

# Why not all Muslims moving ahead in life

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Muslim nations have been weakened by their leaders' failure to provide quality education, the prime minister said.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said lack of knowledge was a serious problem in Muslim countries.

"Once, we (Muslims) were the creators and innovators. Now we are lagging while others have surpassed us.

"It is a failure if Muslim leaders cannot ensure that their people receive a solid education, the knowledge to move ahead in life," he said.

"We're lazy in seeking knowledge.

This is the real failure of the Muslim world today."

In his address to an international gathering of Islamic scholars in Seri Kembangan here yesterday, Abdullah said it was "a shame" that some Muslim leaders had not realised the importance of education.

"Leaders must ensure that everyone in their country has an equal opportunity to be sufficiently educated to read, write and count," he said before opening the annual conference of the World Islamic Call Society here.

"A real threat facing Muslims today is poverty and backwardness.

"If we want to return to our days of glory, education is the answer."

Based in Libya, the World Islamic

Call Society was formed in 1972 to provide a platform for the spread of Islam, its culture, as well as establishing inter-religious co-operation and dialogue.

Abdullah also said Muslims should adopt a more holistic approach to *dakwah*, or spreading the word of Islam.

"The context of *dakwah* can no longer be confined to the sole aim of attracting non-Muslims into Islam, although doing so is a paramount duty for all Muslims.

"The movement should now be aimed at removing the misconceptions and negative stereotyping of the Muslim world. The *dakwah* movement can play a pivotal role in raising understanding about Islam."