

Educational Loans ♦

Education is one of the basic needs of every human being and Islam has encouraged the acquisition of knowledge that is beneficial. To achieve this goal, and individual, the government and the society supposed to discharge their obligation. In this perspective this seminar demands the government that:

In our country education has become so expensive that impoverished citizens particularly majority of the Muslims finds it impossible to go in for higher education. Our country is a bouquet of various faiths, cultures and languages. If a community or a section of the society lags behind it would be detrimental to the collective national development. It is therefore an obligation on the part of the government to take effective steps to ensure that Muslims get proper and equal opportunity in the field of education. Interest free loan should be extended to Muslims students' higher education and condition for the scholar should be made easy.

This seminar calls upon Muslims that:

- 22.1 It is obligatory on them to give priority to the education of their children and spend a reasonable part of their income on it.
- 22.2 They should establish at local, national and international levels such information centres and societies keeping in view the educational requirements of their young generation, to guide them concerning the issues of higher education in India and abroad.
- 22.3 There should be coordination and cooperation among various societies/organizations engaged in providing scholarship to students. They should share their information as well. It will facilitate the students in winning scholarship/stipend.
- 22.4 They should initiate educational funds at the regional and state level to help promising students in their higher studies.
- 22.5 The experts in modern education particularly retired professionals should come forward to guide the young generation sharing their expertise with them.
- 22.6 Ulema and the rich of the society should try to get maximum benefit from their services at coordinated level.

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22.7 The Muslim institutions of modern/secular education should provide relief in educational expenditures to enable the talented poor student to easily benefit themselves from this facility. These institutions must do away with heavy donations as it is not permissible under the Shariah. They must relieve Muslim students (boys/girls) of this un-Islamic financial burden. It is not only un-Islamic but also against humanity. This seminar exhorts Muslim students he/she that:

- 1- Islam says that knowledge is the lost property of a Muslim. Muslims, therefore, should acquire professional knowledge with a sense to serve the humanity.
- 2- It is imperative that Muslim students boys/girls while maintaining their religious identity should make diligence and competition in education their habit/approach.
- 3- To meet their educational expenses they should go in for scholarships and interest free loans.
- 4- Just as taking interest is forbidden in the Shariah similarly paying interest is also unlawful. So the loans that are to be repaid with interest are also forbidden. So if students find it difficult to continue their studies due to financial constraints and interest free loan is not available, they should approach a Mufti (Jurist) and follow his advice.