


COVID-19:

DEALING WITH DISPOSABLES

For TIDE 52 (2021)



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PREFACE

The Ta'ruf Intellectual Discourse (TIDE) is a course for newly appointed academic staff for permanent basis and contract basis staff. This course is one of the compulsory courses for new staff. In this course, participants will know the role and functions of various Kulliyahs, Centres, Departments, and Institutes in the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). In 2021, for the first time, TIDE 52 was conducted online via both asynchronous & synchronous sessions. Participants were split into small groups to complete activities based on assigned themes. The final group activity was to solve a case scenario by incorporating aspects of the Insan Sejahtera Framework.

This e-book is based on Group 8's efforts & ideas and embraces the concept of open access of knowledge and sustainability.

The embodiment of Sejahtera goes beyond the conventional three Ps of Planet, People, and Prosperity. Insan Sejahtera has at least 10 dimensions that could be summed up by the acronym SPICES: Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, Cognitive, Emotional, Ecological, Environmental, Economic, and Societal as a platform for holistic learning and living.

(Tan Sri Prof. Emeritus Dr Dzulkifli Abdul Razak 2015)

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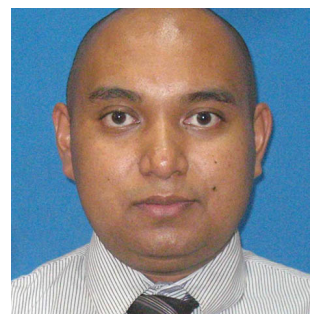
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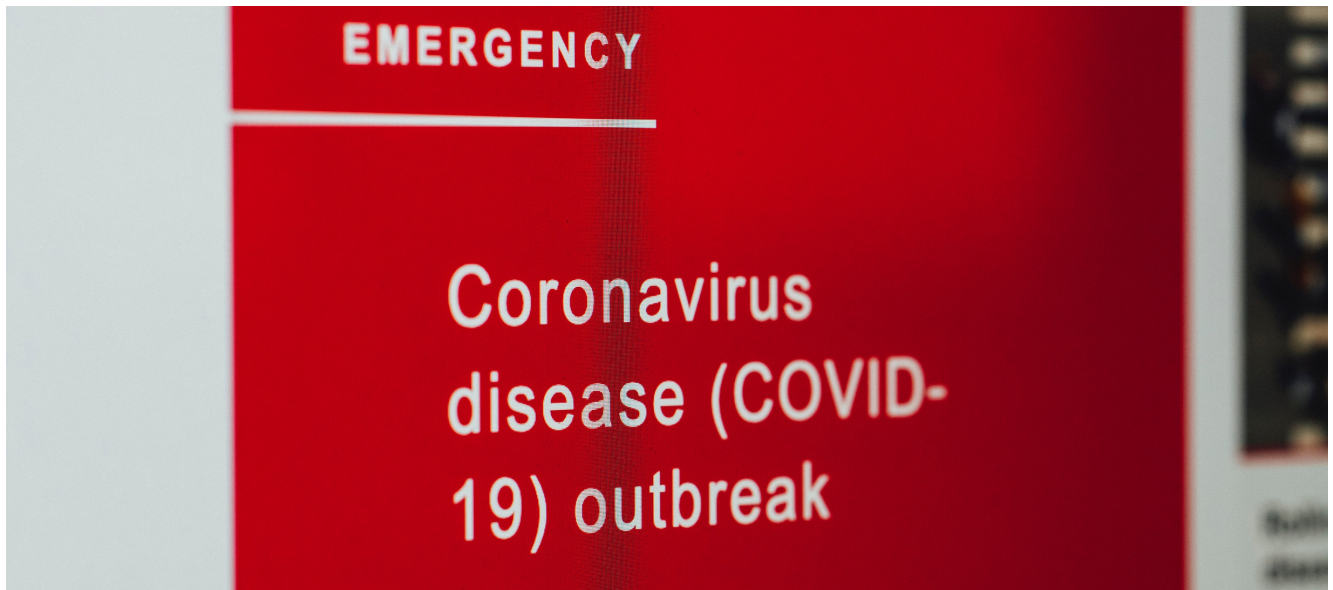


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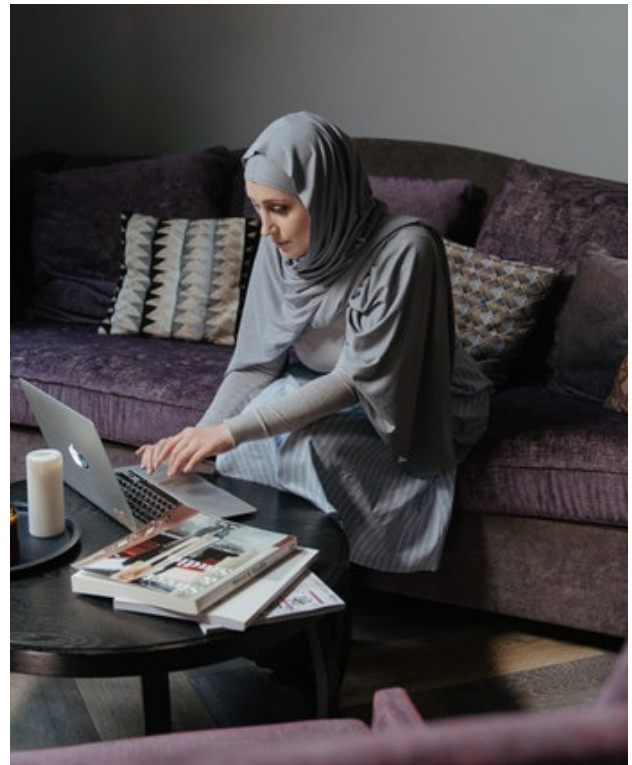
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INTRODUCTION



These past two years have undoubtedly given us cause to pause and reassess both our professional and daily lives. The COVID-19 pandemic brought an unimaginable crisis to everyone's doorstep. The world literally stopped with very little warning and no one was prepared. Initially, we were in denial, then we were in panic and now, we are slowly trying to adapt in all aspects of life.

Our teaching and learning methods changed from face-to-face with students to endless Google Meets, MS Teams sessions, and Zoom meetings. Courses were almost exclusively conducted online and everyday work tasks were completed from home.



Research continued on. In fact, some research flourished such as those studying and analysing our newest enemy; how it affected us and what must be done to defeat it. Our approach to research shifted, we prioritised research and information sharing that would yield fast dependable results into creating a vaccine and possible cures. We innovated personal protection equipment that could better protect our frontliners and be the most functional.

Amidst all this, new staff of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) also experienced their Ta'aruf Intellectual Discourse 52 (2021) online for the first time. Both asynchronous and synchronous sessions were held as well as interactive group sessions. The following e-book is knowledge sharing based on Group 8's task to discuss the current topic, COVID-19: Dealing with Disposables.

INSAN SEJAHTERA FRAMEWORK

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AND REALWORLD PROBLEMS

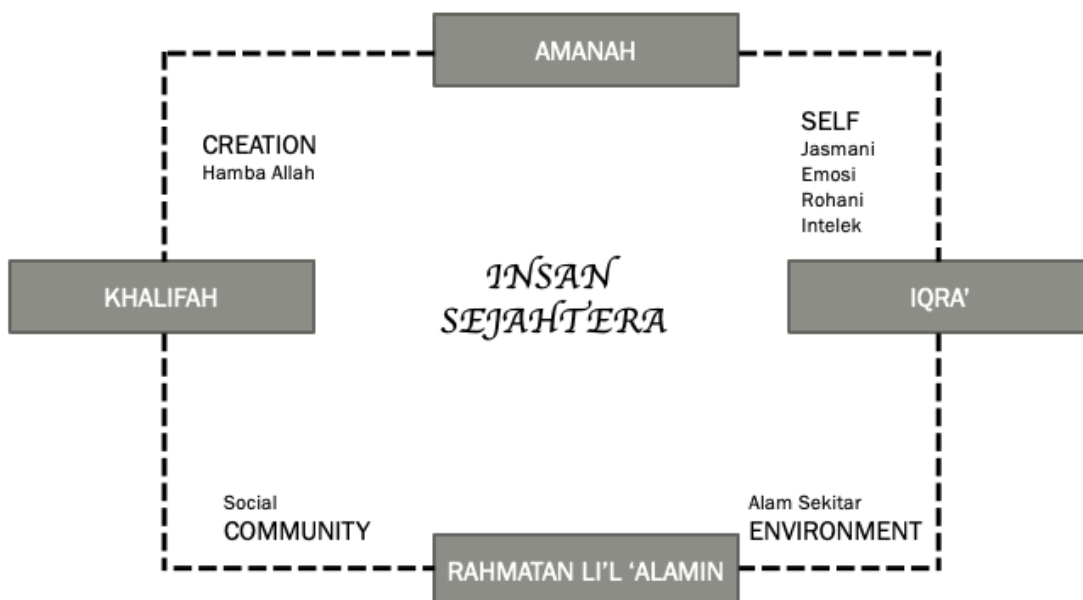


The Insan Sejahtera framework is a local home-grown model by IIUM that addresses sustainable development issues using Maqasid Syariah as its foundation. Gone are the days when a university is viewed as an Ivory Tower, prestigious but only attainable to the elite and chosen few. The model shifts the role of the university towards becoming an institution that works together with all other stakeholders of the quadruple helix model; industry, government, and the community.

IIUM has chosen to humanise education by pioneering instructional leadership (khalifah) that is most appropriate in embedding trust (amanah) to deliver a higher purpose of education (through teaching-learning, responsible research and community engagement). The Sejahtera framework serves as the basis for this re-orientation of the university's mission.

Sejahtera Academic Framework (SAF) is a holistic education framework to prepare individuals with Islamic attitudes and values through transformative and values-based educational initiatives.

SAF requires the involvement of every IIUM community to work together in nurturing and educating Insan Sejahtera. SAF also empowers the IIUM community to be transformative in order to deliver the best teaching and learning experience in IIUM.





IDENTIFYING THE

PROBLEM

The problems:

- ***Increase the quantity of disposable waste***

As a consequence of the pandemic, the volume and sources of waste generation have changed. COVID-19 has increased reliance on plastics due to safety and hygiene concerns. Travel restrictions and the public encouragement to stay at home lead to online shopping, stockpiling of foods, food deliveries, and more, which have contributed tremendously to household wastes.

The press conference study of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council of China found that approximately 468.9 tons of medical waste are generated every day in association with COVID-19 including face masks and personal protective equipment (PPE). Malaysia has reported a 27% (by weight) increase in the generation of clinical waste, which was mostly attributed to COVID-19 related waste.

- ***The habit of bad disposal of waste***

Irresponsible disposal of wastes has become one of the main consequences in relation with dealing with disposables during the COVID-19 situation. Humans have always preferred convenience over consciousness and the pandemic made this more apparent. The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a plastic disaster, reversing the achievement of a decade of activism against single-use plastics worldwide as well as other single-use food and beverage containers.

- ***Lack or reduction of services and facilities for proper and responsible disposal of waste***

An increase in plastic waste generation exacerbates the strain on our management system. Due to the lockdowns and outbreaks of clusters affecting the service providers, the frequency of the recyclable waste collection was also affected.

- ***Single-use products are cheaper than the alternatives (re-useable products)***

The temporary relaxation on single-use plastic bag bans and campaigns have long-term consequences on consumer behaviour. The reversal of policies restricting the use of single-use plastic bags has led to an increase in the generation of plastic bags waste and restarted the use and throw away culture in the consumers, causing them to abandon their sustainable lifestyle. Single-use plastic packaging comprising of thin films, foam, and multi-layered plastic, which have low recyclability dominate e-commerce and leads to an increase of plastic waste due to the lower financial cost incurred from the producers and on the consumers.



**DEFINING
THE**

PROBLEM

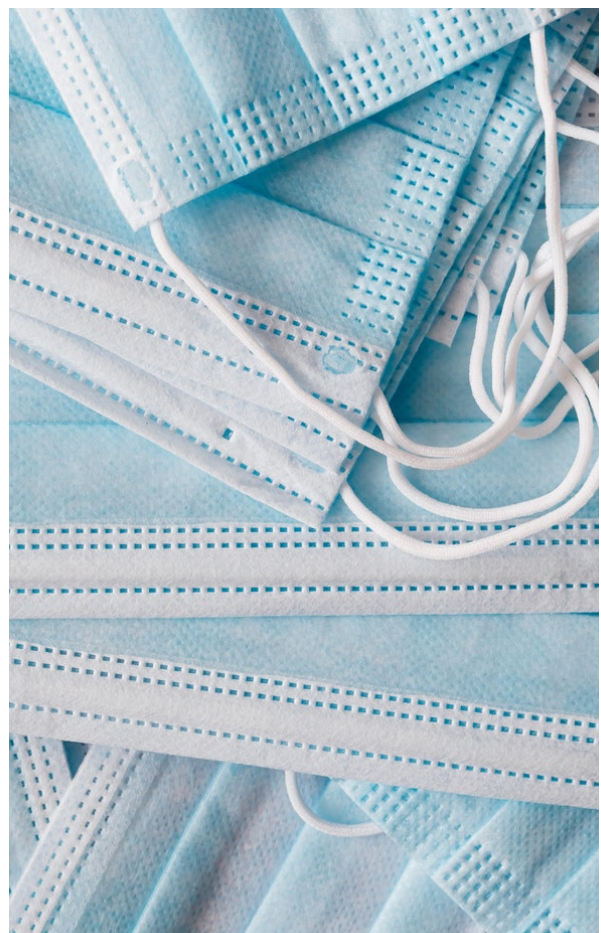
By definition, a disposable product is defined as a product designed for a single use after which it is recycled or is disposed of as solid waste.

For the purposes of this discussion:

- Single-use waste.
- Even worse, irresponsibly, the recyclable waste was also categorized as disposable waste (non-recyclable as intended and simply discarded).

Types of disposables:

- Medical-related: masks, PPEs, bottles for hand sanitizer
- Household-related: food packaging (take away and delivery), especially the Styrofoam, tins, cans
- Educational-related: papers, ink cartridges





EXPLORING THE

PROBLEM

After the problem identification and exploration, various angles of the problem need to be explored in order to further understand and come up with possible solutions.

Categorising the disposable waste:

- Medical vs household
- Single-use vs reusable
- Recyclable vs non-recyclable
- Biodegradable vs non-biodegradable

Factors affecting the problem:

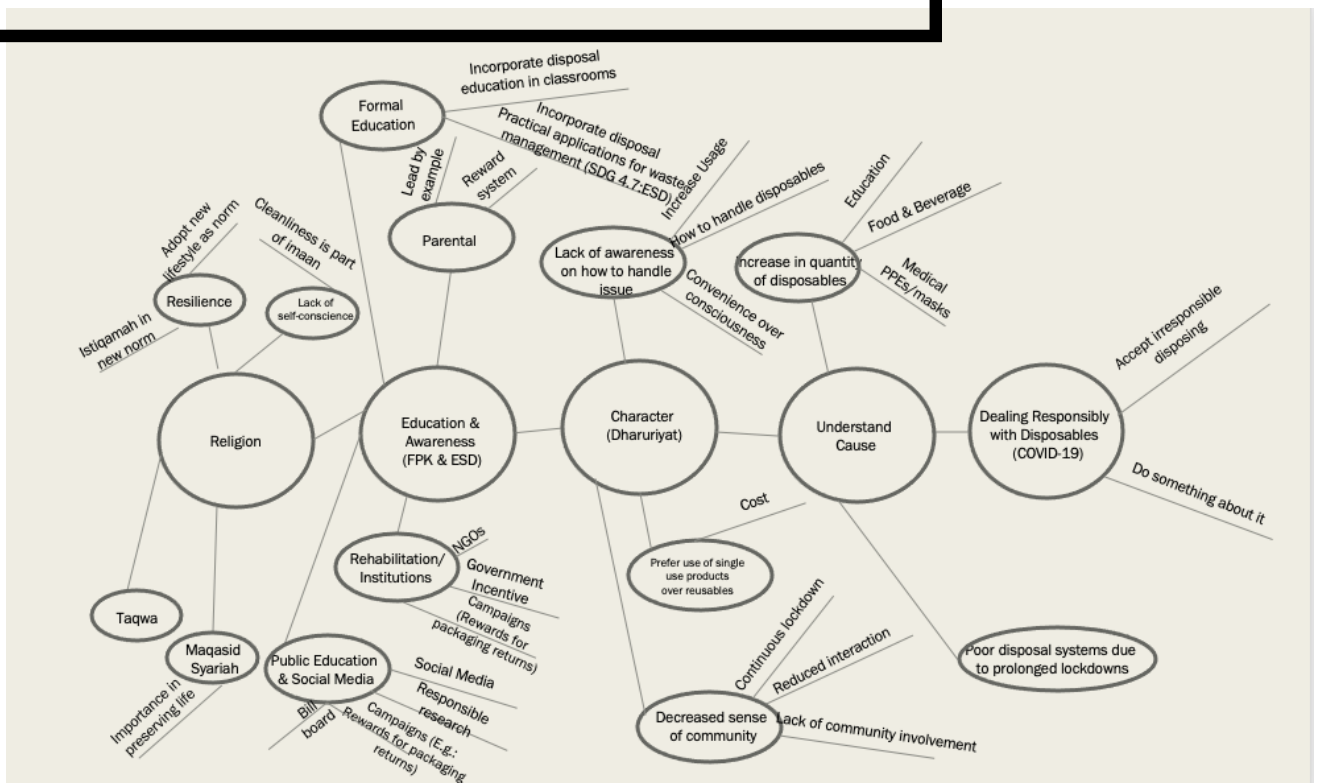
- Root causes
- Character of individuals involved
- Lack of knowledge or awareness
- Religiosity





CONCEPT FAN: ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

CONCEPT FAN: ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS



The "Concept Fan" technique was developed by Edward de Bono as a way to step back from the problem in order to have a broader perspective of the problem as well as a new view of the subject, what you wish to achieve and new ways to solve the problem.

Often, the first ideas may not be the best when solving a problem. The concept fan is a useful tool to widen the search for solutions when all initial ideas have been exhausted.

STEP 1: THE OBJECTIVE

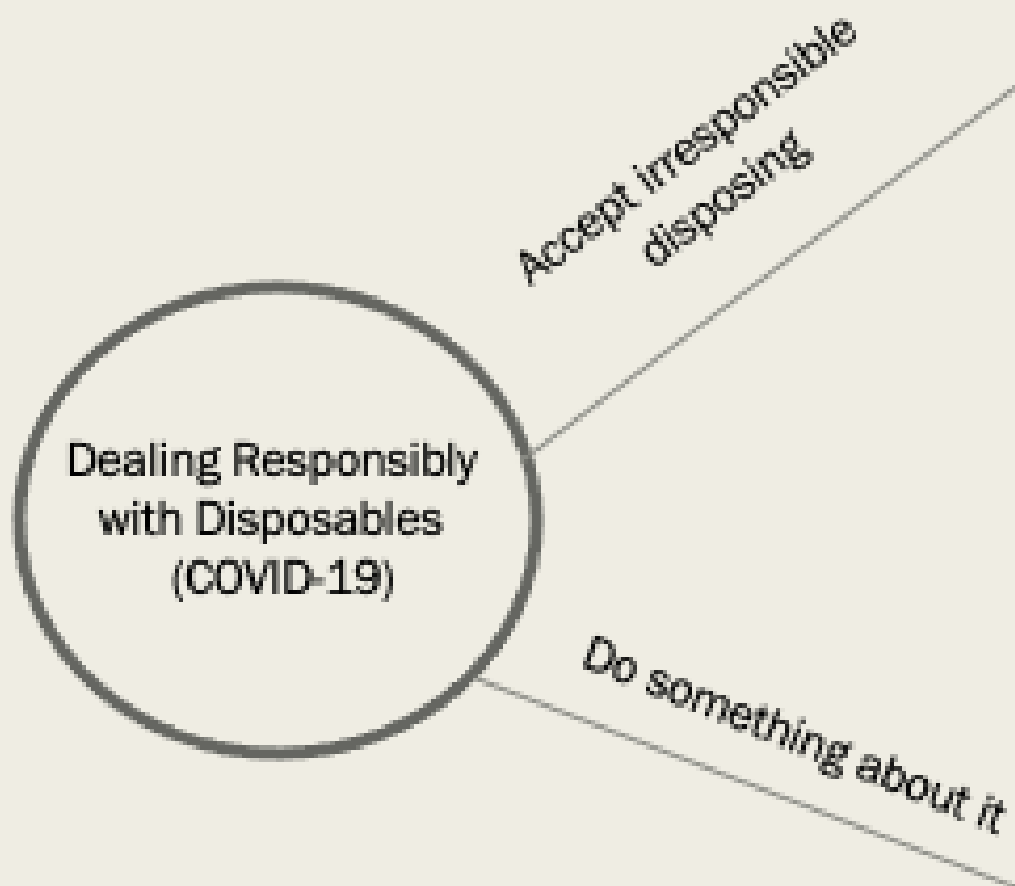
The objective:

To responsibly handle the
disposables

Once the objective has
been defined, the first
circle or starting point of
the concept fan is drawn
slightly to the right of the
centre.

To the right of the centre,
it radiates lines
representing the
preliminary possible
solutions to the problem.

- Accept irresponsible
disposing
- Do something about it



STEP 2: 1ST FOCUS POINT

In order to get a better view of the problem, we take a step back and try to understand the causes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an actual increase quantity of disposable in all sectors:

- Food and Beverage; increase in takeaways and deliveries, restriction of dining-in
- Medical and personal protective equipment (PPEs); not just by the medical fraternity but by the public too which leads to the irresponsible disposal of masks.



STEP 2: 1ST FOCUS POINT

- Education; the current method of learning requires students to learn from home and use a lot of paper and ink cartridges to print their reading materials and modules.

The pandemic has also led to poor disposal systems due to the prolonged lockdowns. Available disposal facilities are scarce and the frequency of scheduled waste disposal operation is reduced due to service interruptions affected by outbreaks of COVID-19 clusters.



STEP 3: 2ND FOCUS POINT

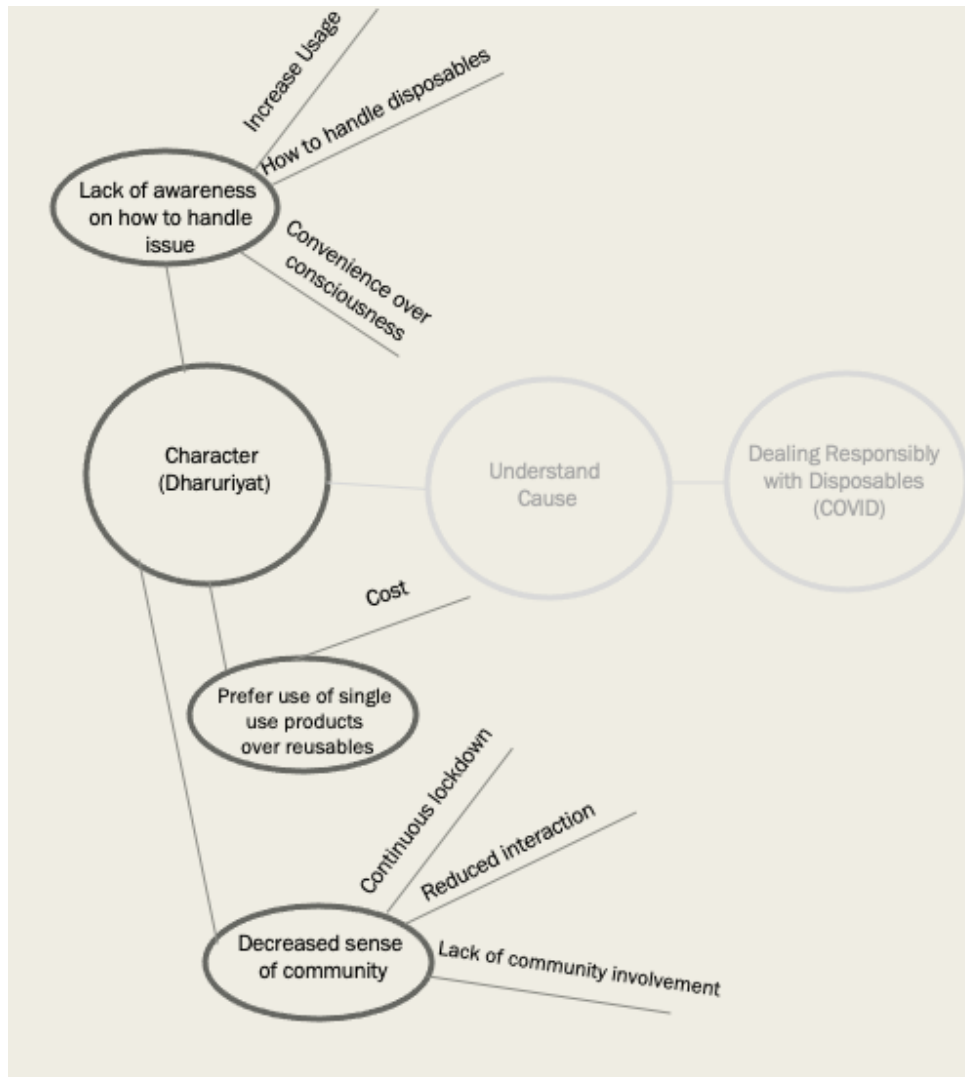
As we take another step back, we now analyse the character involved resulting in the cause and therefore, based on the Maqasid Syariah, Dharuriyat are necessary objectives.

Lack of awareness:

- Increase in usage.
- Proper handling - How to handle disposables.

Lack of motivation resulting from lack of awareness:

- Convenience over consciousness.



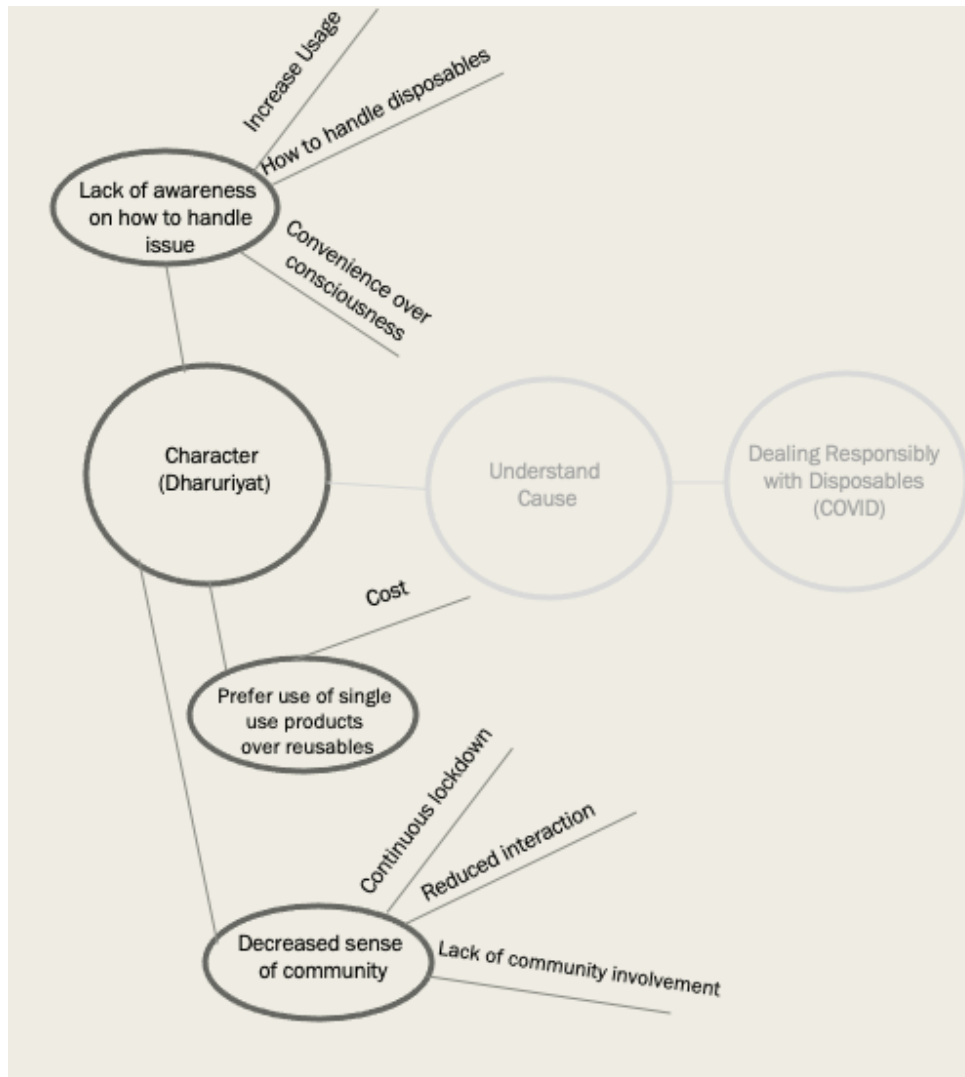
STEP 3: 2ND FOCUS POINT

Preference in the usage of single-use products over reusable products:

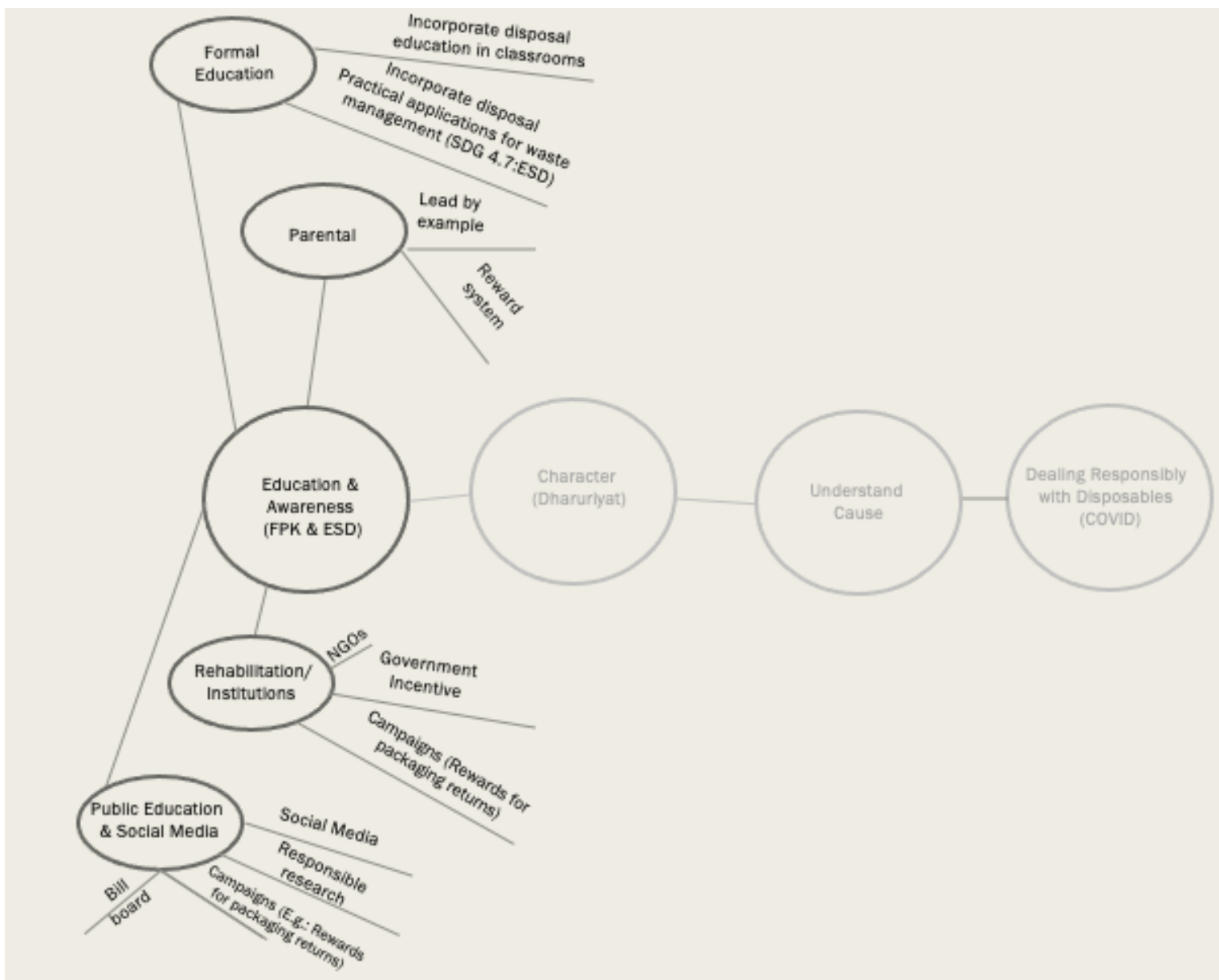
- Financial factor; cost is cheaper.

Reduced sense of community:

- Primarily due to continuous lockdowns.
- Reduced interaction between neighbours.
- Lack of involvement in the community activities (i.e. no more *gotong-royong* activities).



STEP 4: 3RD FOCUS POINT



STEP 4: 3RD FOCUS POINT

As we take another step back, we are now able to view the problem from the aspect of Education & Awareness as discussed in Falsafah Pendidikan Kebangsaan (FPK) and by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4.7 which refers to Education for Sustainable Development.

Formal education:

- Through daily classes; inclusion of some input on the disposables management and disposal methods.
- Additional practical applications, especially during this pandemic problem (FPK: integrating real-life situation with classroom discussion – supplementary experiential learning).

Parental:

- Lead by example.
- Talk to our children regarding the need for good disposal of disposables and the consequences of irresponsible wastes.
- Give rewards on good habits.

STEP 4: 3RD FOCUS POINT

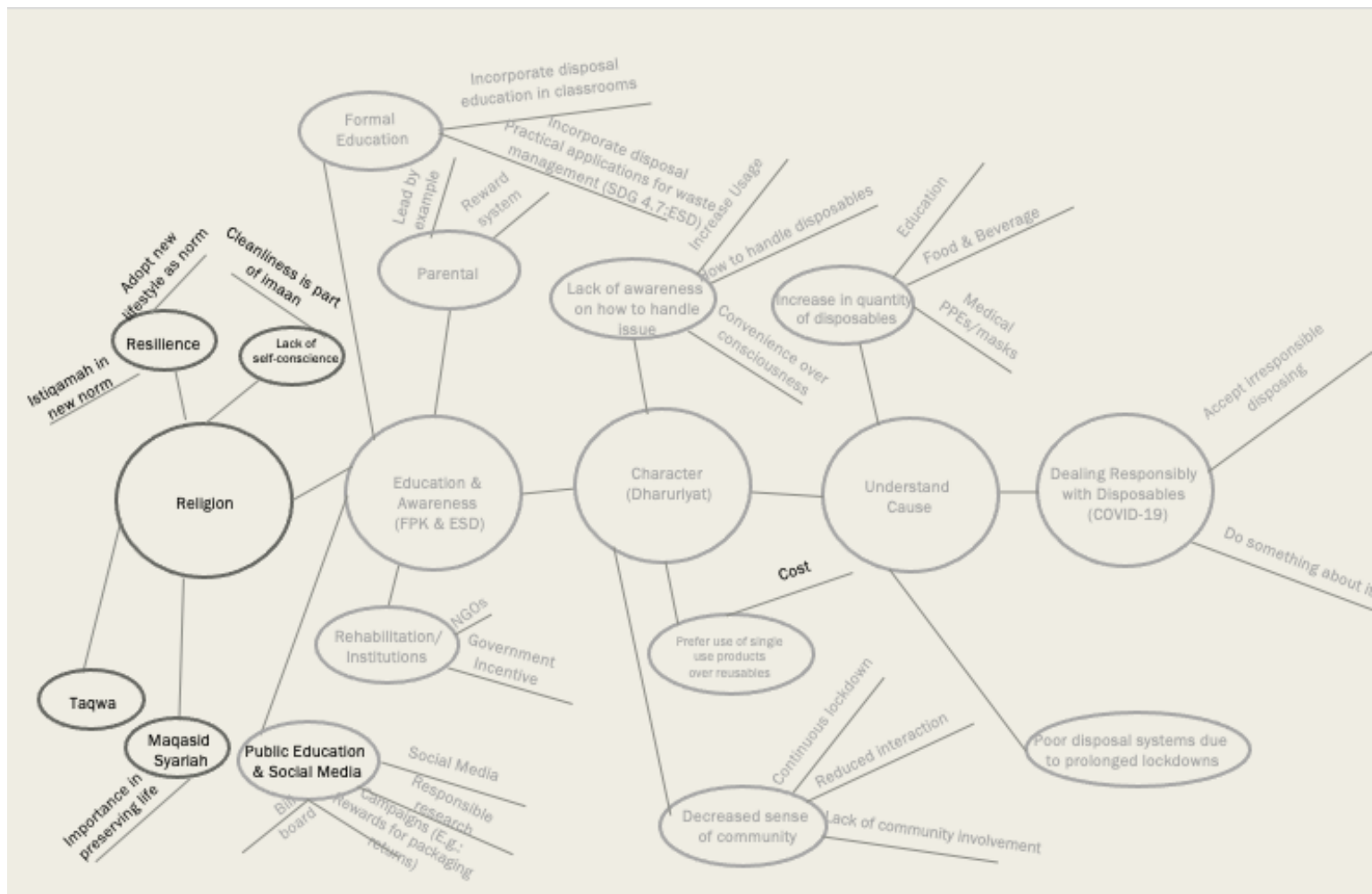
Public education:

- Through the billboards.
- Social media.
- Campaigns.
- Policy from the government.

Rehabilitation / Institutions:

- NGOs to help with waste disposal.
- Government to introduce incentives on recycling and good disposal of wastes.
- Companies and service providers to reward customers for responsible disposal (ie vouchers, discounts, points). (SDG 9: Innovation and infrastructure) as part of corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- Responsible research to look for solutions. (*SDG 9: Innovation and infrastructure*)
 1. Better products: biodegradable materials. (*SDG 12: responsible consumption*)
 2. Better disposal system. (*Maqasid Shariah: Hifz al-Mal*)

STEP 5: 4TH FOCUS POINT



STEP 5: 4TH FOCUS POINT

Finally, we explore religiosity as a possible factor.

Religion (*Maqasid Shariah: Hifz Nafs*):

Lack of self-conscience and religious awareness.

- The importance of cleanliness. as a part of Imaan.

The importance of resilience.

- Adopting a new lifestyle and new norm that is more in agreement with *fitrah*.
- *Istiqamah* in the new norm by continuously acting according to the good habits and not to be tempted to revert to old habits.

The importance of preserving life.

Achieving Taqwa.

- Tazkiyat an-Nafs



REFLECTION

THE INSAN SEJAHTERA FRAMEWORK

- ***Insan Sejahtera framework*** is workable to produce solutions in real-world problems, not only in academic discussions.
- ***Insan Sejahtera framework*** provides guidance toward more structured and comprehensive solutions.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is an example of non-sustainable development which needs sustainable solutions, which can be found using the ***Insan Sejahtera framework***.
- ***Insan Sejahtera framework*** interconnects the aspects of Maqasid Shariah, Sustainable Development Goals, Falsafah Pendidikan Kebangsaan and many more.



CONCLUSION

Sejahtera in the Malay language is not easily rendered into other languages because of its comprehensive and multi-layered meaning and nuances. It underscores that indigenous knowledge and wisdom have had their own context of uniqueness and strength that is relevant to the local community over the years. (Tan Sri Prof. Emeritus Dr Dzulkifli Abdul Razak 2015)

Incorporating the idea of *Insan Sejahtera* based on Maqasid Syariah, Falsafah Pendidikan Kebangsaan, Sustainable Development Goals and Responsible Research and Innovation will result in balanced individuals in all aspects including spiritual, physical, intellectual, cognitive, cultural, ethical, emotional, ecological, economic, and societal. An environment where each staff member embraces the role of Murabbi and strives to fulfill it to the best of their ability.

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COVID-19 : DEALING WITH DISPOSAL

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