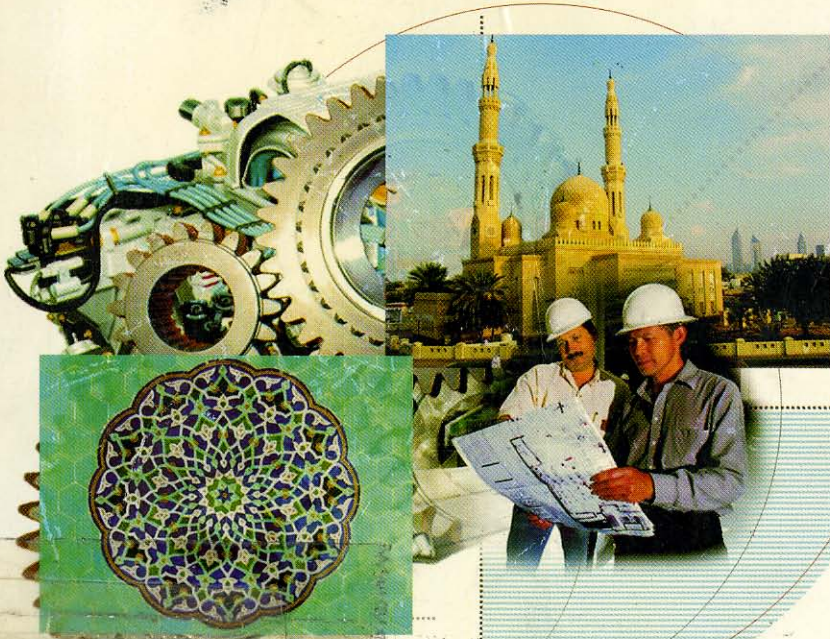


Islamic Engineering Ethics

Foundation Integration
and Practice



Future Text Publications

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ISLAMIC ENGINEERING ETHICS

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ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

Parveen Jamal and Hamzah Mohd. Salleh

INTRODUCTION

With the increase of population of the world, food demand is also increasing. This phenomenon will continue. In times to come, contrary to developed countries, the food demand in developing countries will escalate, because in developed countries, the population will stabilize and developing countries' population will keep on growing at 3 to 4 per cent per annum. This phenomenon will demand building more and more settlements and related infrastructures and facilities to ensure a comfortable living. For this, we will have to sacrifice our agricultural lands and forests to the sustainable extent. The increased population will demand a healthy environment, health promotion facilities, both prevention and cure. If these demands are not met amicably, the world will confront with a disastrous situation and the developing countries will be immensely hit from the afflictions and sufferance. Only biotechnology scientists can avert this type of situation and they are making their best efforts. All states, including developing countries like Malaysia, have increased their biotechnology budget allocations, and they are providing all kinds of facilities to their scientists to spearhead as fast as possible. It seems that after the information and communication technology, including the computer engineering, the era that is knocking at the door of the k-economy is the biotechnology, especially its area of gene manipulation and bio-pharmaceuticals.

However, the field of biotechnology is suffering from various problems and challenges - legal, social, religious and ethical. The purpose of writing this paper is to highlight some of the ethical problems and to make modest attempts to find possible pragmatic solutions to them.