

The Islamic Role Of Youth In Peaceful Society

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ABSTRACT

This article delves into the pivotal role that young Muslims play in cultivating and sustaining peaceful societies within the framework of Islamic teachings and values. It explores how Islamic education and moral principles guide youth towards compassion, justice, and empathy, enabling them to actively contribute to conciliatory efforts. Emphasizing the importance of tolerance and understanding, the article highlights the role of youth in bridging divides among different communities. It also underscores their involvement in social activism, conflict resolution, and humanitarian work as critical components of promoting peace. Grounded in the historical context of Islam's influence on youth, this article emphasizes the contemporary relevance of young Muslims in shaping a more harmonious and just world. This article explores the significant role of young Muslims in fostering peaceful societies within the context of Islamic teachings. It highlights how Islamic values guide young individuals towards education, tolerance, social activism, and conflict resolution, turning them into active agents of positive change. The article emphasizes the historical and contemporary significance of youth in shaping a more just and peaceful world grounded in Islamic ethics and values.

Keywords : Youth , Islamic Teaching , Society , Rights , Peaceful .

1 Introduction

In a world marked by complex challenges and ongoing global turmoil, the role of youth in shaping a peaceful society has taken on immense significance. This article delves into the profound Islamic perspective on the role of youth in not only cultivating but also sustaining peace within their communities and beyond. In Islam, young individuals are not just the future; they are the catalysts for positive change in the present. Their engagement, passion, and adherence to Islamic principles lay the groundwork for fostering harmonious societies grounded in justice, compassion, and unity. This exploration seeks to shed light on the multifaceted ways in which Islamic teachings empower youth to be beacons of peace and agents of transformation in our ever-evolving world. The Prophet(P.B.U.H) used to say:

اللهم إني أعوذ بك من منكرات الأخلاق، ومنكرات الأعمال، ومنكرات الأهواء¹.

“O Allah, I seek refuge in You from evil character, evil actions, and evil desires” In the world today, youth represent a significant portion of the global population. Their energy, passion, and potential make them a driving force for change and progress. In Islam, young people hold a vital role in shaping and maintaining a peaceful society.

Importance:

The role of youth in Islamic societies, as well as in any society, has great importance when it comes to fostering peace and stability. Islamic teachings emphasize the active participation of young people in various aspects of life, including social, political, and economic spheres.² It underscores the significance of young Muslims as catalysts for positive change within their

communities and the wider world. These works collectively provide a comprehensive understanding of how Islamic principles, youth engagement, and activism converge to promote peace, justice, and harmony. It reveals a rich body of scholarly work and publications that explore the multifaceted role of young Muslims in promoting and maintaining peace within their communities and the broader global context.

Here are some key points highlighting the importance of the Islamic role of youth in creating a peaceful society.

Agents of Positive Change:

Young people are seen as agents of positive change in Islamic societies. They have the energy, creativity and enthusiasm to bring about social reforms and address the challenges that can lead to conflict and instability.

Education and Knowledge:

Islam places a strong emphasis on seeking knowledge. Young people are encouraged to acquire both religious and secular knowledge, which can equip them to contribute positively to society. An educated youth population can promote tolerance, critical thinking, and informed decision-making. By educating themselves in various fields, young Muslims can contribute to society with their skills and expertise, thus fostering a more peaceful and prosperous environment. Furthermore, Islamic education instills moral values such as compassion, justice, and empathy, which are essential for building peaceful communities.

Moral and Ethical Values:

Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of ethical and moral values. Young people are expected to uphold these values, which include honesty, compassion, justice, and respect for others. These values are essential for creating a harmonious and peaceful society. Youth in Islamic societies are encouraged to engage actively in their communities. This involvement can include volunteering, helping those in need, and participating in community development projects. Such activities promote social cohesion and harmony.

Leadership Development:

Islamic societies often provide opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills. This prepares them to take on leadership roles in various fields, including politics, business, and civil society. Responsible and ethical leadership is crucial for maintaining peace.

Promoting Social Justice:

Islamic teachings call for the establishment of a just and equitable society. Youth can play a vital role in advocating for social justice, addressing economic disparities, and working to eliminate discrimination and oppression. Islam promotes the concept of tolerance and understanding among people of different backgrounds, religions, and cultures. Youth can play a crucial role in bridging gaps and dispelling misunderstandings. They can engage in interfaith dialogues, promote unity, and advocate for peaceful coexistence. The Quran emphasizes the idea of respecting diversity:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ١٣.

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you".

Young Muslims can take this message to heart and actively work towards building bridges between different communities. Moreover, their engagement in charitable activities and social justice initiatives addresses the root causes of conflict, thus promoting peace at its core.

These actions exemplify the Quranic injunction to "stand persistently firm in justice"

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Conflict Resolution and Mediation: The skills necessary for conflict resolution and mediation are highly valued in Islam. Young people can be trained in these skills, making them effective peacemakers and arbitrators in their communities.

Youth can serve as mediators and peacemakers within their communities. They can learn the skills necessary for conflict resolution and use them to resolve disputes and tensions peacefully. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "The strong is not the one who overcomes

the people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger."

In doing so, they honor their faith and serve as an example to others of the positive impact that the Islamic principles can have on the world.

Political Participation: Youth participation in the political process is vital for democratic governance. Islamic societies encourage young people to engage in politics and advocate for their rights and the rights of others through peaceful means.

Islamic teachings encourage acts of charity and social activism to help those in need. Young Muslims can participate in charitable activities, volunteer work, and humanitarian efforts, which not only alleviate suffering but also promote peace by addressing the root causes of conflict and poverty. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "The best of people are those who bring the most benefit to the rest of mankind."

Justice is a fundamental principle in Islam. The Quran emphasizes the importance of justice, stating,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاٰنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا ۖ اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ⁵

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well acquainted with all that ye do".

Young Muslims can actively engage in promoting justice and fairness within their communities by advocating for equal rights, opposing oppression, and working to correct injustices.

Interfaith and Intercommunity Dialogue: Young people can contribute to interfaith and intercommunity dialogue, fostering understanding and cooperation among different religious and cultural groups. This can help prevent conflicts based on religious or sectarian differences. Several studies investigate the role of youth in countering extremism and radicalization within Islamic communities. They explore how young Muslims can act as a buffer against

extremist ideologies by promoting a balanced and moderate interpretation of their faith.

Resisting Extremism and Violence: Youth are often the target of extremist ideologies and recruitment efforts. The Islamic role of youth includes resisting extremist narratives and promoting a peaceful interpretation of Islam. They can serve as a bulwark against radicalization.

Historical back ground : If the young people are devoid of morals and character, have low thoughts, are engaged in meaningless activities, fall on vile and immoral things in the same way as flies fall on dirt on crickets, then one should be sure that this The future of the nation is dark. Its foundations are hollow, its components are weakening, and at any moment the final nail may be hammered into its coffin. Such youths are actually a disgrace to the nation because of them the sanctities of the Ummah are despised, its greatness is bejeweled, and the face of its history and culture is distorted.⁶

The youth are undoubtedly the destiny of the nations. If they want, let them shine the sun of bright future and bright hopes, and if they want, impose on them the never-ending night of ignorance and evil.

History is heavy with such testimonies. Let me show you how the Holy Qur'an has described the story of pious young people in an untouchable way. These are the Khalil of Allah, Hazrat Ibrahim (peace be upon him), who preached to his people, explained the significant difference between good and evil, and not only stopped them from idolatry, but also destroyed their idols, and this was a matter of that time. It is when you were in your teenage years. The Qur'an testifies.⁷

قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا فَتًى يَذْكُرُهُمْ يُقَالُ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ⁸⁶⁰

They said , “ We heard a young man mention them who is called Abraham.” In the same way, that young servant of Pharaoh, in whose heart faith had made home and who had been blessed with the light of truth, could not bear the long night of oppression and transgression, and was eagerly waiting to see the bright dawn of faith and mysticism. So he came to the public and started saying. The words of this young man were actually so sweet that the Qur'an preserved them forever in its bosom.

وَقَالَ رَجُلٌ مُؤْمِنٌ مِّنْ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ يَكْتُمُ إِيمَانَهُ أَتَقْتُلُونَ رَجُلًا أَن يَقُولَ رَبِّيَ اللَّهُ وَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ⁹.

A believing man from Pharaoh's people, who was hiding his faith, argued, "Will you kill a man 'only' for saying: 'My Lord is Allah,' while he has in fact come to you with clear proofs from your Lord? Similarly, the budding young man of 'Isahab Akhdood' who had taken the jam of faith down his throat and whose intoxication had settled in his veins.¹⁰

The elders of the kingdom did not make any plans to extinguish the candle of faith from his heart but all failed in the end, he was killed in a very cruel way but see the glory of Allah that the life of this young man was saved and the whole nation believed, I entered.6 Surah Buruj of the Holy Quran is actually a tribute to the youth.

وَالسَّمَاءَ ذَاتَ الْبُرُوجِ ۝ وَالْيَوْمَ الْمَوْعُودِ ۝ وَشَاهِدٍ وَمَشْهُودٍ ۝ قِيلَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَعْدُدِ ۝ النَّارَ ذَاتَ الْوُفُودِ ۝ إِذْ هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ ۝¹¹

By the sky full of constellations, and the promised Day 'of Judgment', and the witness and what is witnessed! Condemned are the makers of the ditch the fire 'pit', filled with fuel when they sat around it,

This was the case of the 'Ashab al-Quriya' whom Allah Almighty sent three prophets to guide them, whom these wretched people not only denied but killed them, this act of theirs is the cause of this youth of the nation. The heart of the one whose heart had been illuminated by the light of faith and he had become the path of the true truth. Initially, he kept hiding his faith that when these people will not forgive the prophets, when will they feel sorry for me, but his pride, faith and youthfulness did not allow that the deputies of God should be killed and we remained silent came out from the field and raised the voice of Haqq in a loud voice. Which has been described by the Holy Qur'an as follows

اتَّبِعُوا مَن لَّا يَسْأَلُكُمْ أَجْرًا وَهُمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ ۝ وَمَا لِيَ لَا أَعْبُدُ الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ¹² -

Then from the farthest end of the city a man came, rushing. He advised, "O my people! Follow the messengers.

And why should I not worship the One Who has originated me and to whom you will be returned.

Follow those who ask no reward of you and are 'rightly' guided.

Some of this is the case of the youth of "Companions of the Cave" who in order to save their faith had to escape from this society and take shelter in the cave where the wind of disbelief and rebellion was blowing so that the same sincerity of solitude. He could provide an opportunity to worship the Lord and Allah with his heart. This action of these young men was very pleasing to Allah and what rewards were bestowed upon them in return.¹³

All the details have been preserved by the Holy Qur'an (from verse 9 to 25 in Surah Kahf).

Have you 'O Prophet' thought that the people of the cave and the plaque were 'the only' wonders of our signs?

'Remember' when those youths took refuge in the cave, and said, "Our Lord! Grant us mercy from yourself and guide us rightly through our ordeal." then we raised them so we may show which of the two groups would make a better estimation of the length of their stay.

We relate to you 'O Prophet' their story in truth. They were youths who truly believed in their Lord, and we increased them in guidance

. And we strengthened their hearts when they stood up and declared, "Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. We will never call upon any god besides Him, or we would truly be uttering an outrageous lie."

'Then they said to one another, "These people of ours have taken gods besides Him. Why do they not produce a clear proof of them? Who then does more wrong than those who fabricate lies against Allah?

Since you have distanced yourselves from them and what they worship besides Allah, take refuge in the cave. Your Lord will extend His mercy to you and accommodate you in your ordeal."

And you would have seen the sun as it rose, inclining away from their cave to the right and as it set declining away from them to the left while they lay in its open space. That is one of the signs of Allah. Whoever Allah guides is truly guided. But whoever He leaves to stray, you will never find for them a guiding mentor.

And you would have thought they were awake though they were asleep. We turned them over, to the right and left while their dog stretched his forelegs at the entrance. Had you looked at them,

you would have certainly fled away from them filled with horror

. And so we awakened them so that they might question one another. One of them exclaimed, "How long have you remained 'asleep'?" Some replied, "Perhaps a day, or part of a day." They said 'to one another', "Your Lord knows best how long you have remained. So send one of you with these silver coins of yours to the city, and let him find which food is the purest, and then bring you provisions from it. Let him be 'exceptionally' cautious, and do not let him give you away.

For, indeed, if they find out about you, they will stone you 'to death', or force you back into their faith and then you will never succeed."

That is how we caused them to be discovered so that their people might know that Allah's promise 'of resurrection' is true and that there is no doubt about the Hour. When the people disputed with each other about the

Case of the youth 'after their death', some proposed, "Build a structure around them. Their Lord knows best about them." Those who prevailed in the matter said, "We will surely build a place of worship over them."

Some will say, "They were three, their dog was the fourth," while others will say, "They were five, their dog was the sixth," 'only' guessing blindly. And others will say, "They were seven and their dog was the eighth." Say, 'O Prophet,' "My Lord knows best their 'exact' number. Only a few people know as well." So do not argue about them except with sure knowledge,¹ nor consult any of those 'who debate' about them.¹⁴

And never say of anything, "I will definitely do this tomorrow," without adding, "if Allah so will!" But if you forget, then remember your Lord, and say, "I trust my Lord will guide me to what is more right than this." They had remained in their cave for three hundred years, adding nine.

2 Summary:

The article explores the significant role that young Muslims play in building and maintaining peaceful societies from an Islamic perspective. It emphasizes the multifaceted contributions of youth, drawing upon Islamic teachings, values, and their active participation in peace building efforts. The youth are seen as active agents of positive change, engaging in education, moral development, tolerance promotion, social

activism, and conflict resolution. By embodying Islamic principles of compassion, justice, and empathy, young Muslims act as beacons of hope and inspire others to work towards a more harmonious and just world. The historical context shows that throughout Islamic history, youth have been instrumental in shaping their communities, and in today's interconnected world, their role remains integral to global peace and prosperity. These recommendations aim to empower young Muslims to fulfill their vital role as agents of peace within Islamic societies and on the global stage, while fostering a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings and values that promote peace and social harmony.

3 Conclusion

This article has explored the multifaceted contributions of young Muslims to peace, drawing upon the rich tapestry of Islamic teachings, values, and their active participation in peace building efforts. In a world that often grapples with conflicts, discrimination, and extremism, the involvement of youth in promoting peace takes on even greater significance. By embodying the teachings of Islam, young Muslims can help dispel misunderstandings, bridge cultural and religious divides, and actively contribute to conflict resolution and mediation. In a world hungry for peace, understanding the Islamic role of youth is a testament to the transformative power of faith and the potential of young individuals to contribute significantly to global peace and prosperity. Through their actions, they honor their faith, inspire others, and work towards a more harmonious and just world for all. In conclusion, the Islamic role of youth in peaceful societies epitomizes the transformative power of faith, ethics, and a commitment to the betterment of humanity. By embracing their responsibilities grounded in Islamic teachings, young Muslims embody a vision of a more harmonious and just world, not only for themselves but for all of humanity. Their actions resonate as an echo of the profound message of Islam: that peace, justice, and compassion are the guiding lights for a brighter future.

4 Results

These points indicate that young Muslims are actively engaged in promoting peaceful societies, drawing on their faith, values, and a sense of social responsibility. However, the specific impact and results can vary widely depending on

the region, local context, and individual initiatives. Research and studies in specific areas and regions can provide more detailed results and insights into the Islamic role of youth in peaceful society.

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