

Understanding Special Needs Children Through Maqasid Syariah Lens



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"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." (Al-Qur'an, 49:13)

What truly matters is how we live our lives, not our physical or mental abilities. Everyone is equal in the eyes of Allah SWT. The Al-Quran, through Maqasid Syariah, emphasizes justice, compassion and inclusivity, especially for special needs children. It instructs us to care for all members of society, ensuring that special needs children receive the education, support and respect they deserve. Al-Quran and Maqasid Syariah guide Muslims to create a harmonious community where every child regardless of their abilities is valued and supported.



In Islam, the concept of Maqasid Syariah, or the objectives of Islamic law provides a framework for understanding how we should approach various aspects of life, including education. When it comes to special needs children, Maqasid Syariah offers valuable insights into how their rights and what needs should be met. By focusing on the preservation of life, intellect, and social responsibility, this perspective emphasizes the importance of inclusive and compassionate education for all children, ensuring that those with special needs are given the opportunity to learn, grow and contribute to society.

Questions to ponder. What are the components of the Islamic law in Maqasid Syariah? The components are faith (din), life (nafs), intellect ('aql), lineage (nasl), and wealth (mal). How can these components relate to Special Needs Children and Education? These principles are designed to protect and promote the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. Why these components are essential to this unique group? Firstly, the preservation of life (nafs) refers to the importance of safeguarding the physical and emotional well-being of all individuals, including those with special needs. Islam promotes for the care, support, and protection of vulnerable individuals, ensuring that they receive the -

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necessary resources and attention to lead a dignified life.



Next, intellect ('aql) means for the empowerment of special needs children through education and mental development. Islam encourages the pursuit of knowledge and the cultivation of intellectual abilities, regardless of an individual's capabilities. We could provide and tailored education and support for special needs children aligns with this objective, helping them to achieve their fullest potential.

Finally, the preservation of lineage (nasl) emphasizes the role of family and community in nurturing and protecting the rights of special needs children. Islam promotes the idea of strong family relationship and social responsibility, encouraging communities to come together to support families with special needs members. This combined approach ensures that these children are not marginalized but rather integrated into society with respect and care.



Islam encourages us to include children with special needs in every part of life, especially in education. The Prophet Muhammad PBUH set an example by involving everyone, no matter their abilities, in the community. For instance, he once chose a blind man, Abdullah ibn Umm Maktum, to lead prayers, showing that everyone has something valuable to offer.



Understanding special needs education through the lens of Maqasid Syariah highlights the principles of Islamic commitment to inclusivity and support for all individuals. The inclusion and care of special needs children are not just moral obligations but essential parts of Islamic teachings. By focusing on their well-being, intellectual growth and social integration, Maqasid Syariah encourages us to create a society where every child is respected and valued. As faithful servants, it's our responsibility to nurture the next generation with kindness, care, respect and compassion, ensuring that no one is left behind.