

## **THE MADRASA IN INDIA: NEED A NEW LOOK**

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### **Abstract**

*Madrassa education is major source of education for Muslims in India. Madrassa is an Arabic word which means an educational institution. They have never been limited to providing only religious education but this notion has shifted, and Madrassa become the only religious centre. For many years Madrassa has been only education option available to Muslim children, especially in areas where no schools have reached the Muslim masses. Increasingly, oppressed Muslim communities demand greater quality education from their madrassa. Madrassa education lots of challenges likewise in India, most of the Madrassa are privately owned and the leaders of madrassa do not feel the need to fulfil the need of the society. Although Muslims parents are Inclined to the safe environment of the school, they are aware of that because of conventional methods and techniques, negative outlook on modern subjects and also due to lack of imagination, experiments and invention, only religious teaching will not be enough for their children to live a decent life. This paper discusses some of the problem faced by Madrassa and suggest some remedial steps to improve the standard of education offered by Madrassa for the overall growth of the Muslim community.*

**Key words:** - Madrassa Education, challenges, Muslims



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### **Introduction**

No doubt today Madrassa educational institution plays vital role in educating Muslim minority children. At least they are getting primary education from this institution. As Sachar Committee, Mahmud-ur-Raheman Commission, Rakesh Basant report, many research scholars show Muslims are far behind from education and they are backward in all streams. There are many reasons in spite of that some of are very poor unable to take education. Some of them taking education from madrassa after finishing Madrassa they are unemployed; they are not able to get a job with this education in society. They are unable fulfil the basic need of their family. They are far away from main stream of development. This paper limits its discussion on the educational issues and challenges of Madrassa with reference to its educational system, government facility and trying to give some suggestive measures.

### **Objective of the study**

To study the issues and challenges faced by Madrassa education.

## **Madrassa Education**

The word madrasa derived from Arabic word “Darasa” which means to impart a lesson or sabaque. To this word darsa the syllable “Ma” is added as a prefix, meaning will be the place at which act (imparting lesson) is performed. Generally, Madrasa means the place where knowledge is imparted. Therefore, in colloquial language, educational institutions such as primary, upper primary and higher education are part-time Qur’anic education centres attached to mosque and Islamic education institutions for full time and residential education. They are named as Madrasa.

### **Problems faced by Indian Madrasa**

Madrasa are as poor resource for the Mainstream system of Education. In general, Madrasa are related to individual who are considered as backward and who are not aware of scientific advancement. This is one of the key reasons why changes have tried to eradicate the fear of exposure to newer ideas, using modern/ non-Islamic subjects to teach. The Madrasa have become a symbol of Muslim identity in India, by which the religion ensures that its future generations gain knowledge of Islam. Sometimes, despite the fact that they are interested in offerings religious education to the Muslim community no evidence has been given indicate that the Madrasa are creating terrorists. Although offending the Culture, this exercise has a negative and traumatic effect on children studying in the Madrasa. It was pointed out that the existence of Madrasa is necessary for Muslims because in addition to providing basic education, it serves as an important instrument for the community to maintain its identity. Madrasa are the only educational option available to Muslim children many times, areas especially in areas where the Muslims masses have not reached schools. Children very often go to the Madrasa not out of choice, but because of other school’s unavailability and inaccessibility, and a near absence of education in their mother tongue. The government’s modernization of madrasa has been a very contentious problem with many different viewpoints within the community. While the urgent need for the modernization of Madrasa is generally accepted, the government’s modernization scheme has really not provided much relief to the community as far as quality education is concerned. As nothing much has been done, promise made with regard to modernisation approved inadequate. Teachers of science and mathematics appointed under this scheme have not been get their wages on a regular basis. In addition, fixed wages are too low. It is widely believed that on paper alone is the help given to madrasa. It was not considered that it was of great benefit to the society to give computer to madrasa. However, madrasa modernization is not happening. Madrasa needs to be focused as regular education

boards, as mentioned earlier. What is really needed is to break the barrier of exclusion, to bring them to mainstream of life at all level and to engage madrasa issues pertaining to present day issues and realities.

### **Some of the Major and Significant challenges faced by Madrasa**

- ❖ Absence of definite goals
- ❖ Lack of basic facilities in some of the Madrasa such as proper building, classroom, furniture, blackboard and other equipment.
- ❖ Outdated standard teaching, learning approaches and strategy.
- ❖ Isolations for new advances in the field of education and over emphasis on conventional subjects, with a negative view point on modern subjects.
- ❖ Lack of communication between different Madrasa
- ❖ Flawed inspection and poor assessment system.
- ❖ Poor financial condition and administration.
- ❖ Low status of teachers in the societies
- ❖ Totally away from innovations in teaching such as experimentation, research and use of ICT
- ❖ Enlighten lack of technical training or subject development training on different subjects.

### **Suggestions for improving Madrasa Education**

- First of all, the goal and the priorities of Madrasa education in this country should be well established in particular.
- Expand the scope of Madrasa by focusing more on subjects such as science, mathematics, English, computer literacy, research and innovation beyond religious education
- To ensure that completion of children education at least up to the secondary level for this an arrangement is required where by Muslim students can access both religious and school education.
- Preparation of Imams, Muazims and scholars of Islam with research and experimental knowledge.
- For Madrasa, infrastructural development is very significant, such as classroom, furniture and blackboard, etc.
- Quality education with a focus on information and communication technology, should be provided in Madrasa.

- Different training programs should organise for teachers who wish to be affiliated with madrasa education. They should either be placed in existing training institute affiliated with Universities or they should be equipped with a separate training framework.
- Union and State Government should provide adequate grants for these Madrasas.
- In order to enable Muslim children to meet the requirement of the national education system it is important to have books and teaching materials available at all levels of the Madrasa.

### **Conclusion**

This study focuses on present education status of Indian Muslims their enrolment in madrasa and their challenges faced by Madrasa. To fulfil the challenge of the modern world, Madrasa will need to be revitalized. The contributions of this Madras has been so important the educational growth of the Muslims community cannot be strategized by neglecting or disrespecting their community services. This madrasa from a parallel education system that fully blocks the path of Muslims who turn to it for economic growth and development. There is an urgent need to modernized or upgrade the education systems of Madrasa in India to educate Muslims at that level to help them cope with the children of Modern education system.

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