

MAKTAB - THE BACKBONE OF A MUSLIM SOCIETY (1/2)



WIFAQUL MAKAATIB (SA)

“Say: Can those with knowledge and those without, (ever) be equal?” (Qur’ān Karīm, 39/9)

One of the salient features of a successful Muslim society is the presence of Makātib (primary Madrasas). These serve as a gateway to a child’s knowledge of Islam, which enables him to practice upon Din correctly.

The lack of a Maktab system is highly detrimental. Look around the world, let alone non-Muslim countries; in many Muslim-majority countries, due to a lack of focus on Maktab education, many are unaware of the basics of Ghusl, Wudhū, and Salāh.

Through the grace of Allāh Ta’āla, we are fortunate to have an excellent Maktab system in South Africa. May Allāh Ta’ālā reward our ‘Ulamā’ who underwent great sacrifice to establish the system of Makātib in our country!

Need for Maktab

Many recognize the need to have their children acquire a worldly education, thinking that this will assist them in earning a living. Thus, arrangements are made for them to attend the best schools, and any laziness regarding their schooling is met with severe consequences.

If we ponder, we will realise that ensuring our children attain a good Maktab education is infinitely more important. They must live as Muslims, obeying the Great Commands of Allāh Ta’ālā. Their everlasting success lies in them holding firm upon Imān until their last breath. With a solid grounding in Qur’ān, ‘Aqīdah, Fiqh, etc, it will be easier to obey the commandments of Allāh Ta’āla and thereby draw His mercy.

The benefit of blessing our children with Maktab education

Hasan Al-Basri Rahimahullāh said: “Seeking Hadīth in one’s youth is similar to inscribing upon a rock.” The knowledge that a child attains is remembered.

‘Alqamah Rahimahullāh mentions: “Whatever I memorized while I was young, it is as if I’m (physically) looking at it on a piece of paper!”

A child’s mind is fresh and perceptive; if we fill it with the correct knowledge, this will stay with them throughout their lives, In Shā’ Allāh. Similarly, the Adab, respect, and values that a pious Ustādh will imbibe within them will remain forever.

The child will also build a relationship with his teacher. This will be an invaluable asset in his life. He will have a proper reference point whenever he encounters a problem, requires a ruling, or needs advice.

MAKTAB - THE BACKBONE OF A MUSLIM SOCIETY (2/2)



WIFAQUL MAKAATIB (SA)

Virtues of seeking Dīni knowledge

Nabi Sallalāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam has mentioned: "Whoever treads a path seeking 'Ilm, Allāh will make the path to Jannah easy for him." (Muslim, 2699)

In another Hadīth: "When the son of Ādam passes away, all his actions come to an end except three; perpetual charity, knowledge that (people) benefit from, or a pious child that makes Du'ā for him!" (Muslim, 1631)

How do I choose a Maktab for my child?

Seek the best Maktab for your child! Seek a Maktab that is in line with the Ahlus-Sunnah wal Jamā'ah and the way of our pious predecessors, a Maktab with a track record of giving due importance to the Tarbiyah (nurturing) of the children, a Maktab that gives due importance to practicing upon the knowledge attained, a Maktab wherein boys and girls are appropriately segregated, a Maktab where boys attend Salāh with Jamā'ah. Convenience should never be the yardstick when choosing a Maktab.

Is online Maktab an option?

The Sahābah Radhiyallāhu 'Anhum reached the lofty levels that they did due to the Suhbah (companionship) of our beloved Nabi Sallalāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam. There is no substitute for the Nūr (divine light) and Barakah (blessings) that emanate from face-to-face Ta'līm, the system that Allāh Ta'alā had chosen for His Ambiyā' 'Alayhimus-Salām.

A child will never achieve the required level of 'Ilm (knowledge) or 'Amal (practice) through a screen. Sacrifice for Dīn is necessary for guidance. The glorious history of Islām bears testimony to the thousands of journeys undertaken by the scholars of Dīn to far-off lands for the learning and disseminating of Dīnī knowledge. Just as those before us sacrificed, we should be ready to do so as well. For the sake of avoiding the discomfort of transporting our children to and from the Maktab, are we ready to pour water over their rich legacy?

A concerning trend

Recently, many parents have opted to remove their children from the Maktab once they have learnt to recite the Qur'ān or have reached Grade 6 or 7. This is very detrimental as many vital aspects of Din are taught at that age, when the child's comprehension is at its peak. Aspects like Zakāt, Haj, Nikāh, Business, etc, are largely missed out, which is then to the detriment of the entire society.

We can never overstate the importance of sending our children to Maktab and then also ensuring they complete the entire course.

May Allāh Ta'alā protect our Īmān and the Īmān of our progenies until the Day of Qiyāmah, and may he protect every institution of Dīn and grant us the ability to benefit from them, Āmīn!