

Guidelines for building a Masjid

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

Introduction

Rasulullah ﷺ has said,

“Whosoever builds a masjid for Allah Ta’ala, Allah Ta’ala will build for him a home in Jannah.”

The masjid is the central point for all Muslims in any area. A masjid in an area brings about immense *barakah* and blessings. The Malaaiqah of Allah Ta’ala throng to the masjid where the talks of Deen take place. Jamaats come and stay in the masjid inviting people to make the ibaadat of Allah Ta’ala. In short, a masjid is needed in every locality as it is the central point for Muslims to congregate.

In the Khilaafat of Hadhrat Umar (*radiyallahu anhu*) he had built approximately 1000 Masaajid. Amongst the very first things that Nabi ﷺ had done when he made hijrat to Madinah Munawwarah was to build a masjid for the five times daily salaah.

By the Grace of Allah Ta’ala, Muslims all of the world have and are still establishing Masaajid in every locality. May Allah Ta’ala reward them abundantly and make this a Sadaqah-e-Jaariyyah for them till the end of time.

The Ta’limi Board (KZN) have visited many Masaajid in our province as well as other provinces and have noticed that many a times exorbitant amounts of monies are spent on building Masaajid but due to lack of knowledge and experience many mistakes occur due to incorrect designing. E.g. A wudhu khana is built in such a way that the taps are so low that it makes it extremely difficult for a musalli to make wudhu comfortably. At times the seat of the wudhu khana is so close to the tap that all the water falls on his legs soaking his pants with the wudhu water. At times the toilets are built in such a way that the tap for istinja is placed in the incorrect place. Tiling is done incorrectly and water stands which then messes the entire corridor or passage. At times the inside of the masjid is built incorrectly.

Thus, after making mashwarah with many knowledgeable and experienced people some important guidelines have been put together to assist any person building a masjid. We hope *insha Allah* that these guidelines will be of some assistance for people building masaajid and will also be a means of gaining the pleasure of Allah Ta’ala.

Below are some basic guidelines to keep in mind when building a masjid.

General guidelines

Many a times builders, plumbers, etc. are Non-Muslim and they have no understanding of what our needs are as Muslims. Hence, we cannot just hand over the work to them and expect them to build the toilets, wudhu khana, etc. correctly. They must be taken to a Masjid Site and shown what we want them to do and thereafter supervise their work to ensure that the work is done correctly.

Toilets

1. Ensure that the toilet does not face the Qiblah
2. Ensure good ventilation in the toilet
3. Have the toilet designed in such a way that all the water flows into the low pan. No water should stand in the toilet. (very important)
4. Have only one high pan in the masjid toilets for old / sick people.

5. The tap must be kept on the right hand side and the height and distance must be measured correctly. Do not place the tap so high that most of the water splashes out of the lota.
6. It is better to have the piping exposed rather than building it into the wall.
7. Use a lota for istinja not a milk jug or bottle.
8. Keep five litre water bottles in the toilet if you living in an area that has water cuts often.

The Wudhu Khana

1. No water must stand in the wudhu khana. Ensure that the levels are designed such that all water flows into the drain.
2. The tap for wudhu must a be a bit high up to make it easier to make wudhu.
3. The distance between the seat and the tap must be 55 cm.
4. Build the wudhu khana facing the Qiblah.
5. Have a system where the musallies don't have to walk with wet feet onto the masjid carpets.
6. Use good quality hard wearing taps. Cheap taps break very quickly.
7. 5000 litre Jojo tanks kept in the minaret maybe very useful in cases of emergency.
8. Provide towels for the musallies.

The Masjid

1. The roof of the masjid must be fairly high for ventilation and light purposes.
2. Have windows high up on the Qiblah wall as this will keep the masjid bright in the day.
3. The masjid should have good ventilation on the right and the left hand side so the masjid remains cool in the summers.
4. The Mimbar should have three steps. The highest step must be slightly broader to make it easy for a big size person to sit comfortably and deliver the lecture
5. Build a high minaret with a beautiful dome. This is a great Da'wat to Non Muslims.
6. If the Masjid is in an area where travellers are always passing create a separate facility for ladies.
7. Build a comfortable Jamaat Room and kitchen. This will encourage jamaats to visit the masjid.
8. Build a comfortable residence (3 bedroom) for the Imam and the Muazzin. If the Imaam is comfortable, he will insha Allah stay in the community.
9. Build a separate block for the maktab / madrasah.
10. If the masjid is in a very cold area, have heaters, under floor heating and hot water available for the musallies.

The Sehn

1. Allocate an area out of the masjid for sehn (courtyard).
2. Have a board with the times of Salaah.
3. Have a notice board for important notices / funerals / nikahs, etc.
4. Provide Jubbahs and topees for musallies
5. Have a suitable area in the sehn for Janaazah Salaah

The Shoe rack

1. Shoe racks must be at the masjid entrances designed in such a way that it looks neat but at the same time one doesn't have to place his feet on the ground when putting his shoes on the rack.
2. The shoe rack should preferably be made with two iron rods so that it does not hold any dirt from the shoes. This will save much time in cleaning the racks.

The Carpets

1. Don't have any designs on the carpet. This distracts the musallies in their salaah.
2. Have a thin line marking the saff. Not a thick line as musallies get confused where to stand.
3. Put double undervelt to make it more comfortable for the musallies.

The Qur-aan Shelves

1. Create small shelves for the Qur-aans.
2. Don't put doors on the shelves. The shelves should be kept open.
3. Preferably have the shelves built into the wall in such a way that the Qur-aans are placed vertically not horizontally (standing up).
4. Have smaller shelves at different places in the masjid so it becomes easy for the musallies to use wherever they may be in the masjid.
5. Suggested kitabs to keep in the Masjid:
 - 30 Para Qur-aans (Waterval print),
 - Duas for contentment of the heart,
 - Fazaail-e-Aamaal
 - Fazaail-e-Sadaqaat
 - Hizbul Azam
 - Munaajaat e Maqbool.