

ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING ISLAMIC STUDIES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY IN SCHOOLS IN ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Islamic education aims at instilling the revealed and acquired religion as well as the consciousness of Allah *Subhanahu wata'ala* (S.W.T) among the growing generation of the Muslims. It places a very high concern on its adherents to keep seeking and acquiring useful knowledge from cradles to graves. Therefore, any useful knowledge that come in this 21st century is welcome in Islam. The significance of the paper is to enlighten and encourage Islamic Studies teachers of this generation to be productive through the utilization of Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T) in teaching for paradigm shift for national development and social cohesion. I.C.T gives new ways of learning, it brings inclusions of students in teaching and learning. The methodology of the paper is a survey through consulting the Qur'an and Hadith as the primary sources. While the secondary sources include text books and journals. The vacuum of the paper reveals that in this digital age yet, some Islamic studies teachers do not employ I.C.T in delivering their lesson thus, discouraging students to be digital too. The paper concludes that Islamic studies teachers to keep upgrading their knowledge in I.C.T through attending conferences, seminars and workshops. While the government and stakeholders should motivate the teachers through sponsoring their in-service programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops for the optimum delivery of their responsibilities.

Key Words: Islamic Education, I.C.T, National Development & Productivity

Introduction

Education is one of the main strategies that help individuals to contribute greatly to themselves, families, neighbours and the society in general. In Islam, the search for knowledge is incumbent upon all. Knowledge in Islam is a great gift from Allah that is why Allah (S.W.T) made it clear that the best are those who help others by encouraging them to do good and to avoid evils. In another verse Allah (S.W.T) says the knowledgeable and the illiterates are not equal in Qur'an Chapter (3:110) and Qur'an Chapter 39: 9 respectively. Allah says in Qur'an Chapter (3:110) thus;

You are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin Al-Ma'aruf (good) and forbid Al-Munkar (evils), and you believe in Allah...

While Qur'an Chapter (39: 9) praises the knowledgeable saying thus;

...Say: "are those who know equal to those who know not?" It is only men of understanding who will remember (i.e. get a lesson from Allah's Signs and Verses).

On this note, Mustapha, (2021) explains that one of the well-known Hadith of the Prophet (S.A.W) described knowledge as the stray camel of the believers who ever finds it should take it therefore, Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T) being the combination of two technologies namely, information and communication technology refer to a method through which data are stored, processed and analyzed, until they become useful information which can be used by both

teachers and students of Islamic Studies. With knowledge and technology development prevail maintained Lemu, (2005).

Development being the process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental and social spheres of lives. The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of the life of the population and the creation and expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities without damaging the resources of the environment. Development is visible and useful not necessarily immediately and includes an aspect of quality change and the creation of conditions for a continuation of that change.

The 21st century is the age of Information and Communication Technology. All over the globe as posits by Anthony, et al., (2022) that there is a trend to use I.C.T in teaching learning process. The teacher and learner have to gain access to technology for improving learning outcomes for productivity. The education system around the world are under increasing pressure to use the new I.C.T to teach the students the knowledge and skills they need in the 21st century for productivity. I.C.T promotes higher order of thinking skills. It equally develops I.C.T literacy and I.C.T capability within the students. I.C.T can change the traditional ways of teaching by the teachers for productivity. I.C.T is becoming more important and this importance will continue to grow and develop in the 21st century. With the coming of new technologies, there is a paradigm shift in the present teaching profession, which is evolving from an emphasis on teacher centred i.e. teacher-based instruction to student-centred interaction teaching (Anthony et al. 2022).

Concept of Education

Education is an instrument, a resource and a means of achieving the wider objectives of development. Education might contain elements of and periods of schooling, but it is a lot more than schooling, a lot more than acquisition of knowledge and skills (Obanya, 2007). Education is a continue process of all – round development of human person and above all, it takes place in the society for the benefits of the society. Education is in fact, equivalent to going through life. This is why it is customary to talk of lifelong, life wide and lifetime education. This implies that our education continues as we go through life, as we engage in all sorts of stages in our life and as far as we are alive (Obanya, 2007).

By educating an individual we attempt to give him some desirable knowledge, understanding, skills and productivity, interests, attitudes and critical thinking as well as spiritual empowerment. That is, he acquires knowledge of history, religions, geography, languages, mathematics and sciences etc. He develops some understanding about the deeper things in life, the complex human relations and the cause and effect and so on. He gets some skills in writing, speaking, calculating, drawing, operating some equipment performing his duties to his Creator (Allah S.W.T). He develops some interest in an attitude towards social work, democratic living, and cooperative management performing congregational acts of worship and being productive to himself, his family, friends, society and the nation at large.

Concept of Islamic Education

Islamic Education is a system which transmits the revealed and acquired knowledge to the younger generation of Muslims in order to worship Allah (S.W.T) and to prepare them for life and enable them to discharge their duties as the vicegerent of Allah (S.W.T) the Most High on earth (NTI, 2000). Generally, the Islamic education like any other type of education that seeks to cultivate the Muslim individual. And it operates in all fields of educational research including teaching philosophies, histories, sciences, schemes and technology etc. All this bounds to the Islamic view point and the application of which helps the Muslims to adopt kind of behavior that corresponds with the Islamic faith. Islam has given great importance to the process of seeking knowledge. The first five (5) verses

that were revealed to the Prophet (S.A.W) was on the importance of seeking knowledge. Islam makes it a religious duty upon Muslims to seek knowledge Ibn Majah, (2006). Seeking knowledge with the intention of benefiting oneself, family, the Muslim *Ummah* the generality of mankind for productivity.

Education is the basis for the socio-political economic, physical, moral, spiritual, scientific and technological development of both the individual and the society within which he lives. Education is a fundamental instrument which differentiates a fully developed human being in other creatures. Education is the key to the success of mankind both this world and the Hereafter. The Creator and Lord of mankind (Allah) says:

*Verily, the only people who truly fear Allah among His servants are the learned ones
(Qur'ān Chapter 35:28)*

This verse states clearly that those who fear Allah are mostly the educated ones. Islamic education is the education which comprises set of tenets pertaining to human nature, creed, and intellect with spiritual and physical values. The Glorious Qur'ān and the Prophet's *Sunnah* provide the fundamentals and moral teachings regarding the religion. The concept and meaning of Islamic education were described by Muslim educationists in the various ways as maintained (Dar al-ifta Almissiriyyah, 2020) thus;

1. Cultivating all intellectual, emotional, physical and social aspects of the personality; based on Islamic teachings and values with the aim of achieving the optimum goals of leading a dignified life entangled with a religious flavor, hence, a means of development and productivity.
2. Provide Muslims individuals with an all-encompassing preparation process that involves all aspects of his/her personality. Which continues throughout his growing phases to be able to handle his worldly life and that of other, in light of the teaching and values of Islam, and in accordance with and educational methodology defined by educational specialists.
3. Purposeful process that is guided by Islamic Sharī'ah and seek to cultivate all aspects of human personality in a way that achieves total submission and worship of Almighty Allah (S.W.T). It is a process which a person of special talents directs the learning process of other individuals using specific educational materials and appropriate development and productivity techniques.

Importance of Seeking Knowledge In Islam

The importance of education in Islam has been highlighted in the first five verses of the Glorious Qur'ān which came down to the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) appointing him as a Prophet and subsequently a Messenger of Allah (S.W.T). In that very historic and fundamental revelation which brought about a global revolution in the history of Mankind, Allah (S.W.T) says, thus;

“Read! In the name of your Lord who creates, He created man out of a clot of congealed blood. Read! and your Lord is the Most Bountiful; He who teaches by the use of the Pen; He taught man what he knew not” (Qur'ān Chapter 95: 1 – 5)

The basis of Islamic Education, in fact, any types of education for that matter, is clearly established in the above set of Qur'ānic verses. The terms: read, teach, and pen are used to signify the importance of education. These three instruments are very crucial educational development in particular. It is therefore, important to note that Islam places a very high premium on education and that is why the first revelation which came down to Messenger of Allah Muhammad (S.A.W) did not order him to preach Islam to people but he was ordered to read. Because, to preach one has to read first. And to further concretize the fundamental basis of education in Islam, another Qur'ānic verse made it clear that in fact, the only people who truly fear Allah are those who are learned among Mankind. Allah (S.W.T) says in the following verse thus,

Verily, the only people who truly fear Allah among His servants are the learned ones
 (Qur'an Chapter 35: 28).

The above Qur'ānic *Ayah* has not only established the basic of education in Islam but that it has made it abundantly clear that the only people who actually fear Allah are those who are blessed with knowledge. Hence, as a proverb says the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom; wisdom here refers to knowledge. Indeed, Allah (S.W.T) equated those people who are starkly ignorant or have some knowledge but do not practice what they know, with the beasts of burden. The Most High says:

"Verily, We have prepared for hell-fire many among the Jinns and Mankind, because they have hearts with which they do not reflect, and they have eyes with which they do not see (the truth), and they have ears just like cattle, infact, they are much worse and more strayed; these are heedless of Allah's warning" (Qur'an Chapter 7:179).

The inability of man to use his brain, eyes and ears in order to intelligently think and wisely, learn some lessons through what he sees of the reality day by day; and what he hears thereof qualified him to be among the lower mammals. Therefore, knowledge itself is only meaningful and useful when it is practiced and it guides the one who possess it to have faith in Allah as the Creator, Controller, Sustainer and Lord of the Heavens and the Earth. And this is the reason why Allah (S.W.T) says, thus;

"...Allah will raise up to sustainable ranks and degrees or grade levels, those of you who believe and those of you who have been granted knowledge. And Allah is well acquainted with all that you do" (Qur'an Chapter 58:11).

It is therefore, plainly established here that Islam has placed education in a very noble position. Its acquisition, practical and positive utilization attract divine promotion for the learned person to higher grade levels spiritually, socially, educationally including development and productivity up to the technological production and usage etc. However, it has to be noted here that whatever level of education standard one has attained should not be a license for intellectual arrogance, haughtiness and similar negative characteristics. This is because all knowledge in totality belongs to Allah (S.W.T) and it is one of His attributes (i.e. *Al-Aleem*). He simply gives a very small portion of it to whoever He wills. One should therefore, be humbled and acknowledged that he simply is blessed with a very small portion out of the huge body of knowledge. The Most High says:

"...And you have not been granted with knowledge except a very small portion thereof" (Qur'an Chapter 17:85).

And the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (S.A.W) was reported to have said several statements reaffirming the basis of education in Islam. For instance, in one of the most popular hadith, the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) says:

"The search for knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim" (Ibn Majah).

In the above hadith, the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) has clearly stated the basis, the importance and the necessity of acquiring Islamic Education and other fields of knowledge. The whole venture is education is an obligatory duty. And upon obtaining the knowledge one automatically developed and can easily benefit others. Hence, enhance productivity and promote technological production and usage.

Principles of Teaching Islamic Studies

The most fundamental principle governing the teaching of Islamic Education include among others the following:-

The teacher should serves as a model not only to his students but to his fellow teaching colleagues and the community at large (Abdullahi and AbdulWahab, 2021). Prepares himself very well before entering the class. He should understand the students very well, in order not to over burden them with

academic work which is beyond their mental capabilities (Abdullahi and AbdulWahab, 2021); and should always be approachable to his students, sympathetic to their problems and Fatherly/Motherly in his relations towards them (Abdullahi and AbdulWahab, 2021). Relating the Islamic Studies subject to the day – to – day activities and the overall sectors of the life of the *Ummah* to benefit more people thereby encouraging development and productivity. Which include among others technological development and usage in beneficial and sustainable way.

Role of ICT for teaching Islamic Studies to enhance Productivity in Adamawa State

Further, the modern and up-to-date Islamic teacher is the one who is Computer literate. Because the old methods of tapping information and passing on knowledge is now modernized by innovations in technology, which made it easy to access strong and reliable knowledge by the push of a button. According to Abdullahi and AbdulWahab, (2021) that an Islamic Studies teacher should employ the following strategies while teaching:-

- a. Motivation:- to appropriately use information and communication technology in teaching and learning the course to inspire both the teacher and the students thereby making the lesson more lively and interesting
- b. Encouraging Active Participation:- Allow students to manipulate material such as computers, internet, projectors etc. during lesson will surely enhance development and productivity among the students
- c. Transformation of Abstract to Reality: - this is where the teacher uses effectively the I.C.T material to help practicalized topics that involve practical such as “the role of the *Masjid*”, “Hajj practical” etc.

Concept of Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T)

The term Information and Communication Technology (ICT) encompass a wide range of technologies including micro-computer (Portable and Desktop), software packages (word processors, data bases, spread sheets), input devices, (Keyboard, Mouse, Joystick, Light Pen, Track ball, Scanner, Microphone etc.) and storage devices, (compact disk, read only memory) (Ama, 2004). It also refers to tape recorder, fax machines, telephones, videos machines, satellites, televisions and overhead projection. In addition, I.C.T consists of Hardware, Software, Networks and Media collection, Storage processing, and Presentation of information (voice, data, text and image) (Ama, 2004). I.C.T include collection, creating, storing, and retrieving, manipulating, presentation, sending and receiving of information. Information technology is an omnibus term that combines computer and telecommunication technology; hence, it is sometimes called I.C.T. It is concern with technology use in handling, acquiring, processing, storing and disseminating information (Ama, 2014).

One of the changes and innovations which the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) adopted in her development efforts is the integration of Information and Communication Technology I.C.T in all levels of the educational system (Adeniyi et al, 2022). Although efforts have been made to ensure that I.C.Ts are available and used in Nigerian Secondary Schools level but uptake is still low (Adeniyi et al, 2022). Majority of private and public schools do not offer I.C.T practical training Programs (Adeniyi et al, 2022). Thus, affecting the students' appreciation of I.C.Ts. The field of education is also affected by the low or non-penetration of information and communication technology facilities (Adamu and Gaya, 2022). Undoubtedly, I.C.T has impact on the quality and quantity of teaching and learning Islamic education and other learning both inside and outside the classroom when properly provided at schools for the optimal performance of the schools and the students.

Islamic Studies Teacher in the 21st Century I.C.T World in Adamawa

Seeking for knowledge is synonymous with information and communication technology to Musa and Umar (2021). The modern and up-to-date Islamic Studies Teacher is the one who is Computer literate. Because to Abdullahi and AbdulWahab (2021) maintain that the old methods of tapping information and passing on knowledge is now modernized by the innovations in technology which made it easy to access strong and reliable knowledge by push bottom. Hence, the technology allows easy access to information, facilitates the process of learning and helps in effective communication. This will also help the Islamic Studies teachers in Classes. When we look at it from this angle, it is not difficult to relate I.C.T to teaching and learning Islamic Studies in Adamawa. This is because I.C.T is medium through which knowledge can be obtained and disseminated. Islamic Studies is a subject of disseminating knowledge.

Therefore, communication is vital in technology which equally is vital in teaching and learning Islamic Studies in Adamawa. Through the ongoing and effective use of technology in the schooling process in Adamawa, students have the opportunity to acquire important technology capabilities. The key individual in helping the students develop those capabilities in the classroom is the teacher of Islamic Studies. Therefore, all Islamic Studies Teachers in Adamawa need to prepare to provide their students with these opportunities in this century. Today, Islamic studies Teachers need to be prepared to use technology and to know how the technology can support student learning. Islamic studies Teachers of Adamawa need to be equipped with the technology resources and skills to teach the subject matter incorporating technology concepts, providing their students with qualitative learning. The development of I.C.T into the Nigerian education system generally, has come to stay to Suleiman (2022). Yet, some Islamic studies Teachers still faced difficulties with Computer manipulations.

I.C.T and its Values in Teaching Islamic Studies in the 21st Century

The Role of I.C.T in teaching and learning of Islamic Studies to enhance National Development in Adamawa State include:-

- a. It helps in flexibility of learning and teaching
- b. It assists in speedily in productivity of educational resources
- c. It facilitates efficiency and differentiation
- d. It increases efficiency and differentiation
- e. It helps in the designing, developing and manufacturing of instructional material hence, increasing development and productivity among teachers and students (Abdullahi and AbdulWahab, 2021).

The variety of instructional material available for the teacher to choose and make appropriate use in lessons can be obtained in I.C.T. These material can be applied when the need for demonstrating actions that require the application of the sense of sight (visual-aids) and the use of the sense of hearing (audio-aids) in teaching and learning arises. And also those material needed to demonstrate or to apply both senses are applicable to many topics in Islamic Studies (Abdullahi & AbdulWahab, 2021). This will enhance and promote development and productivity in teaching and learning Islamic Studies in Adamawa. Therefore, the Islamic studies Teacher can employ I.C.T to teach Hajj practical, *Sallah*- daily Prayers practically, the recitation of the Qur'ān practically for developing the students and for productivity in the 21st century.

Steps in Teaching Hajj Practicals Using I.C.T For Islamic Studies Students in Schools

After teaching the theoretical aspects of Hajj, the Islamic Studies Teacher now gets set for teaching the practical rites of Hajj for the students using I.C.T items as follows:-

- Get the real Hajj Procedures from the Internet

- Set the Projector in the lab or hall as the case may be
 - Arrange the Students in your class according to their heights in order for them to see clearly, do not forget about those students with poor sights
 - Those with poor eye sights and the shorter ones at the front, followed by the moderate in the middle then the taller ones at the back sits
 - The Teacher operates the Projector showing the students one after the other the rites of Hajj as being taught in the class during teaching
 - Ensure to explain carefully and slowly while Projecting all the steps one after the other
 - Allow the students to ask questions at each step while Projecting
 - After Projection take them outside during the next lesson to practicalized the rites of Hajj using the available Hajj practical items (here at the department of Islamic Studies, F.C.E, Yola) such as sample of *Ka'abah*; *Sa'ay* materials; *Maqamah* Ibrahim item; *Zamzam* containers and *Jamrāt* items including Canopy & some chairs for guests
- NB: If the Projected and theoretical methods were well assimilated by the students, the practical shall equally be well performed as well on the field. Thus, the two practical i.e. the projected and the real field practical, when asked in examinations the students can easily write the step by step Hajj rites. They can also perform the correct Hajj rites if opportune to go to Makkah for proper Hajj insha Allah.

Challenges Affecting the Use of I.C.T For Teaching Islamic Studies in Adamawa State

The following challenges affect teaching of I.C.T by Islamic Studies Teachers:-

- Since most Students and Teachers are habituated with the traditional way of teaching and learning process using traditional method: It becomes a challenge in telling them to use I.C.T in teaching Islamic studies in schools in Adamawa.
- There is difficulty in accessing internet: Internet facilities were not easily and adequately accessed due to either poor signals or service providers hence, becomes worrisome in schools in Adamawa.
- Lack of infrastructure and pedagogical items for high quality and responsive digital learning: Material and pedagogical needed for digital work are not obtainable when needed during e-learning.
- Lack of motivation on the part of both teachers and students of Islamic Studies: Teachers were not motivated hence, create lack of interest and motivation among the students.
- Lack of furthering of Education by the most Islamic teachers: Majority of teachers do not want to further their education most especially obtaining the knowledge of I.C.T in Islamic studies in Adamawa.
- Lack of attending conferences, seminars and workshops by the teachers in order to gain more knowledge: Some teachers of Islamic studies usually show non challent attitudes toward upgrading their knowledge and this create a challenge in getting in touch with I.C.T for upgrading their status.
- Inadequate supply of electric power is among the major problems: Inadequate supply of electricity usually disrupt I.C.T of both teachers and students.
- Lack of supervision by the Government : Lack of support by the Government discourage smooth running of the E-learning in Islamic studies in Adamawa

Conclusion

Islam is the religion of the informed because one cannot fully be a functional Muslim without education. Knowledge is a means of enhancing development, shift from ignorance to literacy, analogue to digital and aiding productivity. Education being the means of enlightening individual that began in analogue has now being digitized. Therefore, with knowledge of I.C.T and it acquisition life becomes easy, teaching and learning made efficient and effective. Teachers and Students can carry out their tasks within the shortage time using I.C.T. ICT transform, motivate and

encourage active teaching and learning process, but yet faced with some challenges which the paper proffers the below recommendations.

Recommendations

The followings serve as way forward for efficient and effective I.C.T utilization by both the teachers and students of Islamic Studies in Schools in Adamawa:-

- Teachers should employ shift in their methodology through the use of ICT in Islamic Studies in all the practical topics to make lesson real and well assimilated by the students.
- Government should provide adequate and qualitative ICT infrastructure needed in schools
- Government should provide adequate electric supply and internet services to help in teaching and learning processes.
- Government should motivate students by providing the required I.C.T tools. Similarly, teachers should be motivated through awarding in-service, sponsoring their conferences, seminars and workshops for effective performance in teaching.
- School administrations should be active in supervision and monitoring the teachers in schools.
- Parents should insist on molding the manners of their children.

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