

Thesis Title A Comparative Study of the Role of Buddhist and
Muslim Parents in Fostering Religious Values
in Their Children

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ABSTRACT

The Thesis is a comparative study of the role of Buddhist and Muslim parents in fostering religious virtues in their children. The study is divided into 2 parts, i.e. documentary and field-work. The first part is on analysis of The Buddhist Tripitak and The Islamic Al-Qur'an focused on their teaching about parental obligations and virtues. In the analysis it is found out that in Buddhism and Islam parents are obligated to foster religious virtues in their children making them virtuous being and sensitive to human suffering and the cry for justice. Parents are also urged to follow the methods of teaching used by The Buddha and Nabi Muhammed in propagating their faiths.

Data collected from the field work at Ban Mai Villages in Nakien, Si-Thamarat Province show that Buddhist parents in this village are carrying out this moral task with less enthusiasm and solemnity than those adhering to Islam. This is due mainly to their different religiosity as witnessed in different degrees of frequency of their performance of religious duties. This differences may be attributed to the basic difference between Buddhism and Islam. While

in Buddhism rules and precepts are not forced upon Buddhist, i.e. they are to be observed voluntarily, moral rules in Islam are regarded as divine order that must be obeyed. Nevertheless it is to be noted that both Buddhist and Muslim adolescents in this village, despite such different degree of religiousity among their parents, are good children who never bring ills to the community.