

Book Reviews

Educational administration: An Islamic perspective. By Ali Mohammad Jubran Saleh, Publisher: A. S. Noordeen, Published: 1423 AH/ 2002CE, Kuala Lumpur, 1st Edition: 2002, ISBN: 983-065-146-0, Pages: 156.

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It is recognized all over the world that education is the most important tool for the development of society and the state. The importance of education has been highlighted in many declarations and conventions of the local, regional and international organizations. Realizing that education is a tool to facilitate communication and bring cooperation among communities and societies, Islam greatly emphasizes education. The first verse of the Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) started with the word "*Iqr'a*" indicating the importance of education. Verse 20:114 teaches the believers to ask "My Lord! Increase me in knowledge." Therefore, a Muslim should constantly be seeking knowledge (*ilm*) because Allah (SWT) asks: "Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know? It is those who are endowed with understanding that receive admonition." (Al-Qur'an, 39:9).

Muslims, it has been pointed out time and again, will prosper if they benefit from Islamic education. This requires that Muslims must give importance to administer education from an Islamic perspective. The book, *Educational Administration: An Islamic Perspective*, attempts to identify and give concise guidance on the philosophy and major principles of educational administration from an Islamic perspective. Islamic educational administration is comprehensive and incorporates the universal moral and spiritual dimensions. This book is a perfect gift for educational administrators interested in creating Islamic educational institutions.

The author of the book under review, Ali Mohammad Jubran Saleh, obtained his M. A. in Educational Administration from the International Islamic university, Malaysia and PhD in Educational Leadership from the University of Malaya, Malaysia. The book indeed has benefited from his studies at the Master's and Doctoral levels. The book begins by emphasizing the importance of educational administration and a brief discussion on different terms related to Educational Administration like Administration, Management and Leadership. These terms are treated from both the traditional and Islamic Perspectives. As is normal with all Ph.D. dissertations, this introductory chapter contains reviews of some books on Administration from Islamic Perspective. Second chapter presents the development of Western Administrative theories as well as its influence on education. It concludes by mentioning some shortcomings of Western theory which also provides justifications for thinking of Educational Administration from Islamic perspective.

The third chapter is on the “Philosophy of Islamic Educational Administration.” For this purpose the writer explains the concept of Education, Man, Knowledge and administration in Islam. Another reference may be cited for these concepts is “Teachers’ Training from Islamic Perspective” by Dr. Mohammad Jafar Iqbal.

The fourth chapter with the heading Principles of Islamic Educational Administration, the author discusses four important values: Personal Trustworthiness; Interpersonal Relations; Managerial; and finally Organizational leadership. The values under Personal trustworthiness are *ta’ah* (obedience to Allah, SWT), *ubudiyyah* (sense of servant hood to Allah, SWT), *tawakkul* (trust in Allah, SWT), *muraqabah* (supervision), *muhasabah* (accountability), *akhlaq* (moral and ethical behavior), job competency, *amanh* (responsibility) and *‘adl* (justice) The basic of Islamic Administration is that the administrator or principal should consider his responsibility as an *amana* entrusted by Allah (SWT).

Under the Interpersonal Relations, the writer discussed Brotherhood and Human Relations, Equality, and Commanding Good and Forbidding Bad. By giving different illustrations and citing Qur’anic verses, the writer establishes that human relations which are based on the Islamic principles help to create a healthy administrative environment. The greatness of Islam lies in the principles of equality. Here writer emphasizes that an educational administrator is just like a *da’iyah* (missionary). He is bound to order to do what is good and forbid evil.

Empowerment, Motivation and Encouragement and Autonomy are the principles which are discussed under Managerial level. Importance of empowerment and how to manage and control it are presented here. Reward from Allah (SWT) is the highest motivation for a *muttaqi* (God-fearing person). At organizational level, the author discusses ten principles. These are: clarity and unity of objectives, decision making, *shura* (consultation), method of choosing advisors, selection of employees, authority, loyalty, division of labor, distribution of jobs, centralization and decentralization, enhancement of potential and remuneration. The fifth Chapter discusses the implications of these principles for Islamic Educational Administration.

The main aim of this book is to draw some major principles of Educational Administration from the Holy Qur’an, the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW), and the Islamic heritage. The writer has succeeded in realizing the aim for which the book was written. However, the book is still in the nature of a Primer that may be of some benefit to the Educational Administrators and administrators. It advocates Islam as a solution to current problems. However, it fails to provide feasible and creative solutions to the problems besetting education in the Muslim world. What is expected of the author is to provide the professionals a comprehensive book on Educational Administration and Leadership.

Readers interested in deepening their knowledge on Islamic aspects of administration can benefit from two related books: 1. *Management: Islamic Perspective* edited by Prof. Dr. Md. Loqman (Dhaka: Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought and International Islamic University Chittagong) and 2. *Leadership: Western and Islamic* by Dr. Anisuzzaman & Prof. Zainul Abedin Majumder.