Commitment of Spirituality on Climate Justice

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Abstract: The holy Bible states about spirituality in many ways to guide the mankind and does about various duties to be performed on the surface of earth. The balances of climate and human resources are major perspectives at this modern age. The human beings have got superior intellect to rule over the world. So Almighty has given the task of well maintenance of the environment and living world on human beings. But rapid deterioration of mankind and morality is observed at present across the globe. This has violated the human rights in many ways. Not only this has violated the natural principles but also has affected the climate and community health. The first decade of twenty first century is observed with many natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, super cyclones, drought and global warming. Robberies, murders, torture on women, foeticide and various types of violence have increased at the rate. Business without ethics and increasing rate of many cheat fund companies in many countries have broken the smooth economical status of common people bringing anxieties and sorrows in their lives. Accordingly nature has reacted and climate change is observed. To prevent the world from such dangers it is highly essential to guide the mankind through spirituality. This study indicates the commitment of spirituality on climate justice. Hope this will be beneficial to many.

Keywords: Climate, body, nutrition, spirituality and commitment

I. Introduction

The Lord, beloved God says, “But you must keep my decrees and my laws. And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.” (Leviticus 18: 26, 28, the holy Bible, New International Version) It is clear that God has created earth. He has given the right of ruling in the hands of human beings. So through many scriptures he has given the moral principles of sustaining in earth and serves her. That is why God says that his decrees should be obeyed by the individuals. If they violate the principles, nature will definitely react. It is clear that many civilizations have established on the surface of earth and also erased by many natural calamities which are the marks of climate change. God says, “The appearances of happiness and distress are not permanent as the appearance and disappearance of summer and winter seasons are not permanent. Seasons come and go away. They never stay permanently. They arise from the different angles of our sense perception as sorrows and happiness and without being disturbed we must tolerate them.” (Shreemadbhagvad-Gita, Chapter-2, verse-14). So it is clear that seasons are the mark of climate change and they affect the human life. Climate change according to natural principles is an automatic process. However calamities are the reactions of climate towards wrong doings of human beings which God terms in the holy Bible as defiling of land and calamities as nature’s vomiting.

Brahma Kumaris world spiritual university defines spirituality in a simple way as a path of knowing self and knowing how to live a meaningful and purposeful life. The holy Bible defines spirituality as the light of mankind and God’s mercy (John 1:1:4), offering our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God which is our true and proper worship, through which our mind can be transformed in to God’s pleasing, good and perfect will (Romans 12:1-2), to observe justice and doing righteousness at all time (Psalm 106:3) and to persevere righteousness, faith, love and peace (2 Timothy 2:22). Buddhism defines spirituality as surrender to the Almighty for a purpose of social caring of mankind, transformation and harmonization with body. In Sikhism Guru Nanak defines spirituality as a path of living for purposeful life which is very much active, creative and full of truthfulness and fidelity where self control and purity become higher principles than a competitive life as seen in normal view. Generally climate means the condition of weather prevailing in a region for overall or long period of time. The meaning of climate refers to sky, weather and atmosphere. So characteristics features of wind, surrounding temperature, precipitation and other metrological conditions that prevail in to a particular place or a region refers to climate. United States National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) defines climate generally as a description of the long term pattern of weather in a particular area. However many scientists define climate as the average condition of weather for a particular area with respect to a particular time period, usually taken over in minimum of thirty years. Scientists of NASA differentiate weather and climate in a basic difference of measure of time. According to them the atmospheric condition over a short period of time is...
called weather. Relatively over long periods of time how atmosphere behaves is referred as climate. Human life and health both are affected by climate change time to time.

II. Purposes of the study

Many questions arise in minds of people. Why does climate change and why do natural calamities come? Why and how does disaster appear and disappear? For which reasons mankind degrades and how can it be prevented and maintained well? Are there any relation of climate and calamities with lives on earth and human beings? Then how do they relate and why do they relate each other? Why is spirituality taken in to account and how does this help in solving the problems? What is the commitment of spirituality in this aspect and how does this nourish the climate justice, affects human rights and health? Such questions search for solution with great interest and become objectives or purposes with respect to spiritual awareness of the study.

III. Literature Review

Change is a continuous process. But abnormal or forceful change brings adverse effects. We can understand this from example. A day is followed by a night and a night is followed by a day. The change here from a night to a day and a day to a night is normal and the basis is earth’s rotation around its own axis where proper falling of sunshine plays a major role. Vitamin –D is prepared automatically while at morning the sun rays fall on the human skin. The earth moves around the sun approximately in 365 days as well as rotates around its own axis which results seasonal changes as well as day and night respectively. The marks of seasonal changes also affect the lives on earth and determine the length of day and night in different seasons. Thus cycle repeats. This not only affects the human life and behaviour but also affects the health and rights. Normal cell division and growth of tissues in a body bring change. But the change with abnormal growth of cells and tissues leads to health problem like cancer. Health is too dependent on food. Availability of food materials also changes according to the season flows on earth. Vegetable like lady’s finger generally neither does grow nor does seed in winter, rather it fruits in summer and rainy season. Vegetable like potola (pointed gourd) grows and seeds only in summer and rainy season but does not in winter. Potato cultivation is possible only in winter but not at all possible during rainy season. People with common health can consume potato at any time but people with obesity and suffering from diabetes are restricted to take it in their diet at all times as it is heavily starchy. At this modern time we adopt different techniques to preserve vegetables for off season supply for consumers. Many vegetables are preserved in very cold temperature. Although this becomes suitable for vegetables still some bacteria find this favourable to grow and condition is invisible. While a consumer buys such vegetables and intakes may suffer from infection, which may lead to health complication. This may happen many times during seasonal change or climate change from summer to rainy and from warm to cold conditions respectively that persons may suffer in some viral fevers or in common cold. Such a change is common and we adjust according to time and cope with environment.

A. Natural Calamities at a glance

A deadly super cyclone named cyclone 05B originated from Malay Peninsula in Indian Ocean in between 25th and 28th day of October 1999 and hit India. The wind blew 260 kilometres per hour from there and blew 250 kilometres per hour while hit India. Around 15,000 of coastal Odisha people died, 10,000 of people were evacuated forcefully before the incidence. Around 75 % to 100% of crops were destroyed of 50,000 families. Fatalities of domestic animals were count around 2.5 million. The district of Kendrapara was affected more and its Ersama block was mostly destroyed. This also affected the districts of Ganjam, Puri, Bhadrak and Balasore. The danger was much more and people took reliefs. Due to the affect of this cyclone serious health problem rose in early of November 1999. In 2004 Tsunami, one of the deadliest super cyclone originated in Indian Ocean killed around 230,000 people in 14 countries. In 2008 deadly cyclone Nargis hit Burma’s Irrawaddy delta which was one of the deadliest cyclone in densely populated area. Around 138,000 people died. Many houses were destroyed and wealth loss was extreme. This was considered as eighth deadliest cyclone in the world. Cyclone Nilam brought destruction in South Indian state of Tamil Nadu in coastal region. In US in October 2012 Sandy hit, swamped road and rail tunnels. Triggered massive fire killed 120 people. In December 2012 Philippines’ Typhoon Bopa in southern Iceland of Mindanao killed 902 people. Cyclone Paikash originating in Indian Ocean hit Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in October 2013. This did hit the coast of Gopalpur on sea and Brahmapur of Ganjam district and damaged many more things, affected more than 900000 ( 90 lakh) people. 23 people died and many injured. The Government of Odisha had carefully evacuated more than 800,000 people to safety places before the cyclone came after knowing about the Phailine. This avoided the danger of increasing death. More than 5825 schools damaged and loss of Billions of properties was observed. In November 2013 super typhoon Haiyan hit Philippines. More than 10,000 people died in this deadliest cyclone in central Philippines area.

In flood of January 2011 in Brazil around 800 people died and 400 people were missed. As per the specification of World Health Organization and BBC news Sudan deadly floods in Africa affected around 300,000 people. Around 50 persons were killed and around 70 persons were injured. Around 53,000 latrines collapsed giving rise to faecal pollution of water leaded to serious health problems. According to the information of ministry of transport, Government of Russia in Krymsk flash flood in 2012 the level of Amur...
River hit 7.6 metres, more than 100,000 people in 185 towns in Far East Russia had found their homes damaged. This also damaged 71 bridges and the road of length of about 280 kilometres. In December 2012 Philippines flood and landslides damaged about 2,000 villages, destroyed 149,000 houses. As per the view of Government agencies around 80,000 people remained in shelter of Government. In Bangladesh flood of June 2012 around 110 people died and around 250,000 stranded. In June 2013 devastating monsoon flood hit North Indian state of Uttarakhand. This was most deadly flood happened due to the severe rain of breaking clouds in India. More than 4000 villages were affected. The missing of people counted more than 5,700 and many thousands of people died. Around 10,000 pilgrims were rescued by 23, June 2013 and around 7000 odd pilgrims had waited for rescue in Kedarnath. 82,000 people were evacuated so far and by 22, June 2013 around 22,000 were still stranded. Loss of billions of dollars of wealth, crops, roads and bridges broke the backbone of the state. In flood of August 2013 in Far East Russia the loss of crops was about 9,500 tonnes of estimated cost of $ 910 million. In September 2013 Mexico storm and flood killed 57 people. Many tourists airlifted from flooded Acapulco and 40,000 tourists had been marooned. September 2013 Colorado floods destroyed 1,500 homes damaged about 643 kilometres of road of state highway and 30 bridges and brought a property loss of $ 2 Billion.

Earthquake with magnitude 6.3 shook Tabas near Bushehr in 1978 and killed around 15,000 people. The earthquake with 6.7 magnitudes in Negros-Cebu region of Philippines killed 113 people on 06, February 2012. North-Western Iran earthquake with magnitude 6.7, killed 306 people on 11 August 2012. Earthquake with magnitude 5.5 in Sichuan-Yunnan-Guizhou region of China killed 81 people. On 07 November 2012 Offshore Guetmala earthquake with magnitude of 7.4 killed 139 people. In 2012 earthquake of Indonesia, many damages were observed. In 2012 earthquake of Burma in Naypyidaw 38 people were missed 26 people were killed 230 people were injured. In April 2013 Baluchistan earthquake with magnitude 7.7 struck the hilly areas in between Saravan and Khash. Close to the Pakistan border in the provience of Sistan- Baluchistan around 40 people died and 100 were injured. In September 2013 a major earthquake with magnitude of 7.8 originated 51 miles below the ground in Iran and Pakistan boarder killed 35 people and injured 27 people of Iran.

It is clear from the above that the rate of death, missing, breakage, destruction of wealth and many more have happened in mass or wholesale. The cyclones, storms, floods and earthquakes have shown the mark of reactive climate change. We can say these as abnormal changes and these are different than normal seasonal change process. Many times the questions arise in mind that why nature reacts and climate does reactively changes and gives adversely pain and sorrows to many persons those who die suffer and live after disaster? There must be some causes. Further the cyclones, floods, droughts, storms, earthquakes etc. are the signs of long term climate change. Again after the natural calamities further there is a chance of change in climate too. Because after October 1999 super cyclone in India it is observed that the rain fall has decreased randomly in the costal Odisha affected district of Ganjam during rainy season or the months of rain like July and August. However rain fall has shifted to the months of September and October. Proper, more and heavy rain fall is seen during October in this region. So it has affected the cultivation process. Farmers depend on rain fall to start their cultivation and now-a day they start a bit later than the normal time.

B. Climate and crops

Crops are the basis of food materials and nourish health with required carbohydrates, fats proteins, vitamins, minerals and many more. God says, “All the living beings originate from food materials. Food originates from cloud. Cloud originates from oblination. Further oblination originates from karma or action. The action takes birth from the Nature. Again the nature originates from eternal or imperishable super energy of universes in system. In this way on this earth the system continues with cycles of karma or action and a person who disobey the cycle of duty and spends time in attachment of sensual pleasures, for such a sinful soul it is meaningless and difficult to sustain with life.” (Shreemadbhagavad-Geeta,Chapter-3, Verses14-16). So it is clear that people should perform their righteous duty for smooth flowing of natural cycles on earth. Nature is a true and infinite giver. It ever gives and takes back nothing and never in return. Neither does a river drink its own water nor does a tree eat its own fruits. Rivers and plants including nature teach a precious thing to mankind and that is, “help others with great interest to make life valuable.” In this aspect the Bible too agrees and advises to help each other in community. If love is not seen in a place or planet not only human beings but also animals do not desire to live. We exist here due to the existence of nature. Nature includes many resources, birds, animals, trees, shrubs, mountains, rivers and lakes. Love towards nature means love towards them all. So people in this planet should love even the tiniest form of life and grass. Do cutting down of branches and trunk of a tree show love of humanity? (No) However plantation shows love and affection for trees and thus it shows love for nature. Because trees and shrubs are only able to refine the air and produce fresh oxygen along with supply of food, shelter and shadow during summer to prevent from sun-stroke and many more. Plants are only the resources who receive sunlight and by the help of their chlorophyll pigments process and prepare nutritious food and preserve for entire animal kingdom including human beings. All creatures living in this earth starting from unicellular organisms to multi-cellular organisms including carnivores, directly or indirectly depend on plant kingdom. The pollution is too controlled automatically by the plants as they sensitively absorb carbon dioxide.
and reprocess to fresh air. But at this present age of time rapid degradation of forests are seen in many countries which violate the principles of natural cycle. So the climate which originates from the nature does affect the human life on this planet. The body of human being responds towards the climate change being more sensitive in this matter and feels the different effects by sensual perception. Climate expresses the nature’s action and human body is originated from the nature. So body responses towards the different change of climate and expresses sorrows and pain with favourable and unfavourable conditions. Plants and crops give food materials to human beings and their cultivations too are influenced by the natural calamities or by natural cycles of weather with great extent. Climate adds the sequential vibrations and minerals code the mode of light perceived during photosynthesis during origin of food grains in crops. While crops mature humans get these.

IV. Importance of the study

It is observed that continuous change in climate has been diverted in to haphazard climatic change. So as the effects of this, the natural calamities have fallen on the civilization at this age. Today’s world exists in a phase of warmness in between ice ages. Warmness is expressed due to increase in temperature. It is realized that human activities have affected the climate. Green house effect and many other effects are seen due to activities of human beings. It is true that human activities have affected the climate and those are against the nature or natural principles. Green house gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide etc. are growing time to time and they are allowing short wave solar radiations to enter in to the earth’s atmosphere. At the same time they help to stop long term wave radiations from escaping. This traps heat and rising of temperature in earth is observed. Aerosols and heat trapping property also affect the climate. Burning of fossil fuels also help in trapping of more heat. It leads to global warming. So climate changes according to the circumstances. Because increasing temperature may do increase in expectation of rise in sea level and crop yields water supply. Increasing temperature may turn many fertile lands in to deserts as it affects the proper rain fall. Not only global temperature affects human health but also affects animals and ecosystems. So it is necessary to study about climate and its change. Due to warmness of earth air becomes warm. So air expands absorbs water vapours and cools down. Condensations of cool air with water vapours form clouds. Combination of oxygen rich atmosphere and availability of more water within are the unique key factors for sustaining of life on earth. So God says that cloud is the fundamental basis of oblution. Food originates from it and living beings originate from food.

A. Understanding of life and body

People differentiate themselves from their bodies in each and every action by telling, ‘us’ and ‘ours.’ But at the same time they think that they are mortal bodies. An individual daily says the words like, ‘I, and ‘my.’ I do so and so works. My head aches, my legs pain, oh my stomach is empty, I feel hungry, I do work by my hands, my eyes etc. Thus the individual differentiates, ‘I’ from, ‘my,’ but does not able to know this phenomenon. Then why does it happen so? Who is that I, who often says my in all aspects of life? Does not it signify that, ‘I’ is different than, ‘my’? ‘I,’ does not belong to hand, led, eye nose, stomach or body. Then who is this, ‘I,’ actually? Here, ‘I,’ is the self is who the driver of all above organs and body in mass. The self is the conscious energy who often addresses himself with the word, ‘I’, to whom we say as soul, the driver of the body. Soul is an eternal conscious, self luminous and metaphysical entity who dwells inside the pituitary and hypothalamus of brain in between two eye brows of forehead. Residing inside well managed central nervous system in brain soul controls the human body as a driver controls a car. Combination of soul with body is often referred as life but in true sense life appears while soul enters in a body of foetus in mother’s womb. So we can say life as soul. Because soul is metaphysical in nature, it is not possible to see this in our eyes as eyes are made of matters. Body without soul i.e. life energy, does not able to move, does not remain fresh and starts decomposing. God says, “A soul wears a body as a dress and leaves while it becomes unusable by any case as we leave torn clothes as unusable. Soul is eternal and indestructible. Neither does weapon able to cut nor does fire burn. Neither does water able to moisture or sink nor does air soak or dry the soul.” (Shreemadbhagavad- Geeta, Chapter-2, Verses 22-23) Then what is a body? Again God says, “The body of life energy i.e. imperishable eternal soul is destructible or perishable from all aspects.” (Shreemadbhagavad-Geeta, Chapter 2, Verse 18). This is combination of five basic elements which are material in nature.

God further says, “A person who has born, his death is definite and a person who has died his birth is too definite.” (Shreemadbhagavad- Geeta, Chapter-2, Verse-27) It is clear that we born and die and born time to time in cycle of re-birth. Indian philosophy specifies that a body is made of five basic elements. These elements are, “water, fire, air, sky and earth.” These are accumulated from nature and by natural cycle of formation and transformation a body is prepared as a foetus in mother’s womb. Through a process of cell division cells multiply before and after birth and a body passes by the stages of new-born baby, childhood, teenage, youth, matured, old age, death stage and becomes a cadaver while soul leaves the body but soul remains unaltered in qualities which is made up of mind, intellect and resolves or impressions or experiences. Original nature of soul holds power, purity, peace, happiness, bliss, love and knowledge. Power of soul is composed with divine virtues plus action. However knowledge of memory is expressed in facial expressions, mental state, health, behaviour and in environment and in sleep or dream.
B. Relationship between soul, body and climate

Soul performs actions by the help of it. Conscious vibrations flow inside and outside the body due to consciousness of soul. Without soul a body is considered as a cadaver and cannot move at all. Scientific theories say, “All natural processes are irreversible, so once soul leaves the body cannot enter in the same further, rather gets a new body in mother’s womb. Giving the mark of time flow nature flows seasons on earth as spring, summer, monsoon, autumn. Pre-winter and winter giving symptoms and signs of different climatic conditions.

As body is made up of five basic elements which are fundamental basis of nature too influence the lives on earth. Water element in the body is present in the form of blood, moisture in skin, cells and tissues and fluid inside bones etc. Fire element in body is present in the form of self secretion of hydrochloric acid (HCl) and existing in form of energy. An individual feels hungry while HCl is secreted indicating the requirement of food. The greater source of energy is Sun. A Plant prepares food for self and mankind by using ultraviolet rays of sun along with chlorophyll. Morning sunlight prepares Vitamin-D while afternoon sunlight harms and becomes dangerous due to intense heat. Air element we accept in breathing in form of oxygen and leave carbon dioxide. It exists in body in form of oxygen. Clime means the sky and climate is relevant to weather. Sky means cavity. Sky element is present in the body in form of cavities like mouth, nose, eyes, ears, in every organ, joint and bone. In the form of knot Navel controls all cavities, becomes centre of sky element in body. Earth element is present in the form of cells, tissues and bones. All together the body is formed and controlled by soul the driver.

So the impact of climate and climate change fall on body and soul feels and experiences these. In polluted environment fire element with warm condition is seen as fever in body, cold climate freezes and fluctuation affects as common cold, water pollution affects as diarrhoea and sky element during unnatural suffering marks as joint pains, pain in cavities, headache etc. Pollution of air affects body as asthma and other air diseases. Pollution of earth element in environment affects body as various skin diseases. Over existence and deficiency of vitamins and minerals, which are also from of earth elements affect body as hyper-avitaminosis or hypovitaminosis, over mineral complication, or mineral deficiency etc. Residing in the body soul experiences all these as soul and nature are under the control of time. Further nature propels the soul in body to perform action. Thus climate change affects the living beings on earth during common period and natural calamities.

C. Climatic conditions and nutrition in body

As all the fundamental elements of universe gathered and formed the body, now it can be called as a tiny universe and the soul as energy that makes it moveable. As per the second law of thermodynamics during exchanges in all energy, if no energy enters or leaves the system the potential energy of the state will always be less than that of the initial stage. This is called as entropy. The law applicable to universe is applicable to the body in the same manner. Our body is made of five basic elements and they mainly contain carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals etc. So we consume these things in food to supply energy to body. Carbohydrates are chief among them. The potential energy exists there in body’s carbohydrates. If this energy is locked even for a single time then it starts converting from potential energy form to kinetic energy form. So individual does not get energy until next supply of carbohydrates. Again due to conversion process dispelling of energy is observed as heat entropy. So it brings disorder. Cells have low entropy. The flow of time influences energy flow to maintain proper way of life. Due to the impact of time aging comes. Living individual gradually ceases to take energy entropy becomes winner and death comes.

For well maintenance, body requires 16 major minerals, 23 key minerals, 7 trace minerals and in total at least 90 minerals are required. Nobel Prize winner Dr. Linus Pauling says that all diseases, sickness, ailments and many more complications are directly or indirectly related to mineral deficiency. Minerals are importantly required for growth, repair and regeneration of tissues. American physician cum spiritual writer Dr. Gabriel Cousens says that minerals are frequencies of light, information and frequencies of creation of the material world and the universe. Minerals play role in activation of all catalyst for organ structures, reactions of enzymes, activation of vitamins and cell structures. He further specifies that minerals are conscious or sensitive light and play major role for spiritual growth. So he says that minerals are secrets of spiritual nutrition. Now we can say that minerals are messenger for establishing purity in body and righteousness in mind and action.

V. Discussion

Natural calamities are seen due to the reactive climate change on men made pollution and increasing injustice activities. Spirituality is essential for understanding of climate, body and soul relationship for balance of healthy living as well as protection of natural resources. Newton’s third law of motion states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. The same theory is applied to human life. At this age human activities are out of understanding. Cheat-fund companies have brought anxiety, sorrows, pain and downfall of economy of people creating psychic problems in many and increasing suicidal cases are observed in media reports. Torture on women, nature, stealing, robberies, bloodshed, unpleasant affairs and misuse of resources have brought increasing situations of lawlessness across the globe. At this modern age although science and economy have developed a lot, people enjoy the pleasure of air conditioners, cars, flights and many more still it is marked that human desires are unfulfilled. Impurities in societies and relationships have defiled the land. The nature has tolerated many more and started reacting. As per specifications till date by Spiritual Science Research
Foundation the nature has reacted only 10 percent. The holy Bible says, “Whoever shows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his furry will fail.” To breakdown injustice affairs and transform the world in to peace and joy spirituality is essential to follow. Christ says, “You shall not pollute the land in which you live... You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for the Lord dwell among the Israelites.” (The Holy Bible, Numbers 35: 33-34, English Standard Version) So we should be aware about spirituality to save the civilizations on earth and make our land free from all types of danger and pollution. Only pollution free environment can give us a pleasurable life and better health can be achieved due to influence of positivity in surrounding environment. Climate study is very much important as climate and human body are associated with each other. Health rights and social welfare are influenced by climate change.

VI. Conclusion

After having this study it is definite that human beings will get right knowledge of development and skill of transformation of new world. This will help a lot in decision making, resolution of resource conflict, pollution control, cultivation, utilization of material resources properly and many more. During change of climate human beings sometimes get stress. However after knowing about the secrets of relationship of climate and body they will remain unattatched and stress free. During performance of action obeying righteous laws will be their first choice at workplace. Now we can define climate as a continuous or haphazard change of natural qualities which describes the condition of the weather in a particular area as well as describes the weather in reaction to human activities either of material or spiritual approaches proceeding towards a minor or major transformation in an area or in whole of the globe. The world is turning towards transformation and this can be possible by spirituality only. Spiritual awakening will bind the world in brotherhood. The spiritual vibrations will stabilize peace and the climate will be calm. Reminding his commitment beloved God says, “If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit.” (The holy Bible, Leviticus 26: 3-4)

References