that are aligned with the function of man to do good in the world and reap benefits afterlife, Islamic education is the education of the whole person, including the mind and the heart, the spiritual and the physical, character and skill. Therefore, the purpose of Islamic education is to educate students for life in either a state of peace or conflict, as well as to train them to confront the world with all of its goodness and evil, sweetness and bitterness. In the meanwhile, al-Attas said that the concept of Islamic education may be broken down into three parts: tarbiyah, ta'lim, and ta'dib (Madani, 2016). The purpose of education is to prepare students, as well as the society as a whole; as a result, students are equipped with the skills and motivation necessary to take an active role in the articulation and institutionalization of civilized society. Education has to be able to generate people who are intellectually and ethically sound, who are experts in science and technology, and who have a strong commitment to participating in every social pattern. On a more local scale, there is a need for democratic education that emphasizes decentralization and pluralistic oriented. All of these things are having an effect on the fairness and accessibility of educational opportunities. (Fawares.2022)

Therefore, after a student has completed their Islamic education, it is expected of them that they would be able to practice and implement the teachings of Islam in accordance with the al-Qur'an and the hadith in their everyday lives. The process of acquiring knowledge in early Muslim civilisation created the foundation for a concept of Islamic education that did not differentiate between "religious" and "secular" forms of education. In this setting, Islam should be seen not as a restraint but rather as a "universal ideal of human understanding, just as it was in the majority of civilized traditions over the course of world history. Scholars have recognized fields of study that are components of a comprehensive knowledge base that a properly educated individual must obtain prior to being able to specialize in any one particular field of study. Simply because revelation was presumed to be the most important source of truth does not mean that information based on reason, observation, or experimentation was frowned upon; the lack of a clear separation between worldly and spiritually knowledge does not suggest that such knowledge was off limits. Believers are urged by the Qur'an to utilize their rational faculties to validate the information obtained through the senses as well as the information gained through revelation (Fawaris, H.F., 2021).

## Conclusion:

It is clear to what extent the characteristics of sustainable development and Islamic education are compatible. Sustainable development is an education that is based on raising the individual and employing him to serve himself and his society, and that inculcates in him respect for the rights of future generations to natural resources. Accordingly, all aspects are necessary, physical, moral and spiritual, and this is what Islamic education has focused on. Islamic education is considered to be of a devotional and belief nature, which guarantees the continuity of desired behaviours in society.

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