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Teach Islamic culture at all stages of education

The week-long Third World Conference on Muslim Education concluded in Dacca on Wednesday with a call to the Islamic countries to teach Islamic culture and civilisation at all stages of education—elementary, secondary, college and university reports BSS.

The conference participated by about 60 eminent Muslim scholars from home and abroad recommended that the curriculum of Islamic culture and civilisation be inception in the coming year. Where such inception is not possible, it recommended that a beginning ought to be made for its gradual introduction to all classes of study.

The recommendations were made under five heads, namely, general principles, elementary, secondary university and minority educations.

The recommendations under the general principles said in order that proper text books are written, basic ideological assumptions of the community are to be sought for inspirational and intellectual guidance. These assumptions are derived in the Muslim community from the holy Quran and Sunnah which are its sources and the legacy of the Islamic learning.

The conference also suggested steps to be taken for implementing the recommendations.

(A) It said the curriculum be placed on a new syllabus befitting the age group of each class in the school or college with ascending order of depth, scope and amount of reading and exercise material.

(B) An international committee of scholarly experts be formed by the World Centre

of Islamic Education, Mecca, immediately to undertake the task of delineating the syllabus for each class-year, of commissioning the writing of new materials or selection of old materials, the presenting of teaching projects, exercises and of making the syllabus ready for adoption, translation and printing in the various Muslim countries.

C) teacher training seminars be held across the Muslim world to acquaint the future teachers of the course with the materials and give them the necessary orientation for successful implementation.

D) All these processes be repeated every year to the end of preparing the syllabi until

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complete syllabi, text books and teacher training are completed upto the graduation level.

The conference dealt with different branches of knowledge, expressing deep concern at the elimination of history and geography and introduction of social studies with irreligious concepts. It urged all Muslim states to retain and reintroduce history and geography in both modern and traditional systems.

LITERATURE

About teaching of literature, it recommended that the selection and preparation of lessons be undertaken in such a manner that upto the early and secondary stage, Muslim life and culture and all the major ethical values of Islam are distilled into the heart and soul of children.

For social sciences, economics, civics, political science, sociology etc it recommended an integration of the teachings of Islam with the study of the social sciences in the text books to ensure development of analytical competence in students.

The conference devoted considerable time to formulate the recommendations on teaching of sciences. At the primary level it recommended that the element of awe in Allah's creation as seen in the varieties, forms and figures, habitat and functions of inanimate and living systems in the world should be reflected in the text books on environmental science which should arouse curiosity in young minds to know about the unknown.

At the secondary level the commandments of Allah for the pursuit of science should be emphasised and the contributions of the Muslim scientists in various branches should be highlighted.

Science education at the uni-

versity level should be of an inter-disciplinary nature reflecting a unity among the apparently disjointed topics and demonstrating the general principles of science, e.g. The conservation laws, stability considerations, minimisation principles etc.

It said university science education should make the student's wonder about the master-mindedness of the Almighty the scheme of things the order and harmony existing in the organisation of matter both at the microscopic as well as the macroscopic levels.

The conference recommended that a curriculum and text book development committee of not more than seven members drawn from different regions of Muslim world be set up by the World Centre of Islamic Education.

TEACHING OF ARABIC

The conference recommended that teaching of Arabic in non-Arabic speaking countries should be encouraged. It however said the medium of instruction and text book for the primary and secondary stages should be the national language mother tongue as applicable to the country concerned.

The conference gave guidelines for developing and writing text books at the primary secondary and university levels. It asked the World Centre for Muslim Education to set up international committees of experts for different subjects and disciplines in order to prepare detailed syllabi to form the basis for the preparation of commissioned text books.

The conference called upon all Muslim governments to immediately stop infiltration of profane literature from external sources including films shown on TVRs.