

DA'WAH- Means And Methods

دعوت : ذرائع و طريقے

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Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom (Hikmah), and fair preaching, and argue with them in a way that is better (An-Nahl 16:125).

SCHEME

- **WHAT IS OUR DA'WAH?**
- **SOME METHODS**
- **HIKMAH**
- **BEST ADVICE**
- **BEST ARGUMENTS**

WHAT IS OUR DA'WAH?

It is Allah who is my Lord and your Lord; then worship him (3: 50)

• **فَقَدْ لَبِثْتُ فِيكُمْ عُمُرًا مِّن قَبْلِهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ**

A whole life time before this have I tarried among you: will you not then understand?

...Qur'an & Justice

- **قُلْ فَاتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا مَنْ اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ**

Say, "Bring then a Surah like unto it, and call anyone you can besides Allah, if you speak the truth (10: 38)

- **وَأْمُرْتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمْ**

And I am commanded to judge justly between you (42: 15)

...Freedom and Brotherhood

- “We are not traders. We do not aim to look for markets. We are the flag bearers of the right Deen. Allah is one. Muhammad is his Prophet. Qur’an is Allah's command. Man is not a slave of man. All men are brothers to each other” (Mugheerah bin Shu’ba R Al-Bidaya Wan-Nehaya).

Some Methods

(i) One-to-One, (ii) A Group-to-One, (iii) One-to-A Group, (iv) A Group-to-A Group, (v) Writings and Publications, (vi) Photographs, Audio and Video Cassettes, and TV, (vii) Internet, and (viii) Social Work (including charity, and money spending).

One-to-One

One da'ee talks to one person at a suitable time. In this method, the person to whom the da'wah is being conveyed feels at home, and secure. He talks freely, and brings forth his feelings, and thinking regarding the point under discussion. If there is a need, the conversation can be conducted in private as well.

... Prophet Noah A

He reported to Allah that,

ثُمَّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُهُمْ جَهَارًا . ثُمَّ إِنِّي أَعْلَنْتُ لَهُمْ
وَأَسْرَرْتُ لَهُمْ إِسْرَارًا

“So I have called to them aloud.” “Further, I have spoken to them in public, and secretly in private.” (Noah 71: 8-9)

A Group-to-One

There should be one leader of the group. The members should perform only those duties that were assigned to them by the group. The members should not interfere, or add any thing on their own initiative, while some one is talking, unless asked by the leader.

One-to-A Group

A da'ee should talk on only those topics, which are either agreed in advance, or are of general interest. These topics should deal with the duties or obligations of a person. Only those literature should be distributed which are related to the topic.

... continued

This method is suitable for the periodic meetings of the Qur'anic lessons, corner meetings, and seminars etc. The display of charts, photographs, and writings should also be done.

Group-to-Group

Different da'ees speak on different aspects of the da'wah, either at the same time to different audience, or one after the other to the same audience. The conventions, public meetings, debates, and symposiums are some of the examples of this method.

Writings and Publications

There are a lot of people who like to read at their suitable time. Most of the intelligentsia falls in this category. These are the people who produce literature, not only in favour, or against the prevalent ideas and philosophies, but put up new ideas as well.

... continued

New books, journals, magazines, newspapers, letters etc., containing materials on *da'wah*, in order to propagate it and refute false allegations against it, should be published on regular basis. These should be distributed, and circulated among large audiences.

Photo, Cassettes, TV

One can listen the cassettes while driving, doing house hold jobs, taking rest at home, in bus or train, on farms, etc. This is not only very powerful, but is also easily available to common man. Photographs, TV's, and videos are also the surest way to register the message in minds of peoples.

Internet

The latest method of transferring ideas or messages to every body's home, eyes, and mind is the Internet. Muslim organizations should make it a policy that they will not relay materials against each other. On the other hand, all of them should relay materials, which give a united picture of Muslim world.

Please visit www.learn-islam.org

Social Work

A da'ee should get fully involved in welfare, and assistance of society in which he moves around. He should make the society feel that he is indispensable for it. Let people know that the da'ee practices fully what he preaches. Let them realize that he fully shares their sorrows, and happiness.

...continued

Famous Urdu poet Ghalib had truly lamented lack of help, and participation in sorrows by his friends:

یہ کہاں کی دوستی ہے کہ بنیں ہیں دوست ناصح
کوئی چارہ ساز ہوتا کوئی غم گسار ہوتا

A da'ee should be a friend in need, and a friend in deed. A friend in need can never be an enemy. A da'ee must remember that a sermon by life is better than words.

...Some Ahadith

- **1. Believers should help people in their tasks, or do them on their behalf (Abu Zar R).**
- **2. Pour water from your bucket into some one else bucket (Jabir R).**
- **3. Give ride to other people by your own means of transport, carry others' load, and remove stones and rocks from streets and paths. (Abu Hurairah R)- All from Bukhari.**

Hikmah (Wisdom)

It helps in controlling, turning, and manoeuvring da'wah work under different circumstances. Thus, a da'ee uses *Hikmah* if he adopts different methods, and techniques keeping in mind time, place, environment, persons, emotions, liking, love, hate and such other factors.

...How to Start

A da'ee should offer two units of voluntary salat, and pray to seek Allah's help, and guidance.

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي وَ يَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي وَ احْلُلْ عَقْدَةَ مَنْ
لِسَانِي يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

“O my Lord! Open for me my chest. And ease my task for me. And loose the knot from my tongue. And they understand my speech” (Ta-Ha 20:25-28).

...Be Well Prepared

- **Keep *da'wah* materials handy, such as cassettes, booklets, handouts, paper cuttings, relevant articles and news etc.**
- **Be clean, and attired in the civilized and good-looking way.**
- **Be mentally prepared to face rebukes, insults, ridicules, criticism, excuses, neglect, etc.**

...Be Gradual in Approach

You can not extend *da'wah* to a sleeping person. He must first fully be awakened. Once he is fully ready to grasp your invitation, and is inclined to listen to your point, then extend your *da'wah* to him.

...Prophet (s) Advises

The Prophet (s) advised, " First invite towards Oneness of God, when they accept it, ask them to offer *salat*, when they start praying, get *zakat* from their rich and distribute it among their poor" (*Bukhari*).

...Gradual Step 1

First make good and happy acquaintance and enhance this friendly relationship as time passes. It would be better if he invites his relatives first to Allah

وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ

And warn your tribe of near kindred (Ash-Shu'ara 26:214).

It not only helps a da'ee in his mission but strengthens him as well

...Steps 2 and 3

- **(b) Then comes the next stage when a da'ee can discuss nature, and effects of evils, and vices in his society.**
- **(c) After that relationship between man and his creator should be talked about.**

...Steps 4 and 5

(d) Next, a da'ee should then try to incite among addressees of his *da'wah*, a desire to know about Islam and its teachings.

(e) As soon as da'ee feels a desire to know about Islam is there, he should provide suitable cassettes, and booklets of undisputed nature on topics of beliefs, worship, and moral values etc to listen and read.

... Steps 6 and 7

- **(f) At this stage invite them for a meal; and after the meal is over, extend invitation to them to embrace Islam. This was the way Prophet (S).**
- **(g) After one has embraced Islam, he should be taught basic requirements of being a Muslim in order to establish Islam.**

Best Advice

A *da'ee* should offer good and appealing advice. He should always try to be benevolent, and polite to even those who misbehave with him. He should use gentle and soft words in his talks. He should offer appreciation and praise on good points of his addressee

... Allah Guaranties

ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ
عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ

Repel with that is better, then verily he between whom and you was hatred become as it were your friend and intimate (Fussilat 41: 34).

Best Arguments

- **A da'ee, in general, should not get involved in useless debates. However, if he has to, he should advance beautiful and appealing arguments.**
- **Allah gives an example of good arguments advanced by Abraham A while talking to king. Abraham said,**

...dialogue

“My Lord is he who gives life and death.”

He said, “I give life and death.”

Abraham said, “But it is Allah that causes the sun to rise from the East. So can you then cause him to rise from the West?” (Al-Baqarah 2: 258)

...Avoid Bitter Situation

Avoid bitter and unpleasant atmosphere. A da'ee must stop his talk and leave the spot in a refined and civilized way. He should say,

لَنَا أَعْمَالُنَا وَ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

“To us our deeds, and to you your deeds. Peace be upon you.” (Al-Qasas 28: 55).

وَأَخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ

وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَ

شُكْرًا

جَزِيلًا

QUESTIONS?

&

ANSWERS!

Q. 1: Speaker has given eight different methods of da'wah work. Can you give two more methods? Discuss their effectiveness as well.

- **Tables & Booths at Malls or Conferences**
- **Billboards & Fliers**

Q. 2: Speaker has given some ahadith for social work. Can you give two more ahadith like that? Please write it

- *The Prophet (s) ordered all Muslims to give charity. He said that if some one is poor, he should go out, earn money and then give charity (Abu Musa RA).*
- *The Prophet (s) said that if some one helps his brother, Allah SWT will help him on the Day of Judgment (Abdullah Ibn Umar RA).*

Q. 3: In your environment, can you suggest, other than given by speaker, two social works or participation in social events that will help in da'wah work. Please explain.

- **Participation in Marathon or Food Drive**
- **Visiting Hospitals or providing medicines**

Q. 4: Da'wah needs gradual work. Speaker has given a hadith to support his argument. Can you give another hadith to support this approach?

**The Prophet (s) said, “Islam gradually abolished drinking and adultery. If people were asked to give up these sins at once, they would have refused”
(Aisha R, Bukhari)**

Q. 5: Speaker has given an example of Best Argument from the Qur'an. Can you give another such example from the Qur'an, or hadith or daily life events? Please write it.

- **When the people of city, accusingly asked Abraham if he had caused the destruction of their idols, he replied, *“Nay, this one, the biggest of them did it. Ask them, if they can speak.”* So they turned to themselves and said, *“Verily, you are the transgressors”* (21: 63-64).**

Q. 6: Literature for distribution should be carefully selected. Do you agree with this? If yes suggest three books that should be given in step 5 to explain Islam.

- **Towards Understanding Islam**
- **Islam in Focus**
- **Moral and Social Life in Islam (Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore)**