

Why A Nigerian Salafi Parent Should Consider Homeschooling.

Educating and cultivating our children upon righteousness is an obligation upon us as parents. They are trusts from Allah and He will ask us about how we cultivated them, Allah commanded us in the Qur'an:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded. [at-Tahreem:6]

Shaykh Abdurrahman b. Nasir As-Sa'di commented on this verse, he said:

“Protecting the family and children (from Fire) is by **cultivating them and teaching them**, and enforcing them upon what Allah has commanded.”

When we contemplate this verse and the commentary of Shaykh, we will realize that taking steps to educate our children and cultivating them upon good Tarbiyyah is an obligation upon us, just like every other thing that Allah commanded us to do. Leaving it off and being nonchalant about it is disobeying Allah. Moreover, the prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم informed us that we will be asked about our flock, he said:

وَالرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ عَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْهُمْ وَالْمَرْأَةُ رَاعِيَةٌ عَلَى بَيْتِ بَعْلِهَا وَوَلَدِهِ وَهِيَ مَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْهُمْ

“A man is a guardian over the members of his family and shall be questioned about them. A woman is a guardian over the household of her husband and his children and shall be questioned about them”

If we know that Allah will ask us about how we trained our children, then we have to be intentional in cultivating them. We have to look into the proper way of educating our children and not just rely on our instinct or blindly follow the methodology of those who do not share our aims and goals.

Most parents in our society cultivate their children like investments that are meant to bring worldly benefits in future, and less attention is paid to the religious growth of the children. A child might not be doing well in religious education, but the parents won't be worried, as long as he is doing well in western education. That is the reason why many parents would force their children to study courses they believe will fetch them money, even if the child doesn't like the course. A Salafi does not see education just as a means to secure a job in the future or find a means of livelihood, rather he sees education as a tunnel a child must go through to become a religious-conscious and responsible adult. A Salafi sees educating his child as a commandment of Allah and he knows it is important for him to rectify his intention regarding it, just like other forms of worship. Just rectifying the intention of educating our children is not enough, we need to make sure that it is done in the correct manner.

The school system in the Nigerian society negatively affects our religious life, but many are not talking about it, possibly because they do not realize the negative effects or they do not know of any feasible alternative for the school system.

Going through the public school system will expose children to many idolatry beliefs. Studying a local language is a must in the school curriculum, and a Yoruba Muslim child that goes through this will be taught about the idols of Yorubaland that are depicted as heroes, and the

idol-worshippers will be depicted as people who hold onto the cultural heritage. By this, the *Al-Walaa wa al-Baraa* that a Muslim child should have has been reduced, and we know that hating Shirk and the people of Shirk is an important aspect of Tawheed, and the one who lacks this aspect has not achieved the correct Tawheed. This is dangerous, Allaahul Musta'aan.

Also, the mainstream lesson regarding social tolerance and respect in public schools is *Wahdatu al-Adyaan* (believing that all religions are one) which is clearly a Kufr belief. A child is taught to see all religions to be respected; as they all call upon the same God, but in their own unique ways. This belief is clearly Kufr, as Allah stated clearly in the Qur'an that the only acceptable religion with Allah is Islam. I once heard from an adult that while she was in school, a corps member teaching them Yoruba would ask them to bring some foodstuffs on some days to worship the classroom. Even though the person later realized that that was actually a deceit from the corps member to collect foodstuffs from them, but it is scary to hear that children were introduced to worshipping other than Allah at that tender age. Allaahul Musta'aan.

More Kufr that a child is likely to fall into when he is made to attend public school (particularly in south-western Nigeria) is being forced to worship Jesus. Many public schools' morning devotion is conducted with *Song of Praise (popularly referred to as S.O.P)* which is an hymn book of the Christians. After singing several hymns that contain beliefs contradicting the correct belief of a Muslim, a teacher or the assembly prefect will pray in Jesus's name, and everyone will have to say 'Amen'. May Allah save our children from Kufr.

You may be thinking that the problem only lies in the public schools and Christian-dominated schools while thinking the so-called Muslim schools can be a better option. Many of the so-called Muslim schools we see around do not cultivate their students upon Salafiyyah, many of them make the Bid'ah of congregational Dhikr part of the school exercise. When

it is time for the Bid'ah of Hijrah Celebration, they take students to the Bid'ah event for the march past. Just like other general schools, the children there will have to stand for the national anthem and the national flag, there is free mixing between both genders, the females can't dress in the hijab that fulfills the Sharee'ah conditions, they listen to music and several other prohibited things, do you still see these places to be safe for the children you want to cultivate upon Salafiyyah?!

It is noteworthy to mention that even some general subjects contain some falsehood, only teachers who are grounded upon Salafiyyah can detect such falsehood, examples like believing that energy and matter cannot be created, the theory of evolution, believing that the sun doesn't move, believing that earthquakes are natural disaster, believing that it is possible for humans to get to the moon and several falsehoods. Many Muslim children also learnt about interest and insurance in school and they do not know that these things are not in line with the Sharee'ah, these are reasons why our children need educated Salafi parents to sieve the contents they are to consume.

The fear of peer factors is another problem when it comes to children attending conventional schools. You may be able to control the children they play with at home, but such can't be done when they are at school. You may have trained your child upon Salafiyyah, but he has classmates whose parents do not have time to cultivate but have been trained by the street, the internet and the devil, it is quite easy for the child to get affected by them. How many stories have we heard regarding this, where a child who appears to be a good boy at home is actually a cult member at school. Through schooling, many children have been influenced into fornication, alcoholism, pornography, masturbation, homosexuality and all sort of social vices. I did teaching practice in a public senior secondary school for seven weeks, and throughout the time I spent there, there is no 3 days except that there is a sexually related offence reported to the staff room. This is a great time of fitnah, it is more of the reasons why the Salafis should be in charge of their children's Tarbiyyah.

Many schools expose children to these trials. From primary school, boys and girls are meant to sit together; with the aim of cultivating children upon gender equality and free mixing. Allaahul Musta'aan. We have seen class teachers selling valentine flowers to students to exchange among themselves, what are they teaching children by this?

Problems like these are the reasons why Salafis need to rethink their plans to educate their children. Many Salafis are now opting for homeschooling their children and that is exposing us to more benefits of homeschooling over conventional schooling. Impacting proper education in children requires that the children are taught with adequate time, correct knowledge, care, love and affection. The love and affection you use when teaching your children can't be compared to how a teacher will teach them. You are educating your child, but the teacher is teaching his student to get paid at the end of the month, you can spot the difference.

Many schools do not even have enough competent teachers. I studied Education at University and I can tell you that only a few people chose to study Education, for obvious reasons that the teaching job is not from the high-paying jobs. Many of those who end up studying Education are people who do not have a passion for it, but they are admitted to that faculty when they couldn't make it to the Faculties of Law, Engineering and Medical College. A colleague in a different university once told me that the Faculty of Education in their school is being referred to as the "School's dumping site" by students. Some of these people get to love Education while studying it, and many still do not, and they are part of the end products teaching in many schools. What do you expect to see from a teacher like this?

If the teachers teaching the students are individuals who are properly trained to teach but only do not love teaching, the affair would have been better, but many of the teachers today (particularly in private schools) combine two diseases; they are not trained to teach and they also do not have passion for their jobs. Many did not study education, but when they

couldn't find their desired job or they are still on the lookout for their desired job, they pick up a teaching job without proper training, they get to class and just teach by instinct. The school employed them without NCE or B.A/Sc ED, they have no TRCN certificate and the school did not enforce them to go for PGDE. Some small-scale private schools would even employ High-school leavers to teach. This is what people take the teaching profession for in this part of the world. If a man identifies as a doctor, but he has never received any training regarding medicine, will you allow him to treat you? Obviously No, why will you then leave the heart of your children to an unqualified teacher? Remember that the mistake of a doctor will only kill his patients, but the mistake of a teacher will kill the heart of many generations to come.

The population of students in conventional schools is also a great problem, The National Policy on Education prescribes a student-teacher ratio of 1:40 for secondary schools for an effective learning process. Look at the schools we have today and tell me how many schools can maintain this. The overcrowding in schools is a great challenge for teachers teaching at conventional schools, there is no adequate time to focus on the development of each child, and they are only given mass education like feeds are given to chickens and fishes on the farm, without any concern for individual growth. In many schools, the lessons either favour the slow learners while the brilliant ones are frustrated or favour the brilliant ones while the slow learners are left behind. But when you homeschool your child, you give him the total attention he needs and you move at his pace.

These things are having great repercussions in our society, I have seen a student of S.S 1 who couldn't pronounce 'Wednesday' when written, and another one who couldn't spell 'Father'. Look at the society, how many High-school leavers can write O'level exams without the so-called 'miracle

centres'?. The education system can not be in this state and a Salafi parent will decide to put his children there.

Homeschooling also gives you the flexibility that teaching needs. Most children are not comfortable with learning Mathematics in the afternoon, but a school timetable fixed Mathematics to the afternoon for some classes because it is not possible for the Mathematics teacher to appear in all classes in the morning. This child who can't assimilate mathematics in the afternoon will keep failing mathematics, and he will be beaten because they thought he failed Mathematics because he was too playful. When you homeschool your children, you discover them and you know how, when and where to teach them appropriately. The morning that school would fix for mathematics, your child may want to memorize Qur'an at that time and only comfortable with Mathematics in the evening. Prisoners are the ones who are not free to eat what they want, and they are forced to eat what everyone is eating at a time, your children are not prisoners.

Another cruelty is to make our children learn in institutions where they are meant to read to pass exams, which may not mean that they really understand what they were taught. This is how mean conventional schools are, children are treated like a computer that stores data and provides it when needed, without retaining what was saved in it. Our children deserve better, when we teach them ourselves, we are teaching them to learn and not pass exams. Just learning at their pace, with no pressure for exams.

The Salafis need to raise children who will also be specialists in the fields of knowledge of Sharee'ah; specialists of Qur'an, Hadith, 'Aqeedah, Fiqh, Manhaj etc. We need to raise children who would have memorised the

Qur'an between ages 7-15, children who would memorize Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim and the rest of the major books of Hadith. I see homeschooling to be what will give us adequate time to teach, also the flexibility that will enable us to send them to teachers that will teach them In Shaa Allah. So much khayr In Shaa Allah.

What makes conventional schools scarier is that the world is getting influenced very fast by the ideas of homosexuality and gender madness. Alhamdulillah, Allah has been guiding our leaders to resist the pressure from the enemies of Allah in the west who are trying to force this madness on us. But as Nigerian politics is going, such that many corrupt youths with the liberalism approach are now striving to get involved in politics, if the government should fall into their hands now or in the future, it is possible we also find ourselves in the situation of many western countries where children are being taught homosexuality and gender madness. We seek safety from Allah. We need to have plans for our children against this, we should learn to teach them ourselves before anyone suggests to our Ahmad that perhaps he is a female trapped in the body of a male. Allah's aid is sought.

Apart from the fact that homeschooling will protect our children from consuming these ideologies in school, it also gives sufficient time to arm them with the Kitab, Sunnah and beneficial knowledge against all forms of wrong ideology encountered anywhere. Another ideology that a Salafi parent should be preparing to wage war against is terrorism, the Khawarij are getting closer to our society and they are spreading their soldiers seriously. They have so many pages on social media where they are luring people into their ways, we have to be conscious of so many things and take good steps against them. This is really a challenging time to parent a child upon Salafiyah, may Allah make it easy.

Our children also need more time to bond with us. Our girls need us to tell them about the changes in their bodies when they reach puberty, they should not be taking that to their male teachers. Our boys need us to

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teach them the roles of a husband and a father. Our girls need to learn about the roles of a wife and a mother. This society lost this aspect of life to conventional schooling and it turned many young adults into overgrown children. You would see a man of 22 years, but he is still not mature mentally to be a father, his parents won't even allow him to get married because they know that he has nothing to offer. He has always been to school all his life, and at 22 years he has no means of livelihood, he has no mental capacity to direct a home, just a 22-year-old baby.

There are women like this too, they are 18, 19, and 20 years old and they do not know what is expected of a wife yet. Throughout their primary and secondary school education, they go to school by 7 am and come back home by 4 pm. The weekends and the holidays are meant for tutorials, no time to learn needed lessons from their mother about adulthood and parenthood. The little they know about adulthood and parenthood was from movie series, the internet and novels. Allahul Musta'aan. When two overgrown babies —the man and the woman— get married, they get into so many marital issues due to being ignorant of what they should have learnt from their parents. This narration should stop in our generation. Homeschooling is a better alternative, our children need to learn this early in their life to become better adults. The fitnah around is making it more pressing for them to get married earlier, we need to prepare them for this. We ask Allah to ease our affairs.

If there is any parent who is convinced that homeschooling is better for them, they should start learning about it now, below are a few authentic websites and telegram channels to learn about parenting, homeschooling and educating from authentic sources:

[a muslim homeschool](#) [Umm Assad Home School](#) [Mums Unstuck](#)

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<https://t.me/HomeschoolingSalafiKids>

<https://t.me/mumsunstuck>

https://t.me/umm_maimoonah

[https://t.me/Tarbiyatul awlaad1](https://t.me/Tarbiyatul_awlaad1) <https://t.me/ChildrenOfAaishah>

Baarakallahu Feekum

Mubaarak Olayemi Ismail

Abu Muhsinah