



## Contribution of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad to the Promotion of Indo-Arabic Literature: A Study

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### ABSTRACT

The paper at hand is based on the topic “*Contribution of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad to the Promotion of Indo-Arabic Literature: A Study*”. Madrasas in India play a crucial role in preserving, promoting, and disseminating Arabic language and literature in Indian subcontinent. Arabic language and literature, Islamic studies and Arabic Grammar, including training and oratory skills are taught here since long back. Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad, is considered as one of the earliest Madrasas in India. Jamia Darussalam was established in 1924. The founder of this famous institution was Kaka Muhammad Omer. He was a pious merchant who valued knowledge and its dissemination. He invited some prominent scholars to spread Arabic and Islamic teaching through this higher educational Islamic institution. He welcomed students from diverse backgrounds who shared the basic Islamic knowledge without emphasizing specific jurisprudential school of thought. One of the inclusive approaches of this institution was to welcome students from diverse backgrounds, and emphasis on modern Islamic teachings. So, this study highlights the historical background of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad and the contribution of its scholars to the promotion of Arabic literature in regards of their literary works. It also provides a clear conceptual history of this institution.

**Keywords:** Jamia Darussalam, Arabic language and literature, Islamic learning, Scholarly output, knowledge and perspective, etc.

### Introduction:

Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad was established on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1924 in a small village, Umarabad. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, this village was in the territory of Gadambur. Gadambur was a historical fort under Nawab Anuwaruddin in the North Arcot district of Tamil Nadu, and present day it is situated in the North Tirupathur district, eight kilometers north from the commercial city of Ambur. It was founded with the aiming to bring all the sects of Islam together irrespective of some of their differences in beliefs. It accommodates a diverse range of Hanafis, Shafi'is and Ahl-e-Hadith. While Ahl-e-Hadith scholars and students form a significant part of the institution, it fosters an environment of diversity and inclusivity. Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad (translated as, the home of Peace University) not only imparts traditional knowledge but also offers modern education, vocational training with a special focus on Computer Education, English and Arabic Language. It is also one of the few institutes in India to teach the Islamic Studies entirely in Arabic. The Secretary of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad serves as the guardian of the Institution. Presently, Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad led by Secretary Kaka Anis Umri and Principal Dr. Abdullah Jolam Umri Madani, truly lives up to its name, Jamia Darussalam (The Home of Peace University) nurturing scholars and individuals with a deep understanding of Islamic values and contemporary skills.

### Statement of the Problem:

Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad is an Islamic institution founded by Kaka Muhammad Omer, who laid down the foundation stone for this institution on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1924 at newly founded village, named after him as Omerabad. It came to existence with a program of offering services to the religious, educational, reformative; and welfare needs of Muslims and the neighbouring areas.

Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad adopted a special approach that combined the old and modern education. It provides education in various Islamic disciplines and offers undergraduate, postgraduate, Diploma in ITI and Certificate courses. It also offers training in four languages i.e. Arabic, Urdu, Persian and English. It also offers training for memorizing the Holy Qur'an.

Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad made many reforms in the curriculum and paid special attention to Arabic Language and literature with Islamic and modern Educations. Some of them are as below:

1. Six years Special Arabic Curriculum as Eedadiyyah for Higher Secondary passed students, recognized as equivalent to B.A. (Bachelor of Arts).
2. Eight years Madrasa Curriculum from Al-Ebtidah al-Uulah (primary) to Al-Fazeelah, recognized as equivalent to B.A. (Bachelor of Arts).
3. One year Computer diploma (DCA) course.
4. NIOS Study centre for Class Six to Higher Secondary examinees.
5. B.A. in Arabic (Afzal-Ur-Ulama), B.A. in Urdu (Adēb Fazil) degrees affiliated by Thiruvallur University, Vellore.

To make the courses easier for the students in understanding the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah with their meanings completely the Darussalam Authority gave special attention towards the teaching of Islam from its original sources. So, it includes a large number of text books in Arabic to teach the students in their courses for Arabic language and literature. In addition, this institution gives special attention to teach Arabic language and literature. It is worth mentioning that the lectures for some subjects in the upper classes are delivered in Arabic language only. The question papers are set in Arabic and the students have to be answered in Arabic. A weekly speech programme in Arabic and English is held among the students under supervision of *Nadi-al-Adab* (anchor teachers for literature), where the students can deliver their speeches in Arabic or in English and they can also present their articles in Arabic or in English.

The Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad has a huge library (Two Storeyed Building), where the students can study according to their taste. There is a separate Press for this library that used to issue monthly magazine, *Rah-e-Eatedal*: Editor (Muhammad Rafi Kaluri), this library also published *Tanvir* (monthly magazine) and *Darussalam* (yearly magazine) for the Students. These are some of extension services of the literary, where the teachers and the students participate and develop their skills. It has a profound impact on the development of literary flair among the students.

The scholars of Darussalam, Omerabad, have contributed immensely for the development of Arabic language and literature from its inception. This article will talk about all those contributions with scientific analyses.

### Literature Review:

It is an important and feasible research topic in contemporary research scenario. Many research works have been done on this important and feasible research topic. A large number of Umarabadi scholars are completed their theses in various topics related to Jamia Darussalam in various universities in India and abroad. Some of these works are discussed below:

1. Umri Suleiman, valuable research submitted to obtain a doctorate degree in the year 1993AD, in the month of September, at Madras University, on the topic '*Studies of the Arabic language in Tamil Nadu since 1857AD*'.
2. Umri, Aslam Shad, obtained a doctorate degree by preparing research on the topic '*Jamia Darussalam Omerabad and its Scientific, Intellectual, literary services* in Urdu language' from Sri Venkateshwara University, Tirupati, Andra Pradesh, 2005/06. After that it has published the namely *Nuqush-e-Jamia*, from *Tahqiqate-e-Islami*, Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad, 2015. The main purpose of writing this book was to introduce Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad as a great and famous Islamic education centre of South India.
3. Umri, Habibur Rahman, *Bagban-e-Jamia*, This book was published by *Tahqiqate-e-Islami*, Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad at 2010. In this book, the writer highlights the autobiography of Kaka Muhammad Omer, the founder person of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad and his family's great works on the field of developing and growing of Jamia Darussalam. Especially, the book attempts to present his contribution to the educational aspects of Jamia Darussalam, Omerabad.
4. Umri, Monirudin, *Habibur Rahman Umri Ki Adbi Khidmat*, This book was written for literary Services of Habibur Rahman Umri. The author had discussed the work and skills of famous poet Habibur Rahman Jahid Umri. The author mentions that Habibur Rahman Jahid was an Urdu poet and his poems express the sadness. His poetry appealed especially to the common human life.
5. Umri, Muhammad Arif, *the literary services of Rah-e-Eatedal of Jamia*. He has submitted his M. Phil thesis at Osmania University, Hyderabad.
6. Umri, Muhiddin Hussaini, *Journalism service of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad*. Submitted his M. Phil thesis at the University of Madras.

### **Aim and objectives of the study:**

This research will show a tremendous development than any other literary genres in the field of Indo-Arabic literature. No research work has been done without an objective because it is the core aspect of any research problem. Like other researches this research has also some valuable objectives. The main objectives are:

1. To discuss the historical background of the establishment of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad.
2. To highlight the contribution of the scholars of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad to the development of Arabic language and literature in India.
3. To analyze some of the major works published by the scholars of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad.
4. It aims to highlight the contribution of Jamia Darussalam in propagation of Indo- Arabic language and literature.

### **Hypothesis:**

There is no any fixed hypothesis for this study. In order to perform the above mentioned objectives this study will show the following hypotheses:

1. The main hypothesis of this study is to look carefully about the contributions of Umarabadi scholars.
2. This study discusses the efforts made by the scholars of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad.
3. This study highlights the necessity to study in Darussalam, Umarabad.

### **Methodology of the Study:**

The descriptive method of research methodology is adopted for this study. In order to complete this article, sources are literary books, cultural books, research periodicals, research journals, and research articles.

### **Historical Background of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad:**

Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad, is an Islamic Institution founded by Kaka Muhammad Omer, who established it on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1924 at Umarabad village. Umarabad is a small village in the North Tirupathur district, Tamil Nadu. The name Umarabad refers to its founder, Kaka Muhammad Omer and *Abad*, which means 'inhabited'. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, this village was in the territory of Gadambur. Gadambur was a historical fort under Nawab Anuwaruddin in the North Arcot district of Tamil Nadu, and present day it is situated in the North Tirupathur district, eight kilometers north from the commercial city of Ambur. After the death of Nawab Anuwaruddin Khan, no description is available on the history of Gadambur, because almighty decided to make a new history of this decaying historical city. There was a family known as 'Kaka'. Its custodian leader was Kaka Bahauddin, who was a businessman. Allah blessed him with three sons and three daughters. The elder son was Kaka Muhammad Omer, who established a religious and scholarly institution due to the companionship of Islamic scholars and the intensive study of various schools and institutions. He began the struggle to realize this great desire. For this, he bought a piece of land near the region of Gadambur and began the construction of Umarabad village. There, he established Jamia Darussalam on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1924 for religious education besides modern education. He welcomed scholars and students from diverse backgrounds who shared the basic Islamic knowledge without emphasizing specific jurisprudential schools of thought.

Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad authority appointed qualified and well versed teachers to the institution from its early days aiming to provide high-quality education of the holy Qurān and Prophetic tradition. The almighty gave such treasures on it that not only increased the brilliance and splendor of Jamia Darussalam but also illuminated the religious, scientific, and literary world with their knowledge. The most promising figures were: Maulana Fazlullah (Early Principal and Administrator of Jamia Darussalam), Maulana Muhammad Ismail Pernambati (Sheikh-ul-Hadith) Maulana Muhammad Gazanfar Hussain Shakir Naiti (Sheikh-ul-Adab), Muhammad Goondalwi, Maulana Nu'man Azmi etc.

### **Aims and objectives of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad:**

The main aims of Jamia Darussalam were to promote the higher Islamic education, unity, and tolerance among Muslim community. Its key objectives include

1. Understanding the religion, eliminating conflicts and resolving differences within the Muslim community.
2. Fostering Unity and Moderation.
3. Reforming Muslim Community and Propagating Islamic knowledge.
4. Combining Religious and Modern Education.

### **Prominent Scholars of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad:**

Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad is an Islamic institution known for its contribution to Islamic learning. This institution has a long history in producing successful scholars who have made significant contribution to various fields of Islamic knowledge, including Quranic studies (*Tafsir*, Quranic sciences, and memorization),

Hadith studies (Hadith commentary, authentication, and application), Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*, *fatwa*, and Islamic law) and Arabic language and literature. Some notable scholars among them are Maulana Muhammad Yousuf Kokan Umri, Dr. Ziaur Rahman Azmi Umri, Maulana Syed Jalaluddin Umri, Maulana Muhammad Imran Azmi Umri, Maulana Hafeezur Rahman Umri, Maulana Habibur Rahman Umri, Muhammad Sanaullah Umri Osmani, Dr. R.K. Noor Muhammad Umri, etc.

### **Analysis of Some Selected Works of the Umarabadi Scholars:**

Umarabadi scholars have made a notable and praiseworthy literary contribution in various fields of Islamic studies. Their works encircled on the Holy Quran, Hadith Studies, Fiqh, Aqayid and other branches of Islamic ideologies. They also tried their level best to enrich Arabic language and literature. These literary contributions have a significant impact on education in both academic area and Muslim society. Some of these works are briefly introduced below:

**Al-Jami al-Kamil Fi al-Hadith al-Sahih al-Shamil** (The comprehensive Collection of Authentic Comprehensive Hadith), 2019: The book known as the Encyclopedia of Authentic Hadith. It is a monumental work of scholarship compiled by the renowned Islamic scholar, Dr. Ziaur Rahman Azmi (1943-2020). He spent over 15 years researching and writing this book, which is a testament to his dedication and expertise in the field of Hadith. Dr. Azmi claimed in this book that he gathered all Sahih Hadith (authentic Prophetic narrations) from more than two hundred books and he is confident that if not hundred percentage, he has captured 95 percentage of Sahih Hadith.

The book consists of 12 volumes, with a total of 9072 pages. Its first edition is published by Darussalam Publication in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the second and final edition by *Maktabah Bayt Salam*, Dar Ibn Bashir, Pakistan, December 2019 in 19 volumes.

**Dirasat Fi al-Yahudiya wa al-Masihyya Wa Adiyān al-Hind** (A Critical Study of Judaism and Christianity, and Indian Religions), 2001: The book was written by Dr. Muhammad Ziaur Rahman Azmi. It is a vast work that embarks on a fascinating journey through the history of religions, tracing their development, evolution, and interactions with various factors that have shaped their trajectories. The book is actually a collection of two books, *Al-Yahudiya wa al-Masihyya* and *Fusul Fi Adiyān al-Hind*. The author has undertaken an exhaustive study of the sources of religious history, scrutinizing them in the light of historical evidence, ancient texts, and the writings of prominent religious leaders and European historians. The book consists of 784 pages and published by *Maktabah al-Rushd* in 1 November 2001.

**Al-Arab wa Adabuhum** (The Arabs and their Literature): The book is a vast work of scholarship compiled by the famous Islamic scholar, Maulana Muhammad Yousuf Kokan (1916-1990). This book is a comprehensive work that spans 2 volumes and aims to fill a significant gap in the academic landscape of Indian Universities, Arabic colleges, and Islamic schools, particularly in Kerala. The author's extensive research and knowledge enabled him to identify the underlying reason for the student's lack of understanding about Arab history and literature, particularly the students who belongs to South India, which was the absence of a readily available book on the subject. Determined to address this issue, the author embarked on a journey to compile this book, which covers the history of the Arabs from the pre-Islamic era to the Umayyad period. The book delves into the Arabs' conditions, conquests, literature, and other aspects of their civilization.

**E'lam al-Nasr wa al-Sheir Fi Asr al-Hadith** (Pioneers of Prose and Poetry in the Modern Era): The book, *E'lam al-Nasr wa al-Sheir Fi Asr al-Hadith* is a seminal work written by Maulana Muhammad Yousuf Kokan that showcases his passion for reading, research, and knowledge in the field of Arabic language and literature. The book is a collection of biographies of renowned Arab literary figures and featuring a total of 131 writers and poets. Maulana Kokan has carefully selected the most important figures in Arab literature, providing detailed biographies that highlight their contributions and achievements.

The book is divided into three volumes, each covering a specific period or group of writers. The first volume features 33 writers and poets, including Muhammad Ali and Sheikh Rifā'a Rafī' at-Tahtāwī to Shakēb Arslān, while the second volume covers 52 writers and poets from the Mahjar movement. The third volume includes biographies of 46 writers, from Syed Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfuluti to Dr. Shawqi Dayf.

**Aqdhiyat al-Khulafa al-Rashidēn: Jam'an wa Dirasan** (The Judgments of the Rightly Guided Caliphs: A Collection and Study), 2003: The book, *Aqdhiyat al-Khulafa al-Rashidēn Jam'an wa Dirasan* is a PhD thesis of Dr. R.K. Noor Muhammad, published by Darussalam Publication, Saudi Arabia, 2003 in total of 1279 pages. This book is a deep study of the judgments and decisions made by the first four caliphs of Islam, known as the Rightly Guided Caliphs. The book covers a wide range of topics, including family law, business law, criminal law, and more, providing a valuable resource for scholars and researchers.

The book is divided into 5 sections, each section focusing on a specific area of Islamic jurisprudence.

1. Family law: marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody
2. Business law: sales, leases, partnerships, and financial transactions
3. Criminal law: punishments for crimes such as theft, adultery, and murder
4. Civil law: disputes, evidence, and oaths
5. Judicial decisions: judgments made by the Rightly Guided Caliphs in various cases

### Conclusion:

Contribution of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad to the Promotion of Indo-Arabic Literature is considered as remarkable and influential works that significantly enriched the literary and cultural heritage of India and the Arab World. This analytical study highlights the vital role played by Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad and its esteemed scholars in promoting Indo-Arabic literary traditions, fostering a unique blend of Islamic scholarship and modern education.

The scholarly works and literary contributions of Umarabadi scholars have not only expanded the frontiers of Indo-Arabic literature but also provided a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics between Arabic language, culture, and society in India. Their endeavours have facilitated a larger appreciation and awareness of Arabic literature and its relevance in contemporary Indian context.

This study emphasized the significance of the preservation and promotion of rich literary heritage of Indo-Arabic literature, which serves as a testament to the cultural exchange and intellectual traditions that have shaped the history of subcontinent. The findings of this research have far-reaching implications for future studies, academic endeavours, and cultural initiatives aimed to promote interfaith dialogue, cultural understanding, and literary exchange.

This study demonstrates the contribution of Jamia Darussalam, Umarabad to Indo-Arabic literature. It is a valuable asset that deserves recognition, appreciation, and further exploration. By shedding light on their remarkable achievements and literary contributions, this research work aims to inspire future generations and literary enthusiasts to build upon the foundations laid by the pioneers, thereby ensuring the continued growth and flourishing of Indo-Arabic literature in the near future.

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