

## OMANI EFFORTS IN THE SERVICE OF THE NOBLE QURAN FROM 1970 TO 2019

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**Abstract:** Omanis have been striving to serve the Noble Quran from ancient times to the present time, there is no doubt that these efforts have great credit in the service of the Noble Quran at home and abroad, like Al-Awsat book in the readings of Quran by Abu Muhammad Hassan Bin Ali and the Quran manuscript of seven readings that in the past. Recently the e-learning program "Talim Alquran Al-Karim" and "the Mushaf Muscat" is one of the best Quranic advances in the world. Through the historical narrative approach, the article will shed light on the government's efforts in serving the Noble Quran by shedding light on the efforts of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, and the Omani Society for the Care of the Noble Quran represented by the Ministry of Social Development, as well as the efforts made by individuals in particular. This paper has two objectives, first, to shed light on the Quranic efforts made by the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the efforts of individuals as well, and secondly, to introduce traditional and electronic Quranic efforts. This article will explain the Omani efforts to serve the Noble Quran from 1970 to 2019. It will present the traditional and technical attempts at serving the Holy Qur'an in the past 49 years.

**Keywords:** Talim Alquran Al-Karim, the Mushaf Muscat, Ijaza

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### Introduction

The Quran has received the attention of Muslims since the rightly guided caliph Abu Bakr - may Allah be pleased with him - to compile it into one Quran, and then copies were sent to the Amsar during the reign of the Right Caliph Othman Bin Affan - may Allah be pleased with him -, Muslims in all regions have taken care of the Noble Quran in all its aspects and sciences. Since the date of its introduction to Islam in the eighth year of the Hijra, the Sultanate of Oman has been advancing in the service to the Noble Quran. The most prominent of such advancement is the Quran written by Abdullah bin Bashir Sahari in 1157 AH and by Khamis bin Suleiman Al-Harthy 1186 AH and also the most recent work by Masoud bin Khalfan Al Riyami 1249 AH (Khasha, 2019). There is no doubt that there are numerous continuous efforts by Omani to serve the Noble Quran. This article will attempt to explain the Omani efforts made in the service to the Noble Quran in the past 49 years during the reign of

Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al-Said. The article will look at the traditional and electronic efforts of the government and individuals to shed light on them for the benefit of Muslims.

The sultanate of Oman is not known by many Muslims, and little is known about their efforts in the service of the Noble Quran. However, there are number of research articles that were presented by Omani researchers such as the work of Abu Muhammad Al-Hassan Bin Ali Al-Maqri (Al Hinai, 2011), and the efforts of Omani scholars in the Endowment and initiation (Al Hinai, 2018), and the contribution of Omanis in authorship in the sciences of the Noble Quran (Al Saadi, 2019) and others. Therefore, this article explains that the Sultanate of Oman has makes great efforts in the service of the Noble Quran similar to but not less than the efforts of other countries; Thus, this article demonstrate that researchers need to expand their knowledge and give attention to the Omani works, in doing so, it will benefit research students in understanding the Omani role towards publication of the Quran. The article also aimed to highlight the efforts of Omani in serving the Noble Quran in the traditional and technical way, to highlight the efforts of government institutions in the service of the Noble Quran for 49 years, and finally will shed light to the efforts of individuals in the service of the Noble Quran.

There are previous studies that talk about topics in the sciences of the Noble Quran such as the Quran of Oman with manuscripts of seven readings (Al Hinai, 2011) and Abu Mohammed Al-Hassan bin Ali Al-Maqri Omani and his book on Endowment and initiation (Al Hinai, 2013), the Endowment and the initiation and their impact on the Quranic meanings (Al Sawafi, 2014), and the hermetic and the similar in the Noble Quran: an analytical study of the seventh verse of surat al-Imran (Al Sawafi, 2016), the efforts of the Omani scholars in the Quranic sciences: Quranic readings and the seven letters (Al Dahmaniyah, Al Shuaili, & Abu Zaid, 2019), and the efforts of the Omani scientists in the stages of the development of Tajweed science from the fourth century AH to the present century (Al Balushi, 2019), most of these studies talk about parts of the Omani service of the Noble Quran, and this article speaks in general about the recent efforts by institutions and individuals in the past 49 years and despite its importance and the urgent need for its methods and research, but the researcher didn't see an integrated study illustrating these efforts, the recent conference at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), which was entitled Omani role in the service of the Noble Quran and its Sciences, the researcher didn't find a research gathering all efforts, the conference dealt with the old efforts and didn't address the recent efforts, and the working papers were talking about specific addresses only, so the study questions were: What are the traditional and electronic governmental efforts exerted in the service of the Noble Quran in the past 49 years? What are the most important achievements of individuals in the service of the Noble Quran in the past 49 years?

This article signifies the importance role of the Sultanate of Oman towards teaching, memorisation, writing and publication of the Noble Quran using modern method and tools. It aims to assist decision-makers to develop a future plan in attaining a greater service of the Noble Quran. The article is hoping to motivate all student of knowledge to improve the methods of teaching the Noble Quran.

## Methodology

Through the historical narrative approach (Damen, 2006), we list the traditional government efforts by the ministries and some efforts made by individuals in particular, and then describe some of them and analyse them through the descriptive-analytical method (Damen, 2006).

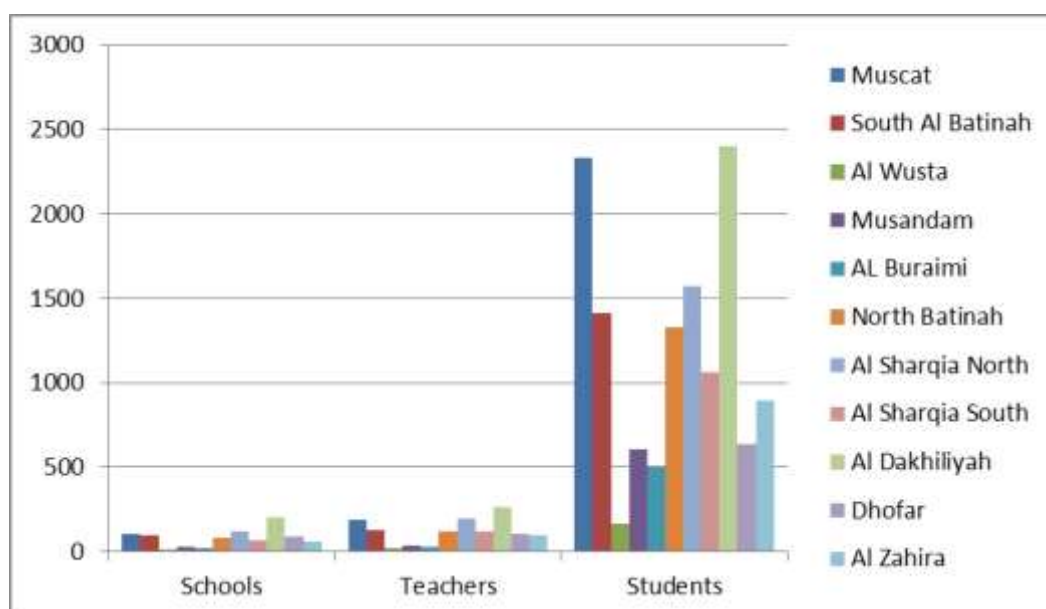
### **The efforts of the Omani government in the past 49 years**

The State has established several ministries that have served the Noble Quran, some of these ministries are specialized and others are non-specialized. An example of non-specialized ministries is the Ministry of Education, through the curriculum of Islamic education which require student to memorize a large collection of the Noble Quran in each semester and learn some of the lessons related to the science of the Quran such as interpretation, Arabic language, Tajweed and through the competition of the Quran, which is presented annually to students (Al Khaziri, 2019). Among them, the Ministry of Heritage and Culture is reviving the ancient heritage of schools of the Noble Quran, such as the school of the Ibn Baraka, as well as the preservation of ancient Quran manuscripts written by Al-Riyami, Al-Harthy, and others (Al Tarshi, 2019). As well as what the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science. This was designed specifically for Omanis. The centre has also many schools that teaches the Noble Quran within the Sultan Qaboos mosques in all governorates of the Sultanate which follows the curriculum in conjunction with the annual calendar of the Ministry of Education. The centre also prepares Omani students for the competition in memorizing the Noble Quran (Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science, 2019). Furthermore, as part of the government initiatives, the Ministry of Social Development has established the Omani Society for the Care of the Noble Quran, a specialized non-profit charity that serves the Noble Quran in all fields, one of its goals is to spread awareness of the importance of the Noble Quran and the need to take care of it for all segments of society (Al Busaidi, 2019).

Similarly, the State established a Ministry specializing on the religious side, the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs in 1997, pursuant to Royal Decree No. (84/97) in which the name of the Ministry of Justice was changed to (Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, 2019). This Ministry work hand in hand with the government to ensure that it provide qualities teaching based on Islamic faith and Shariah to build a good citizen. Additionally, The General Directorate of Mosques and Noble Quran Schools was established to facilitate the service of the Noble Quran in the various states and villages of the Sultanate with its tasks includes planning curriculum and its annual calendar, which is issued annually with the approval of the Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs (Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, 2019).

The Noble Quran School Departments works to organize the Quranic efforts in the Sultanate and has established specialized schools for the Noble Quran with high quality buildings and huge equipment and proceeds according to a precise methodology, as well as organized the work of Quranic competitions and is now in the process of organizing Quranic Ijaza to high quality in line with laws and regulations (AL Azwani, 2019), The Department also works to eliminate any mistakes or distortion by reviewing the Quran recitations and the books that are printed and distributed to the Sultanate or abroad. In line with its efforts the Sultanate empower volunteers and recognising their contributions by granting them licenses to teach the Noble Quran (Al Hadi, 2019) Not only the Sultanate serve the mission by increasing the number of teachers and schools but also it has extended the projects for the future by

extracting the lands for the new buildings to be built which is potential for Noble Quran schools and build Endowments for them (Al Akhzami, 2019) The number of teachers and volunteers of the Quran at the Ministry of Endowment has increased significantly among those 1805 teachers; these includes 1266 government employees and 539 volunteers, while the number of schools has also increased to 1465 which accommodates 102,580 students. Hence, the number of students is 57 per teacher divided by periods of teaching with students not exceeding ten for each period (Al Hadi, 2019). The above method was measured seeking to deliver a quality Quranic education (Al Hadi, 2019). The Noble Quran School Departments also supervises the forums of memorizing the Noble Quran during the winter period which falls in January annually, and the summer period which corresponds to the months of June, July and August of each year. A clear and systematic plan and the figure (1) shows the statistics of these forums for the past year in all governorates of the Sultanate (Al Battashyah, 2019).



**Figure 1. Statistics Of Summer And Winter Gatherings For 2018/2019**

The analysis of these statistics shows that there is a great effort by the Ministry of Endowment compared to the number of employees, the number of teachers of the Quran and its teachers is 1266 while the number of students in the summer and winter period is 11619 students and 10 students per teacher, Asked about the small number of students at the teacher during the summer and winter period, Mr. Faiz Al-Hadi, assistant director of the Noble Quran schools department, said that in order to obtain high quality in teaching the Noble Quran, the Quran workshop doesn't receive more than fifteen to ten students at a time (Al Hadi, 2019).

The government has paid attention to the Noble Quran and printed copies of it distributed free of charge to those who want it in accordance with its distribution rules. The Sultanate of Oman maintains a number of Qurans written by Omani calligraphers and is characterized by its simplicity and clarity. And we may find some Qurans written in gold water and decorated with religious decorations, and we do not find any drawings of the organisms with spirits (living beings) in them, and the last of these efforts in the interest of printing the Quran, which was printed at the expense of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said - Allah keep him -

and supervised the work of the Diwan of the Royal Court has been surrounded by decorations inspired by the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque.

The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs printed a Quran named (Mushaf Oman), and was completed in 2006 after eight years of continuous work, and was characterized by wonderful decorations, and in 2010 printed the ministry (Omani Mushaf), a work completed in Oman, and decorated with a beautiful line with breathtaking decorations (Al Tarshi, 2019). One of the e-government efforts to serve the Noble Quran is the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs launched the Noble Quran Education Program in 2015 to teach Muslims the Noble Quran through virtual classes and interact with the e-program. The program was awarded the best site for the service of the Quran Kuwait International Noble Quran Award in April 2018, the program of teaching the Quran is a qualitative leap in the teaching of the Quran, where it is characterized by the use of fun and motivation in the teaching of the Quran, where the student gets points when interacting with the electronic program to compete with other participants, , And every 50 points become a gem, the default currency in the program, so that the student purchases by these gems from the store in the student account, has participated in the program 11556 students so far (Al Qsabi, 2019).

The first interactive e-Quran has been launched recently. The e-work features unique features and exceptional typography. A group of scientists from the famous Egyptian Al-Azhar University has worked with European specialists for three years to meet the needs of Muslims around the world so that they can use this Quran error-free, allowing the preservation of the rich typographic tradition of Arabic calligraphy. This is a very useful initiative for lovers of the Arabic language, teachers, researchers, and students, with the aim of preserving the Arabic language and opening the door to think and reflect on the Quran and its lines (The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, 2019).

#### **The efforts of Omani individuals in the service of the Noble Quran in the past 49 years.**

There are many individual efforts of Omanis known by the researcher by virtue of his work in the Department of Quran Schools in the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, and researcher Zakaria bin Amer bin Sulaiman Al-Humimi mentioned some in his research Haret Saleh School for teaching the Quran in Bahla (Al Himi, 2019). I'll confine myself to mentioning some of the personalities who have served the Noble Quran a lot in the Sultanate of Oman. Firstly :his eminence sheikh Al-Alama Ahmad Bin Hamad Al Khalili is currently the Grand Mufti of the Sultanate and Vice-President of the World Federation of Muslim Scholars, he has students and has lessons in the interpretation of the Quran and has many books, including (Jawaher Al Tafsiir Anwar mn Bayan Al Tanzil ). Second: Sheikh educator Hamoud bin Humaid Al Sawafi, and also for the Sheikh students who live in his home and select them very carefully, most of Oman's contemporary scholars and students of science, if not all, are students of this educator sheikh, and some of them call him "Kaabaht Oman". Third: Sheikh dr. Abdullah bin Salim bin Hamad Al-Hinai, Assistant Dean of the College of Education at Sultan Qaboos University, he has students and weekly lessons, he is the author of several seminars and lectures in the service of the Quran, as well as the reference in all matters concerning the Quran in the Sultanate of Oman.



One of the efforts of individuals is what the Omani trainer Abu Al-Faisal Al Baymani is doing about the project of the creative course for memorizing the Noble Quran in a hundred days. At the hands of this coach more than 10,000 thousand of Hafiz. Among the efforts is done by Hamad bin Saud Al Maashri the project of the life of the soul, which is a course to memorize the Quran for two days in which the follower until the conclusion of the Quran in two years. Among them is the course of the seven forts curriculum for the memorization of the Quran by Hilal bin Hamoud Al Riyami, Director of schools of the Noble Quran in the Sultanate of Oman, a modern course that uses a unique curriculum that takes into account the individual differences between the participants, of 100 thousand copies have been sold so far, it is currently used in more than 18 countries worldwide. Among the efforts exerted by Hamad bin Abdullah Al Hosani and others in their project is the contest of the Noble Quran, which is one of the successful projects in the service of the Noble Quran (Al Hosani, 2019). One of the leading projects is also the work of Sheikh Ali bin Mubarak Al Qasimi program's distinctive program "Imam Shatby", a program concerned with the teaching of Tajweed in a specialized. One of the projects is also the Quran recitation project by Saif bin Ali Al Kayoumi, targeting the students of the schools of the Suwaiq State of the Ministry of Education, as well as a project program to memorize the Quran for Ibrahim bin Marhoon bin Said Al Ghafari a program started in 2017 is characterized by its ease and the strength of its outputs.

Some of the electronic projects include an audio recording project for the entire Quran, such as the Quran recited by Hilal bin Khalfan bin Mohammed Al Batashi, Saif bin Saeed bin Salem Al Furqani, and Daoud bin Zahran bin Saeed Al Anbari. Also, there are some books in the science of the Quran, such as the book "Al Qabas" in the provisions of Tajweed of Sheikh Abdullah bin Saeed bin Nasser Al Qanoubi, this book is one of the most famous Tajweed books for the people in Oman in the modern era, One of the poetry systems is the Omani poem in Tajweed by Bakhit bin Mohammed bin Ali Al Muqaymi, a poem from Bher AlRijez that included most sections of Tajweed, the number of verses 83, easy and accessible to students.

## **Results**

The Sultanate of Oman is making tremendous efforts in the service of the Noble Quran and it's unique in its efforts, such as the e-learning program of the Noble Quran and Mushaf Muscat, the production of Omanis in the service of the Noble Quran is a complement to what Muslims have produced in the rest of the world and the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs is the institution concerned with the service of the Noble Quran, followed by the Omani Society of the Noble Quran, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development, and there are great efforts by individuals but they are dispersed and not based on institutional work.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

After a quick tour of the Omani efforts in the service of the Noble Quran in the past 49 years, it is clear that there are great efforts being made by the government and by individuals to serve the Book of Allah, I can reach some of the recommendations: the Quranic efforts in the Sultanate of Oman should be explored and must achieve these efforts and showing them in scientific books that are accessible to researchers to Assigning researchers and specialists to achieve the Omani heritage in the service of the Noble Quran, and must to work institutionally and include all Quranic efforts under the Ministry of Endowment and Religious

Affairs or the Omani Society for the Care of the Noble Quran, finally must to highlighting Omani scholars in the curriculum and in other means of communication.

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