

Comboni College KHARTOUM

Comboni College was established in 1929 as a missionary school in the midst of Muslims and of the Eastern Christian community that existed in Khartoum at the time. Initially it was a boarding school for boys of more than 20 nationalities.



*School assembly prior to the start of the classes
Comboni College - Khartoum*

Its reputation excelled both academically and ethically with several national sportive successes. The college became attractive not only to expatriates but at the time of President Nimeri permission was given for Muslim students to be taught in this Catholic missionary school. Ministers and civil servants graduated from Comboni College Khartoum. Prominent businessmen and politicians contributed to the social and political structure of the nation.



*Prayer of the Our Father at the beginning of the day
Comboni College - Khartoum*

The course of education took a different turn after independence, several military coups and the nationalising of Islamic law (al-Sharia) as state law. Education was used for political aims. The Quranic schools were integrated with the state schools and the gradual change to Arabise and then Islamise all of the Sudan began through unifying the curriculum.

Then from 1999 a new Islamic syllabus was issued to all schools (government and private) whose implementation, had started beforehand socially and politically. It became in the new Millennium on the eve of the year 2000 a national proselytising engine, with the aim of forming a unified Islamic national identity. The ideology of unifying the Sudan into one Islamic "umma" (society) goes back to the time of the "mahdiyya" that began in 1881 AD. At the same moment of time as the rise of the "mahdiyya" the seed of the Comboni mission was planted in Khartoum. On his death bed St. Daniel Comboni with trust in God

said to his remaining missionaries "I die, but my work will go on" the work which is still going on to 'regenerate Africa with Africa'. Comboni College continues till now, giving its contribution to the Sudan through education in fidelity to the Spirit of St. Daniel Comboni without any discrimination. This spirit has been summarised in the aims of the Comboni schools statutes:

1.1 The aim of Comboni Schools is to strive for complete formation of the human person that looks to his or her final end as well as to the common good of society. Children and youths are to be nurtured in such a way that they are able to develop their physical, moral, and intellectual talents harmoniously, acquire a more perfect sense of responsibility and the right use of freedom, and are formed to participate actively in social life.



*Robert Abbo and Rania,
secretaries of the
Comboni College - Khartoum*

1.2. Comboni schools inspired by the vision of St. Daniel Comboni "Regeneration of Africa by Africa" that gives a method to the three fold development of the student, which must foster the maturity of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Forming future responsible members of society, the schools' aim is to share its universal outlook of education. While affirming national identity it wants to promote a positive international, poly-ethnic and multi-faith appreciation in the cultural growth of the students.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was signed in 2004 and now is being implemented remains a challenge to be realised. The young people in Khartoum both Christians and Muslims are influenced by the tabloids that are coloured by racial and religious prejudices. School curriculums in Basic and Secondary education are heavily Islamic in content and methodology. The idea of holy war (Jihad) is promoted through R.E. classes and subjects like Military Science. Young people are constantly caused to take sides in tribal conflicts. Within their close religiously mixed family circles they are overwhelmed with emotional and moral confusion. Comboni College is the only existing free space where students and young people can meet, have workshops and be educated. In the morning it is a regular school in the afternoon it runs afternoon and evening courses for university students and those who are no longer young, but are improving their English language and IT skills.



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