

The Eastern perspective on causes of natural disasters w.s.r. to *caraka saṃhitā* and selected Buddhist doctrines: review

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Abstract

Incidences of natural disasters are rapidly rising in despite of expertise theories and management strategies, turning the expectation of sustainable development into a dream. It is very clear that there should be a gap in those strategies and theories where only the physical factors have been taken into consideration while explaining the mechanisms behind those disasters. Eastern philosophies such as Buddhism and Ayurveda are strongly bounded with the nature and have implemented their concepts protecting the natural status of the world. They have been described the relationship between the nature, denature and the mind that strongly influences on the nature around us. This study was carried out to find a new perspective on the causes of natural disasters which is deviated from already explained physical theories. In addition to *caraka saṃhitā*, selected Buddhist doctrines from *dīgha nikāya*, *majjima nikāya* and *saṃyukta nikāya* were referred. The study revealed three different explanations regarding the causes of natural disasters which can be taken as the assumptions. They are the aggravated *vāta*, unsatisfied gods and empowered *asuras* by the rise of *adharmā* in mankind. Both Ayurveda and Buddhism emphasize that the human civilization will be susceptible to destruction due to decrease of *dharma* within them and irregularities in seasonal variations, pollution of water resources etc. will be occurred due to those bad spiritual qualities. Arise of *adharmā* in human mind is the cause of the aggravation of *vāta* which is the initiator of the disasters. Gods who are residing in cold and warm clouds, air and rain are responsible for maintaining the climate normal when they are satisfied and the opposite happens when they are unsatisfied by the evil acts which have done by the human and it will lead to climate changes. The *asuras* are another kind of extra-terrestrial beings that are connected with evil people are behind the blood-letting wars for the sake of some religions. The world is now at the doorstep of its next changing point or revolutionary era and demanding the spiritual development of human beings.

Keywords: Natural disasters, *dharma*, gods, *asura*, extra-terrestrial beings

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