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POL.CAPT.NARUCHIT JUSAPALO :A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DĀNA IN BUDDHISM AND ṢADAQA IN ISLAM : A CASE STUDY OF BUDDHISTS AND MUSLIMS IN BANGKOK.THESIS ADVISORS : PICHET KALAMAKASAIT,M.A.OON MANTAWI,M.A.ADISAK THONGBOON,M.A.159 p.ISBN.974-664-424-6

The purpose of this research was to compare dāna in Buddhism and ṣadaqa in Islam ,and to study beliefs and practices of Buddhists and Muslims in Bangkok regarding dāna and ṣadaqa. Two samples of 100 persons per group were selected for this study. Questionnaires and percentile statistics were used in data collection and analysis.

The research results has showed that dāna and ṣadaqa both have similarities and differences. The meanings of ṣadaqa were broader than those of dāna's because of the collection of all types of good deeds. Dana emphasised giving to holy persons such as Sangha called Sanghadana, while ṣadaqa emphasised assisting those who are poor and needy. Furthermore,dāna points out terms of merit making more clearly than ṣadaqa. It is characteristic of giving openly while ṣadaqa stipulates giving secretly. Despite the differences referred to above,both dāna and ṣadaqa have a common significance. They are made to reach the ultimate goal of individual life and social welfare ,that is to help people in lower classes and, to attach equal value to people in every class of the society.

For the field research,it is found that most Buddhists and Muslims believe in their own religion in the meanings,types,conditions, and significance of dāna and ṣadaqa. But Muslims' belief is more than that of Buddhists'. The practices are the same but Muslims believe more in the practices of ṣadaqa. However,it was found that most Muslims and Buddhists feel cheerful and happy after making ṣadaqa or dāna.