

Advancing Scientific and Theological Literacy through Madrasa Discourses



Launched in 2017, the **Madrasa Discourses** project is at the forefront of efforts to equip Islamic religious leaders (*ulama*) with the tools necessary to confidently engage pluralism, modern science, technological advances, and new philosophies.

Led by **Ebrahim Moosa**, Primary Investigator and Professor of Islamic Studies, the initiative works to revitalize Islamic education from within through a transformative three-year educational experience.

Participants are young religious leaders in communities in India and Pakistan.

"MD has done an incredible job for me. I once thought that the world is as simple as we see through the literal interpretation of Scripture, but now I see it as a complex place."

– *Madrasa Discourses student*



400 applicants / **90** interviewed
60+ enrolled from **15+** institutions
in India and Pakistan



ONLINE CLASSES are held throughout the academic year using the latest streaming technology.



ONSITE INTENSIVES are held twice per year. Past locations have included Nepal and Qatar.



CONTENT EXPERTS include international scholars from the US, Canada, Europe, Middle East, South Asia, and South Africa.



INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE integrates Notre Dame students both online and in international intensive programs.

Outcomes

- » **2-YEAR CURRICULUM** developed for madrasa scholars
- » **6 SEMESTERS** of tri-lingual instruction online
- » **6 INTERNATIONAL INTENSIVES** in India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Qatar
- » **17 RESEARCH PAPERS** in progress

Outreach



4 INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS with educators in Bosnia, Philippines, Singapore, and South Africa



100+ BLOGS AND ARTICLES published in Urdu in the *Tajdid* online journal



20+ BLOGS published on the Contending Modernities project website



1 PUBLIC WEBSITE featuring a self-guided madrasa discourses curriculum (in development)

Future Plans



ONGOING EDUCATION in South Asia



EXPANDING THE PROGRAM to include young Islamic scholars in Sub-Saharan Africa



TRAINING a select number of participants in a customized M.A. in Religious Studies degree program



95% of participants would recommend the course to others

"Madrasa Discourses allowed me not only to travel overseas for the first time, but also to engage with Muslim scholars on a level that I had never reached before. This cultural and religious immersion and taught me the importance of allowing differing viewpoints and traditions to enter into my 'cosmology' so that I can better myself as a citizen of the world."

– University of Notre Dame undergraduate student after participating in a summer intensive program

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Mahan Mirza
(University of Notre Dame)
is the lead faculty responsible for implementing the project



Ammar Khan Nasir
(Al-Sharia Academy)
serves as lead faculty in Pakistan



Waris Mazhari
(Jamia Hamdard)
serves as lead faculty in India

