

## The Potential Of Islamic Teachings To Support Global Water Sustainability Initiatives

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### Abstract:

*This paper investigates how Islamic teachings and precepts might support international initiatives promoting water sustainability. This study shows the potential of incorporating Islamic ethics into contemporary water management techniques to solve the urgent issue of water shortage and encourage sustainable consumption by looking at religious scriptures, historical practices, and modern applications. Given that many areas experience pollution, water scarcity, and the effects of climate change on water resources, water sustainability is an important global issue. Islamic beliefs, which strongly focus on caring for the environment, provide a solid foundation for backing global water sustainability programs. We can learn important lessons for solving the world water crisis by looking at Islamic teachings and how they apply to modern water management.*

**Keywords:** Global water issues, Islamic teaching, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Jordan, Indonesia.

### Introduction:

An important resource for life, health, and development is water. It is more important than ever to practice sustainable water management as the world's water problems increase due to population expansion, climate change, and industrialization (Hossain, 2001). Islam provides important insights and concepts that can greatly aid worldwide attempts to sustainably manage water resources because of its extensive ethical framework. As many places deal with the harsh reality of water scarcity, pollution, and the effects of climate change on water supplies, water sustainability has emerged as a crucial global concern (Abdelzaher et al., 2019). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, especially Goal 6, which attempts to guarantee the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for everyone, highlight how urgent it is to address these issues. Examining the moral and theological foundations that can help water sustainability projects is essential in this situation. Islamic teachings provide a potent and comprehensive strategy for supporting global water sustainability initiatives because of its strong emphasis on environmental responsibility. One can learn important lessons to resolve the world water crisis by looking

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into Islamic teachings and apply them to the modern water management. Islamic responses to worldwide water problems are firmly based on religious precepts that stress the responsible use, just allocation, and preservation of water resources. Islamic organizations and communities can make a substantial contribution to the fight against inequality, pollution, and water scarcity by implementing these ideas. Islamic teachings can improve the efficacy and cultural relevance of water management policies and practices, offering a valuable framework for sustainable water stewardship in the contemporary world (Abderrahman, 2000b).

#### **Islamic Texts and Traditions regarding Water:**

Islamic beliefs place a strong emphasis on the value and holiness of water. Water is mentioned multiple times in the Quran, the sacred book of Islam, emphasizing its importance as a basic component of creation and life. As an example, the verse "And We have made from water every living thing" (21:30) appears in the Quran. Furthermore, the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasize the necessity of ethical resource usage and water conservation. "Do not waste water, even if performing ablution on the banks of a fast-flowing river," reads a famous hadith. Islamic writings and customs provide a thorough framework for comprehending the value of water and the moral duties associated with its use and preservation. The holiness of water, the necessity of moderation, and the shared responsibility of sharing and safeguarding this essential resource are all emphasized throughout the Qur'an and Hadith. Islamic organizations may make a significant contribution to solve today's water problems and encourage sustainable habits by implementing these principles. By doing this, they underline the enduring value of Islamic precepts in directing how people interact with the natural environment (Abderrahman, 2000a).

#### **Water in the Qur'an:**

Water is mentioned multiple times in the Qur'an as a vital component of life and as a representation of divine benevolence. Allah (SWT) said "And We have made from water every living thing" (Qur'an, 21:30). This passage emphasizes the divine origin and sacred nature of water, emphasizing its crucial role in the creation and sustaining of life. In addition, the Qur'an frequently describes water as a gift from Allah that is necessary for human survival and well-being. In Surah Al-Mulk, for example, Allah states, "Have you considered: if your water was to become sunken [into the earth], then who could bring you flowing water?" Qur'an, 67:30. This rhetorical question encourages thankfulness and responsible use by reminding believers of their reliance on Allah to provide water (Abedi-sarvestani & Shahvali, 2008).

#### **The Hadith about water:**

Further understanding of the Islamic viewpoint on water can be gained from the Hadith literature, which compiles the sayings and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Prophet placed a strong emphasis on water conservation and fair distribution. "Do not waste water, even if you are washing your hands on the banks of a moving river," he declared (Ibn Majah). This Hadith encourages Muslims to refrain from wasting, especially in circumstances where there seems to be enough, as an example of the principles of moderation and conservation. The Prophet (SAW) further emphasized that it is the collective duty to distribute water resources equitably. According to him, Muslims and pastures share three things in common: fire, water, and pasture (Abu Dawood). Instilling a feeling of group care and collaboration, this tradition emphasizes the idea of shared ownership and common rights over natural resources (Harris, 2021).

#### **Usage in Islamic Tradition:**

Islamic law, or Fiqh, applies these lessons to provide useful recommendations for conserving and using water. For example, the principles of Islamic law, or Shariah, support the

conservation of water resources and the avoidance of pollution. Muslims are urged to use water wisely and to guard against contaminating water sources. Mosques and other Islamic organizations are essential in encouraging water conservation by teaching and leading by example. A lot of mosques have adopted water-saving methods and technology, like recycling grey water for irrigation and installing energy-efficient faucets in ablution (wudu) areas. These programs are actualized examples of Islamic water conservation principles (Al Karaimeh, 2019).

### **The Function of Islamic Establishments:**

Islamic establishments, such as madrasas, mosques, and nonprofits, significantly educate people about water conservation. To promote awareness of the moral use of water, they plan campaigns, workshops, and educational programs. These organizations encourage communities to embrace environmentally conscious behaviors and sustainable practices by integrating Islamic values into their operations. The role of Islamic institutions is especially important in countries like Pakistan, where water scarcity is a major problem. These institutions can use their power to lobby for laws that safeguard water resources and support sustainable development. By bringing modern conservation efforts into line with Islamic principles, these institutions can nurture a religiously grounded environmental stewardship culture (Al Mamun et al., 2014).

### **Water Management Concepts in Islam:**

The management of water, a necessary component of life, is a major global concern. Water is one of the most important resources in Islamic teachings, and stewardship, equity, and sustainability are the guiding principles that govern its use. Islamic water management laws are based on the Hadith (Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) sayings and deeds), the Quran, and the customs of the first Islamic societies. Regarding modern water management techniques, these ideas can provide insightful information.

#### **1. Water as a Divine Gift:**

Water is considered a gift from Allah (God) and an essential resource for all living things in Islam. The verse "And We made from water every living thing" appears in Quran 21:30. This viewpoint makes Muslims feel thankful and responsible for using water wisely and insuring it is available for future generations (Amery, 2001).

#### **2. Preserving and Preventing Waste:**

Islamic beliefs place a significant emphasis on avoiding waste and conserving water. The saying "Do not waste water, even if you perform your ablution on the banks of an abundantly-flowing river" is attributed to the Prophet Muhammad (Ibn Majah). This hadith emphasizes how important it is to use water wisely, especially when it seems to be plenty. This idea is consistent with contemporary notions of resource conservation and sustainable water use (Bereskie et al., 2017).

#### **3. Fair Dispersal:**

Another core tenet of Islam is the equitable distribution of water. The verse "And give the relative his right, and also the poor and the traveller, and do not spend wastefully" (Quran, 17:26) is a command from the Divine. This passage emphasizes how crucial it is to guarantee that everyone in society, especially the less fortunate, has access to water. Public wells and

water delivery networks were constructed in the early history of Islam to guarantee that everyone, especially the impoverished and travellers, had access to water (Bereskie et al., 2017).

#### **4. Safeguarding Water Resources:**

Islamic water management places a strong emphasis on safeguarding water supplies from contamination and improper use. "Beware of the three acts that cause others to curse: defecating in water sources, on the road, and in the shade" (Sunan Abi Dawood) is how the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) cautioned against contaminating water sources. The environment's health as well as the health of communities depends on the cleanliness and purity of water sources, which is something that this hadith emphasizes (Felski, 2009).

#### **5. Rights to Water:**

Islamic law guarantees that people and communities have access to enough water to meet their requirements by acknowledging water rights. The Prophet Muhammad is reported to have stated, "Muslims have common share in three things: grass (pasture), water, and fire (fuel)" (Abu Dawood), which is clear evidence of this. This argument supports the notion that water is a shared resource rather than a good that may be monopolized or used for private gain (Chuvieco, 2012).

#### **6. Current Uses:**

Islamic water management concepts are extremely applicable in the current environment, where pollution and water scarcity are major problems. Islamic teachings can support contemporary water management techniques by encouraging a comprehensive strategy that takes sustainability, community involvement, and ethical considerations into account. Integrating Islamic ideas into water programs can improve their acceptability and efficacy in nations where the overwhelming population is Muslim (Daoud et al., 2022).

#### **The Challenges of Globalization with Water:**

Significant problems with water management have been brought about by globalization, including rising demand, pollution, and unequal access. Vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by water scarcity and contamination caused by industrial activity, agricultural practices, and urbanization. Solving these problems requires a multidimensional strategy that blends conventional knowledge with cutting-edge methods (Paramasivan & Karthavan, 2010).

#### **Islamic Reactions to Global Water Issues:**

Water is an essential resource for life, and its depletion and improper use present serious problems for the entire world. Islamic teachings offer a distinctive viewpoint on tackling these issues because of their ingrained emphasis on sustainability, equity, and stewardship (Gümüşay, 2015). This paper examines Islamic responses to global water concerns, emphasizing the ways in which Islamic institutions and values might help resolve these urgent difficulties.

#### **1. The Moral Basis for Water Use:**

Islam considers water to be a basic human right and a gift from God. The verse "And We made from water every living thing" (Quran, 21:30) highlights the importance of water. Muslims are morally obligated by this fundamental principle to preserve and sustainably manage water resources. Islamic ethics, which closely resemble modern environmental ethics, advocate for the preservation of water and the avoidance of its exploitation (Hamed, 1993).

## **2. The Islamic Law and Water Rights:**

Water rights and usage are covered in depth by Sharia law, which is Islamic in nature. These legal measures guarantee that water remains a shared resource available to anyone, avoiding monopolization and abuse. According to the Prophet Muhammad, "three things are common to Muslims: fire (fuel), water, and grass (pasture)" (Abu Dawood). This idea encourages fair access to water and can guide the development of policies meant to alleviate water inequality, especially in areas where the availability of water is limited and distributed unevenly (Hamed, 1993).

## **3. Conserving Water and Adopting Sustainable Methods:**

One of the most important aspects of Islamic teachings is water conservation. Even in situations where there is enough water available, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) encouraged wise use of it by saying, "Do not waste water, even if you perform your ablution on the banks of an abundantly-flowing river" (Ibn Majah). This rule can serve as an inspiration for contemporary conservation efforts and promote sustainable water use. Islamic communities are encouraging water-saving technologies and sustainable agriculture techniques as a way of putting these teachings into effect (Hasan, 2020).

## **4. Dealing with Water Pollution:**

Islamic teachings place a strong emphasis on safeguarding water sources from pollution. The saying "Beware of the three acts that cause others to curse: defecating in water sources, on the road, and in the shade" (Sunan Abi Dawood) is the Prophet Muhammad's caution against polluting water. Given that water pollution from industrial and agricultural processes endangers ecosystems and human populations, this advice is especially pertinent today. Islamic groups are actively engaged in community-based projects, activism, and education campaigns to reduce water pollution (Garcés-Ordóñez et al., 2020).

## **5. Islamic Organizations for Aid and Development:**

In vulnerable locations, Islamic relief and development organizations are leading the way in solving water-related problems. Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs that increase access to clean water, upgrade sanitary infrastructure, and advance hygiene education are frequently carried out by these groups. These organizations guarantee cultural relevance and community acceptance by coordinating their activities with Islamic values, which increases the efficacy of their operations (Hasan, 2020).

## **6. International Lobbying and Interfaith Cooperation:**

Islamic scholars and leaders are actively participating in international forums to promote environmentally conscious practices and sustainable water management. A crucial component of these initiatives is interfaith cooperation, in which religious leaders from different traditions cooperate to address shared issues. Such partnerships can strengthen the

effect of advocacy campaigns and encourage a coordinated response to international water-related challenges(Helfaya et al., 2018).

### **Case Studies: Water Management in Nations with Predominance of Muslims:**

Water management is an important global issue, especially in nations with a majority of Muslims, where problems like pollution, water scarcity, and climate change present serious difficulties(Helfaya et al., 2018). We may comprehend how Islamic teachings are incorporated into water management techniques and the creative solutions being used to address these difficulties by looking at particular case studies.

#### **1. Saudi Arabia: Cutting Edge Water Management Technologies:**

Saudi Arabia has been at the forefront of using cutting-edge technologies for water management. The country is known for its arid environment and few freshwater supplies. The kingdom has few natural freshwater sources, thus it mainly depends on desalination to supply its water needs. Some of the biggest desalination facilities in the world, which turn saltwater into drinkable water, are located in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has made investments in cutting-edge water recycling and conservation methods in addition to desalination. Reducing water use, increasing the use of treated wastewater, and promoting sustainable agricultural techniques are among the objectives of the Saudi Vision 2030 plan. Public awareness initiatives and national policies reflect Islamic teachings on water conservation and ethical use. These initiatives show how to efficiently manage water resources by combining traditional Islamic ideas with cutting-edge technical solutions(bidin A, 2017).

#### **2. Pakistan: Water Management through Community-Based Approach:**

Pakistan has a severe water shortage and is heavily dependent on its river systems for industrial, agricultural, and drinking water. The nation has implemented a number of community-based water management initiatives that are consistent with Islamic principles of equity and conservation. One such initiative is the "Pani Bachao, Paise Kamao" (Save Water, Earn Money) initiative in Punjab, which encourages farmers to adopt water-saving irrigation techniques like drip irrigation and laser land levelling, which increase crop yields while reducing water waste. In addition to helping to address Pakistan's water crisis, farmers in Punjab are able to improve their financial circumstances by conserving water. Mosques and Islami organizations are essential to these efforts because they teach local populations the value of conserving water. They highlight the moral obligation to preserve and manage water resources by referencing verses from the Quran and Hadiths, encouraging accountability and group effort(Alam, 2022).

#### **3. Customized Water Management Systems in Iran:**

Iran has historically used quants, or traditional systems, to manage its limited water supplies. Water is reliably transported from mountain aquifers to parched plains by subterranean channels called quants, which also serve as drinking and agricultural water supplies. Islamic ideals of fair distribution and sustainability are reflected in this antiquated technology. Iran has invested in new technology while advancing and preserving these ancient systems in the present era. Understanding the importance of quants in sustainable water management, the government has put measures in place to protect and restore them. Iran has also concentrated

on fusing contemporary methods with conventional wisdom to enhance water management and efficiency. Iran's Ministry of Energy, for example, has encouraged the use of water-saving technology, such as drip irrigation, in the country's agriculture, which uses a large amount of its water resources. Utilizing these technologies in conjunction with conventional quant systems contributes to more economical and ecological use of water. The Islamic teachings on water conservation and stewardship are also highlighted in public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives, highlighting the practices' cultural and religious relevance(Gholikandi et al., 2013)

#### **4. Jordan: Managing Integrated Water Resources:**

In order to handle its water difficulties, Jordan, one of the world's most water-scarce countries, has implemented an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) method. With this strategy, the sustainability of important ecosystems is maintained while maximizing economic and social welfare through the planned development and management of land, water, and related resources. Under the IWRM framework, Jordan has undertaken a number of projects. One such project is the Disi Water Conveyance Project, which moves water from southern Jordan's Disi aquifer to Amman and other northern cities. Water supply and distribution have been greatly enhanced by this project, new dam construction, and the renovation of existing water infrastructure. Jordan uses Islamic values as a foundation for its water management policies. Religious leaders and institutions are regularly contacted by the government and neighborhood NGOs to spread awareness about water conservation. Preserving water is emphasized in sermons and religious teachings, which are based on the Prophet Muhammad's advice to abstain from waste. Jordan has managed to promote a more sustainable and culturally appropriate approach to water resource management through the integration of Islamic beliefs with contemporary management approaches(Al-Addous et al., 2023).

#### **5. Water Supply and Sanitation Programs in Communities Based in Indonesia:**

Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority country in the world, faces diverse water management challenges due to its vast archipelago and varying regional climates. The government has implemented several community-based water supply and sanitation programs that emphasize participation, equity, and sustainability. The PAMSIMAS (Penyediaan Air Minum dan Sanitasi Berbasis Masyarakat) programme, which aims to improve sanitation and provide access to clean drinking water in rural and peri-urban regions, is one such example. By empowering local communities to manage their water resources, the program makes sure that solutions are customized to the unique needs and circumstances of the area. Participation of the community in decision-making procedures guarantees sustainable and equitable water management techniques. These efforts are deeply rooted in Islamic teachings on the value of hygiene and the supply of clean water for everybody. Promoting these initiatives is a common activity for religious leaders, who emphasize the moral need to guarantee everyone access to clean water and sanitary facilities. This strategy increases resilience and community cohesiveness while also enhancing public health(Daniel et al., 2023).

#### **Suggestions for Policies:**

The following tactics are advised in order to fully utilize Islamic teachings for global water sustainability:

#### **Integrate Islamic Ethics into Policy:**

To encourage moral and sustainable behavior, governments and organizations ought to include Islamic values in national and international water policy.

**Bolster Islamic establishments:**

Encourage Islamic institutions such as madrasas and mosques to take a more proactive approach to water conservation using community campaigns and education.

**Promote Interfaith Collaboration:**

Encourage cooperation amongst various religious communities in order to exchange best practices and create cohesive strategies for sustainable water management.

**Conclusion:**

The concepts and insights gleaned from Islamic teachings can substantially contribute to worldwide efforts towards water sustainability. Communities can solve the issues of water shortage and advance a sustainable future by incorporating these lessons into contemporary water management techniques. Islam's ethical framework not only promotes environmental stewardship but also a sense of community duty, both of which are necessary to achieve global water sustainability. Islamic philosophy provides a comprehensive and multifaceted framework for resolving the world's water dilemma. The adoption of stewardship, moderation, and justice ideals by Islamic groups and organizations can be crucial in bolstering global water sustainability endeavors. The promise of Islamic teachings can be fully realized via cooperation, policy advocacy, education, and creative activities, helping to create a more sustainable and just future for everybody. Water sustainability is a critical worldwide issue that calls for a multidisciplinary strategy that incorporates scientific, cultural, and ethical viewpoints. Islamic beliefs, which emphasize the holiness of water, stewardship obligations, avoiding waste, and the significance of fair distribution, provide a strong foundation for promoting global water sustainability projects. By incorporating these ideas into modern water management, we may create creative and practical solutions to the world's water problems. By involving Islamic organizations, decision-makers, and communities in this project, we can improve the sustainability of water supplies while simultaneously advancing a more profound understanding of environmental ethics and duty worldwide. Islamic writings and customs provide a thorough framework for comprehending the value of water and the moral duties associated with its use and preservation. The holiness of water, the necessity of moderation, and the shared responsibility of sharing and safeguarding this essential resource are all emphasized throughout the Qur'an and Hadith. Islamic organizations may make a big contribution to solving today's water problems and encouraging sustainable habits by implementing these principles. By doing this, they underline the enduring value of Islamic precepts in directing how people interact with the natural environment. The entire framework of water management based on Islamic values prioritizes sustainability, equity, and stewardship. These principles provide helpful direction for dealing with modern water difficulties since they see water as a divine gift, encourage conservation, ensure equitable distribution, safeguard water sources, recognize water rights, and include Islamic institutions. Accepting these lessons can promote a more conscientious and long-term strategy for managing water resources, which will be advantageous to present and future generations. In nations where Muslims predominate, contemporary managerial and technological techniques are combined with traditional Islamic ideas to guide water management. The case studies of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, and Indonesia show how these nations combine creative



problem-solving with religious principles to manage their distinct water needs. These nations show how Islamic values may be crucial in promoting fair distribution, conservation, and community involvement, all of which are important components of sustainable and successful water management practices. The experiences of these countries can offer important lessons to other regions facing comparable challenges as the world's water problems continue to worsen.

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