Human nature – “FITRAH”

- Human nature ➔ natural characteristics; BORN with us
- Examples: talent, physical ability; cognition & emotion
- Bestowed by the CREATOR ➔ high tendency for the benefit of mankind
- Every human beings born into this world has natural characteristics that are “pure” & “perfect”

Spiritual

- 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

Hierachy 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

Physical

- 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

- 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 level of needs will influence his/her perceptions about life & the environments.

**HUMAN POTENTIALS**

- 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; worn within

- 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

- 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

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
Disfunctional environment may disrupt the purity

- Eg: Fitrah: to get married & generate; “pure” means 7 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...

- 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

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

Conclusions

- Men are born into this world w=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