

3536359 SHES/M : MAJOR : ETHICAL STUDIES ; M.A. (Ethical Studies)

KEY WORD : BUDDHIST ETHICS / ELDERLY CARE

PORNTHAP SARAHONGSA : THE BUDDHIST ETHICS FOR THE ELDERLY CARE : A CASE STUDY OF THE RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY VASANAWES HOME UNDER SANGKHA PATRONAGE, PHRANAKHON SRI AYUTTHAYA PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : BOON GETUTASSA, M.A., SUPALUCKMONDHALEE BHAVABHUTANON NA MAHASARAKHAM, M.A., CHANUTRA ITTITHUMWINIT, M.Ed. 120 p. ISBN 974-589-102-9

The purpose of this study is to investigate Buddhist teaching concerning elderly care and to utilize the Buddhist Ethics in the residential care for the elderly at the Vasanawes Home. The study is divided into two parts. First, the documentary research provides the Buddhist Ethics relating to the elderly care written in the three divisions of the Buddhist Canon (Tripitaka), commentary, and other related materials. Second, the field research interviews 16 caregivers who work there.

The result of the documentary research is that many related Dhamma, for example, the gratefulness (Katanyukatavedi), the four noble sentiments (Brahmavihara), the principles of kindly treatment (Sangahavatthu), the three items of meritorious action (Punyakiriyavatthu), and the four paths of accomplishment (Iddhipada), are parts of the Noble Eightfold Path (Magga). It also reveals that the Buddhist Ethics are the way leading to the Cessation of Suffering (Nibbana). The result of the field research is that all of the caregivers are women who take care of the elderly by using the Social Welfare Principle, and the Buddhist Ethics. Most of them use the loving-kindness (Metta), compassion (Karuna) when taking care of the elderly and supporting religious discussions. Furthermore, the caregivers use the Buddhist ethics in their lives. Problems which occur in taking care of the elderly are disputes between them and the unfamiliarity between them and the caregivers. In conclusion, using the Buddhist Ethics is the best way to take care of the elderly because the Buddhist Ethics makes the elderly and the caregivers happy.