

(Falima Sohail Khan)

① Prophet as an educator

1. Introduction:

The Prophet (SAW) was sent on Earth for several purposes and one of those was to educate humanity. It is knowledge that sets humanity apart from other creations. The Prophet (SAW) lifted Arabs from an era of darkness by emphasising the importance of expanding their knowledge whether it be traditional, contemporary or even physical knowledge.

2. The importance of education emphasized by the Quran and the Prophet (SAW):

Allah has told humanity again and again how important it is for them to acquire knowledge.

a. A messenger sent to teach humanity:

Allah says that he raised a prophet amongst illiterate people so he may educate them.

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 been previously been clearly astray.

(Al-Quran)

b. The first revelation instructed the Prophet (SAW) to read:

Even the very first revelation descended upon the Prophet (SAW) focused on the matter of reading.

Read in the name of your Lord who created—created human from a single clinging clot. Read and your Lord is the most ~~merciful~~ Generous, who taught by the pen—taught man what they knew not.

(Al-Alaq)

c. The Prophet (SAW) has been sent as an educator:

The Prophet (SAW) himself has stated that one of his main roles for the Ummah is that of an educator.

I have been sent as an educator.

Al-Hadith

3. Education and Learning before the Prophet (SAW):

The concept of Learning for Arabs centered around literary fairs festivals and they were focused on poetry above all. Islam revolutionized the education system among Arabs.

4. The Prophet (SAW) as an educationist:

The Prophet (SAW) played a significant role as an educationist. The Muslim Ummah can still learn a lot from his example.

a. Establishment of centers of education:

The Prophet (SAW) established learning centers at various places including mosques and homes.

i. Learning centers in homes:

Even homes were made into places of education. Some examples include Dar-e-Arqam the house of Hazrat Arqam (RA) and Dar ul Hijr the house of Hazrat Khadeeja. and ~~Sahib~~ Sahib abi Talib the

ii. Learning centers in mosques:

9 mosques were made into learning centers to make learning accessible for the people.

iii. Masjid-e-Nabvi as Suffa:

Masjid-e-Nabvi was made into a higher learning center called Suffa and the graduates such as Hazrat Bilal (RA) and Hazrat Ammar (RA) were called Sufi.

b. Education an obligation without discrimination:

The Prophet (SAW) did not discriminate amongst Muslims, all were instructed to gain knowledge. Prophet (SAW) and his wives were important teachers for the Ummah.

Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every muslim.
(Al-Hadith)

c- Promoted writing as a form of learning:

The Prophet (SAW) encouraged Muslims to write with their hands and preserve knowledge.

Preserve knowledge with the help of your hand.
(Al-Hadith)

d- Encouraged physical knowledge:

Not just science or literature but the Prophet (SAW) also encouraged believers to learn physical skills such as archery, horse riding etc.

The stronger believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weaker believer, although both are good. (Al-Hadith)

e-Contemporary Education

The Holy Prophet (SAW) encouraged the companions to gain contemporary knowledge as well. For example, Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) was an expert on family trees, Hazrat Umar (RA) was an expert on knowledge of stars, and Hazrat Zaid (RA) was an expert in languages especially Hebrew.

f- The order on expansion of knowledge. Education should not be limited in any sense. It should not be limited in its quantity nor to the people. Everyone should have access to means to expand their knowledge.

Pass on information from me even if it is only a verse of Qur'an
(Al Hadith)

The Prophet (SAW) also sent Maaz (RA) to Yemen to teach the people of Yemen.

g- The Prophet (SAW)'s teaching methodology:
Every educator can learn how to teach better by following the example of the Prophet (SAW).

i- The relationship with students is important as the Prophet (SAW) would

greet each student with open arms and call them by their names.

ii- Being a good communicator is also important, the Prophet (SAW) would speak with fluency and eloquence.

iii- Teaching Techniques such as Q and A and revisions were also adopted by the Prophet (SAW)

iv- Using references and examples is also something an educator can learn from the Holy Prophet (SAW)

5. Conclusion :

The legacy of the Prophet (SAW) as an educator changed the course of history and the fate of Arab civilization.

By opening up their knowledge sphere to a wide variety of knowledge and encouraging curiosity and knowledge acquisition the Prophet (SAW) set the path for Arabs to acquire the knowledge that lead them to their glory. Modern day muslims can revive their lost glory by following the example of Prophet (SAW) in all fields including that of education.

*Please score out of twenty and leave comments. Thank you 😊