

Sudan University of Science and Technology  
College of Graduate Studies

The Role and Impact of *DA'WAH* in Sokoto Caliphate,  
Northern Nigeria, 1774 to present time

دور الدعوة وتأثيرها في خلافة صوكتو، شمال نيجيريا، ١٧٧٤ للعصر  
الحاضر

A Thesis submitted to the College of Graduate Studies in  
fulfilment of the requirement for the award of Doctor of  
Philosophy (Ph. D) in Islamic Studies (*Da'wah*)

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# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قال الله تعالى

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

صدق الله العظيم

سورة فصلت الآية ٣٣

And who is better in speech than he who (says: “My Lord is Allāh (believes in His Oneness),” and then stands firm (acts upon His Order), and) invites (men) to Allah’s (Islamic monotheism) and does righteous deeds, and says: “I am one of the Muslims.” (*Qur’ān* 41 V. 33)

## DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to all the *Du'at* (Teachers, preachers, advisers, admonishers and conveyers of Islam) among the *Ummah* of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). May Allāh (S.W.T) reward them abundantly, Ameen.

## **DECLARATION**

I Aminu Alhaji Bala do solemnly affirm that this Thesis titled: The Role and Impact of *Da'wah* in Sokoto Caliphate, Northern Nigeria, 1774 to Present Time, is the result of my own research work and has never been submitted before or concurrently to any University or Institution.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABU	=	Ahmadu Bello University (Zaria, Nigeria)
A.H	=	After Hijrah
B	=	Born, for example, Sheikh Gummi (b.1922)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation
C.E	=	Christian Era
D	=	Died, for example, Sheikh Gummi (d.1992)
Ed	=	Edited, for example, (ed. 1985)
JIBWIS	=	Jama'at Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatis Sunnah (Society for Eradication Of Innovation and Establishment of Tradition)
JNI	=	Jama'atu Nasrul Islam
MSSN	=	Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria
NBC	=	Northern Broadcasting Corporation
ND	=	No date of publication
NP	=	No place of publication
NP	=	No publication
NRN	=	Nigeria Research Network
P.	=	Page, for example, p87
PP.	=	Pages, for example, pp 87-98
RA	=	Radiyallahu 'Anh (May Allah be pleased with him)

S.A.W	=	Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)
S.W.T	=	Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala (Glory be unto Him The Most High)
UDUS	=	Usmanu Danfodiyo University (Sokoto, Nigeria)
VOL.	=	Volume of a book or Journal,

# TRANSLITERATION OF ARABIC LETTERS

In transliterating Arabic letters, the following system of symbols has been used:

Arabic Letter	English Symbol
ا	ā
ب	b
ت	t
ث	<u>th</u>
ج	j
ح	□
خ	<u>kh</u>
د	d
ذ	<u>dh</u>
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	<u>sh</u>
ص	□
ض	□
ط	□
ظ	□
ع	'
غ	<u>gh</u>

ف	_____	f
ق	_____	q
ك	_____	k
ل	_____	l
م	_____	m
ن	_____	n
ه	_____	h
و	_____	w
ى	_____	y



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title of the thesis .....	i
Approval page.....	ii
Ayah from the Qur'an.....	iii
Dedication.....	iv
Declaration.....	v
List of abbreviations.....	vi
Table of transliteration.....	viii
Acknowledgements.....	x
Table of contents.....	xii
Abstract.....	xviii

## CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Chapter one .....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	2
1.1.1 Definition of un-Islamic trend.....	6
1.2 Statement of problem.....	6
1.3 Aim and objectives.....	7
1.4 Methodology of the study.....	8
1.5 Scope and limitation of the study.....	10
1.6 Literature review.....	10

## CHAPTER TWO: BACKGROUND ON ISLAMIC *DA'WAH*

Chapter Two.....	17
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2.1 Definition and Importance of <i>Da'wah</i> .....	18
2.2 <i>Da'wah</i> in the Qur'an.....	23
2.3 <i>Da'wah</i> in the Sunnah.....	30
2.4 The position of <i>Da'wah</i> among the Muslim scholars.....	34
2.5 Basic elements of <i>Da'wah</i> .....	36
2.5.1 The caller ( <i>Dā'i</i> ).....	36
2.5.2 The respondent.....	38
2.5.3 Rights of respondent.....	39
2.5.4 Obligations of respondent.....	39
2.5.5 The subject matter of <i>Da'wah</i> .....	41
2.6 Techniques of <i>Da'wah</i> .....	42
2.7 Types of <i>Da'wah</i> .....	46
2.8 Qualities and characters of <i>Dā'i</i> .....	47
2.8.1 Sincerity.....	47
2.8.2 Knowledge.....	48
2.8.3 Practicing what one preaches.....	50
2.8.4 Wisdom and beautiful preaching.....	51
2.8.5 Perseverance.....	52
2.8.6 Moral excellence.....	52

**CHAPTER THREE:**  
**THE IMPACT OF *DA'WAH* IN THE INTRODUCTION OF ISLAM IN HAUSALAND, FOCUSING ON NORTHERN NIGERIA**

Chapter Three.....	54
3.1 Geographical location of Hausaland.....	55
3.2 The people of Hausaland.....	56
3.3 Their socio-cultural setup.....	59
3.4 Their belief system before Islam.....	61
3.5 Introduction and spread of Islam in Hausaland.....	64
3.6 The spread of un-Islamic trends in Hausaland.....	76
3.7 Some prominent scholars in Hausaland.....	79

**CHAPTER FOUR:**  
**THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF *DA'WAH* OF SOKOTO CALIPHATE SCHOLARS**

Chapter Four.....	85
4.1 The biography of three prominent Caliphate leaders.....	86
4.1.1 Biography of Shaykh 'Uthman Ibn Fodiyo.....	86
4.1.2 Biography of Shaykh 'Abdullah Ibn Fodiyo.....	90
4.1.3 Biography of Shaykh Muhammad Bello.....	93
4.1.4 Others scholars/ <i>Du'āt</i> .....	94
4.2 Their Theological foundation.....	95
4.3 Their teaching activities.....	97
4.4 Preaching tours.....	99

4.5 Methodology in propagating against corrupt belief, innovations and all forms of un-Islamic trends in Hausaland. ....	112
4.6 <i>Hijrah</i> to Gudu and preparation for the Jihad .....	119
4.7 Jihad and the establishment of the Sokoto Caliphate .....	124

## CHAPTER FIVE:

### THE RESPONCE OF *DA'WAH* IN THE SPREAD OF UN-ISLAMIC TRENDS BY THE BRITISH COLONIALISM

Chapter five .....	133
5.1 The beginning of colonization by the British colonial power .....	134
5.2 Introduction of secularism and abolition of Islamic form of leadership.....	142
5.3 Promoting man-made laws and abolition of Shari'ah law on criminal cases..	144
5.4 British Christianization policy of Northern Nigeria .....	149
5.5 Introduction of western education and relegating Islamic education.....	155
5.6 Ideological attack .....	162
5.7 Orientalists' contributions and attack on Islam .....	167
5.8 Conclusion. ....	171

## CHAPTER SIX:

### UN-ISLAMIC TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY NORTHERN NIGERIA

Chapter six.....	173
6.1 Traditional Un-Islamic Trend of Spirit worship .....	174
6.2 Devil Possession (Bori) .....	178
6.3 Magic and Witchcraft .....	181

6.4 Fortunetelling.....	185
6.5 Superstition.....	188
6.6 Sectarian Un-Islamic trend.....	192
6.6.1 Ahmadiyyah movement.....	192
6.6.2 Qur'aniyyun sect.....	194
6.6.3 Shi'ah sect.....	197
6.7 Western democracy and rule of law.....	200
6.8 Religious conflicts. ....	202
6.9 Conclusion.....	205

**CHAPTER SEVEN:  
THE IMPACT OF *DA'WAH* IN CONTEMPORARY  
NORTHERN NIGERIA**

Chapter seven.....	207
7.1 The impact of <i>Da'wah</i> of contemporary scholars in Northern Nigeria.....	208
7.2 The impact of <i>Da'wah</i> of religious organizations in Northern Nigeria.....	214
7.2.1 Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI).....	214
7.2.2 Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah wa Iqamatus Sunnah (Izala or JIBWIS).....	217
7.2.3 Muslims students' society of Nigeria (MSSN).....	220
7.2.4 Federation of Muslim women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN).....	222
7.3 The impact of <i>Da'wah</i> in the promotion of Islamic education and establishment of Islamiyyah schools.....	225
7.4 Results and research findings of the study.....	228

7.5 Summary and contributions to knowledge.....	231
7.6 Recommendations .....	235
7.7 Conclusion.....	237

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

1. Arabic References.....	239
2. English References .....	241
3. Dissertations and Theses.....	252
4. Internet References.....	254



## ABSTRACT

This research is about the role and impact of *Da'wah* in Sokoto caliphate, Northern Nigeria, from 1774 to the present time. It was carried out using Historical and Analytical methods. It looked at the role of *Da'wah* activities of many visiting and local scholars in the introduction and spread of Islam in Hausa land. It also highlighted the *Da'wah* activities of the Sokoto caliphate leaders in educating the people on Islamic ideology and its practice, this has aided the reformation of the people and its impact is felt in reducing the evil innovations in Northern Nigeria. It has also looked at the *Da'wah* methodologies of Sokoto caliphate leaders. This research has also highlighted the impact of *Da'wah* and its methodology in Islam. Un-Islamic trends in contemporary Northern Nigeria were also highlighted giving their genesis to the ignorance of some people and the British colonization, together with the secular system adopted by the country after independence. Also studied are the *Da'wah* activities of some contemporary selected Islamic organizations and scholars. Deviant sects who propagate sectarian trend *Da'wah* were also discussed, highlighting many of their un-Islamic trends which were a challenge to the spread of sound Islamic knowledge to the people. This research identified the activities of Islamic scholars and committed wealthy Muslims in spreading Islamic education and building new schools. Some of the findings of this research include: The un-Islamic trends addressed by the Sokoto caliphate scholars are presently reappearing and spreading even though the contemporary scholars are doing their best in eradicating them. This research also founded that the *Da'wah* of Shaykh 'Uthman bin Foduwe have led many people to reform their faith, and the practice of Islam. It also led many people to emulate his good works and to abandon customs contrary to the religion. Similarly, the literature he and his students wrote is numerous and their impact is felt even in the contemporary Northern Nigeria. Today their works were of great advantage to the Muslims in Northern Nigeria and has impacted them in all aspect of their life. Some of the recommendations of this research include: Though the scholars and religious organizations are presently active in *Da'wah* work, still much effort is expected from them to address the increasing spread of un-Islamic trends. The state governments of Northern Nigeria should also establish preaching boards to monitor the preaching of deviant sects to address their misinterpretations and misrepresentation of Islam. Majority of the Muslims of Northern Nigeria lives in the rural areas where ignorance is high and Islamic scholars was very scarce. Therefore, state governments of Northern Nigeria and wealthy Muslims should employ *Da'wah* workers and post them to various villages to carry teaching and preaching activities.

## ملخص

هذا البحث يتحدث في الدور وأهمية الدعوة الإسلامية في خلافة صوكتوا، شمال نيجيريا، من السنة ١٧٧٤ م إلى وقت الحاضر . وقد اعتنى الباحث في هذه الدراسة بالمنهج التاريخي والوصفي. واعتبر البحث بمجهودات علماء هوسا وغيرهم في نشر الدعوة الإسلامية في شمال نيجيريا. كما ألقى الضوء على فعالية الدعوة لدى علماء خلافة صوكتوا في تثقيف الناس و تعليمهم عقائد الإسلام، وبناء المجتمع بناءً مستقيماً في العقيدة والعبادات والمعاملات. وبين أن هذا العمل النير ساهم في إصلاح الناس، وإزالة البدع المنحرفة في شمال نيجيريا، كما اهتم هذا البحث على بيان منهج الذي اتبعه علماء خلافة صوكتوا في نشر الدعوة، كالوعظ والإرشاد والترغيب والترهيب والحكمة وغير ذلك. ونظر أيضا إلى مجموع الطرق المؤدية إلى إيصال الدعوة الإسلامية إلى عموم المدعوين، وتأثير الدعوة ومنهجيتها في الإسلام. وبين الباحث أن التيارات المخالفة للإسلام في شمال نيجيريا سببه الجهل بالدين، واستعمار البرطاني للبلاد، وعدم المبالاة بالدين في الدولة. كما يوضح البحث النشاطات الدعوية لبعض منظمات الإسلامية، والعلماء. وتناول الحديث حول الفرق الضالة وانحراف منهجها التي تلعب دورا فعالا في عدم فهم الدين الصحيح للناس. وبين دور العلماء والأغنياء في انتشار الثقافة الإسلامية، وبناء المدارس. ونتج البحث أن التيارات المخالفة للإسلام التي حاربها خلافة صوكتوا، بدأت تعود مجددا مع كل الجهود الذي قام به العلماء في بيان بطلان هذه التيارات. كما نتج بأن دعوة الشيخ عثمان بن فودي بينت للناس كيفية تطبيق الإسلام ومعتقداته، وفعل الخيرات وترك المنكرات .وكما بين أن خلافة صوكتوا تركت لشمال نيجيريا تراثا مهما. وأوصت الرسالة على أن يبذل العلماء مجهودا كبيرا في تثقيف الناس إلى معالم دينها الصحيح ، كما أوصت بقيام الدولة بتوعية أهل البوادي ليعلموا حقيقة هذا الدين الحنيف.