

# Waqf and Madrasa Education: The Crisis of Funding

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## 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.
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### 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**.
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### 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)**.
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### 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.
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### 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.
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### Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

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

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

