

## AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF ISE IN DA'WAH ACTIVITIES IN EGGONLAND

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**Muhammad Maga Sule**

mohammed.maga@yahoo.com

Department of Islamic Studies, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria

**Yahaya Sulaiman Ph.D.**

abumuhammad@nsuk.edu.ng

Department of Islamic Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria

**Ruqayya Abubakar Kaura**

kauraruqy@gmail.com

Department of Islamic Studies, Federal university of Lafia

**Abstract (In English):** This paper documents and also assess the different method employed by ISE for its Da'wah activities in Eggonland. The study highlight the Da'wah approaches and methodology of Islamic Society of Eggonland and its contributions and also examined the level of Da'wah activities of the organisation. After the assessment, the results of the findings show that the coming of ISE with modern Da'wah train, a different Da'wah to proselytize Islam and its beauty to people of Eggonland and the wider world through its various humanitarian programmes that are geared towards building the Ummah is yielding result. It is a successful of because in its humanitarian programme people are equally treated irrespective of their religion. The study adopted Survey method using primary sources, where interview and observation were to obtain data on the Da'wah activities of the ISE. This research is expected to become a model for the development of Da'wah in a multi-religious society. The findings are essential for Islamic Da'wah organizations to redesign and formulate various modern Da'wah programmes in order to ensure improved way to engage the people. However, the paper also identified the necessity for Muslim Organizations in Eggonland to continuously enhance the following Da'wah activities: door-to-door Da'wah, visitations to Correctional Custodial facilities, Hospitals, convert management, and skill acquisition facilities, among others.

Keywords: Da'wah, Role, ISE, Eggonland, Humanitarian Aid and Welfare

**Abstract (In Bahasa):** Makalah ini mendokumentasikan dan juga menilai berbagai metode yang digunakan oleh ISE untuk kegiatan Dakwahnya di Eggonland. Studi ini menyoroti pendekatan dan metodologi dakwah Islamic Society of Eggonland dan kontribusinya dan juga mengkaji tingkat kegiatan dakwah organisasi tersebut. Setelah dilakukan pengkajian, hasil temuan menunjukkan bahwa kedatangan ISE dengan kereta dakwah modern, dakwah yang berbeda untuk dakwah Islam dan keindahannya kepada masyarakat Eggonland dan dunia luas melalui berbagai program kemanusiaannya yang bermuara pada membangun umat membuah hasil. Ini berhasil karena dalam program kemanusiaannya orang-orang diperlakukan sama terlepas dari agama mereka. Penelitian ini menggunakan

metode Survey dengan menggunakan sumber primer, dimana wawancara dan observasi dilakukan untuk mendapatkan data kegiatan dakwah ISE. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menjadi model pengembangan dakwah dalam masyarakat multi agama. Temuan ini penting bagi organisasi dakwah Islam untuk mendesain ulang dan merumuskan berbagai program dakwah modern untuk memastikan cara yang lebih baik untuk melibatkan umat. Namun, makalah ini juga mengidentifikasi perlunya Organisasi Muslim di Eggonland untuk terus meningkatkan kegiatan Dakwah berikut: Dakwah dari pintu ke pintu, kunjungan ke fasilitas Pemasarakatan, Rumah Sakit, manajemen konversi, dan fasilitas perolehan keterampilan, antara lain.

Kata Kunci: Dakwah, Peran, ISE, Eggonland, Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Kesejahteraan

## INTRODUCTIONS

The greatest tool used by the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to exert influence which transformed and rescued *Jahiliyyah* society from darkness of *shirk* and immoral activities to sanity, morality and Allah's consciousness is *Da'wah*. Therefore, the basic aim of *Da'wah* is to disseminate the word of Allah and to promote moral values. It is the medium through which man discovers the essence of his life, and mission in the world for the success of the everlasting life.<sup>1</sup> *Da'wah* is the primary force for social progress, motivating individual to develop spiritual qualities and empowering them to make sacrifices for their fellow human beings and to contribute to the betterment of all and sundry.

The word "Da'wah" literally derives from the perfect verb "Da'a," which means "He called." *Yad'* (imperfect verb of *Da'a*) meaning both "he calls" in the simple present tense and "he is calling" in the continuous. *Da'wah* has a variety of meanings and uses in the technical sense. *Da'wah*, for instance, is described by Hafeez as "an act of inviting others to adopt Islam and/or to practise their religious commitments accurately and ardently".<sup>2</sup> While Al-Ghazzali views *Da'wah* as a comprehensive plan dedicated to the advancement of Islam and the *Ummah*.<sup>3</sup>

By contrast, Hafeez describes *Da'wah* as "propagating the Deen (Religion) of Allah using whatever lawful means".<sup>4</sup> Al-Muqit goes on to say that *Da'wah* is unquestionably the best form of Jihad (religious struggle), and that it is not merely a form of Jihad or *Tajdid* (reformation).<sup>5</sup> These definitions lead one to the conclusion that *Da'wah* includes all acts of spreading knowledge of Islam through preaching, teaching, sermons, and charitable giving with the intention of broadening the concept of Islam on the one hand and upholding the true belief in the Oneness of Allah (*Tauhid*) on the other.

*Da'wah* is conceptually a way of providing social and humanitarian services to people in addition to being a tool for "calling to Islam." Many Muslims

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<sup>1</sup> R. AbdulFatah, *A Manual of Da'wah; A Guide to the Propagation of Islam Throughout the World*, (Kaduna, Sammedia Publisers, 2002), p.25.

<sup>2</sup> S.K. Hafeez, (1983). *Principles and guidelines of Da'wah*. Tripoli: Al-haq.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Ghazzali, Muhammad A.H., (1981). *Ma Allah Dirasat Fi Al-Dawah Wa Al-Dua*. Damascus: Dar Al-Qalam.

<sup>4</sup> Hafeez, *Principles and guidelines of Da'wah*, *Op. Cit.*

<sup>5</sup> A.A. Al-Muqit, *Al-Amr bi Ma'ruf Wan Nahyi an Munkar*. (Cairo: Al-Azhar University, 2001), p.23-24.

misunderstood the concept of Da'wah and only considered oral preaching to be part of it. The preceding definition of Da'wah is similar to most of the Islamic (Arabic) slang used in the Glorious Qur'an, the Prophet's sunnah, and sayings of his companions. And it can signify something literally or technically. 149 times in the Glorious Qur'an, its multifaceted meaning is revealed.<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, Da'wah work encompasses all aspects of human and spiritual need of people. In view of this, Da'wah activities cut across socio-economic and political activities based on Allah's saying in the that "commanding the doing of right things and warning against wrong and helping one another". Q.3: 104.

Islam is a balanced religion which provides for all the needs of human beings directly or indirectly so that peace and happiness could be promoted among people living together in what can be termed as "Community" regardless of origin, ethnicity and religious inclination. These types of provisions are categorised as obligatory, such as poor due (*zakaat*) and voluntary aspects like endowment (*waqf*), charity (*sadaqah*) among others.<sup>7</sup> The sole aim of these Muslim welfare institutions is to provide a way and channel through which illiteracy, poverty and unemployment could be reduced to a minimal ratio among people, most especially, Muslims.<sup>8</sup> The efficiency of these programmes was actualised during the early period of Islam and the subsequent generations after the demise of Prophet Muhammad (May peace and blessing of Allah be upon him).

Establishing formal organisations and institutions to carry out Islamically mandated principles and practices is necessary for the growth and development of Islamic Societies. Islam, as a way of life, encompasses all of the ramifications of every aspect of human existence. Islamic organisations and institutions may need to be established for the purpose of Da'wah and other Islamic activities to be effective and result-oriented.<sup>9</sup> The Glorious Qur'an places a strong emphasis on the need to work together to spread virtue and combat vice. Allah says in the Glorious Qur'an:

*Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good (Islam) enjoining Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do) and forbidding Al-Munkar (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islam has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful. (Glorious Qur'an, Surah Ali Imran 3:104).*

The setting of goals, making plans and designing strategies to assure the accomplishment of objectives that are in accordance with Islamic teachings are

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<sup>6</sup> Modibbo, Muhammad Sani Adam, A General Description of the Formation and Activities of Islamic Da'wah Groups in Nigeria. *Ilorin Journal of Religious Studies, (IJOURALS)*, Vol.7(2), (2017), pp.83-96.

<sup>7</sup> Abubakar Sani, "The Role of Islamic Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Towards the Social Development of the Muslim *Ummah* in Kano State, Nigeria", E-Proceeding of the 3rd International Conference on Arabic Studies and Islamic Civilization ICASIC2016 (E-ISBN 978-967-0792-08-8). 14-15 March 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p. 105.

<sup>9</sup> Sule, Muhammad Maga, Problems and Prospect of Islamic Da'wah in Nassarawa Eggon Local Government Area, Nasarawa State, Nigeria *UMRAN – International Journal of Islamic and Civilizational Studies*. Vol.4(2), 2017, pp. 56–64.

all part of the *Sunnah*. This is according to the Qur'an and the practice of Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Planning, therefore, must be at the centre of a Muslims life, in all his or her moral, political, social and economic activities. Unfortunately, this precious *Sunnah*, however, is not apparent in the lives and activities of the Muslims today. It is the absence of this *Sunnah* that has contributed much to our failures and suffering.

Organisations are very important for all human activities in relation to social obligations. Nowadays, competitiveness gives significance effect for the social and welfare changes, where it implies also the culture of organisations and its role in the community development. Islam has a prominent concept for organisation that it based on the Glorious Qur'an and the *Sunnah* of Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Islam describes organisation as a tool to achieve Allah's blessing in dealing (*mu'amalah*) perspective.<sup>10</sup>

The spirit of mutual help without expecting any monetary reward but merely to seek the pleasure of Allah is developed among the Muslims through high moral education and training. Muslims as a result of these teachings of the Qur'an and *Sunnah* became very eager to contribute their wealth in the way of Allah to please Him. It is even mentioned in the Qur'an that, the early Muslims asked Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) of what and how to spend? Almighty Allah states:

*They ask you (O Muhammad, (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)) what they should spend. Say: Whatever you spend of good must be for parents and kindred and orphans and Al-Masakin (the needy) and the wayfarer, and whatever you do of good deeds, truly, Allah knows it well. (Glorious Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqara 2:215).*

However, Allah in Qur'an 2: 177 is advising the believers that worship is incomplete without helping deeds. So, after having believed in Allah, the Angels, the Prophets, the Books and the Last Day we must translate our *Iman* (faith) our beliefs into actions of service to humankind. In fact, it is incumbent on believers to fulfil this duty of service to those who need their help. Each and every Muslim is to contribute to the welfare of society. Therefore, by establishing social services within Muslim communities, every Muslim can indirectly participate through financial and moral support.

*Abu Hurairah related: The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Whosoever removes a worldly grief from a believer, Allah will remove from him one of the grieves on the Day of Judgment. Whosoever alleviates [the] lot of a destitute person, Allah will alleviate his lot in this world and the next. Whosoever conceals the faults of a Muslim, Allah will conceal his faults in this world and the next. Allah will*

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<sup>10</sup> Ibn Awwam, "Organization: An Islamic Perspective," 2010. <http://ulialbab.blogspot.com.ng/2010/03/organization-islamic-perspective.html>. Accessed on 15/11/2022.

*aid a servant (of His) so long as the servant aids his brother*  
(Bulugh Al-Maram: Hadith no. 1263).

Moreover, the best examples for helping the poor and wrapping up their wounds can be observed in the life of our beloved Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). On the other hand, he wanted Muslims to transform generosity into a natural habit. He encouraged *infaq* by saying:

*Abdullah b. Umar reported that as Allah's Messenger (May peace be upon him) was sitting on the pulpit and talking about Sadaqa and abstention from begging, he said: The upper hand is better than the lower one, the upper being the one which bestows and the lower one which begs. (Sahih Muslim, Book 5, Number: 2253).*

Thus, this research is an assessment of the different method employed by ISE for its Da'wah activities in Eggonland and how its successfully impacted on Muslims and non-Muslims in the area.

## **METHOD**

Survey study methodology was utilised in writing this paper. Basically, there are a variety of ways to collect data for surveys research, the most popular of which are interviews and questionnaires. However, the primary data used for research is obtained through the interview and observation study methods. Finding and gathering reference materials that are relevant to the topic of this research is the first of three processes the researcher adopted when putting this piece together. Secondly, several observations and interviews have been conducted, which have been analysed and elaborated in order to fully understand the intersections of this essay. Third, as the last step, the researchers concludes specifically referring to the title raised in this study, namely the Da'wah role of ISE in Eggonland and the modern approaches in achieving its Da'wah programmes.

## **RESERCH**

### **A. Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE)**

The ever-growing demand by Eggon Muslim community in Nigeria to get a rightful and legitimate platform to propagate Islam in their domain gave birth to Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE). It's a brain child of Eggon Muslims that manifested in 2013 because of the need, gap and event around Eggon Community at large then.

ISE intents and passion to address issues bordering Eggon Muslims in their educational, spiritual, social, economy and political lives. The ISE thus, is a platform for participation for any contributor(s) for Allah's Sake, His Work, and Humanity.

Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE) is an incorporated trustee registered under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The ISE was established

because of the necessity to create awareness, educate, and entrench Da'wah (Islamic Evangelism) in Eggonland by a few working class Eggon Muslims. The dream to create the society began in 1996, and with continuous consultations, ISE was finally registered within the Nigerian extant laws and system in 2015. ISE now has headquarters at Amra Plaza Complex, Close Aren Eggon Palace, Nassarawa Eggon, Nassarawa State, Nigeria.<sup>11</sup>

ISE as a legal entity shall pursue its objectives which include:

1. To create a forum for preaching peaceful coexistence in and outside Eggon.
2. To support community development activities like building mosques, hospitals and schools in any part of Eggonland and Nigeria at large.
3. To establish a foundation in education, and award scholarships to intelligent and less privileged students.
4. To engage in the distribution of the Islamic message in the Eggon Language through various channels of communication to Eggon people.
5. To engage in translation and transliteration of the Holy Qur'an and other Islamic scriptures into the Eggon Language.
6. To promote harmonious relationships between Muslims and Non-Muslims in Eggonland.
7. To campaign against a false narrative of Islam presented by those in the body of Islam and others.
8. To encourage Muslim Ummah to engage in constructive intellectual discourse on blasphemy instead of resulting to violent confrontation.
9. To encourage Eggon Muslim elites towards intellectual and economic contribution to Islamic development in Eggonland.
10. To establish an Islamic research center for the Da'wah project.

Over the 9 years of development of ISE, it has some remarkable breakthroughs. It has:

1. Given priority to inter and intra-Islamic sects' discussions on the best approach for Da'wah.
2. ISE Has launched its scholarship scheme for the brilliant and less privileged Muslim students studying at home and abroad who are born in Eggonland, or have lived in Eggonland for a long period of time. The bursary scheme was launched in December 2015 and has benefitted several students.
3. The ISE has successfully produced audio and visual Tafsir (Explanation) of the Qur'an in the Eggon Language which is being aired on the appropriate media. The complete transliteration of the Glorious Qur'an in Eggon is being undertaken and is near completion. The Islamic Learning Centre is also nearing completion; it will inspire both younger and older generations to increase their knowledge of Islam.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Islamic Society of Eggonland About ISE, (2022).

[www.islamicsofeggonland.org/home/about-us/](http://www.islamicsofeggonland.org/home/about-us/). Accessed 17/11/2022

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

## **B. Assessing the Da'wah Activities of Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE)**

To assess the role of the Islamic Society of Eggonland in the area of Da'wah, it is important to look at the contributions of the Islamic Society to the development of Islam and Muslims in Eggonland. The role of ISE is overwhelming in the aspects of humanitarian evangelism. This is because the organisation has contributed tremendously to the development of Muslim youths in many aspects of life as well as non-Muslims. Its contributions are so enormous that it cannot be adequately captured in this piece. However, for the sake of precision, the contributions of the Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE) will be discussed under three main themes of educational contributions, humanitarian aid and propagation of Islam amongst its people.

In the area of Islamic propagation, Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE) has done considerably well. It needs to be recalled that one of the major aims of the organisation was to spread the great message of Islam and disseminate the true knowledge of the Glorious Qur'an *Ahadith* of Noble Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) among all people. In order to achieve this objective, the Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE) engaged in a number of Islamic religious activities such as organizing and sponsoring of open-air preaching in Nassarawa Eggon, sponsoring airing of Da'wah programme Eggon language in various radio and television stations in the state, visitation to hospitals and correctional centres. It also organized training programmes and seminars for Islamic scholars and other members of the society.

Furthermore, the ISE also contributed immensely to the improvement of the status of Muslim youths and women. It was perhaps the first Muslim organisation in Nasarawa State to appreciate the role of the *Ulama* in the propagation of Islam and accord them great role in the society thereby rewarding them through various means.

The Islamic Society of Eggonland have adopted the modern means of showcasing the true image of Islam and Muslims to the wider world, where its approach to took a different means. These methods adopted by the organisation are discussed below.

### **i. Da'wah in Eggon Language**

The Da'wah of ISE is to provide a different perspective on the Qur'an, Hadith and Sunnah Literatures. ISE work with informed scholars of the Glorious Qur'an of reputable Islamic background. Its Da'wah project is always open to all, and everyone's contribution is highly valued and welcomed.<sup>13</sup>

The Eggon people should be proud that the Islamic Society of Eggonland has made the stride of translating and explaining the contents of the Glorious Qur'an into Eggon language. according to Ustaz Shuaibu Galadima.<sup>14</sup> This was the view aired by Ustaz Shuaibu during 2022 Ramadan lectures in Nassarawa Eggon. The Eggon people should be appreciative and thankful to Allah for

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Ustaz Shuaibu Galadima, Ramadan Tafsir (Lectures), Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

providing them with Islamic organisation that care about their plight and how to better comprehend Islam.

Apart from Hausa and Yoruba languages in Nigeria, the Eggon people were third in producing commentary of the Glorious Qur'an in its language. Not only that, there are *Du'at* who specializes in verbal explanation in the Eggon dialect for the understanding of their people.

Corroborating on the assertion by Ustaz Shuaibu Galadima, Ustaz Nasir Al-Qaseem<sup>15</sup> asserted that the organisation is working tirelessly towards the successful completion of the translation and commentary of the Glorious Qur'an in Eggon language. This is in addition to its audio and virtual commentary of the Glorious Qur'an by Sheikh Jibrin Yusuf Danladi and Ustaz Nasir Al-Kasim in Eggon language that are available for the public to reflect on its teachings. The coming ISE have in some cases change the mindset of Eggon people towards the practice of and teachings of Islam. Not only that, some of those who are into syncretic practice have abandoned such to embrace what Islam teaches.

It has been observed by the researchers that a lot Eggon Muslims in villages have come to understand the true teachings of Islam because of the *Da'wah* programme of Islamic Society of Eggonland in Eggon language most especially the Tafsir Eggon language aired on various radio and television stations in the state.

Activities of the Islamic Society of Eggonland have tremendously help reduced problem which was the aftermath of the menace of *Ombatse* in Eggonland. This is because sermons and preaching in interior villages of the Eggon people were always conducted in Eggon language which is the mother tongue of majority of the inhabitants. These preach and sermons was as a result of training, motivation and encouragement of ISE to Muslim scholars and *Du'at* at various levels.

The propaganda that majority of the Eggon people are traditionalists and Christians and that the Eggon people do not know anything call Islam, have been put to rest with the emergence of ISE in Eggonland. According to Sanusi Kasim<sup>16</sup> that the *Da'wah* activities of these organisation have shown to the world that greater number of the Eggon people were Muslims before the coming of the Europeans who brought Christianity in Eggonland. Before then the Eggon people have had contact with Muslim traders from the core Northern part of Nigeria.

Sanusi Kasim<sup>17</sup> further upheld that the *Da'wah* activities of ISE was very impactful as 103 *Imams* of *Jumu'at Masjid* in Eggonland do benefit from seminar and workshops for Islamic scholars on the proper methods of carrying out *Da'wah* most importantly delivering the message in Eggon language. These lectures were usually delivered by selected Muslims scholars from various higher institutions of learning across Nigeria with topics from different branches of Islamic knowledge. Sanusi further states that many of *Imams* have gain from such seminars and lectures which have helped them to improve in their *Da'wah* activities most especially in preparing *Khutbah* (sermon) in Eggon dialect to their followers. This is because majority of the followers are of the Eggon extraction.

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<sup>15</sup> Ustaz Nasir Al-Qaseem, Muslim Scholar, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>16</sup> Ustaz Abubakar Sulaima, Muslim Scholar and Chief Imam of Bakano, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*



Corroborating on submission of Sanusi Kasim, Ustaz Abubakar Sulaiman held that some of the *Imams of Jumu'at Masjid* in Eggonland have now included Eggon language whenever they are delivering *Jumu'at Khutbah* (sermon) for better understanding of the message of Islam by their followers. All these developments were as a result of the efforts by ISE to better the understanding of the true teachings of Islam in the interior villages around Eggonland.<sup>18</sup>

Ishaq Shuaibu Agafi also commented, stating that it is obvious that one of the primary goals of ISE was to spread Islam among the Eggon people using the Eggon dialect in order to improve the speaker's comprehension of the Islamic message and to dispel the myth that majority of Eggon people practice Christianity.<sup>19</sup>

## ii. Da'wah to Muslims and Non-Muslims in Eggonland

As Muslims our manner of approach matters a lot, this is because the way and manner in which we treat the non-Muslims, in the course of our *Mu'amalat* will be the basis for them to either embrace Islam or reject such invitation. But the Islamic Society of Eggonland have taken a different dimension in the propagation of the teachings of Islam among the Eggon people as against what has been portrayed of the Eggon people.

Ishaq Shuaibu Agafi further avers in an interview that the coming of ISE as an Islamic organization have further enlightened some of the Eggon people who sees Islam as the religion of the Hausa people and thereby making them to understand that Islam is a Divine religion send through Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to the entire mankind to the end of time.<sup>20</sup>

The mission and vision of ISE towards Islamic *Da'wah* in Eggonland do not leave any of the Muslim groups or sects. It has been observed by the researchers that ISE in its efforts enlightened the people of Eggonland on the true teachings of Islam, have successfully sponsored and hosted national *Da'wah*/preaching programme of the three prominent Islamic groups in Eggonland. The *Da'wah* programme was carried out in different intervals, which started with the national preaching/ *Da'wah* by Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS) Jos in December 2016 and followed by that of the other faction of Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS) in July 2017 and immediately followed by that of *Dariqah Tijjaniyya* in the same year.

Lawal Abdullahi<sup>21</sup> in an interview maintained that the preaching and other *Da'wah* programme organised by ISE in 2016 and 2017 have shown to the world that majority of the Eggon people are Muslims as against what has been planted in the minds of people about Eggon Muslims and their numbers while also tagging as followers of the religion of the Hausas. Not only that, the *Da'wah* also unite the

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<sup>18</sup> Sanusi Kasim, Civil Servant/Muslim Scholar, interviewed at Mada Station, Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>19</sup> Ishaq Shuaibu Agafi, Civil Servant, Interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> Lawal Abdullahi, Civil Servant, Interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

Eggon Muslims of their differences in terms of religious rituals and other doctrines of Islam.

It was also observed that lack of segregation along religion in the humanitarian programmes of the organisation have further the understanding of the true teachings of Islam and tolerance which the Islam preaches to its adherents. This is nice form of Da'wah employed by these organisation to showcase to its people that Islam have regard for other religions.

### iii. Education and Training

Educating the society is one of the cardinal objectives of the Islamic Society of Eggonland. This they do in order to have a well informed and better community of *Ummah*. That is why training and educating young scholars either in Islamic and Western education is paramount to the organization core mission. ISE try to produce scholars that would move to all nooks and crannies of Eggonland to preach true teachings of Islam as against the adulterated message and syncretic practices that has been deeply rooted in the minds of some of the Eggon people.

Dialogue which is one the means of having a better society, and that provides a framework which guards against manipulation from within and outside and serves as a means of understanding and reconciliation among Muslims. The ISE does organise series of lectures/ seminars as a process of reformation and human capacity development. The lectures and seminars are organised quarterly, annual lectures on contemporary socio-cultural, economic, and political issues affecting the lives of Muslim *Ummah* within and outside Eggon community. These lectures are presented by scholars of Islamic and Western backgrounds. ISE considered lecture presentation as a veritable tool for imparting knowledge.

It has been observed that in some villages in Eggonland, there are a lot of syncretic belief which have bedeviled some part of Eggonland that need to be corrected, and the only way to achieve such, is by *Da'wah* with the use of scholars and *Du'at* who can speak and preach in Eggon language fluently thereby extending the message of Islam. This is because majority of the Eggon people in villages do not comprehend Arabic language and would give a listening ear if the sermon or preach is in his mother tongue.

Due the importance which Islam attaches to education, the Islamic Society of Eggonland deem it necessary and took it upon itself to educate Muslims in villages in Eggonland as against the indoctrinating of their *Iman* and other true teachings of Islam. The ISE also took it upon itself to bring up scholars/*Du'at* that would educate the teeming population of Eggon people and other Muslims in villages that makeup the Eggonland in order to better their understanding and to worship their Creator (Allah) alone without associating partner to Him. As Allah says;

*We have not created mankind and Jinn except that they worship Allah alone (Glorious Qur'an, Surah Adh-Dhariyat, 51:56).*

Every Muslim places a high value on education be it Islamic or western since, according to the Noble Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), both male and female Muslims must seek knowledge. Based on this, it is observed that ISE believes that giving scholarships to

deserving students is one of the finest ways to encourage young people to pursue education. This is due to the fact that today's best Da'wah is empowering the society through education, especially the younger generation.

It has been observed that ISE has been hosting series of lectures and seminars for Muslim clerics and other stakeholders as part of its efforts to create an enlightened community in Eggonland. ISE accomplish this task by bringing in experts from academia as resource persons so that people could benefit from them and the same time extent that to their various communities can benefit from the information they have gained. The goal of lectures and seminars is to keep some of the Muslim clerics from villages around Eggonland informed and prepare them for the responsibility of guiding their followers in the authentic teachings of Islam.

Some of these Imams are called to the podium during such lectures and seminars to further explain to the audience what they have inferred from the lectures utilising Eggon language. This is to check their understanding of the presentation and ability transmit same to the followers.

According to Mallam Shuaibu Agabi,<sup>22</sup> the Glorious Qur'an's interpretation in Eggon language on various radio and television channels sponsored by ISE has had a significant impact on the lives of many Eggon residents. Agabi added that due impact of this Da'wah, some Eggon Muslims have started to back off from their syncretic practices, which are detrimental to the true teachings of Islam. Not only that, whenever such programmes are being broadcast, many Eggon people tune in to listen to the interpretation of the Glorious Qur'an because of its importance.

#### **iv. Scholarship to Assist the Poor and Vulnerable Students**

It is significant to stress that the Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE) has made landmark contributions in the provision of scholarship to individuals to acquire Western and Islamic education. As can be seen in the organisation's mission and vision.

It has been observed by the researchers that the Islamic Society of Eggonland as an Islamic organisation, in its Da'wah efforts to show to the world beauty and accommodative nature of Islam and its adherents do extend it award of scholarship to Christian students both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Hundreds Christian students do benefits from the scholarship scheme every year alongside their Muslim counterparts a cross higher institutions of learning in Nigeria.

In interview with Harira Musa where she avers that the ISE scholarship has assisted many students in pursuing their academics in different fields. This humanitarian evangelism by ISE would go a long way to soften the hearts and minds of those that look at Islam as a religion that hate other faiths. This is because beneficiaries of these endowment cut across religions and students from vulnerable homes.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Mallam Shuaibu Agabi, Muslim Scholar, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>23</sup> Harira Musa, Student, College of Health, Science and Technology, Keffi, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

It has also been observed that looking at the way and manner in which the Islamic Society of Eggonland took it as a task to providing scholarship to cater educational expenses of intelligent and less privileged students throughout their studies in tertiary institutions of learning. This gesture as observed, can be viewed as a means of proselytizing the beauty of the religion of Islam in the minds of the beneficiaries as well as the Eggon society as a whole that Islam is a religion that gives huge priority to education be it western or Islamic. Not only that, this further implies that this form of humanitarian Da'wah shows that Islam is accommodative to all mankind irrespective of religion.

Also discussing on the issue humanitarian evangelism through educational scholarship, Aliyu Ibn Muhammad in an interview stressed that ISE scholarship have been of immense benefit to its beneficiaries. That the scholarship has assisted many youths in Eggonland be they Muslims or Christians at the time they have secured admission in the institutions of higher learning for their educational pursuit in different fields.<sup>24</sup>

In an interview with Akpasu Anna James<sup>25</sup> who maintained that ISE scholarship have been of help to plentiful of Eggon students, and that the scholarship has been of benefit to both Muslims and Christians. Anna states that many Christian students knows fully well that the scholarship is from an Islamic organisation and for that they did not mind accepting it since none of come to from their own faith, hence accepting it is of benefit to them. Anna further claim many Christians have no course to regret accepting the scholarship from an Islamic Organisation to pursue their education in tertiary institution of higher learning. The interviewee also maintains that many students today if not because of ISE funds the of furthering education would have been mirage.

It has been further observed from the submission of Akpasu Anna James that is that accepting scholarship from a Muslim organisation is never a problem, since the course is for humanity. And as observed this form of evangelism help in softening the hearts of such persons towards Islam and Muslims.

In a related interview Dauda Ikilima Muhammad avers that the provision Da'wah through educational scholarship is an important venture which ISE is into to alleviate the suffering of the youths in Eggonland. A lot of youths highly depends and look forward the scholarship to fund their studies due to background they come from. Ikilima further maintained that such gesture by an Islamic organisation would help in a long run to enlighten the non-Muslims on the true teachings of Islam as against what was indoctrinated in their hearts by their leaders.<sup>26</sup>

Corroborating the submission of Akpasu Anna, Christopher Abimiku holds that even though the scholarship is from Muslim organisation, the Eggon people are brothers. This is because hardly one finds a family in Eggonland without a combination of Christian and Muslim. The opportunity brought up by ISE in

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<sup>24</sup> Aliyu Ibn Muhammad, Student, Federal University of Lafia, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>25</sup> Akpasu Anna James, College of Nursing and Midwifery, Lafia, interviewed at Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>26</sup> Dauda Ikilima Muhammad, Student, Federal University of Lafia, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

Eggonland have helped not only Muslims but Christians have also benefited from the gesture. That only God would reward them for their kind gesture to humanity.<sup>27</sup>

Charity Averson,<sup>28</sup> in a phone interview relates that ISE as a Muslim organisation in the course of awarding such scholarship to students in tertiary institutions have not force to anyone to accept Islam as condition to benefiting from the scholarship scheme. Averson also maintained that this gesture is first of its kind in Eggonland as no any organisation be it faith base or any other that have venture into such kind programme. And that the effort by ISE as religious organisation have given hope to the downtrodden members of the Eggonland.

In an interview with Kudirat Iliyasu relating on the Da'wah activities of ISE. Kudirat maintains that the style of Da'wah employed by the organisation to develop youths in Eggonland educationally is first to none in Eggon nation and Nasarawa State in general. Today, the Da'wah effort of ISE through scholarship award have impacted positively and improve a lot of young person's academically in the land. As many parents who could not afford paying tuition fees for their wards succor have come their way through the intervention by ISE.<sup>29</sup>

In a related interview with Harira Musa upheld that the Da'wah effort of the Islamic Society of Eggonland through educational upliftment of youth in Eggon society is a well-conceived idea. This is because the humanitarian effort by the ISE is modern means of propagating the teachings and beauty of Islam to the nation as a whole via showcasing it through its various activities in regards to mutual relationship in a multi religious society like that of Eggonland.<sup>30</sup>

It has been observed that this style of evangelism employed by ISE have helped in salvaging a lot of youths from the bondage of illiteracy in Eggonland. Not only that, the Da'wah effort of ISE through its scholarship scheme have helps increase the number of Muslims youths graduating from higher institutions of learning and Muslims in the healthcare profession in Eggonland as against what is obtainable before now.

#### **v. Humanitarian Aid/Welfare**

It has been a tradition with the Islamic Society of Eggonland to take it Da'wah activities to hospitals and correctional centres. This they do through the distribution of relief materials to sick persons and inmates at the correctional centres.

In the area of health care and its delivery, the Islamic Society of Eggonland is not left out. The ISE have played a significant role in the provision of health care relief in Eggonland, wherein it provides some significant intervention to alleviate the suffering the people. According to Safiya Abdullahi in an interview stated that the ISE have successfully sponsored a free medical care to its people. These medical care ranges from eye related problems where medication and surgery were carried out on the patients free of charge.

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<sup>27</sup> Christopher Abimiku Luka, Student, University of Jos, Interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>28</sup> Charity Averson, Student, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>29</sup> Kudirat Iliyasu, Student, Bauchi State University, Gadau, Bauchi State, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>30</sup> Harira Musa, Student, College of Health, Science and Technology, Keffi, *Op. Cit*

Another social sphere in which the Islamic Society of Eggonland (ISE) excelled in Eggonland was caring for the less-privileged in the society. Through its Welfare packs, the society do cater for and provided medical and relief items to patients in various hospitals and clinics in Nassarawa Eggon and Akwanga Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State. Matron of the General Hospital Nassarawa Eggon averred that the organisation also ventured into provision of healthcare services for the people through free medical outreach and provision of drugs and other healthcare equipment to General Hospital Nassarawa Eggon through collaborations with other donor agencies.<sup>31</sup>

According to Martina Lukas, a nurse in General Hospital Akwanga mentioned that ISE as an Islamic Organisation in the course of its activities, do not segregate between Muslims and Christians in terms of distribution of relief materials to sick persons in hospitals. The overwhelming part this gesture by the Islamic Society of Eggonland is that many of the patients at the on sick beds received their packages with joy. Martina further stressed that, one hardly see a religious inclined organisation that do provide relief items like what is being rendered by the Islamic Society of Eggonland.<sup>32</sup>

Not only that, ISE by utilizes all avenue to extend its humanitarian evangelism to show to Eggon people and the wide world that Islam embraces all not minding one's religious beliefs. According to Danladi Ajagabogo in an interview, where he states that the ISE through its free medical outreach for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nassarawa Eggon in August 2022, patients of different tribe, religious faiths were given medical attention according to their ailment not minding where they belong to and medications and surgery carried out on deserving patients according to their eye related problems.<sup>33</sup>

Another avenue in which the Islamic Society of Eggonland have utilized to show to Eggon people and world that Islam embraces all not minding one's religious beliefs. Idris Garba Baba in an interview states that the Islamic ISE through its free medical outreach where patients from different religious faiths were given medical attention according to their illness is a better omen for Islam and Muslims.<sup>34</sup>

Another aspect which ISE have excelled in its Da'wah effort in taking its evangelism train to correctional facility in Wamba to rub minds with the inmates.

Isa Idris Lukumbogo,<sup>35</sup> in an interview relation ISE activities in correctional centre to visit inmates, avers that organisation visitation to correctional facility is to seize the opportunity to extend its Da'wah to the inmates in order to admonish the inmates on the importance of being self-reliance as is one of the one will earn lawful livelihood. He further stated that organisation move along with learned

Islamic scholars who in turn preach the words of Allah to the inmates at the correctional facility. These they do to draw the attention of the inmates on the main reason they have been placed under detention in facility. And that the inmates should take it as trails of life that is why they found themselves in the

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<sup>31</sup> Matron, General Hospital Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

<sup>32</sup> Martina Lukas, Nurse, interviewed at General Hospital Akwanga, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>33</sup> Danladi Ajagabogo, Civil Servant, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>34</sup> Idris Garba Baba, Trader, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>35</sup> Isa Idris Lukumbogo, Civil Servant, Interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

correctional facility for them amend their behaviour. Isa further states that relief materials were provided to the inmates that would help them in one way or the other.

Corroborating the statement by Isa Idris Lukumbogo, the Welfare Officer of the correctional facility in Wamba avers that the ISE have constantly visit inmates in the facility where spiritual and moral advices are rendered to them. In the course of the visit, welfare packages are distributed to the inmates. This they do to provide succour without segregation among the inmates be they Muslims or Christian in distributing relief packages.<sup>36</sup>

According to Mallam Haruna Nakudu,<sup>37</sup> the Imam of JIBWIS Jumu'at Masjid, opined that humanitarian Evangelism by the Islamic Society of Eggonland would help in a long way to complement government effort on the towards the problem of insecurity in our society. That if wealthy Muslim individuals would also borrow a lead from the effort of this ISE, a lot of social vices would be reduced in the society, this is because one of the reasons for social evils in the society today are caused by lack of such guidance from members of the society.

It was also observed that lack of segregation along religion in terms humanitarian aid activities of the ISE have further the understanding of the true teachings of Islam and tolerance which the Islam preaches to its adherents. This is nice form of Da'wah employed by ISE to showcase to its people that Islam have regard for other religions. The researcher has further observed that Islamic Society is portraying the true teachings of Islam as a religion that look after the welfare of people, be they Muslims or non-Muslims as can be seeing from the discussion above.

Corroborating further Umar Abdullahi Galle asserted that its humanitarian services it for the benefit of all Eggon society regardless of tribe or religious affiliation, that is why it collaborative efforts with national and international agencies has positive impact on the lives of the people of Eggonland and the surrounding communities.<sup>38</sup>

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is therefore incumbent upon the *Ummah* of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) generally and the Muslims in Eggonland specifically to constantly engage in Da'wah work for them to attend superiority over all others who do not perform the act of Da'wah in its true sense.

The study will significantly contribute to the acknowledgement of Da'wah as a social act, which is performed on volunteer basis, to benefit society as a whole. No study to date has been presented to unearth this significant element of Islam which can bring people closer, respecting each other and sharing mutual benefits in this life and thereafter. The study will further strengthen Islamic Society

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<sup>36</sup> Welfare Officer, Nigerian Correctional Custodial Centre, Wamba, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

<sup>37</sup> Mallam Haruna Nakudu, Chief Imam JIBWIS, Nassarawa Eggon, interviewed at Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2022.

<sup>38</sup> Umar Abdullahi Galle, Secretary, Islamic Society of Eggonland. Nassarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

of Eggonland thought to add to its Da'wah service to benefit more persons in the society.

This study also found the significant impact of Da'wah activities on the spiritual concentration of the people of Eggonland. To this end, it can be inferred that the importance of Da'wah in the society can never be overestimated. This is because society needs guidance, peace, and stability. Muslims organizations therefore serve as one of the solutions for that.

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