Current Global Warming Prevention in Islamic Perspective: A Research Review

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ABSTRACT
Global warming is a global issue in modern times. Global warming and climate change have affected the entire world. It is essential to take preventive measures to reduce heat wave and temperature of Earth for protection of human life, animal life and plant life. Islamic ecological instructions can play an important role to eradicate current global warming. Emission of greenhouse gases and deforestation are main causes of global warming. Trees are natural sources of oxygen and cooling in the atmosphere. Greenbelt of any region plays a crucial role in maintaining natural ecological balance of planet Earth. The plants and trees provide humane life with fresh, clean and cool oxygen to breath. Heat wave in recent times must be controlled and prevented by planting as many trees as possible. Thirty percent percent area of Pakistan was covered with forest and trees in 1947 but gradually it has shrunk to less than 5 percent in modern times. Deforestation has increased imbalance, disorder, global warming, climate change, air pollution and other many more ecological, environmental and biological issues. Islam provides complete guidance in every walk of life. Plants are called lungs of the Earth. Holy prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) motivated His followers to plant new trees more and more. In this research work, decreasing greenbelt of Pakistan has been presented and its impact on ecological and climate change. Furthermore, this article explores Islamic preventive measures for eradication of current global warming.

Keywords: Islam, Global warming, Causes, Deforestation, Impact, Prevention
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Introduction

Global warming has become the focus of international attention in recent times. Many international environmental conferences have been held to discuss rise in temperature of atmosphere. International environmental Conference COP-21, was held in Paris (France) in December 2015, in which emission of greenhouse gases was aimed to control increased level of temperature on Earth for reduction of global warming. International treaty (Paris Agreement) was signed by 195 countries in COP-21. The International panel on climate change (IPCC)’s Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), published in 2021, and noted that the best estimate of the increase Earth surface temperature between 1850 and 2019 was 1.07 °C (1.9 °F). International Environment Conference (COP -26) was held in Glasgow (Scotland) in which Pakistan promised that no new coal power plant would be installed nor exported coal in pre-existing coal plants will be used. Pakistan's emissions of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, chlorofluorocarbons, lead, etc.) are expected to increase by 300% by 2030. According to some recent research reports, Pakistan is one of the 10 countries most affected by global warming and climate change. According to the latest UN research report, the planet Earth is on the verge of rising by 2.7 degrees Celsius. The importance of tree planting is increasing with each passing day in view of the prevention of global warming. Islam not only encourages the planting of new trees but also emphasizes on the care and protection of existing trees. The purpose of writing about global warming is to highlight Islamic teachings for the prevention of the current global warming in Pakistan.

Review of Literature

Scholars and intellectuals have done excellent research work on the subject of Islamic teachings and the current environmental pollution. Global warming is a part of environmental crisis. “The Conservation and Islām” written by Dr. Qīblā Ayāz, Dr. Merājul Islām Zīā, Dr. Muhammad Mumtāz Malik and Bahādur Nawāb is a significant work on environmental protection in Islāmic perspective. In 2013, M.Phil dissertation titled “Ecological Issue and its Islamic Solutions” was written at Sargodhā University under the supervision of Dr. Farhat ‘Alvī is a good effort to present environmental issues in Islāmic context. The famous book "Islām and the Environment" by Indian environmentalist AR Agwān was published in 1997 by the Institute of Objective Studies, Delhi (Indiā). This book sheds light on the protection of natural resources and environment in the context of Islāmic teachings. Dr. Ehsān-ur-Rehmān Ghauri’s research article titled "Ecological Issues in the light of the Holy Quran" was published in the research journal

1 Increased level in the temperature of the Planet Earth's atmosphere is called global warming which is also called greenhouse effect. It is generally happened due to increased level of chlorofluorocarbons(CFC,S)Carbon dioxide(CO2) and other greenhouse gases in Earth’s atmosphere.
2 IPCC stands for “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change” which was founded in 1988 by two international environmental organizations;1. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), 2. World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
“Research Journal ‘Ulum-e-Islamia Vol. NO. 23”(2017). The importance of the environment in modern times can be guessed from the fact that the World Health Organization (WHO) has also made written many articles on environmental protection by many ‘Arab scholars. In addition to the above mentioned articles and books, a large number of articles, books and essays have been written on the subject of environment but global warming is not discussed much more in the light of Islāmic teachings. Therefore, research work regarding global warming in Islamic perspective is the most important requirement of the current time. That is why, in the present article, keeping in view the demands of modern times, the solution of global warming has been presented in the light of Islāmic teachings.

Research Methodology
In this article, standard and descriptive research methodology has been adopted. In this research article, an attempt has been made to use and utilize the basic sources regarding Islam and global warming. Furthermore, it has been sought support from online encyclopedias, environmental dictionaries, recent international environmental conferences etc. The Internet is one of the fastest growing sources of information and knowledge in current era, so the Internet has been used extensively to obtain the latest information on global warming. In addition, Dr. Hameedullāh Librāri Islāmabād, ‘Allāmā Iqbāl Library Siālkot and Seerat Study Center Siālkot were visited to get research material on the subject. The English translation of Quranic verses is taken from Mūlān Taiṣā Usmanī’s English translation of Quran. Rising global warming in Pākistān and its causes(green belt destruction etc.) has been focused. At the end of the article, research findings, recommendations and suggestions for mitigating global warming have been also given.

Causes and Impact
Installation of Industries at large scale, power stations, atomic power plants, brick Kilns and toxic wastes of factories are main reasons of global warming. Furthermore, transport like buses, trucks, auto rickshaws, motorbikes, combustion engines and aircrafts are discharging toxic gases e.g., carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and other harmful gases in the atmosphere rapidly. Deforestation is also causing global warming. The emission of oxygen, the absorption of carbon dioxide, the moderation in temperature and other many benefits of any state are also connected with green belt.

One acre of trees absorbs 27,647 pounds of carbon dioxide gas annually. The burning of fossil fuels produces 21.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide each year, of which only half is absorbed, and the other half remains in the atmosphere, causing the worst air pollution. Use of fossil fuels is also a major reason of global warming across the country. The burning of fossil fuels produces 21.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide each year, of which only half is absorbed, and the other half remains in the atmosphere, causing the worst global warming. According to an estimate, there are found more than 20 million motorbikes and vehicles in Pakistan. Petroleum products worth 14 billion annually has to import to keep them running.¹ The main reason for the increase in

¹Daily Express, Lūhūre: 30 January,(2018)
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Temperature of Earth is considered vehicles running on petrol and diesel. Global warming is increasing because of greenhouse gases (chlorofluorocarbons (CFC, S), carbon dioxide (CO$_2$), usage of sprays, Emission of smoke throughout the whole world.

Table 1 (Some Causes and remedies of Global warming)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Remedies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Excessive usage of Fossil fuels (Non-renewable natural resources)</td>
<td>Renewable natural resources should be used in place of Non-renewable natural resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Smoke of brick Kilns</td>
<td>Zigzag Technology should be installed in brick kilns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Toxic wastes of factories</td>
<td>Disposal of toxic wastes in a safe way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Emission of smoke from traffic/transport like buses, trucks, auto rickshaws etc.</td>
<td>Transport should be shifted to solar energy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Greenhouse gases carbon dioxide (CO$_2$), carbon monoxide (CO) etc.</td>
<td>Treatment plants should be installed in factories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Deforestation</td>
<td>Responsible persons of deforestation must be punished.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Lack of interest in growing new plants</td>
<td>Incentives should be announced for tree planters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 lack of knowledge about harmful effects of global warming</td>
<td>Educate common people about dangers of global warming through media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the national assessment (2004):

“Pakistan is one of the low forest covered countries with only 5 percent of land area.”

Global warming affects biological system, ecosystem, functioning of human being, biodiversity of plants, animals and other living beings very badly. Impact of global warming in Encyclopedia of Britannica has been described follows:

“Global warming and climate change have the potential to alter biological systems. More specifically, changes to near-surface air temperatures will likely influence ecosystem functioning and thus the biodiversity of plants, animals, and other forms of life.”

1 Non-Renewable resources also called depleted resources, are those that exist in limited quantities in nature. Some examples of non-renewable resources are oil, minerals, metals, natural gas, as well as other products derived from fossil fuels, such as petrol or diesel.

2 Renewable resources are those that do not run out. Water, wind, water, solar energy, geothermal energy and biofuels are considered as renewable resources.

3 National Forest Policy, (Islamabad: Ministry of Climate Change, 2015), P:5

Allah Almighty says:

"ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَري وَالْبَحْري بِيَا كَسَبَتْ اَيْديي النَّاسي لييُذيي ْقَهُمْ ب َعْضَ الَّذييْ عَميلُوْ لااَّعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِيعُوْن

"Calamities have appeared on land and sea because of what the hands of the people have earned, so that He (Allah) makes them taste some of what they did, in order that they may return (to the right way)."

In the above verse, it has been explained that sometimes people are punished for their disobedience and misdeeds. Then the cause of the troubles, imbalance, disorder, climate change, environmental change and global warming and other issues in land and sea has been mentioned. In fact, Corruption (climate change) has been spread in the land and in the sea because of the activities of human beings.

Imâm Baidhwî explains:

"Fasad (disorder) means death due to famine, disease and wars." 2

The Forest of Chalghûzâ3 located in province Balûchistân is burning in recent days. On 9th May 2022, a thunderstorm in an unusually dry weather caused a blaze in the Musā Khel area, and in a matter of days, every tree and plant within a 22-kilometer radius was reduced to ashes by itself. Two days after the Musā Khel fire, a fire broke out in the forest heights of Sherûni district. And this fire is still hungry on the thirteenth day, and the fiery tongue, which grows longer every day, is eager to lick about 24 villages in the valley, eight to ten kilometers away. 4 Harmful impact of global warming and climate change can be guessed above happening of fire in Chalghûzâ forest of Pâkistân.

Global Warming Prevention

Forests and gardens full of different types of trees are natural factories to clean the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and releasing oxygen. Furthermore, Trees make the atmosphere pleasant. This creates a naturally cool and enchanting freshness in the atmosphere. The reduction in global warming can be clearly felt in the dense gardens of trees. There are innumerable psychological and medical benefits of spending time in the lush green environment of trees and plants. The Holy Qur’an depicts trees and lush greenery in a captivating way. Allah Almighty says:

وَهُوَ الَّذيي أَن ْزَلَ مينَ السَّماءي مَاء فَأَخْرَجْنا بيهي نَباتَ كُلري شَيْءٍ فَأَخْرَجْنا مينْهُ خَضيراً نُّخْريجُ مينْهُ بااا مخَََاكيبًا

"He is the One who sent down water from the heavens. Then We brought forth with it vegetation of all kinds. Then from it We brought grains set upon one another.”

1 Al-Rûm:41
3 The world’s largest jungle, located on Mount Salman, which connects Balûchistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtûnkhwâ, is currently breathing its last. This forest provides six and a half million kilograms of Chalguza annually. Dozens of dumb animals and birds, including deer, wild goats, and rabbits, are found here. Wild life of this forest is in grave danger.
4 Wastullâh Khân, Lucky Pâkistânî Circus and Chalguza Forest, BBC Urdu, 22 May, (2022)
5 Al-Anîm:99
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The above Qur’anic verse mentions the relationship between plants and the green environment. All the plants that grow on the earth are essential for the green belt.

In this regard, Imām Fakhr-ud-Din Al-Rāzī writes:

“Every plant or tree has a green head. In the Divine Word, two types of plants are more well known. One of them is related to agriculture and farming while the other is related to trees.”

The leaves of all kinds of plants are green because all the plants produce their own food through the photosynthesis in the presence of sunlight through the chlorophyll present in the green leaves. There is a natural decline in unhealthy habits and traits in people who spend their time in the greenery of the trees. In addition, such people are less prone to mental illness and mental illness than others. The role of tree planting in reducing environmental pollution is described in a national English newspaper as follows:

“The need for plantation has become even greater these days because of the growing pollution in the environment.”

The author of the Universal Encyclopedia writes:

“Trees dominate the ecosystem life.”

Trees add a lot of moisture to the air, which lowers the temperature and makes the environment more pleasant. In this context, Mohsin Butt writes in his book:

“Forests are of vital importance to mankind and other plant and animal species, as they provide them oxygen and create a CO₂ balance.”

It is very important to exist 20% oxygen in the atmosphere. All kinds of smoke and greenhouse gases are converted into oxygen by plants.

Planting trees is essential for a pleasant atmosphere. Gardeep Raj writes:

“The vegetation is a significant source of moisture in the atmosphere.”

Forest Day is celebrated internationally on March 21 every year to attract people to plant trees worldwide.

Holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has encouraged people to plant as many trees as possible. The reward of planting trees will continue till the Day of Resurrection. If a Muslim performs the sacred duty of planting, the material that is eaten and stolen from it, becomes the food of the beast of the forest, the part that becomes the food of the bird would be beneficial and charity will continue till the Day of Judgment for the planter. It is narrated in Sahīh Bukhārī as follows:

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2The Nation,Lāhore,6 January,(2019)
There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift for him.

The above mentioned tradition of Bukhārī Sharīf indicates the motivation for tree planting. In many hadiths, for the expansion and encouragement of tree planting, the Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has given the glad tidings of ongoing charity, i.e., ongoing rewards and rewards for planting trees. A rare example of cultivating tree planting is found in a tradition of Musnad Ahmad. Even if the time of resurrection comes, if anyone has a tree in his hand, he must put it in the ground.

Holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) says:

Even at the time of resurrection comes, if you have a plant in your hand, you must put it in the ground.

Teachings and guidelines of Holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) on tree planting and cultivation make it clear that cultivating as many plants as possible is a service to the human race and an important act of worship. It is clear that decorating the earth with trees, plants and crops is the hallmark of Islam. Thus, Global warming can be reduced by following teaching of Holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) about tree plantations.

Prohibition of Deforestation

Lands rich in agricultural and botanical potential are being converted into residential areas, settlements, airports, factories, roads. Global warming is constantly increasing because of deforestation. With each passing day, the habitat and food of wildlife and other animals is shrinking due to deforestation and the heat wave is increasing throughout the world. Furthermore, the ozone layer is being damaged and the fertility of the Earth is being adversely affected due to which climate change on rise. The life and health of the mankind and animal are in grave danger. Cutting down of trees and plants also affects the ability of the soil surface to absorb water. According to a report in the daily Jang, from 1990 to 2010, about 33% of the country's forests were cleared. Forests and plants in Pakistan are shrinking very fast. According to international standards, 25% of the total area of a country must be covered with trees and plants. In 1947, Pakistan consisted of about 30% of the total area of trees and plants which has shrunk to less than 5%. The data from the above facts and figures gives an idea of the continuous and rapid decline in the area of forests and trees in Pakistan. This situation of flora and fauna in Pakistan is indicative of a tragic and dangerous environmental crisis and global warming.

The massacre of trees is going on unabated while on the other hand there is no effective
mechanism for caring for the newly planted trees in our country Pakistan. For example, the BRT Red Line project has started in Malir Model Colon area of Karachi. Hundreds of trees have been cut down in the track of the project. The beginning has been made but a large number of trees are being cut down in the way of this project. If cutting of trees is not prevented then the land of Pakistan may become a desert. The forest area in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is declining, while the desert area is steadily increasing. However, in Islam, extravagance and wastage of trees and plants is strictly prohibited. Allāh Almighty says:

وَهُوَ الَّذيي أَنْشَأَ جَنَّاتٍ مَعْرُوشَاتٍ وَغَيَْْ مَعْرُوشَاتٍ وَالنَّخْلَ وَالزَّرْعَ مُُْتَليفًا أُكُلُهُ وَالزَّي ْتُونَ وَالرخمَّانَ مُتَشَابيهٍ كُلُوا مينْ ثَََريهي إيذَا أَثََْرَ وَآتُوا ََقَّهُ ي َوْمَ ََصَاديهي وَلََّ تُسْريفُوا إينَّهُ لََّ يُُيبخ

"He is the One who has created gardens, trellised and untrellised, and date-palms and crops with a variety of edibles, and the olive and the pomegranate, (some) similar to one another, and (some) dissimilar. Eat of its fruit when it bears fruits, and pay its due on the day of harvest, and do not be extravagant. Surely, Allah does not like the extravagant."

In the above verse, various types of gardens and plants have been mentioned. There is a prohibition and condemnation of extravagance and waste in the use of plants and trees. Cutting and damage of trees is an undesirable and reprehensible act in the eyes of Islām. There is a strong warning in a hadith for the one who cuts down trees unnecessarily.

Holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) says:

مَنْ قَطَعَ سيدْرَةً صَوَّبَ اللهُ رَأْسَهُ فِي النَّاري

"Whoever (unnecessarily) cuts down a berry tree, Allah will send him into the fire on his head."

The declaration of hell (fire) for those who cut down plants and trees is a way to prevent the loss of trees and plants so that man and other creatures of the world can benefit from their environmental benefits (Reduction in global warming). In another tradition, the one who harms the creatures of Allah (human being, animals, trees etc.) is likened to an immoral person.

Holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) says:

وَالعَبْدُ الفَاجيرُ يَسََْييحُ مينْهُ العيبَادُ وَالبيلاَدُ، وَالشَّجَرُ وَالدَّوَابخ

"Narrated Abu Qatādā bin Rib i Al-Anṣāri, A funeral procession passed by Allah`s Apostle who said, Relieved or relieving? The people asked, O Allah`s Apostle! What

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1 Daily Jang, Lahore, May 19, (2022)
2 Al-Anām: 141
3 Ahmed bin Al-Hussein, Abū Bakr Al-Bayheeqī, Sunan Al-Kubrā, (Beirūt: Dār Al-Kitāb Al-Alamiyyīa, 1424 AH) h: 11758
4 Al- Bukhārī, Al-Sahīh, h: 6512
is relieved and relieving? He said, A believer is relieved (by death) from the troubles and hardships of the world and leaves for the Mercy of Allah, while (the death of) a wicked person relieves the people, the land, the trees, and (the animals from him.) Damage and destruction of forests and arboriculture causes climate change, environmental pollution and increase of global warming. That is why, Islam disapproves of deforestation, even clearing trees during war and jihad is against Islam and strictly prohibited. The Qur'an strongly condemns the conquerors who damaged trees and crops during the war. Almighty Allah says:

وَأَيُّهُمَا تَوَارَىٰ سُلْطَانُهُمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ يَطْمَئِنُّونَ فِيهَا وَيَتَفَسَّرُونَ السَّرْحَ وَالنَّسْلَ وَاللَّهُ لا يَجْعَلُ ﷽َنَّمَادَ

“Once he turns back, he moves about in the land trying to spread disorder in it, and to destroy the tillage and the stock; and Allah does not like disorder.”

According to Imam Qurtabi, the above verse encourages and encourages agriculture and planting trees.2 Allāmā Ibn Khaldun narrates the universal, eco-friendly and golden guidance of Siddique Akbar (رضي الله تعالى عنه) that when he left for Jihad, he forbade the army of Hadhrat Oṣāmā from damaging and destroying the trees.3 The first caliph Hadhrat Abu Bakr Siddique’s order includes prohibition of all types of Deforestation. Tree plantation is an Eco-friendly Islamic principle which has the status of constitution for the whole world for removal of global warming.

Conclusion

Global warming is a serious environmental issue. Islām describes the splendor of trees in terms of environment, habitat and ecosystem. In modern times, the noise of tree planting campaign can be heard in East and West. Islām gave the idea of tree planting campaign only when the world was completely unaware of global warming and the environmental benefits of tree planting. In view of the ravages of global warming, participation in the tree planting campaign is not only a national duty but also religious duty of every Muslim. The main reason for the deterioration of the natural environment is the widespread cutting of trees. Islām strictly forbids cutting down trees even in sensitive situations like war and jihad. That is why, in Islām, there is a warning of divine punishment for cutting down trees. By adopting Islāmic guidelines about tree plantations, we can save the Earth from complex environmental issue global warming through planting.

Recommendations

1. Non-renewable resources should be avoided or minimized.
2. Eco-friendly renewable resources such as solar power energy, hydro power energy and wind power energy should be developed.
3. Islamic incentives, warnings and guidelines about tree plantations and deforestation should be advertised by seminars, social media, electronic and print media.

References

1 Al-Baqrū:205
4. Regional and tall trees should be planted as much as possible for removal of global warming.