TRANSFORMATION OF RESEARCH IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

Editor:
FAISAL @ AHMAD FAISAL ABDUL HAMID
WAN ADLI WAN RAMLI
SYAHADATUL HAFIZAH ABDULLAH
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THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN AL-QURAN: A STUDY ON THE STORY OF ADAM IN TAFSIR FI ZILAL AL-QUR'AN

By:
Mohd Shafiee bin Hamzah
Mustaffa bin Abdullah

Abstract

In the middle of the 20th century, Muslim world has witnessed the emergence of Sayyid Qutb as a prolific Muslim thinker with his magnum opus in the interpretation of the Quran; Tafsir Fi Zilal Al-Qur’an. This massive work manifests his opinions and ideas towards the condition of Islamic contemporary society. In fact, his brilliant idea and sharpness of his pen always give enormous impacts in the Muslim world. Thus, this paper aims to find out the concepts of Islamic human capital development that can be derived from the Adam’s story based on Sayyid Qutb commentary in Tafsir Fi Zilal Al-Qur’an. This paper has reached into five important conclusions; first, the development of human capital should be based on man’s role on earth and his position in the universal system as well as the values by which he will be judged. Second, the reengineering of human capital must take consideration to man’s duality of nature and ability which is deeply ingrained within him. Third, God’s blessing is the main focus of Islamic human capital development due to fulfillment of man’s commission as God’s vicegerent on earth. Fourth, intellectual potential is the huge valuable capital to be reengineered in human beings as shown in the angels’ prostration before Adam as a respect and honor for him. Fifth, training and education are important mechanisms in engineering excellent human capital as it benefits man in awakening his inner powers and latent ability to face up to challenges and equipped man with precious related experience in daily life.

Keywords: Human Capital, Development of Human Capital, Human Engineering, Sayyid Qutb, Tafsir Fi Zilal Al-Qur’an

Introduction

Economic success crucially relies on human capital.¹ A unique feature about human capital as a productive input and an intangible asset is that it is not owned by firms but it is owned by individuals.² It includes the knowledge and skills that worker acquire through education, training and experience.³ Furthermore, a high-quality of human capital is a key to competitive advantage in contemporary knowledge-based economy.⁴ In the globalization world, it is a challenge to produce a new and urgent need for new skills, knowledge and competency in employee.⁵ Thus, the well developed human capital is the valuable asset to country as well as it will give a positive impact on the national economic growth.