

The Impact of Religious Practices and Values on Academic Achievements of Students at Secondary Level

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Abstract

Islam is our religion and a complete way of life for Muslims. Islam is the religion which gives complete directions and advices for all matters of life whether they would be personal or educational, economic or political, social or religious. For secondary level students when they are on the critical stage of their lives, it is necessary to teach them religious practices and values. Teachers should practice themselves as the role models for students. The objectives of this study were to find out the perception of teachers about religious practices and values, to explore the views of students about religious practices and values and to find out the impact of religious practices and values on the academic achievement of students. This study is of descriptive type. All students and teachers of Read Foundation high schools in district Bagh comprise the population of this study. The sample consists of students and teachers of 10 schools which were selected on convenient basis. 400 students and 200 teachers were selected randomly as respondents for data collection. The questionnaire was used for data collection. The data has been collected personally by visiting schools of Read Foundation and analyzed by tables showing frequency and percentage through (SPSS-23). Findings show that majority of the teachers agreed that giving knowledge of religious practices and values should be obligatory for a teacher. Similarly, the majority of the students agreed that students should seek knowledge of religious practices and values for their educational achievement. The result has been discussed with the relevance of previous researches. It was observed that almost all students and teachers agreed with the researcher's views that Islamic religious practices and values have more distinct impact on students' academic achievement.

Keywords: Religious Practices, Values, Academic Achievement

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1: Introduction

The Arabic word Islam means, to leave oneself, to submit and to surrender. In the language of Qur'an, it means surrender or submission to God, or submission to God's will. God creates all things in the universe and the universe itself. Surah-Al-e-Imran describes that:

"Nonetheless whoever in the skies and the earth is obedient to God and compliant (to Him) by choice or restraint and will be returned to him." [3:83]

Belief or faith, in the Qur'anic terminology, is al-Iman. Faith is placed on the belief in the oneness of Allah. It also comprises belief in His Prophets, His Books, and belief in Angels and in the life after death. It is the inner state of the Muslim's heart called 'Iman' that makes one a Muslim (Mahmood, 2006).

The religious practices consist of prayer, meditation, music, art, matrimonial services, funerary services, initiations, trances, feasts, festivals, sacrifices, cultural heritage, customs, public services and other human cultural aspects (Shahid, 2010).

Islamic religious practices include:

- (1) Prayer.
- (2) Reading and understanding of Qur'an and Hadith.

Individuals in Islam are valued by their ethical behaviors in preference to what they produce. People are judged by their relationships to those who are close to them. It does not matter how much a person owns or who their father's tribe, language or country is.

Islamic values include:

- Truth
- Honesty
- Patience and gratitude.

Academic performance or academic achievement is the degree to which a teacher or a student or organization has attained their long or short-term educational aims. CGPA, or Grade/percentage and educational degrees awards such as secondary School and Master's degrees signify academic achievement (Shahid, 2010).

Religious practices and values may affect the student's academic achievement in the following ways:

- 1) Regularity/Punctuality (prayer teaches the students cleanliness and regularity of time)
- 2) Good attitude (teachings of Quran, Hadith and values teach students good behavior)

- 3) Disciplined (prayer, makes them disciplined)
- 4) Work harder in school (teaching of patience and gratitude make a student work hard.
- 5) Adopt norms and values that help attainment (teachings of Quran, Hadith and values help to adopt them.)
- 6) Avoid socially deviant behavior (truth and honesty teach the students to avoid these)
- 7) Higher grade point average/percentage/grade.(result of religious practices and values) (Nakhon, 2015).

Numerous studies have proved that the students are bolder and do better intellectually by teaching religion. There is a positive impact of the religion on student's success because of these studies. Personal religiosity and religious participation help to lower the rates of boundary activities, substance misuse that unfavorably affect school vocations. Students who contribute in religious activities have completed the excellent to censor other types of social draws. For example, a student who prays five times a day or who is going to the Church every Sunday is never being originated in a saloon. Also, these students complete his duties on time (Shishu, 2012).

Many studies show that being a part of religious group indorses conformism such as completing assignments or going to classes. The people who are away from religion and from God are more often observed in anxiety, loneliness, depression and substance abuse. Depressed students often favor to hop classes, to reappearance home and start to use alcohol. Religious practices deliver a social support outdoor the family to battle aloneness. Students are more contented because they have admission to the wanted provision. Students who are religious also originate to dedicate time and energy to a diversity of pro-social reasons. Religious students help attach schools with the nearby community and provide helpers and companies with groups (Zhang, 2012).

The study also discovers that most helpers are religious students. There is a positive relation between religion and academic attainment, because religion helps for the disciplined life and creates ethics. Religious teachers teach student to be more punctual, disciplined, to show positive attitudes, and inspire healthier behaviors. Religious practices and beliefs make the believers to become able to contract with troubles and demanding situations that might negatively affect their theoretical or career achievements than non-believers who may feel worrying and completely lost. Religion influence by creating a family like atmosphere for those who have single parent thus affecting by another way. Religion is one of the factors that have a positive impact on family life and family life has good impact on educational attainment. Religious families are more capable to establish Healthy family relationships, established by religious families have more social control (Finn, 2009).

Religiosity could indirectly influence student's educational achievement, by influencing social activities satisfaction and other outcomes such as interactions with teachers and satisfaction at school (Shishu, 2012).

The first word of the Qur'an as it was exposed to Prophet Muhammad is "Iqra" which means "Read" or "Recite" they say Muslims are advised to follow knowledge to better understand God's revealed word. Muslims of early period made innovative intellectual contributions in such fields as poetry, medicine, philosophy, astronomy, and mathematics. They recognized schools, mosques known as Makatib and Madrassas. Muslim rulers constructed libraries and educational developments such as Al-Azhar University, to cultivate advanced scholarships. During early period, Southern Spain was a center of higher knowledge, producing such facts as the famous Muslim Philosophers Averroes (Shohaib, 2014).

2: Methodology

Descriptive type of research was used to collect the data. Keeping in view the objectives and research questions of the study, the perceptual questionnaire for teachers and students was made. The results of the students and teachers determine their achievement level and help to check the impact of religious practices and values on student's achievement.

2.1: Population

All Teachers and students of high schools of Read Foundation district Bagh comprise the population of this study. Teachers and students of these schools were consulted for the attainment of the desired goals. The total number of schools is 30. The total number of students is 1000 and teachers are 200.

2.2: Sample

Selection of smaller group or subset of population in such a way that the knowledge is the representative of the total population under study is sample. This sample was selected by simple convenient selection. 10 Schools was selected from district Bagh. Students of 9th and 10th class were involved in this process. Teachers of these classes were consulted for research purpose.

2.3: Research Instrument

This study used questionnaires. These questionnaires were based on the objectives of the study to get reliable and valid data. The questionnaires were distributed among students and teachers of selected schools of district Bagh.

2.4: Data Collection

The relevant data was collected personally by visiting schools through questionnaires from key informants; students and teachers. This data was analyzed by simple frequency and percentage through spss. The results and conclusions drawn from research were made basis for improvement and further researches.

3: Results

Table 1: Man's Communication with Allah by Prayer

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percentage
Teacher	Strongly Agree	159	79.5
	Agree	40	20.0
	Undecided	1	.5
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	327	81.8
	Agree	69	17.3
	Undecided	4	1.0
	Total	400	100.0

The table 1 shows that 79.5% teachers strongly agree, 20% agree and .5% are undecided. Similarly, 81.8% students strongly agree, 17.3% agree and 1% are undecided. So, majority of the teachers and students agree that Man can communicate with Allah by prayer.

Table 2: Reading and Understanding of Qur'an, a vital duty

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percent
Teacher	Strongly Agree	140	70.0
	Agree	59	29.5
	Undecided	1	.5
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	327	81.8
	Agree	70	17.5
	Undecided	2	.5
	Disagree	1	.3
	Total	400	100.0

The table 2 shows that 70% teachers strongly agree, 29.5% agree and only .5% are undecided. Similarly, 81.8% students strongly agree, 17.5% agree, .5% are undecided and .3% disagree. Thus, majority of the teachers and students agree that reading and understanding of Qur'an is a vital duty of every student's life.

Table 3: Truthfulness, Basis of all Good Deeds

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percent
Teacher	Strongly Agree	129	64.5
	Agree	70	35.0
	Undecided	1	.5
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	308	77.0
	Agree	89	22.3
	Undecided	1	.3
	Disagree	1	.3
	Strongly Disagree	1	.3
	Total	400	100.0

The table 3 shows that 64.5% teachers strongly agree, 35% agree and .5% are undecided. Similarly, 77% students strongly agree, 22.3% agree, .3% are undecided, .3% disagree and .3% strongly disagree. Thus, majority of the teachers and students agree that truthfulness is the basis of all good deeds.

Table 4: Honesty, Vital to be a Muslim

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percent
Teacher	Strongly Agree	130	65.0
	Agree	66	33.0
	Undecided	4	2.0
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	326	81.5
	Agree	71	17.8
	Undecided	2	.5
	Strongly Disagree	1	.3
	Total	400	100.0

The table 4 shows that 65% teachers strongly agree, 33% agree and 2% are undecided. Similarly, 81.5% students strongly agree, 17.8% agree, .5% are undecided and .3% strongly disagree. Hence, majority of the teachers and students agree that honesty is vital to be a Muslim.

Table 5: Students should Learn Patience

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percent
Teacher	Strongly Agree	73	36.5
	Agree	125	62.5
	Undecided	2	1.0
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	207	51.7
	Agree	173	43.3
	Undecided	15	3.8
	Disagree	1	.3
	Strongly Disagree	4	1.0
Total	400	100.0	

The table 5 shows that 36.5% teachers strongly agree, 62.5% agree and 1% are undecided. Similarly, 51.7% students strongly agree, 43.3% agree, 3.8 are undecided, .3% disagree and 1% strongly disagree. Thus, majority of the teachers and students agree that students should learn patience to make pleasant environment everywhere.

Table 6: Teaching the Students Gratitude to Allah for his Blessings

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percent
Teacher	Strongly Agree	140	70.0
	Agree	56	28.0
	Undecided	4	2.0
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	299	74.8
	Agree	91	22.8
	Undecided	6	1.5
	Disagree	2	.5
	Strongly Disagree	2	.5
	Total	400	100.0

The table 6 shows that 70% teachers strongly agree, 28% agree and 2% are undecided. Similarly, 74.8% students strongly agree, 22.8% agree, 1.5% are undecided, .5% disagree and .5% strongly disagree. Thus, majority of the teachers and students agree that it is necessary to teach the students gratitude to Allah for his blessings.

Table 7: Religious Practices and Values' Impact on Students' Regularity

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percent
Teacher	Strongly Agree	107	53.5
	Agree	89	44.5
	Undecided	3	1.5
	Disagree	1	.5
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	236	59.0
	Agree	126	31.5
	Undecided	20	5.0
	Disagree	14	3.5
	Strongly Disagree	4	1.0
	Total	400	100.0

The table 7 shows that 53.5% teachers strongly agree, 44.5% agree, 1.5% are undecided and .5% disagree.

Similarly, 59% students strongly agree, 31.5% agree, 5% are undecided, 3.5% disagree and 1% strongly disagrees. So, majority of the teachers and students agree that religious practices and values have impact on students' regularity.

Table 8: Schools Show Excellent Result/High Grade Point/Percentage

Sample	levels	Frequency	Percent
Teacher	Strongly Agree	64	32.0
	Agree	93	46.5
	Undecided	35	17.5
	Disagree	7	3.5
	Strongly Disagree	1	.5
	Total	200	100.0
Students	Strongly Agree	261	65.3
	Agree	123	30.8
	Undecided	9	2.3
	Disagree	2	.5
	Strongly Disagree	5	1.3
	Total	400	100.0

The table 8 shows that 32% teachers strongly agree, 46.5% agree, 17.5% are undecided, 3.5% disagree and .5% strongly disagree. Similarly, 65.3% students strongly agree, 30.8% agree, 2.3% are undecided, .5% disagrees and 1.3% strongly disagree. Thus, majority of the teachers and students agree that schools which give their students religious education show excellent result.

4: Discussion

This study concludes that man can communicate with Allah by prayer and pray five times a day is obligatory for every Muslim congruent with the study of Zhang (2012) which states that a person's highest degree is significantly associated with how often a person prays and attending of religious activities. It also relates with the study of Alkandari (2004) which describes that children are trained in prayers from the early age of seven, even though they are not able to perform this according to the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) hadith. Since in Islam, prayer is one of the components by which the individual is measured in the hereafter. This also relates with the study of Pew Research Center US survey which finds that people who pray every day and regularly attend religious services are generally happier with the way things are going in their lives. This study finds that reading and understanding of Qur'an is a vital duty of every student's life and school should organize such a course to read and understand the Qur'an, it relates with the study of Alkandari (2004) which states that "Islam is a way of life-it penetrates all aspects of human' lives, in education, economics, social activities, everything." The Islamic studies curriculum helps keep Islam a practice of life through a variety of means, including reading and understanding of the Qur'an. This study finds that truthfulness is the basis of all good deeds and honesty is vital to be a Muslim which relates with the study of Pew Research Center US survey which describes that honesty is most valued by Christians as key to their religious identity. This also relates with the study of Alkandari (2004) which states that we teach morals every day, every moment of the day, five days a week, through all agencies and materials of the school life. This study finds that it is necessary to teach the students' gratitude Allah for his blessings relates with the study of Pew Research Center US survey which states that virtually all highly religious people regularly express gratitude to God and ask for help. This study finds that religious practices and values have impact on students' regularity and they do their homework regularly relates with the study of Fagon (2010) which describes that certain habits correlate with good school performance, such as attending school regularly and spending more time on homework. Religious practices help to shape these habits as an analysis of inner city children. This study finds that schools which give their students religious education show excellent result and high grades which relates with the study of Fagon (2010) which states that religious attendance is strongly associated with academic performance. In one study, students who attended religious activities weekly were found to have a GPA 14.4 percent higher than students who never attended. One thing found during this study is that all three top positions of AJK intermediate and secondary education belongs to those institutions which give their students religious education in special context. All these results have been discussed here with the relation of the previous researches. So, upon these testimonies religious practices and values have great impact on student's academic achievements at secondary level.

4.1 Conclusions

Most teachers and students believe that man can communicate with Allah by Prayer and pray five times a day is obligatory for every Muslim. Majority of the teachers and students agree that reading and understanding of Qur'an is a vital duty of every student's life and school should organize such a course to read and understand the Qur'an. Majority of the teachers and students agree that truthfulness is the basis of all good deeds and students should be

taught to speak the truth in all situations of life and teachers should be present a role model themselves to be truthful. Most teachers and students believe that honesty is vital to be a Muslim and there is a big role of teacher to introduce honesty in the classroom. Majority of the teachers and students agree that students should learn patience to make pleasant environment everywhere and teachers and parents should teach their children tolerance to bear hardships of their lives. Majority of the teachers and students believe that religious practices and values have impact on students' regularity Schools which give their students religious education show excellent result and there is a significant decrease in dropout rates of their students.

4.2 Recommendations of the present study are:

- (1) Govt should organize trainings for teachers to inculcate in the students the knowledge of religious practices and values.
- (2) All the Govt and private schools should have same curriculum and same activities according to Islamic values.
- (3) Parents and teachers should be well informed about the nurture of the young's spirituality.
- (4) As a Muslim, one should have a solid type of research to bring a broad change in the education system, to achieve the glorious prosperity of the earlier Muslim scientists.

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