

THE ROLE OF THE INSTITUTE OF QUR'ANIC EDUCATION FUNTUA IN THE PROLIFERATION OF PRIVATE ISLAMIC SCHOOLS IN KATSINA SOUTH SENATORIAL ZONE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper aimed to assess the role of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua in the Proliferation of Private Islamic Schools in Katsina South Senatorial Zone, Nigeria. A qualitative research method was used by the researcher through the administration of semi-structured interview request. The analyzed data revealed that, the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua has contributed immensely in increasing access to Islamic education in the Katsina South Senatorial Zone. Furthermore, the study found out that, the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua increased the availability of Islamic education resources, such as qualified Islamic teachers and improved the competence and knowledge of students in essential Islamic teachings. The findings of this study showed that the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua played a vital role in the proliferation of private Islamic schools through the production of quality graduates.

Keywords: Islamic Schools; Proliferation; Islamic Education; Katsina South Senatorial Zone; Qur'anic Studies; Educational Development; Islamic Curriculum; Teacher Training.

1. Introduction

Islamic school system can be traced back to the lifetime of the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him) he started teaching the knowledge of Islam at his residence in Arabic Language. People from different parts of the world were embracing Islam and acquiring lessons from the first Muslim teacher. The school later shifted to *Daar Al-Arqam*, which is considered the first Islamic school in the history of Islam.¹ After the death of the Prophet (S.A.W), his companions continued to uplift the system of teaching and learning in different places.

Private Islamic schools play a significant role in providing Islamic education to students. The Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua (IQEF) has emerged as a key Institution in the proliferation of private Islamic school in Katsina south senatorial zone. This paper aims to explore the role of IQEF in promoting and supporting the establishment of private Islamic schools in Katsina South Senatorial Zone, Nigeria. Katsina South is a senatorial zone/district in Katsina state, that comprises the entire geographical areas of Bakori, Dandume, Danja, Faskari, Funtua, Kafur, Kankara, Malumfashi, Matazu, Musawa, and Sabuwa Local Government Areas.² The area is predominantly Muslims, with a strong emphasis on Islamic education. Historically the area has been known for its commitment to Islamic teachings and the establishment of Islamic schools. However, the demand for private Islamic schools has increased due to the various factors, including the population expansion and the desire for a more comprehensive Islamic education

Islamic education is given less priority as compared to other conventional subjects in our institutions. Islamic schools are left behind with less support and assistance from the state government. Some people consider private Islamic schools as a tool of making money, hence they contribute less to the development of Islamic education in the area of study. Therefore, the researcher feels the need to address the above problem through assessing the role played by the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua in the proliferation of private Islamic schools in Katsina

south senatorial zone. The selection of the participants was done based on the nature of the research questions which involves teachers/Muslim scholars, Parents/guardians, school operators, and graduates of the school. The current study addressed the following research questions:

1. What role did the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua play in the proliferation of private Islamic schools in Katsina South Senatorial Zone?
2. What are the Impacts of the school on the Community?

However, this study employed the narrative analysis method to transcribe the responses from the interview. A total of thirty interview requests were distributed, and in the end, twenty agreed to participate in the study.

2. Historical Background of Modern Islamic Schools in Katsina State

Islam spread in Katsina together with its educational system. Before the arrival of colonialists, there were two types of school systems in Katsina, Qur'anic, and *Ilmi* schools.³ The Qur'anic schools used to provide the starting point by teaching Arabic literacy and recitation of the Qur'an to pupils from early childhood to adolescence. The *ilmi* schools used to provide the second means of specialization training in different fields of Islamic learning. In Qur'anic schools, the pupils would sit on the ground or mats in a scattered sitting arrangement holding their learning materials. Supervised by either local residents or mobile teachers.⁴ In the Quranic school system, there was some developmental stage like *Qolo*, *Titibiri*, *Gardi*, *Alaramma*, and *Gwani* or *Gangaran*, through which a student passes before proceeding to *ilmi* school.⁵

The integration of the product of *Islamiyyah*/Qur'anic schools into the Western system of education in Katsina had started since the time of the late Emir of Katsina Alhaji Usman Nagogo in collaboration with the native authority who established Arabic Teachers College (ATC) in the year 1963, (Now renamed Sir Usman Nagogo College of Arabic and Islamic studies. SUNCAIS).⁶

However, there were seven centers for the entrance examination into SUNCAIS across the state as follows: (1) Katsina Local Government (2) Dutsin-ma Local Government (3) Daura Local Government (4) Mani Local Government (5) Malumfashi Local Government (6) Funtua Local Government (7) Kankia Local Government.⁷

3. The Proliferation of Private Islamic Schools in the Area of Study

The Muslim Population of Katsina South senatorial zone experienced rapid growth in recent times, the need for Islamic education increased and the Government alone may not provide adequate Islamic education for such a large number of Muslim children. Therefore, Private Islamic Schools appear to fill the gap which the Government may not. The traditional Qur'anic Schools are gradually diminishing in number because people are increasingly disenchanted with their quality and ability to provide effective religious education due to their limitation to Qur'anic teaching. Production of quality graduates by the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua is another factor responsible for the proliferation of Private Islamic Schools in Katsina South Senatorial Zone. Many parents enrolled their children to the school because they appreciated the role play by the products of the school towards promoting Islamic education in the area.⁸

Katsina South senatorial zone witnessed the establishment of private Islamic schools in the year 1997 when the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua was established by Sheikh Saidu Musa (popularly known as Liman Saidu).⁹ In 1999 Community Model Arabic College Malumfashi was also established with Alhaji Babangida as the pioneer principal of the College.¹⁰

However, from 1997 to 2021 the following modern private Islamic schools were established in Katsina south senatorial zone: Institute of Quranic Education Funtua, College of Arabic and Islamic Studies (CAIS Funtua), Hayatul Islam CAIS Funtua, Hisburrahman CAIS Funtua, CAIS Bakori, CAIS Maskar, CAIS Danja, Sardauna CAIS Dabai, Community College of Arabic and

Islamic Studies (CCAIS) Marabar Musawa, Community Model Arabic College Malumfashi, CCAIS Kafur, CCAIS Kankara, CCAIS Mairuwa, Ummah CAIS Faskari and Abubakar Sadik CAIS Sabuwa¹¹

4. Conception and Development of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua

Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua is the pioneer Islamic school registered with the National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies in the Funtua senatorial Zone. The School originated from *Islamiyyah* School established by Imam Sa'id Musa in 1980 in Funtua. Later on, the Sheikh was displeased with the inability of the Funtua people to acquire higher Islamic studies certificates unless they traveled out to Arabic Teachers College Katsina, the then-only institution of its kind in Katsina State. That was what motivated the Sheikh to prepare himself for the establishment of his school in 1997.¹² The school right from its inception has been rendering a lot of contributions to the development of Islamic Education in Funtua Zone in particular and Katsina state in general. Zonal Education Office Malumfashi recommended the application made by Sheikh and forwarded it to the state ministry of education and the approval was granted.¹³

The school produced a lot of prominent individuals who contributed to the development of Islamic education and other sciences in Katsina state in particular and Nigeria in general. Such as

Dr. Sani Suleiman (b.1977), of the Islamic Studies Department, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina, Aminu Isah Musa (b.1978), of Federal College of Education Kano and Dr.

Ibrahim Hassan of Islamic Studies Department, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University among others.¹⁴ Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua desires to be a role model in training students how to memorize the Glories Qur'an and train them how to practice Islam in accordance with the teaching of the Qur'an and Sunnah.¹⁵

5. Curriculum of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua

Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua is an Islamic school that gave more emphasis to the Qur'anic education. Therefore, the school operates the curriculum of *Tahfiz* to achieve its goals. The curriculum has met the National educational policy of the 6-3-3-4 system. The curriculum of the junior *Tahfiz* comprises Arabic Language, Islamic Studies, *Tajweed*, *Tartil*, Islamic History, Social Studies, Integrated Sciences, Hausa, English, and Mathematics.¹⁶

While in the senior section Institute of Quranic Education Funtua offers subjects like Islamic studies (*Tauhid*, *Fiqh wa Usul-alFiqh*, *Hadith wa Mustalahul Hadith*), Arabic Language (*Nahw wa Sarf*, *Adab wa Naqd*, *Balagha*, *Arud*, *Al-insha wal Mudaliah*) Hausa Language, English language, Qur'anic Studies (*Tajweed*, *Tarteel*, *Qira'at*), Mathematics, Social Studies, Islamic History and Health Education. However, it should be noted that the curriculum of senior Islamic studies and that of Tahfeez are almost the same. The only difference is that the Tahfeez curriculum considered Qur'anic studies as an independent core subject while the senior Islamic studies curriculum considered Qur'anic studies a sub-subject under Islamic studies.¹⁷

6. Role of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua

Institute of Quranic Education Funtua is the pioneer Islamic school established by Imam Saidu Musa in 1997, in Katsina south senatorial zone. The Institute produced large number of graduates that contribute to the development of Islamic education in Funtua senatorial zone in particular and Katsina State in general. Most, of the participants held that the production of quality graduates by the school contributed greatly to the proliferation of private Islamic schools in the area of study, noting that the school is the pioneer of its kind in the entire zone. Therefore, it produced a large number of scholars who established many private Islamic schools within the zone and beyond. such as Dr. Sani Suleiman (b.1977) of Islamic Studies Department, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina, Goni Abubakar Saidu (b. 1978), presently the principal; Institute of

Quranic Education Funtua, National and International Judge, Qur'anic recitation competition. 95% of the respondents upheld the above statement, while 5% think otherwise.

Institute of Quranic Education Funtua is among the Islamic Institutes that have made a great impact in the development of Islamic Religion in Katsina South senatorial zone in particular and Katsina State in General. The Institute is a famous center of Islamic Teaching and Learning, where parents enroll their children to acquire Islamic knowledge in order to worship Allah in accordance with the teachings of Islam. The Institute propagates the Islamic Religion and promotes Islamic education in a modern approach. 90% of the respondents accepted the above submission, the only exception is 10% who did not accept.

Aminu Lawal (b. 1980), was a student of the school who is the current vice principal of GDSS Tudun Iya. Mr. Aminu, succeeded in establishing Sheikh Ibrahim Hamza Jambulo Memorial Islamic School, the school trained more than 700 students on how to do *Da'awa* activities with wisdom and good preaching so that the *Da'awa* will be in conformity with the saying of Allah in the Glorious Qur'an:

*Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best...*²⁰

Aminu further explained that the trained students are doing preaching and other *Ta'alimat* in Mosques such as Malam Umar Salisu, Malam Salmanu Ahmad, and Malam Abubakar Sunusi among others. Malam Aminu stated that the *Ta'alimat* (lessons) contributed greatly to transforming the area and inculcating Islamic moral values to the inhabitants of the community to the extent that a lot of un-Islamic practices are abandoned. 95% of the respondents accepted the above narration, while only 5% held otherwise.

For example, one of the participants stated:

*You see I was a student of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua, after my graduation I succeeded in establishing Sheikh Ibrahim Hamza Jambulo Memorial Islamic School, the school trained more than 700 students, most of them committed Qur'an into their memories.*²¹

6.1 Impact on Islamic Education

According to Abdurrahman Sa'idu (b.1988), the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua plays a vital role in the development of Islamic and Western education in the area of study. Before the establishment of the Institute, there was no private or governmental organization responsible for the enrolment of students into the modern Islamic school system in the area. The Institute made a great impact on the development of traditional Qur'anic schools. Some Qur'anic school products were opportune to join the Institute, for the modern Islamic education system and to have a double chance of combining Islamic and Western education. Many of such traditional Quranic school products after graduation from the Institute, became primary and secondary school teachers, such as Goni Abubakar Saidu (b. 1978), principal; Institute of Quranic Education Funtua, National and International Judge, Qur'anic recitation competition, Umar Rabi'u; classroom teacher and Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (M.S.S.N) Patron at NAK Academy Funtua, Abdurrahman Sa'idu Musa a classroom teacher at Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua, Aliyu Sa'idu deputy Examinations officer Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua among others. 92% of the respondents accepted the above narration, while only 8% held otherwise.

Furthermore, Institute of Quranic Education Funtua produced academics that teach in various Institutions of higher learning, such as Dr. Sani Suleiman of Islamic Studies Department Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina, Katsina, Professor Zunnurain of Faculty of Law Bayero University Kano, Dr. Ibrahim Hassan of Islamic Studies Department, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina, Aminu Isah Musa of Federal College of Education Kano, among others. 90% of the respondents agreed with the above narration, while only 10% held otherwise.

One participant said:

*A large number of the graduates of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua do teach in various public and private primaries, secondaries, and Institutions of higher learning, this has to do with the training they acquired in the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua.*²²

Another participant stated:

*Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua has a great impact on our communities the school inculcated a lot of moral values in the mind of the inhabitants of the area of study.*²³

6.2 Impact on Islamiyyah Schools

The Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua has a great impact on the *Islamiyyah* system of education in the area of study. The products of the institute established many *Islamiyyah* schools. In nutshell there are large number of *Islamiyya* school teachers in the area who are products of the institute. Below are some of them and their schools:

1. Malam Abdurrashid Surajo-*Madinatu al-Qur'an Sabon Layi*²⁴
2. Malam Zakariyya Muhammad- *Madarasatul Tartilil Qur'an Bagari*²⁵
3. Malam Aminu Lawal- Sheikh Ibrahim Hamza Jambulo Memorial Islamic School²⁶
4. Malam Isah Abubakar *Tahfizul Qur'anil Karim Jabiri*.²⁷ Among others. 85% of the respondents accepted the above narration, while only 15% held otherwise.

One participant explained:

*Yes indeed most of the former students of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua, after their graduation teach in various Islamiyyah schools in the area of study.*²⁸

Another participant stated:

*The impact of the school cannot be overemphasized the school promoted the memorization of the Qur'an, majority of its products are memorizers of the glorious Qur'an.*²⁹

6.3 Impact on Girl Child Education

Islam has indiscriminately called for the acquisition of knowledge and early Muslim females responded to the call, the contribution to the knowledge rendered by them cannot be discounted. In view of the above the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua enrolls female students to acquire Islamic education, for the promotion of girl child education in the Funtua community and beyond.

Mariya Sa'idu Musa (b. 1987), was a student of the school, who graduated in the year 1999, after memorizing the Complete Qur'an with *riwāyati Hafsin an- āsim*, she also did *riwāyati Warshin an-nāfi'* between 2000 – 2001, upon completion she was assigned as a classroom teacher in the school. Malama Mariya started her teaching career from 2001 to date. After she got married her husband took her to Kaduna where she continued teaching Qur'anic and other Islamic sciences.

She taught in *Markaz A'isha Umm al Mumineen Tahfeez and Tahfeez al Qur'an Hayin Na'iya Kaduna* before she established her own school named: *Ma'ahad al Qur'an al Kareem Hayin Na'iya Kaduna*. Malama Mariya explained that there are many female graduates from the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua who play a vital role in promoting girl child education, prominent among them is Hajiya Halima Sa'id who rendered the same contribution to the Funtua community, and after she got married, she established a school in Jibiya that graduated many Qur'anic memorizers, 98% of the respondents accepted the above narration.

Malama Safiyya Lawal (b. 1970), was a student of the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua, who graduated from the school in the year 1999. She memorized the Qur'an, and upon completion, she was assigned as a classroom teacher in Alhaji Sunusi mai Tabarmi *Islamiyyah*. Malama Safiyya started her teaching career from 1999 to date. After she got married she continued teaching Qur'anic and other Islamic sciences in Jambulo *Islamiyyah* school Funtua. 100% of the respondents agreed with the above narration.

A participant explained:

*Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua has a great impact on females and children most of the female graduates of the school train their juniors at home the school inculcates a lot of moral values in the minds of female students who in turn transform the entire community.*³⁰

7. Conclusion

Production of quality graduates by the Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua contributed greatly to the proliferation of private Islamic schools in the area of study, the school is the pioneer of its kind in the entire zone. Therefore, it produced a large number of scholars who established many private Islamic schools within the zone and beyond. The contribution rendered by the school has great impact on the community most especially on *Islamiyyah* system of education and girl child education.

8. Recommendations

the following suggestions are recommended for the betterment of private Islamic schools in the area of study:

1. Katsina State Government Should consider the contributions of private Islamic Schools to education her responsibility they shouldered on her behalf, and render all possible assistance required to maintain and move the schools forward.
2. The community should try as much as possible to put more efforts to bring at their door step the necessity of their children development, patronize the Institution by enrolling their children, more especially girls that may find it difficult to travel out for studies, and reject illiteracy in its totality.
3. The proprietors should be ready to welcome any positive suggestion from the community, their disciples and individuals, study them objectively and effect adjustment where necessary. And also be organizing workshop on curriculum implementation occasionally for academic staff of the Institute.
4. And finally all former students of the school especially the prominent ones that are in the state or federal ministries and universities should reciprocate the grace done to them and participate fully in the activities of the old boy Associations to maintain the School's achievements.

Note and Reference

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- 10 Interview with Malam Ayuba Haruna 39 Years, Principal community model Arabic College Malumfashi at his residence in Malumfashi 11:00Am 12th April 20
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- 14 Isah (2020), Analytical Study of Contributions of Sheikh Imam Sa'idu Musa to the Development of Islamic and Western Education in Funtua L.G.A Katsina State, M.A Dissertation submitted to the Department of Islamic Studies, Bayero University Kano.
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- 17 Ibid
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- 19 Riyadu as-Saliheen; Book of Knowledge, Hadith 1380
- 20 Qur'an 16:125
- 21 Personal communication, L. Aminu, July, 10, 2023
- 22 M. Salihu, personal communication, July, 12, 2023
- 23 M. Usman, personal communication, July, 11, 2023
- 24 Abdurashid Surajo (b. 1986), attended Aya Primary School Funtua from 1994-2000, Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua (2000-2006), Abdullahi Aminchi College of Advance Studies Funtua (An Affiliate of A.B.U) (2013-2015). And currently teaches in Madinatul Qur'an School for Qur'anic Memorization and Islamic Studies Funtua.
- 25 Zakariyya Muhammad (b. 1966), obtained Primary leaving certificate in 1983 at Kandarawa Primary School, Institute of Qur'anic Education (1994-2000) and obtained N.C.E at F.C.E Katsina in 2015. He teaches in Madarasatul Tartilil Qur'an Bagari

26 Aminu Lawal (b. 1980), completed Model Qur'anic School Funtua in 1994, Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua in 2000 and Federal Polytechnic Auchu Edo State in 2009. He is a current vice Principal G.D.S.S Tudun Iya, and also teaches in Sheikh Ibrahim Hamza Jambulo Memorial Islamic School Funtua

27 Isah Abubakar (b. 1982), completed Model Qur'anic Primary School Funtua in 1994, Institute of Qur'anic Education Funtua in 2004, A.B.U Zaria in 2018 And teaches in Madaratu Minhajis-Sunnah Litahfizil Qur'an Jabiri Lay out Funtua

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29 U. Rabi'u, personal communication, July, 11, 2023

30 L. Safiyya, personal communication, July, 10, 2023