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**Abstract**

No one can dispute the importance of the teaching of Arabic language in the education system of Pakistan, which came into existence in the name of Islam. But it is unfortunate to note that over a period of sixty years or so no serious effort, barring a brief period of military rule in early eighties, has been made by the education-policy makers to integrate teaching of Arabic language in our education system. This article critically examines the current and all the previous education policies of Pakistan to find out the status this language has been accorded by the Pakistani governments over the decades.

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“ Under foreign rule for over a century, sufficient attention has not been paid to the education of our people and if we are to make real, speedy and substantial progress, we must earnestly tackle this question and bring our educational policy and programme on the lines suited to the genius of our people, consonant with our history and culture.....”(1)

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“ The study of other foreign languages ( besides English ) especially Arabic and Persian which are the repositories of our vast cultural heritage will doubtless occupy a prominent place in our education system. In fact it would go so far as that at each University in Pakistan I envisage the establishment of special chairs of provincial and oriental languages..... for the promotion of higher research and cultural contacts”(9)

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“Class I to VII

- (i) All students should learn to read the Holy Quran (Nazira).
- (ii) Learning of Kalima and the Suras used in Namaz should be compulsory for all Muslim children. A few more Suras from the Holy Quran should also be memorized.”(10)

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“Research - Those who make Islam their special study must not only acquire a thorough knowledge of the Arabic language but should also be conversant with modern sciences”(11)

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“ The study of Islamiat, as a subject in its most comprehensive sense, should be made compulsory up to class X and should thereafter remain optional so that those students who have the aptitude can avail themselves of the opportunity to undertake Islamic research up to the post-graduate level and to contribute through their publications to the promotion of Islamic ideology”(12)

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“ (14.3) The new educational radio and television channels will devote substantial time to the recitation of the Holy Quran and its translation”(13)

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“ True understanding of Islam can only be achieved if the principles of Islamic ideology are given due importance in the teaching of Islamiyat and promotion of Arabic language”(17)

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“Inculcation of deep and abiding faith in Islam, development of Muslim nation hood and integration and cohesion of the society can be achieved by propagating the message of Islam and proper emphasis on the teaching of Islamiyat and Arabic”(18)

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“ The meaning of the verses of the Holy Quran along with detailed commentary will be emphasized at secondary and post secondary levels”(20)

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“ Pre-service and in-service training programs for Islamiat and Arabic teachers will be ensured. They shall be given due respect and status among the teaching community”(21)

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“3.4 (2). Nazira Quran shall form an integral part of Islamiyat compulsory for class I to VIII.”

“3.4 (3). Islamiyat, Arabic and the Holy Quran with translation shall be integrated in a single compulsory subject from class IX onwards.” P.13

“3.4 (4). The textbooks of Arabic and Islamiyat shall be updated.”(22)

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“ 6. well qualified teachers shall be appointed for teaching of Islamiyat and Arabic and training programmes for Islamiyat and Arabic for pre-service and in-service teachers shall be organized by teacher training institutions.”(23)

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“ 7.Arabic teachers preferably having qualifications Qaris shall be appointed in such(teachers training) institutions”(24)

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