

OPEN ACCESS**ABHATH**

(Research Journal of Islamic Studies)

Published by: *Department of Islamic Studies, Lahore Garrison University, Lahore.*

ISSN (Print) : 2519-7932

ISSN (Online) : 2521-067X

*Jan-March-2022**Vol: 7, Issue: 25*Email:abhaath@lgu.edu.pkOJS:<https://ojs.lgu.edu.pk/index.php/abhath/index>

Human Socialization and Role of Islam in Personality Development, an Analytical Study

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Abstract

Socialization is a learning process which takes place informally in man's life from his birth to his death. This process affects in both ways: positive and negative. Positive form of socialization gives fruitful results and negative form causes anti-social activities in a society. A religion has pivotal role in a society. One of many social functions of a religion is its social training of a man. Religious beliefs help in nurturing a child mentally, psychologically and in some ways physically. For socialization purposes, a religion has basic role in personality development. Islam influences on one's character in different ways. In one's whole life, it grants many social, personal and ritual values. These Islamic values make a person distinctive among others by improving his physical as well as mental qualities. So, Islam plays primary role in structuring a personality positively. After studying the available data and work done already on this topic, it was felt that there was need to explain the role of Islam in improving one's personality. The main objective of this study is to highlight the Islamic ways of socialization. The research question of this study is that, what is the role of Islam in personality development? A descriptive research method has been used for this study.

Keywords: Socialization, Improvement, Personality, Nature, Nurture

Introduction to Socialization

By nature, every child (male or female) possesses a lot of distinctive characteristics in his body. A lot of habits are kept in one's body before one's birth to communicate with his parents. A new born baby weeps when feel hungry. Also, he shows irritations when he wants to be changed his diaper. By instinct, a set of habits are fed in one's body. At the early stage, there is no need for training or some kinds of schooling. But when one grows up, one needs more instructions or a set of guidance to adjust in one's society. It is time when the process of one's character building starts. There is difference among social scientists that whether a child's character depends upon its genes or modified by social environment. It took a long time to decide, who is responsible for one's social behavior or attitude? In 20th century, John B. Watson (1878-1958) proved by experiments that social circumstances are responsible for child's behavior. "Behavior is not instinctive but learned."¹ This theory brought a revolutionary change in the field of psychology.

After this, mostly social scientists and psychologists accepted and promoted this concept. They commonly worked on this point that child's behavior and character is not instinctive but he gets instructions by his parents, family members, schools and environments which assist him in his personality development. The scientists differentiated between nature and nurture and proved practically through some case studies of children which were unfortunately left away from a society. They concluded that a social system or social interaction played an important role in child's developmental Process. For physical and mental development, a society or company of some social agents were declared necessary. For this purpose, they studied the behavior of feral children and elaborated that some positive learning process or suitable environment was necessary to adjust with other people. They proved that it was basic requirement of every child to learn some kinds of manners, norms, values, and attitudes. Like a cell phone when it is purchased in new form. It has some applications or programs by default. But everybody installs some kinds of applications and soft wares according to his requirements. So, there are two kinds of instructions: first, those are installed by company and second those are installed by users according to their style of usages. For a child's character, there are also two types of instructions which help to complete his (or her) personality, first: those

¹ John B. Watson, *Behaviorism*, (New York: Rout ledge Publishers, 2017), 74.

which somebody carry at the time of his birth and second: somebody learns from his society, in the form of training, schooling and learning after his birth according to the demands and requirements of his society. He is taught norms, moral values and manners by his social institutions. His mental and physical development will be according to the social setup which he is given. If his society is well educated and well-mannered then his personality will be well civilized. If he grows up in a society in which anti-social activities are highly practiced then a criminal, violator and an offender would be created. A liberal society will produce a liberal personality and a religious society will produce a religious oriented personality. Socialization is a life time process, in which a child is trained socially to adjust him in a social system or to make him beneficial for a society. Actually, it is a process in which not only children but also the people of different ages are trained and taught social norms and values so that they become a beneficial part of a society and they can be able to face the upcoming challenges.

Statement of the Problem

Islam is a religion which promotes human nature and facilitates a man in every walk of life. Not only spiritually but physically, it improves a personality as a social system demands. In different ways, Islam advises its followers to make their personal appearance attractive and beautiful. For this purpose, in Islamic Shari'ah, neat and clean dresses are recommended. Education is declared necessary for every male and female. Steps which are attractable for others have been liked by Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). Allah is handsome and likes beauty in human being.

Literature Review

A lot of books, research papers and discussion have been compiled on online sources on socialization, Islamic ways of socialization and steps taken by Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) to improve individual personality spiritually as well as physically. In Holy Qur'an many verses are there to keep body physically neat and clean, to interact with others with lenient ways and to enhance the standard of knowledge to become prominent in a society. For this purpose, English translation of Holy Qur'an of Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthal has been used for citations. Safi Ur Rehman Mubarak Puri wrote on Noble Sirah of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), this book was translated into English with the title of "*Sealed Nectar*". In this book, complete manners of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) have been mentioned. Johan J Macionis has written a book titled "*Sociology*", in this book the basic of sociology particularly individual's socialization, its kins and ways of socialization have been discussed briefly. James Hasting wrote a book on

sociology titled “*Essentials of Sociology*” in this book, he discussed basics of socializations and aspects which impacts this process in early age. On Sunnah.com/ the English translations of all major books of Hadith are available.

What is Socialization?

It is a process in which people are trained to handle the future of their nation. Literally this word “Socialization” is defined and elaborated in such a way, “The process by which personality is formed as the result of social influences is called socialization.”² Many agents play their significant role in this process. Family, School, mass media, cinemas, social environment, company of other people and religious orators are basic sources of socialization of a man, in a society. It is actually a term used in “Sociology” or “Social work” disciplines. Socialization is a way of learning manners, ethics, concepts and ideas to make a person social. For this purpose, psycho theories, philosophical concepts and religious beliefs help in building a character of a child or a man. The process of character building and learning something continues whole the life. This process is affected by different variables. “Socializing experiences act to modify not only the cognitive, socio-emotional, and behavioral competencies of the developing individual but also the corrected design of the brain.”³ Socialization is further categorized into two main stages: primary and secondary. Primary is on basic level when a child is at his early stage and he learns some basic values from his parents. He is compelled to learn a set of social and ethical values. His family has great role to train him at this stage. Secondary level is, when he goes to a school to learn some social norms formally. When he grows up, he can differentiate or changes many old concepts with new ones by enhancing the knowledge and information. Many changes take place in one’s personality (positive as well as negative) with the improvement of religious beliefs. Sometimes, new ideas and concepts replace the old beliefs. It is called “Re-socialization”. Kathy S. Stolley (a professor of sociology at University of Washington DC) has described this phenomenon in his book “*The Basics of Sociology*” with detail.

The main objective of positive socialization is personality development in a society. In this process, a person is trained or given a

² *The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15th ed., Vol. 3, (USA: Library Congress Catalog, 1985), 388.

³ Nancy Eisenberg, *Handbook of Child Psychology*, 6th ed., vol. 3, (Canada: John Wiley & Sons, 2006), 366.

suitable environment. A constructive personality is prepared in this way. “Socialization implies caring for others, working together in collaboration, developing interest for others’ well-being.”⁴ There are many other sub objectives of socialization. To adjust in a social setup, it enhances some kinds of abilities and skills. For the help of socialization, a man can learn social manners and can be able to live in a society in proper way. The process of socialization guides people to transfer some social norms, values and manners from one generation to next generation. It makes persons confident and socially able for development and progress. So, the term ‘socialization’ has broad meanings as well as vast scope as compared to an educational process.

Socialization and Education (Similarity and Difference)

Both socialization and education of a child have same objectives. A child or an adult learns whole his life from birth to death. From socialization and education, the process of transformation of cultural values and norms are done. A child learns some manners and values from his family members through socialization. When he goes to school, he is taught curriculum which is formulated and designed according to the values and norms of a society. It is very hard to differentiate between both these terms figuratively as well as comparatively. The difference between both these terms is complex. The term socialization is broad as compare to education. “Education refers to all efforts to impart knowledge and shape values; hence, it has essentially the same meaning as socialization.”⁵ Socialization is a natural process and occurs spontaneously and no planning is needed for socialization. But for education formality and some desired material (curriculum) is determined by authorities. Socialization is just a process to learn by nature it may be positive or may be negative. But education is always positive by nature. So, an education is a process in which one is taught some desired social values or skills to get specific outcomes. This is the reason children are sent to some schools to get some specific kinds of values. In educational process the learning process is controlled and directed towards some objectives and goals. On the other hands socialization is not planned and no objectives are

⁴ Angela Uchoa Branco and Maria Claudia, *Alterity, Values and Socialization*, (Brasilia: Springer Publishers International, 2018), 39.

⁵ Edgar F. Borgatta and Rhonda J. V. Montgomery, *Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 2nd ed., vol. 4, (New York: Gale Group), 2926.

determined by a person or by any institution. Just an environment is given or a situation is created to get ends partially.

Socialization and Personality Development

How socialization is important in one's life? A lot of works has been done by social scientists. This process depends upon some social circumstances of a society. After birth, one's personality is modified according to one's social setup or circumstances given to him. Even some characteristics are inherited from parents. One's color, physical shape or biological strength can be matched to one's parents. "No discussion of socialization can ignore the importance of two factors: nature and nurture. Nature comprises one's human genetic makeup or biological inheritance. Nurture refers to the social environment."⁶ In adulthood, a strong connection builds up between an individual and his society. This linkage further polishes one's personality and makes somebody able to adjust him in that society. "Socialization provides the behavioral linkage between the individual and society."⁷ To elaborate the value of socialization a lot of experiments have been done by psychologists and social scientists to observe the impacts of socialization. Some children of early ages were kept under controlled and isolated environment. Their socializations were controlled and some social manners were not given and dealt like animals which were just given proper food but not social values. The scientist found that the physical growth of those children took place properly but they remained normless and were unable to adjust in a society. So, the children were unable to adjust with other those who were proper socialized or took care for by their society. It was noted that their behavior was like some animals which have no manners, social values and mutual interactions. This type of personality structured because of poor socialization in a society. Without proper socialization, a man cannot be completed socially in any society.

It is also practically and experimentally proved by different sociologists that this type of person is not fruitful for a society. According to Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), the process of socialization influences on one's personality in different ways. People who have strong interaction with well socialized people keep positive behavior and when they have weak

⁶ Joan Ferrante, *Sociology: A Global Perspective*, 7th ed., (New York: Wards Worth Cengage Learning), 86.

⁷ Ellen S. Cohn and Susan O. White, *Legal Socialization*, 1st ed., (New York: Springer-Verlag Publications, 1990), 10.

social interaction with society show negative behavior. “He found that people who have weaker social ties are more likely to commit suicide.”⁸ This process is not limited to human being only. Many animals are also trained for this purpose so that they become adjustable in a society. Eagles are trained for hunting purposes. Some wild animals like; bears, lions and elephants are trained to adjust in a society. Dogs are trained for hunting purposes also. Those are trained to detect the explosive carrying materials. “The critical socialization period for puppies happens between birth and 16 weeks of age. And what happens in this time period sets the stage for the rest of the puppy’s development.”⁹ In some societies, monkeys are trained to live with people and adjust with them socially. So, the process of socialization is not limited to just human being but this process is also used for animals and pets. Animals are trained and socialized for this purpose to adjust themselves with human being in a society. Both education and socialization play basic roles in personality improvement. Education is used to modify a desired personality and preplanning is used in this process. It is all the times positive. But for socialization, it modifies both in positive and negative ways. A religion all the times creates an environment of positive socialization if that religion is revealed by Allah.

Role of a Religion in Individual’s Socialization

A religion holds an important role in man’s life. A man’s all activities depend upon his beliefs. Usually, at early age, a religious belief is given by his (or her) parents or his society. A set of beliefs impacts deeply in character building or modifying one’s personality. All religion trains people socially, how to live? How to deal other? How to make interaction with others? How to communicate? How to remain tied with other? All these values are provided by a religion. The social function of a religion was explained by Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) in a better way: “Religion, then, is a social institution involving beliefs and practices based on recognizing the sacred.”¹⁰ Socially, the function of a religion in a society is like a social institution. By social scientists, a religion, systematically, provides basic social values, ritual practices and power to keep people socially tied together. It keeps people connected to one another and provides an environment in

⁸ James M. Henslin, *Essentials of Sociology*, (New York: Charlyce Jones Owen, 2015), 6.

⁹ Nicole Larocco Skeeahan, *The Teaching Dog*, (Washington: Dog Wise Publishing, 403 South Mission Street, 2018), 78.

¹⁰ Johan J. Macionis, *Sociology*, 16th ed., (Canada: Prentice Hall Publishers, 2009), 511.

which people show their relations with in a society. “Religion is an organized system of beliefs, rituals (acts and ceremonies), personal practices and worships directed toward a supreme power or deity (god).”¹¹ It is an obvious reality that a religion influences on man’s life from birth to death. The spiritual aspect of a man is mostly handled and led by a religion whole his life. How to deal immediately when a baby is born? It is told by a religion. What the beliefs should be given or taught to the infants and adults? It is decided by his parents. What the school should be for him it is planned by a society whether it would be religious or secular. Marriage ceremony cannot be completed without a clergy man, in most societies. After one’s death, the last ceremonies of a dead body cannot be completed without a religious man. A lot of other social activities are performed with the directions of a religion.

Role of Islam in Personality Development

There are a number of positive characteristics or traits given by Islam, these make a person prominent from others. These personal features are inherited as well learned by schooling or socialization. For an ideal person or personality, Islam also guides in different ways. Islam not only helps to develop the spiritual aspect but also focuses on, to make personal appearance beautiful. Islamic teachings favor those habits which are considered to be the necessary part of an ideal personality. Some important features can be elaborated with following points.

Personal Spiritual Growth by Islamic Teachings

A belief holds basic role in one’s life. It is the basic motive for every activity in one’s daily routine also. So, proper beliefs, concepts and theories drive a person toward goodness and finally toward ultimate success. Spiritual aspect of a person keeps nuclei status in a personality. works as an epicenter in a good personality. Islam develops this aspect with strong argumentations. Islamic socialization starts with the birth of a child. No matter, it is male or female. Moreover, it guides parents to give a belief that Allah is his creator and Muhammad (ﷺ) is his prophet. For this purpose, an *Adhan* (summon to prayer) near the right ear of a new born baby is summoned. Also, his life is too short with this belief that it starts with *Adhan* and will end with prayer (funeral). “Narrated 'Obaidullah bin Abi Rafi': That his father said: "I saw the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say the *Adhan* in the ear

¹¹ *The World Book Encyclopedia*, vol. 16, (Chicago: World Book Publishers, 2013), 214.

of Al-Hasan bin 'Ali when he was born to Fatimah· the *Adhan* of *Salat*.¹² Whole the life, one has to keep in mind that one has been given very short deadline. This realizes the concept of self-accountability and self-recognition. This personal approach changes the direction of one's life. If somebody believes that he will die soon and one day he would have to explain all his deed then his all actions will be pious. For spiritual growth in one's personality, Islam gives opportunities in whole one's life. The basic pillars of Islam help a man or (a woman) to develop spirituality in different ways. Islam gives its followers, opportunities to grow their spirituality and to waive their sins. All the time, different techniques have been told to get this condition. Five times a day, prayers are performed in obligatory forms. The basic objective of this repetition is to grow one's spiritual aspect. For this reason, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) asked for His followers to explain about a man who takes bath five time in a day. Whether some impurities can be on his body? Companions replies no. This is the philosophy behind fine prayers in a day and this action cleans one's soul purified from small sins.

Education without any Gender Discrimination

For a good personality or ideal personality, well socialization or proper education is necessary. A socialization or educational process decides one's future in every society. A man becomes prominent among others on the base of education or positive socialization. His beauty reveals from his wordings or from his conversation also. A prominent difference can be seen between literate and illiterate people even in same social class. A huge difference can be seen in one's personality with the difference of quality education. To make a child socialized and trained according to running social setup, Islam has declared education obligatory for everyone (male or female). To get education is one of basic purpose of Islam. For this reason, every male and female has been advised to get education without any discrimination. No limit of age, gender or time or no field of education was specified for males or females. To make this aspect more prominent, the emphasis of first revelation was on to get education. For this reason, to highlight the rank of education in a Muslim society, first revelation on Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was referred to get the education. "Read: in the name of thy Lord who created, created man from a clot. read: and thy Lord is the most

¹² Imam Abu `Isa Muhammad at-Tirmidhi, *Jami` at-Tirmidhi*, Vol. 3, Book 17, Hadith 1514. Last modified December 27, 2020, <https://sunnah.com/tirmidhi>

bounteous, who teaches by the pen, teaches man that which he knew not.”¹³ The first thing which created by Allah was “Pen”. In socialization, proper education plays great role and it polishes one’s personality especially one’s hidden characteristics are revealed through proper education. From this way, one’s personality gets improved into positive forms. Islam emphasizes on getting education without any discrimination. Every man and woman are advised to get early education necessarily and higher education optionally.

Islamic Moral Values Which Make a Person Unique

Islam taught its followers a lot of social and ethical values which make a person more civilized. To create strong and friendly relation between two persons or among the members of society, many moral values have been given by Islam. To speak with others in lenient way was also recommended. It causes peace and harmony in a society. These manners of dealing or conversation are only taught in Islam. “And tell My bondmen to speak that which is kindlier. Lo! The devil soweth discord among them. Lo! The devil is for man an open foe.”¹⁴ Many practical examples have been noted from the life of Holy Prophet (ﷺ) which caused the reasons for peace in a society. To control one’s wordings or to become tolerated verbally has been emphasized in Islam. A person who controls his wordings has been given the guarantee of ultimate success. Tolerance and patience are the basic quality of a man that makes him a reasonable personality. For a model personality, one should control or overcome ones’ anger in every situation. It is very difficult, to control desires especially when someone is emotional. A lot of quarrels and combats occurred due to lack of tolerance or patience. For every person, in an Islamic society, this type of personality who tolerates every odd situation is required. Whole the life of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was full of such incidents which show the tolerance against the negative behavior of his opponents. “The Prophet's matchless tolerance and broad-mindedness instigated by his mission as a mercy to all people', converted a terrible hypocrite into a faithful devout believer.”¹⁵ In a personality,

¹³ *Al-Qur’ān*, trans. Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthal, *The Meanings of the Glorious Qur’ān*, 7th ed. (London: Islamic Dawah Centre International, 2017), 205.

¹⁴ *Al-Qur’ān*, trans. Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthal, *The Meanings of the Glorious Qur’ān*, 7th ed. (London: Islamic Dawah Centre International, 2017), 87.

¹⁵ Safi ur-Rahman al-Mubarakpuri, *The Sealed Nectar*, 177. Last modified March 31, 2020, <https://islamicbulletin.org/?books=the-sealed-nectar>

tolerance is a habit which makes a person attractive for others. It is also advised in Islam, to tolerate the odd situations in every condition.

Islamic Focus on Kindness; a Hidden Feature of an Ideal Personality

Love, harmony and kindness among people are a basic part of a peaceful society. A lot of crimes and anti-social activities can be prevented by this attitude. To behave with affection or treat others especially deprived persons of a society, it creates a peaceful environment. One of basic teachings of Islam is to provoke the kindness, love and affection. Islam also advises its every follower to treat others with kindness (one's relatives as well as strangers). One of many reasons of attraction of people who followed the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was affection, love and kindness, as Allah said. "It was by the mercy of Allah that thou were lenient with them."¹⁶ To make a kind relation among every relation between two persons, this attitude has been highly advised in Islam. A man having such qualities can capture others minds. A person who was admired as well as liked by opponents was Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) whose character is being followed by every Muslim. He himself was a kind, merciful and affectionate person. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, "Learn enough about your lineage to facilitate keeping your ties of kinship."¹⁷

Well Dressing; an apparent beauty of a Person

Neat and cleanliness has been declared half of Islam. In Islam, to keep someone's body and spirit clean is the basic purpose of every activity. So, ablution was made necessary before every prayer. A man, five times a day washes his hands, mouth and feet. This action not only removes but also prevents the growth of germs. This cleanliness also a very basic part of an attractive personality or it shows the quality of a good character. To take bath and keep one's dressing clean and purified have been demanded in Islam. "He would purify you and would perfect His grace upon you, that ye may

¹⁶ *Al-Qur'ān*, trans. Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall, *The Meanings of the Glorious Qur'ān*, 7th ed. (London: Islamic Dawah Centre International, 2017), 22.

¹⁷ Abu `Isa Muhammad at-Tirmidhi, *Jami` at-Tirmidhi*, Vol. 4, Book 1, Hadith 1979. Last modified, December 29, 2020. <https://sunnah.com/tirmidhi/27/85>

give thanks.”¹⁸ Clean and proper dressing is cause of attraction of one’s personality in a society. No single kind of dressing was prohibited in Islam. Only dressings which resemble to women’s dressings or most costly dressing have been prohibited in Islam. It has been advised by Allah in Holy *Qur’ān*. “O Children of Adam! wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer.”¹⁹ This was given commandment by Allah to the followers (Muslims) to remain neat and clean (with dressing and also with character). It doesn’t mean that Islam emphasis on costly dresses. But neat, clean and simple dressing has been advised. To wear costly dresses by ignoring deprived people is a bad habit which has been discouraged. So, if a follower wears a new dress and donates old one to some poor people, this habit also attracts others and prevents a lot of anti-social activities like begging, in a society. Islam focuses on simplicity but allows as well as likes to wear neat and clean dressing. If somebody has sources and don’t wear proper dressing, it is the symbol of niggardliness which has been prohibited in Islam.

To apply a perfume or scent

Usage of a perfume or some kind of scent causes an attraction for a good personality. A good fragrance from a man causes his praises and apparent beauty. In Islam, to use or apply a scent or perfume has been liked. Holy Prophet (ﷺ) used to apply some kinds of perfumes. Also, he liked every kind of perfume which omits good fragrance. One of His beloved things was a perfume. For neat and cleanliness, He advised His followers to apply any scent which has no color. It was declared a kind of ornament of males. If somebody gives a perfume in the shape of a gift, it was also advised to not to reject such kind of gift. To apply perfume or scent on before offering *Jumma* Prayer has also been advised to Muslims. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) advised His followers, "It is a duty for the Muslims that they perform *Ghusl* on Friday.”²⁰ One of special activities of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) on special day or festival was to use fragrance or perfume which was attracting action

¹⁸ *Al-Qur’ān*, trans. Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthal, *The Meanings of the Glorious Qur’ān*, 7th ed. (London: Islamic Dawah Centre International, 2017), 32.

¹⁹ *Al-Qur’ān*, trans. Abdullah Yusuf Ali. *The Meaning of the Glorious Quran with Commentary*.407. Last modified March 31, 2020, <https://islamicbulletin.org/?books=the-meaning-of-the-glorious-quran-with-commentary>

²⁰ Imam Abu Dawud Suleman ibn al-Ash'ath as-Sijistani, *Sunan Abi Dawud*, Vol. 1, Book 4, Hadith 528. Last modified January 3, 202. <https://sunnah.com/tirmidhi/4/41>

for other people. This is an activity which makes a person distinctive among others.

Conclusion

Socialization is a process in which people are trained socially. It may be positive and negative by nature. It is not systematic, as education is given to a child. Both socialization and education have same objectives but education has only for positive purposes and socialization may be both for positive and negative. It occurs spontaneously in some ways. It depends upon family's attitude, social environment and based on one's company. Socialization occurs any time in one's life. A religion has great role in one's life, particularly in shaping or modifying a personality. Islam also impacts in different ways on human being from birth to death in different ways. It helps a man in his developmental stages. In his childhood, adulthood and in old-age also, Islam gives guidance to build a model personality. For personality development, Islam gives a lot of moral values and for apparent beauty, it also gives many wonderful advises to its followers.

Recommendation

For personality development, the golden points of Islamic Shari'ah should be highlighted because in these days everybody wants to improve his apparent look. Every man (or a woman) spends a huge amount of money on personal beautification. The main points discussed in this study about personality development must be told to the common people and the people those who do not know about the basics of Islam. Mass media especially social media can play its eminent role in propagating Islamic instructions about personality improvement so, on social or mass media religious scholars should be discussed these points in some talk shows. Under the limitations of Islamic Shari'ah, a man (or a woman) can use the techniques to become attractive by personality.



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