



Chapter 7

Waqf Education for Economic Growth: An Indian Perspective

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ABSTRACT

The foundation of waqf (religious endowment), an act of establishment of a charitable trust, often in the form of a property or any legitimate fund-generating estate – for which public utilities are designated as recipients of the yields, among different purposes – laid the foundation of an independent means of financing for education across the Muslim world. In recent years, overall cost of education has been increasing, despite intervention from the government in the form of grants and soft loans. In general, parents and students alike face the burden of ever-increasing fees to enroll in the higher education learning institutions while the education institutions themselves also face increasing costs to operate and provide quality education. Waqf is an Islamic financial instrument which can be utilized in solving various educational issues in India. It is a known fact that waqf education institutions are significant assets in the development of skill and knowledge amongst the Muslim communities.

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INTRODUCTION

“Central Wakf Council, India is an Indian statutory body established in 1964 by the Government of India under Wakf Act, 1954 (now a sub section the Wakf Act, 1995) for the purpose of advising it on matters pertaining to working of the State Wakf Boards and proper administration of the Wakfs in the country. Wakf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognized by Muslim Law, given by philanthropists. The grant is known as mushrut-ul-khidmat; while a person making such dedication is known as Wakf”.

The concept of waqf for education to ensure a more reasonable and sustainable education in the country. This paper focused on growth of higher learning institutions through a waqf perspective to make higher education more accessible towards the economic development of country. The waqf concept has been utilized for diverse purposes like eradication of poverty, providing shelter and also for educational empowerment and economical development of the country. In general, the fundamental objective of waqf concept is to provide assistance to the needy and poor people.

“Waqf is an Islamic financial instrument which can be used to resolve educational problem. It is a well-known truth that waqf learning institutions are major resources in the improvement of knowledge amongst the Muslim communities in country like India”. It offers opportunities not only to obtain knowledge but also guide to Muslims towards good deeds. This paper will assess the early growth of educational waqf in Islamic civilisation during the days of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the present day educational waqf system in India.

BACKGROUND OF WAQF INSTITUTION

“The origin of the Waqf is traced to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and his companions. Of the two mosques, Quba Mosque and the mosque of the Prophet Muhammad (Masjid Al Nabawi) are examples of Waqf. Moreover, Umar bin Khattab (May Allah (SWT) be pleased with him) has donated a piece of land in Khaibar as Waqf”.

“Besides *waqf* for worshipping purposes, the most important *waqf* in the history of Islam was the development and dissemination of knowledge through educational institutions. This type of *waqf* had been introduced since the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, whereby the Prophet’s mosque in Madinah Al-Munawwarah was not only used for worshipping. Prophet Muhammad SAW used the mosque to develop the understanding of *sahabah* regarding the teaching of Islam. Most of these activities took place after the Maghrib prayer or it could be in other times. After Muslims grew not only in the vicinity of Medina, the mosques in many places

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