

Thesis Title An analytical study of the Sangha's role in
employing of Buddhist doctrines in providing
Counselling for Laymen : A Case study of the
Sangha in Bangkok.

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to make an analytical study of the Sangha's role as a counselor in applying Buddhist doctrines to solveing daily life problems among randomly selected regular temple goers.

The findings of this documentary research indicate that Lord Buddha and his immediate disciples utilized the Buddhist doctrines in giving consultation to the people in the following manners:

1. In time of crisis or at the time of encountering great difficulty necessary.
2. The employment of doctrines as a guideline for self-adjustment of behaviour.
3. The preventive measures for self-conduct.
4. As the tool for improving moral character.

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adjustment of behaviour.

3. The preventive measures for self-conduct.

4. As the tool for improving moral character.

The documentary research also points out that noticeable difference between the monks in the past and present are as follows.

In order to find the solutions for such problems the former strictly rely on Buddhist doctrines whereas the latter use meditation, astrology and religious rites as additional strategies to complement Buddhist doctrines to help easing problems.

The findings from the field research indicate that problems requiring consultation and the methods employment by monks can be categoriaitd as follows:

1. Family affairs: to solve these problems , 50% of the monks relies on Buddhist doctrines, 30% on Astrology, 10% on meditation and 8% on religious rites.

2. Personal problems: to solve these difficulties. 42.85% of the monks applied Buddhist doctrines, 28.57% meditation, 17.14% religious rites, 9.52% astrology and 1.90% black magic.

3. Work-related problems: to solve these problems, 40% of the monks relied on Astrology, 30% on the Buddhist doctrines, 18% on religious rites and 12% on meditation.

4. Health-related problems:to solve these problems,34.28 %of the monks relied on religious rites,32.38% on the Buddhist doctrines, 19% on astrology, 9.52% on meditation and 4.76% on black magic,

It is worth while mentioning the fact that there has not been a shift in the role of present day monks as a counsellor compared to the past. However, present day monks not only apply Buddhist doctrines but also employ additional strategies such as astrology, black magic in solving all mentioned problems as well.