



Brainstorming Sessions on Atheism

The Imams were asked to split in groups and come up with five reasons for these doubts and five solutions for them.

Summary:

Five Reasons/Causes for the Doubts:

1. Activities in Masjid that not relevant to the youth.
 - a. Youth are not satisfied with their clergymen
 - b. The status of the Imam is weak or weak personality
 - c. Lack of Proactive Behavior (in response to Islamophobia)
 - d. Imams and Parents not understanding science. (earth is center of universe)
2. Media spreading wrong information
 - a. Pop culture
 - b. Islamophobia
3. Extreme Intellectualism that excludes God
 - a. False correlation between science and atheism
4. Bad Parenting (ex: mother beats 15 year old son, starves him, sits with him for 2 hours while he uses computer, and watches every single thing and immediately punishes a mistake he does. He has said he will kill himself several times but then says I am kidding)
 - a. Disconnect between older generation and younger generation
 1. Example: “10 amazing Muslims touched by God” was a Christian book sent widely to Muslim males. Some Muslim parents gave this book to their Muslim children thinking that this is an Islamic book.
 - b. Inconsistency (saying one, doing another)
 - c. Difference of religion among parents.
 - d. Lack of Good role models
 - e. Not knowing a proper way to teach children of this age.
5. Materialism (having too much)
6. Environment:
 - a. Idle Minds
 - b. Bad friends

- c. Lack of relevant Islamic education (Marriage of Rasulallah(saw))
- 7. Role Models from good people
 - a. Social Media's influence

Five Solutions:

1. Professional Development for Imams
2. Having an open environment in masjid and towards the children.
3. Showing Islam as a solution in logical and rational way
4. Role Model Based tarbiyyah
 - a. Directing the teachings towards the hearts and not just their brains.
5. Good Parenting: must spend time to educate the parents on proper parenting
 - a. How to discipline our children the right way.
 - i. "Strict parents raise really good actors".
 - b. A good book: on Parenting
6. Do not ignore the Problem-this exists (meaning Atheism).
 - a. Answer their questions.
 - b. Get their email addresses and social media
7. Strengthen Youth activities in the masjid.
8. Libraries that are accessible
 - a. Bed time stories
 - b. Islamic cartoons
 - c. Islamic moral stories.
9. Teaching our children how the extremist groups are wrong and teaching something other than the way of the Sunnah.