Introduction

Islam is claimed to be a rational religion. There is no other revealed Book which lays so much stress on reason and reflection as does the Holy Quran. Hadith literature also inspires to apply reason and intellect. These have always led the Muslims to make scientific enquiries. The scientific approach which the Quran calls and advocates as hikmah (wisdom) has been praised by the believers and others alike. It has been said that whoever is given hikmah has been given much good. In modern days too this Quranic approach of scientific investigation is being welcomed. The echo of Islamisation is at a high pitch these days. Islamisation of the State on the political plane and Islamisation of knowledge on the academic plane are being stressed simultaneously. Apart from receiving attention at the regional and national levels in different countries, Islam is being projected as a powerful force even at the international level. The International Islamic Conference is an international organisation of the Islamic Countries. During the meetings of the General Assembly of the U.N.O., this organisation also holds its separate meetings every year. Like the U.N.O., it also tries to fulfil its objectives by means of its twenty subsidiary institutions. The most important among them are: the Islamic Development Bank; the Islamic Scientific and Cultural Organisation; the Islamic Chamber of Commerce; the Islamic Solidarity Fund; the Statistical Economic and Social Research; the Research centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture; the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade; the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and research; the Islamic Foundation for Science and Technology. These are doing remarkable work in their respective
fields, exploring new dimensions of Islam and, thereby, providing lead to the Muslim community in the fast-changing world.

It is generally felt that while other aspects of Islam have received comparatively greater attention from the researchers, its educational aspect has remained largely neglected. Effects are, therefore, being made to overcome this neglect. Moved, perhaps by this kind of a feeling, the Government of the Saudi Arabia has announced the grant of Faisal Award for the year 1986 on a scholarly work produced in the field of the Islamic system of education. Iran claims that after introducing Islamic order, it has made remarkable progress in the field of education. Recently, the Iranian Embassy in India has made it out that what the Islamic Government in Iran has achieved in the field of education in a very short period has surpassed the entire development of education made by the Pahlavi regime in more than fifty years. Even in countries where Muslims are in minority, Islamic system of education is in practice in varying degrees. There are institutions, though not many, which cut across the boundaries of the secular and the sacred education. Hence they are not wholly theological in nature. In our own country the educational system evolved by Jamat-E-Islami, Hind, is an example in point. Jamat's educational institutions are known as Darsegah-i-Islami and are run throughout the country with uniform courses of studies. Such new developments about Islam and Islamic education taking place both at the national and international levels may well inspire a student of education to explore the Islamic concept of Education.

* The Times of India, New Delhi, Feb. 12, 1985.
Education has throughout human history been taken as something closely related to life and running parallel to it. Islam, too, takes education to be a life long process. The prophet instructs that the search for knowledge should continue from the cradle to the grave. This approach to education suggests and emphasises the taking up of a study of the Islamic Concept of Education in the context of the Islamic world-view. The Prophet is also reported to have advised his followers to seek God's refuge from useless knowledge or the knowledge not applied to life and its problems. It becomes evident that without an insight into the Islamic ideology and civilization it may not become possible to evolve and understand the concept of Education in Islam. The present study, therefore, attempts a study of the Islamic Concept of Education in the ideological background of Islam. It is precisely, "A Study of the Islamic Concept of Education in the light of the concepts of Man and Society in Islam."

This study disapproves the view that the educational system of Islam is, in fact, the product of the intellectual development attained in the period long after the period of the Prophet and his pious Caliphs, particularly during the period of the Abbasids. It is quite possible that in the later period the various aspects and subjects of education might have been re-organised to meet the demands of the time. But in fact, it became possible only because Islamic ideology had the necessary provisions for it already. In my M.Phil. Dissertation an attempt was made to present some important points of the system of education under
the prophet and his caliphs. The present study is an attempt to understand the Islamic concept of Education. It includes, among other things, the aims and objectives of education in Islam, the teacher in the Islamic system of education, the nature of curriculum and the method of teaching in Islam.

The subject of study is mainly theoretical. Hence it is a library based study. In view of the Investigator's lack of proficiency in the Arabic language, only the authentic sources of information available in Urdu and English have been used. However, wherever needed and possible, Arabic texts have also been consulted with the help of dictionaries. The researcher has tried to consult relevant material available in journals, magazines, encyclopaedias and other documents.

Apart from the Researcher's lack of command over the Arabic language, the other limitation which made him somewhat handicapped was paucity of time and funds. This study, therefore, suffers from many limitations and shortcomings. In more favourable circumstances, perhaps this study could have been much better than what it is now.