

## INNOVATIVE MODES OF PREACHING ISLAM

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### ABSTRACT

In Holy Quran the word “Da’wah” is used to convey the meaning of Media. Da’wah is the most eloquent and unique expression which is not only comprehensive and Universal but also covers also sources of media. Da’wah doesn’t mean to deliver message to limited people but it also contains the attributes of acceptance and effectiveness so that it can achieve success. Therefore, Da’wah includes constant struggle, movement and meaning of life. It is a universal fact that the da’wah is a key factor in the life of the ideological and reformist and revolutionary movements. The Failure and success of a movement depends to a large extent on the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of the Da’wah. For the effectiveness of Dawah its means and sources must be modern and attractive. On the other hand old and outdated means make even the most compelling message ineffective.

**KEYWORDS:** Preaching, Islam, Dawah, Media, Bidah

### INTRODUCTION:

Islam is a universal and lasting religion, therefore the ups and downs of circumstances over time, the rise and fall of civilization and the improvement and deterioration of the way of life of society cannot affect it. Islam welcomes the modern tools and discoveries. Islam forbids the innovation in things without thinking and nor does it immediately deny modern conveniences but the teachings of Islam encourage the usage of modern facilities by setting moral and sharia boundaries.

The present age is the age of scientific discoveries and development. In nineteenth and twentieth centuries West discovered modern media such as newspaper, radio, television, internet and social media which revolutionized in human life. Unfortunately, these two centuries are the most difficult periods for the Muslim world. The people of West with their scientific inventions, innovations and material progress have changed on the one hand the principles of industry, trade and war on the other hand by gaining the

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political dominance over the entire Muslim world using the same modern media they began to try the distortion of Islamic beliefs and skepticism.

The Media was begun to be used to distort morally, vulgarity, nudity and the beautiful image of Islam. This situation was very difficult for Muslims. In this situation they viewed every new invention of the west with suspicion. We have the examples of subcontinent where religious people for half of a century calling the invention of loud speaker a sign of the doomsday kept issuing the fatwa of disbelief on usage of it because loud speaker is the invention of the West and usage of loud speaker in mosque is strongly opposed. Fatwas of prohibition of camera, television and videos have been seen in recent past.

Although these scholars were issuing fatwas with sincerity against vulgarity, nudity and moral misconduct but they did not realize that it will become the need of time in future. They did not know that the Fatwa against the negative use of modern media would not stop the flood of obscenity and nudity. Morally distortion will be changed into improvements by destroying television. Prohibiting the use of internet will not stop the new generation from using it but to eradicate its negative use these modern moods of communication will have to be used to present the beautiful and real image of Islam and its preaching in front of the world. Considering the daily inventions and discoveries untouchable and to avoid using it nothing can be gained except regret. Since it belongs to innovations (بدعت) so some useful things regarding to innovations are added here.

#### **MEANING OF BID'AH (INNOVATION):**

Bid'ah is an Arabic word which means (ايجاد الشئى غير مسبوق بماده و لا زمان) making something that has no first substance and no time. Word (بدع) means to invent such as بدع الشئى to invent something without any sample. (البدعة) anything make without any precedent. Allah's name is (البديع) as well as in Holy Quran (الله بديع السماوات و الارض) means Allah is the creator of the Heavens and the earth<sup>1</sup> (المنتجد اضافه شده ايديشن صفحه ۴۷ ناشر دار الاشاعت كراچي).

Rule: It is a rule in Arabic language that (باء، دال، عين) when these letters are used in order it gives the meaning of making somethings initially without any sample one is that it did not exist before and it is being made initially and second is that its model did not exist as well before so the word Bid'ah

means to make anything without any precedent and to invent it without any example. According to *أفروز اللغات* it means “new constitution or new customs and traditions its plural is *بدعات*” the word Bida’h is defined as *لا<sup>2</sup> اخترع. وضعه لا* Innovation means to invent something without any precedent. In a dictionary it is defined as: “After Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon Him and Completion of Deen to invent something new”<sup>3</sup>. According to Islamic Encyclopedia “Bida’h means the quality which has been invented in Islam whether it is good or bad quality but specially it imposes on bad quality which is created in faith and other matters of Islam”. Imam Hajar Asqalani defined Bida’h in *Father ul Bari Sharah Sahih ul Bukhari* as *(البدعة اصلها ما احدث )* “The essence of Bida’h is that it was invented without any precedent”.

A hadith narrated by Abdullah Bin Masood is that:

“ ما راه المسلمون حسنا فهو عند الله حسن<sup>4</sup> --” means What Muslims know to be good is also good in the sight of Allah. In another hadith: “و في حديث مرفوع و لا تجتمع الامة على الضلالة<sup>5</sup>” means My Ummah will not agree on error.

In *Durr ul-Mukhtar* “ (و مستحبة) وهو ما فعله النبي ﷺ مرة و تركه اخرى و ما حبه السلف<sup>6</sup> ” Mustahab is the work that the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him did and abandoned sometimes and the work is liked by upcoming Muslims.

### **BIDA’H AND SAHABA:**

After the physical life of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him Bida’h came into existence in Sahaba era is that:

### **COMPILATION OF HOLY QURAN:**

Imam Shatbi writes in his famous book *الاعتصام*:

ان اصحاب رسول الله ﷺ اتفقوا على جمع المصحف و ليس تم نص على جمعه و كتبه<sup>7</sup>

The companions of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon Him agreed on compiling Holy Quran despite of having any Nass (Ayat or Hadith) on compiling and writing it. When Abu Bakar Siddiq held the position of *Khiafah* so in the battle with the false claimants of prophet hood *Musailma Kazzab* almost 700 companions who memorized Holy Quran were

martyred. Hazrat Umar observed that if this series of killing and Jihad continued like this and companions who memorized Holy Quran martyred like this so it likely to be very difficult to teach Holy Quran to others because after Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him Quran has not compiled yet in one binding. Hazrat Umar overwhelmed by this thought He requested Hazrat Abu Bakar to write and compile Holy Quran. Hazrat Abu Bakar replied كيف تفعل شيئاً ما لم يفعل رسول الله ﷺ O Umar! How do you commit something which was not committed by Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon Him? Hazrat Umar said that it is right that the Messenger of Allah did not do that but هذا والله خير By Allah! This is better and we must do it. After a little conversation Hazrat Abu Bakar agreed to do it and he said O Umar! Allah enlighten your grave you illuminated my chest with your conversation. Hazrat Abu Bakar said to Hazrat Zaid Bin Sabit you are a sensible and young person and you kept writing divine revelations so you are assigned to this task so fine the Holy Quran from different places and collect in one place. When this responsibility was given to Hazrat Zaid He said:

فوالله لو كلفوني نقل جبل من الجبال ما كان أثقل علي مما امرني به من جمع القرآن 8

By God..! If I was given the responsibility of copying the mountain it would be easier to me than compiling Holy Quran. So Hazrat Zaid collected the Holy Quran from the palm branches, white stones and the chest of people thus the few copies of Holy Quran were prepared which remained safe in the hands of Hazrat Abu Bakar than Hazrat Umar than Hazrat Hafsa رضي الله عنهم . This is the first Bida'h which was adopted by Sahaba (Companions) of Holy Prophet Peace Be upon Him.

### **BIDA'H OF OFFERING SALAT UL TARAWIH IN CONGREGATION:**

Like compilation of Holy Quran Offering Salat ul Tarawih in congregation is a Bid'ah which was started in the times of Hazrat Umar Farooq. Nothing like this positive use of Bid'ah as Umar Farooq mentioned it "نعم البدعة". It is mentioned in Hadith that Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon Him offered Tarawih prayers in congregation only three nights of Ramadan. After that He offered prayers at home for the fear of being Farz. After Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him in the times of Abu Bakar Siddiq It was the practice of Companions. When the time of Khilafah of Umar Farooq

came and He viewed that People were offering prayers in different forms he observed that if it continued People would likely to give up offering Tarawih Prayers. He gathered people and ordered them to offer Tarawih behind Ubai Bin Kaab who was Hafiz ul Quran.

Hazrat Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Qari states that:

خرجت مع عمر بن خطاب رضى الله عنه ليلة في رمضان الى المسجد فاذا الناس اوزاع متفرقون يصلى الرجل لنفسه و يصلى الرجل فيصلى بصلاته الرهط، فقال عمر! انى ارى لوجعت هؤلاء على قارى واحد لكان امثل ثم عزم جمعهم على ابى بن كعب ثم خرجت مع ليلة اخزى والناس يصلون من التى يقومون يريد آخر الليل وكان الناس يقومون اوله

We came out with Umar Farooq in a night of Ramadan to mosque and we viewed that people were diverse. Some were offering prayers lonely and some were behind an Imam. Hazrat Umar said it would be good to be gathered behind a Qari so he gathered people behind Ubai bin Kaab. Than on second night we came out and viewed that people were offering prayers behind an Imam Hazrat Umar said what an amazing Bid'ah it is..! (نعم البدعة). The part of night in which they stay means the last part of night and they stayed the first part of night<sup>9</sup>.

This riwayat made it clear that every bid'ah is not a bad bid'ah but there is a lot of good bid'ah or else people never considered Tarawih prayers a good deed but they abandoned to offer realizing a bid'ah. So good bid'ah and bad bid'ah is not a speculative division of usual people but it is the terminology of Umar Farooq and he used it saying (نعم البدعة).

Allama Ibn e Aseer Jazri describes this action of Umar Farooq that:

ومن هذا النوع قول عمر رضى الله عنه نعمت البدعة هذه لما كانت من افعال الخير وداخلة في حيز المدح ساءها بدعة ومدحها، لان النبي ﷺ لم يسنها لهم، وانما ضلالها ليالى ثم تركها ولم يحافظ عليها، ولا جمع الناس لها، ولا كانت في زمن ابوبكر، وانما عمر رضى الله عنه جمع الناس وندبهم اليها، فهذا اسمها بدعة، وهى على الحقيقة سنة، لقوله عليه السلام عليكم بسنتى وسنة الخلفاء الراشدين من بعدى ١ وقوله اقتدوا بابا الذين من بعدى ابوبكر وعمر ٢ وعلى هذا التاويل يحمل الحديث الاخر كل محدثة بدعة ٣ انما يريد ماخالف اصول الشريعة ولم يوافق السنة ٤

When a deed is one of the good deeds and enters the place of praise, it will be called (literally) innovation and it will be praised. Because Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him did not consider this act of performing Tarawih in congregation a masnun for them. He offered it for a few nights and then stopped offering it in congregation. He did not repeat it again and

again nor did He gathered people for it. After that it was not recited in congregation in the times of Abu Bakar then Umar Farooq assigned as caliph.

He gathered people to offer it in congregation that's why it is called Bid'ah although it is due to the saying of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon Him

عليكم بسنتي وسنة الخلفاء الراشدين من بعد وقوله اقتدوا بالذين من بعدى ابوبكر وعمر)

Included in Sunnah. So owing to this interpretation every bid'ah is misguidance is considered as the Bid'ah that opposes Sunnah and Sharia.<sup>10</sup>

### **SECOND CALL TO PRAYER ON FRIDAY:**

The second call to prayers on Friday begins on the era of Hazrat Usman Ghani about which Imam Bukhari said that:

ان التاذين الثانى يوم الجمعة امر به عثمان بن عفان رضى الله عنه حين كثر اهل المسجد

The second Aazan of Friday was given by the order of Usman Ghani when the number of people coming to mosque increased<sup>11</sup>. Imam Ibn e Shaiba said that:

قال ابن عمر الاذان الاول يوم الجمعة بدعة

Ibn e Umar said the first call to prayers on Friday is Bid'ah<sup>12</sup>.

But now a days this Azan goes on and nobody deny it despite of the fact that it did not happen in Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him time.

### **CONSTRUCTION OF SOLID MOSQUE:**

Constructing solid houses in initial era of Islam was disliked so construction of solid mosque was also considered unlawful. Similarly the Mihrab of the mosque was not built in the era of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon Him. Allama Noor ul Deen said that Mihrab of the mosque was not at the time of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be upon Him and Khulafa e Rashideen but it was constructed by Umar Bin Abdul Aziz very first time<sup>13</sup>.

**COMPILATION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Umar Bin Ali said that:

وللبدع واجبة امثلة منها الاشتغال بعلم النحو الذى يفهم به كلام الله تعالى وكلام رسول الله ﷺ وذلك واجب لان حفظ الشريعة واجب، ولا يتأتى حفظها الا بمعرفة ذلك، وما لا يتم الواجب الا به فهو واجب، الثانى حفظ غريب الكتاب والسنة من اللغة، الثالث: تدوين اصول الدين واصول الفقه، الرابع: الكلام فى الجرح ولتعديل، وتمييز الصحيح من السقيم، وقد دلت قواعد الشريعة على ان حفظ الشريعة فرض كفاية فيما زاد على القدر المتعين ولا يتأتى حفظ الشريعة الا بما ذكرناه 14

Bid'ah Wajiba (essential Innovation) examples are: to study Ilm e Nahav on which understanding of Quran and Hadith depends is obligatory as to get the knowledge of Sharia is obligatory. Without understanding Quran and Hadith Sharia knowledge can't be achieved. Anything on which an obligation depends is also obligatory. Second example is acquiring lexicography to know the meaning of Quran and Hadith and third example is to formulate the rules and principles of jurisprudence of the religion fourth example is gaining knowledge of the chain of transmission of hadith to distinguish between saheeh and da'eef hadith and principles of Sharia indicate that it is obligatory to acquire more knowledge than necessary and it can't be achieved without aforesaid knowledges.

**TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION OF QURAN:**

Likewise, to translate and interpret the Holy Quran in different languages was necessary to convey its knowledge to people but static and immature mind has always been resisting new work everywhere. When Shah Waliullah Dehalvi very first translated Holy Quran into Persian Language here scholar made a lot of noise and issued Fatwa against him that the Holy Quran is being translated from Arabic to Persian but the time to come showed that this new innovation was the expediency of time and the exact requirements of preaching the religion however those who issued Fatwa against him was unfamiliar with the religious expediency.

**INNOVATIVE MODES OF PREACHING ISLAM:****SPEECHES:**

Despite of passing the time and changing of circumstances, in the field of da'wah Speeches always played a prominent role. This is the very easiest,

less expensive, more famous and useful. By this Allah brought into existence His creation, sent His Prophets, gave order to carry out good deeds and forbade from committing bad deeds Allah says in Quran:

إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ<sup>15</sup>

It is His matter whenever He intends to do something He orders to be and it happens.

### **PEN AND PAPERS:**

Nobody denies its importance in field of preaching religion. It is the second big source of preaching and the most effective and long lasting way to convey messages. Allah says in Quran:

ولقد كتبنا في الزبور من بعد الذكر ان الارض يرثها عبادى الصالحون<sup>16</sup>

Undoubtedly We wrote in Zaboor after the advice and exhortation that the pious will inherit the land. Neither it needs to go in details to explain the importance of Pen and Papers nor does determine its religious status as its status is universal. And its importance and benefits are not hidden from anyone.

### **Pamphlet and Brochures:**

Short essay are low volumes books and brochures which can easily be kept together in travel and presence and it can be studied at any time of the day and night. Since there are many aspects to success in preaching through this medium that's why it is considered useful.

### **Benefits:**

They are easy to pick up and carry when needed. The invitee can easily read them whenever he wants. They can also be kept in a gathering place and waiting room where the public can get them without hesitation. They are easily published due to their low cost. It also adopts modern conditions. Because people don't like to read detailed books or can't afford them. The following are the essentials for success to preach through this medium:

- 1) It should contain inviting materials, not scientific and precise words.
- 2) Its words should be simple so that the general reader can understand it.

- 3) Its style would be simple enough for everyone to understand
- 4) It is written in large letters so that even the visually impaired can read it.
- 5) They should be kept in public place.

### **BROADCASTING:**

Radio and Television are also modern means of preaching. Although they had some existence in first nations but its existence in advanced form and on a large scale is not seen in earlier periods. It also has some disadvantages. There is no objection to participating in religious and commercial broadcasting. As far as participation in political and government broadcasting is concerned so the principles of advantages and disadvantages must be kept in mind. If there are some disadvantages such an element of religious blasphemy or the aspects of deceiving audience so it should not be adopted.

### **VIDEO CHANNELS:**

Today local and international channels are the biggest media. They have overwhelmed all other resources. The reason is that the human mood is something like this. It likes the simultaneous presence of both sound and image. While the channels as well as varieties of styles, the collection of articles presented and the style of expression is extremely attractive. Off course the work of da'wah through TV channels can be done on a priority basis and in a good manner.

### **LESSONS, LECTURES AND SEMINAR:**

These sources are not new to the field of invitation. However, they are innovative in terms of layout and expressions. Lectures are well known method in which someone presents continuous academic subject in a limited time and in a specific place. The Seminar is co-sponsored by one or more lectures and seminar organizers. The features of this Da'wah is that it is given more importance to convey information to people. There are some benefits of lectures: There are many benefits to adopt the style of lectures such as presenting a single topic in an informative and scholarly style in which lecturer presents his thoughts and arguments in stages and gives answers to opposite thoughts. This is often in the case of same quality

audience than there are some questions. This brings the audience thoughts together and leads to a decisive conclusion.

### **CONFERENCE:**

A conference is a series of lectures on a topic which are given in a limited time period in which lecturers express their views on a selected topic. This means of invitation has now become very common nowadays. The attention of young and civilized people has increased towards this. These conferences also have an inviting effect on Muslims. It is a source of exchanging ideas. This leads to intellectual cooperation among Muslims in general and among lecturers in particular. These lecturers have an inviting and scholarly effect on the audience and they pass that benefits to others.

### **WORKSHOP:**

Educational workshops are the lectures given in a limited time framework and this time can be short or long. Students get benefits from this greatly. This method of invitation is proving to be more popular and useful today. People pay more attention to this style. Students gain more knowledge in a short time. Another benefit is that young people are kept busy by this means of invitation. Especially during holidays it provides an opportunity to acquire more knowledge from various sources.

### **CHART:**

Dangling a chart means every manuscript to remind people that is dangled. It is also an effective way to convey messages. It is of two types one is an ordinary chart and second is special chart. An ordinary chart contain some advices and that is suitable to every place such as a verse or hadith or advice that is written on effective way whereas special chart consist on special messages and that is prepared according to special occasion and event.

### **INTERNET:**

This is not hidden from anyone especially from preacher the importance of Internet in the word of da'wah that in the age of interaction a simple step has been taken to transfer information with most of the people around the globe and that step is using internet. Through internet it is easy to deliver information and to get it. Internet plays a prominent role in preaching Islam

it can be a very modern and easy source to communicate with people around the globe and too is very effective. Muslims in general and Muslims women in particular need answer of question on urgent basis. As these included serious issues on which Obligatory bases. This means of communication known as internet removed all barriers. The abundance and diversity of information on the Internet is a well-known fact because its sources are vast and diverse. Muslims have some common problems and some special ones. Like other nations, they have some such things Even a Muslim can get information through the internet which is not shared by the mainstream media. There are also audio rooms on the Internet, from which lectures and conferences are broadcast live. It is also possible to listen to them and participate in them while sitting at home. One of the benefits of this is that the listener does not have to go out of the house.

### CONCLUSION:

The best resources of one's time for the propagation of religion, the use of which is not in accordance with the Shari'ah or moral abomination, is absolutely necessary in our country, some circles consider the use of modern resources as an innovation or a blessing. The methods of da'wah that were prevalent in ancient times, such as trying to counter atomic bombs and laser-guided missiles on the battlefield with swords and spears. Such resources have been invented in education and preaching with the help of which years of work can be done in months and months of work can be done in days with a much higher quality than before. These include telephone, radio, television, audio and video cassettes, press, telex, fax, computer, websites, email, internet discussion groups, and tele-video conferencing. Da'wah requires that these resources be fully utilized in religious activities as well. With the changing times, the demands and means of preaching Islam have also changed to a great extent. This is our age of scientific discoveries and developments. The Internet is a new thing which can be used to preach Islam in a broad way that is the expediency and demand of time.

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