



## BUDDHIST STANDPOINTS ON NATURAL DISASTERS

Ven. Suhadagama Anuruddha

*Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya*

[anuruddhasuhadagama@gmail.com](mailto:anuruddhasuhadagama@gmail.com)

The world that we are live today has been under going too many affects. One of those affects is the natural disasters that still are unmanageable. The main reason for that is the man himself enlarges this problem day by day in a very harmful manner. People want to billionaires in a short period of time. The problem is so severe that people are dying at unexpected moments due to natural disasters. They are floods, landslides, earthquakes volcanoes etc. Similarly abductions, robberies, and new kinds of diseases that are difficult to cure are also widespread in the society. Therefore we have to go back to the religious teachings, especially to the Buddhist teachings. At present, when we consider about disasters, we mainly focus only on natural disasters. But Buddhism discusses this matter in a broad sense such as mental and spiritual disasters. As far as Buddhist teachings are concerned, it directs the person to find a better solution for this matter. Though this paper, I expect to discuss this matter based on the relevant Buddhist teachings in the canon. The purpose of this research paper is to introduce the way of managing the disasters and making people enlightened on this matter. Although Buddhism is a spiritual movement it also concerns about the social, political, and environmental fields. Without well-established condition of those factors people cannot be aware of spiritual progress. When we go through the Buddhist teachings, we can clearly see various occasions where disasters are variously defined in both natural and man-made ways. We can quote disasters that are available in Buddhist texts in the following ways: *Rājatovā* (by kings), *Coratovā* (by thieves), *Aggitovā* (by fire), *Udakatovā* (by water), *Nakkattatovā* (by effects of planets), *Janapadarogatovā* (by epidemics), *Amanussatovā* (by non-humans). The special feature of the Buddhist standpoint on disasters is not only on present disasters namely but also it provides the causes for such kinds of crises and the way of managing and eradicating disasters. Under light of Buddhist teachings, we can create a pleasant and secured world. That will really show the path to find a solution for whatever disasters.

**Keywords:** *Disasters, Disaster management, Religious teachings, Upaddava*