The Role of Educational Institutions and Their Efforts in Countering Extremism and Intellectual Terrorism.

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Abstract: Intellectual terrorism is a type of terrorism focused on the use of extremist and militant ideas and opinions to achieve political, religious or social goals. These extreme and violent ideas are promoted by influencing the minds of individuals, and encouraging them to commit violent acts, or terrorize others. *"Terrorism has become an inherent pillar in the concerns of states, both their internal and foreign policies, and it has become a cause of fear of nations, and it has become a pretext for domination and control to an equal extent, even the (war on terrorism) led by the United States was one of the most prominent arguments invoked to enter Iraq, and researchers believe that terrorism has become a phenomenon of the twentieth century in every excellence.*[1] *Intellectual terrorism aims to achieve a lasting and profound impact on societies, cultures and countries by distorting and distorting sound ideas and beliefs. It targets mentally weak individuals or suffering from emotional or social instability, tries to convince them of the ideas of extremism, hatred and violence as a way to achieve its goals. Combating intellectual terrorism is a great challenge, as it requires countering extremist ideas and dealing with the roots of the problem. This includes focusing on education and awareness of the values of tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence between different communities, and this is what educational institutions should do, because of their academic scientific potential that has the ability to spread the values of tolerance, and reduce extremist ideas among students, and society. This also includes encouraging dialogue and open debate, providing economic and social opportunities for all, and building a common vision based on citizenship, justice and democracy.*

Keywords: Terrorism, Extremism, Educational institutions, Teachers, Values, Support

Introduction:

 Extremism and intellectual terrorism are one of the main challenges facing global societies in modern times. Educational institutions, whether schools or universities, are among the most prominent actors that play a decisive role in combating these phenomena. It has the ability to shape and guide the ideas and values of the younger generations, and therefore it can be an effective means of combating extremism and intellectual terrorism.

 It must be known that intellectual terrorism depends on the use of many means, the most important of which are media, social communication and technology to spread extremist ideas and recruit supporters and supporters. The internet and social networks are being used to spread propaganda, incitement and guidance of terrorist operations. From this point of view, "terrorism is not only seen as a case of violence, but combines propaganda and violence in its operations".[2]

 It should be noted that in this research we have not touched on the definition of terrorism in language or terminology, in order to avoid repeating and repeating the detailed definitions provided by many researchers in various fields and disciplines, in addition to the brevity of space and time, and not to enter into details of various topics that may bore the reader and listener.

Research objective:

 This research aims to explore the role of educational institutions in countering extremism and intellectual terrorism, and analyze the efforts made by these institutions to counter this phenomenon. The actions and programs implemented by schools and universities to promote tolerance, peaceful coexistence, the dissemination of human values and the fight against extremism will be highlighted.

Methodology:

 In this research, the descriptive and analytical approach was used to analyze the role that educational institutions play in the face of extremism, and intellectual terrorism.

Observation: Wherever the word teachers appears in the research, it means the person who teaches, at various levels and stages of study, and not the primary school teacher.

The reasons for spreading the idea of terrorism and extremism in educational institutions:

There are several reasons that can lead to the dissemination of the idea of terrorism, and extremism in educational institutions, among the common ones are:

1.**Intellectual and social poverty**: There may be a lack of education and a proper understanding of basic values such as tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Students may live in difficult social conditions, and lack good educational opportunities, which makes them vulnerable to being influenced by extremist ideas.

2.**Cultural isolation**: Some individuals may experience cultural isolation, and lack of communication with different cultures and opinions. This can lead to the formation of a false and distorted image of the other, and may lead to the adoption of extremist ideas.

3.**Hidden terrorist activity**: extremist elements may infiltrate educational institutions and secretly promote the ideas of extremism and terrorism. They may use opportunities to recruit young people, and spread violence, and hatred.

4.**Political and ideological use**: Educational institutions may be exploited to promote radical political agendas and ideologies. Curricula and educational materials can be influenced by political influences and extremist orientations that promote violence and extremism.

5.**Insecurity**: The lack of adequate security measures in educational institutions can allow the infiltration of extremist elements, and their impact on students, and the school community.

"On this basis, some researchers see a set of reasons behind extremist violence formed through organizations, to turn into terrorism; these reasons are summarized by the existence of schools of thought and jurisprudence that are not qualified to exercise an enlightening role in society, under illegal regimes employing nationalism one way, and Islam another, in order to prevent people from claiming their rights, with the availability of international support for the tyranny of these countries, within a state of ignorance, backwardness, lack of awareness, and lack of exercise of the right of political participation"[3]

From here, educational institutions should deal with these reasons, provide a safe and stimulating educational environment that promotes tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and teach basic values to combat terrorism and extremism. Educational efforts should include promoting awareness and knowledge, encouraging constructive dialogue, developing critical and analytical skills in students.

Educational programs to combat terrorism and extremism:

There are some practical examples of the application of educational programs to combat terrorism and extremism in educational institutions, we see that among them are the following:

1.**Promote awareness and knowledge**: By providing lessons on extremism and terrorism, their causes and impact on societies. Provide educational resources such as videos and articles that explain the challenges of combating terrorism and extremism. Encourage students to conduct research on extremist groups and analyze the causes, and factors that lead to extremism.

2.**Promoting dialogue and understanding**: This is through organizing panel discussions and group discussions on issues of extremism, terrorism and extremist ideas, encouraging students to exchange different points of view, searching for innovative solutions to combat extremism, and organizing workshops to enhance dialogue skills, and the ability to cooperate in facing common challenges.

3.**Community cooperation**: Students are encouraged to participate in community projects to raise awareness of the dangers of extremism and terrorism, enhance interaction with civil society organizations and various government agencies to exchange experiences and knowledge, and organize awareness campaigns in the local community to introduce the principles of citizenship and peaceful coexistence.

4.**Developing critical and analytical skills**: This comes by training students to analyze information and verify its sources to counter extremist ideas, strengthen student's critical skills, and motivate them to think critically about issues related to extremism, and encourage students to conduct independent research, and analysis on extremism, and make recommendations to combat it.

5.**International and cultural cooperation**: This requires preparation for organizing visits to international study centers and international organizations to promote cultural understanding, and cross-cultural communication, conducting cooperative projects with educational institutions, and students from different countries to exchange views and experiences in the field of combating terrorism and extremism, organizing cultural events, and international events to enhance mutual understanding, promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

These examples show how educational programs can be used to combat terrorism and extremism in educational institutions. Such programs can be customized according to the needs and goals of the educational institution and the target student category. These programs aim to enhance awareness of extremism and terrorism, and work to develop the necessary skills to counter these phenomena, and promote the values of peaceful coexistence, and tolerance in societies.

Measures to strengthen cooperation between educational institutions and the local community:

Strengthening cooperation between educational institutions and the local community is a crucial element in the fight against extremism and intellectual terrorism. Here are some actions that can be taken to achieve this:

1.**Establishing partnerships**: Educational institutions should seek to establish strong partnerships with the local community, including government agencies, NGOs, academic centers, and religious institutions. Workshops, seminars and joint events can be organized to exchange experiences and knowledge, strengthen cooperation in the field of combating intellectual terrorism and extremism.

2.**Provide educational programs**: Educational institutions should design educational programs aimed at promoting awareness of the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and combating extremism. These programs can be included in the school curriculum, organizing external activities such as field visits, social projects, promoting understanding between students and the local community.

3.**Continuous communication**: Educational institutions should be open to constant communication with the local community. Periodic meetings with parents, local officials and religious leaders can be organized to discuss issues of combating extremism and exchange views and experiences.

4.**Providing volunteer opportunities**: Educational institutions can encourage students to participate in community volunteering activities by providing volunteer opportunities in areas such as education, social welfare, and community development. Students can gain a deeper understanding of community issues, feel a sense of belonging and positively interact with the local community.

5.**Making use of local resources**: Educational institutions should make use of available local resources in the fight against extremism and intellectual terrorism. The experience and knowledge of local experts, and specialists can be used, and employed in the development of effective educational programs.

6.**Guidance and psychological support**: Educational institutions should provide guidance and psychological support to students and members of the local community. School counselors and mentors can be hired to work to promote the psychological, social and emotional health of students, providing assistance in meeting the psychological, and social challenges they may face.

7.**Establish joint committees**: Joint committees may be established that include members from educational institutions, and the local community to work on developing joint strategies to combat extremism, and enhance cooperation. These committees can set work priorities, coordinate efforts, exchange information and experience.

8.**Encourage family participation**: Educational institutions should encourage family participation in the educational and community process. Various events such as parent meetings, family workshops and participation in school activities can be organized, which promotes communication, and positive interaction between educational institutions and community members.

9.**Training and continuous development**: Training and continuous development opportunities should be provided to members of educational institutions and the local community in the field of combating extremism, and promoting cooperation. Workshops and training courses can be organized to raise awareness and develop the necessary skills to deal with challenges related to extremism.

10.**Cross-media education programs**: Various media, such as television, radio and the internet, can be used to provide educational programs aimed at the general public. These programs can be tailored to the local culture and language, and show success stories in combating extremism, and achieving peaceful coexistence.

11.**Distribution of educational materials**: It is possible to produce and distribute educational materials such as brochures, leaflets and posters that shed light on the frameworks of extremism, and explain effective ways to combat it. These materials can be distributed in schools, universities, mosques, cultural and community centers.

By taking these measures, cooperation between educational institutions and the local community can be strengthened, mutual understanding and positive cooperation can be promoted to combat extremism, and build a peaceful and prosperous society.

Providing training programs to the local community to increase awareness of countering extremism can have a positive impact in promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence in society. By empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills to deal with extremism, dialogue and understanding can be fostered and social and community bonds strengthened that promote peace and stability.

Educational programs in educational institutions:

There are many educational programs that can be applied to enhance cultural and democratic awareness in educational institutions. Here are some examples of such programs:

1.**The study of values and Human Rights**: The current study of values and human rights as part of the curriculum in educational institutions has an important impact on this. What students learn about the basic values of tolerance, justice, respect, cooperation and Human Rights. In addition to organizing discussions and interactive activities to promote understanding and practical application of these values.

2.**Promote dialogue and discussion**: Dialogue sessions and interactive discussions can be organized on important topics related to peaceful coexistence, tolerance and democracy. Students are encouraged to express their opinions, respect the opinions of others and seek joint solutions to controversial issues.

3.**Awareness and education programs**: Awareness and educational programs can be organized to raise awareness of the challenges faced by society from extremism and intellectual terrorism. Lectures, workshops and educational resources can be provided that contribute to expanding student's knowledge and understanding of this issue.

4.**Teamwork and research projects**: Research projects or group projects can be organized that require cooperation and interaction between students. Through these projects, students learn how to work as a team, solve complex problems, exchange opinions and ideas.

5.**Field visits and cultural exchange**: Field visits of students to different regions or to different cultural and religious institutions can be organized. This helps to broaden the horizons of students, understand different cultures and ethnicities, promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

6.**Life skills training**: Training programs aimed at developing student's life skills, such as effective communication, problem solving and making the right decisions, can be included. These skills help students to increase cultural and democratic awareness in educational institutions, many educational programs and activities can be applied which include the following:

1.**Discussion and dialogue**: Discussion and dialogue sessions can be organized on controversial cultural and political topics. Students are encouraged to express their opinions, hear and respect the opinions of others. Open dialogue and guided discussion techniques can be used to promote critical thinking and collaboration.

2.**Cultural activities**: Many cultural activities can be organized in educational institutions, such as theatrical performances, art exhibitions and cultural celebrations. Through these activities, students learn about the diversity of cultures, artistic expression and cultural heritage of different communities.

3.**Volunteering**: Students can be encouraged to participate in community volunteering activities that promote cultural awareness and contribute to the betterment of society. Such activities can include cooperation with local NGOs or participation in community development projects.

4.**Exchange programs**: Exchange programs can be organized between different educational institutions, both within the country and abroad. Students have the opportunity to learn about different cultures, and exchange experiences and opinions with students from different backgrounds.

5.**Awareness of human rights and citizenship**: Awareness programs on human rights, citizenship and democracy can be organized. Students learn about fundamental rights and freedoms, political participation and equality. Workshops and interactive activities can be included to promote understanding, and active participation in the community.

6.**Vocational training**: Training programs can be provided for individuals who work in areas related to countering extremism, such as teachers, counselors, and social workers. These programs are provided to equip participants with the necessary skills and tools to deal with the challenges associated with extremism and implement effective awareness and education programs.

7.**Development of critical and analytical skills**: Training students to analyze information and verify its sources to counter extremist ideas. Enhance student's critical skills and motivate them to think critically about issues related to extremism. Encourage students to conduct independent research and analysis on extremism and make recommendations to combat it.

These examples show how educational programs can be used to combat terrorism and extremism in educational institutions. Such programs can be customized according to the needs and goals of the educational institution and the target student category. These programs aim to enhance awareness of extremism and terrorism, and work to develop the necessary skills to counter these phenomena and promote the values of peaceful coexistence, and tolerance in societies.

Actions of educational institutions to combat the spread of terrorism and extremism:

There are many measures that educational institutions can take to combat the spread of terrorism and extremism. Here are some important actions:

1.**Development of curricula and educational materials**: Updating school curricula to include topics of combating terrorism and extremism and, promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence is an urgent necessity at present, as the world is witnessing the increasing spread of terrorism every day. The affirmation of moral values and basic principles in educational material, the promotion of active learning and openness to different opinions plays an important role in this area.

2.**Training of teachers and educational staff**: Providing training courses for teachers to enhance their skills in dealing with counter-terrorism and extremism issues in the classroom. In addition to providing spaces for discussion, and scientific exchange between teachers on how to deal with the ideas of extremism and terrorism in the educational environment.

3.**Enhancing student awareness and participation**: By organizing awareness events, and awareness campaigns about the dangers of extremism and terrorism, and their negative impact on society, and encouraging students to participate in community activities, and projects to promote peace, and peaceful coexistence.

4.**Strengthening dialogue and cooperation**: This comes from organizing forums and discussions on issues of extremism and terrorism, encouraging constructive dialogue and mutual understanding, cooperation with civil society organizations, and relevant government agencies to exchange experiences, and organize joint events. A safe learning environment can also be established to enhance security, and safety in educational institutions by implementing effective security measures, providing a safe and encouraging learning environment, encouraging trust and good communication between students and teachers to report any suspicious manifestations or extremist ideas.

Such actions should be commensurate with the nature, needs and special orientation of educational institutions. These measures must be comprehensive and sustainable to achieve an effective impact in combating the spread of terrorism and extremism in educational institutions, and the above is not an ideal solution as much as it is a method of action that can be achieved in various ways and means as long as there is cooperation and active participation from all sides. "Terrorism is a diabolical seed planted in the minds of tens of thousands of extremists, and this seed requires uprooting from its roots the possession of a weapon of a special kind, this is the weapon of thought, which is more important than military weapons, and here everyone must agree that thought can only be fought with thought, and then they realize that eliminating terrorism will not be achieved overnight, but it is an intellectual war that requires double time to achieve victory, requires double time to get the stray thought out of the minds of those who believed in it". [4]

The promotion of democratic culture and student participation; it can encourage students to actively participate in the educational process, and take critical and responsible attitudes. They should be encouraged to think critically, express their opinions freely and respect different opinions. "The extremist sees that he is the owner of the absolute right, and refuses to open channels of dialogue with those who disagree with him, because the rigidity of his thought makes him not admit to others an idea or opinion, and therefore rejects everyone who disagrees with him, and this is the origin of extremism .. A thought that is accompanied by inflexibility and difficulty adapting."[5]

And here an important question arises: is it possible to provide training courses for teachers to learn how to effectively implement these steps?

Yes, training courses can be provided for teachers to learn how to effectively carry out the steps mentioned. These courses can provide the necessary knowledge and skills for teachers to deal with issues of extremism and terrorism in the educational environment. The following are some of the points that these training courses can cover:

1.**Understand the concept of extremism and terrorism**: Teachers should be familiar with the definitions of extremism and terrorism, and their various patterns. They should learn about the factors that lead to radicalization and terrorism, and how to recognize signs of polarization, and radicalization among students. Therefore, intellectual terrorism should be understood as "using the means of communication and the media to achieve its goal of spreading new thought through focused media and propaganda plans".[6]

2.**Develop critical and analytical skills**: Teachers should learn how to develop student's critical and analytical thinking skills. Educational tools and methods can be provided to develop student's abilities to critically and analytically evaluate information and sources through the fact that this type of terrorism is a social terrorism "aimed at achieving a new ideology in society in all its various institutions and this type of terrorism is characterized by anarchism".[7]

3.**Communication and dialogue strategies**: Teachers should learn how to communicate effectively with students about issues of extremism and terrorism, especially with what is known as (information terrorism) because it is a dangerous type that contributes to " hacking and sabotaging information networks, computers and the internet for the purpose of sabotage, and can cause disruption of defense systems, and this terrorism represents the latest type of terrorism based on technology".[8]

They should therefore be able to facilitate an open, respectful and constructive dialogue with students on these sensitive issues.

4.**Use appropriate educational tools**: Teachers should learn how to use appropriate educational tools to promote awareness of the dangers of extremism and terrorism. It is also possible to provide models for lessons and educational activities that focus on these issues and encourage discussion and effective interaction and create an understanding psychological atmosphere, because terrorism tries to put pressure on the individual's psyche "through the dissemination of information, accusations, exaggerations and lies about him continuously, until his morale collapses and he loses his ability to think organized and his balance falls and thus the goal of terrorism is achieved". [9]

5.**Cooperation with parents and the community**: Teachers should learn how to cooperate with parents and the local community in promoting awareness of the dangers of extremism and terrorism. Strategies for communication and joint cooperation with interested parties can be provided to ensure sustainable support, and implementation of comprehensive plans.

6.**Cases study and simulations**: Cases study and simulations of situations related to extremism and terrorism can be included, where teachers learn how to design courses to match the needs of teachers and be interactive and practical. Courses can include workshops, small group discussions and application projects. The technology can also be used in the provision of courses online or by e-learning platforms.

In addition, teachers can take advantage of available resources such as books, articles and current lessons to learn more about how to effectively implement the steps in the educational environment, in addition to knowing the political, economic, social, media, religious, ideological, psychological and intellectual motives of terrorism that pose no less danger than violence and bloodshed because of the "important role that results in the non-acceptance of values by and her ideas, and therefore he can impose Values outside of its traditions and cultural and intellectual heritage on it".[10]

It is important that these training courses are continuous and supported by the administrations of the institutions or the competent authorities, and be in line with the specific needs of teachers and students in the educational community.

Results:

In this research, it was found to identify effective procedures and practices that can be adopted by educational institutions in the fight against extremism and intellectual terrorism after identifying many of its causes. These practices may include intensifying education about human values and human rights, promoting a culture of dialogue and tolerance, and providing educational programs that contribute to strengthening cultural and democratic awareness.

Educational institutions are one of the main tools in the face of extremism and intellectual terrorism. The promotion of human values, democracy and tolerance through education can contribute to changing mental models and extreme attitudes in individuals. Educational institutions should develop comprehensive programs aimed at promoting awareness and critical thinking, strengthening

cooperation and understanding between students through practical activities and group projects. Although educational institutions play an important role in combating extremism and intellectual terrorism, governments and societies should also provide the necessary support to these institutions.

The necessary financial and technical resources should be provided to improve the structure of education and develop appropriate educational programs. Cooperation between educational institutions and the local community, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic and religious centers, should also be strengthened. In conclusion, it can be said that educational institutions play a crucial role in combating extremism and intellectual terrorism by promoting human values and promoting cultural and democratic awareness, these institutions can contribute to the creation of more tolerant societies and peaceful coexistence. Educational institutions must be responsible in developing appropriate educational programs and providing safe and inclusive learning environments to achieve these goals.

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