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Environmental Preservation in the Islamic Perspective for the Quality of the Welfare of the People

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Abstract

In the view of Islam, environmental conservation is not only a duty of humans as stewards of the Earth but also a foundation for the community's overall welfare. This article elucidates how the concept of quality welfare for the community in Islam is closely related to environmental conservation, outlining several vital aspects. Firstly, the article highlights the relationship between environmental health and cleanliness with the physical welfare of the community, as well as the importance of sustainable resource management to support the community's economic needs. Second, it emphasizes the importance of maintaining the balance of natural ecosystems to prevent disasters and social conflicts. Thirdly, the article discusses the positive impact of environmental conservation on the spiritual welfare of the community, as reflected in the respect for nature as Allah's creation. Fourthly, it describes how environmental conservation efforts can enhance social awareness and strengthen community solidarity. Thus, the article concludes that environmental conservation in Islam is not only about preserving nature physically but also about creating holistic welfare for the community, encompassing physical, economic, spiritual, and social aspects.

Keywords*: Environment, Welfare, Community, Conservation, Awareness.*

Introduction

In the current global context, environmental preservation has become a significant concern for many communities worldwide. It is no exception in the Islamic view, where

environmental conservation has deep roots in religious teachings and the philosophy of life. From an Islamic perspective, the sustainability of nature and the welfare of humanity cannot be separated from each other. This article explores the close relationship between environmental preservation and the quality of people's welfare from an Islamic perspective. In the Islamic view, the universe was created by Allah SWT as a place for humans and other creatures to live. Therefore, maintaining the balance and sustainability of nature is an integral part of obedience to Allah and concern for others.

Environmental conservation in Islam covers various aspects, from the wise management of natural resources to biodiversity protection. The concept of people's welfare in Islam includes material happiness and spiritual, social, and environmental welfare. Therefore, environmental conservation efforts in Islam have physical and economic benefits and support the creation of a balanced and harmonious society. Through this article, we will investigate various Islamic principles and teachings related to environmental conservation, as well as how these efforts can improve the overall quality of welfare of the people. Thus, it is hoped that this article can provide deeper insight into the importance of protecting the environment from an Islamic perspective and how this relates to human welfare.

Method

Environmental preservation is critical to improving the quality of people's welfare. In Islamic teachings, the universe and its contents are seen as God's creation, which humans must protect, manage, and preserve with full responsibility. This view is reflected in many verses of the Koran and the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, which teach Allah the importance of protecting nature as an act of worship.

A critical aspect of the Islamic view of environmental conservation is the concept of caliph fil ard (steward of the earth). Humans are seen as God's representatives on earth who are responsible for the maintenance and sustainability of the universe. This concept teaches that humans must act as stewards or guardians responsible for all life forms and the environment around them. Actions to protect nature are intended for human benefit and as a form of respect and worship to the Creator.

Environmental conservation in Islam is also influenced by the concept of tawhid (the oneness of Allah). Understanding that the universe is a closely related unit and that all of Allah's creations have their value and role encourages Muslims to respect and maintain the

balance of the ecosystem. This concept also emphasizes that actions that damage the environment will impact natural harmony and human welfare.

Apart from that, Islamic law principles, such as Sharia law, also guide environmental conservation efforts. For example, the concepts of haram (forbidden) and halal (permissible) in Islam can be applied in environmental conservation, where actions that damage the environment are considered haram and actions that protect and preserve nature are considered part of worship.

In the Islamic view, environmental preservation also includes social and economic aspects. Islam teaches the importance of fair use of natural resources so that people's rights, including the rights of future generations, must be respected and protected. In addition, the concept of alms (good deeds) and sharing sustenance in Islam encourages people to use natural resources wisely and provide attention to those in need.

By understanding and implementing Islamic values and teachings regarding environmental conservation, Muslims can actively preserve nature for the quality of human welfare. Through consistent awareness and action in protecting the environment, Muslims can become agents of positive change in protecting the universe for future generations.

Results and Discussion

A. The concept of caliph fil ard (earth steward) in Islam influences the responsibility of Muslims in protecting and preserving the environment

The concept of caliph fil ard (manager of the earth) in Islam is a fundamental concept that provides the basis for the responsibility of Muslims to protect and preserve the environment. This concept emphasizes that humans are God's representatives on earth who must manage, protect and care for the universe and its contents by His will. Understanding the concept of caliph fil ard influences the attitudes and actions of Muslims in dealing with environmental issues because this concept views nature as a trust that must be safeguarded with full responsibility.

In the context of the caliph fil ard concept, the responsibility of Muslims towards the environment includes several main aspects:

1. **Care and Maintenance**: Muslims are commanded to look after and care for the universe as a form of worship to Allah. This includes concrete actions such as

maintaining environmental cleanliness, respecting flora and fauna, and maintaining ecosystem balance.

2. **Wise Utilization**: The concept of caliph fil ard requires Muslims to use natural resources wisely and sustainably. This means utilizing nature for the benefit of humans while still paying attention to its sustainability and the rights of future generations.
3. **Justice and Balance**: Muslims are also commanded to act pretty when utilizing natural resources. The concept of caliph fil ard emphasizes the importance of maintaining ecosystem balance and ensuring that all creatures created by Allah receive their rights fairly.
4. **Education and Awareness**: This concept also encourages Muslims to continue educating themselves and increasing awareness of the importance of environmental conservation. By understanding Islamic teachings about the caliph fil ard, Muslims are expected to be active agents of change in protecting the universe

By understanding the concept of caliph fil ard, Muslims are expected to be able to internalize environmental values in every aspect of their lives. This includes everyday actions such as waste management, renewable energy, and other efforts to reduce the ecological footprint. This concept also influences the collective actions of Muslims in fighting for fair and sustainable environmental policies at the local, national, and international levels.

Thus, the concept of caliph fil ard in Islam significantly impacts Muslims' responsibility towards preserving the environment. According to Islamic teachings, Muslims are expected to be pioneers in preserving nature for the quality of human welfare as a whole by carrying out their role as managers of the earth.

B. Islamic values and teachings that can be the basis for preserving the environment and how they are applied in the daily lives of Muslims

Islam, as a holistic religion, provides a strong foundation for environmental preservation through the values and teachings of the Al-Quran, the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, and the principles of sharia law. Several Islamic values and teachings which are the basis for environmental preservation and their application in the daily lives of Muslims include:

1. **Belief in God (Tauhid)**: The value of monotheism teaches that the universe is the only creation of Allah SWT so that humans, as caliphs on earth, have the responsibility to manage nature with great care and respect for the Creator.

2. **Trust and Responsibility (Trusteeship)**: The concept of trust emphasizes that humans are responsible for managing and maintaining the universe. Therefore, Muslims must preserve the environment as an act of worship to Allah SWT.

3. **Justice (Fair)**: The principle of Islamic justice teaches that every creature created by Allah has the same right to live and develop. Therefore, Muslims are required to treat nature and all creatures in it fairly and avoid actions that are detrimental to the environment.

4. **Moderation**: Islam encourages its followers to live and avoid waste and consumer behaviour detrimental to the environment. This attitude is reflected in teachings about using natural resources wisely.

5. **Balance (Mizan)**: The concept of balance in Islam emphasizes maintaining harmony between humans, nature and other creatures. Muslims are taught to avoid actions that could disrupt the balance of the ecosystem and damage the environment.

The application of Islamic values and teachings in the daily lives of Muslims can be done through various concrete actions, including:

a) Reduce consumption and waste: Muslims can reduce excessive consumption and avoid wasting natural resources by adopting a simple and frugal lifestyle.

b) Maintaining a clean environment: Muslims are taught to maintain the cleanliness of the surrounding environment, including waste management and good sanitation.

c) Utilize renewable energy: Use renewable energy such as solar or wind as an environmentally friendly alternative.

d) Water conservation: Maintaining water sustainability by conserving water through saving practices and wise management.

e) Tree planting: Planting trees contributes to maintaining ecosystem balance and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

By applying Islamic values and teachings in everyday life, Muslims can actively preserve the environment and the universe as part of their worship and moral obligations to Allah SWT.

C. The influence of understanding the concept of tawhid (oneness of Allah) in Islam on the awareness of Muslims in maintaining the balance of ecosystems and the environment

The concept of tawhid (believe of Allah) in Islam deeply influences Muslims' awareness of maintaining the balance of the ecosystem and the environment. Tawhid teaches that Allah is the only God who perfectly created and regulated this universe. A correct understanding of tawhid implies that everything in nature is related and interconnected and that the existence of this universe is proof of Allah's greatness and power.

The influence of understanding the concept of tawhid on the awareness of Muslims in maintaining the balance of ecosystems and the environment can be explained as follows:

1. **Awareness of the Interconnectedness of the Universe**: An understanding of tawhid teaches that the universe is one creation of Allah, so everything in it is closely related and interrelated. This brings awareness that every human action on the environment will have a far-reaching impact and can disrupt the balance of the ecosystem as a whole.

2. **Respect for Allah's Creation**: The concept of tawhid teaches that everything in nature is Allah's creation worthy of respect and protection. It is difficult for Muslims to damage or destroy the environment because this can be considered a form of disobedience to the power of Allah, who created it.

3. **Responsibility as Khalifah on Earth**: Understanding tawhid also strengthens the understanding that humans are caliphs (managers) responsible for caring for and preserving nature. Awareness of this responsibility encourages Muslims to act responsibly in protecting the ecosystem and environment as part of their worship of Allah.

4. **Concern for the Welfare of Allah's Creatures**: The concept of tawhid also emphasizes the importance of respecting and caring for other living creatures as part of obedience to Allah. Awareness of the interconnectedness between humans and the rest of nature encourages Muslims to develop an attitude of empathy and concern for the welfare of all creatures created by Allah, including flora, fauna and the natural environment.

Thus, a deep understanding of tawhid in Islam positively influences Muslims' awareness of maintaining the balance of the ecosystem and environment. This implies that environmental preservation is a moral responsibility and an integral part of worship and

obedience to Allah SWT. By practising the values contained in tawhid, Muslims are expected to be pioneers in preserving nature for future generations' common welfare.

D. Implementation of sharia legal principles, such as the concept of haram (forbidden) and halal (permissible), in the context of environmental preservation in the Islamic perspective to improve the quality of welfare of the people

Implementing sharia legal principles, such as the concept of haram (forbidden) and halal (permissible), in the context of environmental conservation in the Islamic view, can significantly improve the quality of people's welfare. Sharia legal principles provide clear guidelines regarding permitted and prohibited actions and regulate human relations with the natural surroundings. The following is an explanation of the implementation of these principles in the context of environmental conservation:

1. **Concept of Haram and Halal**: In Islam, the concepts of haram and halal are used to determine actions or items that are permitted or not in the daily life of Muslims. In the environmental context, this principle can be implemented by taking actions that damage the environment, such as haram, and taking actions that protect and preserve the environment, such as halal. For example, illegal logging that destroys forests and their ecosystems can be considered haram, while the act of planting trees and preserving forests can be considered halal.

2. **Resource Management**: Sharia legal principles also guide the management of natural resources. Islam teaches its people to use natural resources wisely and sustainably. This includes maintaining water and air quality, protecting forests and wildlife, and limiting overexploitation of natural resources.

3. **Social Justice**: The concept of social justice in Islam is also relevant to environmental conservation. Islam emphasizes the importance of fairness in distributing and utilizing natural resources. This principle can be implemented by ensuring that all levels of society have equal access to natural resources and that the interests of future generations are also considered in environmental management.

4. **Ethics and Responsibility**: Sharia legal principles also encourage Muslims to internalize ethics and responsibility in protecting the environment. This includes actions such as keeping the environment clean, reducing waste, and respecting the lives of other creatures. Upholding ethics and responsibility can encourage collective action in environmental conservation.

By applying the principles of Sharia law in the context of environmental conservation, Muslims can play a significant role in improving the overall quality of welfare of the Ummah. By avoiding actions that damage the environment and taking concrete actions to preserve nature, Muslims can contribute to sustainable development and create a better environment for future generations.

Conclusion

Islamic views provide a solid foundation for protecting the environment through concepts such as Khalifah fil ard, tawhid, haram and halal, and Sharia legal principles. The concept of the caliph fil ard teaches that humans are stewards of the earth and responsible for maintaining the universe. This encourages Muslims to respect nature as a sign of Allah's greatness and maintain the balance of the ecosystem. Understanding tawhid strengthens awareness of the interconnectedness of everything in the universe, making environmental conservation a form of obedience to the Creator. Furthermore, the principles of haram and halal provide guidelines regarding permitted and prohibited actions and regulating human relations with the environment. This ensures that actions that destroy nature are considered haram, while actions that protect and preserve it are considered halal. Implementing Sharia law principles also leads to wise management of natural resources, fair distribution, and enforcement of ethics and responsibility in protecting the environment. Thus, the Islamic view on environmental conservation functions as a moral guideline and a strong foundation for Muslims to preserve nature for shared prosperity. With awareness of their responsibilities as caliphs on earth, Muslims are expected to be pioneers in environmental conservation efforts for a sustainable life.

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