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Q: In the light of the Prophet's life at Makkah & Medina, narrate his role as greatest reformer and unmatched educator.

INTRODUCTION:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) was the greatest educator the world has ever seen. It has been stated in a Hadith by the Prophet (PBUH) himself that "I have been sent as a teacher". The Holy Prophet (PBUH) spread the message of Allah and converted the pagans to Islam throughout the Arabian Peninsula in the short span of 23 years.

The long-term effects of his prophetic efforts changed the course of history and set up an entirely new world order and civilization.

Allah says in the Quran:-

"He it is Who raised among the Meccans a Messenger from among themselves, who recites to them His communications and purifies, and teaches them the Book and the Wisdom, although they were before certainly in clear error" (Al - Juunah).

From the above verse, it is clear that Allah has sent the Holy Prophet for four following purposes:-

- 1- To recite the Qur'an to people
- 2- To purify them
- 3- To educate them w/ Qur'an
- 4- To teach them wisdom.

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IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN QUR'AN:-

The Qur'an has reiterated the importance of education many a time. The very first verse that was revealed to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was:-

"Read in the name of your Lord who created. He created Man from a clot. Read and your Lord is most Humble Who taught (to write) with the pen. Taught man what he knew not" (Al-Alaq").

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN HADITH:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) has emphasised on the importance of seeking education and knowledge. Hadiths are:-

- 1- "It is obligatory for every Muslim (Man and Woman) to acquire knowledge".
- 2- "The best amongst you is one who learns and teaches Qur'an".
- 3- "Seek knowledge, even if you have to travel to China".
- 4- "He who leaves home in the search of knowledge walks in the path of God".

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EDUCATION SYSTEM UNDER THE PROPHET

① Mosques and schools under the Prophet:-

More than 9 Mosque-Schools were built under the era of the Prophet (PBUH) where students were taught about Qur'an, Islamic culture, Arabic scripture and more. Education for women and girls was also conceptualised during the time of Prophet (PBUH). Girls and children from all walks of life

② Higher Learning centers:-

More than 80 companions spent their lives in search for knowledge of Hadith & Qur'an. They were called "Ashab-e-Suffa" (Suffa means Terrace in Arabic). Prominent names among Ashab-e-Suffa are Abu Darda, Ubayda bin Samit. They were sent as teachers to different cities to disseminate knowledge.

③ Courses & Subjects of Study:-

The education & knowledge imparted in the centers firstly consisted of knowledge of Qur'an and Faith. Other courses included Arabic calligraphy, grammar, arithmetic, Islamic Law, medicine. Apart from these, students were also co-curricular activities like archery, wrestling, sword-fighting.

④ Learning knowledge from prisoners of Ghazwa-e-Badr:-

After the Holy Prophet (PBUH) put a condition on liberate prisoners of war of educating ten children in exchange of freedom.

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EDUCATING METHODS OF THE HOLY PROPHET

Muawiyah - Ibu - AL - Hakeem said "I have never seen, before and after the Prophet (PBUH) seen a better teacher than him".

(PBUH)

The Holy Prophet had many qualities in the domain of teaching that set him apart from others.

① Mastery over language:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) did not only know the Arabic language, but he also had command over different dialects of the language. Therefore, it was easy for him to communicate with the locals and make them understand.

Moreover, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) knew foreign language like Persian, Roman etc and therefore, it was easy for him to communicate with the leaders of other countries.

② Stress on Pondering:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) always encouraged his pupils to think. It has been recorded in Hadith :- "Pondering for a moment is better than divine service / prayer for whole night" (Al-Hadith).

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(3) Gain of useful knowledge:-

The Holy Prophet always stressed over getting useful knowledge.

"O God! I seek shelter from useless knowledge".

"O God! I pray for useful knowledge".

(4) ~~Use of Gesture~~ Use of Gesture:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) used to elaborate and explain with the use of his gesture.

→ He employed the use of gesture while explaining how Allah held heaven & earth in His grip.

→ He used his gesture while explaining the sight of doomsday.

(5) Perfect Public Speaker:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) spoke in a very elaborate and comprehensive manner - he incorporated the knowledge into his students by "repetition method" where he used to repeat twice thereby making them memorise everything.

It has been stated by Syeda Aisla (R.A), His beloved wife that:

"he spoke in such a way Date _____
that one could count the words he spoke"

(6) Inspiring by Personal Conduct:-

The best of all the qualities of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as a teacher was that he "practised what he preached". He acted upon everything in his life that he taught his followers.

Conclusion:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) was not only great in battlefield or diplomacy or politics, he was also a great teacher. He emphasised on the pursuit of knowledge starting from the early knowledge of Qur'an and Hadith to advanced knowledge of Medicine.

He also supported education in women as can be analysed from a very famous Hadith:- "It is obligatory for every Muslim (male & female) to gain education."

It is therefore a religious obligation on us to gain knowledge and spread it.