

# The Importance of Home Ta'leem

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## Introduction

Ta'leem holds a very important place in the home of every Muslim. Ta'leem is not just a voluntary practice but is an essential part of every Muslim's daily routine. Establishing ta'leem at home should not be treated as an occasional practice; rather, it must be conducted diligently every day with much sincerity and enthusiasm. Just as we make lavish preparations when hosting a family braai, the same level of planning and concern should be shown towards our daily home ta'leem.

Unfortunately, whatsapp, computers and games receive much more attention than ta'leem at home.

## The Qur-aanic Emphasis on Ta'leem

The Qur-aan Shareef clearly emphasises the need of doing ta'leem within the home in several places. Four verses, in particular, outline this duty clearly:

- 1) يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ  
O you who believe! 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)
- 2) وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ  
And warn, [O Muhammad ﷺ], your closest family. (Ash-Shu'araa: 214)
- 3) وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا  
And enjoin salaah upon your family and be steadfast therein. (Ta-Ha: 132)
- 4) وَادْكُرْنَ مَا يُتْلَىٰ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَالْحِكْمَةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ لَطِيفًا خَبِيرًا  
And remember what is recited in your houses of the verses of Allah Ta'ala and wisdom. Indeed, Allah is Lateef and Acquainted [with all things]. (Al-Ahzaab: 34)



These verses show that ta'leem is not a matter of choice but an important responsibility for every Muslim. The Qur-aan Shareef repeats this command multiple times yet many of us devote greater concern to nafal ibaadat and wazeefahs rather than doing collective ta'leem at home.

## Kitaabs to be used for Ta'leem

In order to conduct our ta'leem effectively, not just any kitaabs must be used. **Use the recommended kitaabs** advised by our elders. i.e. Fazaail-e-Aamaal, Fazaail-e-Sadaqaat, Behishti Zewar and Seeratul Mustafa.

If punctuality in salaah is lacking at home then read from *Fazaail-e-Salaah*. On Thursday nights, it is recommended to read from *Fazaail-e-Durood Shareef*. The purpose of the ta'leem is not just reading from the kitaab but rather guiding our families and children towards good Islamic values.

Just as we prepare a bayaan before delivering it, family ta'leem should also be prepared properly by the person conducting it. It should not be done hastily or carelessly as if we are reheating leftovers. Instead, it must be delivered with enthusiasm, ensuring that each days ta'leem inspires us with the love for Allah Ta'ala and Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam).

Children should be made to understand the importance of ta'leem. Remember that Deen is our real investment. Their attention should be diverted away from smartphones, games and other distractions by preparing and delivering the daily ta'leem properly.

Choose a prime time in the day to conduct the ta'leem. If guests happen to arrive, encourage them to join in the ta'leem as well. This will also become a means of reward and blessings for them.

### The True Spirit of Ta'leem

Ta'leem should never become a ritual of the home. The true spirit of ta'leem lies in explaining the lessons of the ta'leem to the children and discussing the essence of the days ta'leem with them. The purpose of ta'leem is to increase our love for Allah Ta'ala, Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), the Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) and our pious elders.

Neglecting ta'leem allows worldly influences to creep into our homes. These influences come in because we have not shown the proper attention to the daily ta'leem.

### Making Ta'leem Appealing

Ta'leem should be conducted in a manner that brings enthusiasm, warmth and eagerness to the hearts of all family members. It should not be imposed through harshness or treated as a rigid routine. Rather, it must be made appealing so that children and adults look forward to it. The purpose of ta'leem is that Deen comes alive within our homes.

When ta'leem is carried out with care and wisdom, its effects are long-lasting. Children, in particular, can be encouraged to listen carefully by asking them questions in the ta'leem. For instance, a parent might say, "Listen carefully to the ta'leem and tell me the important points afterwards. If you can explain all the points, you will get one chocolate and if you explain half, you'll get half a chocolate." Through these simple methods, children will listen attentively and enjoy taking part in the ta'leem.

In today's time, when *kufr* and immorality is attacking our Imaan in schools, media and social media, the importance of home ta'leem has increased more than ever before. When homes are devoid of the remembrance of Allah Ta'ala, hearts become filled with evil and corruption. The only way to protect ourselves is to make our homes into centres of Deen, filled with *ilm*, *zikr*, and *ibaadat*. If ta'leem is carried out diligently, it not only increases our knowledge but also builds the Imaan and unity within our families. Such a home becomes a fort filled with Deeni values, safe from the evil influences of shaytaan and the outside world.

### Implementing Zikr and Dua in the Home

*Zikr* should also be included in our daily ta'leem program. *Zikr* should be done diligently every day in such a way that the whole family looks forward to making *zikr*. Sit with daanas (seeds) or tasbeehs and make *zikr* collectively as a family. One should make the three tasbeehaat prescribed by our elders.

Another important part of our ta'leem is **collective dua**. Family members should make dua together regularly, just as the Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) did when they went out for *jihaad*, asking one another to make dua and responding with "Aameen." This practice can be beautifully implemented within our homes. It's a chance for us to make dua for the entire Ummat.

For example, if a child has an exam in Madrasah, parents can say, "Let us all make dua that Allah Ta'ala grants success in the exams." This strengthens the child's connection to Allah Ta'ala. Such moments remind children that every success and hardship should be referred back to Allah Ta'ala alone. May Allah Ta'ala bless us all with the taufeeq of bringing this amal of ta'leem alive in our homes. Aameen.