

Question: What is the role of Islam in upbringing and personality development of child?

Answer:

1- Introduction:

"Al-Hasan and Al-Hussain are the Leaders of youth in Paradise."

(Prophet Muhammad SAUW - Tirmidhi)

The above hadith highlights the significant importance of upbringing and personality development of children, particularly the grandsons of Prophet Muhammad (SAUW). By designating Al-Hasan (A.S) and Al-Hussain (A.S) as leaders of the youth in Paradise, the prophet (SAUW) emphasized the importance of nurturing children in the teachings of Islam from a young age. "In Islam, upbringing of a child refers to the holistic process of nurturing and guiding a child accordance with the teachings of Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (SAUW) to cultivate a strong sense of identity, purpose and faith in children to navigate life's challenges with integrity."

Islam plays a crucial role in shaping the upbringing and personality development of children, providing a comprehensive framework that encompasses spiritual, moral and social guidance. Spiritually, Islam emphasizes the importance of instilling a deep connection with Allah through regular prayers, recitation of the Quran and fostering a sense of purpose and spirituality from a young age. Morally, Islam teaches children virtues such as honesty, kindness and empathy, guiding them to uphold ethical principles in their interactions with others and in their personal

conduct. socially, Islam encourages children to engage with their communities, promote justice, instilling values of compassion and contribute positively to society. However, in today's modern world, Islamic upbringing faces challenges, such as cultural influences, secular education and impact of technology on children's development. Despite these challenges, the principles of Islam continue to serve as a timeless guide for parents and caregivers in nurturing children with strong character and a sense of purpose.

2. Views of prominent Islamic scholars about upbringing of child

a- Imam Al-Ghazali:

Imam Al-Ghazali, renowned for his profound insights into Islamic teachings, define the concept of parenting as the cornerstone of Islamic upbringing and personality development.

"According to him, Islamic parenting encompasses nurturing the child's heart, mind and soul in alignment with Quranic principles and the sunnah of prophet Muhammad (SAW)."

b- Ibn Al-Qayyim:

"According to Ibn Al-Qayyim, Islamic upbringing of child is a sacred responsibility aimed at nurturing individuals who embody the virtues of faith, compassion, and resilience, contributing to the betterment of society and the fulfillment of Allah's commandments."

3. Foundations of Islamic upbringing of child:

a. Shaping Personalities: The Role of Islamic Parenting

The Islamic concept of parenting serves as a cornerstone of the foundation for the upbringing of children and their personality development.

Qur'anic verses such as,

"O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is people and stones."

(Surah At-Tahrim, 66:6)

This verse of the Holy Quran highlights the responsibility of parents to safeguard their children from spiritual harm and guide them towards righteousness.

Similarly, the prophet Muhammad (SAW) emphasized the importance of nurturing children with love, compassion and gentle guidance, stating,

"He is not of us who does not have mercy on young children, nor honor the elderly."

(Hadith reported by At-Tirmidhi)

b. From Faith to Practice: How Rituals Mold child Personality:

The Islamic concept of religious rituals serves as a foundational aspect of upbringing children and shaping their personality development.

These rituals prescribed by Allah in the Quran and exemplified by the practices of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) that instill a sense of spiritual connection, discipline and reverence in children from a young age.

Qur'anic verses such as Surah Al-Baqarah

(2: 21-22) emphasize the importance of prayer (Salah) as a means of establishing regular communication with Allah and cultivating mindfulness and humility.

Similarly, the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) highlights the significance of performing the five daily prayers, observing fasting during Ramadan, giving charity (Zakat) and performing Hajj (pilgrimage) when feasible. These rituals provide opportunities for parents to educate their children about Islamic principles, values and ethics.

C- From the cradle to society: How Islam shapes upbringing and personality development of child:

The Islamic concept of family, community and society serves as a fundamental foundation for the upbringing of children and their personality development. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) emphasized the importance of community and societal values in shaping individual behavior and character.

“The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion, and sympathy are just like one body.”

(Sahih Bukhari)

The above saying of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) highlights that Islamic principles promote social cohesion, mutual respect, and cooperation, which contribute to the holistic development of children.

4- Impact of Islamic upbringing on child personality development:

i- Spiritual Impacts:

a- Sowing Seeds of Faith: Planting the Roots of Islamic Identity

Islamic upbringing provides children with a solid foundation in faith, instilling in them a deep connection to Allah (SWT). Through exposure to Quranic teachings and the sunnah of prophet Muhammad (SAW), children develop a strong spiritual identity that guides their beliefs, values and actions.

b- Embracing Prayer: Instilling Love for Spiritual Practices

Islamic upbringing encourages the practice of spiritual rituals such as salah (Prayer), Dhikr (remembrance of Allah) and recitation of the Holy Quran. These practices cultivate a sense of mindfulness, inner peace, and spiritual awareness in children.

c- Character Development: Cultivating Virtue from a Young Age

The moral teachings of Islam, including honesty, compassion, and humility, play a crucial role in shaping the character of children.

Islamic upbringing emphasizes the importance of virtues such as kindness, forgiveness, and gratitude, guiding children towards moral excellence and righteous conduct.

d. **Emotional Endurance: Transforming Trials into Triumphs**
Through Islamic teachings on patience, perseverance, and trust in Allah's Plan, children develop inner strength and resilience in the face of adversity. Belief in qadr (divine destiny) instills a sense of acceptance and trust in Allah's wisdom, helping children navigate life's challenges with confidence and faith.

ii- **Moral impacts:**

a. **Upholding Ethical standards: The role of Islamic upbringing**
Islamic upbringing instills a strong sense of moral values in children, guiding them to distinguish right from wrong. Through teachings derived from the Quran and the sunnah of prophet Muhammad (SAW), children learn the importance of honesty, integrity and compassion towards others.

b. **Cultivating Empathy and compassion: An Islamic Approach**
Islam emphasizes the significance of empathy and compassion towards fellow human beings. Children raised in an Islamic environment are taught to show kindness and consideration to others, regardless of differences in background or beliefs.

c. **Instilling Responsibility and Accountability:**
Islamic upbringing instills a sense of responsibility and accountability in children for their actions and decisions. They are taught to take ownership of their behavior and its consequences. This fosters the sense of personal integrity and ethical conduct.

Social Impacts:

a- Promoting Respect and Tolerance: Islamic Principles in action

Islamic teachings emphasize respect and tolerance towards others, regardless of differences in background or beliefs. Children learn to interact with people from diverse cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds with empathy and understanding.

b- Encouraging service to others: Islamic lesson

Islamic upbringing instills a sense of duty and service towards others, particularly those in need. Children are taught the importance of giving back to their communities through acts of charity, volunteerism and social activism.

c- Nurturing Leadership skills: Leading by Example

Islamic upbringing nurtures leadership qualities in children, preparing them to assume active roles within their communities. This hands on experience empowers children to become confident and responsible leaders who can inspire positive change and contribute to the advancement of their communities.

5- Current challenges in the Islamic upbringing of children:

a- Influence of Modern Media and Technology:

In today's digital age, children are constantly exposed to various forms of media and technology, such as social media, television and the internet. These platforms often present

content and values that may conflict with Islamic teachings.

b- Secularization and Cultural Assimilation:

The increasing secularization of society poses a significant challenge to Islamic upbringing, as secular ideologies and cultural norms that prioritize individualism and materialism may clash with Islamic values of community, modesty and spirituality. Additionally, globalization has led to greater cultural diversity, exposing children to different lifestyles and beliefs.

c- Peer Pressure and Social Influences:

Peer pressure can exert a powerful influence on children, often leading them to conform to behaviors and attitudes that may contradict Islamic teachings. As children interact with peers from diverse backgrounds, they may encounter conflicting values and social pressures.

d- Lack of Islamic Education and Resources:

In many societies, there is a shortage of quality Islamic education and resources for children and families. This scarcity makes it challenging for parents to provide their children with comprehensive Islamic teachings and guidance.

e- Balancing Tradition with Modernity:

Muslim families often grapple with the tension between preserving traditional Islamic practices and adapting to modernity. Rapid societal changes and advancements in

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technology pose new challenges that require a careful balance between upholding core Islamic principles and embracing beneficial aspects of modern life.

Spotlight on Islamic Parenting in Pakistan: A Snapshot Analysis

In Pakistan, the upbringing of children often faces challenges in adhering to Islamic principles. One major hurdle is the influence of western culture and modernization, which can lead to a deviation from Islamic teachings in child-rearing practices. Additionally, socioeconomic factors such as poverty and lack of education can hinder parents' ability to provide a nurturing Islamic environment for their children. Moreover, societal pressures and peer influences may promote behaviors and attitudes that are contrary to Islamic values. Lack of proper religious education and guidance also contributes to the challenge, as many families struggle to instill Islamic morals and ethics in their children amidst competing cultural and social influences. Overcoming these challenges requires concerted efforts to prioritize Islamic education, strengthen family bonds and promote adherence to Islamic principles in all aspects of child upbringing.

7. Conclusion:

In conclusion, the upbringing and personality development of children, especially in the context of Islam, play a crucial role in shaping their

future. Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of instilling spiritual, moral and ethical values from an early age. Despite the challenges of western culture influence, modernization, socio-economic factors such as poverty and a lack of education; adapting Islamic principles is essential. As the renowned poet Rumi once profoundly stated,

"Raise your words, not your voice.

It is rain that grows flower, not thunder."

The quote advocates that positive reinforcement and encouragement fosters confidence, resilience and emotional wellbeing in children's, laying the foundation for healthy personality development.