

Waqf and Madrasa Education: The Crisis of Funding

Posted at: 21/03/2025

Waqf and Madrasa Education: The Crisis of Funding

Context

- The central government recently **reduced budgetary allocations** for madrasa and waqf educational schemes to **almost zero**.
 - This affects efforts to **modernize madrasa education** and **develop waqf properties**.
 - The move raises concerns over **educational disparities** among Muslims in India.
-

Educational Status of Muslims

- **Lower literacy rate:** 79.5%, below the **national average of 80.9%**.
 - **Decline in higher education enrolment:** 8% drop in 2020-21 (AISHE report), the highest among SCs, STs, and OBCs.
 - **High dropout rates:** 18.64% of Muslim students drop out at the secondary level, compared to 12.6% **national average**.
 - **Gender disparity:** **Decline in female enrolment** and lowest participation in **Classes 11 & 12**.
-

Waqf Educational Schemes

- **Waqf Boards:** Manage properties for **religious and charitable purposes**.
 - **Key Schemes:**
 - QWBTS - Modernization of waqf properties.
 - SWSVY - Supports urban waqf properties for community welfare.
 - Both schemes are implemented by the **Central Waqf Council (CWC)**.
-

Scheme for Providing Education to Madrasas and Minorities (SPEMM)

- **Launched in 2014-15** under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**.
- **Aims:**
 - Modernize madrasa education.
 - Provide **financial aid to madrasa teachers**.
 - Improve **infrastructure and training**.

- **Funding:** Started with ₹194 crore in 2014-15, reduced to zero in 2024-25.
-

Challenges in Muslim Education

- **Declining Funds:** Cuts in QWBTS, SWSVY, and SPEMM since 2021.
 - **Madrassa Closures:** Assam government shut down all government-funded madrassas in 2021, converting them into regular schools by 2023.
 - **Issues in Madrassa Education:**
 - Lack of curriculum standardization.
 - Opaque funding and land law violations.
 - Failure to provide a holistic education.
-

Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- **Proposes greater central regulation** over waqf properties.
 - **Includes non-Muslim members** in waqf boards, reducing Islamic trusts' influence over madrassas.
-

Way Forward

- **Identify and enrol out-of-school Muslim children.**
- **Increase scholarships and financial aid.**
- **Enhance vocational training and teacher training.**

