

**THE PEDAGOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDYING IMAM AL-GHAZALI'S
VIEWS ON CHILD UPBRINGING**

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Abstract: This article examines the pedagogical significance of Imam Al-Ghazali's views on child upbringing. As one of the greatest scholars of the Eastern Renaissance, Al-Ghazali contributed significantly to both religious and secular sciences. The study analyzes his ideas on moral education, faith, knowledge, family values, and social responsibility. The findings highlight that his teachings remain relevant in modern education, especially in shaping morally mature and spiritually developed individuals.

Keywords: child upbringing, moral education, pedagogy, faith, knowledge, spirituality, family, values

1. Introduction

In the modern era, issues related to education, moral upbringing, and religious awareness are becoming increasingly important. In this regard, it is essential to study the life, works, and pedagogical views of Imam Abu Hamid Muhammad Al-Ghazali, one of the most prominent scholars of Islamic civilization.

Al-Ghazali's works emphasize the development of human spirituality, moral excellence, and ethical behavior. He addressed key aspects of life such as family, marriage, child upbringing, honest labor, and social responsibility. His teachings highlight that the development of society is directly linked to the proper upbringing of the younger generation.

Many great Eastern thinkers, including Imam Bukhari, Abdulkhaliq Gijduvani, Ibn Sina, Al-Biruni, Al-Farabi, Bahauddin Naqshband, and Alisher Navoi, paid special attention to education and upbringing. Among them, Al-Ghazali stands out for his systematic and comprehensive approach to pedagogy.

Furthermore, the educational reforms being implemented in modern Uzbekistan, particularly under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasize the importance of upbringing, the role of teachers, and the influence of family in shaping youth. These principles are closely aligned with Al-Ghazali's pedagogical ideas.

Thus, studying Al-Ghazali's legacy is not only of historical importance but also of practical relevance for modern education.

2. Methods

This research is based on a qualitative analysis of classical and contemporary sources related to Imam Al-Ghazali's works and pedagogical ideas. The following research methods were employed:

Textual analysis of Al-Ghazali's works, particularly "Ayyuha al-Walad" (O My Son)

Comparative method to analyze similarities between classical Islamic pedagogy and modern educational approaches

Historical analysis to understand the socio-cultural context of his teachings. Pedagogical analysis to evaluate the applicability of his ideas in contemporary education. Additionally, scholarly articles, books, and online academic resources were used to support the analysis.

3. Results

The analysis of Imam Al-Ghazali's works revealed several important pedagogical principles:

3.1. The Central Role of Moral and Spiritual Education

Al-Ghazali emphasized that education should not be limited to acquiring knowledge. Instead, it must focus on developing moral values such as honesty, patience, responsibility, compassion, and faith. He believed that true education leads to spiritual purification and ethical perfection.

3.2. The Importance of Practice in Learning

According to Al-Ghazali, knowledge without action is meaningless. He strongly criticized individuals who acquire knowledge but fail to apply it in their lives. He argued that such knowledge brings no benefit and may even lead to negative consequences.

3.3. The Role of Teachers as Moral Guides

Al-Ghazali viewed teachers as central figures in the educational process. He emphasized that teachers should not only provide knowledge but also guide students morally and spiritually. They should treat students with kindness and act as role models.

3.4. The Role of Family in Child Upbringing

The family is considered the primary institution for a child's upbringing. Al-Ghazali stressed that parents are responsible for instilling moral values, discipline, and good behavior in their children. He believed that a child's character is shaped mainly within the family environment.

3.5. Use of Interactive Teaching Methods

During his teaching at the Nizamiyya madrasa, Al-Ghazali used methods such as discussions, debates, and question-answer sessions. These methods enhanced students' intellectual abilities, critical thinking, and communication skills.

3.6. Integration of Religious and Secular Knowledge

Al-Ghazali supported the idea that both religious and worldly knowledge are essential for the development of a complete individual. He believed that education should balance intellectual, moral, and spiritual aspects.

4. Discussion

The findings indicate that Imam Al-Ghazali's pedagogical ideas remain highly relevant in modern education. Today's educational systems often focus heavily on academic achievement

while neglecting moral and spiritual development. This imbalance can lead to ethical decline and social issues.

Al-Ghazali's approach provides a holistic model of education that integrates knowledge, morality, and spirituality. His emphasis on applying knowledge in practice is particularly important in addressing modern educational challenges.

Moreover, his ideas can help prevent the spread of harmful ideologies among youth. By combining religious and secular education, students can develop critical thinking skills and a balanced worldview.

His interactive teaching methods also align with contemporary pedagogical practices, such as student-centered learning and active participation. These methods make education more effective and engaging.

In addition, studying Al-Ghazali's works helps young people understand their cultural and intellectual heritage, fostering a sense of identity and respect for national and spiritual values.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Imam Al-Ghazali made significant contributions not only to theology and philosophy but also to pedagogy. His views on child upbringing emphasize the importance of moral education, the role of teachers and family, and the necessity of applying knowledge in practice.

His teachings provide valuable guidance for modern education systems, helping to develop morally responsible, intellectually capable, and spiritually mature individuals. Therefore, incorporating Al-Ghazali's pedagogical ideas into contemporary education remains an important and arduous task.

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