

**ABSTRACT**

**RESEARCH PAPER** : The Attitude of the National Institute of  
Development Administration's Students  
toward Buddhism

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The study was aimed at finding out (1) the attitude of the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)'s students toward Buddhism and (2) the factors affecting their attitude.

The population was 1,471 Buddhist students enrolling in the academic year 2000 in nine departments, namely Public Administration, Business Administration, Development Economics, Applied Statistics, Social Development, Human Resource Development, Language and Communication, Management Technology and Environmental Management. A sample of 270 students 30 from each department was included in the study.

The descriptive statistics, i.e., percentage, mean and standard deviation, were employed to describe the general characteristics of the sample as well as the dependent and the independent variables. The inferential statistics, i.e., t-test and F-test were used to test the hypotheses.

**The findings were summed up as follows :**

1. Most of the samples were females, aged 20-25 and were studying in the second year. Their grade point average (GPA) was 3.53 on the average. Most of them lived in Bangkok and their parents were government officials.

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The mean score of their Buddhist activities was found to be at a high level while that of their Buddhist knowledge was found to be at a low level.

2. The NIIDA students' (overall) attitude toward Buddhism was found to be good. In fact, they had a good attitude toward lord Buddha and a poor attitude toward Buddhist teachings and monks.

3. The factors found to significantly influence the NIIDA students' attitude toward Buddhism were age, frequency of participating in Buddhist activities and knowledge of Buddhism. On the contrary, sex, department where they were studying, year level at which they were studying, GPA, hometown and parents' occupation were found to have no influence on their attitude toward Buddhism.