

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Self-Reliance Development and Buddhist Development
Approach : A Case Study of Srisa-asoke Community
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The objective of this thesis is to study Self-reliance development approach and the concept of development in the context of Buddhism. It also attempts to explore the similarity and differences between Buddhist and Self-reliance concept of development. The analysis focuses on the principles and practices of Self-reliance in SRISA-ASOKE community.

The framework suggested by David Goldsworthy is used as a framework for analysis.

The results are summarized as follow :

1. Buddhism teaches Self-reliance development at different levels of moral principles which include the teaching of abstinence, frugality, less consumption, less utilization, and hard working, "The Ariyamak Ong 8" or the 8 ultimate paths suggest above all, living decently, living in a valuable way, and not allowing one's own life to depend on the risky idea of fate.

The teaching of “Aparihaniyadham”, which consists of 7 principles, is also meant Self-sufficiency. It widens the concept of Self-sufficiency at individual as well as at groups or community levels practices.

2. The SRISAASOKE community in Srisaket Province is established by a group of followers who has strong faith in the teaching of “Samana Bhodhirak”, who also teaches in accordance with Buddhism. The community is managed by applying Buddhism to the community’s way of life. Buddhism principle of “Sila” is applied as the principle of governing law and to the community development. Such principle convinces the community members to refrain from addicts and all sinful behaviors. This study finds SRISA-ASOKE community as a community of people with simplicity, moderation and peaceful way of life. The community members are humble, conplition, and non-antagonistic.

Members of SRISA-ASOKE community also possess a high potential for development. The more they develop the people, the more the community became productive. They are able to produce to meet 4 basic needs for community consumption. They are able to blend industrial technology with local wisdom which has been practiced for over hundred of years. Therefore, the community seems to be well-developed with in the strong principle of Self-reliance development according to Buddhism, which becomes the most important element of community development.