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**PHRAMAHA SOMCHOK KHUMKAEW : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDES
ON ORGAN DONATION BETWEEN BUDDHIST MONKS AND LAY PEOPLE IN BANGKOK.**

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This research had the purpose of studying organ donation according to the Buddhist teaching and medical principles, providing the comparison of attitudes on organ donation between Buddhist monks and lay people in Bangkok.

The documentary study found that the Buddhist teaching regards an organ donation as a kind of donation (Dāna) grouped in the donation of superior perfection (Upapārami). In Buddhism, the teaching supports organ donation by regarding the life, which is compounded from four elements and five aggregates, as being under the rule of Three Common Characteristics and Buddhists should not be so attached to the body. According to Buddha's teaching, an organ trading is an erratic and unfair action. To be new born depends on the mind or soul accompanied by action (Karma) leading to be new born. The death is not the end of life but the continuity of mind. The man is regarded as dead when the mind or soul has moved out of the body in this existence. In the view of medical science, an organ donation is to help the patient with a dysfunctional organ, to live longer. The person with brain death is really regarded as dead and also regarded death as the end of life. The result from comparison on death between medical science and Buddhism is different.

From the field research, it was found that the most monks and lay people have attitudes toward organ donation as a kind of donation (Dāna), which can bring the merit both in this world and the next world and most of them had intention to donate organs but still did not donate. The monks agreed that Buddha's teaching supports an organ donation, rebirth depends on mind, whereas lay people still were not sure. Both groups did not agree to the concept that the donor of a donated organ will be born with incomplete organs in the next life. The patients with brain death were regarded as dead and found that the monks did not agree with this issue, while the lay people were not sure on it. Both groups did not agree with the legal center of trading organs, but agreed that organ donation is the new issue in Thai society. So there should be accurate and wide information to motivate organ donation in future.