



IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BAYT AL QAIM MADRASSA



Raising environmental awareness in children

At Madrassa we learn **core Islamic values and behaviours** that will stay with us throughout our adulthood and define who we are. That is what makes it so important to spark an interest in caring for and protecting the environment from an Islamic perspective, while children are still young.



AIM



The aim of teaching children **environmental education** is for them to practically embed habits as opposed to learning just the theory. The idea behind this subject is for young people to develop a firm ecological mindset and therefore act upon what has been learnt through practical demonstration. They can use their knowledge to overcome today's environmental challenges with a proactive attitude and a strong commitment. That change then becomes part of Madrassa lifestyle.

Raising environmental awareness in children



To enhance their ability to learn about their surroundings.



To make them more aware and conscious of environmental problems.



To broaden their ecological knowledge in subjects such as energy, landscapes, air, water, natural resources and wildlife.



To boost their interest in caring for and improving the environment.



To reflect on the relationship between living organisms and their environment & to maintain the ecological balance created by Allah.

To understand protection of the environment is essential to Islamic beliefs and mankind has the responsibility to ensure safe custody of the environment. For example, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encouraged the planting of trees & the cultivation of agriculture which are considered as good acts.

Causes of environmental pollution

Damage to the environment could affect every person and every living organism in some way, therefore, we must act fast to **prevent further damage**. The following are among the most common and most damaging causes.

1. Pollution

This is the introduction of harmful substances into the environment. The most common **pollutants** are:

- **acid rain** – chemicals from burning fuel rises into the **atmosphere** and falls with rain
- **oil spills** – when a ship spills oil, the crude oil does not dissolve in water but floats, causing severe damage to wildlife.
- **toxic chemicals** – chemicals produced by industry can be hazardous to the environment if not disposed of correctly.
- **pesticides** – these are used extensively in agriculture, and can kill fish if they enter lakes or rivers.

2. Destruction of natural habitats

Different animals thrive in different environments, and each has its own natural **habitat**. When sudden, major changes affect a natural habitat, some species cannot adapt or move and die out. Humans have caused changes in some areas, eg flooding valleys through building dams. These changes have caused the **extinction** of animals and **flora**.

Causes of environmental pollution

3. Deforestation

In the last 50 years, human beings have destroyed 50 per cent of all forest and woodland. Their reasons include the need for timber, constructions and fuel, or more space to grow crops. Most species, including humans, need the oxygen from trees to survive and the increase in carbon dioxide resulting from deforestation has contributed to the **greenhouse effect**.

4. Use and abuse of natural resources

Natural resources are substances that are found on or inside our environment. **Non renewable** resources such as coal or oil were formed over millions of years and are limited in supply. They also create **pollution** when burned. Some natural resources produce no pollution and are **renewable**, eg wind and solar power. These are often more expensive to harness, and are less reliable.

5. Climate change (global warming)

Average temperatures have increased by nearly one degree Celsius in the last 100 years, and the polar ice caps are melting. According to a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2015) there is a 95 percent probability that human activity has caused an increase in the Earth's temperature. It cites human-produced greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, as major contributors to the observed increase in our planet's temperature over the past 50 years.

A minority claim that climate change is simply a result of a **natural cycle**. Whatever the cause, the effects include rising sea levels and more severe weather patterns.

Causes of environmental pollution

6. Effects of modern lifestyles

In the last 70 years, awareness about the damage human beings may cause to the environment has prompted new legislation, eg insulation in new houses and the use of renewable energy such as solar panelling. Other changes include the introduction of cycle to work and car sharing schemes.

Educating and preparing our youth to better understand the detrimental affects these causes have on our planet means that they can 'be the solution instead of the problem'!



Today's children will be tomorrow's leaders and they will be faced with huge challenges such as global warming and water stress. They will have to make crucial decisions, the future is in their hands!

How are these environmental problems being tackled?

- **Conservation** - because the Earth's resources are limited, they must be protected and supported wherever possible. Conservation aims to reduce the amount of resources used by human activity. It protects **endangered species**, eg by placing a limit on the amount of fish that can be caught
- **International action and legislation** – through international treaties, governments across the world can agree to regulate the use of harmful chemicals, or to reduce the output of greenhouse emissions.
- **Sustainable development** - the needs of future generations should have equal weight to the needs of people today, meaning **we should try to prevent long-lasting damage to the environment**, conserve resources or replace those we use up.
- **Recycling** - some **waste products** can be broken down and turned back into new products. This reduces the amount of waste going into landfill sites or being incinerated. Glass, paper, metal and some plastics are common materials that can be recycled.

Islam & the environment

MAN AND NATURE

The Holy Qur'an in many instances has referred to **man's relationship with nature** and the environment:

“And Allah has made you grow out of the earth as a growth” (7:17)

“...and We have made of water everything living...” (21:30)

“He created the heavens without pillars as you see them, and put mountains upon earth lest it might convulse with you, and he spread in it animals of every kind; and **We sent down water from the cloud**, then caused to grow therein (vegetation) of every noble kind.” (31:10)

BLESSINGS OF ALLAH

The Qur'anic verses speak about man **as a part of the natural environment he interacts with**; gaining from it and likewise, giving to it.

He is also responsible for its growth as well as preventing vices and corruption in it.

In view of this fact, the Holy Qur'an enjoins man to **reflect on the blessings of Allah to him and calls him toward monotheism**, thanksgiving and worshipping Him alone.

The Holy Qur'an also discusses the activities, responsibilities and social systems, which **protect the divine will of the world** of existence under the power of Shari'ah.



PROTECTING NATURE

Protecting the natural and social environment are among the most important Islamic goals of existence.

Islam has chosen some steps for protecting health and the environment such as enlightening and educating man on how to take care of health and nature, as well as protecting the living creatures on this earth.

Shari'ah law protects animals from cruelty, defends forests and limits **urbanisation**.

Islam teaches us to make use of what nature provides but we must avoid waste and excess.

PROTECTING THE ANIMALS

The Holy Qur'an portrays animals as creatures who know their Lord, go toward Him and have their own prayers, Tasbeeh, and prostration that correspond with their existence, although man has been unable, for the most part, to detect this.

Islam encourages man towards protection and preservation of animals, in that the animals, also, have their own rights and wealth.

“There is no moving creature on earth but its sustenance depends on Allah.” (11:6)

Allah created plants and animals and gave them the ability to reproduce before He made humans. Human beings must respect their role in creation and the rights of other creatures.



WORDS OF THE QURAN



“It is the work of Allah, who perfected all things....” (27:88)

The Holy Qur'an holds man responsible for environmental pollution, by saying:

“Corruption has appeared in the land and the sea on account of what the hands of men have wrought...” (30:41)

And also, it addresses man and encourages him to protect nature and lead the healthiest of lives, when it says:

“And do no mischief on the earth, after it has been set in order...” (7:56)

OUR DUTY!

The Holy Qur'an, while elaborating on the environmental, as well as the natural perfection, and likewise, the destructive role of man, says:

“And do no mischief on the earth, after it has been set in order, but call on Him with fear and longing in your hearts: For the Mercy of Allah is (always) near to those who do good”. (7:56)

The Holy Qur'an emphasises that the earth and all its natural and life components are perfect and healthy; it is man who plays with its perfection and destroys it.

THEREFORE,

IT IS OUR DUTY TO PRESERVE THE BLESSINGS ALLAH HAS GIFTED TO US!



How can we become a greener Madrassa?

- Educational seminars, conferences, talks, assemblies about protecting our environment from an Islamic perspective; discuss problems such as pollution, gas emissions, energy consumption, recycling, responsible water consumption etc.
- Switch off all appliances
- Encourage students to enjoy the outdoors to learn about nature; trees, rivers, birds and insects to instill the love of Allah's blessings.
- Recycling bins in classrooms, recycle clothing, reusable plates in mosque etc.
- COP 26 – Raise awareness on current issues.
- Select student rep's from each class to initiate and implement strategies to become a greener Madrassa.
- Planting trees, growing and harvesting food.
- Cleanliness drives: Collecting litter and keeping everything clean.



How can we become a greener Madrassa?

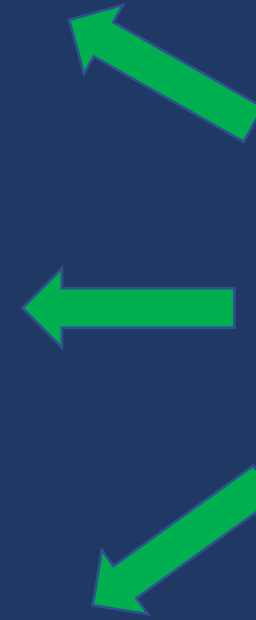
- Eat less meat - Being careful with what you're consuming is at the heart of being more eco-friendly, and cutting down on the amount of meat you eat can have a huge impact. Not having red meat - even if it's just for two or three days a week - can have quite a significant impact on reducing your carbon footprint.
- Don't waste food - Waste not, want not. **Did you know that 7.3 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK every year?** This isn't just a huge waste of food and money, it adds to the amount of CO2 being created in landfills.
- Start a green club – green champions, eco lead etc. Having a group of eco-warriors or an eco committee will help children become more involved in the journey to becoming an **eco Madrassa**.
- Recycling bin decorating contest - Get madrassa involved in sprucing up the recycling bins. Task each class with decorating their containers or making their own from scratch.
- Schedule a trash pickup day - Make it an annual, monthly, or weekly event. Getting outside to see, first hand, how much trash ends up on the ground helps students become more aware of where they're putting their litter.
- Add indoor plants - Studies show that indoor plants naturally purify the air and provide health benefits, like fewer cold symptoms and improved behaviour. Start with easy-to-grow plants, like a spider plant, snake plant, jade, English ivy, or golden pothos. Get kids involved in the plant care and nurture mini gardeners.
- Taking a pledge - Have students take a pledge to commit to recycling, reducing waste, and saving energy. Putting it writing and displaying the pledges in a high-traffic area at Madrassa helps kids remember to take it seriously.

The Bayt Al Qaim 3R's

Reduce Waste

Reuse Resources

Recycle Material



3 R's

**SAVE THE
PLANET**

*You can make a
difference!*



How we often think it is



How it really is



One Planet.
One Home.
One Community.



BAYT AL QAIM MADRASSA

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