

MORALITY, ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE BEHAVIOR OF STUDENTS AT A SCHOOL IN NAKHON PATHOM PROVINCE OF THAILAND

RATANA LOCH 5537752 SHEM/M

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THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NARANAN SURİYAMANEE, Ed.D.,
ARISARA LEKSANSERN, Ed.D., PATREEYA KITCHAROEN, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study were to examine the level of morality, ethics, and discipline behavior of students at a school in Nakhon Pathom province, Thailand and compare the differences on morality, ethics, and discipline behavior of students at a school in Nakhon Pathom province of Thailand based on students' personal factors (gender, years of experience in Dhamma studies, frequency of attending Buddhism ceremonies), and family factors (income and educational level).

Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were applied. The data for this study were collected from 311 high school students using questionnaires, and 9 students participated in the focus group discussion. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation), and inferential statistics (t-test and one-way ANOVA) were used to analyze the quantitative data, while the content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data.

The findings of this research showed that:

1. The level of morality ethics and discipline behavior of students were overall at the high levels while each dimension was individually analyzed; morality ethics and discipline behavior of students were also at the high levels.
2. Comparison of morality ethics and discipline behavior of students based on their personal factors; gender, years of experience in Dhamma studies and frequency of attending Buddhism ceremonies, and their family factors; income and educational level showed no statistically significant differences. Only the frequency of attending Buddhism ceremonies in the dimension of ethics and the years of experience in Dhamma studies in the dimension of discipline were statistically significant differences at 0.05 level.

It is recommended that concerned authorities like the Ministry of Education, the Department of Basic Education, and the Office of Regional Education employing the practical strategies for teaching and learning that are necessary for acquiring the basic standards of morality, ethics, and discipline, and implementing them into the basic educational system in order to encourage students to practice morality, ethics, and discipline in a practical and relatable situation of daily life.

KEY WORDS: MORALITY / ETHICS / DISCIPLINE / BEHAVIOR OF STUDENTS

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