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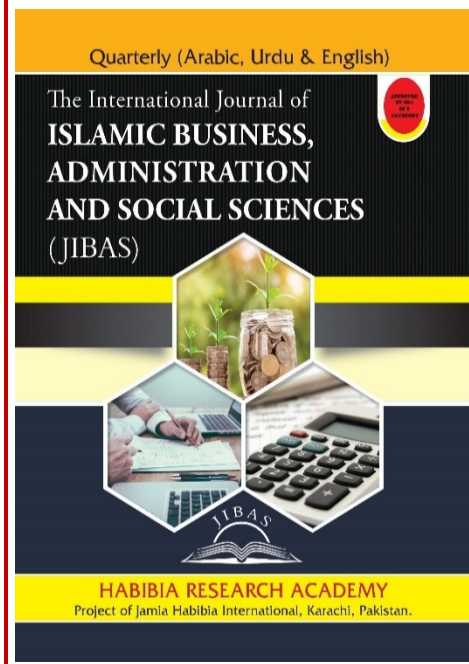
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TOPIC:
**QUALITIES OF A MUSLIM STUDENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE
TEACHINGS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)**

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**QUALITIES OF A MUSLIM STUDENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE TEACHINGS
OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)**

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ABSTRACT:

The main aim of this research manuscript is to explore how a student can become an ideal student by adopting outstanding qualities. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a role model for all mankind. He has also given direct and indirect instructions on how to become a good student. He used to motivate his companions to acquire knowledge and appreciate those who tried to gain it. The cream of the community was encouraged to enthusiastically become students and dedicate themselves to the acquisition of knowledge. Even a special group of people was assigned the task of educating themselves and others. Pen was highly valued and specialization in various fields of knowledge was also promoted. Even efforts were made to prepare his people for life and transform them into future global leaders by inculcating excellent qualities among them. Then the world saw the impact of the Prophet's teachings and an indelible mark was left on the history of mankind. Therefore, Muslims having those qualities surpassed other nations, progressed tremendously and Islam reached far-flung areas of the world.

KEYWORDS: *Ideal student, Role model, Muslim Student, Teachings, Knowledge acquisition.*

INTRODUCTION: Islam attaches great significance to the acquisition of knowledge as Quran says,

“Read! In the name of your Lord who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not.”¹

The above-mentioned verse is the first revelation on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) focusing on reading and writing on the top as the basic literacy skill. It ordered the Prophet (PBUH) and his followers to seek knowledge.

The Quran declares that ignorant people are not equal to the learned ones in a society in the following way:

“Say: Are those who know equal to those who know not?”²

Allah Almighty says in a divine hadith that even His worship is not acceptable without proper knowledge,

“Know me before you worship me, whoever that does not know me, how will he worship me.”³

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stresses the acquisition of knowledge and its seekers in the following Hadith that whoever goes out to seek knowledge is on the path of Allah till he comes back.

From the above-mentioned verses of the Quran and Ahadith of the Prophet, it becomes evident that seeking knowledge is a sacred task assigned to the believers to busy themselves with and go to any extreme for its sake. They are to attain glory just because of knowledge

and by acting upon it in their life. There is no shortcut to the glory in this world and the hereafter. Muslims in the past were successful because of knowledge.

Students are the architects of a nation. They play a significant role in the development of a nation. A nation can progress and triumph if it grooms, trains, and educates its children in a good way. They are the future of every nation.

A Muslim student is to be quite different from other students and people. He is a role model for other people in society as he is guided by the principles of the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH). He is peace-loving and God-fearing. He interacts with others in such a way that he gains the consent of his creator on one side while winning the hearts of others through his excellent behavior on the other side. The Quran declares a Muslim as an ideal for others in the following way,

” You (true believers in Islamic Monotheism) are the best of peoples ever raised for mankind; you enjoin what is good and forbid what is bad, and you believe in Allah...”⁴

A Muslim student is an ordinary man but the qualities he possesses make him extraordinary as the Quran declares a Muslim woman as different from other women,

“O wives of the Prophet! You are not like other women...”⁵

Similarly, a Muslim student is different from other students as he has the following qualities:

➤ **Religious awareness**

He is aware of his religious assignments and firm in his Shahadah by expressing his faith in God and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as His Last Prophet. He is also very punctual in his daily five prayers and tries to offer them congregationally. He also fasts in the month of Ramadhan whether he lives in a Muslim country or a non-Muslim country. He also displays a marvelous attitude toward his fellows, teachers, and non-academic staff. He emerges to be a model of excellence for all around him as Allah says in the Quran,

“And obey Allah and the Messenger (Muhammad PBUH) and beware (of even coming near to drinking or gambling or al-sab, or al-Islam) and fear Allah. Then if you turn away, you should know that Our Messenger must convey (the Message) in the clearest way.”⁶

➤ **Good intention/sincerity**

A Muslim student should have positive and good intentions for the acquisition of knowledge. He should intend to acquire knowledge for the consent of Allah almighty so that he may live a life beneficial for himself, his family, nation, country, and the whole Muslim Ummah. He is to acquire knowledge and not to be selfish and arrogant to others, but rather to serve Muslim Ummah and mankind.

He knows that actions depend on intentions as it is clear from the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH),

“Verily, actions are judged according to intentions...”⁷

Therefore, he should be clear about his noble mission and motive so that he never derails from his lofty objective in life.

➤ **Time awareness**

A Muslim student must be aware of the value of his time because time and tide wait for none. As a popular Arabic adage also says: “Time is like a sword, if you fail to use it, it cuts you.”

According to Herbert Prochnow⁸,

“He who hesitates misses the green light, gets bumped in the rear, and loses his parking space.”

He should be an outstanding manager of his time. He should never squander his time on unimportant activities social media and electronic gadgets. He is to engage himself only in useful tasks because time will waste him who wasted.

➤ **Respectful behavior**

Ziad k. Abdelnour⁹ says.

“Never measure your life by possessions. Measure it by the hearts you have touched, the smiles you created, and the love you shared.”

A Muslim student is supposed to be respectful towards everyone with whom he comes across in life. He should be respectful to his class fellows, teachers, and others as respect is reciprocal. In this way, he will also be held in high esteem by others.

➤ **Obedience to parents**

A Muslim student must be very dutiful and obedient to his parents all the time even if they are non-Muslims. He should follow their instructions if these instructions are not in contrast with the teachings of Islam as the Quran commands the believers to be caring to one’s parents,

“And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in two years – give thanks to Me and your parents. Unto Me is the final destination. But if they (both) strive with you to make you join in worship with Me others that of which you do not know, then obey them not; but behave with them in the world kindly, and follow the path of him who turns to Me in repentance and obedience...”¹⁰

He is not allowed to engage himself in such activities which causes his parents’ displeasure or indignation. He is to avoid being unruly and rude towards them.

➤ **Great zest for knowledge**

As Michel Legrand says¹¹,

“The more I live, the more I learn. The more I learn, the more I realize, the less I know.”

So, a Muslim student should have a great zest for seeking knowledge. He dedicates his life and all his energies to it. He can travel to any farthest part of the world. He always yearns to acquire it. He acquires it in his young age, adulthood, and old age until he dies and enters paradise according to a hadith.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was reported to have said:

“Two adventurers will never be satisfied; a knowledge seeker and a wealth seeker.”¹²

➤ **Patience and perseverance**

A Muslim student is always ready to suffer for the sake of knowledge. He is always patient and displays resilience and perseverance. He tolerates humiliation, torture, and scarcity of resources so that he may succeed in acquiring knowledge. He is patient if he is punished by his teachers. He does not react to any hostile attitude from the side of his seniors and people around him.

Allah also says:

“As for those who strive hard in Us (Our Cause), we will surely guide them to Our paths. And Allah is with the righteous ones.”¹³

He should sacrifice his time, energy, and comfort to achieve his goal in life.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBU) has also advised his Ummah in this regard,

“I advise you to fear Allah and be obedient to the leaders even if a slave is given the authority to lead you.”¹⁴

The Prophet (PBUH) has also said:

“Patience cannot be present in anything except that beautifies it and cannot be lacking in anything except that spoils it.”¹⁵

➤ **Modest and moderate habits of eating and drinking**

Abdul Kalam¹⁶ says,

“You cannot change your future, but you can change your habits, and surely your habits will change your future.”

A Muslim student develops such habits of eating and drinking that his body will get all the nutrients required for a healthy body so that he may gain the energy to acquire knowledge. He should not overfeed or underfeed himself to avoid any damage to his physical well-being. The Prophet (PBUH) was very modest and moderate in his eating and drinking habits. So, he should be cautious in taking the right quality and quantity of diet so that he may remain healthy to dedicate himself to the acquisition of knowledge and his mission in life as well.

➤ **Restrained/controlled speaking habit**

A Muslim student should be composed and controlled in speaking. He should never be chatty. He should be responsible and careful in his communication with the people. He is not to use his tongue in a foul way.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) advised his Ummah that if a believer wants to talk, he should say something good and beneficial. But if he has nothing good to say he should keep quiet. He should also follow the Arabic adage, “The best speech is the one that is short and precisely straight to the point.”¹⁷

➤ **Moderate habits of sleeping**

Man works and loses his energy. Then he sleeps and rests himself and regains his energy. So rest and slumber are important for a man so that he may become fresh to start his work again. Allah has made a night for rest and sleep. A Muslim student always takes care of his health and dedicates some reasonable to his rest and sleep. At night, he is very calculated to rest his body and some time to his creator to worship Him as well. Allah describes the

qualities of believers that they spare some time to get up and offer the prayer of Tahajud (early dawn prayer), The Quran says,

“Verily, the Muttaqun (the pious) will be in the midst of Gardens and Springs (in Paradise). Taking joy in the things which their Lord has given them. Verily, they were before this Muhsinun (good doers). They used to sleep but little by night (invoking their Lord and praying, with fear and hope.)”¹⁸

➤ **Diligence**

“People achieve success in the presence of problems through hard work and struggle. All success stories are the stories of failures. The only difference is that every time great men fail, they try again. The only difference between success and failure is effort.” Said by Aftab Ahmad Khanzada.¹⁹

A Muslim student is very studious in his life and particularly, in his academics. He works hard to achieve excellence so that he may become a role model for others. He dedicates himself fully to his studies. He keeps his main focus on academics though he also gives some necessary time to fitness and plays some sports.

➤ **Distance from social evils on and off campus**

Some un-Islamic values have crept into some campuses in various institutions. These bad practices may include examination malpractices, obscenity, drug addiction immoral acts, etc. A Muslim student always tries to be firm and stand tall to uphold the flag of Islam. He should remember his great cause to excel in his academics and life ahead.

➤ **No Blind imitation**

It is said that imitation is a limitation. A Muslim student should never be blind to imitating and copying something especially wrong. He is to be very cautious in adopting anything wrong coming from outside. In this connection, he should have his mentor to guide him off and on. Blind imitation makes one limited in his mission and the end, he is to suffer. He is not to take an impression from anything wrong, but rather make his impression.

➤ **Good company**

A man is always shaped by the kind of people he has around himself. They play a pivotal role in making or marrying a person. So, a Muslim student should be careful in choosing friends in his life. Good friends will make him outstanding and bad friends will mar him much. Friends are of four kinds: food, medicine, air, and poison. Poison must be avoided; otherwise, it will kill him, but he is to take food, medicine, and air because he cannot live without them.

➤ **Awareness of current affairs**

A Muslim student has a high mission in life. He is to work for the success and prosperity of his nation, the Muslim Ummah, and the whole world. Therefore, he keeps an eagle eye on all the affairs taking place nationally and internationally. He is to lead his people in all fields of life. It does not keep him abreast of the developments around him, he will not be able to tackle various issues then. So, it is important to keep himself in touch with all these happenings.

➤ **Positive and Forward-Looking Approach**

As Nido Qubein²⁰ says,

“Your present circumstances do not determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.”

A Muslim student is always optimistic in his approach. He never gets disappointed whatever the circumstances in life are. He looks forward to his bright future and exerts for it. He looks at the positive side of the picture. He does not criticize unnecessarily.

He pins his hope on Allah and prays to Allah to do wonders for himself as he believes in the hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) who says,

“Optimism is the summary of all excellent worship.”²¹

Therefore, a learner should try to inculcate all the good qualities in himself so that he may succeed and prosper not only in this life but also in the hereafter.

Conclusion

A student always gains knowledge. And a good student leaves an everlasting impression on a nation’s life. He is expected to be a role model in life. He possesses great qualities such as religious awareness, good intention, controlled demeanor, zest for knowledge, patience, and perseverance, obedience to parents, modest and moderate habits of eating, drinking, sleeping, and speaking, diligence and commitment, no blind imitation, good company, awareness about current affairs at the national and international level, positive approach, distance from evils, flexibility, and leadership qualities. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) possessed all the qualities of a great educator and inculcated these qualities among his companions.

Students are, no doubt, expected to play an outstanding role in the progress and prosperity of a nation. They are the assets of their nation. If they have great traits, they can contribute to their nation and country outstandingly. They are the future of their country. So, focus is to be placed on them so they may become ideal students.

They must develop outstanding qualities if they want to excel in the acquisition of knowledge and character building. Excellence requires a lot of diligence and commitment on the part of learners. They work hard day and night. They face the difficulties of life and become resilient. They have great habits of getting up early in the morning. They pray five times a day. They recite, understand, and practice the Quran. They have a controlled behavior towards their teachers, fellows, and juniors as well. Such other qualities can transform them and prepare them for life here and hereafter.

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