

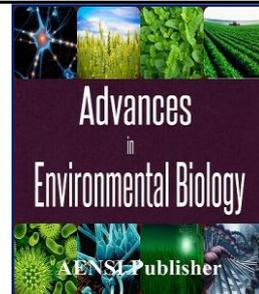


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Environmental Sustainability In Islam

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ABSTRACT

In Al-Quran, there are more than four hundred verses that mentioned about the earth. Islam believes that human and environment interaction is guided by ideas of the person as a caliph of the earth. The extensive evidence provided by Al-Qur'an shows that the earth is important to be protected for the next generation and is to be a safe place to keep. Thus, the earth should not be managed and exploited irresponsibly. Yet, the concept of sustainable development on the earth is complex and complicated. Muslims and mankind at large are being responsible to look after the environment and not to harm it. Thus, an Islamic method of a sustainable environmental life is including a peace and harmony life. This paper intends to display awareness and understanding among Muslims to preserve our environment through the references of Al-Quran and word of Prophet Muhammad (saw) in order to archive environmental sustainability. In addition, Al-Qur'an and Sunnah is a fundamental rules which containing provision how to handle and manage the environment to become sustainable development. Thus, Islam communicates through Al-Qur'an and Sunnah with Muslim in order to archive sustainable development. These provisions must not be ignored by Muslim, but everybody must follow.

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INTRODUCTION

Recently, planning realization for sustainable cities has always been a dream among the authorities, planners, architects, designers, local authority as well as the citizens itself. Due to the growth overcrowding cities and increasing concerns on environmental, sustainability has been a dynamic issue discussed throughout the world which now has moved focal stage issue such as unwisely resource use, degradation and other disaster made by human.

Basically, sustainable in development concept is a limitless of resources use, the importance of history or past lessons, preservation on natural resources, public participation, limitless of growth and community's cooperation [1]. The importance of sustainable is to consider to the future generation without compromising ability of their needs.

The sustainability concept in Islam is considering Islam as a rule and guide which can affect Muslim faith and their consequence to social, economic and environmental profits [2]. As Jarar and Al-Zoabi (2008) stated that every city has their own vision of sustainability [3]. However, from the Islamic view of points, sustainable development is human as represent of god's almighty in the earth by providing resources benefit without give harm and selfishly to monopolizing them. [4].

This has now rooted the environmental attitude which has brought modern civilization to the brink of disaster. Many of the damages done to the environment and to the interesting to remember that the use of science from the rights of future generations is due to the exploitation of total constraints imposed on it by religion was scientific power, science and technology.

It is quite an evidence that the depletion of natural resources and the deterioration of human environment has let out technological change and is now unable to control the unruly spirit. According to Umar and Khamidi (2012), human is God's favorite creation which has mind to think. In Islam, the interaction of human environment is directed by nation of human as a *khulafa* on the earth purposely with full of responsibility [5].

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2.0 Interrelated In Al-Quran And Sunnah:

Based on Islamic perspective, the development of science and technology nowadays is not a form of impunity to perform the course of environment damage and degradation towards religion condition because it's too universe in any part of the world [6]. However, progress of scientific was encouraged in Islam which must be accordance with Islamic values.

"Allah is He who raised The Heavens without any pillars that ye can see. He has subjected the sun and the moon! Each one runs (its course) for a term appointed. He doth regulate all affairs, explaining the sign in detail. And it is He who spread out the earth, and set thereon Mountains standing firm and (flowing) rivers, and fruits of every kind He made in pairs, two and two. He draweth the night as a veil O'er the day. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who consider." [7]

(Ar-Ra'd: 2-4)

The lines verse above displayed the appropriate ways of live and earthly components which we as Muslims must respect, protect and preserves our environment from harm and destroys. Besides, by doing that we directly protect god's creatures which is as Muslim believed that they are not creatures but they have their own spirits and purpose to be created. Interestingly, all creatures are believed to pray and praise Him and as humankind, even though we might not be able to know how they praise to God, it happens between creatures and their creator (Allah).

"The seven heavens and earth, and all beings therein, Declare His glory: There is not a thing but celebrates His praises; and yet ye understand not How they declare His glory!" [7]

(Al-Isra':4)

Allah commanded us to protect and preserve surrounding environment with the reason of human's action as the agents of God on this an earth [5]. Human as an agency which is unique, not blind and creative on their manner, so they will fulfill what God commanded them. Human have their responsibility as the God entrusted of looking after the earth. This responsible seems too burdensome, but which no other creatures are worthy to carry it because human is the only creatures has given a mind to think.

"Lo! We offered the trust unto the heavens and the Earth and the hills, but they shrank from bearing it and were afraid of it and man assumed it" [7]

(Al-Ahzab: 72)

Islam believes the believer to respect and preserve the value benefit resulting from the blessings of Allah by accessible to natural resources. A creation, which is so valued and designed with a good purpose which must be respect and preserved on its use is not shows of respect of Allah's blessings.

3.0 Courtesy Towards Environment:

Islam is a full way of life for those who has spirituality, peace adoring, modest and stick to the rules of the Supreme Sustained of nature and beyond [12]. The Sharia laws regulations underline the general methods regarding the best technique to practice sustainability actions for protection, restoration and preservation of the natural resources.

The prophet Muhammad (saw) is a pioneer of environmentalism ideas. The life of prophet shows that he was an advocate of environmental protection, thus, can maintain to give balance and harmony between nature and environment [8].

For all of his life, what that we read and learn from prophet is he always respects flora and fauna element which that earth, water, fire and air. Moreover, he also give proper treatment to animals, plants, cultivation land and others sustainable use which is useful for entire living things.

Prophet believed that all creatures on earth should have their own right, because God's creations is to be equal before God and he believed that all the universe and creation was not created for humankind such plants, animal, others, but every creatures has their own responsible towards their creator.

Islam likes to keep environment clean and peaceful. Cleanliness is part of Islam teaching. The principle of cleanliness does not only apply to physical action of human, but must be applied to the internal mind and externally to the environment [6]. So, it's important to protect environment from pollution. Thus, prophet said those are removing harmful from the way is a sadaqah.

4.0 Methodology:

This study analyses the interrelation of environmental sustainability in Al-Qur'an and Sunnah and good values from Prophet Muhammad (saw). Hence, in order to display awareness and understanding among Muslims to preserve our environment, some verse line of Al-Qur'an and Sunnah will be identifying as references to archive environmental sustainability. Based on content analysis, proves and lines of Al-Qur'an have been highlighted to prove at the end which is important human to protect, respect and preserve of Mother Nature and environment for future generation.

5.0 Discussion:

Based on this study, some discussion reveals the importance relation of environmental sustainability in Al-Qur'an and Sunnah and good values from Prophet Muhammad (saw) in order to display awareness and understanding among Muslims to preserve our environment [14]. It is highly emphasized by the Quran and Sunnah on the concept of sustainability where human kind should be responsible on what is happening to the environment as a *khulafa* on earth.

5.1 Thankful (Syukr'):

To archive a good quality of life, human must be always thankful with what they have now. Therefore, the role of human is taking good care and protects our earthly and nature surrounding [11]. God created the earth in perfect order and balance. As stated in Al-Quran (14: 19-20), all Allah's creation is proper purposely detailed with the benefit for all human kind because God is the bestowed on his blessing on the earth [7].

In order to respect and appreciate all of Allah's give, we should practice what of Islam teaching towards to look after the environment such as respect all creatures on earth without degraded natural resources and use it as wise as possible for human development.

5.2 Spiritual self-discipline and responsibility:

This spiritual self-discipline is the individual responsibility of believers. Muslims are required to develop their inner potential of understanding and exploration, and to apply their spiritual wisdom to the efficient improvement of the world as a validation of their religious rise to the divine. Spiritual self-discipline is not only addressing the building of finely passive spiritual, emotional, or moral qualities but continually invoking the responsibility of perfecting human and social environments.

Religious deeds in Islam are viewed according to the positive changes they bring to human life hormonally and peace [9]. As I believe, something responsible or action taken must be starting from our self either positive or negative. Thus, those can bring benefit to the rest of humanity and environment is the best people [13].

5.3 Sustainable learning:

Every day is a learning process. Islam encourages Muslims to learn in the name of God (Asma Al-husna) while commanding them to apply their knowledge to assure its good use for human welfare as per the following Qur'anic instruction; 'And for those that save the life of one, it will be as if he had saved all mankind's life' (Qur'an 5:32) [7].

In order to develop a sustainable basis for learning, the Quran associates learning with effective communication in what might be referred to as common grounds of understanding. As a Muslim, we must engage in understanding all sources of wisdom such as Al-Qur'an and Hadith as a guideline by supporting human development. Sharing knowledge is part and parcel of building human capital and improving intellectual, social and civic institutions [10]. Such contributions to sustainability need not be viewed outside the folds of religious devotion for they help build the human potential necessary for better human life; paving the way for the most effective recipe of sustainability.

Conclusion:

This paper intends to display awareness and understanding among Muslims to preserve the environment through the references of Al-Quran and word of Prophet Muhammad (saw) in order to archive environmental sustainability. The conclusions of this study are as follow:

1. Nowadays, Islam is the one of fast growing religion in the world, with estimated of billion followers has the astounding competence by adapting to ever varying conditions. The basic objective of Islamic shariah is to provide supervision and approach of life to its followers.
2. Islam encourages preserving the universe, managing the resources and protecting the environment. As Muslim, has their own responsibility to monitor his own behavior even no one is watching and knowing.
3. Al-Qur'an and Sunnah is a fundamental rules which containing provision how to handle and manage the environment to become sustainable development.
4. Islam communicates through Al-Qur'an and Sunnah with Muslim in order to archive sustainable development. These provisions must not be ignored by Muslim, but everybody must follow.
5. The implementation of Green Building Index (GBI) in Malaysia's industry is one of the tools which identifies green rating in a building to promote sustainability in built environment in order to enhance awareness among developers, planners, architectures, local authorities and others.
6. In my opinion, Malaysia is a quite good recorded in developing policy, guideline and others towards sustainable development and environment but yet still have some weaknesses in its implementation towards sustainable issues such land degradation, landfill, flash floods and others. Hence, I believe, natural disaster was close enough with human activities.

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