

Q. Discuss the Holy Prophet's (Pbuh) Role as a model for an Educator?

Ans. The Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) was the greatest and noblest educator the world has ever seen. He was chosen as a mercy for ^{to} all the creatures, an excellent role model possessing the ^{most} exalted character. He conveyed the message of tawhid and Islamic teachings in a clear way. His prophetic mission and divine teachings contributed to the emergence of a new world order and civilization that changed the entire course of history. In the short span of 23 years, he turned the pagans of Arabia peninsula into the staunch believers of Islam.

He is the one who raised for the illiterate people a messenger from among themselves - reciting to them His revelations, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and wisdom, for indeed they had previously been cleared astray. (Al-Quran)

The above ayah displays 3 duties out of 4 - related to the education. Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) ^{said} ~~says~~; I have been sent as a teacher. (Al-Hadith)

Islam emphasizes education as a key factor by saying that: Acquiring knowledge is obligatory both for men and women. (Al-Hadith)

The importance of education is reflecting from the Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh).

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said:

The best amongst you is the one who learns and teaches Quran.

(Al-Hadith).

Almighty Allah says in the Quran:

"Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know? (No they will never be)." (Al-Quran).

Those truly fear Allah, among His servants who possess knowledge."

(Al-Quran)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) taught duas to increase knowledge:

→ "Improve me in knowledge" (Al-Hadith)

→ "O Allah! I ask you for knowledge that benefits."

→ "O Allah! I seek refuge with you from knowledge that is of no benefit."

Prophet Muhammad used to welcome his students with open arms. He sent his companions including Ma'qil R.A to Yemen and Musab R.A to Madinah for the sake of preaching and teaching to enlighten the people from knowledge and education.

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) established a center of learning named Suffa. The prominent companions

including Hazrat Bilal (R.A) Amman,
Khabbab, Abdullah bin Masood,
and Abu-Hurairah were all graduates
of Suffah.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as an
Educationist:

(4) Education without Gender Discrimination:

Prophet Muhammad was sent as a
mercy to all the creatures. He emphasized
education without gender discrimination.

The primary reason to marry Hazrat-
Aisha (R.A) was to expand knowledge
to women. Women and Tabieen

used to come to get insight of
Islamic principles from her after the
demise of prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Prophet Muhammad said: "Seeking knowledge
is incumbent upon every muslim
man and woman." (Al-Khadith)

Islam promotes education and it believes
that education can play a crucial role
by making the ~~society~~ peaceful society.

(2) Promoted writing as part of learning.
In pre-Islamic Arabia - various institutions

existed which carried out seasonal literary
activities. They carried out mostly poetical
and rhetorical content. Few of the people

know the writings. However, they used
to participate in oral poetry competition.
The Arab world was very good in oral
poetry. certain elementary schools existed

in many Arab tribes. But the writing trend was very rare. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) encouraged writing skills. He said: 'Preserve knowledge with the help of your hand.' (Al-Hadith). He promoted writing as a part of learning.

(3) Encouraged Contemporary Education As Well:-

Prophet Muhammad emphasized on learning contemporary education, because contemporary education paves way to progress and prosperity of a nation. Hazrat Umar (R.A) was expert in the knowledge of stars (navigation). Abu Bakr (R.A) was expert in family trees. Zaid Bin Thabit and Abdullah Bin Zubair (R.A) were expert and proficient in foreign languages. The prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself asked Zaid to learn Hebrew language because diplomats from around the world used to visit Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) on trade and commerce basis. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) used to convey messages according to the people local language. He was very fluent both in Bedouin and urban dialects.

(4) Encouraged Physical Knowledge:-

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) encouraged physical education including swimming, archery, horse riding. The kids used to wrestle in front of him.

Being physical fit is vital for worshipping Almighty Allah and jihad purposes.

Moreover, it keeps a person away from illness which impacts religious obligations.

The prophet Muhammad said: The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, although both are good. - (Al-Hadith)

(5) Taught Manners and Etiquettes:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) possessed exalted manner and etiquettes, a role model for an individual. He had sublime character and well-mannered. He emphasized on sublime manners and etiquettes to individuals to be followed.

Prophet Muhammad said; ill-mannered muslim ^{won't} can't go to paradise. (Al-Hadith)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has taught good manners and etiquettes. His life embodies good manners and etiquettes. He taught us by his actions.

(6) Ordered Expansion of Knowledge:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) ^{the occasion of} on last sermon addressed the muslims regarding islamic principles and rights. latter ordered to expand the knowledge to next generation and this will continue on. He was the last messenger, and put liability upon the Ummah to expand knowledge as much they can.

→ Pass on information from me, even if it is only a verse of the Quran.
(Mishkat)

→ May Allah freshen the affairs of a person who hears something from us and communicates it to others exactly as he has heard it, for it may be that the recipient of knowledge understands it better than the one who has heard it.
(Al-Hadith)

Conclusions

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) as a role model for an individual. He has possessed different shades including as an Educationist, military strategist, diplomat and a family guy. His life reflects itself the ~~sublimity~~ ~~of character~~ sublime and exalted character - his attitudes towards education and human progress. He was the staunch advocate ~~and~~ of humanity and human-unity. His 23 years of teaching - worth of appreciation won the heart of Arabian peninsula - turned them into staunch believer of Islam and put himself a role model for the whole universe.