

AN APPLICATION OF BUDDHADHAMMA TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING IN THE MODERN WORLD*

การประยุกต์ใช้พุทธธรรมเพื่อลดภาวะโลกร้อนในโลกสมัยใหม่



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Abstract

This study is a qualitative research. The objectives of the research are: 1. To study the problems and solutions of global warming according to the Modern Sciences, 2. To study Buddhadhamma relating to global warming in Theravada Buddhism. and 3. To propose the application of Buddha-dhamma to reduce global warming in the modern world.

The findings were that: 1. The Global Warming means glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, forests are dying, because of temperatures and human activities. 2. The Buddha-dhamma related to global warming in Theravada Buddhism was found that the Buddhist teachings are based on love, compassion. Human beings are social animals. Global warming is caused by many forms, both from nature and from humans. We must first reduce global warming from ourselves. We must not be greedy. 3. The proposed application of Buddha-dhamma to reduce Global Warming in the modern world was found that, according to the principles of Buddhism, 1. Contentment with food consumption. 2. Contentment with clothing. 3. Contentment with residence. 4. Contentment with consumption of medicine, and 1. Greed in Buddhism. 2. Anger 3. Delusion in Buddhism 4. Compassion, Practicing Adosa & Abayapada, Loving Kindness and Compassion, and principles merit 10 will reduce global warming.

Keywords: Buddhadhamma; Global Warming; the Modern World

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บทคัดย่อ

งานวิจัยนี้เป็นเชิงคุณภาพ วัตถุประสงค์ของการวิจัย คือ (1) เพื่อศึกษาปัญหาและแนวทางแก้ไขภาวะโลกร้อนตามศาสตร์สมัยใหม่ (2) เพื่อศึกษาพุทธธรรมเกี่ยวกับภาวะโลกร้อนในพระพุทธศาสนาเถรวาท และ (3) นำเสนอการประยุกต์ใช้พุทธธรรมเพื่อลดภาวะโลกร้อนในโลกสมัยใหม่

ผลการวิจัยพบว่า 1) เพื่อศึกษาปัญหาและแนวทางแก้ไขภาวะโลกร้อนตามหลักวิทยาศาสตร์สมัยใหม่ พบว่า ภาวะโลกร้อน หมายถึง ธารน้ำแข็งกำลังละลาย ระดับน้ำทะเลสูงขึ้น ป่ากำลังจะตาย เพราะอุณหภูมิ และกิจกรรมของมนุษย์ 2) พุทธธรรมเกี่ยวกับภาวะโลกร้อนในพระพุทธศาสนาเถรวาท พบว่า พระพุทธศาสนาสอนอยู่บนพื้นฐานความรักความเมตตา มนุษย์เป็นสัตว์สังคม ภาวะโลกร้อนเกิดจากหลายรูปแบบทั้งจากธรรมชาติและจากมนุษย์ เราต้องลดโลกร้อนจากตัวเราเองก่อน เราต้องไม่โลภ 3) นำเสนอการนำพุทธธรรมมาประยุกต์เพื่อลดภาวะโลกร้อนในโลกสมัยใหม่พบว่าตามหลักพระพุทธศาสนา 1. ความพอใจในการบริโภคอาหาร 2. ความพอใจในการแต่งกาย 3. ความพอใจในที่อยู่อาศัย 4. ความพอใจในการบริโภคยา และ 1. ความโลภในพระพุทธศาสนา 2. ความโกรธ 3. ความหลงในพระพุทธศาสนา 4. ความกตัญญู, การปฏิบัติความไม่โกรธและความไม่เบียดเบียน ความเมตตาและกรุณา และบุญกริยาวัตถุ 10 จะทำให้โลกร้อนช้าลงได้

คำสำคัญ: พุทธธรรม; โลกร้อน; โลกสมัยใหม่

Introduction

Global warming is primarily a problem of too much carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, which acts as a blanket, to trap heat and warm the planet. As we burn fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas for energy or cut down and burn forests to create pastures and plantations, carbon dioxide accumulates and overloads our atmosphere. (Huntington, B., 2008)

Substantial scientific evidence indicates that an increase in the global average temperature of more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) (or 2 degrees Celsius [°C]) above pre-industrial levels poses severe risks to natural systems as well as human health and well-being. However, global warming is caused by human beings so we could avoid this problem. For example, to avoid this level of warming, large emitters such as the United States need to greatly reduce heat-trapping gas emissions by mid-century. Temperature of land and ocean is one way to measure the effects of climate change. Furthermore, a warming world also has the potential to change rainfall and snow patterns, increase droughts and severe

storms, reduce lake ice cover, melt glaciers, increase sea levels, and change plant and animal behavior.

Any action to reduce or eliminate the release of heat-trapping gases to the atmosphere helps slow the rate of warming and, likely, the pace and severity of change at any given hot spot. Local sources of carbon emissions vary from region to region, suggesting that solutions are often decided at the community level. The Climate Hot Map points to regional examples of climate-friendly energy, transportation, or adaptation choices. Some regions, however, must rely upon global solutions such as international agreements to reduce the carbon overload in the atmosphere that threatens them. (Kendall, H, 2018) Non-killing of living beings. “Tam pāyāsam appaharite vā chaddechi, appānake vāudake apilāpehī ti.” (John, K., 1995) Prescription of various Dhutangas like, Ārannikanga (living under the root of some tree), Abbhokāsikanga (living under the open sky), etc. suggests how much importance the Buddha attaches to the forest and environment. (John, K., 2005) Brahmajālasutta of Suttapitaka too refers to the Buddhist concept of sīla (virtue) that includes ‘abstinence from injuring or destroying seed and plants’ (būjaḡāma-bhūtagāmāsamārambha). The Buddha distinguishes himself from other Samana and Brāhmanas who survive on the food offered by householders and yet resort to destroying of plants and trees. He emphatically says that unlike such Samana-Brāhmanas, he abstains from injuring seedlings and growing plants whether developed from the roots or cuttings of joints, budding or seeds. (Dīḡhanikāya, 1993)

The purpose of this research is to know about an application of Buddhadhamma to reduce global warming in the modern world. This research has focused on being a part of education and on being part of bringing knowledge to everyday life in this modern world society.

Objectives of the Research

1. To study the problems and solutions of global warming according to the Modern Sciences.
2. To study Buddhadhamma relating to global warming in Theravada Buddhism.

3. To propose an application of Buddhadhamma to reduce global warming in the modern world.

Methodology

This qualitative research work is a documentary research. The research methodology can be divided into five stages as follows:

1. Document search and data collection (books, research articles, review articles, online database, etc.)

2. In-depth interview with 5 key informants:

1) Phramaha Somboon Vudhikaro, Assoc. Prof. Dr. The Dean of Graduate School of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University.

2) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prapan Supason. Deputy Dean of Graduate School Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University.

3) Dr. Pramote Sirirote, Former Lecturer, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University.

4) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peerasak Vorasuntharoso, Former Governor of Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, Ministry of Science and Technology.

5) Asst. Prof. Dr. Cherdsak Maneeruttanarungroj, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Science, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang.

3. Data analysis and synthesis: Analyzing and synthesizing raw data and collect data to find the best solution.

4. Outline Construction: Constructing the overall outline of work in all related dimensions corresponding to the objectives.

5. Problem Discussion: Criticizing the problems encountered according to the significance of the studies.

Results

1. The problems and solutions of Global Warming according to the Modern Sciences found that from the study above data can be concluded that; Meaning of Global Warming are Meanings Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, cloud forests are dying, and Many factors are accounted for the earth's rising

temperatures. The most important one is solar radiation, which comes in the form of a short (ultraviolet) wavelength.

In climate change when it is in its climate change is real and human activities are the main cause. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of sea-level rise, and its causes, over the past few decades. It also estimates cumulative CO₂ emissions since pre-industrial times and provides a CO₂ budget for future emissions to limit warming to less than 2 °C.

And The best way to live in the warming earth is to try to avoid making temperatures higher than what they are now, and it would be even better if the temperatures could be reduced in the coming future. There may be many ways to make that happen, but the best way is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

2. The Buddhadhamma relating to Global Warming in Theravada Buddhism found that The Buddhism regards the Universe as a harmoniously functioning as a whole with a unity behind its diversity. Man is created by the laws of nature; the world is not created for man. The environment, or preservation of environment, is related with many things. So the key point is genuine sense of universal responsibility which is based on love, compassion and clear awareness. Also, about the question of human survival, human beings are social animals. In order to survive you need other companions; without other human beings there is simply no possibility to survive; that is nature's law.

Buddhism suggests that each man has to uplift his moral degradation as we believe that morality of mankind is directly proportionate to the natural process of the world. Moreover, he should lead a simple moderate life by being satisfaction with basic needs. He has to reduce his over consumption to the minimum in order not to become a slave to his insatiable passions since Buddhism offers a modest concept of living, simplicity, frugality, and emphasis on essential goods, cutting down wastage and a basic ethic. Global warming caused by many forms, both from nature and from humans. But the important thing is from humans. We must first reduce global warming from ourselves. We must not be greedy.

3. To propose an application of Buddhadhamma to reduce Global Warming in the modern world. found that Application for Individuals according to the

principles of Buddhism have Consumption With Contentment to use the trees, water or other resources, should generally be consumed consciously. Such consumption or utilization of resources is so as not to cause pollutions that affect people living in this world so that humans live altogether in peace. As follow: 1. Contentment in food consumption. 2. Contentment in clothing. 3. Contentment in residence. 4. Contentment in consumption of medicine could be achieved for the purpose of consumption, that is to be enlightened from the use of the four vital necessities.

Understanding the Law of Kamma follow in the Buddhism as follow: 1. Greed in Buddhism. When greed occurs to an individual, societal or environmental issue are to follow because greed stimulates consumption and the process of seeking. Thus, competition and bad karma ensues. The solution is to control the greed by facilitate the right understanding of the nature arising from human action. 2. Anger the downside of anger: A person who wishes to be free from the cycle of birth, aging, ailing and death, which are the sufferings that have long been with us, needs to build up merits and virtues for countless lives, especially the important merits that are the practice of the Dharma in the Middle Path, 3. Delusion in Buddhism is Currently, deforestation and destruction of nature are the leading causes of volatile climate and pollution. Because of ignorance according to natural laws. 4. Repulsion in Buddhism is the grudge, the indignation, the discord of the mind. The discord of his mind in many forms erupt and are reflected concretely. The gathering of the angered becomes a protest or a mob which happens many a time and at times escalates to the violence. It could start from the competition of resources such as competition for the water source for agriculture, competition for the land to make a living etc. The grudge only causes damage to both self and society. Buddhism takes it that when the discord of the mind happens, it no doubt affects the happiness of the society. 5. Compassion in Buddhism. When every human has mercy and compassion, from now on, everyone should help develop natural resources and environment without deforestation. develop their mind according to the principle of Buddhism. So that the people of this generation and next can live in harmony with the natural resources and environment and that human activities in each level that might

transpire are willing and not forced for the good of the natural resources and environment as humans live by the code of ethics.

And Application for Social Members. Practicing Adosa & Abayapada Towards Others have Practicing Adosa means the leader or the ruler should not express anger or fall under the influence of anger because the negative impact that follows will likely be the wrong judgment or a bad decision which makes them unjust. As such, Buddha warned that “Kill the anger and live in peace.” And Practicing Abayapada is the displeasure and anger to the point of holding grudge. It has a strong negative impact on self and on others, be it physically, verbally or mentally. The result is for oneself or others to have grudge, physical suffering and mental suffering. Therefore, we should reduce the displeasure and hatred so that we do not suffer from that.

Practicing Loving Kindness & Compassion Towards Others. Loving Kindness and Compassion. It is the state of mind that wants to see others happy, out of goodwill, wants to help people who want to get out of adversity. Helping others is not only limited Only human But it can also help other animals or do it for the environment, such as forests and streams for the public benefit. Kindness is the heart of Buddhism. Mercy Dharma sustains the world.

The four necessaries of life in the way of Buddhism can reduce global warming when we have enough food, residence, clothing and medicine, etc.

And bases of meritorious action 10 objects that can help reduce global warming in Buddhism. by being generous in society or having compassion in society, there must be the following principles. 1. meritorious action consisting in generosity, merit acquired by giving, 2. by observing the precepts or moral behavior, 3. by mental development, 4. by humility or reverence, 5. by rendering services, 6. by sharing or giving out merit, 7. by rejoicing in other merit, 8. by listening to the Doctrine or showing teaching, 9. by teaching the Doctrine or showing truth, 10. by straightening one's views or forming correct views.

When humans make 10 merit in all this way, it will make the people in the world have happy. Because all the human beings live with each other. The people help each other, and the both physically and mentally. The people in the world have not persecution, have love, be generous. Sharing. It will slow down global warming.

Discussion

1) To study the problems and solutions of global warming according to the Modern Sciences found that ; The Global Warming are Meanings Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, forests are dying, because temperatures and human activities. Consistent with research Prof. Dr. Thanawat Jarupongsakul, Global Warming, Extreme Crisis, the Future of Thailand, (Jarupongsakul, T, 2007). Global warming is a phenomenon that the Earth is unusually and exceptionally hotter from the cycle of nature, which affects the weather to vary, the tides and monsoons to change direction. Thus, the disaster follows such as problems of agricultural products, food security, water management as well as problems of conflicts in society and the emergence of new diseases.

2) The Buddhadhamma relating to Global Warming in Theravada Buddhism found that The Buddhism taught is based on love, compassion. human beings are social animals. Global warming caused by many forms, both from nature and from humans. We must first reduce global warming from ourselves. We must not be greedy. Consistent with research Dr. Sanu Mahatthanadull, Buddhist Response to Environmental Degradation Under Conceptual Framework of the Five Niyāma, (Mahatthanadull, S, 2015). The responses of Buddhism to environmental degradation can be analysed from the conceptual framework of the Five Niyāma, i.e. Utu-niyāma, Bīja-niyāma, Citta-niyāma, Kamma-niyāma, and Dhamma-niyāma. These are a journey from “change” towards a decadent point called “degradation” caused by human being’s cravings as a center of nature and the cosmos.

3) To propose an application of Buddhadhamma to reduce Global Warming in the modern world found that according to the principles of Buddhism. 1. Contentment in food consumption. 2. Contentment in clothing. 3. Contentment in residence. 4. Contentment in consumption of medicine, and 1. Greed in Buddhism. 2. Anger 3. Delusion in Buddhism 4. Compassion, Practicing Adosa & Abayapada, Loving Kindness & Compassion, and principles merit 10. It will slow down global warming. Consistent with research Maechee Ratreer Simpsonij, Global Warming Solution through Philosophical Principles in Theravada Buddhism. (Ratreer, M.S., 2015). Global warming implies the decline of morals among human beings which have an effect to nature accelerating change faster. The other cause

was from the ignorance of the value of the globe, life and nature. Human beings consumed natural resources wrongly and at the same time, their consumption aroused desire, greed, anger and delusion. The solutions could be successful when human beings establish themselves on morality, live with contentment, have gratitude and loving-kindness through natural conservation.

Body of knowledge

An application of Buddhadhamma to reduce Global Warming in the modern world found that according to the principles of Buddhism. 1. Contentment in food consumption. 2. Contentment in clothing. 3. Contentment in residence. 4. Contentment in consumption of medicine, and 1. Greed in Buddhism. 2. Anger 3. Delusion in Buddhism 4. Compassion, Practicing Adosa & Abayapada, Loving Kindness & Compassion, and principles merit 10. It will slow down global warming.

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