

Thesis Title	Status and Roles of Buddhist Nuns in Promotion of Education and Social Service
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ABSTRACT

The research was aimed at studying the status and roles of Buddhist nuns in promotion of education and social services and comparing opinions of Buddhist nuns and people on roles of Buddhist nuns. It also compared Buddhist nuns' opinions classified by age, level of education, period of nuns ordination and the reasons to enter the nunhood. It also compared people's opinions classified by gender, age, level of education and income. The sample groups of this study comprised of 246 Buddhist nuns and 246 people in the central region. The research instrument was questionnaire.

The research revealed that Buddhist nuns were aged, the level of education was at Primary school. They were poor. The reasons to enter the nunhood were the trust in Lord Buddha's teaching. Buddhist nuns' daily life were to behave in accordance with the Buddha's teaching, to pray, to work for the temples or the dwelling places. Buddhist nuns had a few roles on religion and society.

The level of Buddhist nuns' opinions on their roles were significantly different from other people's opinions at 0.01 in all. The opinions of Buddhist nuns and people on roles of religion were that Buddhist nuns should behave appropriately and in accordance with the Buddha's rules, but the level of Buddhist nuns' opinions were higher than people's opinions. Regarding to roles of Buddhist nuns in education, Buddhist nuns wanted to develop morality of people but people wanted Buddhist nuns should support the school for children and

Buddhist nuns to study. Regarding social services, Buddhist nuns preferred the modest roles which was not involved society, but people suggest that Buddhist nuns should help the poor. A comparison of Buddhist nun's opinions classified by age and period of nuns ordainance were significantly different at 0.05. Buddhist nuns who entered the nunhood because they wanted the solitude or to pay gratitude to their parents and just to make merits, wanted to develop their knowledge and help the religion and social, wanted to search for Nirvana and because they had the loyal trust in Lord Buddha's teaching were significantly different at 0.01 on roles of Buddhist nuns. Buddhist nuns that classified by level of education, their opinions were not different on roles of Buddhist nuns.

For people's opinions classified by gender, age, level of education and income, their opinions were not different on roles of Buddhist nuns.

However, Buddhist nuns and people agreed that Buddhist nuns should improve themselves, should practice appropriately and in accordance with the Buddha's rules to gain people's trust and respects. Persons and organizations involved should encourage Buddhist nuns to improve themselves and support their useful activities.