

Q In what ways did the Prophet - Muhammad (PBUH) use teaching methods that promoted critical thinking and moral development among his companions, and how can educators today integrate these methods into modern pedagogy?

Introduction:-

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the greatest educator of all mankind. Although he was unlettered, he was made the best educator and the greatest teacher for whole world when Allah revealed the Quran to him. Quran, He it is who sent among the unlettered ones a Messenger (Muhammad SAW) from among themselves, reciting to them His verses, purifying them (from the filth of disbelief and polytheism), and teaching them the Book (the Quran, Islamic laws and Islamic jurisprudence) and Al-Hikmah (basically Sunnah, legal ways, order, acts of worship of prophet Muhammad SAW). 62:2.

Teaching Methods of Prophet Muhammad:-

Allah Sent Prophet Muhammad for following purpose of education.

- To recite the verses the Quran to people.
- To purify them.
- To educate them to Quran

- d) To teach them the (Divine) wisdom.
Mission of Prophet Muhammad:-
 He started his mission by preaching to the people and education his followers to develop their mental and moral character. Quran, 'O you who believe! Enter not houses other than your own, until you have asked for permission and greeted those in them; that is better for you, in order that you may remember' - 24:27. Prophet mostly emphasizes to develop good character.

Prophet Muhammad Teaching in Masjid-e-Nabvi:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) was endowed with great words of wisdom and learning. His saying conveys precious and crucial information. Allah sent His Messenger to guide and teach humanity and to bring it out of darkness into light. To promote the education, his first act immediately after arrival in Madinah was to conduct and construct a mosque, Masjid-e-Nabvi, a part of which was reserved for educational purposes.

Al-Suffah in Masjid-e-Nabvi:-

The education imparted in Suffah was of an elementary nature. It dealt with teaching the Holy Quran as well as basic aspect of religion of Muslims.

Teachers were appointed to teach the students to read and write. Those who had learned to read and write were asked to teach others to read and write. Also, arrangements were made to teach the new converts (like other religion to Islam).

Establishment of Many Mosques for Educational Purpose:-

During the days of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), there were nine mosques in Madina, where education was imparted. The Prophet also sent teachers outside Madina to areas where people were accepting Islam and wanted to be instructed in their new faith.

Prophet Permitted to obtain knowledge from Non-Muslim:-

When many unbelievers were taken prisoners during the battle of Badr, the Prophet (PBUH) did not take ransom from the literate prisoners, for their freedom. Instead, each one of them was asked to teach reading and writing to ten children. This shows that it is permitted to obtain knowledge from Non-Muslims.

Teaching foreign languages:-

Holy Prophet (PBUH) also paid attention to learning and teaching foreign languages. For example, he instructed

Zaib bin Thabit, his secretary, to learn Hebrew so that he could help him in his correspondence with the Jews.

Quran deals with other branches of knowledge:-

The Prophet (PBUH), who came with a universal system of education, was fully aware of the various branches of knowledge and wanted Muslims to learn them besides receiving a compulsory basic education. The teacher in Quran and students should read and understand the Quran.

Teaches rules of Good conduct:-

The Prophet Muhammad also taught the rules of good conduct and spirituality, the principle of economics, finance, administration, health, justice, politics and international law.

Even before his death, the instructors and spiritual guides he trained were travelling in a vast area to teach what they had learned from their master.

Knowledge is Equal for Everyone:-

Prophet Muhammad, always emphasised that knowledge is equal for everyone. Everyone has right to seek knowledge whether it should be male, female, rich or poor or any special children.

For real social, moral, political and economic progress, he laid emphasis upon acquiring knowledge for both sexes, when he said "the acquisition of knowledge is a duty incumbent on every Muslim, male and female". — Hadith.

Travel to seek knowledge:

By asking his followers to go even to China, if need be, to seek knowledge, the Prophet (PBUH) cut across all barriers of place, language and nationality in the pursuit of the goal. — Hadith. Hazrat Anas reported that the holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

"He who travels to seek knowledge is in the path of Allah till he returns"

Once Prophet (PBUH) came to the Mosque, he saw two groups of people, one busy in worship and other in learning. The Prophet PBUH said that even though both were engaged in good acts, but the group which was busy in learning were better, having said this, he joined the group. Quran, who he taught (the writing) by the pen — 96:4. He has taught man that which he knew not — 96:5.

In Modern times Prophet's lessons are already being:-

In Modern times the educators added the teachings and way of Prophet in education system. For example, Every one should acquire know as one of them. The teachers and parents both focuses on education both moral and spiritual. The teachers guide them in good paths.

Modern Means of Education are inline with Islam:-

The Modern Means of education are in-line with Islam. Such as Travelling for seeking knowledge and acquiring all kinds of knowledge. Not only this but also giving scholarship to needy students. Most of the states upholds this. While in Afghanistan there is huge crisis going on on women's education, which can be ended as Islam and Prophet Muhammad it-self permitted female education. Hadith, 'the acquisition of knowledge is a duty of incumbent on every Muslim, male and female'.

Quran, Men and Ad-Dawabb (moving living creatures, beasts) and cattle are of various colours. It is only for those who have knowledge among his slaves and that fear Allah -35:28

Conclusion:-

The Prophet Muhammad emphasises on all kind of education. This pattern of education as laid down in the Quran and followed and practiced by Prophet. In this educational system, there is scope for acquiring scientific knowledge. That knowledge can be scientific, social, economic and political not limited to this but also includes modern technological advancements such as AI, as they are requirements of this 21st century.