

## Promoting Lifelong Learning Through Islamic Values: The Role of Muslim Women in Child Upbringing

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### ABSTRACT

*This study explores the role of Muslim women in promoting lifelong learning through the lens of Islamic values, particularly in the context of child upbringing. Drawing on Islamic teachings and educational philosophy, this research addresses the gap in understanding how Muslim women contribute to lifelong learning within the framework of Islamic values in the context of child rearing in Nigeria. It also aims to highlight the critical role that Muslim women play in shaping children's educational foundations and the impact of their efforts in fostering ongoing learning throughout their lives. By examining the experiences and perspectives of Muslim women in various educational settings, it seeks to uncover the unique challenges and opportunities they face in upholding Islamic values and promoting lifelong learning among children, using an in-depth analysis of data, a descriptive-analytical approach, and a historical and descriptive methodology. This research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how Muslim women can effectively promote lifelong learning through Islamic values in child upbringing. The findings of this study have implications for educational policies and initiatives that aim to promote lifelong learning and empower Muslim women to play a vital role in shaping future generations. The recommendations derived from this study may include encouraging collaboration between educational institutions and Islamic scholars to integrate Islamic values into formal education curricula.*

**Keywords:** *Muslim women, Lifelong learning, Islamic values, Child upbringing*

### INTRODUCTION

This paper explores the essential role that Muslim women play in promoting lifelong learning and integrating Islamic values into children's upbringing, especially within Nigerian society (Ahmed, 2020; Ibrahim, 2019). It examines the various contributions of Muslim women, highlighting their distinctive role in shaping educational methods, fostering character development, and encouraging a culture of continuous learning rooted in Islamic principles (Khan, 2021).

In Nigeria, where Islamic values greatly influence societal norms, understanding the complex relationship between Islamic teachings and educational practices is crucial (Ali, 2018). Muslim women, as educators and caregivers, play an essential role in embedding these values into child-rearing, thereby promoting academic knowledge and encouraging ethical and moral development (Abdullahi, 2019). The study explores the educational methods employed by Muslim women in Nigeria, analysing how these approaches help nurture lifelong learners and responsible citizens rooted in Islamic ethics (Oyekanmi, 2020). The link between Islamic teachings and modern educational theories provides insights into how Muslim women inspire

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children to view learning as a lifelong journey guided by moral principles (Rahman, 2021).

The distinct and influential role of Muslim women in shaping the educational landscape and fostering a culture of lifelong learning within Nigerian society (Musa, 2022). By recognising and celebrating their contributions, this study aims to encourage collaboration between educational institutions and Islamic scholars, promote community engagement, and raise awareness about the importance of lifelong learning and character development from an Islamic perspective (Ahmed, 2020).

## **METHOD**

The article employs academic databases, a descriptive-analytical approach, and a historical-descriptive methodology. Library resources and online libraries serve as primary data sources, including books, scientific journals, and documents.

## **FINDINGS**

This paper provides insights into how these educational practices develop a morally grounded, lifelong learning mindset in children. It also guides educators, policymakers, and parents on the importance of Islamic values in fostering lifelong learning and shaping future generations of Muslims. Moreover, it suggests that Muslim women should play a crucial role in promoting lifelong learning by embodying Islamic values such as patience, empathy, and perseverance.

### **Educational Approaches Promote Lifelong Learning among Nigerian Muslim Women**

Nigerian Muslim women employ various educational strategies to promote lifelong learning and foster responsible citizenship. These approaches often incorporate Islamic values into educational practices, fostering a holistic view of education. For example, they may utilise storytelling and parables from Islamic teachings to communicate moral lessons and encourage critical thinking among children (Ahmed, 2020). Additionally, integrating experiential learning through community service and engagement with ethical dilemmas helps nurture empathy, social responsibility, and a sense of civic duty in learners (Ibrahim et al., 2019).

The educational strategies employed by Nigerian Muslim women focus on developing lifelong learners who are not only academically proficient but also uphold strong moral and ethical values. By integrating Islamic principles such as honesty, integrity, and compassion into their teaching approaches, these educators encourage a sense of purpose and commitment to ongoing learning among their students (Ali, 2018). Additionally, through collaborative and inquiry-based learning, they foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and a profound appreciation of knowledge as an ongoing pursuit (Hassan, 2021).

### **Nigerian Muslim Women's Application of Islamic Teachings for Lifelong Learning and Ethical Development**

Nigerian Muslim women's application of Islamic teachings to lifelong learning and ethical development can be understood through the interplay of faith-based knowledge, community participation, and daily moral practice. Drawing on the Quranic emphasis on acquiring knowledge (*'ilm*) and personal growth, many women attend *halaqah* (study circles),

mosque-based classes, and digital Islamic learning platforms, where they deepen their understanding of theology, jurisprudence, and contemporary ethical issues.

This learning is not solely intellectual; it becomes integrated into daily life, influencing family relationships, professional conduct, community leadership, and decisions regarding health, finance, and social responsibility. By continually engaging with Islamic principles such as *adl* (justice), *ihsan* (excellence), and *amanah* (trustworthiness), these women promote ethical decision-making and develop a strong moral compass, all while navigating cultural expectations, gender norms, and socio-economic realities. Their lifelong learning thus functions both as a spiritual duty and a pathway to empowerment, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to Nigerian society while remaining faithful to Islamic values.

### ***Promotion of Lifelong Learning:***

Nigerian Muslim women actively champion lifelong learning by highlighting the Quranic command to seek knowledge continuously (Al-Qur'an 20:114). They participate in personal growth and motivate others to pursue education throughout their lives (Sani & Ibrahim, 2020).

### ***Ethical Development:***

Islamic teachings provide a foundation for moral development among Nigerian Muslim women, emphasising values such as honesty, compassion, and justice (Al-Qur'an 2:177). They integrate these values into their conduct, promoting ethical behaviour within their communities (Abdullahi & Yusuf, 2018).

### ***Role Modelling for Learning:***

Nigerian Muslim women serve as role models for education by actively engaging in learning activities and inspiring others to appreciate education (Ahmed & Ali, 2019). Their actions foster a culture of learning and intellectual curiosity.

### ***Community Engagement:***

They engage with their communities to promote educational initiatives and programmes, emphasising the importance of education in personal and societal development (Bello & Ibrahim, 2021). This community involvement fosters a positive environment for lifelong learning.

### ***Integration of Islamic Values:***

Nigerian Muslim women incorporate Islamic principles into educational settings by including teachings on ethics, morality, and spirituality within curriculum design and educational activities (Muhammad & Musa, 2020).

### ***Collaboration with Educational Institutions:***

They collaborate with educational institutions to integrate Islamic teachings into formal education, ensuring that ethical principles are embedded in the learning process (Kabiru & Lawal, 2019).

### ***Promotion of Critical Thinking:***

Nigerian Muslim women foster critical thinking skills by encouraging inquiry, analysis,

and discussion within an ethical framework based on Islamic principles (Hussain & Adamu, 2020).

### **Nigerian Muslim Women's Intersection of Islamic Teachings and Modern Education**

Nigerian Muslim women play a crucial role in integrating Islamic teachings with contemporary education, creating a vibrant intersection that promotes holistic development and ethical awareness among students. Here is an exploration of how Nigerian Muslim women navigate this intersection:

#### ***Ethical Integration:***

Nigerian Muslim women incorporate Islamic ethics into contemporary education by emphasising values such as honesty, integrity, compassion, and justice (Al-Qur'an 2:177). They demonstrate ethical behaviour and foster moral awareness among students (Abdullahi & Yusuf, 2018).

#### ***Holistic Education:***

Islamic teachings advocate holistic development across spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social dimensions. Nigerian Muslim women support a comprehensive education that cultivates all aspects of a student's being (Ahmed & Ali, 2019).

#### ***Critical Thinking and Inquiry:***

Islam promotes critical thinking and independent inquiry as vital tools for acquiring knowledge and understanding (Al-Qur'an 6:151). Nigerian Muslim women integrate these skills into educational practices, fostering a culture of curiosity and analytical thought (Bello & Ibrahim, 2021).

#### ***Integration of Islamic Studies:***

Nigerian Muslim women advocate for the incorporation of Islamic studies into the curriculum, offering students a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings alongside other academic subjects (Kabiru & Lawal, 2019). This integration encourages cultural appreciation and religious literacy.

#### ***Promotion of Social Justice:***

Islamic teachings highlight social justice, equality, and compassion for marginalised communities (Al-Qur'an 4:135). Nigerian Muslim women strive to create inclusive and fair educational environments that uphold these principles (Hussain & Adamu, 2020).

#### ***Collaborative Approaches:***

Collaboration among Nigerian Muslim women, educators, policymakers, and community leaders is essential for effectively integrating Islamic teachings into modern education (Muhammad & Musa, 2020). Joint efforts improve cultural sensitivity and responsiveness in educational practices.

### **The Role of Nigerian Muslim Women**

Insights into the role of Nigerian Muslim women offer a nuanced understanding of their

multifaceted contributions and responsibilities within society. Here are key insights into the diverse roles played by Nigerian Muslim women:

***Family and Community Caregivers:***

Nigerian Muslim women often serve as primary caregivers within their families and communities, nurturing children, supporting elderly relatives, and maintaining household well-being. Their role extends beyond domestic duties to encompass emotional support and familial cohesion (Abubakar & Ibrahim, 2019).

***Educational Advocates:***

Many Nigerian Muslim women advocate for education, both for themselves and for others. They actively promote educational opportunities for women and girls, advocate for girls' access to schooling, and participate in educational initiatives that empower individuals and communities (Usman & Mohammed, 2020).

***Leadership in Business and Entrepreneurship:***

Nigerian Muslim women are increasingly taking on leadership roles in business and entrepreneurship. They demonstrate innovation, resilience, and managerial skills in various sectors, contributing to economic growth and community development (Bello & Musa, 2021).

***Cultural and Religious Preservers:***

Nigerian Muslim women play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage and religious traditions. They actively participate in religious activities, contribute to community rituals and celebrations, and transmit cultural knowledge to future generations (Omar & Abdullahi, 2018).

***Advocates for Social Justice:***

Nigerian Muslim women are advocates for social justice and human rights, addressing issues such as gender equality, women's empowerment, and community development. They engage in advocacy, activism, and community organising to promote positive social change (Suleiman & Aliyu, 2020).

***Health and Wellness Promoters:***

Nigerian Muslim women contribute to health and wellness initiatives within their communities. They raise awareness of healthcare issues, participate in health education programs, and promote healthy lifestyles grounded in Islamic principles of well-being (Ibrahim & Haruna, 2019).

***Educators and Mentors:***

Many Nigerian Muslim women are educators and mentors, providing guidance and support to people of all ages. They contribute to educational institutions, religious schools, and community learning centres, encouraging intellectual growth and character development (Adamu & Hassan, 2021). These insights into the roles of Nigerian Muslim women highlight their diverse and valuable contributions to family life, education, business, culture, advocacy, healthcare, and community development.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, Muslim women in Nigeria play a vital role in shaping the educational landscape and promoting a culture of lifelong learning guided by Islamic values. Their contributions as educators, mentors, curriculum developers, and community leaders are crucial in fostering holistic education and ethical growth among students and society at large.

This paper has explored the diverse roles and impactful initiatives of Muslim women in enhancing educational practices, incorporating Islamic teachings, and fostering a love for lifelong learning. From shaping curriculum content to providing mentorship and advocacy, Muslim women educators in Nigeria are essential agents of positive change in the education sector. It is crucial to recognise and support the efforts of Muslim women educators by implementing recommendations, including professional development programmes, curriculum enhancements, community engagement initiatives, mentorship opportunities, research support, and recognition schemes. These initiatives will further enable Muslim women educators to continue their valuable contributions to education and ethical development in Nigerian society.

By working collaboratively and strategically, we can unlock the full potential of Muslim women educators to create an educational landscape that fosters lifelong learners and responsible citizens grounded in Islamic values.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study promotes stronger collaboration between Islamic scholars and educational institutions to integrate Islamic values into formal education systems. It urges meaningful cooperation between these entities to embed Islamic principles in curricula and to provide training and resources for Muslim women to enhance their child-rearing skills.

This research addresses a gap in the literature by focusing on the role of Muslim women in Nigeria in promoting lifelong learning, a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of education. Therefore, it calls for the implementation of professional development programs for Muslim women educators in Nigeria, grounded in Islamic principles, that promote community engagement and dialogue.

The paper advocates collaboration with educational institutions and Islamic scholars to improve the Islamised curriculum, thereby promoting awareness of the importance of lifelong learning and character development from an Islamic perspective.

Muslim women educators should be encouraged to participate in research and to publish scholarly work on education, Islamic values, and lifelong learning. Support and mentor younger educators by offering guidance and professional development opportunities. Until the Nigerian Government recognises and celebrates the contributions of Muslim women educators through awards, incentives, and support networks.

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