

Youth Development Policies & Programs in Bangladesh And Areas of Co-operation in Muslim Ummah: A Theoretical Study

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Abstract

This paper is developed with a view to highlight an overview of youth development in Bangladesh as well as in two other Muslim Countries namely Pakistan & Maldives in SAARC Region and to examine the causes and social effects of youth unemployment in Bangladesh. This theoretical study reveals that one third of the world's young people live in Commonwealth Countries and their vast majority is in the Commonwealth Asia region, which alone has become the home of 400 million young people -both male and female. It is necessary to gear up energies of the youths for developing and creating them as a cadre of skilled manpower imbued with Islamic character so that the youths of the Muslim countries can play effective role in future building of the individuals and societies in Islamic perspective.

Keywords: Youth Development, Muslim Ummah, SAARC Region, Bangladesh.

1. Introduction

This study is shedding light on the present situation of the youth in a Muslim country namely Bangladesh keeping in view the strategies for identifying the areas of cooperation in all Muslim countries for future building or development of individuals, societies, and nations. Bangladesh is one of the important Muslim Countries situated in South-Eastern Asia as well as one of the SAARC Countries with a big population of about 150 million of which 85% are Muslims. The present position of the youth which constitutes one-third of the country's people needs to be analyzed to know the youth's status quo so as to determine the ways and

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means for future building of the individuals and societies in Bangladesh for ensuring the various areas of cooperation among the Muslim Countries. Youth being the prime resource of a country, particularly in a Muslim country the Government of the respective country should develop plans & programs. It is necessary to gear up energies of the youths for developing and creating them as a cadre of skilled manpower imbued with Islamic character so that the youths of the Muslim countries can play effective role in future building of the individuals and societies in Islamic perspective. With this end in view, the present study has been undertaken to fill up the gap between the Muslim Countries in respect of development of youths for shaping the future of the Ummah.

2. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study however, is to highlight the position of the youth of a Muslim Country namely Bangladesh followed by some important areas of cooperation among all the Muslim Countries with a view to shaping the future of the individuals, societies and nations of the Ummah. For this purpose, the other objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To highlight an overview of youth development in Bangladesh as well as in two Muslim Countries namely Pakistan & Maldives in SAARC Region.
2. To explain about the youth policies in Bangladesh in particular.
3. To examine the causes and social effects of youth unemployment in Bangladesh.
4. To analyze the youth programs and visions in Bangladesh.
5. To point out the important areas of cooperation among Muslim Countries.

3. Work Organization and Limitations of the Study

The present study is basically a theoretical study, not an empirical one. In order to complete the study, relevant secondary data and information have been used without application of any statistical or mathematical test or approach but keeping in view to justify & highlight the main objectives of the study. As such a descriptive method of research has been followed by highlighting existing position and status of youths of Bangladesh Vis-a Vis the common areas of cooperation among Muslim Countries followed by some possible solutions to the youth problems as regards their employment in jobs as well as development or utilization of their energies and potential roles in shaping the future development of individuals and societies in their respective countries.

4. Discussions and Findings

4.1. An Overview of Youth Development in Bangladesh as well as in SARRC Countries.

One of the important objectives of the study is to discuss in brief, the position of youths and

development programs in Bangladesh in particular along with Maldives & Pakistan another two Muslim countries in SARRC region in general.

4.1. (a) Youth & Its importance:

Youth had always been the focal point of discussion in all ages and in all nations. Most of the Sagacious men were greatly concerned for the youth. In 300 B.C. Aristotle expressed his concern by saying, "When I look at the younger generation, I despair for shaping the future of civilization". Socrates also expressed his concern in 500 B.C. by saying "our youth today love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt of authority, disrespect for older people." Children now-a-days are tyrants, they do no longer rise when elders enter the room, they contradict their parents, they chatter before company, gobble their food and tyrannize their teachers. They have execrable manners and flaunt authority. What kind of awful creatures will they be when they grow up. All these statements of great men indicate sufficiently to prove the importance of youth development activities undertaken even in the ancient time and to be undertaken in modern age.

The negative statement of Aristotle and Socrates on youth now needs to be based on the statements of the leaders, philosophers, thinkers who valued youth by saying " show me your youth, then I will predict the destiny or future of your nation" Similarly Maxim Gorky commented on youth by saying that treasure your youth, there is nothing better, nothing more valuable in the whole world than the youth. In modern time, Martin Luther (Jr) reposed great faith on youth and commented, "Our understanding of the youth has to undergo a change. They can play a great role in solving the various problems. We should trust them and assign them responsible roles". Developing nations across the globe have placed priority on the development of youth which was amply supported by the comments of UN Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Anan - "A society that cuts off from its youth, severs its life line, It is condemned to bleed to death.'

Let us see the global population situation and also consider the youth population for the purpose of developing the programs and activities for them. The world is growing at faster rate with the growth of 80 million people in a year and most of the growth is taking place in developing countries. The estimated world population is 6 billion of which 5 billion in developing countries. The estimated world population between the age group of 15-24 years who are treated as youths is 1 billion of which 850 million in developing countries. According to the UN, by the end of 2005, approximately 55% of the world's population will be the age of 30 and by 2005; world's least developed countries will have approximately 70% of the population below the age of 30, which are termed as youth.

The vast majority of the population growth is expected in Southern Asia and Africa, and in countries considered as the least developed in the world. The half of the world's current population is roughly under the age of 25. According to an estimate, one third of the world's

young people live in Commonwealth Countries and their vast majority is in the Commonwealth Asia region, which alone has become the home of 400 million young people - both male and female. However, in the following section it is discussed in particular the position and condition of Youths in SARRC Region of which Bangladesh is an important member and two other Muslim countries namely Maldives and Pakistan in general.

4.1(b) Youth Development Programs in Bangladesh-An Important Member of SAARC:

Youth Development activities in SAARC region started in between sixties and seventies. In many countries of the region, youth activities started with cultural and leisure time activities. The governments of the SAARC region recognized the importance of young people and took cognizance of their needs, planned program for the young people and created implementing agencies and also gave impetus for NGO activities. In some countries, NGO or autonomous body has been created to cater the needs of youth and implement the government - sponsored program of activities. Let us have the glimpses of the youth development activities now being implemented by the SAARC members in particular three Muslim Countries of the SAARC region Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan.

Here is a brief discussion on Youth Development Program in Bangladesh. The first official youth development is held in 1979 with the establishment of Ministry of Youth Development, now Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Ministry of Youth Development initially implemented and executed the program. The Dept. of Youth Development was established in 1981 for the execution of Youth development activities under a Director General. There is no Legislative policy enactment for the activities of youth development but in 1983 Ministerial Cabinet Committee approved the youth policy for youth development activities. The major Youth development activities undertaken by the Dept. of Youth Development are -skill training, promotion of self-employment among unemployed youth, supply of input to the trained youth, support to the trained youth through the operation of credit program, reproductive health and gender issue and involvement of rural youths in participatory development. However the youth development programs and other important aspects will be discussed in the ensuing sections.

4.1 (c) Youth Development in Maldives and Pakistan —Two Muslim Countries of SAARC

Maldives: The youth development activities in Maldives another SAARC Muslim Country, commenced in 1979. With the creation of Maldives Youth Center as chief executing authority, it started functioning under the President's office. In 1993, the Government of Maldives has created new Ministry-called Ministry of Youth, Women Affairs and Sports by decentralizing its activates from Presidential office and Maldives Youth Center has been renamed as Youth

Division. Youth policy of Maldives has not been enacted by the Legislation; so a new youth policy has been finalized for the implementation. The youth development activities have targeted to all categories of youth with age range in between 19-35 years. Youth NGO activities in Maldives are still in the rudimentary stage. Therefore, youth activities are centered on Government - sponsored programs. The major areas of youth activities are - skill development training, sports and recreation, cultural activities and social services that include counseling on family problems and frustration, overcrowding and abuse of substance. The health issues specially HIV/AIDS and smoking related to environmental network among organizations are concerned with environmental issue and making effort to keep the Maldives free from environmental hazards A strong awareness program on health and environment has been taken to make the people aware of the problems mentioned.

Pakistan: In Pakistan, a Division of Youth was created in 1989 under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Tourism. A State Minister heads the Youth Division and a Secretary is responsible for program planning and implementation. Subsequently the ministry has been reorganized and named as Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth. The responsibility of program implementation at the national level lies with the youth division and at the State level with Directorate of Youth Culture and Sports. In 1989 Pakistan has declared youth policy targeting all categories of youth and defined the youth under age category in between 18-30 years. Youth policy declared in 1989, now has been revised, but has not enacted by Legislation. In the revised policy document, suggested youth age range is 10-24 years. In earlier, most of the youth NGOs, Rural Development Foundation (RDF) and Academy for Education Development (AED) undertook youth development activities. The major youth development activities in Pakistan are: promotion of self-employment, literacy youth welfare activities, creative activities, promotion of NGOs activities for youth exchange and compulsory National Cadet Corps. The welfare and creative activities for youth include skill-training, credit through YISP (Youth Investment Society of Pakistan), community service, traffic management, training of firefighting, painting, music, folk dance and so on. YISP is engaged in skill training and provide credit for the promotion self-employment. The department of Education provides the training facilities on technical and vocational education and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conduct the programs on HIV/AIDS, Drugs and population control. State level programs generally include sports, youth exchange and cultural activities. NGOs are working to complement the works of government efforts.

4.1(d) Comments on Youth Development Programs of SAARC Muslim Countries

SAARC regional countries could plan and develop number of programs for its members and share their experiences of best programs in respective member countries. This is for the common interest of the millions of young people living in the SAARC region. The Youth

Charter drafted by the SAARC youth officials in Male, Maldives should be put into action for the benefit and welfare of the youth of this region. Members can also exchange their youths and NGO officials to observe the pioneer works of the members and exchange their views for development of programs that can be useful in respective countries in their own context. The literacy works of Maldives Sri Lanka, and India say, could be useful for Bangladesh and others can also learn experiences from Bangladesh on its micro-credit program. A concerted effort on trafficking drugs and computer networking (of national and regional levels) could be another area of common interest and joint activity in the field of Youth Development Program among these countries.

Further, the issues and problems of youths in SAARC Countries are more or less same. Though there are multi- racial and multi-cultural ethnicities in Asian Muslim Countries and there is economic and social disparity of livelihood and standard of living, the issues of youth like unemployment, poverty or others are common to all countries.

4.2. Youth Development policies in Bangladesh (In particular)

Youths are also the most creative and productive force in Bangladesh like in other countries. National developments mostly depend on the working spirit, drive and initiatives taken by the youths of the country.

Bangladesh is a developing country and the country is very small as territory but with a big population. The majority of young people are poorly educated, inappropriately trained and unskilled. Under the perspective stated, the Government of Bangladesh has assigned the responsibility to the Department of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports for involving the country's youth population in enterprise development, training in awareness of youths potentials, management development and general empowerment for both male and female young people as means of reducing unemployment, poverty, illiteracy and thereby establish a basis for stimulating and sustaining national economic growth and development of the country.

Population in the age group between 18-35 years is called youth in Bangladesh. The country's total population is nearly 140 million and one third of them is youth (47 million). It is estimated that up to 50% of young people are unemployed and 23% illiterate. A statistics of stratification of youth population in Bangladesh is shown below:

i) Educated Youth	55% app
ii) Uneducated Youth	45%
iii) Rural youth	73%
iv) Urban Youth	27% and
v) Unemployed Youth	50% app

However, in order to achieve the following objectives the government has formulated National Youth Policy:

1. To develop socio economic conditions of the youth force through coordinated activities
2. To equip the youth with skill enabling them to play an effective role in the socio-economic development of the country through providing training in the technical, vocational and professional skill to the literate, semi-literate & illiterate youth.
3. To encourage the youth community in realizing their individual capabilities and qualities to use that they pass and which can be used for national and Ummah cause.
4. To promote a sense of moral and social responsibility among the youths including awareness in patriotism, national sovereignty and defense of the country. In this respect necessary ethical and religious education arc to be inculcated amongst the youths in building up an ideal corruption free and well-disciplined society which will create a sense of collective belongingness among the youths.
5. To assist the community development work on regional basis through the voluntary youth organizations and motivate the youth force to play a virtual role in building an ideal and developed village and in other constructive endeavors of social development within the newly created administrative frame work of local government.
6. To inculcate proper values and ethics in the youth through study and practice of the national culture and inspire them in creative activities. In this respect the youths are to be motivated to participate in sports competition and in different cultural and literary programs devoid of immoral activities and philosophies.
7. To ensure participation of the youths in all Thana (police station) based public and private sectors.
8. To inspire the youth in tree plantation, health and environmental development programs, family development education, eradication of illiteracy and other utility services and voluntary development programs.

The National Youth Policy has been updated and approved in 2003 and in the light of National Youth Policy the Government of Bangladesh has taken massive club based programs to cover all youths all over the country in order to utilize their capabilities for greater cause.

4.3. Causes and Social Effects of Youth Unemployment in Bangladesh.

Since youth unemployment is the most burning question in Bangladesh due to a lot of causes having important social effects or impacts in the country, the following section briefly deals with identification of these causes and impacts in order to know the justification of

undertaking youth development programs by the Government as well as by private organizations. The causes and social effects of youth unemployment are briefly stated in two paragraphs.

4.3(a) Causes of youth Unemployment are:

Population explosion, Widespread illiteracy, Lack of skill hands, Large migration from rural areas to urban areas, Non-pre-employment education system, No tendency for technical jobs & physical labor, Lack of motivation and unfavorable socio-cultural attitude towards self-employment, Defective system of selection and recruitment for jobs, Lack of adequate input support for trained youths for self-employment, Lack of facilities for updating traditional skills, Lack of adequate priority to youth employment by different sectors, Lack of proper guidance and counseling for the youth on employment matters, Lack of proper and separate environment for participation of women in suitable employment, Lack of training for entrepreneurship for the youth and Problems in easy access to credit facilities.

4.3(b) Social Effects of Youth Unemployment are:

Colossal wastage of human resources, Poverty and hunger, Violence, terrorism, social unrest and corruption, Addiction to drugs, Alcohol etc. Behavioral disorder, suicide, alienation from society, Political exploitation, Prostitution and other types of abuse of women, Wide-spread use of bribe and interest, Disrespect to the superiors, etc.

4.4(a) Youth programs in Bangladesh.

The present government has taken pragmatic steps to transform the huge disorganized and unproductive youth force through self-employment programs so that they become economically self-reliant and independent.

With this end in view the Government has expanded the programs of Youth Development in 64 Districts and 470 Thana in Bangladesh. The following programs have been undertaken by the Department of Youth Development to bring the youths in the mainstream of national development process and for the skill development of youths as a whole:

1. Skill development training program for the youth in various vocational trades/professions;
2. Motivation and credit assistance programs to support the trained youths for establishment of self-employment projects or works;
3. Poverty-alleviation program for rural landless and unemployed youths and the members of their family;

4. Programs for involvement of youths in community developments activities through youth organizations/youth clubs to make them employed.
5. Involvement in population control programs, mass- education and welfare activities of the families.
6. Motivational and awareness program on different important issues like prevention on HIV/AIDS, environment conservation, anti-drug, population control, family welfare, etc.
7. Program for information technology for the youths to enter the modern job markets and create new job opportunities both in public and private sectors.
8. Enriching leadership and human development qualities for personal development of the youths to make them quality oriented and value-oriented.

4.4(b) Some Important Programs

Some important specific programs for youth development undertaken both by public and private sectors are mentioned below:

i) Total Number of training centers of the Department of Youth Development: 301

1) Youth Training Centers	47
2) Pisciculture Training Centers	64
3) Technical Training centers	70
4) Secretarial Science Training centers	05
5) Steno Typing Training Centers	32
6) Block & Batik Training Centers	09
7) Dress Making Training Centers	68
8) Central Human Resource Development Centre	01
9) Zonal Human Resource Development Centers	04
10) National Youth Training Centre	301

ii) National Youth Training Centers (NYTC)

This is a human resource development, information & research center. This center conducts training courses to develop human qualities amongst the youth. This center also arranges national & international conferences, seminars, workshop, research works, publications& different types of training with a view to solving youth problems and creating awareness about their responsibilities for building the ideal society.

Some programs of NYTC are:

1. Foundation Training course for Officers and Staff of the Department of Youth Development
2. Training of Trainers.
3. Functional English Courses.
4. Entrepreneurship Development Program.
5. Project Management Courses.
6. Youth Work Management Course for the Members of various Youth Organizations.
7. Youth Leadership Training Courses.
8. Family Welfare, Human Resource Development, Environment and Social Development Management Courses.
9. Social and Community Development Courses.
10. Computer Training Courses.
11. Others

iii) Micro Credit Program of the Department of Youth Development

Micro-Credit Program is one of the major programs of the Department of Youth Development for establishment of small and medium enterprises by the youths so as to eradicate rural poverty in Bangladesh. Under this program, since its inception (1987) and until Dec, 2003, an amount of 91.92 million US dollar was distributed to the youth poor and the women against small enterprises that helps to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural people in Bangladesh. Besides, many other private organizations are operating such micro-credit programs in the rural and urban areas.

iv) Achievement of the Department of Youth Development.

Since its inception and until December, 03 a total number of 2.205 million youths have been trained and out of them 1.202 million were self-employed and in the same period an amount of Tk. 5331.67 million was distributed to the 0.60 million beneficiaries under micro-credit program and other programs conducted by the Department.

v) Grant in Aid to the Clubs

The Department of Youth Development has also been assigned with the responsibility of involving youth organizations in community development programs. To encourage club-based activities, government has created a welfare fund in the name of "Youth Welfare Fund". Since inception of this Program and until December 2003 a sum of Tk. 28.87 million had been given to 2,745 youth clubs in order to make the youths dutiful and attentive to the community and society development in Bangladesh.

vi) Participation of youth in Population Activities

Bangladesh is a small country with a big population and as such over population is considered as one of the major problems in the country. In order to control and educate the increasing population and for good health of the youths, the Department of Youth Development has undertaken programs on "Youth Action in Reproductive Health and Safe Mother -hood" and HIV/AIDS with the financial assistance from United Nations. The program was found very effective and successful. Until 2004 a total number of 22,41,114 youths were trained on different trades and out of them 12, 30,366 youths were self-employed. The monthly income of a self-employed youth ranges from \$200 to \$1000. The awareness-training program on Reproductive and Safe mother hood and HIV/AIDS, STDS are being imparted to the youths through UN Assisted Projects. Until March 04 a total number of 1,95,892 youths were imparted training about actions on HIV/AIDS, STDs and Reproductive Health and Safe Motherhood with moral and religious education to the people.

vii) Youth Award Scheme

The government of Bangladesh has introduced Youth Award Scheme for the successful youths who can show exemplary contribution in the field of social service and self - employment. Since the inception and until December, 2003 a total number of 169 successful youths have been awarded Youth Award under the same scheme.

4.4(c) Objectives and Visions Youth Development Programs in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a densely populated country. As the pace of industrialization is slower than the increasing unemployment rate, therefore, the government of Bangladesh gives more importance in youth sector, especially in youth enterprises. It is understood by the Government that there is less scope to absorb the vast unemployed youths in wage-jobs but there is ample opportunity to exploit the vast national resources by the youth through skill development training and self-employment programs. As such the main objectives of the mentioned programs can be broadly categorized into four areas, such as:(a) Skill development training for the youths (b) Poverty alleviation through self-employment programs (c) Socio economic development of the country through involvement activities and (d) Credit programs.

To achieve the objectives noted above the Government gives more importance in youth enterprises. In three years Rolling Plan (2004-2006) more proposals have been given on youth enterprise and youth health and the proposed plans will be implemented through club-based approach with the visions: such as

- i) To facilitate the unemployed youths by providing vocational / skill development training and micro-credit support and ii) To involve the youths in the mainstream of national and social developments processes.

4.5. Areas of Cooperation in Muslim Uramah

The world is rapidly changing. This change is being multiplied with the advancement of modern information and technology; especially the modern electronic media is making much headway and progress, which is influencing the morality and the value level of human being. As a result knowingly or unknowingly human beings are breaking the traditional social, ethical or religious boundaries and in some cases, this is also affecting the youth character and culture, which might be responsible to derail the Muslim youths from the right course of the society and nation likely to be based on universal values of Islam. So, in order to avoid the unwanted traits of electronic culture and to retain the social, ethical and religious values in right track, the young people of Muslim world should be imbued with the spirit of Islam and duties and responsibilities to Muslim Ummah so that they can ultimately move forward for overall development and progress of the Muslim countries in all respects-social, economic, political, cultural, and international.

Therefore, for strengthening and promoting the unity of the Islamic Ummah, the role of the Youths of Muslim countries must be positively taken into consideration and there should be dominant in this respect. And to achieve this goal the following areas may be brought under cooperation among Muslim Countries to promote and motivate the youths.

4.5.(a) General Areas in the Field of Youth

1) Establishment of A Muslim Youth Secretarial

In order to inculcate the sense of Muslim brotherhood and integrity and cohesiveness of Muslim Ummah and thereby to transform and build up the Muslim Youths into effective human resources, a Muslim Youth Secretariat may be established so that the youths may be imparted necessary training of various professional and vocational fields including human relations development, character building and moral upliftment.

2) Exchange of Information on Youth Development Activities

Youth activities in various dimensions can play important role in national development and this has been proved by some Asian Muslim countries which are credited to be achieved amply by other countries with tremendous success in Youth Development Programs countries through a regular exchange program of information on youth development activities of different countries. The countries would thus mutually benefit from each other's success and experiences.

3) Export of Skilled and Semi-Skilled Youth Manpower:

Program of exporting skilled and semi-skilled youth manpower may be introduced among the Organizations of Islamic Countries (OIC) to meet the country's labor market shortage. And if

it is implemented properly, the Muslim Youths will get chance or opportunity to employ or to sell their skill and knowledge in the country's development process. Thereby, the pace of development of Muslim Ummah will accelerate on the hand and the bond of friendship, affinity and brotherhood will also increase on the other hand among the people of these countries at large.

4) Transfer of Technology:

The world is rapidly changing with the advancement of modern technology. The Muslim Youths should be equipped with the knowledge of advanced technology to meet the challenges and ever-changing needs. Therefore, a program of transferring technology among the Muslim youths of the OIC member countries may be introduced so that they may exchange their ideas, thoughts and views to benefit from each other. Mention here may be made that under "Thana Resource Development & Employment Projects of Bangladesh" a good number of unemployed youths are being self-employed every year in the country. If this model of self-employment and poverty alleviation can be applied to other Muslim countries, it will be helpful for all Muslim countries, as well as Muslim youths to make them self-reliant and self-employed.

5) Audio- Visual Exchange Program

Audio-visual Exchange Program may take place positively in the field of youth film and publications for upholding moral values and thoughts, concepts and ideas of Islam among the Muslim youths of OIC member countries to make the Muslim Youths imbued with Islamic spirit, Iman, Amal and Akhlaq to become complete man or Muslim in other words and to play the role accordingly as per desire and aspiration of the society and nation.

6) Youth Fellow-Ship Program

Youth Fellow-ships or Scholarships Program for credit research works, academic excellence and standard publications may be introduced for the Muslim youths to make them familiar with the Muslim Culture of OIC member countries embracing the broad and universal heritage of Islam and message for Ummah.

4.5. (b) Professional and Academic Training Areas in the field of Youth .

1) Youth Exchange Program:

Youth Exchange Programs like Youth Summit, Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops may take place among the member countries of OIC to facilitate the exchange of ideas and views of the Muslim Youths among themselves. These Programs may be even for professionals, government and non-government youth workers and officials to make them experts and specialists in various fields and areas of professions and trades.

2) On- the- Job Training Program:

In order to develop the expertise in the youth development sector, Job Training Programs may be undertaken for the youth workers of the OIC member countries which are very much suited to the professional needs of these Muslim Countries in order to enable the youths to produce quality products, and to show better results & performances.

3) Off-the Job Training Program

Off- the Job Training Program covers a number of techniques such as lectures, films, demonstrations, case studies, simulation exercises, experimental exercises and vestibule training which can be undertaken for the youths of OIC member countries among themselves at the Ummah level for which the youths will be highly motivated and trained to meet the requirements of their respective country. This program will ultimately lead the youths to be sophisticatedly equipped with the most modern training inputs to better serve the Ummah both in qualitative and productive manner.

4) Academic or Educational Development and Exchange Program

Since education is the foundation for human development, education system at all levels of the Muslim Countries may be structured by integrating the acquired knowledge and revealed knowledge (of Allah SWT) for educating the youths of these countries under the common education program developed (which is termed as Islamization of knowledge at all levels) as per the recommendation of the Conferences on Muslim Education held under the auspices of OIC many times in the past. The youths may be trained by holding academic exchange program among the member countries of OIC as well as acquainted with and educated by the newly developed & structured education system suited to the requirements of the Ummah.

5) Human Resource Development Program Under Islamic Perspective

Last but not the least area of cooperation among Muslim Countries is to develop a Human Resource Development Program under Islamic Framework by integrating seven major ingredients of Islam such as Iman (faith), Amal (action), Ilm (education), Taqwah (fear of Allah SWT.), Ihsan (deep love to Allah SWT.), Adle (justice) and Kasab Halal (righteous livelihood). And under this program, the Muslim Youths may be exchanged and trained for developing and making them into human asset or resource for shaping the future of the Ummah to serve their respective societies and nations.

5. Conclusion

Having discussed related aspects of the study under review with highlighting some proposed important areas of cooperation among member countries of OIC in general, now it is time to draw conclusions followed by some suggestions or recommendations for implementation purpose. The journey began in 21st century, which is more challenging due to globalization. This is an age of science and technology. Every-where there is slogan of information, communication & technology. But the Muslim countries are still backward in these fields. Except fulfillment of immediate, imperative and basic requirements, no country is going forward further. As a consequence, we are lagging behind in this respect in particular. On the other hand, we can't give up and forget our own culture and heritage too. Besides we are bound to develop our technology simultaneously. In 21st century, Bangladesh, among OIC countries, in particular will also have to face the problems with its increasing population, poverty and unemployment situation, which might not be common to other Muslim Countries. But information technology is a must for employment and income generation for our unemployed youths at home and abroad. Youths need good technical and numerical knowledge, good command over English and Arabic languages to make interaction at the global level and knowledge on computer is a must. In addition to this, the issue of telecommunication is most essential. To adjust and compete ourselves with the rest of the world, we should educate and prepare our youths so that they can face the challenges and threats of the new century. Any negligence in this respect can bring any Muslim country down, which will create obstacle to our economic development and progress, moral and human relations development. These contexts and experiences are no less important for any or other members of OIC and might be applicable to the respective country. Creating awareness among youths, rolling and effective plan for youths in economic field in the light of domestic and foreign needs, development of communication and marketing strategy, formation of youth co-operatives and organizations, population control and mass education, education for the illiterate youths through non-formal approach, development and creation of urban facilities and advantages at rural areas etc. can overcome the challenges of 21st century and lead Bangladesh towards development in particular and the other member countries of OIC, in general in all fields- social, economic, political, cultural, national, and global levels.

Finally in order to redress the core issues of youths for all Muslim Countries, it may be suggested and recommended to under take and implement the following programs for the Muslim Youths in general-

1. To emphasize "Youth Enterprise Development Program" with the microcredit facility what Govt. of Bangladesh, at present is launching and for this purpose to establish "An OIC Fund" to support and assist youth enterprises in all Muslim countries.

2. To emphasize "Vocational Skill Development Program" for the youths and for this purpose to establish an "International Vocational Training Institute" to support and assist the vocational skill development training for the youths in all Muslim Countries.
3. To undertake programs for developing physical, mental and moral development of the youths by setting up an "International Human Resource Development Centre" to train Muslim youths on human relations and moral upliftment.
4. To introduce "Youth Award Scheme" in order to encourage, motivate and recognize the outstanding and excellent contribution of the youths for the development of humanity, society and nations.
5. To initiate "Youth Exchange Program" to familiarize with different cultures and heritages and to forge bondages of friendship and brotherhood among the Youths of Ummah consequently enabling the Muslim youths to play an effective role in shaping the future of the Ummah.

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