

In The Name of Allah, The Merciful, The compassionate

Introduction:

Islamic schools are facing the challenges of taking Islamic studies beyond the classroom, from being mere recitation of the Qu'ran, or acquiring theoretical information about Islam, or learning fragmented parts of the religion without knowing its value and interconnection with the students' own life experience, to become a value based instruction where all educators of different subjects are able to coordinate with each other and with parents and the community at large to engulf the students with the true Islamic values.

We need to truly think of the major goal of Muslim educators. What is the major reason that Allah sent our beloved prophet, Peace Be Upon Him?

Abu Herayra reported that Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said: I have been sent to bring good behavior, righteous conduct to the highest perfection. (Musnad Ahmad)

What does that mean for Muslims? How do we instill the values in our children? How can we go beyond mere teachings in a classroom to turn it to be the norm by which our children live? How can they live, love, and learn Islam? Islam is based on the principles of belief and righteous conduct. This connection between values and practice is at the heart of the Islamic way of life.

- Brainstorm ideas with participants.

The Power Of An Educator:

- Who are you in your role as a Muslim educator?
“Education! Which of the various me’s do you propose to educate, and which do you propose to suppress? Who are you? How many selves have you? And which of these selves do you want to be?”

D.H. Lawrence

Educators have tremendous power over their students, which put a tremendous responsibility on them. Educators need to continuously self-examine their own biases, views, personal issues, background, and training. It is important to:

- Act as role models: teaching by modeling is a tremendously effective strategy especially for teens.
- Earn the trust of the students: through your actions as a Muslim.
- Make the connections between daily experiences and religion...religion as a way of life. It is interconnected, intertwined with everything we do. Your teaching needs to make sense to the students.
- The Holy Qur’an and the Sunna revolve around the human being as a moral being. If you examine the