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Islamic Philosophy on Behaviour - Based Environmental Attitude

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Abstract

This paper concludes philosophical elements regarding conceptual theory and significances of human attitude towards the environment. In a sustainable life, environmental management becomes the most crucial area to be concerned. There are many campaigns, courses and even legal enforcement to ensure the success of educating attitude towards environment. This could be more effective and eternal effects, if the understanding of environmental attitude would be based on religious teachings and philosophy. This paper guides the dos and don'ts and positive or negative behavior towards environmental entities, including metaphysical entities, as mentioned in the muslim's Holy book and prophet's traditions.

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1. Introduction

Human being is one of the entities created by Allah in the whole ecological system. Hence, its existence is always correlated to other environmental entities. In its manifestation, Islam divides human interaction into three categories; interaction with Allah (the Creator), interaction with human beings (environmental entity of the same species) and interaction with the environment (entities other than human beings). This indicates that the perfection (syumul) of Islam hinges on application of the whole interaction between humans and the environment; physics and metaphysics. This paper highlighted an Islamic conceptual framework to be understood, in order to guide the *do's and don'ts*, good or bad habits and positive or negative behavior towards environmental entities, including metaphysical entities. The most important point is, this philosophy would be the platform towards designing approaches, strategies or activities towards inculcating good behavior towards environment.

2. Research Objectives

This paper is designed for the purpose of:

- identifying the best alternative philosophy on environmentalism and environmental behavior
- analyzing Islamic resources on attitude towards environment
- initiating the conceptual framework of strategies in environmental behavior studies.

3. Behavior Towards Environment: Islamic Views

Most religions in the world emphasize on human interactions with the environment in various perspectives. Jews, for instance, celebrate a special new year for plants and crops known as Tu B'Shevat. Similarly, Christians are always exposed to fish, birds and wildlife (as per The Genesis) while Christmas and Easter songs are always related to animals and plants. Sikhs on the other hand, believe that their God lives on the tree, dreams of animals and wakes amongst humans. Meanwhile, Buddhists celebrate several celebrations by praying for a harmonious environment (A. R. Agwan, 1997). This in a way reflects the close interaction between humans and the environment as the content of most religions in the world. In Islam itself, human interaction with the environment is being mentioned various times in the Holy Quran, supported by Hadith and further explained in detail by companions and scholars. The verse in the Holy Quran regarding the assignment of humans as the Caliph started with the general interaction between humans and the earth, and supported by many other verses.

From the (earth) did We create you, and into it shall We return you, and from it shall We bring you out once again.

(Taha: 55)

And seek the abode of the Hereafter with the wealth that Allah has given you, and do not forget your part in this world, and do favours (to others) the way Allah has favoured you, and do not seek to cause turmoil in the earth; indeed Allah does not like the mischievous.

(Al Qasas: 77)

The same applies to the Hadith by Rasulullah (PBUH), that is translated as:

This world is beautiful and green and Allah has made you His representatives on it and He sees (all things).

(Narrated by Muslim)

According to the details by previous muslim scholars, human interaction with the environment can be concluded into a more specific interaction; such as interaction between humans and the God (as worshippers), interaction amongst humans (as human beings in a society) as well as interaction between

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