

Thesis

**A Comparative Study of The Role and
Activities of The Wat and Phikkhu in
Upgrading The Status of The Dek-Wat
in Thai Society : Case Study of
Bangkok and Nakhonsrithammaraj**

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ABSTRACT

The propose of this thesis is to conduct comparative study of the roles and activities of The Wat and Bhikkhu in upgrading the status of Dek-wat in Thai society. The study is divided in two mains parts; studying the textbook, documentary materials and related research works;and conducting a field study by interviewing 100 Dek-wats and 40 Bhikkhus in the 40 Wats in Central Bangkok, and

100 Dek-wats and 30 Bhikkhus in 30 Wats in Minicipal Zone of Nakornsriathammaraj. The selected Bhikkhus for an interview was the one who played the important roles emphasizing in each Wat.

It's found that Wats and Bhikkhus in Bangkok and Nakornsriathammaraj had the same impact on Dek-wat. That in the past The Wat and Bhikkhus took an important roles in upgrading the status of Dek-wat especially in the field of Education. The Bhikkhus were Dek-wat Teachers; since there were not formal schools. At present formal school system take important roles in educating children.

However; it is found that The wat and Bhikkhu still take roles in upgrading the status of Dek-wat in the field of Education, Housing and other facilities and upgrading the Social status and occupation.

In the field of Education; Wat and Phikkhu support poor Children who have less chance in getting education. The Wat and Phikkhu provide their housing and take care of their behavior, provide them an educational scholarship, Organise a Foundation for Education and a library, and education materials. Phikkhu is the counselor of Dek-wat and help them when they face some problems.

Housing Affairs : Wat and Phikkhu provide them housing and food and other necessary objects for their daily life. Poor children can further their education by the support of Wat and Phikkhu.

Wat is a quiet and peaceful area which is a good place for Dek-Wat to study their lesson.

In the field of Social status and occupation: Wat and Phikkhu had an important roles in supporting Dek-Wat succeeded in their education and occupation. Dek-Wats had been Trained by Phikkhu for self-discipline, good morale and responsibility and patience, self-adjustment and good Human relationship. Dek-Wats are polite and have a skill in working with other people which leads to success.