

Thesis Title	Education Provided by Buddhist Temples for Rural Communities in the Changing World		
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Abstract.

The purposes of this research were to study the roles of The Buddhism institute in providing education for communities via temples as its representatives, and to find out relations between such an educational provision and community's way of life.

This qualitative research was conducted through a documentary study and fieldworks under a conceptual framework initially set. It employed informal interview, participant and non-participant observation techniques and focus group discussion to collect data. The findings of this study were as follows :

1. The roles of temples were still to provide education for community both in ethics and general subjects. Such provision was conducted by means of formal education through "Phra pariyatithama" schools, previously established by the temples. In the sense of nonformal education, the temples still functioned as they used to do

for a long time. That was to preach the people and to organize some kinds of ceremonial rituals and traditional/religious practices with their monks as their focal and significant element. Moreover a number of libraries were established for public interests in general

2. The relations between the educational provision and community's way of life was found irrelevant. Formal educational provision was not relevant to the community's way of life and changing situations. The main reasons were such as smaller birthrate of the community members, and changing attitudes of parents towards sending their children to schools instead of to temples.

Indirect educational provision or nonformal educational provision was found in need of the community members and also relating to their way of life particularly, the people wanted to psychologically rely on the temples's practices and ritual practices. These roles could be regarded as an educational provision for the people in terms of Buddhist thoughts, beliefs, and cultural socialization