

Religion and climate change

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Abstract

Science involves systematic study of the natural world through scientific techniques and testing of theories against evidence gathered. Application of scientific proofs for practical purposes defines technology. While science is a branch of empirical knowledge, technology is multidimensional. Science and technology are mutualistic, if well manipulated, brings sustainable development through inventions and innovations. While seeking for present satisfaction, concern for the future generation is paramount. Achievement of sustainable development needs multifaceted approach. Observing the current mushrooming of religious sects, this paper seeks to show how religion can be the best tool to evangelise climate change mitigation measures for sustainable development. Religion is based on beliefs, values, and worship. Across all the sects, creationism is a common belief. Christian belief God as their creator. Genesis 1 vs 1-30 explains Biblical theory of creation and God's assignment for man to take control. That plants and animals were to be the source of man's food, proper care for sustainable supply was the implied responsibility. Human being is gifted with the ability to reason. This gives human being advantage over the entire universe. Rational inquiry into the key issues of human life begets the field of philosophy. Religion deals with faith and philosophy; reason. Philosophy enables man to develop; Religion, literature and other faculties. While philosophy is celebrated for its contributions to make life easy, it has led to massive environmental degradation. Industrialization accelerates pollution. Global warming resulting to the rise in the level of sea waters has been reported (IPCC 6th assessment report, 2021). This paper finds religious gatherings as avenues to sensitise people on their religious duty for environmental protection. Man should assert his philosophical ability to reason, as a religious gift to devise ways of mitigating the climatic change. Serious religious collaborations in advocating for environmental protection is also necessary.

Key words: religion, climate change, beliefs