



The Position and Attributes of Teacher from the Perspective of Islam

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Abstract

This research has been done to clarify the status of the teacher and his responsibilities in Islam and to clarify the characteristics of a successful teacher in light of Islamic education and to determine the main objectives of the role of the Muslim teacher, which shows the general purpose of this article. The method of this article is a library, authentic books have been used to complete the content of this article. The study concluded that it is not difficult to have an Islamic perspective on the role of the teacher, but we must employ efforts and capabilities towards the desired goal, and that preparing a teacher for his role is no longer a matter based on guesswork, conjecture, imitation and subordination, but rather requires preparation, equipment and development of the teacher's knowledge, skills, behavior and attitudes based on scientific methodology. The role of the Muslim teacher to be a good example in his words and actions, and to succeed in his educational and teaching work assigned to him in the best possible way, and to feel responsible before God Almighty and before society, because this will return with the beneficial benefit to form a Muslim individual capable of facing the challenges of this era and building his Muslim society and free it from impurities and widespread seditions.

Keywords: *Attributes; Islam; Position; Perspective; Teacher*

Introduction

The real teacher is still the same golden dome and comforter that shines in the hearts and softens the pains, heals the pains of the oppressed and protects and compensates for their lost rights.

In the description of a teacher, if we want to write several books, it is still not enough, because a teacher is someone who the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) proudly said: "I was only sent to perfect noble character" It means that I have come as a teacher to teach you good manners. (Al-Tabarani, 1983).

A teacher is a trustee and a person is his trust. It is a teacher who leads a person from ignorance and darkness to knowledge and enlightenment. A teacher is a noble job of humanization, which is considered as the second supervisor of students and can follow him as an example in life.

The teacher is the role model for the students, and what is reflected in the teacher's personality will also be a warm effect in the students. In the teaching process, the teacher's behavior is of special importance for the students, often for the elementary school students, the teacher's actions and behaviors are a suitable criterion for his students and for evaluating his contents, statements, commands and guidelines.

Therefore, the Muslim teacher should be so careful in his behavior that he becomes a role model for his student. A teacher, as the spiritual father of students, steps in the field of their intellectual leadership, and as the architects of tomorrow, he builds the future of a country and can clean and beautify the society from corruption. A teacher is a guiding light, a lifeboat, a guide to virtues and virtues, a guide and a wakened, the fate of human societies depends on the efforts of teachers.

Hence, the role of the teacher is not limited to education only, but rather it is to raise, educate, guide and prepare students with an Islamic educational preparation. This is achieved through comprehensive education that does not know the separation between the mind, the soul and the body, and instills in its students Islamic principles and moral values and how to work on practicing them in their daily lives. The absence of the role of the role model teacher, which has become a first-class educational and legal requirement in the Islamic educational process, highlights the need to prepare this teacher from all aspects, to know his position and responsibilities so that he can be an effective educational teacher according to the Islamic educational perspective.

Research Method

The research method has been the library, for the purpose of completing the presented topic have been used: books such as the Holy Quran, alsunan alkabir lilbayhaqi almuejam alkabir litabarani, Sahih al bukhari, Sahih Muslim and others.

Research objectives

Stating the status of the teacher in Islam

Stating how to enhance the role of the teacher in light of Islamic education.

Stating the characteristics of a successful teacher in light of Islamic education.

Defining the main objectives of the role of the Muslim teacher.

This research is based on an analytical, descriptive, and desk survey of the Islamic vision of the role of the teacher based on reviewing the concepts and roles of the teacher and their interpretation, which some previous studies books and research have addressed directly or indirectly through an Islamic vision to activate his role and prepare him to face future challenges.

Definition of Teacher

The scholars differed concerning the definition of a teacher:

Ibn Khaldun, one of the prominent thinkers of the Middle Ages, believed that the role of teachers in education goes beyond merely transferring knowledge. According to him, teachers should nurture individuals in a way that enables them to lead a healthy and successful life. Ibn Khaldun argued that to achieve this goal, the responsibility of the teacher becomes greater and more significant. He emphasized that merely acquiring knowledge is not enough for a teacher; rather, the teacher should be a well-cultivated individual who understands child psychology well enough to raise the child in a manner that ensures a healthy and successful life. (Frutan, 2006)

In this theory, Ibn Khaldun highlights the importance of moral and psychological education for students and considers the teacher responsible for the comprehensive upbringing of the student.

The teacher is the one who undertakes the process of teaching, guiding and directing other people, by providing them with knowledge, facts, rules, regulations, experiences and skills, and working

to build values and attitudes through the types of planned activities and events, and using appropriate educational means and techniques.” (Al khalidah,2001)

The teacher in Islamic education is the phrase by which the boy moves to emulate the Islamic model represented by the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace. The teacher must possess virtuous qualities and practice them in his private life and in front of the boys, so that the boys become accustomed to them and become accustomed to them, because the Students consider the teacher the example that must be imitated” (Ibn Sahnoon,1986).

The position and Status of the Teacher

The Noble Status of the Teacher: In Islam, a teacher is highly esteemed as one who imparts knowledge and wisdom to others. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "I was only sent to perfect noble character." This statement highlights the teacher’s fundamental role in the moral and spiritual upbringing of individuals

Being a teacher is a sacred and important task, a teacher is the eye and light of the society, teachers are the partners of the prophets and spiritual and material leaders of humanity, the scholars and teachers have a high position and rank with Almighty Allah.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah Almighty has described the teacher and the educator, and He has praised and honored the scholar and the teacher, considering the noble position of the teacher to be better and more important than all the worldly duties.

Allah almighty says: "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" (Zamer/9).

It is narrated from Hazrat Abu omamah Bahli that Two people were mentioned, one was a devotee and the other was a scholar. The Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, said: The superiority of the scholar over the worshipper is like my superiority over the lowest of you. Then the Messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him peace, said: “God, His angels, the inhabitants of the heavens and the earths, even the ant in its hole and even the fish in the sea, send blessings upon the one who teaches people goodness.” (Al-Mu’jam Al-Kabeer, Vol. 8, p. 234)

The status of a teacher is just one degree below that of the prophets in Islam. Scholars, teachers, and instructors are those who, during the time they live, nurture a generation that will take the future of the Ummah into their hands after them; the greatest responsibility of a society rests in their hands. We can now say that the greatest duty of a teacher is to nurture the young generation, the youth, and the young minds of the Ummah. In this regard, scholars have given many definitions, describing the teacher as one whose primary duty is teaching. However, just as we know the responsibilities of a Muslim towards society, family, homeland, religion, and more, it is necessary to understand the responsibilities of a teacher towards the Ummah. The act of nurturing, or the educator, which every scholar and intellectual has defined, and what their responsibility towards the Ummah is, can be explained as follows: Muhammad Al-Tahhan, an Arab writer, in his book *The Characteristics of the Contemporary Muslim*, defines the educational act, which is the main and fundamental duty of a teacher, as follows: "Effective and active educational work is that which moves in step with its time and is in accordance with the conditions of the Ummah, addressing its problems and weaknesses, and nurturing the Muslim individual to have a complete personality that is in harmony with their time" (Qasemi,1998)

Also, the verses of the Holy Qur'an state that the most important characteristic of the prophets, peace be upon them, is teaching the people, and recognize them as the teachers of mankind and say:” Certainly did Allah confer [great] favor upon the believers when He sent among them a Messenger from themselves, reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book [the Quran] and wisdom, although they had been before in manifest error” (Al-Imran/164).

Indeed, teaching is one of the characteristics of the prophets and one of their beloved attributes. In recognition of the efforts of teachers, there is a remarkable saying from Hazrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him), where he states: "Whoever teaches me a single word has made me his servant." This honor and virtue for the teacher is truly valuable when they can embody this divine gift within themselves and dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the education and development of society. Considering the significance of the status, dignity, and responsibilities of the teacher in Islam, we will now examine some of the qualities of teachers. (Rabbani, 1367)

Qualities and Attributes of a Teacher

The Qualities and attributes of a teacher are fundamental in shaping both the academic and moral fabric of society. In various traditions and educational philosophies, especially within Islam, these aspects are given particular emphasis.

A Muslim teacher possesses qualities that the Islamic community expects. A teacher is a builder of society, laying its foundation. The spiritual essence of the society and the Islamic community lies in the capable hands of the teacher, who burns the midnight oil to spiritually prepare a child and present them to society. The teacher advises the youth of the homeland with heartfelt care, saying, "You are the builders of the future." They address a brother, saying, "The homeland needs you," and teach a sister, "You are a mother." The teacher imparts moral values to every member of society, so they become role models for their families and the Islamic community. In this regard, the Holy Qur'an states: He gives wisdom to whom He wills, and whoever has been given wisdom has certainly been given much good. And none will remember except those of understanding. (Al-Baqarah: 269)

Below are key responsibilities and qualities that define a great teacher:

1. Purity of Intention

From the point of view of the Word of Revelation, the immortality of every action requires purity of intention, and without this feature, people's actions will not have real value. Allah Almighty says: let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone. (Al-Kahf/110).

So worship Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion, unquestionably, for Allah is the pure religion. (Al-Zumar / 2)

So, worship Allah, the Exalted, with sincerity in practicing the true religion. O human! Pure and sincere religion belongs to Allah, the Exalted, and you must worship Him alone. Therefore, the first step towards success in the field of education and upbringing is the purity of intention. A worthy teacher performs their duties in educating their students solely for the sake of Allah. They strive to do righteous deeds to earn rewards and avoid punishment, while also guiding others towards righteousness. (Sabuni, 1980)

"After faith and complete certainty in Almighty Allah, the one thing that gives a person the thought of reaching the celestial horizon and attaining that endless eternal treasure is sincerity (ikhlas). As Prophet Moses and other great figures of heavenly religions achieved success through this path, even some people who initially had no spiritual excellence or elevation were later able to purify and refine their minds and beliefs through sincerity, reaching the highest levels of humanity. This includes figures like Maulana Nizamuddin Lakhnawi, Shams Tabrizi, Maulana Jami, and others like them." (Frutan, 2006)

2. Piety

Piety is the fear of Allah, Exalted and Mighty, both in private and public. It is the means of salvation in this world and the Hereafter. This involves the teacher following the example of our master Muhammad (peace be upon him) and adhering to what Allah has commanded while avoiding what He has prohibited. Piety is the cause of all good. This requires the teacher to be mindful of Allah in all their interactions with their students and in all their actions, driven by the fear of Allah rather than fear of laws, regulations, or officials. Allah says: 'Do you fear them? But Allah has more right that you should fear Him, if you are believers' (Surah At-Tawbah, 9:13). This is a message from Allah, the Sovereign of the heavens and the earth, the Powerful and the Mighty, who deserves to be feared for His punishment in this world and the Hereafter.

3. Sincerity

Sincerity is one of the most important qualities that a teacher should adhere to in their words and actions is honesty. Allah says: 'O you who have believed, fear Allah and be with the truthful' (Surah At-Tawbah, 9:119). Honesty in words and actions leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to paradise. If a teacher adheres to honesty, they will be among the righteous, attain the forgiveness of our Lord, and be saved from pitfalls, desires, and Satan. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to paradise. A person continues to tell the truth until they are recorded with Allah as a truthful person.' Honesty is a crown on the head of the teacher and a noble character that every teacher should instill in themselves and their students. They must uphold this quality in their words and actions, respect this status, and maintain the trust of their students. They should remember the words of Allah: 'Not a word does he utter but there is a watcher by him ready' (Surah Qaf, 50:18).

4. Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness means that the teacher should be sincere and honest in performing their profession and fulfilling their commitments. The importance of trustworthiness in a teacher's practice is one of the fundamental ethical principles that every teacher should uphold perfectly. Islam emphasizes the fulfillment of trusts in a manner that pleases Allah, the Most High. Trustworthiness involves being honest in the work one does and not shying away from speaking the truth. Allah says: 'Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to their owners' (Surah An-Nisa, 4:58). The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: "the signs of a hypocrite are three: when he speaks, he lies; when he promises, he breaks it; and when he is entrusted, he betrays the trust" (Sahih al bukhari,1978)

5. Knowledgeable

Teachers must be well-versed in the subject matter they teach and continue to seek knowledge to provide the best education possible, without knowledge and awareness, nothing can ever be accomplished, and knowing the methods of education and upbringing is one of the most fundamental requirements for a successful teacher's guiding light. Without sufficient knowledge and expertise, the task of teaching and learning will never be possible. The teaching profession, as its name suggests, is about imparting the knowledge and wisdom that lies within the teacher. Anyone who attempts to teach without acquiring the necessary qualifications will not only bring about their own disgrace and humiliation but will also inflict severe harm on the fabric of society." (Frutan, 2006)

"When Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) was commanded to seek education from a teacher, Allah, the Blessed and Exalted, guided him to someone more knowledgeable and aware than himself. The Holy Quran says:" And they found a servant from among our servants [al-Khidr] to whom we had given mercy from us and had taught him from us a [certain] knowledge. Moses said to him, "May I follow you on [the condition] that you teach me from what you have been taught of sound judgement" (Al-Kahf/66).

"Meaning that Moses and his companion, during their journey of learning, encountered one of our servants to whom we had granted a great mercy and bestowed extensive knowledge. Moses said to him, 'Shall I follow you so that you may teach me from what you have been taught and which will lead to my growth and benefit?' "(Hossain pour, 2010)

6. Humility

A great teacher is humble, recognizing that teaching is a continuous learning process and being open to feedback and self-improvement. And one of the characteristics of successful teachers is their humility and forgiveness in the face of students' mistakes. A teacher's forgiveness and forbearance towards students' errors can not only enhance their own reputation and endear them to the students but also serve as a valuable practical lesson for the students themselves.

The Holy Quran praises Prophet Joseph (peace be upon him) for possessing this commendable trait and teaches it as a practical lesson for all humanity. It recounts the conversation of this noble teacher with his error-prone brothers as follows: He said, "No blame will there be upon you today. May Allah forgive you; and He is the most merciful of the merciful. (Youssef/92).

Also, regarding the beautiful trait of humility, Allah Almighty has mentioned another worthy teacher of the world, Hazrat Luqman Hakim, and says: "And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people] and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful" (Laqman/18).

It means: Don't turn away from the people and don't turn your back, and walk proudly on the earth, because Allah Almighty does not like any arrogant person. (Hosseinpour, 2010).

7. Compassion and Kindness

One of the signs of a worthy teacher is their compassion and kindness towards their students. If a teacher adopts a harsh, arrogant, and threatening demeanor in the classroom, they will never succeed in educating their students. On the other hand, a teacher's affection, humility, and gentleness will endear them to their students, who will fully embrace and absorb the teacher's lessons. Allah reminds His Prophet of this key to success in teaching and upbringing as follows: "And lower your wing [show kindness] to those who follow you of the believers." (Ash-Shuara':215)

Good and admirable character is indeed the fundamental goal of the message of Islam. As narrated in a hadith, Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said that the Prophet of Allah used to say: "O Allah, You have made my appearance good, so make my conduct and character good as well." (Al-Tabrizi, 2010)

"The reward for good character is the most valuable of deeds that will be weighed in the scales of a servant on the Day of Judgment. If someone's character becomes corrupt and they engage in evil deeds, their lineage will not benefit them. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "There is nothing heavier in the scales of a believer on the Day of Judgment than good character" (Al-Tabrizi, 2010)

If a teacher approaches the task of education with good character, inner purity, and kindness, then his teaching will have a profound impact on the students. A teacher adorned with these qualities appears dignified in the eyes of the students, and his popularity increases day by day. (Abu Ahmad, 2014)

8. Respect for the Personality of the Student

A skilled and dedicated teacher usually gathers information about the names, lineage, family, city, and other details of their students in the classroom. They use this information to provide better lessons, especially by addressing students with their most beautiful names and treating them respectfully,

avoiding any form of insult or belittlement. Efforts to honor students positively influence their mindset and have a beneficial impact on their perception of the teacher and the learning environment. Allah Almighty in the Quran says: O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name [mention] of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers. (Al-Hujurat: 11)

Honoring and speaking respectfully is a way of honoring the personality of the students, which in addition to attracting their hearts, also strengthens their self-confidence and is effective in improving their personality. (Hosseinpour, 2010).

7. Practices What He Preach and Teach

Acts according to what has been said" or "one who practices what they preach." It refers to someone who not only speaks about certain principles or teachings but also actively follows and implements them in his actions.

One of the prominent qualities of successful teachers is that they practice the knowledge and ethics they teach to their students, ensuring that their words and actions are not contradictory. They should be a good role model for their students, love for their students what they love for themselves and their children, and forgive the mistakes of their students. They should listen to this saying of Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) with their heart and soul. "Allah almighty says: O you who have believed, why do you say what you do not do, Greatly hateful in the sight of Allāh is that you say what you do not do" (As-Saf/3-4).

In this saying of almighty Allah those who say something but do not act upon it are condemned. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of such teachers and instructors who do not practice what they preach. "Also, in a hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), he says: " O Allah, I seek refuge in You from knowledge that does not benefit, from a heart that does not humble, from a soul that is not satisfied, and from a prayer that is not answered" (Khashi, 1994)

There is a saying from the wise, which has become a famous proverb: 'A scholar without practice is like a bee without honey.' This means that a scholar or teacher who does not practice what they preach loses their true value, just like a honeyless bee. A successful teacher values all their time and that of their students. During lessons, they remind their students of certain essential Islamic manners, integrating the benefits of these manners with firsthand observations, prophetic traditions, the conditions of the noble companions, and the lives of great personalities into their daily teaching. The teacher articulates these points verbally to ensure they are better understood and more deeply ingrained in the students' minds.

10. Avoiding Anger

Teaching requires a great deal of patience, as students learn at different paces and come with varied backgrounds and abilities.

People today understand that anger and rage cannot advance any matters in life. Anger and irritation have a negative impact on the thoughts of youth and children, leading to adverse consequences. A mentor and teacher must avoid anger and rage, as it is undoubtedly a harmful and obstructive trait in educational and social matters. Therefore, if a person can control their anger, suppress their resentment, and conceal it, they will certainly find success and well-being for themselves and their children. However, if one cannot master their anger and quell it, both they and their children will not be successful or prosperous. As narrated by Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him): A man came to the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) seeking advice and good counsel. The Prophet (peace be upon him) repeated three times: "Do not get angry, for anger corrupts faith." (Alexei, 1988).

Furthermore, someone who can control their anger is considered by the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) to be courageous and brave. Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “The strong person is not the one who is physically strong, but rather the one who controls themselves when angry” (Al-Tabarani, 1983).

Conclusion

In Conclusion, the teacher holds a great responsibility in Islam, and this profession is the profession of the prophets (peace be upon them). Therefore, the teaching profession is among the noblest and most honorable professions, given its significant impact and great importance in shaping human beings. Humans are honored by Allah, the Most High, and elevated to be the leaders of this world and the vicegerents of Allah, provided they act righteously and with piety. Teaching is one of the most honorable professions because it aims to build and prepare individuals to carry the trust, by shaping and developing honest and dedicated characters committed to the ideals and values represented by this noble religion. A teacher can only be successful if they understand their responsibilities and possess the qualities mentioned in this brief article.

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