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Topic: A Critical Study of Islamic Education in Kerala: A Study of System and Institution

Abstract:

Key Words: Islam, Education, Kerala, Madrasa, Modernity and Traditional Synthesis

The work is basically a critical and investigative study of system and institution of Islamic education in Kerala. It aims to explore the strength and weaknesses of Islamic education system in the state and to find the possible solutions for the same.

For case study the thesis focuses on the head institutions of *dini-madaris* in the Malappuram district, which have a strong influence all over Kerala, regarding its affiliated institutions and centres in all parts of the state.

The first chapter “**Education in Islamic Perspective**” starts with the importance and significance of education, knowledge and understanding in the light of the two basic sources of Islam, i.e. Qur’an and traditions of the Prophet Muhammed (ﷺ). Furthermore, an attempt is made to give the historical development of Islamic education system in chronological order, starting from the times of Prophet (ﷺ), leading to the brief description of origin and development of madrasa system in Islamic world, then coming to the Islamic Education Systems in India.

Chapter-Second, “**A Brief History of Muslims in Kerala**”, attempts to present a background study of the main theme of the work. It gives an outlook on four major parts of the title, viz., Kerala: a brief introduction, advent of Islam in Kerala and growth of Islam in Kerala and the legacy of Kerala Muslims.

The third chapter, “**Systems of Islamic education in Kerala: Past and Present**” is an effort to find out and analyse various systems and institutions of Islamic education in Kerala. Part-I of this chapter goes back to the early systems of Islamic education of the state, such as *pallidars* system, higher

education system attached with Mosque and Ottupalli, primary education system before independence of India.

Part-II of this chapter is highlighting the modernised primary madrasas and Islamic colleges in modern times. The establishment and development of madrasa system in Kerala, formation of madrasa board, system of education in madrasa, future of primary madrasas are the main sub themes of the chapter.

The final chapter focuses on seven components of a higher institution (1) Structure of Course and Content of Study, (2) Infrastructure and Learning Resources, (3) Admission Procedures, (4) Method of Study, (5) Research Oriented Programmes, (6) Co-curricular Activities and (7) Community Welfare Programmes and Women Education. It presents the findings of tireless investigation through survey of a number of institutions of the strength and weakness of Islamic higher institutions of Kerala.

The study urges that pedagogically and philosophically, the curriculum of the *madaris* needs reformation because the system of Islamic education has lost its central place in Muslim community. It is said that what students learn in higher institutions is largely based on religious instructions that fail to equip them with the required modern skills. Muslim leaders must realize that they are actually scraping the bottom of the education barrel in an era of internationalism.

The study also aims to invite new researches to explore the best solutions to our defective and weak education system as well as appreciate and continue this unique legacy of Prophetic mission with new developments of the changing times and climes. There is no doubt that research studies on Islamic Higher institutions can make a significant influence in the reforming of traditional Islamic educational institutions.

In fact the nature and environment of system and institution of education deeply influences the character of its outcomes and products. In nutshell, only the up-to-date, scientific and comprehensive education system can make positive impact in the development of any community, society, state, country and nation.