

Research Title : An Analysis of Understanding in Buddhhadhamma of the Buddhist Monks of Maung District of Khon Kaen Province

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Abstract

The objectives of this research were: 1) to analyse the three main factors of personal factor, social factor and psychological factors of the Buddhist monks of Maung District of Khon Kaen Province; 2) to analyse the understanding in Buddhhadhamma of the Buddhist monks of Maung District of Khon Kaen Province; 3) to analyse the factors related to the understanding in Buddhhadhamma of the Buddhist monks of Maung District of Khon Kaen Province.

The sample populations were the Buddhist monks and novices residing in the Sangha's ecclesiastical administrative territory, Muang district of Khonkaen province in the year of 2007 with the number of population being 2,873. The samples were selected by the multi-stage random sampling method and the Taro Yamane's formula which comprised of 400 cases. The data were collected with the help of questionnaire forms; the data were analysed and processed by the SPSS for WINDOWS program. The statistical procedures used were: frequencies, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient.

Research findings were as follows:

1. Most Buddhist monks in this research were of the age between 10-20 years average level 51.30%; the duration of ordination in monkhood ranged between 1-4 rains retreat average level 52%; the educational level average 58.50%; having the cultivation and training from guardians at a medium level 59.50%; having the relation with their friends within the monastery at a good level 57.80% and having information from various sources at a medium level 63%; their interest in Buddhhadhamma at a medium level 63%; their expectation of gaining the benefit from the understanding of Buddhhadhamma were at a medium level 58.30%

2. Most Buddhist monks's understanding in Buddhhadhamma was at a high level 74.80 %. And when analysed in the detailed principles it was found that their understanding in the principle of The Four Noble Truths (Ariyasacca) was at a high level 68.50 %, of the Three Characteristics (Tilakkhana) was at a high level 66.20 %, of the Dependent Origination (Paticcasamuppâda) was at a high level 50.50 %, of the Noble Eightfold Path (Atthangika-magga) was at a high level 75.20 % and of Kamma was at a medium level 66.80 % respectively.

3. Factors related to the understanding in Buddhhadhamma of the Buddhist monks were significantly related to the three factors of personal factor, social factor and psychological factors at the 0.01 level. These factors were age, rains retreat, educational level, training and cultivation within the monasteries from the guardians, relation with friends, the receiving of information, their interest in Buddhhadhamma, and expectation of benefit from the understanding of Buddhhadhamma.