

## *Research Note*

### **Community Islamic Education Management and Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh**

#### Background and Rationale:

The logic of the proposed study is very purposive to analyze the issue of early and existing traditional community. Islamic education management of Bangladesh society as more significant for reducing poverty through contributing in literacy movement efforts for national development having Muslim civilization in the present world. Despite the very formal institutional education system and efforts of Bangladesh, literacy rate is still very low which makes the Poverty cycle very strong and chained. Though there were and are different types of programs in Bangladesh with the support of foreign donors like World Bank, IMF, UNICEF, UNFPA. UNDP etc with a view to overcome the poverty cycle all the efforts and investments have become fruitless due to inefficient management of the programs.

The Programs should be designed locally by considering local culture and values, nature of local community participation and enthusiasm of people for addressing the problems properly. Besides, the formal education system of Bangladesh has also been facing many difficulties in promoting national integrity, social norms and values with the Islamic orientation due to the influence of secular ideology and so-called western civilization. Historically Bangladesh is as a Muslim country, there are very traditional community Islamic Education Centers which were the first and grass-root schools of education centres of Muslim scholars. Each of the community (Village) had and has one Community Islamic Education Center called 'Maktab' of 'Panjegane' with one teacher. All these centres are run by and all the costs are borne by the community members. This is fair to say that there is a vicious

circle in the world to dominate and deviate the Muslim countries through changing the basic curriculum and incorporating modern ideas which contradict with the Muslim beliefs. By this time, the vicious circle ultimately achieved their purpose, which makes a great difference between Education and Islam. As it is seen in the world and especially in Bangladesh.

The word “Education” means modern education and the word “Islamic Education” means religious or backward education which is meant only for Akhirat (A word means time after death). But the word “education” is synonymous to the early and Islamic word Talim or Iqra. There is no basic difference in learning something for the world and for the akhirat. With the influence and domination of western civilization, community education system about to be abolished. If the community Islamic Education system and its management are modernized and strengthened by the government within the cultural and religious perspective of the country, a country driven programme of poverty alleviation through ensuring education for all could flourish. This programme would also be cost effective. This is true that formal education is very meet the needs for productive and technological education. But alongside formal education, properly supervised and monitored informal education can play a very important role in poverty alleviation and the overall development of the country. This question is the main focus of the present study entitled Community Islamic Education Management and Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh with the emphasis on “education and poverty” as these both words are considered very important by the modern educators, political leaders and analyst and policy makers to develop and strengthen a nation.

The proposed study emphasis that education must be culturally conformity with the social norms and values of the nation. With this rationalization, education system of Muslim countries should conform to the culture, beliefs, social norms and values, which are shaped by the religion of Islam. The present study will analyze all the above mentioned dimension of the education and Islam and will focus the Community Islamic Education system and management as an important means for poverty alleviation.

Objectives: The Study intends to

1. 1 Have a clear Idea of Classical Education in Islam
2. Identify the nature and dimension of Maktab and Masjid based Community Islamic Education of Bangladesh.
3. Identify the problems and prospects of Community Islamic Education Management in Bangladesh.
4. Find-out the existing efforts in National Literacy rate and level and Poverty Alleviation
5. Recommend the ways and means to strengthen the existing system of community Islamic education system and management within religious perspective.

Scope of the study:

The proposed study will be conducted covering the very traditional community Islamic educational institution of Bangladesh including Masjid, Maktab and Panjegana (classical Islamic education center) etc.

Time/Duration of the study:

The study will be completed within 9 months including three months at Oxford Center for Islamic Studies and rest six months in Bangladesh for field study.

Methodology of the study:

The following methods, techniques will be followed to collect data for conducting the proposed study.

1. Data collection and processing from primary sources:

The data for this research will be collected from the primary sources including Maktab, Masjid, Panjegana and Madrshah related to Community Islamic education of rural Bangladesh. The teachers, Imam and community people will be interviewed by designing structured and non structured questionnaire containing different questions related to different dimensions of the issue e.g. Islamic education, literacy and poverty.

2. Data collection and processing from secondary sources:

Data will also be collected from the secondary sources through literature survey and reviewing holy Quran and Hadith, existing publications, books available at Oxford and Bangladesh and for enriching theoretical part of the study.

3. Data Presentation and Analysis:

Data and related references will be sorted according to the framework of the study and analyzed in view of the issue in concern. The data and references will be presented through noting and tables and other related tools including explanations, graphs and analyses for each reference and table etc. will be provided in details in the study report.

Limitation of the study:

The proposed study will be limited to the nature, dimension, functions and role of traditional Community Islamic Education in Bangladesh. There will not be any scope to cover other Classical or Informal Education System of Arabic Islamic countries due to the time and financial constraint.

Expected output:

1. The study will reveal the existing system of Traditional Community Islamic education system and management of Bangladesh and its management.
2. The Study will identify the existing role/contribution of Community Islamic Education in literacy and poverty alleviation.
3. The Study will produce a clear idea of classical education thought in Islam.
4. The study will indicate the necessary steps for strengthening the existing system within basic religion

Utility of the study:

The study will help to render further broader research in this field and other researchers, students and teachers of Islamic Studies and related field will get a picture on the issue and they will be able to use this study for their study and thesis reference.

### Chapter Design:

1. Introductory Chapter
2. Classical Education Thought in Islam
3. Islam in Bangladesh: Emergence and Historical perspective
4. The nature and dimension of Community Islamic Education of Bangladesh
5. The Problems and Prospects of Community Islamic Education in Bangladesh
6. The efforts in National Literacy rate and level and Poverty Alleviation
7. Conclusion and Recommendation

### Conclusion:

All the ideas and above mentioned issues and dimension of the proposed research are very preliminary basic forms which are changeable and *ammendable* if necessary with the guidance of Oxford center of Islamic Studies for proper and effective studies in the field of classical Islamic Science.

Md. Atiqul Islam Pathan  
Assistant Director (Training), NAEM, Dhaka.