

TEACHING JIHAD AT SCHOOLS, MADRASSAHS

Textbooks, guidebooks give extremist interpretation

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TEXTBOOKS and guidebooks for class eight to 12 provide extremist interpretations of Jihad to students of schools and madrassahs.

This has been happening due to the government's indifference, said academicians as well as Islamic scholars.

Islamic scholar Maulana Fariduddin Masoud said there could no justification to incorporate the topic of Jihad for the students of class eight to 12.

He said Qawmi Madrassahs, which don't follow the government's syllabus, teach

Jihad as a separate topic to their post graduate students.

He said that Jihad's extremist interpretations could misguide tender minds of teenage students.

'Islam O Naitik Shikkha' (Islam and Moral Education), a textbook for school students of class nine and 10, published by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board says at page 107 that fighting Islam's enemies is the highest level of Jihad.

Some students of class nine and 10 at nongovernment schools said that the guidebooks they follow for solving creative questions admire Mujahedins as do

some of the teachers in their class room lectures.

Professor emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said that unless the government keeps a watchful eye on guidebooks, its anti-extremist campaigns among school and madrassah students would be counterproductive.

Islamic Foundation director general Shamim

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Textbooks and guidebooks of schools and madrassahs are alleged to give extremist interpretation of Jihad that may lead many to adopt extremism. — Sourav Lasker

