Contemporary Obstacles in Parenting Muslim Children in Bangladeshi Society: An Analytical Analysis

Muhiuddin Khandokar Arif Muhammad

Abstract

Bangladesh is a small country, but it has a sizable population, most of whom are Muslims. This nation faces numerous obstacles in a variety of areas. This article highlights the modern-day issues that children in Bangladesh confront. There is no denying the importance of education. We can be a good generation and thus a good country if we can nurture them properly. Nevertheless, there are some obstacles that stand in the way of this hoped-for optimism, particularly for the government. Present-day difficulties in Muslim children's education include the secular curriculum, poverty, intellectual conquest, cultural import, environment, and modern media.

Keywords: Tarbiyah, Challenges, Rearing, Solution, Findings

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Introduction

The importance of education in educating children, enhancing their morality and developing their competence for the benefit of the family, society, and the nation is well known. There is no doubt that today's children will grow up to be the men of tomorrow, and if parents, society, and the nation take the proper care to raise and refine them with excellent manners, everyone will benefit in the long run, including the children. They serve as the backbone of society. Society will be transformed if children are raised with morality, righteous conduct, and teachings that follow the methodology of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Neglecting them will cause society to become corrupt. As a result, Islam placed a high value on child rearing and exhorted us to raise and discipline our children with care. The Prophet, may Allah bless him and give him peace, is quoted as saying the following in the noble hadith: "There is no greater virtue-enhancing gift a father can give his son than good manners." Islam has not allowed us to ignore the importance of raising children; rather, it has mandated us to do so at all times. Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) gave us advice by saying: "Command your children to attend prayer when they are seven years old and punish them for not observing it when they are 10 years old and do not allow [boys and girls] to sleep together." At present, raising children presents many internal and external obstacles since the family, which serves as a crucial hub for their upbringing, and the school environment, which is the most crucial phase of their educational life, have both fallen victim to corruption. On the other hand, moral rectitude, integrity, and virtue declined; vice and temptation multiplied; a variety of intellectual trends and ideas emerged; and intellectual invasion predominated throughout the entire world. In this article, I attempted to describe the current issues in child rearing so that the truth might be shown, and then I alluded to some recommendations at the end of the paper.

The concept of tarbiyah

Tarbiyah is regarded as one of the most significant components of a nation's sovereignty and well-being, as the focus of tarbiyah is on human behavior, to which the state of nations belongs, as the elevation of the nation by its acts leads to its ascent to the end, and its downfall by its poor deeds leads to its fall into error and defeat.

The literal meaning

The term tarbiyah according to dictionaries, tarbiyah in the language has a wide meaning, which is as follows:
The meaning of tarbiyah is growth or increase\(^2\).
In other terms, the meaning of tarbiyah is "raised and dwelt among people"\(^3\).
Another meaning is reform and advancement\(^4\).

The aforementioned shows that the meaning of tarbiyah is not limited to growth alone; rather, goodness, kindness, and good must also be present in growth for the meaning of tarbiyah to be fulfilled and for a person to reach prosperity. This is because tarbiyah entails more than just meeting a person's physical needs for food, clothing, and shelter because there is a higher purpose for humanity's existence in the world.

**Terminological meaning**

There is no doubt that the concept of tarbiyah in terminology has a close relationship with the concept of language, but there are some differences in the concepts of tarbiyah between specialists due to the disparity in the goals and principles of tarbiyah and the divergence of the view on the reality of human existence in this world. Nevertheless, in general, they meet in some of its lines, albeit in a partial way, given that tarbiyah carries the meaning.

According to Muhammad Rashid Reda, who defined tarbiyah in terms of the Islamic concept, "Allah's lordship of people appears through his tarbiyah of them, and this tarbiyah is of two parts: moral tarbiyah in what is their growth, the perfection of their bodies and their psychological and mental powers, and tarbiyah legal education, which is what He inspires to individuals among them to complete their instinct with knowledge." and function if they follow its lead\(^5\).

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\(^3\) Abu Nasr Isma'il ibn Hammad al-Jawhari, Taj al-Lughwa wa Sīḥah al-Arabiya, (Beirut: Dar al-Ilm Li'l Millions), vol 6, 2350.


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According to Fichte, tarbiyah is "the work that attempts to achieve the essence of the human being as a being that seeks good by itself and for itself." This definition of tarbiyah is given from psychological and philosophical perspectives. Sociologist Emile Durkheim defines it as the responsibility of the previous people to nurture and develop in younger generations the physical, intellectual, and spiritual qualities that the political community expects of them in a group and the unique environment that is created for them in particular.

It is emphasized that tarbiyah, from a psychological standpoint, is restricted to controlling conduct and pursuing materialistic goals, rather than concentrating on the spiritual or value side. On occasion, even the difficulties of accomplishing tarbiyah standards and goals in a way that serves both the interests of the individual and society as a whole will result in failure.

Modern challenges in rearing Muslim children

Raising Muslim Children in the Modern Era There are two categories of obstacles that Muslim parents face nowadays when parenting their children: internal challenges and external challenges. Internally, raising children presents a variety of difficulties, including the following:

The morally bankrupt family

The family is regarded as the most essential environment in creating a person, his psychological and behavioral composition, which will leave its impacts on the society in which he lives, and sociologists, and the pendant of the sect, agree that the family is the pillar of society and that if it is founded on sound foundations, the conditions of society will stabilize and its pillars will be consolidated. And if the family's regulations are weakened and its many sources of power are not realized, then society's life and equilibrium are disrupted.

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6 German philosopher Johann Gottep Fichte lived from 1814 to 1762 AD. one of the most well-known founders of German Idealism, a philosophical school. wikipedia.org/wiki
7 Mel Durkheim, a French philosopher, and sociologist who helped establish modern sociology lived from 1858 to 1917. wikipedia.org/wiki
We observe this problem in Bangladeshi culture, where the majority of families have strayed from the right path due to a lack of high morals and values and Islamic systems, the infiltration of destructive ideas and philosophies, the promotion of undesirable customs and traditions, and the growth of anarchy and dissent. In addition, even if they have Muslim names and ancestry, most parents in our society have little to no knowledge of Islam. Of those that do, most have an inaccurate, made-up, and fabricated understanding of the faith. Children who grow up in such a family and observe their parents' superstitions, heresy, polytheism, and bad behaviors naturally imitate their fathers and mothers, allowing heresy and superstition to easily seep into them and cause them to develop an inaccurate Creed. Our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) forewarned us about this by saying: "This is a major risk, an evident affliction, and the biggest struggle for young children." Everyone is born a Muslim, but his parents mold him into a Jew, a Christian, or a Magian, just as a beast is born entirely” The immoral family poses the greatest obstacle for the children because it consists of the mom and dad. If the parents are atheists who

**poverty:** One of the biggest difficulties in raising kids is poverty. Similar to how most people in Bangladesh live in poverty, many families in developing nations also struggle with this issue. A parent who cannot provide daily food for his family; how does he spend money to educate his children? Hunger must be addressed before other necessities, and social statistics show that 40% of Bengalis (as of the year 2005 AD) experience the problem of poverty.

According to analysts, more than half of Bangladeshi children are poor, without access to food, health care, and housing, and have few options for escaping these circumstances.

There are around 8 million children working in Bangladesh between the ages of 10 and 14 due to the lack of basic necessities like clothing and maintenance costs, despite the fact that this number is not tiny and is declining daily. Many families force their children to work instead of sending them to school.

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According to a recent report from the UNICEF office in Bangladesh, 33 million children under the age of 18—or around 56 percent of all children in the nation—are currently living below the $1 per person, per day poverty threshold, which is an international standard. There are 140 million people living in the nation, including 66 million children, or roughly 44% of the total.12

Cartoon: One of the difficulties in raising children is letting them watch cartoons at home. The danger with cartoons is that they are created and produced in non-Islamic nations like China, Japan, India, the United States, and so on. When Muslim children watch these imported cartoons, their brains and lives are affected by them, and the cartoons have numerous drawbacks that we explain in the following. These drawbacks often conflict with the Islamic religion since the creators of these cartoons leave imprints of their ideas, cultures, and civilizations in them.

The child's imitation of what he sees: Without a doubt, the child is incapable of distinguishing between good and evil. Because a child's mentality is undeveloped when he sees a cartoon, he attempts to imitate the image and idea till he speaks, and he wants to portray himself exactly as he saw it in the cartoon, without considering any severe penalty. A young age, along with the "Doraemon" anime, is a Japanese cartoon whose hero is a robotic cat that rescues its owner "Nobita" and aids her in various ways. This cartoon is based on Japanese culture, and Bangladeshi culture is very dissimilar from Japanese culture. Another problem with this cartoon is that they would love for it to be a robotic cat named Doremon since in their minds it is a hero, just like many cartoons that are shown on television to Muslim children and are heavily mimicked and influenced by them.

One of its disadvantages is that it causes children to develop harshness and dullness in their minds, which makes them insensitive and unable to respond to their parents' or brothers' requests. As a result of their thoughts being preoccupied with cartoon scenarios, children who are watching cartoons frequently reject their mothers' invitations to the dinner table or to do their homework in favor of continuing to watch cartoons.

One of its disadvantages is that it instills enmity in the child as a result of watching cartoons in which the hero deals with his affairs by killing the Arabs; the child then applies this to real life when he encounters any conflict from his opponent by beating and killing as he saw it in the

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movies. This makes the child aggressive and humiliated to deal with his life matters harshly and enmity as well as causes him to stray from the straight life.

One of its negatives is that toddler develops passion at a young age because he associates them with love stories and adult content. As a result of the child being exposed to such things and following them throughout the day, he develops an unrestrained natural desire, which causes him to deviate from morality and disrupt society.

**The Internet, mobile phones, and computers:** The Internet, mobile devices, and computers are without a doubt among the most important technological innovations of the current day, but their improper use has put the human race in danger. Studies have shown that the majority of searches made on the Internet each day in Bangladesh are for containing sexually explicit content\(^{13}\). Although young people don't utilize the Internet to learn things and find out crucial information, instead they use it for illegal activities like viewing pornographic content, watching wild sexual movies, and reading lust-filled novels. Additionally, a different survey showed that 50% of boys and girls in big cities had their first sexual experience before becoming 18 years old\(^{14}\), unmarried. This demonstrates the harmful consequences of misusing contemporary technology.

Similar to how today's mobile phones have turned dangerous for young people. Mobile devices are misused by both sexes. With a variety of contemporary programs, the mobile phone is offered in the market for a lower price and has more uses than a computer and the Internet. Their youthful lives are affected, and they become deviant at a young age due to the little cinema that has evolved into their mobile phone, which makes them want to lose interest in schoolwork.

**Avoiding imparting ethical values to children:** young children are more likely to break laws than you might think. Their absence of moral values is one of the main causes of this. On a tight schedule, parents already handle a lot of responsibilities. Children's moral foundations are rarely taught because of a lack of time. Little ones lack the mental capacity to discriminate between right and wrong. Inappropriate content is also made available to kids as a result of increased media and technological exposure. Due to incorrect exposure, moral and ethical values in the following generation also declined. due to the widespread usage of smartphones, parents are unable to

\(^{13}\) Visiting the porno site on the internet is increased: No steps for control, [http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/new/p-36593](http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/new/p-36593).

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monitor their children's activities. If the child's behavior is not carefully watched, it might be very harmful to their development and lead them on a different path. Grandparents used to teach children fundamental moral and ethical ideals in earlier times when living in joint families was a popular way to live with the family. However, parents are failing to give their kids enough time since nuclear families are becoming more and more popular.

Electronic device addiction among children
Electronic devices have more positive than negative effects on child development. Which gradually turns into a big problem. Children are tomorrow's future. Future generations of children will take care of the country and the nation, leading them with their conscience. In order to achieve it, it is our duty to guarantee children's well-being. Children are like clay. They will be made as they are made. They will go the right route if you show them the way. Therefore, when dealing with kids, you need to be a little more vigilant. Any action should be taken with caution. Technology is one of the great modern inventions. Through technology, the era is changing significantly. Nowadays, children frequently utilize technology as well. Children's activities are increasingly reliant on technology. But this is definitely not a positive aspect. Technology was created by humans. Therefore, technology should be controlled by people, never the other way around. Children's diseases are caused by using electronic devices. The use of technology not only hinders a child's growth but the child is also afflicted by numerous disorders. For example:

Difficulty sleeping
A child needs 10 to 12 hours of sleep every day. It is key for a child's brain growth to get enough sleep. Lack of sleep from a young age can cause a number of issues in later life. From an early age, it is important to ensure that children get enough sleep, and to do this, electronic gadgets should not be allowed near them.15

Children's mental health issues:
Children become quickly addicted to a variety of electronic devices, including smartphones, laptops, and PCs. Electronic devices frequently lead to a lot of stress. It is typical to experience issues like impatience, aggression, or being out of control. Such issues significantly affect how

15 Muhammad Shakib, Effects of electronic devices on the mental development of children and their role, from Best drug rehab center and mental health hospital in Dhaka Bangladesh (niramoyhospital.org)
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children's minds develop. The youngster loses self-control and experiences uncontrollable emotional states as a result of the sudden emotional changes. This subsequently results in a number of issues, including depression in children. Even on separate jobs, it is impossible to maintain concentration. These issues worsen if kids use their phones or other electronic gadgets for longer than two hours. Later, a number of fresh issues emerged.

Eye problems:
We know more or less about this. Ultraviolet (UV) rays emitted from electronic devices are very harmful to the eyes and it is much more harmful to the eyes of children. Everything from every part of the body of children is much more vulnerable. At such times, the rays emitted from electronic devices dry up the necessary water in the eyes, due to which the number of blinks per second of the child increases and various complications occurs. The biggest problem is an addiction to electronic devices. A child cannot be expected to become addicted to any electronic device. A child's addiction to anything, not just electronic devices, is undesirable. Children are just learning. There is no sense of good or bad, positive or negative. If addiction sets in, he will lose interest in new things. It will hinder its proper development. So, it is better to keep children away from electronic devices.

In addition to the concerns mentioned above, children suffer from a variety of other issues.

The external challenges
Along with the previously described internal obstacles, raising children in Bangladesh now faces a number of external challenges, which we summarize as follows:

The school's environment:
There is no doubt that education plays a significant part in the formation of future generations since it is seen as an essential component in the upbringing of children. When a student goes to school, he is influenced by the school's system, environment, and laws. The student learns that the educational system and its surroundings are flawed, and as a result, what he observes at school has an impact on his life.

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If we turn our attention to public schools, we see that their environments are not appropriate for the teachings of the Islamic religion, and the application of the provisions of the Islamic religion in most public school arenas is very little. Mixing between the sexes, wanton display, and some other cultures that are practiced in public schools are not in line with the provisions of Islamic law, and as a result, Male and female students move away from the teachings of Islam without feeling or feeling even though they are studying a compulsory subject “Islamic Education and Ethics”; However, this article does not affect their applied lives due to lack of sufficient interest in the public schoolyard.

If we turn our focus to schools or madrasahs, we observe that their settings are not suitable for Islamic religious teachings and that Islamic religious rules are rarely applied in most public educational environments. Even if they are learning the required subject "Islamic Education and Ethics," mixing between the sexes, wanton exhibitions, and other cultures are practiced in public schools that are not in accordance with the rules of Islamic law, and as a result, male and female students drift away from Islamic teachings without even realizing it. This is because there is not enough interest in the public schoolyard to make them care about this issue.

Educational approach:
The majority of people in Bangladesh are Muslims, as is the country itself. In both public and private institutions, it is clear that Islamic curricula are emphasized. Regrettably, Islamic curricula are not the foundation of the national curriculum in Bangladesh. People who study in schools are thereby impacted by the curricula, which prevents them from learning. They know the Islamic rules, regulations, and laws till they can be authentic Muslims, but they do not know the correct beliefs and deeds of worship.

There is no doubt that the primary stage is crucial for developing a child's personality in the future, but children who attend public schools miss out on the religious component from the very start of their academic careers. Due to the lack of religious instruction in the first and second grades of primary school, Bengali, English, and mathematics are the first subjects that children study in government-run classrooms rather than the religion that protects them from tuberculosis. As a result, the majority of crimes in Bangladesh are perpetrated by people who have acquired knowledge without Islam. According to statistics, eve teasing in Bangladesh has hit an all-time high.
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According to the statistics of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (Women's Rights are Human Rights) In 2021, 3,703 women and girls were abused. Between January and December of 2021, 3,703 women and girls were abused in different areas of the country. One thousand two hundred thirty-five women were raped last year. 179 of them had been gang raped. Additionally, between January and December 2021, 629 girls were sexually assaulted, including 62 gang-raped victims. After being raped 31 women including 22 female children died. 7 persons suicide as a result of rape. In addition, 155 women including 93 children were the victim of attempted rape. Pedophilia involved 33 women, including 14 children. 62 children and 95 women total were sexually attacked. Acid burns were sustained by 22 people, including 5 girls. four deaths\textsuperscript{18}.

\textsuperscript{18} Biplab Chakraborty, Women and girls are oppressed, The daily star Bangla, https://bangla.thedailystar.net
Bad friendship or companionship

A good friend makes his friend virtuous, while a bad friend turns his friend into a horoscope, and vice versa. If we observe Bangladeshi society, we notice that many good kids have turned cruel for the benefit of their dishonest friends. Due to the influence of his dishonest friend, the child who has always prayed has stopped doing so. This is true whether the child was aware of immorality and stealing or not. Because he is becoming accustomed to reading, he is now influenced by his companions' immoral behavior and commits adultery, stealing, lies, or violates the rights of others.

According to renowned sociologist Dr. Anupam Sen, "bad friendship or companionship" is a significant contributor to juvenile criminality. They are 20 years old on average. Some are between the ages of 16 and 18, while others are between the ages of 20 and 23. They are involved in horrible crimes. Recently, there have been a number of killings, murders, extortions, and rapes in different parts of Bangladesh. In cases that have been brought for each crime, the majority of suspects are 20 years old on average. Teenagers carry knives and even guns around at this age. Mastani, substance abuse, whistling and making inappropriate gestures at girls. Words hurt. By committing one crime after another, they are damaging the family's name and peace while also destroying their own future. A large percentage of them are involved in horrifying, unthinkable activities.

The challenges of raising Muslim children in Bangladesh are among the additional advantages we mentioned earlier. We also claim that this is not an accurate depiction of Bangladeshi society. There are many mosques and Islamic movements that work sincerely for the well-being of the people on the one hand and for the Islamic nation on the other, as well as several Islamic schools, both governmental and non-governmental, that propagate proper views and Islamic studies.

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19 The Daily Azadi, "Bad friendship", https://dainikazadi.net
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Approaches to these challenges:

In light of the difficulties facing Muslim parents in Bangladesh, which we have already touched upon, we next wish to highlight possible solutions.

Build a wonderful family:

There is no doubt that the family is made up of the father and the mother, who are two essential parts and play significant roles in growing the children. If we want to raise our children well, we must be a good family, and in that regard, we must strive to be a good example for them. The family is the first institution in charge of growing the child, and it shapes in him the numerous optimum attitudes, values, and ethical norms thanks to his psychological fortitude. It may be concluded that the family plays a significant part in raising children, both physically and emotionally, as well as in influencing their values and behavior. Moreover, Omar bin Abdul Aziz's phrase, "May Allah have mercy on him" is quite wonderful “Goodness is from Allah and good manners are from parents” (الصلاح من الله والأدب من الآباء). Parents have unique values and behaviors that they apply to their children on various occasions, and as a result, parental deviations are among the most harmful things that cause deviation in children.

From a biological perspective, the parents must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the child is born healthy and happy, including consistently taking prescribed medications and following any advice given by the doctor that helps the child's condition. Regarding the psychological part, parents must give their children psychological support and stability. It is also essential to ensure they are mentally normal by instilling self-confidence in them and motivating them to confront and overcome life's challenges.

Building of optimal conditions and environments:

The environment has a great role in building a great personality, so we must take care of creating suitable environments and conditions for our children. If the children find a good environment inside and outside the family, they will not be affected by moral decay, but if they leave their

21 Dr. Abdul Latif bin Ibrahim Al-Hussein, the role of the family in raising children, https://www.wledi.com/conseils.
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homes and then see corruption and strife in the streets, markets, and other places, they will be affected by it. And they are encouraged to know what the corrupt do. Therefore, we must reform the environment for the benefit of our children and our children. Because children, by their nature, imitate everything they find in front of them.

The child's environment has a significant and beneficial impact on his life and the growth of his personality. A person is affected by the customs that are practiced around him even at an early age. He acquires his personality, ethics, habits, and style of thinking from his environment or place of residence. It has been demonstrated that a child's personality is significantly influenced by his parents, the way the family behaves, and his place within the family.

**Keep away from harmful companies.**

A person is naturally influenced by his friends, thus he adopts their personality, qualities, activities, and catchphrases. If he made the wrong decision, his friends' characteristics would mistakenly reflect poorly on him and his morals. As a result, friendship evolves into animosity and members, and regret does not function. Neither does stealing or killing, which naturally results in soul loss.

The father must utilize his family relations, which varies from the emotional mother's influence since it is believed that the father is better able to set boundaries for the kid and keep him away from his harmful friends. One should be aware that your children choose their friends in the same way that you did, and they choose those who share their hobbies and games, as well as those who are similar to them in personal characteristics.

There are many different types of bad friends that you should avoid making relationships with since they are more likely to lead to evil and corruption than to goodness and morality. Undoubtedly, companionship has its effects on one us. If that is the case, then it is better for us to warn the company of the corrupt and immoral, because the companion is a lover and may drag his companion to the path of evil and corruption, so that you see a man who proceeds by instinct on the path of good and begins on the path of worship, so if the bandits - Of the evil people - they prevent him from continuing on the path, and prevent him from the straight path.

**Islamic culture propagation**

The Islamic world has departed from the Islamic curriculum that Muslim scholars in earlier periods adhered to. The earliest Muslim educators, whose contributions to scientific research expanded their horizons and whose educational philosophy was adopted by many generations, outlined the
beginning of instruction for children as early as age four, starting with memorization of the Qur'an. The foundation of other studies can also be seen in the hadiths, as well as in the wisdom that is spoken after the age of discernment, which is seven and above. Moreover, since the Islamic world adopted the Western and Eastern curricula, they have strayed from the Islamic curriculum, and it's possible that students have reached the university level without being familiar with the fundamentals of Islam which are not effective until they are understood in theory and applied. As a result, it was essential that the study of Islamic culture be made mandatory in all institutions from the beginning.

One of the most crucial aspects of a Muslim child's upbringing is introducing them to Islamic culture, as the world is currently ruled by intellectual and cultural invasion. The anti-Islamic movement promotes divisive cultural policies and propagates them abroad. And one way to do this is by creating television channels, broadcasting Islamic programming tailored to Muslim children, publishing newspapers, magazines, and publications, making films, and adhering to Islamic values that highlight the benefits of Islam and its cultures to society.

Conclusion
Among the article's most notable findings are:

1. The nation's quality of life is significantly impacted by proper education.
2. There are several difficulties in childrearing in Bangladesh.
3. A good family plays a significant part in raising up kids and teaching noble values to them.
4. The Bangladeshi educational system and curricula need to be reformatted and then improved in accordance with the needs of the Islamic populace and the demands of the modern period.
5. The proper use of computers, the Internet, cell phones, and other contemporary tools must be emphasized, and kids must be kept from abusing them.
6. Being one of the most critical parts of a student's education, school campuses, and their boundaries must be practiced suitable for students, by providing a divine ambiance and the practice of divine religion.
7. Bangladeshi children face many difficulties, including poverty, which must be eliminated in order for the children's education to advance.
8. Children should be kept away from harmful films and cartoons since they have a negative impact on their lives till their behavior deviates.
9. In order to address Muslim children's internal requirements and to guard against external currents and their ills, cultural and entertainment activities must be developed in the proper manner.

10. Reforming the government is also necessary because there are some issues that can only be resolved at the political level. For example, if the government is not Islamic, we cannot raise our children the way we see fit.
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