

Interpretation of Bullying in Islamic Texts

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ABSTRACT

Praise be to Allah (Glory be to him) The cherisher the sustainer of the worlds. The pray and peace upon the prophet Mohammed (SAW): The contemporary life has many changes if it compared with the beginnings of Islam period. The changes occurred into the most of life fields and its affairs. The new inventions, transportation means, educational system, fashions, personal attitudes and even religious rituals have affected in the life Changes. Some actions occurred in modern period and Some of them, have mentioned in the Islamic texts (Glorious Quran or Sunnah -the prophet's sayings or deeds-) 1400 years ago and still effect until now. There're lots of matters pertaining to our daily and social life and mentioned in Quran and it regarded unchangeable. In this paper, the researchers will try to show the Islamic texts negative attitude against social matter (Bullying) Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression that conducted by an individual or group against others pursuing to control over them. Bullying can have a negative effect on both the bully and the victim. The idea that bullying is in some way character building and simply part of ego. This attitude has treated in Islam (Quran and Sunnah) as an important issue that have bad on effect society. The aim of this research is to shed a light on how Islamic texts comprehended with social issues and bullying is a part of mentioned and taken into consideration.

1. Introduction

History is full of fascinating and important events, but some historical events have changed the world more than others. i.e., Some events happened in the past have a huge effect until now. They were turning points that would change our world and alter our lives permanently, whether for better or worse. One of the greatest events in the past was emergence of Islam. At that time, the ignorance, oppression drinking alcohol and lots of social and non-social matters have a wide spread and the emergence of Islam changed lots of these habits. The Holy scriptures of Islam (al-Quran and Sunnah) which revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) took these matters into consideration and one of the matters which has tackled is Bullying.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among young or children in school aged that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. This behavior based on race, color, gender or even health state. The one who does this action called "Bully", While one who affected or get bullied called "victim or bullied person". Bullying can have a negative effect on both the bully and the victim. This social matter has treated in Islam as an important issue that have bad effect on society.

The aim of this research is to shed a light on how the Islamic texts is comprehensive with lost of topics and bullying is part of the topics that Quran and Sunnah took into consideration. Five ayahs from the Glorious Quran and Sunnah have mentioned with its translation and provided with interpretation into English have mentioned as evidence that Islamic texts comprehended social matters even in this era.

1.1 Interpretation

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, Interpretation is “The action of explaining the meaning of something; the way something is explained or understood”.

While Eby in ‘ASTM International, F2089, Standard Practice for Language Interpreting: 2015’ defines it as “The process of first fully understanding, analyzing, and processing a spoken or signed message and then faithfully rendering it into another spoken or signed language”

In (Technitrad, 2016) interpretation defined as “It is the spoken or signed language communication between users of different languages. A language interpreter or sign language interpreter must not only quickly and carefully interpret meaning, clarify it but also tone and intent of the original message into the target or interpreted language”.

Shekhar (2017) defines Interpretation as: “The art of finding out the true sense of enactment by giving the words of the enactment their natural and ordinary meaning. It is the process of ascertaining the true meaning of the words used in a statute”.

Vocabulary dictionary defines it as:

“The act of explaining, reframing, or otherwise showing your own understanding of something. A person who translates one language into another is called an interpreter because they are explaining what a person is saying to someone who doesn't understand. Interpretation requires you to first understand the piece of music, text, language, or idea, and then give your explanation of it”

While interpretation or (Tafsir) in Islamic Perspective According to Leghalie (N.d.) who defines it as the main science of the Qur'an. All other sciences of the Qur'an are in fact parts of the science of the Interpretation of the Qur'an.

The Researcher's definition of Interpretation as: a science of Quran that specialized to clarify, explain and illustrate the Quranic Ayahs in order to derive the religious provisions of Islamic law.

The Prophet (SAW) is regarded as the first interpreter or the Book of God, elucidating to people what was revealed to him as per God's commandment to him the Holy Quran (surah an-Nahl: 44) (Ibid)

{(النحل : الآية 44)} وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ {قال تعالى:

(And We have also sent down unto you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) the Dhikr [reminder and the advice (the Qur'an)], that you may explain clearly to men what is sent down to them, and that they may give thought) (Khan and al-Hilali (trans), 2011).

2. Bullying

The term Bullying coined in 1993 which is considered as repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression conducted by an individual or group against others. Bullying can have a negative effect on both the bully and the victim.

2.1 Definitions of Bullying

Olweus (2011) defines bullying as “Bullying is intentional negative behavior that typically occurs with some repetitiveness and is directed against a person who has difficulty defending himself or herself”

While Roland defines bullying as “long standing violence, physical or psychological, perpetrated by an individual or group directed against an individual who cannot defend himself or herself”

Smith & Sharp (1994:22) suggest that bullying is “the systematic abuse of power in interpersonal relationship”. In other words, bullying is when a person is picked on over and over again by an individual or group with more power, either in terms of physical strength or social standing.

Rigby (2008: 22) argues that:

Abuse of power is not restricted only to certain managerial or “authority” positions, but that most individuals have “the opportunity to exercise power to control over someone”. Thus, there are apparently imbalances in physical and psychological strength between bully and the victim

2.2 Bullying Types:

2.2.1. Cyber-Bullying:

Ortega et al., (2012: 342) defines Cyber bullying as:

A form of bullying that uses electronic means such as email, mobile phone calls, text messages, instant messenger contact, photos, social networking sites, and personal web pages, with the intention of causing harm to another person through repeated hostile conduct

In other words, Cyber-bullying is a completely new form of bullying, made possible by our youth culture’s preoccupation and expertise with computer technology (and other forms of technology as well) (Ibid).

While Hinduja & Patchin (2015: 215) define it as:

The use of internet and other digital communication devices to practice this act; it is also known as online bullying or online harassment. cyber bullying can often take the form of identity-based bullying such as racist or homophobic bullying. it becomes increasingly difficult to deal with and goes beyond the traditional boundaries of the school environment

2.2.2 School Bullying

Learning institution brings together students from different backgrounds to provide them with education. Students are able to interact in class and also outside the classroom; outside the classroom students are often alone without their teachers. School going children and youths undergo different experiences while in school, these experiences are either positive or negative. One of these bad actions is bullying against students. School bullying can be described as victimization and intimidation of students by their fellow peers in a school environment. When students are frequently and repeatedly intimidated or victimized over time by more powerful peers this result in psychological effect to the affected students (Undheim & Sund, 2010: 803)

School bullying and peer victimization are major social problems affecting children and adolescents in all parts of the world. About 1 in 5 elementary school and 1 in 10 middle school students in the United States is bullied. Approximately 15% of Swedish school children are involved either as victims or bullies (Frisen, Johnson and Persson, 2007: 1).

2.2.3 Racist bullying:

Quinn (2013: 22) explains that:

This form has discovered by a group of social researchers and it called identity-based bullying, such as that experienced by those from ethnic minority and migrant groups. The Integration Centre reported that in a qualitative survey of 442 teachers in secondary and further education institutions, 28% of all teachers witnessed a racist incident which had occurred in their school/college

2.2.4 Social Bullying

Social bullying can be difficult to detect from the outside. It can be direct, with exclusion, ignoring, isolating, or shunning experienced by the victims. Also forms include exclusion carried out away from the victims and is not experienced by them until they attempt to join the group (Lee, 2004: 10)

Coloroso (2003: 17) is focusing on the adolescent years during which time this type of bullying is the most powerful. The peer group is very important at this stage as adolescents are trying to discover who they are while finding a sense of belonging with their peers.

2.3 Bully

This expression used to refer to the one, child or group of children who carry out the bullying behavior. They victimize their friends or peers through willful, conscious and deliberate actions intended to induce fear. Parsons (2005: 49) states that: “this behavior stems from personal values that have become ingrained over time and that this behavior is consistent with how they perceive the world”. Pellegrini (2002: 161) suggests that an adolescent’s need to strive for leadership and status among his/her peers is an important factor in motivating this aggression.

2.4 Victim

A child who becomes the target of the bullying behavior is either called the target or the victim, Sullivan K., Cleary & Sullivan, G (2004: 17) define victim as:

Anyone who shows vulnerability and does not have the support of the group. The roles are not fixed, a confident person in one environment can be vulnerable in another that is why children who move from one school to another are always at greater risk

2.5 Impact of Bullying

Bullying can become a major barrier to learning, as O'Moore (2010: 83) States:

Children who are victimized are unable to draw maximum benefit from teaching and learning because so much of their energy is taken up with trying to keep safe. Stress and anxiety caused by bullying can make it more difficult for young people to learn.

Bullying can have a very negative impact on a person's mental health and sense of well-being. Bullying is so personal and focused that it can destroy a person's ego

The National Office for Suicide Prevention (2011: 53) reports that: "Ireland has the fourth highest rate of youth suicide in Europe. Based on 2009 data, The National Office for Suicide Prevention reports that in 2010 ,198 young people, aged 19 and under, were treated in hospital as a result of deliberate self-harm and the reason is Bullying".

3. Islamic Texts

3.1 What is Islam

The Arabic word Islam, which literally means "surrender" to God's will, illuminates Islam's fundamental religious concept. Islam is a universal religion that was promulgated in Arabia in the 7th century BC by the Prophet Muhammad. The believer of this religion called a Muslim accepts surrender to the will of Allah (in Arabic, Allah is the God) (Zarif, 2014).

Islam is considered as the world's second biggest religion. Allah is regarded as the one God, the world's creator, sustainer, and restorer. The holy book, the Quran (commonly spelt Koran in English), which Allah revealed to his messenger, Muhammad, and the Sunnah (the prophet Muhammad's sayings and acts) are the two sacred texts and main sources of Islam. Muhammad is regarded as the seal of prophets in Islam, and his message fulfills and completes the "revelations" attributed to earlier prophets. (Rahman, Schimmel, Annemarie and Mahdi, 2021).

3.2 Islamic Texts

Islamic texts are texts which Muslims believe and consider them as the source of Islamic Law. They're two main Sacred texts: The Glorious Quran (Sayings of Allah revealed to the prophet Muhammad) and Sunnah (the Prophet's deeds and sayings):

3.2.1 The Glorious Quran:

The Qur'an is the sacred scripture of Muslims, i.e., the believers and followers of Islam. The word 'Quran' refers to the sacred book of the Islamic religion. It is the Islamic religious scripture. The Quran is revealed in pure Arabic, and the origin of the word "Quran" is Iqr'a (read, in Arabic language). The word "Quran" literally means "recitation." The Quran's term meaning also covers reading with comprehension and learning (Ahmed, 2020).

Through the angel Gabriel, the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad by God. It took place in Mecca, in his (the Prophet Muhammad) hometown, and partially in Medina. The Quran was revealed and recorded for the first time more than 1400 years ago when it was successful in establishing a state in stateless tribal pagan community. The language of the Quran was revealed in Arabic and the message was directed eventually came for mankind as a whole (An Introduction to the Quran, n.d.).

3.2.2 Sunnah

al-Muala (2007) says that: "The Sunnah refers to the sayings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad and is the second source of knowledge for Muslims". The Sunnah, according to the scholars of hadeeth, is everything that has been related from the Messenger, may the mercy and blessings of God be upon him, of his statements, actions, tacit approvals, personality, physical description, or biography. It does not matter whether the information being related refers to something before the beginning of his prophetic mission, or after it.

4. Bullying in Islamic Texts

The Glorious Quran and Sunnah took into consideration lots of matters whether its social, Scientific or medical. According to Islamic belief, The Quran and Sunnah can cure the disease either physically or spiritually. Every disease has a cure for it. Normally, physical ailments treated by doctors who are experts in their field. Meanwhile, the spiritual diseases such as harassment, Bullying and magic genie...etc need people who are experts in the field. However, both types of diseases can be cured by using Quran verses or Hadiths (Yusuff, W et.al. 2019).

4.1 Bullying in Glorious Quran:

No.1

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَبْطُلُوا صَدَقَاتِكُمْ بِالْمَنِّ وَالْأَذَى (البقرة: 264)

O you who believe! Do not render in vain your Sadaqah (charity) by reminders of your generosity or by injury (Khan & al-Hilali (trans.), 2011)

Interpretation of Ayah

In this ayah, Allah ordered the people to treat bullying by advising others to use A kind , good word for everyone. Allah said don't annul the rewards of your voluntary almsgivings with reproach and injury those who're poor as in the manner of the annulment of the expenditure of one who expends of his substance to show off to men and believes not in God and the Last Day this is the hypocrite.

No.2

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ بَغَيْرِ مَا كُتِبُوا فَقَدْ اِخْتَمَلُوا بُهْتَانًا وَإِثْمًا مُّبِينًا (الاحزاب: 58)

And those who annoy believing men and women undeservedly, they bear (on themselves) the crime of slander and plain sin (Khan & al-Hilali (trans.), 2011).

Interpretation of Ayah

In this Ayah, Allah promised those who causing hurt to believing men and believing women without the latter's having done, they will face a will definitely bear the guilt of slander and blatant sin.

No.3

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرُ قَوْمٌ مِّن قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِنْهُمْ وَلَا نِسَاءٌ مِّن نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِنْهُنَّ وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَزُوا بِالْألقَابِ بِئْسَ الإِسْمُ الفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الإِيمَانِ ۗ وَمَن يَتَّبِعْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُم الظَّالِمُونَ (11) يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا ۗ أَيُحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ (12) (الحجرات)

O you who believe! Let not a group scoff at another group, it may be that the latter are better than the former. Nor let (some) women scoff at other women, it may be that the latter are better than the former. Nor defame one another, nor insult one another by nicknames. How bad is it to insult one's brother after having Faith [i.e., to call your Muslim brother (a faithful believer) as: "O sinner", or "O wicked"] And whosoever does not repent, then such are indeed Zâlimûn (wrong-doers, etc.) (Khan & al-Hilali (trans.), 2011).

Interpretation of Ayah

In this Ayah, Allah prevented people to use mocked names among them, such as using mother's names or names of animals or bad things as a deride. Neither defame the believing brothers nor backbite against each other because these were used in the pre-Islamic period. In addition, suspicion, eavesdropping and backbite.

No.4

الَّذِينَ يَلْمُزُونَ الْمُطَّوِّعِينَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي الصَّدَقَاتِ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ إِلَّا جُهْدَهُمْ فَيَسْخَرُونَ مِنْهُمْ سَخِرَ اللَّهُ مِنْهُمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ (79: التوبة)

Those who defame such of the believers who give charity (in Allâh's Cause) voluntarily, and such who could not find to give charity (in Allâh's Cause) except what is available to them - so they mock at them (believers); Allâh will throw back their mockery on them, and they shall have a painful torment (Khan & al-Hilali (trans.), 2011).

Interpretation of Ayah

In this ayah, Allah warned the mocking, and backbiting from the believers who giving almsgiving and belittle of them, Allah will do that with painful torture.

No.5

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ (1: الهمزة)

Woe to every slanderer and backbiter

Interpretation of Ayah

Allah in this Ayah threaten those who backbites others (Woe) severe punishment; and it is also said that this refers to a valley in Gehenna which is full of blood and puss; and it is also said that it refers to a well in the Fire (unto every slandering) who backbites people (traducer) and slanders and abuses them in their face.

4.2 Bullying in Hadiths:

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) Said these Sayings (named Hadiths):

No.1

A believer is not stabbed or cursed, or obscene or indecent.

و صححه الالباني [6801] رواه الترمذي (1977) [ليس المؤمن بالطعان ولا اللعان ، ولا الفاحش ولا البذيء

Interpretation of Hadith

In this hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) recommended the believers and Muslims to deny any kind of insulting them (beliefs , pedigree), stabbing and using abusive words with others because these are not Muslims behaves.

No.2

Insulting a believer is immorality, fighting him is blasphemy, eating his flesh (Backbiting and gossip) is a disobedience, and the sanctity of his money is like the sanctity of his blood.

سباب المؤمن فسوق، وقتاله كفر، وأكل لحمه معصية، وحرمة ماله كحرمة دمه (رواه البرقي في (المحاسن) عن الحسين بن سعيد)

Interpretation of Hadith

In this hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) prohibited revile, fight, backbiting him and speak bad words in his absence because all of these actions are villainous cowardness to speak in people's absence and reprehensible actions leads to Allah's anger.

No.3

The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe, and the immigrant is the one who abandons what God has forbidden

المسلم من سلم المسلمون من لسانه ويده والمهاجر من هجر ما نهى الله عنه (رواه عبدالله بن عمرو وصححه النسائي [5011]).

Interpretation of Hadith

In this hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) advised that the true Muslim is the one who refrains from harming his tongue and hand from the Muslims, and abandons what God has forbidden.

No.4

Do not harm the Muslims, do not revile them, and do not follow their faults

لَا تُؤْذُوا الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَلَا تُعَيِّرُوهُمْ، وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا عَوْرَاتِهِمْ (سنن الترمذي [2032])

Interpretation of Hadith

In this hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) recommended people not to hurt the Muslims neither to slander nor to follow and waiting their faults.

No.5

It is not permissible for a Muslim to intimidate a Muslim

لَا يَجِلُّ لِمُسْلِمٍ أَنْ يُرَوِّعَ مُسْلِمًا (حدثه الالباني في صحيح ابي داود [5004]).

Interpretation of Hadith

In this hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) forbids any kind of terrifying and intimidating the Muslims whether its joke or not.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we have concluded as follows:

1. The Islamic law and its texts comprehended all the social and non-social problems whether it happened in the past or in future.
2. Bullying is bad habit that breaks the Islamic laws and spread Chaos in society. So, it's important to be tackled
3. Bullying has lots of types and forms and one of each 7 (as an average) in young and children age have involved in bullying as a victim or bully.
4. We must instruct and educate our children clearly with firm and stable principles away from Bullying and other kinds of ill-mannered behaviors.
5. Media's role is very important and they should take Bullying into consideration to instruct people and children outcast any kind of this manner.

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