

Youth Moral Education In The Works Of Imam Bukhari

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Abstract

This paper analyzes the issues of moral and spiritual education of youth based on Imam Bukhari's works, *Sahih al-Bukhari* and *Al-Adab al-Mufrad*. The study examines the educational role of the family, the impact of lawful sustenance (*halal rizq*) on morality, and the significance of raising girls in a contemporary context. Additionally, the relevance of Imam Bukhari's legacy in countering the negative influence of Western culture on youth spirituality is discussed.

Keywords: Imam Bukhari, morality, spirituality, youth, family, lawful sustenance, girls' education, Western influence, hadith science, modern society

I. INTRODUCTION

Imam Muhammad ibn Ismail al-Bukhari is a towering figure in Islamic scholarship, renowned for his seminal work, *Sahih al-Bukhari*, considered the most authentic source after the Qur'an. His scholarly legacy not only reinforces religious principles but also serves as a vital guide for the moral and spiritual development of the younger generation. In today's era of globalization and the widespread influence of Western culture, youth face significant threats to their spiritual integrity. In this context, Imam Bukhari's works provide an invaluable resource for fostering morally upright and spiritually resilient individuals. His life and works highlight the importance of family-based education, knowledge acquired from mentors, and the role of lawful sustenance in personal development. Imam Bukhari himself attained his esteemed status through the prayers of his mother and the guidance of his teachers. This paper explores the reflection of youth moral education in his works and their relevance as solutions to contemporary challenges.

II. THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN MORAL EDUCATION

The family is the cornerstone of societal upbringing, shaping the moral and spiritual worldview of youth. Imam Bukhari

emphasizes the pivotal role of parental influence, particularly that of the mother, in his own life. Historical sources recount that as a young boy, he lost his eyesight but regained it through his mother's persistent prayers [1]. This incident underscores the profound impact of parental blessings on a child's upbringing. In *Sahih al-Bukhari*, the hadith states: "The pleasure of the Lord lies in the pleasure of the parents" (B-2, 89), encouraging youth to honor family values. Imam Bukhari views the family as the bedrock of a stable society.

In contrast, modern Western culture promotes notions of "freedom" that weaken familial bonds, distancing youth from their families and contributing to societal moral decline. Imam Bukhari's works serve as a shield against such cultural erosion, advocating for the preservation of family values.

III. COUNTERING MORAL DECAY

Historical evidence suggests that societal decline often stems from three strategies:

- Undermining the Family:** Weakening family ties leaves youth vulnerable and without guidance. In Islam, women are central to upbringing, as exemplified by Khadija, the first to accept Islam.
- Corrupting Education:** Misguided education and irrelevant knowledge erode

moral standards. The hadith, “The beauty of one’s Islam lies in abandoning what is useless” (B-3, 56), warns against futile pursuits.

3. Discrediting Role Models: Disrespecting scholars and educators deprives youth of exemplary figures.

Imam Bukhari’s hadiths emphasize family values, proper education, and respect for scholars, offering a countermeasure to these threats. In modern times, efforts to marginalize mothers from their educational roles are evident under Western influence, yet Imam Bukhari’s life exemplifies the mother’s critical role in upbringing.

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF MANNERS AND KNOWLEDGE

In *Al-Adab al-Mufrad*, Imam Bukhari stresses the importance of manners in youth education: “Whoever abandons manners is deprived of the Sunnah; whoever abandons the Sunnah is deprived of obligations; and whoever abandons obligations is deprived of the knowledge of Allah” (B-3, 56).

This hadith positions manners as the foundation of spiritual growth. A well-mannered youth adheres to the Sunnah, fulfills religious obligations, and ultimately attains spiritual enlightenment. Imam Bukhari’s teachings guide youth toward this path, serving as a vital tool against the moral crises of modern society.

V. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EDUCATING GIRLS

Imam Bukhari places special emphasis on the upbringing of girls in *Sahih al-Bukhari*: “Whoever raises two daughters with good manners until they reach maturity will be with me on the Day of Judgment, like this” (indicating closeness with his fingers) (B-2, 145).

During the pre-Islamic era of ignorance, girls were undervalued, but Islam restored their dignity. Imam Bukhari highlights the upbringing of girls as a source of great reward for parents and a vital investment in

society. In contrast, modern Western culture, under the guise of “gender equality,” often distances women from their familial and educational roles. Imam Bukhari advocates for raising girls as future mothers, reinforcing their pivotal role in society.

VI. THE IMPACT OF LAWFUL SUSTENANCE ON MORALITY

Imam Bukhari underscores the influence of lawful sustenance (*halal rizq*) on morality: “Halal is clear, and haram is clear, but between them are doubtful matters unknown to many. Whoever avoids doubtful matters safeguards their religion and honor” (B-2, 10).

Lawful sustenance purifies the heart, elevates morality, and facilitates the acceptance of prayers. In today’s world, Western products and lifestyles infiltrate Muslim youth’s lives, undermining their moral values. Imam Bukhari’s teachings urge youth to avoid the forbidden and prioritize lawful sustenance to maintain spiritual integrity.

VII. SOLUTIONS TO CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Today’s youth face moral crises driven by social media, Western cultural influences, and materialism. Imam Bukhari’s works offer a robust defense against these challenges, encouraging a return to family values, lawful living, and good manners. His hadith, “Good character is the foundation of faith,” guides youth toward righteousness amid the spread of immorality through media.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

Imam Bukhari’s works hold a unique place in the moral and spiritual education of youth. His hadiths promote family values, respect for girls, and the importance of lawful sustenance. In the face of modern challenges, his legacy serves as a timeless guide, protecting youth from moral decline and fostering a spiritually resilient generation. His teachings remain a vital

resource for past, present, and future generations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author expresses gratitude to the faculty of Oriental University for their guidance and support in conducting this research.

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