

Dissertation Title : An Application of Ditthadhammikattha for solving problems of Thai Society

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ABSTRACT

This thesis consisted of three purposes. They were to (1) study the principles of Ditthadhammikattha in Thai society, (2) study the problems due to a lack of Ditthadhammikattha in Thai society, and (3) apply the principles of Ditthadhammikattha to solving social problems in Thai society

The results were as follows:

Ditthadhammikattha referred to Dhamma for the benefits at the present time, the benefits from the right occupation, and the benefits which happened as soon as possible. Those who want to achieve the benefits have to follow the plan called “Ditthadhammikattha” which consists of four factors. They were (1) Uthanasapatha: readiness to work with diligence, (2) Arrakkhasapatha: keep the received wealth, (3) Kalayanamittata: associate with good people, and (4) Samachevita: sufficiency life by knowing the growth and deterioration of wealth.

Studying the problems due to a lack of Ditthadhammikattha in Thai society found that people in Thai society had a lack of perseverance. If the environment around them did not show them self-confidence, they will put off what should be done today for tomorrow leading to laziness to complete duties in their life. No saving property in Thai society was resulted from being material addicted by spending money uselessly which was considere “careless in life” resulting in over expenditure, corruption, and plunder. Association with hooligans would lead to bad things, a loss of life and property, and improper development of life according to Buddhist morals. The problems of spending too much money caused debts. Moreover, they did not know how to budget their money for the end of their life.

Applying the principles of Dittadhammikattā to solving problems in Thai society consists of four principles. Uthanasampathā is applied to solve the problem of perseverance in order to avoid laziness leading to life deterioration. Arrakkhasampathā is applied by knowing how to spend money properly to the way of working for money and keeping money. Kalayanamittatā is applied to solve the problem of life by choosing to make friends with wise people who are able to support us in better. Samachevita is applied to solve the problem of life by spending money properly to our income and necessity leading to happiness. This is in accordance with the Buddha's teachings about happiness for laity consisting of four factors: happiness gained from wealth, happiness gained from spending wealth, happiness gained from not being in debts, and happiness gained from honest work. Precisely, the Buddha teaches us to be economical, not to overspend, not to be in debts, all of which help us avoid many problems in our life.