

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : People's Expectation of Buddhist Monks' Role
Author : Miss Ajcharawan Wonguparach
Degree : Master of Arts (Social Development)
Year : 2001

The purpose of the survey was twofold : 1) to find out people's expectation of Buddhist monks' role in administration (observation of Buddhist discipline), religions education, welfare education, spread of Buddhism, public amenities, and public welfare, and 2) to identify the factors related to people's expectation of Buddhist works' role. These factors were sex, age, education, occupation, income, listening to sermons, practicing meditation, receiving Buddhism-spreading information, participating in religions activities at monasteries or in communities, acknowledging news about monks and a knowledge and understanding about buddhism.

The sample group consisted of 400 people living in Bangkok. Chonburi, Ubonratchathani and Chiongrai Provinces. One hundred people were randomly selected from each province. They represented people from the Central Region, the Eastern Region, the Northeastern Region, and the Northern Region. A questionnaire was utilized to collect the data. Percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test and F-test were used to analyze the data. The hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of statistical significance.

The findings were briefly stated below :

1. Personal background. Most of the samples were female. Their age range was 21-25 years. They had a Bachelor's degree. They were engaged in general

employment. They earned less than 4,000 baht per month. Most went to the temples to listen to sermons or to practice meditation. They sometimes listened to sharma (Buddhist teachings) on the radio or on TV, or read books on Buddhist. Most joined religious activities held by the community or the temple. They often heard of some monks' notorious behavior.

2. Most people in the sample group expected most that monks strictly observed Buddhist discipline, followed by monks' roles in Buddhist education, spreads of Buddhism, and public amenities two roles that they moderately expect monks to play were welfare education and public welfare. The mean scores of both were the same. No low mean scores were found.

3. When the eleven hypothesis were tested, the factors found to significant influence people's expectation at the 0.05 level were sex, age, listening to sermons, receiving Buddhism-spreading information, participating in religious activities at monasteries acknowledging news about monks and in communities, and a knowledge and understanding of Buddhism. On the contrary, education, occupation, income, and practicing meditation were found to have no significant relationship with people's expectation of Buddhist monks' role at the 0.05 level.