

ROLE OF THAI MONKS FOR BUDDHIST DISSEMINATION IN CALIFORNIA STATE, UNITED STATE OF AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper was to propose the role of Thai monks for Buddhist dissemination in California State, United State of America. Documentary study was used for the study both theoretical and practical concept. Results indicated that the role of Thai monks for Buddhist dissemination in California State, United State of America consisted of 5 aspects which were 1) teaching dissemination, 2) education work, 3) public utility work, 4) public welfare, and 5) preserving traditions and rituals. These roles are the regular jobs that Thai monks as Dhammadutas perform in foreign countries. It is a unique work of Thai Dhammadutas. Therefore, it should be improved to develop more international missions by studying the role of other religious organizations in the successful propagation of religions to both other sects and religions by adhering to the Buddhist methodology that the Dhammadutas have knowledge and develops himself using modern media and proactive propagation methods. There are qualified selections, sacrifices and devotions to become Buddhists, and appropriate welfare arrangements are made in accordance with the principle and discipline.

Keywords

Role of Thai Monks, Buddhist Dissemination, California State

INTRODUCTION

The concept of role is a concept that describes the behavior of human beings that coexist in society. Each person has different social expressions. For role-based studies, it is essential to understand the basic roles as follows: Sarbin, T. and Jurnur, R. H. (1955: 236) gave the meaning of the role, which is the expected behavior that people in each status should do. Leonard Berkowitz (1972: 20) defined role as the expected behavior of a person of social status, this includes the actions performed by the person in that status. Broom and Selznick (1973: 26) described role as behavior related to status or position in society. Cohen (1979: 36) defined the role as “ what society has specific requirements for individuals to act and what the person actually did. The word “ role” in the context of Thai society means “ acting in accordance with the stipulated duties” (the Royal Institute Edition, 2554). Decho Sawananon (2008: 9) has mentioned two types of roles: 1) strong role is a role that has requirements to be fulfilled of course, it is inflexible such as the role of the bridegroom in the wedding ceremony. The role of the Prime Minister and behavior that must be expressed according to that role and responsibilities are clearly stated in the form of laws and regulations. 2) Flexible role is a role that allows behavior in relation to that role to change appropriately. There are no fixed requirements. For example, the role of the father is broadly defined, partly demonstrating the position of the father, for example. A father’s behavior towards his child may vary considerably between fathers. Paiboon Changrian (2003: 7) explained that the general role can be considered two meanings: The first implication is to consider the social structure. Role refers to the social position with various names, which is characterized by the qualities and activities of the person occupying that position. In other words, consider role play or social interaction. Therefore, the role means the patterned consequence of the learned actions

of the individual in that state of interaction. In the first place, role is the classification of individuals in society, which was classified by his property and behavior towards norms. The role implied is a way of expressing the behavior of the individuals interacting with each other, how to do the role of a person, therefore differs according to the characteristics of status, character, thinking, knowledge, abilities, motives, upbringing and satisfaction.

ROLE OF THAI MONKS FOR BUDDHIST DISSEMINATION

From the Dictionary of Education (Susan Wallace, 2015) “ role” means 1) Behavioral characteristics expressed by individuals within a given group. 2)The behavioral model of the expected duty or the duty that a person has to accomplish under the defined social environment. Therefore, roles are obligations that must be borne according to the status of each individual means that any person has any status or position. must be responsible according to their status or position acquired whether acquired by birth, by action, or by appointment to meet the expectations of society. Roles, statuses, and duties are interrelated. This is because status determines the role and function of a person. Status refers to a person's position or position, which is defined by society. Status is a unique thing that differentiates us from others. Role refers to the performance or behavior that corresponds to the own status. The role may involve being a leader and a follower. The role of leadership considering the definition, characteristics and evolution of leadership able to analyze the roles of leadership, both from appointing leaders and naturally occurring leaders (Natnaree Srithong, 2009: 86-87) as follows:

1) The role of agency representatives in all situations Important is the agency’s representation to gather information

from outside the agency, including the role of welcoming visitors to the agency.

2) The role of the speaker, it is the role of presenting the activities of the agency. The role of creating a good vision of the agency including the role of public relations activities of the agency to be known to various people, such as senior executives of the agency, service recipients for careers and society outside the agency, etc.

3) role as a negotiator for the benefit of the agency and for the progress of the agency is important, such as negotiating material purchase equipment to the unit. Negotiating the construction cost of the new office building of the agency, etc.

4) teaching role to followers and colleagues in the agency to carry out various activities go smoothly and assures leaders that their followers and colleagues are working according to standards and the resulting work will be of quality that is acceptable to all parties.

5) the role of team building in order to unite the unity of followers and colleagues, makes the work that are doing easily accomplished, helps reduce conflicts that may arise while working together and most importantly, it is a great morale booster for followers and colleagues directly.

6) role in solving technical problem by providing services as an expert, academic advisor in order to work in accordance with the intended purpose.

7) The role of the operator (entrepreneur) for the organization to exist and continuously comply with the mission of the agency.

Management roles for managers are managerial activities that are related to the roles, behaviors of executives, and roles related to information gathering role in decision making. It depends on the discretion of each leader to use appropriately for the management position (Rangsang Prasertsri, 2001: 29-30) as follows:

1) role as the representative (symbol) of the organization, the representative executive must perform its current obligations without contravening the law or the nature of society, because of the official authority as the head of the organization. Executives have full powers in the administration. Therefore, executives must participate in various activities to achieve good results and in accordance with management tasks.

2) leader role: executives who are responsible for motivating and directing subordinates including being responsible for the tasks assigned by the organization and must cultivate the unity of the people in the organization to work in accordance with the objectives. Executives must give advice to their subordinates as a guideline for working to create good working conditions. Managers must carry out activities that are consistent with their leadership roles, such as hiring, training, directing, commendation. criticism, etc. The role of a leader encompasses all activities of the organization for its objectives.

3) liaison role: The manager is responsible for maintaining a network of external communications to provide satisfaction and to provide information, as well as to have a role to play in building and maintaining relationships with individuals both within and outside the organization. Relationships are the source of information and preferences. Developing relationships is the responsibility of the chief executive to be

connected within the organization and with outside the organization. Relationships may run vertically and horizontally. The need for a role to play with each other will "create a camaraderie" that will enable executives to benefit from communication by participating in society attendance at career events participate in outside activities executive club sending congratulatory messages to individuals or organizations on various agendas visiting other executives for assistance in information matters, etc.

4) the role of monitoring or warning (monitor role) is the manager who must be aware of the diversity of the data center both internally and externally. The management must always seek information from various sources and observe the information received by the management will be distributed to the subordinates for acknowledgment. Therefore, the information source that subordinates can find is from the management itself and as a center of knowledge of subordinates that can be obtained in the organization and can be used to track performance.

5. the missionary role (disseminator role) is an executive responsible for sending information received from outside or from subordinates to members of the organization. When executives (leaders) are the source of organizational information that is factual and useful to the administration must be disseminated to the participants in order to be used as a principle of work.

6) spokesman role: the service provider is responsible for delivering information to the outside of the organization's plans, policies, practices, and outcomes. That is, the executive will act as the agency's representative in providing information on the organization's operations to people outside the organization. Information provided by executives will create credibility with third parties by relying on their job position as a guarantee of the accuracy of news reporting on behalf of the organization.

7) entrepreneurship role as an executive is responsible for making decisions about the organization and environment that is conducive to creating opportunities, initiate a project to change things in the organization as an executive because the executives of the organization are considered as one of the entrepreneurs of the organization who initiate, control, change, solve problems, as well as take action for the survival and progress of the organization. It can be considered that the manager is like an entrepreneur of the organization as well.

8) disturbance handler role: the manager is responsible for taking corrective action when the organization faces important or unexpected problems. The executive must be the one to stimulate the work of the subordinates to face various crises be ready to fight the problems that come with work. Crisis is an unforeseen or predictable event as well. Executives must lead the way to unite their subordinates in order to successfully fight the crises they are facing.

9) resource allocator role: executives are responsible for managing and improving important organizational decisions. Executives (leaders) are assigned authority from the organization. Therefore, it is responsible for allocating sufficient resources to carry out its responsibilities such as personnel, finances, materials, equipment, facilities and services. This resource allocation involves making management decisions that are operational readiness and consistent with established strategies and objectives.

10) the Negotiator role is the executive responsible for representing the organization for important negotiations. The executives must be able to resolve conflicts that arise with the organization. They can use their power and influence to resolve conflicts arising from both internal and external causes and can control various situations. to be able to fix.

Mintzberg (1989 : 42-44) divided management into three categories: interpersonal roles, information roles, and decision-making roles. These roles require the development of peer relationships conduct negotiations motivate subordinates conflict resolution building a data network. Making decisions based on little or ambiguous information and resource allocation in the process at different times, "wear ten hats" managers fall into three categories:

1. The role in building relationships. (Interpersonal role) : 1) the role of a monk or chairman in various ceremonies (Figurehead role) 2) Leader role 3) Liaison role.

2. Role in the field of information (Interpersonal roles) : 1) the role of monitoring data (Monitor role) 2) the role of distributing or distributing data (disseminator role) 3) Information or spokesman role.

3. decision roles: 1) the role of the initiator (entrepreneur role) 2) the role as a problem solver (disturbance-handier role) 3) resource allocator role 4) Negotiator role.

From the aforementioned theory can summarize the roles of Thai monks in propagating Buddhism in California The United States of Thai temples in the United States, all 4 temples, namely 1. Wat Thai of Los Angeles 2. Wat Pa Dhammachart La Puente 3. Buddhist Meditation Center, and 4. Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep USA.

MULTI-CASE STUDY OF THAI MONKS IN CALIFORNIA STATE

There are 4 temples that were selected for the study. Details of activities and work of each temple were shown as below:

A. Wat Thai of Los Angeles

Wat Thai of Los Angeles, part of the workload is :

1. organize activities on important Buddhist days and Thai traditions follow as :

1. Magha Bucha Day activities
2. Thai New Year Songkran Festival activities
3. Vesak Day activities
4. Activities on Asanha Bucha Day
5. Activities on Buddhist Lent Day
6. Mother's Day activities
7. Activities on the end of Buddhist Lent
8. Kathin and Loy Krathong Day activities
9. Father's Day Activities
10. New Year's Eve activities to welcome the new year

Wat Thai of Los Angeles prepare Dhamma books, CD-Tape Dhamma, giveaway every Saturday and Sunday Print Agenda book " Duang Prateep" to distribute every three months. (Phramaha Thongsamut Dhammadaro, 2021)

B. Wat Padhammachart La Puente

Wat Padhammachart La Puente has divided the temple work into 3 main areas: 1) propagation work such as morning-evening chanting, meditation training. There is a training for youths in the summer semester in order to cultivate Thai arts and culture and teachings in Buddhism which promotes good morals to Thai youths born in the United States. 2) Education at Dhamma, youth and people

both in the system are the Dhamma study exams every Sunday and the non-formal Dhamma education is general Dhamma study or study of the Dhamma youth education with language teaching and Thai arts and culture, Thai music and Thai dance. 3) social work, Wat Padhammachart La Puente has provided social assistance, such as a donation to the American Red Cross Society. help victims of natural disasters, etc. (WAT PADHAMMACHART, 2021)

C. Wat Suddhavasa Buddhist Meditation Center

Wat Suddhavasa Buddhist Meditation Center has divided the temple work into 4 main areas: 1) Education: Wat Sutthavasa is a center for studying Buddhism for students from universities and colleges such as Santiago High School, Redondo Union High School, Riverside. City College, California Baptist University, California State University San Bernardino, University of Phoenix, University of California Riverside, Azusa Pacific University, etc., with more than 800 students. Wat Suddhavasa Buddhist Meditation opens to teach Dhamma education for bachelor's degree, master's degree, which has 17 students. 2) Dissemination, the temple organizes a program of Dhamma practice every Saturday called " One Day Retreat and Dhamma Talk" which has students and interested people, both Thais and non-Thais. International people join to practice Dhamma every Saturday as well as organizing a project to practice the Dhamma leading to life or ordaining a Brahmin 3-5 days at a time on important occasions such as Father's Day, Mother's Day, etc. 3) Public utilities, Wat Suddhavasa has undertaken the construction and restoration of religious objects. and religious places of the temple to use in activities of clergy and Buddhists in the United States respectively 4) Public welfare, such as donating to help earthquake victims in Haiti Donate to help the earthquake victims in Nepal, etc. (The Council of Thai Bhikkhus in the USA, 2021)

D. Wat Phra That Doi Suthep USA

Wat Phra That Doi Suthep USA has divided the work into 4 areas: 1) the propagation of Buddhism Dhamma practice project, the number of participants: 30 people, Vipassana training - Meditation, Meditation, number of participants 20-30 people, brahmans ordination, number of participants 30-40 people organized activities on important Buddhist days and Thai traditions. 2) education, established a Buddhist school Sunday. The number of students is 40-50 people organized a Meditation Workshop for foreigners, the number of participants 10-20 people per time, 3) public utilities, repairs and temple development, and 4) social assistance in the area, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside cooperate with governments and people, facilitating when the government and citizens need it.

All of the above can be seen that the role of Thai monks in propagating Buddhism in California, the United States of America has their own uniqueness according to the work of the Thai Sangha in all 6 areas that are enforced in the Sangha Act B.E. 2505, revised editions, 2535 and 2560, including the Sangha Administration Religious propagation, religious education, welfare education public utility and public welfare.

BODY OF KNOWLEDGE FROM THE STUDY

The role of Thai monks for Buddhist dissemination in California State, United State of America consisted of 5 aspects which were 1) teaching dissemination, 2) education work, 3) public utility work, 4) public welfare, and 5) preserving traditions and rituals. It can be shown as below figure.

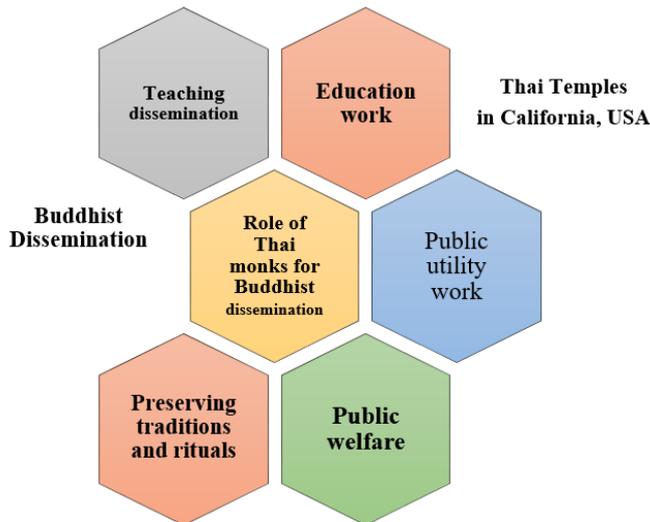


Figure 1 Role of Thai monks for Buddhist Dissemination

CONCLUSION

The role of Thai monks in the propagation of Buddhism in California United States of America of Thai temples in the United States. can be summarized as follows:

A. The role of teaching Dissemination

In theoretical sector, 1) Dhamma preaching on various occasions, both auspicious and auspicious events 2) teaching at both schools and universities about Buddhism, culture, traditions 3) training, meeting attendance/academic seminars to provide knowledge of Buddhism directly and indirectly.

Other publishing of Dhamma books that are deemed appropriate to be published in both Thai and English Printed and published on various occasions, production of Dhamma recording media such as Dharma tapes, tapes to pay homage to monks, morning and evening prayers. Other hymn tapes, including Dharma video tapes and documentaries about Buddhism, culture and Thai traditions. In practical sector 1) organize the teaching of Vipassana Meditation (Meditation Class) to interested individuals and groups both Thais and foreigners 2) ordination ceremony in the summer for both Thais and foreigners 3) organize Dhamma training for youths in the project "Dhamma leads to Youths" 4) provide dhamma conduct and maintain the 8 precepts on special occasions 5) organize an annual meditation retreat for Thais and foreigners.

B. Education work

For Buddhist Sunday school teaches Thai language, Thai culture and basic Buddhism for the children of the Thai people and Buddhists born and raised in foreign countries 2) Summer School of Thai Language by Wat Thai together with the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University and the

Department of Non-School Education provide teaching in Thai language, Thai arts, and culture such as Thai dance, Thai music, Thai sports and Thai play. for Thai children and grandchildren born and raised abroad at the end of the summer semester every year 3) School of Dhammasuksa Department Teaching according to Maekong Dhamma Sanam Luang curriculum and teaching the Dhamma in the Tipitaka for those who are particularly interested. 4) organize teaching and learning for specific interested persons (special education) such as Thai cooking, Thai dessert making, artificial flowers, flower arrangements, Thai arts, computers, as well as organizing special classes for foreigners who are interested in studying specific topics such as Buddhism, Thai language, Thai culture, traditions, etc. 5) Library services, there are books to study, both Thai language and English lending service for examples, Dhamma tapes, Thai lessons, prayers, video tape

C. Public utility work

Temple construction work, the Dhammadutas must have knowledge and understanding of the law and regulations for building temples in foreign countries so as not to cause problems later by studying the information properly before taking action. Temple renovation work It is the direct duty of the Dhammadutas to make improvements. permanent repair of objects in the temple as well as maintaining them in good condition cost-effective suitable for the value of being a Thai temple. Temple development work It is an important duty of the Dhammadutas to develop simultaneously in every aspect in the concrete part. is that the temple must be a peaceful place clean and beautiful It is the umbrella of the monastery to be a refuge for the general Buddhists.

D. *Public welfare*, work social assistance donations to help the victims, etc.

E. Preserving traditions / rituals

Important work in Buddhism such as Magha Bucha Day - Visakha Bucha Day - Asanha Bucha Day - the day of the Buddhist Lent. National cultural works such as celebration of His Majesty the King's Birthday His Majesty (Father's Day), celebration of His Majesty the King's Birthday Her Majesty the Queen (Mother's Day), Piyamaharaj Day. Annual merit making ceremony such as Songkran Festival, Thai Sart, Kathin ceremony, Loy Krathong, New Year's merit making ceremony, and making merit on Sunday. These roles are the regular jobs that Thai monks as Dhammadutas perform in foreign countries. It is a unique work of Thai Dhammadutas. Therefore, it should be improved to develop more international missions by studying the role of other religious organizations in the successful propagation of religions.

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