

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَلَى عَظِيمِ نِعَمِهِ، وَالشُّكْرُ لَهُ عَلَى جَزِيلِ فَضْلِهِ، أُنْعَمَ عَلَيْنَا  
بِنِعْمَةِ الْإِبْنَاءِ، وَجَعَلَهُمْ مَسْئُولِيَّةَ الْأُمَّهَاتِ وَالْآبَاءِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا  
اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ  
وَرَسُولُهُ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ  
وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

**All praises are due to Allah for His tremendous blessings. And gratitude to Him for His great favour. He has blessed us with the blessing of children, placing them as a trust and responsibility for their parents. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad, is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe.**

**“Indeed, the hearing, the sight and the heart - about all those (one) will be questioned.” (17:36)**

The word ‘Fuaad’ also includes the intellect, hence we will be asked about the intellect & what we did with it. Consequently the Shariah has stressed a great degree of importance to preserving the intellect, thus deeming **Haram** all the things that harm the intellect. **D. N. A. N. M.**

**“O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful.” (5:90)**

**"Every intoxicant is unlawful." (Bukhari)**

Thus all intoxicants whether small or large, that reach the body, intellect are Haram. Alcohol, Drugs, whether dry, liquid, injected or smoked are Forbidden. Intoxicants & Drugs lead to addiction, substance abuse, violence, destruction of personal, family and community relations & world suffering. So how do we protect our children from all of this?

Our children are a weighty trust placed upon our shoulders and we will be accountable for how we have rendered this trust in front of our Lord.

**"Everyone is a shepherd and responsible for his flock." (Bukhari)**

**“A man follows the religion of his friend; so each one should consider whom he makes his friend.” (Tirmidhi)**

**Studies show 90% of those addicted to drugs were introduced by a friend. 37% under 15's drugs in school. Over 15,000 admitted in hospital overdose. 73% under 15's consumed alcohol. 95 Tonnes of marijuana produced in UK, 44.9% world total.**

**Umar bin al-Khattab said: "Teach your children swimming, archery and horse riding." Children need to be kept busy and occupied in fruitful endeavours, useful courses, and in voluntary work.**

**“A believer who is strong is better and dearer to Allah than the weak believer, but there is goodness in both of them. Be keen on what benefits you and seek help from Allah, and do not give up." (Muslim).**

**Parents should thus encourage their children from a young age to take responsibility upon themselves, keeping busy and attached to the Deen.**

**If you as parents find any of your children displaying any signs of substance abuse; do not delay, there is help, and you can contact and report the matter to the special and competent authorities who can help.**

**The family should be a place of refuge for children, their fortress by which they are protected, their first school where they are nourished, cared for and where they learn from.**

**A recent study found that 95% of children on substance abuse came from dysfunctional families. Their parents and wider relatives paid no attention to the wellbeing of their children, or encouraged the abuse. Good strong, moral, ethical, religious families will bring up children who excel in the community and society.**

**[And Luqman said], "O my son, indeed if wrong should be the weight of a mustard seed and should be within a rock or [anywhere] in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Indeed, Allah is Subtle and Acquainted. (31:16)**

**We need to instil the sense of self-governance & mindfulness of their Creator at all times. We need to keep them occupied and engaged.**

**Idle curiosity & the craving to experience the effects of certain drugs has trapped many children in the vicious addictive cycle of substance abuse. Give time to your children & answer their questions with Hikmah.**

**Communicate, Empathise, Befriend, Listen, Collaborate with them.**