

Towards a Determination of the Theoretical Basis of Education

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This paper starts with a philosophical analysis of the word "philosophy" and the term "overall philosophy." It was found out that "overall philosophy" would mean "general idea about life." Accordingly, the philosophy of Islam means: "general Islamic idea about life."

It also became clear with the development of the paper's main argument that "education" is a system which depends on a particular philosophy of life. For this reason, values were found to be an integral part of any system of education by necessity. This is reflected in the differentiation of the aims of education into overall or normative aims and functional or short-term objectives which, though important, are only means to further aims.

The most important element of this paper is the conclusions arrived at, which are put forward as suggestions for further research, as follows:

- 1 – Stressing the necessity of accepting Islam as a general philosophy of life underlying educational policies.
- 2 – Stressing the importance of differentiating educational aims into overall normative, and short-term functional objectives. The latter are only means to the former.
- 3 – Acknowledging the need to arrive at what can be considered as a consensus over a theoretical basis for modern education in Muslim countries, more representative of Muslim ideology, history & native culture, and at the same time comprising the latest results of scientific research in education as well as notable value-free and insightful contributions of international importance and continuing value.