

# A proposal to all the mosques in Britain: please establish free food banks, in order to feed the hungry/needful and poor people in the UK, especially the non-Muslims!

**Dr A Majid Katme  
(MBBCh, DPM)**

**A**s we all know, there is a wide recession and a wide financial crisis today, which is affecting a lot of people in the UK and all over the world.

Besides, many people are becoming unemployed and have no proper income in order to feed their families and children.

There were many worrying reports and figures lately about this food crisis, which is affecting also a lot of British children.

Already there are over 250 000 British people who are going around "begging" for food to survive?

Many go at night to collect any

food, which was thrown, by the supermarkets and restaurants.

There are now more than 300 food banks in Britain, which are functioning, almost all operated by the churches.

It was reported lately that every week, 3 new FOOD BANKS open in Britain.

**MOSQUES IN BRITAIN SHOULD START ORGANISING FOOD BANKS** in their premises and for many reasons:

-To feed the hungry poor needy people (non Muslims and Muslims)

-We always collect Zakat and Sadakat, which we can use to buy foods for the poor and needy (UK/abroad).

-It is a duty in Islam, to take care of the local needy people around you

**CHARITY STARTS AT HOME!**

-Some churches are already

offering free foods to a lot of people including some needy Muslims

-Most of us have got foods, which we do not need and might be thrown away

-There are rewards to us when we offer foods to any one who is in need.

-Our mosques by and large are not helping much and contributing to the welfare of our British society, especially to the non-Muslims.

This is one way of DA'WA!

-This welfare act to help the hungry needy non Muslims, will give a great publicity and a good image for our mosques, to all non Muslims, especially when the image of our mosques is very bad today in the British media.

As you might know, there is now a nasty organised campaign by the NF/EDL in the UK and in Europe against mosques and against the building of any new mosque?

One can give the foods to the needy on Saturday or on 1-2 evenings during the week.

Volunteer's brothers and sisters will be needed especially in collecting the foods.

A van can be used to go around and collect foods from the Muslims (houses/ restaurants/ supermarkets/ schools...)

Even to collect free edible foods from the major supermarkets (bread, tins/cans, fruits/vegetables etc.), which are thrown away...

It might be a good idea to organise once/week in the mosque, a free hot meal to any non-Muslim in need.

One can give a short talk or show a short nice film on Islam or charity in Islam while people are eating.

There are many volunteer brothers/sisters who will be interested to do the cooking.

Ramadan is a great easy occasion in order to offer some of our foods to the hungry poor non-Muslims.

Also, it will be helpful, to collect good clean clothes in good condition and to display nicely in place of the mosque

For any non-Muslim to help himself / herself and take any.

We like to recommend to all Muslim relief organisations in Britain to get involved in organising with the mosques, this unique charity humane project: free food banks.

It is important to start to take care first of the poor hungry needy non-Muslims in the roads around the mosque and to concentrate on the lonely poor old people who live in the area around the mosque.

May ALLAH guide us all to serve Islam, Muslims and our all society. Ameen

## Muslim Aid Institute of Technology (MAIT) in Bangladesh: stimulating human capital

**Amal Imad**  
Information & Public Affairs  
Assistant  
Muslim Aid



**Y**outh unemployment, which is an indicator of economic recession, has negative social consequences. According to the International Labour Organisation, over 75 million youth worldwide is unemployed and young people are three times more likely to be jobless than adults.

Youth unemployment is a challenge that limits people's ability to participate in social lives, increases the gap between rich and poor, involves youth in anti social behaviour and eventually obstructs economic development. It also impacts negatively on the personality of affected individuals.

Its connection to poverty and crime rates can create social disorder and dissonance for the current and future generations.

Economic progress depends on how human and natural

resources of the countries are utilized and most importantly how the youth takes the country forward. Bangladesh in recent years has faced both massive economic expansion in private sector and higher rate of youth unemployment.

The fast growing economic activities in manufacturing, ICT and development sectors demand high skilled employees. Many young people in Bangladesh are encountering employment issues because there are very few educational institutions which can train them with skills matching the demand from the labour market.

There has been an increasing demand for the technical manpower which can provide the young Bangladeshis with opportunities to enter various

sectors of the economy.

Education and training is essential for the youth to enter the job market successfully and to increase their employment chances and productivity. Education also serves as a defence mechanism against unemployment.

However in many developing countries high level of education does not secure a guaranteed job in the labour market.

This is because the job openings are limited in the small formal private sectors and the young graduates often do not have the right skills to qualify for the existing job opportunities.

In such a situation of skill mismatch, the education and training system should be responsive to the needs of labour market. A highly

populated country like Bangladesh has labour market which has become more specialized and employers are demanding higher levels of skills.

To respond to the situation, governments and businesses are increasingly investing in the technical and vocational education through publicly funded training organizations and subsidized apprenticeship or traineeship initiatives for businesses.

In the last few years, the Bangladesh Government, private sector and NGOs have initiated many employment generating projects for poor and unskilled section of the population.

For example in 2009, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) launched two programs called Employment Project, and One Family-One Businessman.

The programs aim at providing job opportunities for unemployed youth. Similarly, in order to reduce the rate of youth employment, Muslim Aid Bangladesh field office has been

running skills development projects under its technical education programme.

As a part of this initiative, Muslim Aid Institute of Technology (MAIT) was established in 2003 with an aim to provide opportunities for the poor, unemployed, unskilled, orphan, distressed young men and women to better themselves.

Vulnerable unemployed youths & orphans are being enrolled under the project to prepare them for having higher education as well as enter into competitive job market.

The project has benefitted approximately 2600 people since its establishment. This project has long term implications because it is a driving force to change the fate of unemployed youths who are the future of the country.

The project will also have a positive impact on individuals because they will be encouraged to give up smoking, drugs and other anti social behaviours as well as participate in the development initiatives of the country.