

Environmental and Safety: Sustainable development

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Abstract— Great number of verses in Qura'n and multiple sayings of the Prophet Muhammad indicate the great importance that has been given to safety. Qur'an and Sunnah are the certainty that is never mixed with doubt, the light that dissipates darkness and the correct guidance that repels misguidance and prevents loss and failure for all of mankind. Allah (SWT) says: "Verily, this Qur'an guides to that which is most just and right." (17:9).

The concept of safety issue as of sustainable development in Islam can be defined as "absolute safety of mankind in his-self, property, blood and wealth in addition to the balanced and simultaneous realization of consumer welfare, economic efficiency, attainment of social justice, and safe of socially interactive based process".

Based on teaching of Islam, the universe has been created by Allah (God) with a specific purpose and for a limited time to enjoy and survive. The paper will highlight sustainability of safety to mankind in consuming all natural resources – land, water, air, fire (energy), forests, oceans – that considered the right and the joint property of the entire humankind. Since Man is Khalifatullah (the vicegerent of Allah) on earth, he should take all preventive measure to ensure the interests and rights of others, and regard his mastery over his allotted piece of land as a joint ownership with the next generation.

Keywords- Sustainable, Safety, Ethics and values

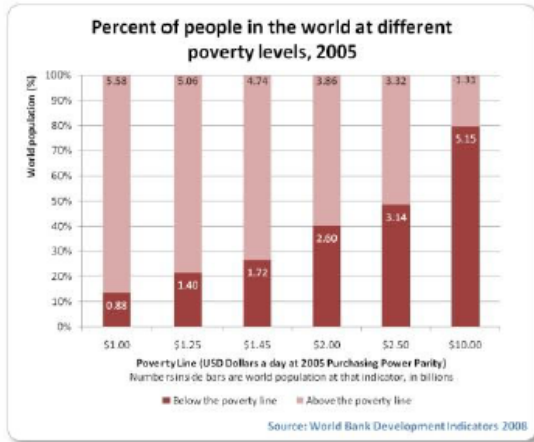
I. INTRODUCTION

In 1983, the United Nations established the world commission on environment and development, which published in 1987 its flagship report entitled: "Our common future". This report warns that unless

the present living patterns are changed, the world will face unacceptable levels of human misery and environmental degradation. The success of sustainable development depends on the belief and practice of the fact that the Islamic faith lays great stress on improving the condition of earth at the hands of human beings, as human beings are described as the Khalifa (vicegerents) of Allah on earth. Whatever Allah has created in universe was created in due proportion and measure both quantitatively and qualitatively and the benefit must be for all as well. ALLAH s.w.t when created the earth on four days and decided on each part for certain group make it equally and evenly distributed, later on human by their injustice spoil what ALLAH s.w.t did.

Poverty is considered to be the first environmental problem faced and will face human beings on earth; the numbers of the poor in the world increased in the early 1990s, decreased by the mid-1990s and rose up once again in the aftermath of the last financial crisis. Almost half the world — over three

billion people live on less than \$2.50 a day. At least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10 a day [1,2].



Growth will similarly result in pressures on the environment and increase of the demand for natural resources. Development depends on the size of the environment to provide human beings with a variety of goods and services for the present generation as well as future ones. For people depend on the environment to obtain food, water, shelter, energy and medicine. The environmental development would surely protect the soil productivity, uphold the soundness of the natural food chain and support the biodiversity necessary for reproduction as well as source of food. Therefore, the real basis of development is in finding the mixture of policies, institutions and technologies that could introduce stability between the environmental, social and economic dimensions.



Figure 2: Basis of environmental development

II. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

Allah s.w.t describes to human the evil end and consequence of misbehavior, envy, injustice and absence of safety in the story of the two sons of Adam, Habil and Qabil. One of them fought against the other and killed him out of envy and transgression, because of the bounty that Allah gave his brother and because the sacrifice that he sincerely offered to Allah was accepted. The murdered brother earned forgiveness for his sins and was admitted into Paradise, while the murderer failed and earned a losing deal in both the lives. Allah said,

(وَأْتَلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ الْبِئْسَ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ)

Qur'an and *Hadith* of prophet *s.a.w* are fully advised with verse of safety as in surah Fatiha, Ayat Kursi, in Al-Imran verse 18 and 26. In hadith Abdullah bin Umar narrated that once Umar asked the people: “Who will tell me which verse in the Holy *Qur'an* is the greatest? And which verse will spur people to be just and fair? And which verse is

most effective in instilling fear into the hearts of people? And which verse is most effective in building the hopes of people?" No one answered. Abdullah bin Mas'ud finally responded by saying that he heard Rasulullah *a.s.w* saying on the mimbar that the greatest verse of the Holy *Qur'an* is *Ayatul Kursi*; and the verse most effective in urging people to be just is

(إن الله يأمر بالعدل والإحسان وإيتاء ذي القربى وينهى عن الفحشاء والمنكر والبغى يعظكم لعلكم تذكرون)

Whatever the material attainments of human beings, they are basically limited to the quantitative, rather than qualitative, aspect of development. In reality, all the development strategies followed by nations, particularly the industrial countries, have been characterized by negligence of the environmental considerations as in American, Europe, Japan and recently China. This has largely contributed to the decline of environmental conditions on earth. In the last century, human pressures on the ecosystems, water and changing their style of life to more luxury ones were mainly characterized by the increase of the world production eighteen times over, together with a four-fold doubling of population. In the meantime, the economic and development activities of human beings had greatly restricted with the natural components that led to dysfunction of the ecosystems and, consequently, the emergence of severe natural phenomena such as heavy floods, haze from forest fires, land retreat and increasing the area of Sahara worldwide.

Natural disasters in the last decade increased by three times as many of what it was in the 1990s. The economic costs suffered due to these disasters hiked by nine times as much.

The Islamic Countries, poor as they were, had to suffer the largest portion of such costs [3]. In most cases the poorest are the most affected by environment degradation. The poor, unlike the rich, very difficult for them to defend themselves against many forms of pollution relating to their life patterns, the lands of the poor will be exposed to soil erosion. A large portion of their living is obtained from public sources such as the common grazing lands and forests from where they usually gather foodstuff, the fuel, and building materials. The loss of these sources would surely enforce risk especially on the poor [4]. The environmental problems faced by the Islamic Countries, such as polluted water, lack of wastewater treatment, soil erosion, cooking emissions, coal emissions, acid deposition, climate changes, environmental disasters, environmental effects of welfare, filamentous bacteria, floods, global warming and green-house effect, ground water pollution, ozone toxicology, particulate matter, heavy metals, irrigation water pollution, odour are quite different from those encountered by the rich, developed countries. Developed nations, however, mainly face such problems as ozone depletion, climate change, acid rain, hazardous wastes, recent environmental disasters and the like.

Environmental problems in the Islamic Countries are more dangerous, direct and immediate to life. The present environmental problems are more the result of overconsumption in the developed nations than that of the huge population growth in the Islamic Countries as Nigeria, Egypt, Bangladesh and Indonesia. For instance, the United States of America has 5 percent of the world population, but its share of the world product is 25 percent with consumption of 25 percent of the world energy and is responsible for 22 percent of total CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere [5].

In contrast, India has 16 percent of the world population; but its share of the world product is merely 1 percent with a consumption of 2 percent of world energy and is responsible for only 3 percent of the CO₂ emissions [5]. In view of this disparity, and in light of the fact that protection of the environment is a joint responsibility of the world community, the developed nations should bear their historical and essential responsibility for the global environmental degradation [6].

On this basis, the developed countries have to increase their contribution in the budgets of the international organizations so that environmental programs in the Islamic Countries could be financed. They are also requested to accelerate the pace of capacity building and transfer of technology to the Islamic Countries in addition to a commitment to maintain the level of support agreed to under the auspices of the United Nations.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The economic changes, over the last few decades, had increased negatively, in the world now there are over 1300 billion persons in the world living under one dollar a day. Beside this indicator of quantitative poverty, there is a qualitative deterioration in human life as shortage of potable water and bad sewage systems dominate 80 percent of the lands in the Islamic Countries in these areas, 5 million persons die every year, half of them children. Similarly, almost 1 million persons inhabiting the cities are exposed to pollution levels that are detrimental to health; due to this, 50,000 persons die and 400,000 others are annually infected with pneumonic symptoms.

The health, safety, and well-being of human on earth are of supreme importance to ALLAH s.w.t and to his Khalifa whom are we and are critical to the ability to conduct everything on earth. Continually monitor our safety progress to ensure that all are working as effectively as possible.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates diseases resulting from environmental deterioration at 25 percent of the world total preventable diseases [8]. Pollution and threats to the environment are surely many. However, the priorities of environmental issues or challenges are different from one area to another as from country to country and period to period. All nations, especially the developing ones, are first aiming to eliminate

poverty and solve the problems of dehydration and hunger at the global, macro and micro level.

IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

All nations are equally eager to maintain their economic welfare and stability. Some of them even exhibit an ambition to accelerate their economic development, this one create greediness from strong towards weak nations. Achieving such objectives depends on several things, the most important of which is the ability to adapt to international changes. This involves putting into action clear-cut policies with specific priorities to increase a country's share of international trade and investment. It also involves implementing programs, which are geared to promote the quality of human beings, acquire advanced technologies, establish a sustainable production base, and introduce a climate of competition in the domestic market to unleash creativity and boost production. In the meantime, this will ensure a better quality of life through conservation of the natural and environmental resources at the behest of man [8]. Islamic teachings were pioneer in the domain of conservation, sustainable development and resource management, and one which constantly sought to maintain a harmonious balance between man and nature. Religious awareness and Islamic guidance include a call to all individuals, at all levels and by

all possible means, to commit themselves to Islamic morals and manners in dealing with nature, the Environment and the natural resources for their sustainable use and development. For safety issue on the other hand the following if done precisely can add on the sustainability:

- Identify and reduce safety risks
- Develop supporting standards and guidelines
- Share best practices throughout the world
- Continually improve the health, safety, reliability, and efficiency of operations
- Be fully implemented in all and for all

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