

Islamic Philosophy of Education





In this workshop we will:

- Briefly look at the development of Muslim philosophy of Education
- Understand what Islamic world-view is
- Discuss aims of Islamic education – what does Muslim philosopher al-Attas says about it
- Quick look at Muslim Education in the past
- Start thinking about the differences between education in Islamic schools today in comparison to how it should be
- Go over contribution of medieval scholars in the past





Basis of the Philosophy of Muslim Education

- First attempts at writing on the theory of education – Al Jahiz , Al Ghazzali, ibn Khaldun
- Belief that God’s final message to mankind was revealed in its entirety- fact that governed its evolution
- Contents of divine origin
- Aim is to direct and conduct of the individual and the community according to God’s commands
- First teacher was the prophet
- His followers in the task of teaching and preaching were caliphs, traditionalists, and theologians= guardians of religious law and of religious knowledge





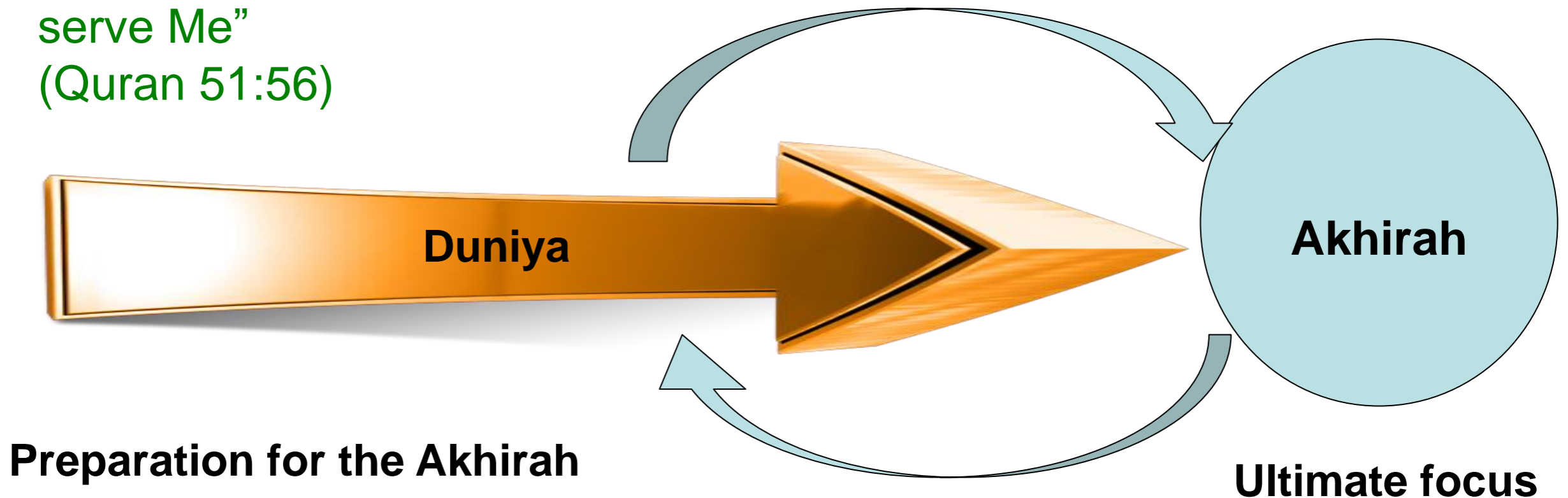
Islamic world-view

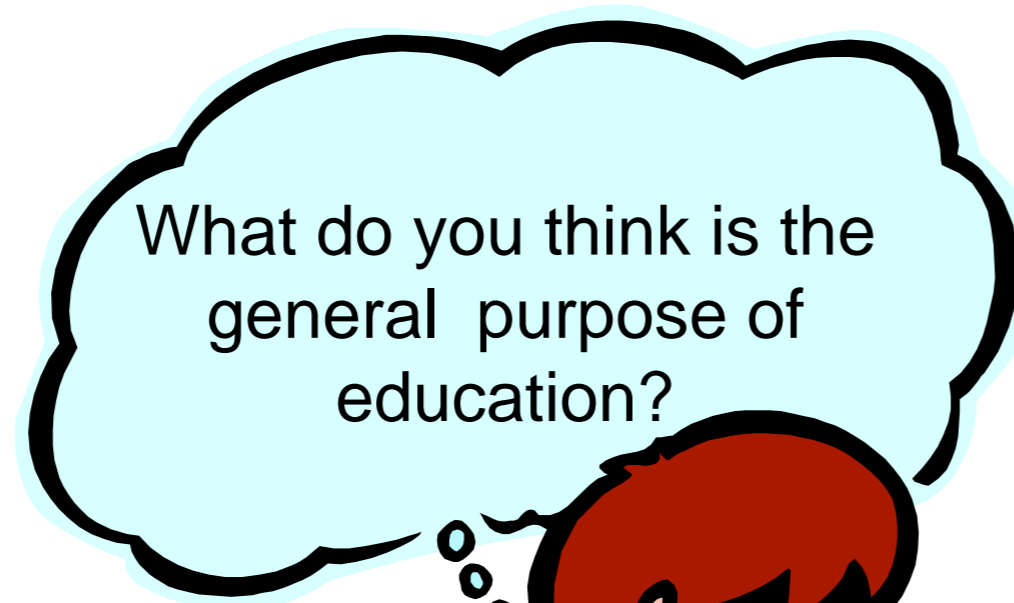


- Purpose of this life

“I have not created Mankind and the Jinn, except to serve Me”
(Quran 51:56)

Interrelated





What do you think is the
general purpose of
education?





Success in Islamic world-view

- Every soul shall have a taste of death! All of you shall get your full recompense only on the Day of Resurrection. **Then only those will be Truly Successful, who escape the Fire of Hell and is admitted to the Gardens!** (Al-Imran 185)
- "For the ones whose **concern is this world** Allaah will scatter his affair, and place poverty between his two eyes. And he will not get from the world except what is written for him. And for the one **whose intention is the hereafter** Allah will gather for him his affair and place contentment in his heart, and the world will come to him willingly" (ibn Maajah, Saheeh al-Jaami no.6386)





Aims of Islamic Education

- Direct the conduct of the individual and the community according to God's commands
- Prepare for everlasting life to come
- inculcate of good (*adab*) in a man as an individual self(al-Attas)





More about adab

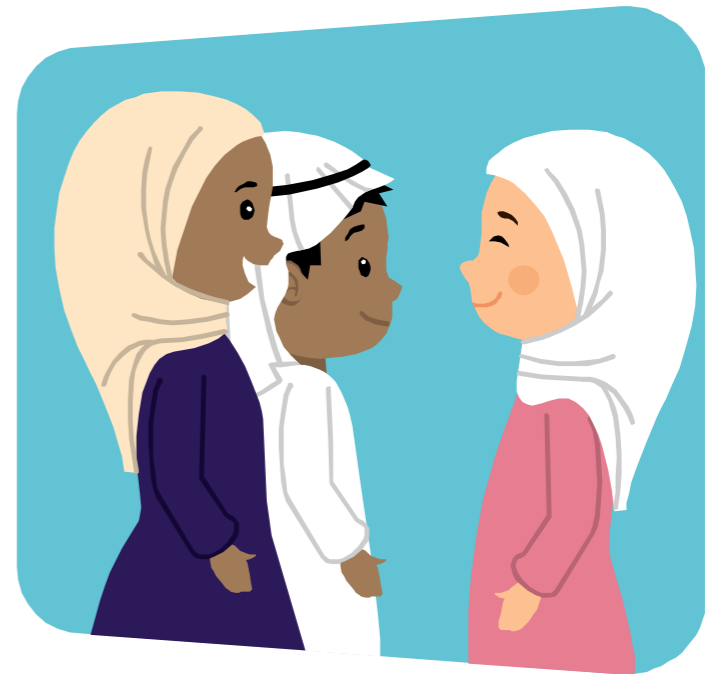
- Knowledge + wisdom = self discipline = right action = justice = adab
- Recognition and Acknowledgement
- Worthwhile knowledge = action / worthwhile action = knowledge





Muslim Education in the Early Days

- Knowledge or learning meant religious knowledge and learning
- Other subjects were considered auxiliary
- Extremely adaptive but extremely sensitive
- Travelling to get knowledge from famous teachers was encouraged





Group Activity / Discussion



Group 1: Discuss in your group how education in Islamic schools today is different from the one that used to be in the olden days. Fill out the comparison chart.

Group 2: How is Islamic world-view different from the Western one and how does it reflect in education?





Contribution of Medieval scholars to Islamic Educational Theory

- Al – Jahiz
 - teachers / advice to teachers
 - Memorization
 - Order of subjects to be learned by students
- Al-Ghazzali
 - Rules of conduct for students
 - Rules of conduct for teachers
- Ibn Khaldun





- **Al Farabi**

- Talim and Talqin
- Instruction – definition and method
- Student-centered learning

- **Ibn Sina**

- Four processes of theoretical intellect
- Methods of teaching - Sensory experiences, interesting, exciting
- Stages of life- start education when child is ready
- Priorities in the curriculum
- Environment of learning
- Characteristics of an educator





- **Ibn Sahnun**

- Learning at very young age
- Importance of discipline
- Boys and girls separate
- Requirements when working with children

- **Suhrawardi**

- Education and spirituality

- **Mulla Sadra**

- Transformation through the process of knowledge
- Innate faculties of the rational soul





Suggested Readings

- ‘Islamic Philosophy- an Introduction’ Sayed Nasr Al Attas
- ‘Philosophy of Muslim Education’ Tibawi volume 1
- ‘Islamic Concept of Education’ Mark Halsted
- ‘The ‘Islamic’ in Islamic Education: Assessing the Discourse’ Farid Panjwani
- ‘Defining Islamic Education: Differentiation and Applications’ by Susan Douglass, Munir A. Sheikh
- Be Masters in That you Teach and Continue to Learn: Medieval Muslim Thinkers on Educational Theory’ Sebastian Gunther





ANY QUESTIONS?

