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PHAMAHAJUMNIAN PHAKUNGKEW : COMMUNITY FOREST CONSERVATION IN THE
BUSDHIST WAY : A CASE STUDY WATPA BANCHAD TAMBONNAKHU NAKHU DISTRICT, KALASIN
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The objectives of this research were to study : 1) Buddhists' view toward forest resources following the teaching of Buddhism and practices in accordance with Buddhism for preservation, and 2) supporting factors and obstructions affecting community forest conservation in the Buddhist way. For this study, Buddhist theory in Patichasamuppada, Tilakkhana, Metta, Karma and Vinaya were used as a framework to explain the conservation in the Buddhist way. The researcher utilized a qualitative approach to the study. Data were collected by mean of observation and in-depth interview. The studied group consisted of monks and native inhabitants who had some type of affiliation with Watpa Banchad. Data-analysis were done by Analytic induction and Typological Analysis.

The result of the study revealed that monks' belief in forest conservation affected their practice to advance consciousness while native inhabitants' belief resulted from the fact that the forest was a place for the monks to whom they paid much respect. Inhabitants thus avoided exploitation of the forest. Monks' practice of Vinaya paved the way to advance consciousness, in which desire to destroy the resource was eliminated. Inhabitants' approach toward forest conservation were conveyed through their approach toward Watpa monks. They viewed the resources within Watpa as belonging to the monks, and exploitation of the resources as resulting in bad Karma. Thus, inhabitants seek consent from monks when expecting to use the resource.

Six supporting factors that affected community forest conservation in the Buddhist way were : 1) Faith in the ways practiced by monks ; 2) Belief in the spiritual realm ; 3) Heritage custom of the community ; 4) Politicians at the local level and national level ; 5) Inhabitants' participation follows the belief to make merit ; and 6) Leadership among Buddhist monks. Two obstructive factors that affected community forest conservation were : 1) Disparity of occupations and earnings among inhabitants, and 2) Lack of education among monks.

Recommendations: 1) Supporting the community in the use of low technology for production and supporting the belief in Karma on economic activities of the community ; 2) Administration of education system for monkhood under co-operations among Buddhist institute, state bureau and the community ; 3) Emphasis on mutual activities between monks and local residents to create self-administration among themselves ; 4) Activities relating to heritage customs should be preserved and carried out annually and original form and purpose should be kept at best ; 5) Utilization of community forest resource should retain the balance between the physical and the mind.