

DRUG PREVENTION BEGINS FROM HOME

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ
وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this world and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Parents ought to be close to their children and not neglect them. They should not rely or pass their responsibilities to other parties because children are easily influenced. They could take the easy way out of problems by being involved with drugs.

Family and peer influence are two main factors that cause children to take drugs. Parents play important roles in educating their children to become useful humanbeings. Thus, the education must begin from a very young age. This includes educating and safeguarding their children from drug abuse.

Parents must monitor their children at all times. They should be concerned and alert to any behavioral changes in their children for example mood swings such as being grumpy, cranky, aggressive, retaliate or being too quiet and do not want to be involved with family activities and self isolation. Other symptoms include truancy, decline in academic achievement, mixing with bad company, insomnia, staying out late and seeking extra money frequently.

The failure of parents to monitor the development and changes in the behavior of their children is likely to cause their children to be involved with immoral practices including the use of illegal drugs.

Besides this, domestic crisis between parents is also a contributing factor to the problem. This creates a profound impact on children who are still in need of care and love from their parents. Children may take the wrong path as a way to vent their emotions or to deal with their emotional disturbance. In this vulnerable situation, they may depend on their peers for comfort. The children may not be able to differentiate between right and wrong when faced with such situations. Eventually, they may do things which are against the law. Most disappointing is the things they do may incur the displeasure of Allah the Almighty. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad

الْمَرْءُ عَلَى دِينِ خَلِيلِهِ فَلْيَنْظُرْ أَحَدُكُمْ مَنْ يُخَالِلُ

Which means: *A man is upon the religion of his best friend, so let one of you look at whom he befriends.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

There are several preventive steps that must be taken by parents to protect their children from drug abuse. Among them are providing good religious education and ensuring that children perform worship to Allah the Almighty, such as performing congregational daily prayers at mosques. Allah the Almighty chapter 20 (Surah Taha) verse 132:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا لَا نَسْأَلُكَ رِزْقًا نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكَ وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلتَّقْوَى ﴿١٣٢﴾

Which means: *And enjoin prayer upon your family [and people] and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for provision; We provide for you, and the [best] outcome is for [those of] righteousness.*

A close knit relationship between family members should always be imbued with love and full attention for the children. Thus, parents could monitor their childrens' activities from time to time. This can prevent children from being involved with negative activities which includes drug abuse. When children make mistakes, parents should reprimand them so that they can differentiate between right and wrong. Children should be nurtured with good values while still young.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 26 (surah al-Syu'ara') verse 214:

وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ ﴿٢١٤﴾

Which means: “And warn, [O Muhammad], your closest kindred.”

Parents be must be concerned about any developmental or bahavioral changes in their children. Caring parents will check their childrens' rooms and personal belongings from time to time to ensure that no prohibited items are in the possession of their children.

In addition, parents need to know with whom their children mix or befriend with at school or even when out of the school. Indirectly, parents can act early if they suspect something amiss in their children.

Making duais the best weapon of the believer. Thus, we should seek help from Allah the Almighty so that our children become morally sound and virtuous as well as protected from any negative elements.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 25 (surah al-Furqan) verse 74:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾

Which means: "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous."

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَتَفَعَّلِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.