

## **THE PURSUIT OF AN EFFECTIVE HOME- SCHOOLING ENVIRONMENT FOR MUSLIM CHILDREN**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This research intended to seek the reasons why home-schooling Muslim children can be the best way to adhere to the Shari'ah. The research further intended to retrieve different methods and strategies as to how home-schooling Muslim children can be done in the best way while adhering to the Shari'ah. Moreover, this study also aimed to highlight various challenges faced by Muslim homeschooling families and the solutions applied by them. This research utilized deductive qualitative research using an open-ended questionnaire survey for conducting an in-depth thematic analysis. The study was carried out online and resulted in forty-five completed responses. The results of the research showcased that the major reasons for home-schooling of Muslim children were to: avoid negative peer-influence, avoid negative topics, controlled atmosphere, family members are role models, good balance between 'deen' and 'dunya', focus on Islamic studies, less distractions, no fear of assessment, positive attitude towards learning and to relate everything with Allah. Moreover, the results of the study showed that the best home-schooling for Muslim children can be accomplished through various strategies such as: inculcating Islamic values, providing Islamised education, adopting an Islamic lifestyle, having a controlled environment, providing full parental supervision, protecting from societal evils, and reducing*

*peer pressure. Furthermore, the research revealed that Muslim homeschooling parents encountered several challenges, and the most common challenges are socializing, attention deficiency, time management, the distraction of household work, peer pressure from school-going children, societal pressure, criticism from others, expensive resources, and lack of structure.*

**Keywords:** Home-schooling, Islamic education, Muslim parents, Muslim children, Shariah.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

For centuries, human society had operated upon deep values, cultures, and basic ethics. The world which is changing dramatically each second has also evolved vulgarly in the name of You Only Live Once (YOLO). Hence, societal standards have become worse each new day. Muslims, who abide by the authentic Shariah, have become odd strangers in this unbelievable new world. It gets even more scarier when Muslim children show their backs towards their religion while perceiving worldly norms to be superior. As every individual is responsible for his/her actions, proper education on what is right and wrong is highly essential. Even in the name of education, Muslim children are being bombarded by un-Islamic activities by authorities, teachers, and peers. This lays a huge impact on the Muslim child who grows up believing such activities to be ideal and normal as they are being learned at such a tender age wherein, they absorb everything easily like a sponge. It is crucial to safeguard Muslim children from this pandemic of immoral behaviour by taking the responsibility of educating them through home-schooling.

This research intends to seek the reasons why home-schooling Muslim children can be the best way to adhere to the Shari'ah. The research further projected to retrieve different methods and strategies as to how home-schooling Muslim children can be the best way while following the Shari'ah. This research aimed to study the different perspectives Muslim home-schooling families have regarding their children's education and their reasons to choose home-schooling over public or private schooling. It is essential to provide clarity while thinking about

children's grooming and overall development that will enable them to live fulfilling lives in this world as faithful Muslims. This research intended to highlight the dilemma faced by Muslim parents every single day, who feel lost or confused and seek to find a middle path to sort out their worries for their children in this ever-changing world. Overall, it aimed to add some clarity to the vision of successful Muslim children.

The main objective of this research was to promote home-schooling among Muslim families to safeguard their children so that each one can become an active member of society and a profound 'daaee'. The goal was to not only call our Muslim parents towards adherence to the Islamic Shari'ah but also to get the kids invested in activities that will pull their hearts towards our religion in a very exciting and entertaining way. This research aimed to highlight the phenomenon of home-schooling whereby promoting the parents to become 'Talib e ilm' – 'seekers of knowledge' themselves first and also help their children in their educational pursuit to be students of knowledge. Furthermore, this research aimed to redirect Muslim families' perspective about education towards prioritizing adherence to the Shariah while purifying their intentions to seek knowledge only for the sake of Allah I and to please Him alone and not for worldly benefits.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

In the context of this research, home-schooling refers to imparting education and all sorts of necessary skills at home by parents or grandparents or hired tutors or online tutoring (Zahra, 2016). The Muslim constitution comprising of the authentic Quranic commandments and the authentic sunnah, as

followed by the four rightly guided caliphs, their successors (Tabi'un) and their successors (Tab-Tabi'un) is referred to as 'Shariah'.

### **2.1 Home-schooling According to the Islamic Shariah**

Islam has given us such precise instructions and saved us from unreasonable 'bid'ah' activities at every step of our life starting from the birth of our newborn. As children start to grow, parents begin to teach them all kinds of important lessons but are pulled from all corners, each route suggesting an important skill, an art, a language or in broader terms; Muslim parents are faced with teaching their children worldly education and Islamic education. It appears to be a long-term experiment with different combinations to make the perfect child that can be proudly shown to the world as an accomplishment. Parents want their kids to be successful, happy leaders of tomorrow who are winners wherever they go. From the very beginning, parents teach them how to be winners, even in kindergarten while playing musical chairs, they are learning to win by eliminating others in every round. Is this what they need to learn: how to be selfish individuals who only want himself/herself to be the winner? When a closer look is taken at what worldly education is subtly teaching the children, pious Muslim parents realize a deviation from the path of Allah I and thus step away from the private or public schooling system and turn towards homeschooling.

Every aspect of children's activities needs to be Islamized to make them god-fearing Muslims. It is a matter of changing the perspective and morals that are taught to the children. For example, kindergartens in Japan play this same game of musical

chairs in which the kids are told that in every round, a chair will be removed but for everyone to win, they need to accommodate every single one of them. Hence, the kids try to hug and squeeze themselves and attempt to occupy each one such that none of them is left standing. Overall, such values of upholding unity and brotherhood need to be part of the Islamic upbringing of the children yet Muslim households are blindly following the world and making our kids run in this rat race of perceived success to win by eliminating others.

Now the question arises, who is to judge who is a successful person or not? Doesn't the one who created this person have the full right to judge what counts as a successful person? Allah says, "I only created the Jinn and man for my worship." (Surah Adh-Dharyyat, 51:56). It is also mentioned in a hadith, that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim" (Sunan Ibn Majah, Vol.1, Book 1, Hadith 224) but the most important knowledge is the knowledge of Allah. Then what type of knowledge are Muslim parents and children chasing? Even the parents including mothers have the right to education in Islam to set an example for their kids, specifically daughters in order to clarify that education doesn't stop after getting married and having kids. However, Muslim parents feel too lost and confused about their kids' education, hence, they disregard their self-education. In a simple example, it's a matter of survival as the parents need to put on their oxygen masks first and foremost and then think about giving oxygen masks to their children and family otherwise, they will feel suffocated.

The mothers need to ponder upon the fact that if every woman had given up on her aspirations and dreams then the world

would not have witnessed the very first university that was built by Fatima Al Fihri who had built Al Qarawiyyin University that is still operating till today. Therefore, Muslims should strive towards cultivating a culture of lifelong education. What does the Quran say about education? 'Iqra', 'Read'. Even the very first Ayah of the Quran was about reading. Allah says: "Read in the name of your lord, who has created" (Surah Al Alaq, 96:1) but who has the time dedicated towards reading; and reading fiction books and novels doesn't add any beneficial value to one's life. Quran is referring to reading good Islamic books, personal development books or fact books yet most of our time goes by either trying to make some money or towards our household chores or children; none of which might be haram. Allah says, "Wealth and children are this life's adornments, but good deeds that last have a better reward in the sight of your Lord and are a better source of hope." (Al-Kahf, 18:46).

Muslim parents strive to be the best in everything and even push their kids towards being the best all-round such that they can leave behind a legacy. The Prophet ﷺ said, "the best [things] that a human being can leave behind are three: a righteous child who will pray for him, a continuing charity whose reward reaches him, and knowledge which benefits those who come after him." (Ibn Majah, Chapter: 1, Hadith No: 241). That is the best Sadaqa Jariya. In this day and age, all Muslim parents need to aim for attaining the best Sadaqa Jariya which requires raising their children with a lot more hardship than our predecessors. The parents themselves need to model such perspective by striving towards becoming the best Sadaqa Jariya for their own parents and not be too lost behind making their kids the best. Why can't the parents also be students of

knowledge or daa'is of Islam? They have easily raised their hands and decided to push this responsibility onto the next generation: their sons and daughters, who will eventually grow up watching their parents; their sons will study to earn money and their daughters will study till they get married, give birth to children and the cycle repeats endlessly, each generation expecting the next generation to bear the workload. Allah says, "Who is better in speech than he who invites [people] to Allah, does righteous deeds and says, 'Indeed, I am a Muslim'." (Surah Fussilat, 41:33).

Our Prophet ﷺ also promised in a hadith narrated by Sahl Ibn Sa'd: "By Allah, it is better for you that Allah guides one person [to Islam] through your efforts than [to have] the most valuable possessions." (Sahih Bukhari, 2847). Muslim parents can relate with this hadith for themselves and their children as well as everyone needs to be able to add value to others' life. The Prophet ﷺ also said, "The best people are those most beneficial to [other] people." (Sahih al Jami, 3289). Parents usually feel overwhelmed and confused as they are being bombarded by the world promising different fields of education as being crucial for a successful life, thus they find it difficult to decide and choose what is best for their children. Allah says: "Perhaps you may dislike something which is good for you and love something which is bad for you. Allah knows and you do not." (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:216). Hence, parents need to admit that they have very limited wisdom and knowledge to decide for themselves and their children. They can get more clarity from another hadith of our Prophet ﷺ in which he says, "This world is cursed and whatever is in it is also cursed, except for the remembrance of Allah and whatever helps us to remember



Allah, and the teacher and the student.” (Sunan Ibn Majah, Vol. 5, Book 37, Hadith 4112). Thus, the scholar, the teacher and the student are the ones that make time spent on this earth the most beneficial and pleasing to Allah. Being a Scholar is a very challenging position to claim, but in home-schooling, parents get to be their children’s teachers and simultaneously be students of knowledge and ‘daa’is’ themselves as the role and status of teachers in Islam has been extremely exemplified.

Parents assume that they are not qualified enough as they have not memorized the entire Quran and they don’t know many ahadith, how can they be a daa’i and a teacher? The Prophet ﷺ said, “Convey from me even if it is one verse” (Sahih Bukhari, 3461). Then how do Muslim families pursue this path, as they feel lost and seek a roadmap? Allah will always direct towards the right path. The only map needed is the Quran which is commonly misused by simply kissing and keeping it respectfully. Generally, people open a regular map, read the map, and try to follow it. Currently, nobody does that anymore as all those years of social lessons of reading a map have become obsolete knowledge now since people are using GPS navigation these days. Regardless of the time and age, Quranic knowledge will never become obsolete. Islam is not about kissing the Quran and keeping it on a shelf. It is about seeking knowledge by reading, understanding, and reflecting upon it. Yet, many Muslim families give insufficient time to the Quran as so much of their time flies by using social media or in entertainment. The Prophet ﷺ mentioned that “There are two blessings which many people do not make the most of, and thus lose out; good health and free time.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari Vol. 8, Book 76, Hadith 421).

Everyone has this same luxury but what they make use of it decides their scale of deeds.

Muslim parents are their children's role models, hence if they want them to follow Islam to the best of their abilities then the parents themselves need to lead by example. If they want their children to pray on time, then they should be the very first person who needs to drop everything and pray on time. As Philips (2015) highlighted that "salah is the first thing you will be questioned about, so do not make it the last thing on your mind." With an open means of communication, Muslim children should hear from their parents how guilty they feel when they miss a salah by mistake or due to oversleeping. As a result, the children should know about their parent's emotions and their connection with Allah.

Parents are the special link between making their children love this beautiful religion. The children must know how holistic our deen is, as it even teaches us how to keep our bodies healthy by adopting sunnah habits of exercising, such as walking and jogging, archery, swimming, horse riding, spear practice, sword practice and so much more. Muslim families should be the reason, the kids love Allah, His Prophet ﷺ and our religion Islam. Thus, the parents need to be aware that they should not be the person that drove their kids away from Islam by constantly highlighting negative aspects and mentioning that 'everything is haram' repeatedly. Muslim families should ensure that the children thoroughly know the sunnah of our Prophet ﷺ in every aspect of life because if they don't know what is authentic then they might get engaged in 'bid'ah' (innovation) activities which is what the world is openly teaching and propagating to the

children on social media. It is a fact that whenever a 'bid'ah' is born, a sunnah (correct tradition) dies.

To teach the correct Shariah, the relationship with the children needs to be strong and healthy. Unfortunately, the relationships among Muslim families have become broken wherein simple tasks end up in shouting and screaming leading to a messed-up relationship. Even mothers who typically have the sweetest bond with their children lose control sometimes and it gets, even more, scarier when the mother gets angry. Consequently, this doesn't look like a healthy bond where the child wants to learn and wants to be like his/her parents. Occasionally, when the parents lose their temper, it even gets physical. It is crucial that parents need to spend time building this relationship that is taken for granted as the children are an amanah from Allah and under their authority for only a limited period of time after which they need to book an appointment just to spend some quality time with them. Muslim parents must make good and happy memories with their children as it lays a foundation towards a strong personality. Simultaneously, parents need to have some mercy on these children as they are the ones who will be upholding the Quran in the future. It is time that parents need to change some of their own habits. Our Prophet ﷺ said, "Make things easy for the people, and do not make it difficult for them, and make them calm (with good news) and do not turn them away." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Vol. 8, Book 73, Hadith 146).

Parents need not expect instant changes as they cannot change someone's behavior. All they can do is remind them, and hope that Allah I will change their heart. It is truly essential as true change happens in the heart before it reaches the limbs.

Additionally, Muslim parents need to keep a check on their behavior, their actions, their speech. Every sentence needs to be carefully communicated as the Prophet ﷺ said, “Allah hates one who utters foul or coarse language.” (Riyad As-Salihin, 625). For this purpose, if they are not careful with what they speak and have their sentences filled with curse words and foul language then they cannot expect beautiful recitation of the Quran or hadith coming out of their child’s mouth. Parents need to model what they preach and thus, need to be extremely careful as the children are accurate lie-detectors as well who will easily recognize when the parents are randomly making promises and do not mean it. Furthermore, parents cannot be two-faced with their children as the kids are smart enough to detect when the parents themselves are busy with useless entertainment. Subsequently, parents must keep a check on themselves first and then expect their children to learn from them as a mentor.

Escaping the common route of private and public schooling, families that choose homeschooling have full control and can show their kids that they are a slave of Allah and not a slave to worldly trends or fashion. “Samina wa ataa’na” (we hear and obey) whatever Allah commands for everything even in terms of what and how to wear. Currently, Muslim children are being blinded by idealizing pop stars, actors, and musicians as they are considered as successful and happy but if truly music and the related industries were beneficial, then the musicians and actors would have been the happiest people on earth. Yet the reality is, they are not and several of them lead their lives in misery, depression and end up committing suicides.

Muslim parents often wonder why so much burden has been laid on their shoulders to raise righteous Muslim kids but they must remember that Allah wouldn't put something difficult in their life if Allah thought that they were not strong enough to get through it. Parents can find some solace and a motivational boost from the hadith wherein the Prophet ﷺ said, "Paradise is under the feet of your mother and father is the middle gate of heaven" (Nasai, Jihad, 6). Parents must attempt to do their best and then leave what, when, where, and how to Allah. The main hindrance felt by all Muslims is the whispers of Shaytan who misguides them by saying that they are not good enough and a sinner themselves. It is essential to remember that none of us is perfect and when pious Muslims try to propagate Islamic teachings, people will make fun of them putting them down and embarrassing them in every possible way. Similar challenges are faced by Muslim homeschoolers as well, but they should try to become confident ambassadors of Islam and bear the consequences with patience while supporting and motivating each other as reminder benefits a believer. None can claim mastery or perfection in parenting, but it is essential to persist in trying and Allah I will reward for the intentions and efforts.

As worldly education has burdened Muslim families and children with so many skills, subjects, languages and fields of study that Islamic education takes a back seat and is thus not considered a priority for the children. Even though basic worldly education is not deniable, the trade-off between dedicating entire childhood years towards building worldly stability against no efforts to learn about Allah I, our deen and the hereafter is a transaction of utter loss.

## 2.2 Home-schooling According to Educationists

Holt (1964) claimed that “to a very great degree, school is a place where children learn to be stupid.” John Holt coined the term ‘unschooling’ and had strong views towards child-led home-schooling. Holt (1984) briefed by stating that, “the most important thing any teacher must learn, not to be learned in any school of education I ever heard of, can be expressed in seven words: learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners”. The home-schooling perspective builds itself upon the works of Holt and gains popularity among different open-minded families who sought alternative ways of educating their own children at home. Gatto, (2003) articulated that: “do we really need school? I don't mean education, just forced schooling: six classes a day, five days a week, nine months a year, for twelve years. Is this deadly routine necessary? And if so, for what? Don't hide behind reading, writing, and arithmetic as a rationale, because 2 million happy home schoolers have surely put that banal justification to rest.” As shown in the figure below, Gatto, (2018) further has strong objections towards people who pull up the “socialization” card supporting the schooling system.

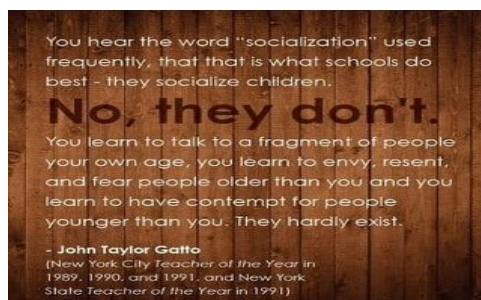


Figure 1. Socialization (Gatto, 2018)

Another impressive research was conducted by Dr. Sugata Mitra who carried out the famous ‘Hole in the wall’ experiments that showed that, “in the absence of supervision or formal teaching, children can teach themselves and each other, if they are motivated by curiosity and peer interest” (Mitra, 1999). These experiments utilised a computer installed in a wall in slum areas and observed the reaction of illiterate poor children who were curious enough to figure out the processes of working on a computer by themselves and were able to learn many concepts unbelievably on their own. Based on his perceptions, Mitra put “SOLE (Self-Organized Learning Environment) in place, which requires broadband, collaboration, and encouragement: the three essential elements of learning. This model has been tested successfully in different schools around the planet” (Mitra, 2013).

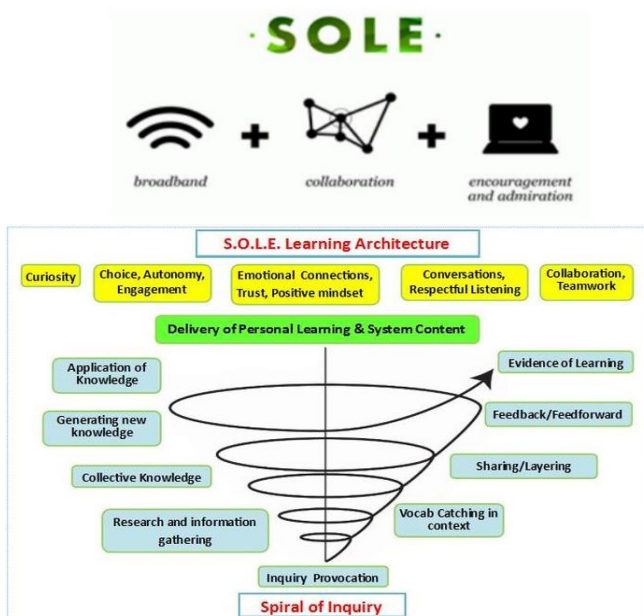


Figure 2. SOLE (Mitra, 2013)

Several other researchers have attempted to gain more insight into the reasons for Muslim families to home-school. Saghir, (2011) identified “four major reasons for homeschooling: lack of academic rigour, lack of individualized attention, negative social environment and lack of religious teaching in public and private schools”. Zahra, (2016) indicated that the main reasons for the rise in home-schooling among Muslim families are due to “religion, family values and a morally based education in a safe environment.” Nur Icmi and Suryono, (2019) highlighted the main reasons for homeschooling as illustrated in Figure 3 below.

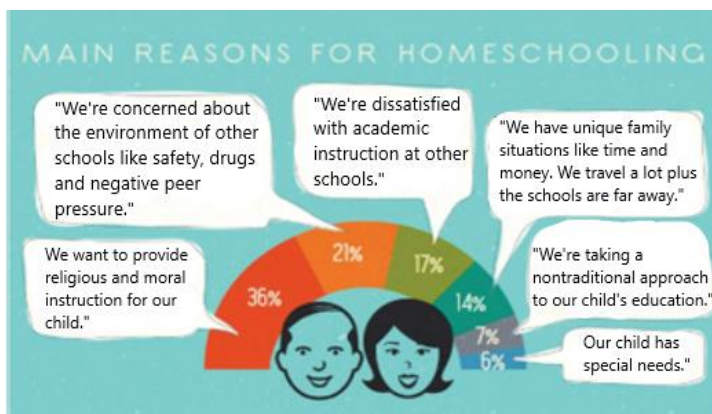


Figure 3. Main Reasons for Homeschooling (Nur Icmi & Suryono, 2019)

Furthermore, Nafi'a et al. (2021) described that “there are seven aspects that must be a concern in family education such as faith, morals, physical, intellectual, psychological, social, and sexual aspects; and to internalize these seven aspects of education, it is necessary to use several methods: education by examples, customs, giving advice, attention, rewards and punishments”.



Purnama, (2019) articulated that home-schoolers “use two main strategies namely: first, in the form of dialogue, discussion, experimentation, direct practice and secondly, the thought conveyed through direct meetings”. Building on these findings, this research attempted to draw the bigger picture of an ideal and effective Muslim home-schooling methodology and its suitable environment to adhere to the Islamic shariah.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

Secondary data collected through an in-depth literature review on Muslim home-schooling formed the basis for this research foundation, thereby building upon the prevalent topics, the primary data was collected. For this study, primary data was collected through a qualitative questionnaire survey. The questionnaire was designed in Google forms and shared online through the WhatsApp application in home-schooling groups and shared directly with home-schooling families. This collected data was imported into NVivo 12 software for an in-depth qualitative thematic analysis. This research employed Braun and Clarke’s (2020) reflexive thematic analysis methodology for data analysis as illustrated in the below figure.



Figure 4. Phases of Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke 2006, Braun & Clarke, 2020)

#### 4. RESULTS

The research received forty-eight responses after posting the questionnaire, out of which forty-five were complete and useful. Then, the researcher carried out a comprehensive qualitative thematic analysis of the data collected.

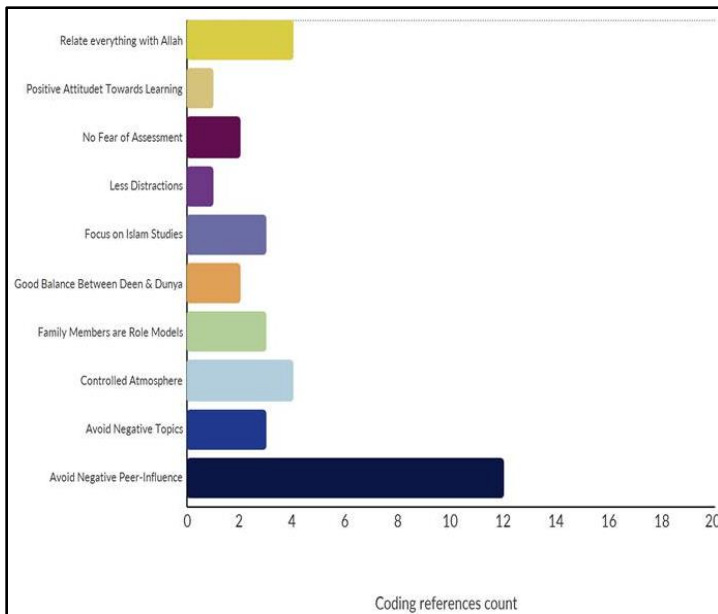


Figure 5. Why home-schooling Muslim children can be the best way to adhere to the Shari'ah?

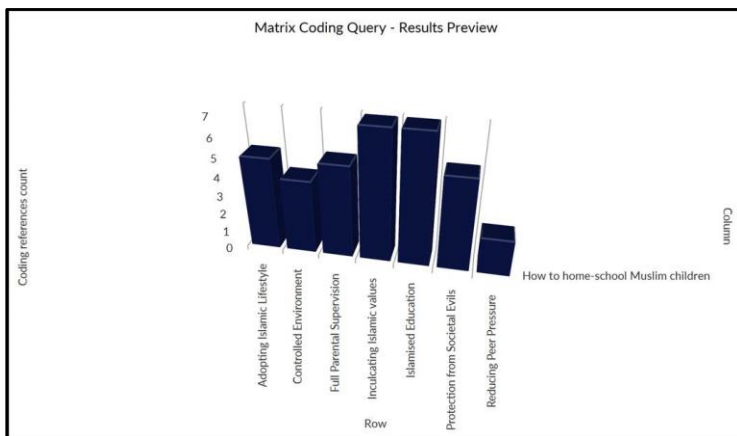


Figure 6. How home-schooling Muslim children can be the best way to adhere to the Shari’ah?

#### 4.1 Challenges and their Solutions

The following table represents the various homeschooling challenges mentioned by the respondents and the solutions applied by them. Some respondents only mentioned their challenges and did not propose any solution. The frequency of respondents mentioning the same challenge has been shown in the table below:

Table 8. Challenges and their Solutions

| Challenge  | Solution                              |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Attention Deficiency/Child not taking classes seriously/laziness (3) | More patience, Relaxed approach       |
| Socializing/Social Communication (10)                                | ❖ Make efforts to seek opportunities. |

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|---|---|
| Rigid homeschooling cliques (groups)                | ❖ Take children to the park.  |
| Time management (3)                                 | Search, form/Join a community group   |
| Time & patience are tested more (2)                 | Join different groups to experience their approaches,   |
| Spending time productively                          | Adapt and be flexible   |
| Distraction of household works (4)                  | ❖ planning ahead.   |
| Lack of Self-care/me-time for the Parent (2)        | ❖ Make dua.   |
|   | ❖ Wake up early.  |
|   | ❖ Learning to balance and cope.   |
|   | ❖ Wake up early before the children.  |
|   | ❖ Communication, providing socialization to fill the void by arranging halaqas/ group meetings. |
| Peer pressure from school going children (4)        | by being determined on homeschooling, discussing  |
| Societal pressure (4)                               | Keep a distance from them   |
| Judgmental/jealous people (2)                       | Research enough to become confident   |
| Criticism from others (4)                           | Need to acquire more knowledge to answer their questions/ research                              |
| Children asking questions unknown to the parent     | Online book reading, reusing books  |
| Books, resources/activities are expensive (5)       | Arrange a Home library  |
| Lack of library nearby                              | with passage of time, things get better, not focusing on  |
| ❖ Mother's Surgery & Birth of a Newborn sibling (2) |   |

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|--|---|
| ❖ Big life changing events: death or shifting.   | academics and letting free play for temporary basis   |
| ❖ Balancing all the children's needs and duties as a wife and mother (2)                                 |   |
| Can become monotonous  | day trips   |
| Refusing to write (2)  | Leave it till the child is ready  |
| Living in a multicultural society without offending, difficulty to find appropriate place for recreation | inform about other's beliefs and why they are wrong   |
| Resistance to learn from the parent,   |   |
| Teaching Arabic is a challenge for non-native speakers   | Hire a tutor for the time-being, focus on passing the exams for the certificates                                    |
| Enrolling in standardized test after years of homeschooling (2)  | Assigning daily work timetable, Age-appropriate discipline with carrot and stick approach (Reward & Punishment)     |
| Lack of Incentive/ambition to move forward, Lack of obedience (2)  | learn by taking courses to improve, minimize own commitments to remain patient with kids, discussing its importance |
| Lack of structure/routine (3)  |   |
| Parental self-temperamental challenges   | Self-reflection   |
| Stress/Struggling due to lack of father's support in teaching (2)  | Being grateful that the father is providing financial support   |
| Lack of support (2)  |   |
| Consistency is missing   | Try to take out time  |

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|--|--|
| Children picking up bad habits/language  | being their best friend, explaining how they can improve and having truckloads of patience, discussing with spouse & other mothers |
| Comparison with other children of similar ages                                     | Learning not to compare with other children  |
| Parental guilt of not doing enough   | Making dua and asking Allah's help   |
| Information overload due to too much reliance on external advice/activities/groups | Relaxed approach to cutdown excess activities and avoid being anxious  |
| Balancing professional work & home-schooling                                       | Compromise on some aspects of work and schedule around children's activities   |
| Lack of Extra activities like sports & arts (2)                                    | -  |
| Family pressure (2)  | -  |
| Self-discipline  | -  |
| Few Quran/Arabic teachers during the day   | -  |
| Children in Different age groups   | -  |
| Finding the energy & motivation daily  | -  |
| Extreme outdoor temperature hinders outing   | -  |
| Surprise Guests disrupting the class   | -  |

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## 5. CONCLUSION

From the above study, the researcher has concluded that home-schooling is a unique journey that appears differently for different families. This is the beauty of the model of home-

schooling wherein, any parent can modify their technique depending upon the requirement of each child and the surrounding circumstances of the family at any given time. This research intended to seek the reasons as to why home-schooling Muslim children can be the best way to adhere to the Shari'ah. The research further intended to retrieve different methods and strategies as to how home-schooling Muslim children can be done in the best way while adhering to the Shari'ah. Moreover, this study also aimed to highlight various challenges faced by Muslim homeschooling families and the solutions applied by them.

The results of the research showcased that the major reasons for home-schooling Muslim children were to: avoid negative peer-influence, avoid negative topics, controlled atmosphere, family members are role models, good balance between deen and dunya, focus on Islamic studies, less distractions, no fear of assessment, positive attitude towards learning and to relate everything with Allah. Moreover, the results of the study showed that the best home-schooling for Muslim children can be accomplished successfully by inculcating Islamic values, by providing Islamised education, by adopting Islamic lifestyle, by having a controlled environment, providing full parental supervision, protecting from societal evils, and reducing peer pressure.

Furthermore, the research revealed that Muslim homeschooling parents encountered several challenges, and the most common challenges are socializing, attention deficiency, time management, distraction of household works, peer pressure from school going children, societal pressure, criticism from

others, expensive resources, and lack of structure. Each challenge can be tackled by an appropriate solution such as seeking opportunities of socializing in the park or by joining a community group, adopting a relaxed approach, planning ahead, learning to balance housework and homeschooling, communicating, determined on homeschooling, researching enough to become confident, using online free resources and learning by taking courses to improve.



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