
Compatibility of Prophetic Teaching Methodology in Contemporary Education System

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ABSTRACT:

Muhammad (Peace and blessings be upon him) was a human being who served as a great example for humanity. He personified a moral character and conduct. He had a good character with a pleasing personality in each domain. His sayings, sermons and dialogues with others on different issues are evidence of this attribute. His talk is always a symbol of precision. The fact is that the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) was the most eloquent in Arabia. Besides eloquent the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) had a very unique Learning-Teaching Methodology which is being accepted in Today's Education Policies, such as: Telling Method, Observation Method, Demonstration Method, Doing and Experiencing Method and Question-Answer Method. As a teacher, the Prophet (Peace and blessings be upon him) himself cultured his companions and taught them in such a way that the whole Arab peninsula transformed into a civilized and refined nation in just twenty-three years. His unique way of teaching could make it possible. He set himself as practical example in every sphere of life; he was a loving father and husband, a sincere friend and companion, a devoted teacher and reformer. He personally demonstrated all his methodologies by applying them in real world. His life was a symbol of humble, compassion to all, patience and kindness. He was influential too, but people followed him with respect, not by any pressure and this attribute made his teaching everlasting.

Keyword:

Prophetic Teaching, Eloquence, Techniques, Contemporary Teaching, Approaches.

Introduction

Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) sent down to stimulate a good character. He is a role model for the humanity from each aspect of life. However, being a teacher, his role is very significant and pivotal because it may influence every corner of human life, as teachers are nation builders. Teachers of the day may acquire guidance from his teaching methodologies and mend their teaching techniques. A good teacher is capable of upbringing young generation in a way that lead them towards success, either in this world or hereafter. Now days, in our society most of the teachers work in a set and pre-defined pattern, which consist of ancient techniques, covering old syllabi. Students of the day want each and everything updated, it is related to either studies or something else. Looking at old syllabus and old techniques, they go far beyond their studies.

Research Questions:

- 1- Are we following teachings of our Holy Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him)?
- 2- Do we have gone through the teaching methodologies of our Holy Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him)?
- 3- Do we have tried to include his methodologies in our daily practices?

Objectives:

We have tried in this research article to give a glimpse of teaching methodologies of our Holy Prophet (peace & blessings be upon him) so that contemporary teachers may use them in their daily practices and can avail benefits in this world and hereafter.

Literature Review

Saima Hasan a PhD Scholar of Department of Teacher Education, University of Karachi has mentioned in her article “Principals and Teachers as a Change Agent”. In this article, their attitudes have been identified as skills and qualities they believe are essential for success in their school systems. The specific problems are discussed that include importance for successful principal to lead in the school's socio-economic

context and the role that the demographic composition of the student can play. This article basically, refers to the principal's role as a leader and it does not cover discussion on teaching methodologies.

That is why I have chosen this topic for a detailed study of Prophetic Teaching Methodology so that readers, especially teachers may use these techniques in their daily tasks. I have discussed his teaching methodologies as follows:

- 1- Use of Analogies
- 2- He used to give examples suitable to the topic
- 3- Story Telling
- 4- Demonstration
- 5- Use of Drawings
- 6- Use of Hands
- 7- Question and Answer Session/ Dialogue and mutual questioning
- 8- Teaching People According to Their Nature and Ability
- 9- Comparison Technique
- 10- Repetition
- 11- Teaching by Motivation
- 12- He made Learners to Write
- 13- Exhaustive learning
- 14- Teaching by His Way of Life and Inspiring Character/ Combining Verbal instructions with practical teaching
- 15- Teaching in Stages/Gradually
- 16- Appointing a student to answer a question that was raised to the Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) in order to train the students
- 17- Practical Application

At the end of the article, I have suggested some advices for contemporary teachers so that they can advance in their practical life.

Discussion:

Allah almighty has specifically sent him to the humanity for teaching purpose. He was a loving father and husband, a sincere friend and companion, a devoted teacher and reformer. Allah SWT has said in the Holy Quran:

﴿لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا﴾

“There is indeed a good model for you in the Messenger of Allah - for the one who has hope in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah profusely.”¹

The life of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is ample in examples in which he knew how to approach the addressee, attract his attention, win his heart, and then invite him to Islam or to educate him further.²

The Prophet’s character is a practical evidence of the Quran, it can be seen in all aspects of the Prophet’s life either his sayings, actions or sermons. Our Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) devoted himself to his duty that is spreading the light of Islam. He had more of the qualities that an educator should have. He was the most effective speaker of all the times. He knew how to rule the hearts, and became the loved one of every Muslim. Then he used the ways to educate people with the help of Divine Guidance. He used a style in his sermons that inspire people and made them re-think. Allah revealed the Holy Quran to him and blessed him with the title of *جوامع الكلم*³

“I have been bestowed with the ability to say a few words but comprehensive in meaning.” (Sahih Muslim)

His sayings, sermons and dialogues with others on different issues are evidence of this attribute. His talk was always a symbol of precision. The fact is that the Prophet (peace & blessings be upon him) was the most eloquent in Arabia as he said:

أَنَا أَعْرَبُكُمْ أَنَا قُرَشِيٌّ

“I am the most eloquent of you in Arabic, I am Qureshi.”⁴

Allah (SWT) particularly gifted the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) unusual stylistic power and wonderful eloquence to accomplish His mission. He was assigned the task of circulating the message of Islam to a nation whose standard of excellence was debating and eloquence. Historically, the people of Arab peninsula were profoundly attached to their language. Among the Arabs, the tribes of Quraish and Hawazine were well known for their elocution. By birth Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) belonged to the tribe of the Quraish and in the Banu Sa’ad (Hawazine) he passed his infancy era with

his foster mother nurse Halima al Sadiya.⁵ While once offering thanks giving to Allah (SWT), he justly declared:

"أَنَا أَفْصَحُ الْعَرَبِ بَيْدَ أَنِّي مِنْ قُرَيْشٍ، وَنَشَأْتُ فِي بَنِي سَعْدِ بْنِ بَكْرٍ."

"I am the most eloquent amongst the Arabs. Moreover I belong to the Quraish and I have been brought up among the tribe of Banu Sa'ad".⁶

- **Briefness Is Intelligence:**

Allah, the Almighty, blessed the Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) with never-ending beauty of eloquence. That is why, the Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) said:

"I have been sent by Allah with comprehensive and meaningful expression".

The noble Prophet of Islam had the power to demonstrate an ocean of beliefs in a drop of word. His sayings are self-possessed with exceptional delicacy and extraordinary precision. If we analyze the Prophetic sayings, dialogs and sermons, we find an outstanding conciseness and shortness and we wonder how he has summarized indefinite thoughts in a few words.

- **Expression and style of speech:**

Simplicity of expression mark the language and elegance of the sermon. With respect to eloquence, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) remains an ideal for all the times. Unlike the community leaders, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) spoke clearly and gradually without leaving any misunderstanding and ambiguity. His words influence directly to the hearts and no one could forget. He did not speak rapidly or irregularly, but with intervals so that the listeners could easily learn his words. His speech was always neither boring nor so short or ambiguous.⁷ He not only taught Al-Quran, but also a variety of skills like simplicity, modesty, courage and so on.

The Prophet Muhammad's teaching methodology is extracted from his practices that were recorded and saved by his fellows, which are generally called صحابة كرام رضي الله عنهم. Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) was the best of teachers. His teaching strategy was so modern, applicable that it kept on engaging all the listeners. He was a sympathetic

teacher and a personification of virtues. He never taught anything that he did not follow. His words and actions were in complete harmony. He was an effective correspondent and a great motivational speaker. All the seven Cs of effective communication: Clarity, Correctness, Conciseness, Courtesy, Concreteness, Consideration and Completeness were there in him. If we portray the way our Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) taught his companions, we will surely learn the art of effective teaching. As role models in teaching we usually quote Aristotle, John Dewey, Berkley etc., but we overlook the teaching methodology of our beloved Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) who is a great role model for all of us.

The following are some of the techniques used by our Holy Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) while teaching:

1- Use of Analogies:

Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) used analogies to illuminate a topic and to enhance the imagination of the listeners.⁸ Analogies are a very powerful device to visualize the theory. He used metaphorical language in order to make his argument convincing. The Prophetic metaphors are very strong tools to communicate in a persuasive manner with the objective of changing the people's thoughts. Thus, the Prophetic metaphors exclusively turned the people to accept Islamic laws, and prohibit the unlawfulness.⁹ For example, narrated Abdullah ibn Abbas:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

“Allah has made zakat obligatory simply to purify your remaining property, and He made inheritances obligatory that they might come to those who survive you.”¹⁰

The purification is a metaphor, which provokes the person's desire to obtain by paying this charity tax because it induces a positive approach. So, the persuasiveness of purification metaphor is aroused by considering the essence of purified substance, money. The choice of metaphors is subjected to the Prophet's objective of attracting people towards Islam. Thus, these metaphors are not merely for decoration but they are broadly used to increase the eloquence of the Prophetic messages especially, to introduce Islamic laws and prohibiting the unlawfulness. A deeper study shows usage of the Prophetic metaphors in resolving several issues like:

- Ambiguity and wakening of religious spirit.

It is observed that several Prophetic metaphors are used to simplify the comprehension of a Hadith and to make it more applicable and to redefine a concept or an idea.

قَامَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَخَطَبَ النَّاسَ فَقَالَ: لَا وَاللَّهِ، مَا أَخَشَى عَلَيْكُمْ، أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، إِلَّا مَا يُخْرِجُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ مِنْ زَهْرَةِ الدُّنْيَا فَقَالَ رَجُلٌ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَيُّ الْخَيْرِ بِالشَّرِّ؟ فَصَمَتِ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ سَاعَةً، ثُمَّ قَالَ: كَيْفَ قُلْتَ؟ قَالَ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، أَيُّ الْخَيْرِ بِالشَّرِّ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: إِنَّ الْخَيْرَ لَا يَأْتِي إِلَّا بِخَيْرٍ، أَوْ خَيْرٍ هُوَ، إِنَّ كُلَّ مَا يَنْبِتُ الرَّبِيعُ يَقْتُلُ حَبِطًا، أَوْ يَلْمُ، إِلَّا أَكَلَةَ الْخَضِرِ، أَكَلْتُ، حَتَّى إِذَا امْتَلَأَتْ خَاصِرَتَاهَا اسْتَقْبَلَتِ الشَّمْسُ، ثَلُطَتْ، أَوْ بَالَتْ، ثُمَّ اجْتَرَتْ، فَعَادَتْ فَأَكَلَتْ فَمَنْ يَأْخُذُ مَالًا بِحَقِّهِ يَبَارِكْ لَهُ فِيهِ، وَمَنْ يَأْخُذُ مَالًا بِغَيْرِ حَقِّهِ فَمَثَلُهُ، كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي يَأْكُلُ وَلَا يَشْبَعُ.¹¹

In this Hadith Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) has been resembled *زَهْرَةِ الدُّنْيَا* by the worldly rewards given to the people from Allah and shows his fear that Muslims might be distracted from their paths due to these worldly rewards & later on it was proved when some important figures of Umayyad & Abbasids were distracted from their paths.

Then he resembles men with the animal, word *حَبَطَتِ الدَّابَّةُ* means animal or symbolically man who takes dis-advantage of the green meadows prevailing in spring season and eats so much so that he reaches near to death "فهو يَلْمُ" & in many cases dies. On the other hand, human beings, which do not become animals & take food moderately gets success in this world & hereafter *فَمَنْ يَأْخُذُ مَالًا بِحَقِّهِ يَبَارِكْ لَهُ فِيهِ*

Hence, our beloved Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) used simple & commonly used words to personify the whole scenario in which a Muslim would tremble & shiver & will come back to the way of Allah.

2- He used to give examples suitable to the topic:

Stories and examples stick in the mind and we can perceive the concept more easily. The knowledge given in the form of a story becomes more substantial in the mind, and is remembered for a long time. We should deliver Islamic stories to our children, tell them about historical events and convey all messages in form of stories. Once the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) highlighted the significance of the prayer

and asked his companions, “What would be the condition of someone who has a river at his door and every day, five times a day, he comes out and he takes a bath in that river? At the end of the day would he have any dirt on his body?” They responded, “There would be no dirt on him, O Rasul Allah.” Then the Prophet said, “Five prayers are like that, they cleanse a person and wipe out the sins.”

3- Story Telling:

Many pedagogic experts have adopted storytelling as an educational tool. Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) used this tool while teaching his followers. He was narrating and repeating the story several times to ensure best lessons.¹² He used to narrate stories of other Prophets and their nations and sometimes of some individuals in certain contexts in a way to teach Muslims and to derive lessons. Storytelling is a technique used to stimulate inspiration. Mostly, the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) used to narrate the stories of previous nations.¹³ Through story telling, he motivated his companions for the goodness and towards religion.¹⁴ The Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) mentions the significance of narrating stories: Narrated `Abdullah b. `Amr: The Prophet said:

*“Convey (my teachings) to the people even if it were a single sentence, and tell others the stories of Bani Israel (which have been taught to you), for it is not sinful to do so. And whoever tells a lie on me intentionally, will surely take his place in the (Hell) Fire”.*¹⁵

A number of traditions describe the stories. For example, Abu Hurairah reported, the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) said:

*“A man saw a dog eating mud from (the severity of) thirst. So, that man took a shoe (and filled it) with water and kept on pouring the water for the dog until it quenched its thirst. So Allah approved of his deed and made him to enter Paradise”.*¹⁶

4- Demonstration:

One of the most efficient way of teaching is demonstration as people do not forget what they are learnt through practice. Teaching by practice is the most successful method of teaching.

Our Prophet (PBUH) saw a boy who was skinning a sheep and said to him: "Let me teach you." He put his hand between the skin and the meat until he reached up to the armpit of the sheep, and then he said: "Skin it like that, young man"!¹⁷

5- Use of Drawings:

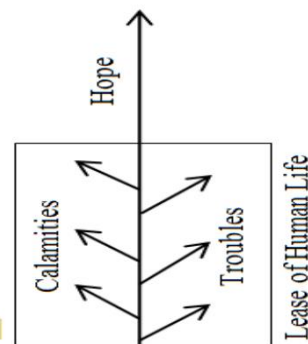
Another effective way of teaching through which information will stuck up permanently in the mind is to make use of drawings and figures. The right part of brain records drawings straight into the memory and does not forget for a long time. Therefore, making use of drawings and visual methods encourages the subject matter to be understood well. Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) introduced use of drawings and graphs in teaching.

Once the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) explained the features of the ways of Allah and Satan by drawing shapes on the ground.¹⁸

Jabir (may Allah be please with him) told as follows: When I was sitting together with the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings upon him), he drew a line and said; "This is the path of Allah (SWT)". Then he drew two lines to the right and left of the same line and said, "And these are the paths of the Satan". Then he put his hand over the line in the middle and recited the following verse:

﴿هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ﴾

"This is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path".¹⁹



Another example is when the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) drew a square and a line in its center, which he extended outside of it, and drew several small lines attached to it. He then explained that the square is death that encircles Ibn Adam`s life, the small lines are troubles and the central longest line is hope. In this way, he explained that hope should be much more than the troubles.

6- Use of Hands:

Prophet illustrated his opinion using his hand. Sahl ibn Sa`d reported: The Prophet, (Peace and blessings be upon him), said:

“Myself and the caretaker of an orphan will be in Paradise like this,” and he held his two fingers together.”²⁰

Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) performed the actions in front of companions so that there remains no inconsistency between words and actions, from ablution to namaz, grazing an animal, wearing Ihram; everything showed in hands on training style. Once a companion requested to show him how to perform ablution? The Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) performed ablution three times so that the companion could recall it well.

7- Question and Answer Session/ Dialogue and mutual questioning:

Dialog and discussions play a role of mutual development and clarifies what was previously obvious. The Prophet utilized this approach to improve his followers' thinking, help them to move ahead.²¹ Similarly, question-answer method is considered his most frequent used teaching method. He sometimes asked questions casually from his companions in order to keep their curiosity alive and mental alertness and sometimes to lay emphasis on any point. Asking and seeking questions is the best way to clear suspicions and enhance better understanding. It enriches thoughts and provides nourishment to thoughts.

- Once he asked the companions: “According to you who is the strongest person? They replied one who can grapple down others. Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) said: No, most strong person is the one who can control his anger.
- Sometimes, he used to raise questions in a way to raise his interest in the matter or to draw their attention to the importance of

something and to incorporate new meanings of old terminologies. Abu Hurairah reported Allah's Messenger (Peace & blessings be upon him) as saying, "Do you know who the bankrupt is?" The Companions said, "A bankrupt man amongst us is one who has neither dirham with him nor wealth." Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) said: "The bankrupt of my Ummah would be he who would come on the Day of Resurrection with prayers and fasts and Zakah but (he would find himself bankrupt on that day as he would have exhausted his funds of virtues) since he hurled abuses upon others, brought calumny against others and unlawfully consumed the wealth of others and shed the blood of others and beat others, and his virtues would be credited to the account of one (who suffered at his hand). And if his good deeds fall short to clear the account, then sins would be transferred (from the abused accounts') and entered in (his account) and he would be thrown in the Hell-Fire." (Muslim).²²

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) also encouraged his companions to ask questions and which they often do. Similarly, he also encouraged the Companions to involve in discussions because dialogues open the locks of the mind. By questioning, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) managed to capture their attention and provoke them to seek knowledge. As a result, motivate them to thinking process. At a stage when they were unable to answer, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) explained. This ultimately led to an everlasting impact of the knowledge delivered to the companions.

- One day, Abdullah bin Amr came to the messenger of Allah and asked, "Is it vanity if I wear a nice cloth?" The Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) answered, "No." then Abdullah said "Okay" and asked, "Is it vanity if I cook and invite people?" the messenger of Allah (Peace & blessings be upon him) answered, "No." "So, what is vanity?" asked Abdullah. The messenger of Allah (Peace & blessings be upon him) said: "Vanity is underestimating the right and looking down on people." (Hadislerle Islam, Vol. 3, 2014: 520).

- When a companion asked to the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) “Whom should I do favor?” the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) answered, “Do firstly your mother, and then your father favor.”
- “One day, people asked to the beloved Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) “Oh, the messenger of Allah, which of the believers is more virtuous?” Beloved Prophet replied, “The one from whom the Muslims are safe from the harm of his/her tongue and hand”.
- Once a Bedouin asked the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him): “When is the hour?” [The Day of Judgment]. The Prophet (peace & blessings be upon him) said, “What have you prepared for that final hour?” The Bedouin said, “I haven’t prepared a lot of Salah (good deeds) and I haven’t prepared a lot of Zakat (charity) but I am preparing one thing which is my love for Allah (SWT) and His messenger.” The Prophet (peace & blessings be upon him) replied: “You will be with who you love.”
- Once Jibril came to the Prophet and asked him about faith, Islam, ihsan, and the Hour (Day of Judgment). The Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) answered him in detail. When Jibril went back, Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) told his companions that the questioner was Jibril who came to teach them.²³

8- Teaching People According to Their Nature and Ability:

It was also important part of the Prophet Muhammad’s (Peace & blessings be upon him) wise methodology to teach people on the foundation of their level of mental power and in a way that suits their psycho-emotional aptitudes, their customs and tolerance. He used with each group the appropriate sermon and address them in their own language. The Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) used to bring himself down to the level of those whom he was talking to. It was narrated by Umar ibn Abu Salamah;

Umar ibn Abu Salamah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: I was a young boy under the care of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah’s Peace &

blessings be upon him) and my hand used to wander all over the platter (of food). The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's Peace & blessings be upon him) said to me: "O boy, mention Allah's name, eat with your right hand, and eat from what is nearer to you." Since then, I have been eating that way.²⁴

In every gathering Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) brought something valuable. His way of delivering knowledge was such that both wise and mediocre could learn a lot.

9- Comparison Technique:

Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) often taught people by giving comparative examples in order to realize dynamically and set more pleasant learning environment. Once the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) went to market with his companions. They saw a dead lamb and the prophet asked who would buy it for one dirham. One of the companions replied even if I will be given in free I still would not take this. This is just useless. Prophet replied same is the value of Duniya in comparison to Akhirah. This world is more insignificant in the eyes of Allah than it is (dead lamb) in your eyes.

Hakim ibn Hizam, May Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet, peace be upon him, said: "The hand which gives is better than which takes and start giving first to your dependents. And the best object of charity is that which is given by a wealthy person (from the money, which is left after his expenses) [out of surplus]. And whoever abstains from asking others for some financial help, Allah will give him and save him from asking others, Allah will make him self-sufficient."²⁵

He compared the two hands, one that gives sadaqah and second the hand, which takes it and gave priority on the importance of sadaqah. He tried to make these more understandable.

"One day, the Prophet Muhammad entered the masjid and there were two groups, one group was praying and other group was learning knowledge. He said, "They both are doing well, one is praying, others are learning knowledge, dismissing ignorance. I was sent as a teacher by Allah" and sat near the group who were busy with knowledge".

In this example, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) compared praying and learning and tried to show the importance of getting knowledge.²⁶

10- Repetition:

Repetition is very important factor for making the subject matter linger in the mind. The learner feels whatever is repeated is important. Through repetition, the knowledge is transferred from the short-term memory to the long once. The information is reinforced in the mind; it can be easily recalled even after a long time. For this reason, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) often used to repeat anything three times to the same people so that the important points stick in the mind. Anas (ra) said: “When the Messenger of Allah said a sentence he used to repeat it up to three times making sure that it was understood.” (Hakim)

- One example is the hadith narrated by Abu Shuraih: “The Prophet said, ‘By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he does not believe!’ It was asked: “Who is that, O Allah’s Apostle?” He (peace & blessings be upon him) said, “That person whose neighbor does not feel safe from his evil.”

11- Teaching by Motivation:

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) used techniques that make his followers ponder. A positive approach is important to make students think positively. As the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) used living experiences with an actively taught atmosphere. He engaged his followers in learning and developing more skills in them besides get them more involved in thinking during the practical activities.

12- He made Learners to Write:

Learning by writing is one of the best methods. Attention is focused on the theme and we get a text when we want to recall the topic. Writing is equal to reading ten times coz we carve the topic both on the paper and our minds as well. Furthermore, freedom of the prisoners of the war in return for teaching literacy to the Muslims shows the significance that he attached to reading and writing.²⁷

13- Exhaustive learning:

Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) as a messenger and teacher conveyed knowledge about each aspect of life. He threw light even on the most personal features of life without embarrassment in order to save people from hellfire.²⁸

14- Teaching by His Way of Life and Inspiring Character/ Combining Verbal instructions with practical teaching:

This was his most important teaching method. His way of teaching by practice is well regarded and highly appreciated even today. Perhaps, there is no other principle is as dynamic as it is. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) taught firstly by his actions what he preached. He carried his order himself first. The people afterwards followed him and execute what they had seen him doing. None could be seen in contradiction to his teachings. His way of life is the personification of the Divine teachings. Ayesha (may Allah be please with her), wife of the Prophet, when asked about his character both in public and private, replied in a famous narration:

"كَانَ خُلُقُهُ الْقُرْآنَ"

*"His character was the Quran."*²⁹

"A man came to the Prophet (Peace & blessings be upon him) and asked him: Messenger of Allah how is the ablution (to perform)? He (the Prophet) then called for water in a vessel and washed his hands up to the wrists three times, then washed his face three times, and washed his forearms three times. He then wiped his head and inserted both his index fingers in his ear-holes; he wiped the back of his ears with his thumbs and the front of his ears with the index fingers. He then washed his feet three times. Then he said: This is how ablution should be performed. If anyone does more or less than this, he has done wrong and transgressed, or (said) transgressed and done wrong."³⁰

15- Teaching in Stages/Gradually:

One of the important teaching procedures used by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) is to apply a gradual approach. A gradual and systematic approach helps student to grip on the topic in a better way before moving to the next stage of the lesson. A heavy input might create confusion.

﴿وَقَرَأْنَا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَى مَكْثٍ وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنْزِيلًا﴾

*"It is a recitation that We have revealed in parts so that you can recite it to humanity in stages. We have sent it down little by little."*³¹

In Arabic language, تنزِيل refers to descending or coming down frequently, with regular intervals. Flexible stepping towards knowledge lets people feel that they are not rushed to new concepts. Similarly, the Qur'an uses verb "sent down," in its various forms, over 200 times, for example the second grammatical verb form نَزَّلْنَا which reflects this gradual descent, is used in many verses, like سورة البقرة in verses: 23 and 97; سورة آل عمران, verse: 3; سورة النساء, verse: 47; سورة الحجر, verse: 9; سورة النحل, verse: 89; سورة الإسراء, verse: 106 and سورة الدهر, verse: 23. The use of this form of verb is noteworthy because it shows historical fact of the Qur'an's descent on earth in twenty-three years.

Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Aslami said:

*"The Companions of the Prophet (peace & blessings be upon him) would learn ten verses from the Messenger of Allah and would not take another ten verses until they had learned their meaning and ruling."*³²

Muadh (may Allah be pleased with him) said: the messenger of Allah sent me to Yemen saying: You will find yourself among a community of people of the book, so first call them to testify that there is no deity of worship besides Allah and that I am the Messenger of Allah. If they accept this, then tell them that Allah has enjoined upon them five prayers during the day and the night. If they accept this tell them that Allah has made paying Sadaqah obligatory for them.³³

This transformational teaching changes people's thoughts and lives so that they can, motivate positive changes in those who follow them. Change requires tolerance and perception, a fruitful change requires these abilities. Similarly, step-by-step instructions play an important role in changing behaviors and to avoid misinterpretation or denial.³⁴

16- Appointing a student to answer a question that was raised to the Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) in order to train the students:

This is another important way of his teaching. He did not only teach but also ensured that the Companions were endowed with confidence and flexibility. Assigning trust and responsibility on someone who has a level

of qualities will help inspire a positive moral alleviation and confidence in them.

جاء رجلان يختصمان إلى رسول الله ﷺ فقال رسول الله ﷺ لعمر بن العاص: "أقض بينهما". قال: وأنت ها هنا يا رسول الله؟ قال: "نعم". قال: على ما أقضي؟ قال: "إن اجتهدت فأصبحت فلك عشرة أجور، وإن اجتهدت فأخطأت فلك أجر واحد".

Two disputants came to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) so he said to ‘Amr ibn Al-‘As (may Allah be pleased with him):

*"You pass judgment on these two". 'Amr ibn Al-‘As (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "Can I pass judgment? While you are present here, O Prophet of Allah?" He replied: "Yes". He ('Amr Ibn Al-‘As) said: "On what basis should I pass judgment?" The Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) said: "If you endeavor and you are correct (in your judgment), you will be rewarded ten-fold, and if you endeavor and are wrong (in your judgment), you will receive one reward."*³⁵

17- Practical Application:

The Prophet Muhammad (peace & blessings be upon him) used the practical application to teach his followers the five pillars of Islam hence started doing the obligatory duties to encourage Muslims to do so. When someone new to Islam asked the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) about the prayers and their timings, he asked him to pray with him two days, so that man just kept watching Muslims when they pray five times a day, after two days when last pray finished, Prophet ask where is that man who wished to learn prayers and their timings? The man replied here I am, I learned them well.

Conclusion

This was just a short glimpse of a broad-spectrum teaching policy. Man is incapable of portraying the whole scheme of study used by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him). He made worsening and depreciated society livable. One of his duties was teaching. His teaching activities were the first original model of Islamic education system. Through his ways and means, he tried to form a new world and built a new society. Education activities of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) have an immense importance and worth

exploratory. He started to institutionalize the teaching activities in terms of rules and approaches. The Prophet Muhammad's continuous learning-teaching enthusiasm and dynamism formed the main core of Islamic education system. Thus, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) used teaching practices that make his companions think & involved them in learning. His positive mindset paid a vital role for effective teaching & made his companions feel happy & motivated. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) used active practices to instruct, so students were more engaged in learning. He used unique & impressive teaching methodologies. His strategies were everlasting just as the Divine teachings, which he conveyed to us. He involved his companions in learning activities through outstanding motivational methods.

Teachers of the day may use with great ease the techniques used by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace & blessings be upon him) to become a successful teacher and trainer. They may use drawings to elaborate, analogies to explain concisely, question answer method to develop interest amongst students and so on to get success in this world and hereafter. If they use each one of his technique one by one in the classroom then their teaching will be dynamic.

In front of us lies an extensive methodology, comprising of dynamic ideas and abundant thoughts it is up to us, how deeply we are inspired by these techniques and how much we can include them in our daily practices.

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