

During the time of the prophet and the Sahaba the Masjid played an important role in the Islamic Society. The Masjid at that time of the Prophet was more than a place of prayer; it was an institution and it was the central core of the Muslim Community.

Many of us treat the Masjid as a place of prayer only.

But the Masjid has other important role to play in any Muslim community

The Masjid should serve as the focal point for all community members that unifies their goals, strengthens their brotherhood and sisterhood, and enables them to perfect their Iman and righteousness. It is also to help and encourage them to perform more righteous deeds. As well as to support them in establishing the mutual teaching and adherence of Truth, patience, and constancy. (Suratul Asr)

The first thing that the prophet did when he settled in Madina was to erect the Masjid with his companions.

From that time, the Masjid was the place where Muslims gathered around the prophet to learn Quran, listen to his sayings and gain their knowledge of their religion.

The prophet conducted all the affairs of the Muslim community from the Masjid as well:

It was the place of organizing the ranks of fighters in the way of Allah as they were sent on their missions of Jihad.

It was also the place for settling disputes among Muslims.

Also, it was the place for meeting delegates who came to the prophet to announce their Islam.

The prophet said: “whoever comes to the Masjid and he only intends to learn and teach Knowledge, he will get the reward of a complete Hajj.”

Here the prophet confirms that the Masjid has an important function besides establishing the five daily prayers.

The early Muslim women also competed with Muslim men in seeking Knowledge at the masjid. They said to the prophet; “Men get benefit of your knowledge more than we do, so make for us separate circles.” The prophet promised to teach them and he did.

Aesha admired the efforts made by the Ansar women in seeking knowledge, She said: “The best women are the women of AlAnsar, “Shyness did not prevent them from learning Fiqh.”

Nowadays the Masjid is deserted most of the day and even most of the week. The activities run in the Masjid find little or no attendance. We prefer to spend time with our families or in shopping rather than coming to Prayer at the Masjid and sharing weekly activities with our fellow Muslims.

In order to have an effective presence in a non-Muslim Country, we must strengthen our connection to the Masjid and its activities, this for the benefit of our own selves and the benefit of our noble Deen.

Attendance at the masjid means belief in Allah as Allah says what may be translated as: “Masjids are only habituated by those who have faith in Allah and the Last Day. They are steadfast in prayers. Give Zakat and fear only Allah.”

The Masjid is the fortress and the shelter that every Muslim needs to gain Salvation in this life and the Hereafter.

The Muslim who fears Allah is the one who maintains the Masjid by establishing his daily prayers.

We need to enhance our attendance in the jamaa prayers and weekly activities even if it does not match our schedules or suit our desires.

Let our first objective be to gain the pleasure and the reward of Allah.

The prophet told some of the Sahaba who were sitting at the Masjid remembering Allah: “Jabrrel came to me and told me that Allah boasts about you to the angels.”

Let our concern when we come to the Masjid be to encourage those who are away to come and join the jamma of the Muslims.

The prophet Said; “..... Stick to the jamaa, the wolf eats only from the sheep that is strayed from the flock.”