FITRAH AND POTENTIAL OF INDIVIDUAL
Human Nature – “FITRAH”

- Human nature:
  - An innate natural predisposition which cannot change – exist at birth in all human beings.
  - natural/innate characteristics; BORN with us
  - Examples: talent, physical ability; cognition & emotion
  - Bestowed by the CREATOR - for the benefit of mankind
  - Every human beings born into this world has natural characteristics that are “pure” & “perfect”
Human Nature – “FITRAH”

- Literal meaning – creation, cause a thing to exist for the first time, and the natural constitution with which a child is created in mother’s womb.
- Fitrah – is not a dormant potential.
- Fitrah (religious) – faculty (ability, power) created in mankind.
Negative influences by the nurturing processes & low quality environment may disturb the purity

2 types of human’s natural characteristics:

- Physical
- Spiritual
Human beings need 3 basic elements to survive:
  • Food
  • Clothing
  • Shelter

Without all these / insufficiency of any may limit chances for human beings to live comfortably
It is part of human nature to seek for the truth & belief in God

- In accord with the nature: men are created by God
- Spiritual nature = human’s instinct about believing in God, the Creator
- The instinct to find faiths/religion is born within every mankind;
- Men need to fulfil this need in order to live accordingly
HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

To ensure the growth of human’s natural characteristic; there are several basic needs that need to be fulfilled

- Abraham Maslow identified 5 basic needs of human beings
- The needs are arranged in a hierarchical order showing the existence of levels/stages
✓ Starts with first level, most basic = physiological needs; highest level is the self-actualization needs

• Each human beings must fulfil the most basic needs before proceeding to the next level.

• The needs are not necessarily fulfilled in any particular order; some needs may be fulfilled simultaneously
• The ability or inability of individuals to fulfil all 5 levels of needs will influence his/her perceptions about life & the environments
Human potentials = latent ability / capability
Also known as possibilities in oneself
Potentials need to be stimulated in order for it to be tapped / made known and grow
Like Fitrah, potentials are also bestowed by God, the Creator.
• Potentials are part of Fitrah; at a lower stage than fitrah
• Fitrah will continue to grow even without stimulation; but potentials will be hindered / limited or never made known unless stimulated

• Quality development is an outcome of quality stimulation
• Eg: a normal child will know how to talk eventually even without proper training, which is Fitrah’
• However, if the child is trained in other language than his / her own, he or she may master that language eventually
  • Stimulation through proper training / exposure to communication with others, reading materials, computers or other media
• Fitrah = i.e men do not fly
• Potential = men design means & ways to enable them to fly (aircraft)
• Men have ability & capability to work on the means & ways to achieve their ambitions
• It’s fitrah for human being that potentials can be molded / honed to grow
Potentials can also be viewed from the physical & spiritual perspectives

Physically, men have potentials to be involved in physical activities like sports, farming, recreation, exercise etc.

Spiritually, men have potentials to understand concepts, thinking creatively & critically; innovative; debate etc in accord with his or her fitrah
The importance of understanding fitrah & potentials ..... 

- Drive & regulate efforts towards excellence
- According to human’s fitrah, men are born to make good deeds; therefore no one is born to destroy or involved in bad things
- Men are born “pure” in all aspects == physical, mental, social & emotional
Dysfunctional environment may disrupt the purity.

- Eg; Fitrah: to get married & generate; “pure” means ways to generate the future generations; failing to do so in accord with the religious perspective / socio-cultural guidelines may produce bad generations, uncivilized (as a product of incest/rape & adultery)

- Or marrying someone of the same sex...
Potentials may differ from person to person; some may be highly potential in certain area and not in others.

Proper planning, quality training may stimulate development of potentials to the maximum level; in accord with the God's rules.

Other than quality stimulations; genetic, age, & other environmental actors may also influence human’s potentials.
Men are born into this world equipped with fitrah & potentials

Fitrah is the natural characteristics; potentials refer to latent ability in human beings = must be made know

Fitrah is related with the fulfilment of human needs; as suggested in Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs
Various factors in the environment may influence the growth & development of both fitrah & potentials

- Good planning of stimulations are needed to balance up the growth of both fitrah & potentials