

# THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK OF PHRA SAMRET DHĪRADHAMMO (KHRUBA KAI), SAMAKKEETHAM CENTER, KHOK KHO VILLAGE, YANG TALAT SUB-DISTRICT, YANG TALAT DISTRICT, KALASIN PROVINCE

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## Abstract

*The objectives of the research were as follows: 1) to study the social work of Buddhism; 2) to study the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province; 3) to analyze the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai). This study was carried out by means of qualitative research by conducting fieldwork to collect data through in-depth interviews. The obtained data were interpreted by descriptive analysis. The research results were as follows: The social work of Buddhism: Mental condition is a state of nature or nature that has an abstract nature. Training the mind is to prevent the mind from greed, anger, and delusion. Physical condition is the relief of being to calm physical actions, and speech with the truthful conversation to build unity among the people. The social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village: Phra Samret can be a trusted figure and can help establish a complaint center “Samakkeetham”, with the purpose to listen to problems to help villagers build unity, to be the center between the people and the government and to spread Buddhism, to make people have refuge on solving various problems and have spiritual refuge. The analysis of the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai): there is help to those who come to consult and ask for mercy, to promote education, to donate teaching materials to schools that lack modern equipment and teaching materials. Helping the people in trouble with the land to have a place to live for their families. Dhamma has been used to remind the people who come to complain about various matters, namely (1) not extravagant, to know one's status, (2) to be diligent and (3) to be thrifty.*

**Keywords:** Social Work roles, Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center

## 1) INTRODUCTION

The monks are one of the socially important Thai societies that are responsible for inheriting the age of Buddhism to exist until nowadays. Monks are not only responsible for inheriting the age of Buddhism but also serving to support society in various aspects together. The monks have led to the practice, especially in propagation roles. It is the original main role, but when the Buddha attained enlightenment, he began to preach the Dhamma. He has assigned the mission to the monks and disciples to realize their duties and social responsibilities that “Bhikkhus, you must go on a pilgrimage for the benefit and happiness of many people in order to help the people of the world for the benefit and happiness of the gods and humans [Vin. (Thai) 4:32/41][1] which is a way of helping the animal world. His desire for monks and disciples to be regarded as a guideline for performing public welfare work for the people of the world. The monks representing the temple are spiritual leaders of the people. It is the embodiment of faith and respect. But the important thing is that the



people have the feeling that the monks are wise people, intellectual, and able to know various academics. They can help and give advice to the villagers in times of trouble and are respected by people of all levels in society. Factors that glorify the status of monks in society are purity, sacrificial service, and intellectual leadership. In education, the monks will train and advise others to live well, which requires knowledge of the world and the Dhamma, continuing the tradition in Thai society. [Phra Rajavoramuni (P.A. Payutto), 1980: 55-56] [2] Important duty of monks to Thai society is that monks are responsible for helping directly in the mind, such as being a dependency on the peace of mind and providing support to people suffering from disasters, etc. Monks are thus symbols of Buddhism and have always been revered by Buddhists which is a group of society that has stricter practices than people in other societies. Thai society and the world society have a Buddhist approach, with the monks leading and practicing the society all the time [National Office of Buddhism, 1999: 2] [3] The monks are therefore truly accessible to the people. The villagers respect and obey the monks, and by this respect and obedience, are born of devotion. Public welfare is considered an important task of the Sangha. The Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand has assigned the duty to Ecclesiastical Regional Governor, the Ecclesiastical Provincial Governor, the Ecclesiastical District Officer, the Ecclesiastical Commune-Chief, Eccl. Dub-District Head. They are responsible for controlling and promoting the maintenance of peace and order, and religious education. Welfare education, propagation of Buddhism public utility, and public welfare in their jurisdiction to proceed well [Chamrieng Wutchan, 1998: 118] [4] The problem of social inequality, which these problems are becoming more and more serious day by day [Sulak Sivaraksa, 1995: 17] [5] Phra Somrej foresaw the problems that arise in society which is considered an important duty and burden that must play a role by providing assistance to the people both mentally and objects as well as various aspects to help alleviate the suffering of people in society. For this reason, Thai society has placed its hopes on monastic institutions that will restore, help, heal, and provide morale to Thai society.

The researchers are very aware of the problems that arise because it has resulted in a problem in Thai society that is increasing day by day. The researchers are interested in studying the “social work of Phra Somret Dhīradhammo [Khruba Kai]” who is regarded as a person who has sacrificed and is dedicated. He set up a Samakkeetham center to help solve various problems in public welfare for the development of public welfare for Thai society to be sustainable in the future.

## 2) RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The role of social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province can be known the problems of research as follows;

2.1) How is the social work of Buddhism?

2.2) How is the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province?

2.3) How is analysis of the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province?

## 3) RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1) To study the social work of Buddhism.

3.2) To study the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province.



3.3) To study the analysis of the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province.

#### 4) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative research, fieldwork by in-depth interviews of the role of social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province. It studies the target group. The researchers defined the research method or research model as follows;

4.1) This study is a documentary study and collecting data is from relevant documents and evidence from Tripitaka, books, and research reports. The document associated the relationship with the role of social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province.

4.2) Data from in-depth interviews with 26 sets from the main informant population regarding the role of social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province.

4.3) Data is from observations participants, focus group together the key informants regarding the role of social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province.

#### 5) EXPECTED BENEFITS

5.1) To be known the social work of Buddhism.

5.2) To be known the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province.

5.3) To be known the analysis of the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province.

#### 6) RESEARCH RESULTS

**6.1) The social work of Buddhism:** The mind is a state of nature or nature that has an abstract, is born to die all the time, goes fast, and comes quickly, not a permanent identity. It is able to continually create wholesome and unwholesome. Therefore, the mind must be trained, do not allow the mind to be greedy, angry, and delusional, let the mind be in a good mood or wholesome only. Cultivation of the mind and meditation require consciousness to determine, follow and be aware of both good and bad emotions. The development of the mind is for happiness in the present and the highest result is Nirvana itself. Physical is the aid in our well-being, especially our physical health consisting of walking meditation, alms as usual, composing physical behavior, being careful with your words while having a truthful conversation, building unity among the people, maintaining cleanliness in the residential area, trimming hair when it's too long, trimming nails, shaving, to make it look clean and respectable.

**6.2) The social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province:** Giving advice is considered to be the best strength in one way because people when physically suffering, mentally suffering, it still needs comfort and strength, helping is not just giving material things. But encouragement, and giving advice are regarded as a relief. Phra Somret can be appreciated both physically and mentally, having the ability to help solve problems. And he comes to help because he



is kind to human beings. He wants everyone to live well and be happy. He has seen the problems and sufferings of villagers in many areas and in the provinces. He has set up a Samakkeetham center. The objective is to listen to problems to help villagers, build unity, to be the core between the people and the government, and to spread Buddhism in order to make people dependent on solving various problems and having a mental dependency as well.

**6.3) The analysis of the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province:** People have suffered from various problems and need help. He has kindly helped those people willingly. Therefore, it makes him the center of faith and is accepted by the people in the province and the provinces. And he helps such as promoting education, helps find educational materials for schools in need, having modern teaching aids, and helping people in trouble with the land to have a place to live for the family. The trouble is caused by the problem of low prices of agricultural products; therefore, people have to borrow from banks and capitalists. He saw the suffering of the people and sought help as follows; Introducing the principle of living according to the sufficiency economy concept, and providing speakers to provide professional knowledge to the public. And he sued the Dhamma to remind the people who come to complain about various matters, namely 1) not extravagant, to know one's own position 2) to be diligent 3) to know how to save money.

## 7) DISCUSSION

The social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province can be discussed as follows;

**7.1) The social work of Buddhism:** The mind is a state of nature or nature that has an abstract, is born to die all the time, goes fast, and comes quickly, not a permanent identity. It is able to continually create wholesome and unwholesome. Therefore, the mind must be trained, do not allow the mind to be greedy, angry, and delusional, let the mind be in a good mood or wholesome only. Cultivation of the mind and meditation require consciousness to determine, follow and be aware of both good and bad emotions. The development of the mind is for happiness in the present and the highest result is Nirvana itself. Mental welfare is Buddhist philosophy which is the leading science that studies the mind and mental processes. Psychology describes the processes of suffering and the release of suffering in Buddhism using Satipatthana (the foundation of mindfulness). Buddhism attaches great importance to the mind because the mind is a very fragile and volatile state. Training to refine the mind through the cultivation of mindfulness and meditation is mental training not to cause greed, not let the mind think in the wrong way, let the mind think in the right way, train the mind to be interested in pursuing knowledge for development, practice in the middle is Majjhima patipada (the middle path) is not too tight, not too flabby, to omit the two extremes, namely Kamasukhallikanuyoga is the extreme of sensual indulgence, do not torture the body, causing the body to suffer, without strength, which is called Attakilamathanuyoga will cause perseverance in various activities. It is consistent with [Phramaha Chamnan Katadhammo (Boonpae), 2012] [6] study "A study of the public mind found in Theravada Buddhism". It was found that the public mind was the feeling of the consciousness that paid attention, participated in useful activities to the society and the country, and also the responsibilities or performing the duty as the good member of the society. The public mind was the good consciousness being within the mind of a person, the consciousness consisting of the virtue and the ethics influenced by the state of the living and the social environment by perceiving, learning, remembering, and copying. These made the behavior of helping together, giving the time, power, and property to make benefit others and society.



In the teaching of Buddhism, there were Dhamma principles relating to the practice and according to the concept of the public mind such as the four holy abiding (Brahmavihara), the four bases of social solidarity (Sangahavathu), the four virtues for a good household life (Gharavasa-Dhamma), and the six directions (Disa), etc. These Dhamma principles were the virtue for society, and the human because these lead to the benefit to oneself, others, and society.

**7.2) The social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province:** Each day, people come to the Samakkheethamma center, one group come to make merit as usual, receive five precepts and go back, the second group comes to make merit by consulting mental suffering. He can help solve agricultural problems and is being prosecuted and received good mercy from him. He advises people to volunteer to help each other in times of danger. He guides the way by adopting the principles of Buddhism such as to be conscious, patient, diligent, and not lazy, he advises and solves problems for people by coordinating with agencies that can help solve problems, and he guides the way to access government agencies from the beginning to the last step and put into practice until solving that problem successfully. Phra Samret helps the villager's children to study, parents come to ask him to help encourage them. With kindness, he takes on the burden of his studies and helps by giving every education to the youth of good behavior who was poor, conveying knowledge of rights, liberties, and basic laws to the people who complain with him, allowing the people to know and understand the basics. He helps to find funds to improve the building for the school and gives scholarships to children who are needy. The achievement is that they graduated and received a degree, and get a stable job that makes the family feel at ease. It is regarded as his work that has sacrificed and promoted education for young people until it was successful. It is consistent with [Phrachayanantamunee, et al., 2017] [7] study "Social worker: a person who solves human needs". It was found that human beings have 6 needs for survival, 1) The need for physical health and hygiene mood and mind 2) The need for happiness 3) The need for love and receive love from others 4) The need for knowledge 5) The need for prosperity 6) The need for the promotion of individual dignity 7) The need for recreation 8) The need without fear or the horrors of what is natural and the supernatural. The human whose needs are not satisfied will result in 3 problems: 1) Economic and social problems 2) Health problems 3) Emotional problems. Social welfare can solve these problems with the principles of social work, known as the 5 core values; 1) Individuals are different 2) Person respect 3) Acceptance 4) Self-determination 5) Confidentiality. Besides, there are also 4 ethical principles that help to solve problems as well; 1) The realization that it is an act for the development and welfare of another person 2) Operating with integrity, and sacrifice is virtuous and free from all prejudice 3) Respect the dignity and do not reveal the personal stories of clients 4) Stay in the frame of good culture.

**7.3) The analysis of the social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province:** Giving guidance is one of the best ways to give strength because people when they are in distress. Everybody still needs morale and strength. Helping is not just giving material things, but it is also encouragement. Giving advice is regarded as a relief. Phra Somret can be desirable and has the ability to help solve problems. He, therefore, established the Samakkheethamma Center. The objective is to listen to the problem, help villagers, build unity to be the core between the people and the government, and spread Buddhism. He advises people and young people to know how to love, unity, and help each other in times of trouble. The reason why Phra Samret does this, there are objectives 1) Seeing the penalty for the disunity, people live together as a group, so it is a society but without unity, that society is difficult to develop 2) See the benefits of unity. There is a

Buddhist proverb that unity brings happiness. In order to develop a prosperous society, there must be unity, and no divisions or conflicts 3) Want to see a harmonious society helping each other when they have belongings. He foresaw the importance of education, so he persuades Buddhists to make merit for education to raise funds to buy educational equipment for the school, making those students have modern educational equipment. And he explained to those people about education and the borderless era and used it to develop themselves to have more knowledge. It is consistent with [Isoon Inpech, 2010] [8] study “The roles played by Buddhist monk in social development: A case study of Phrathepsakornmunni (Kaew Suvanajoto)”. It was found that the role of the monks in the development of that society. The monks have a relationship with society by using religious principles to help lay the foundation for the prosperity of society in government, religious studies, the propagation of Buddhism, public utility, and public welfare, to help promote the solidarity and stability of the society, encourage the practice of doing what is right according to the principles of Buddhism, to aim for people living together in society to change for the better, both materially and mentally which will make living together prosperous and peaceful.

### 8) NEW EXPLICIT KNOWLEDGE

The result of the study “The social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province” as shown follows;

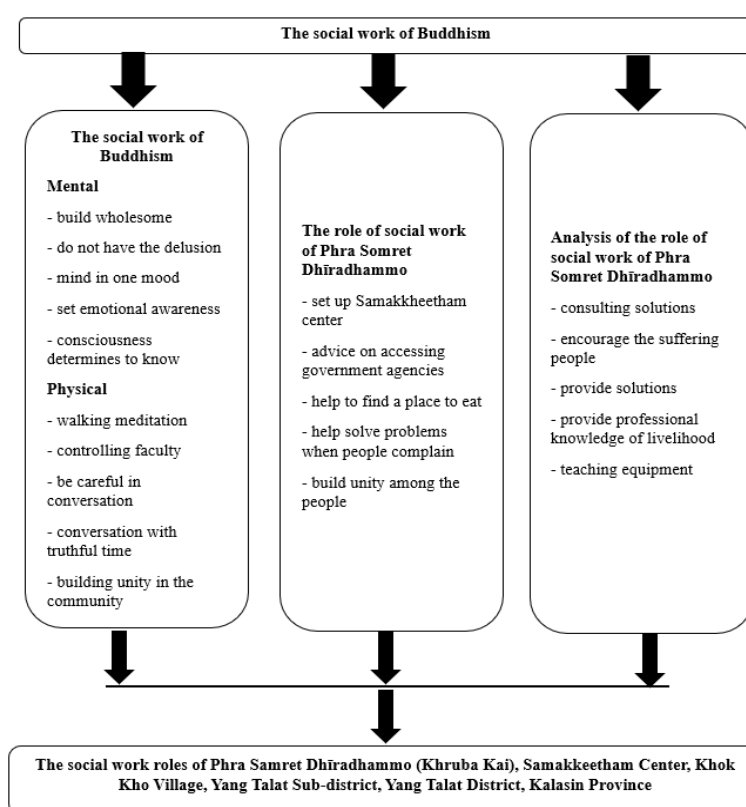


Figure 1 New Explicit Knowledge

### 9) RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Recommendations for Policy

1) The contents and works of the public welfare work of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo should be successfully used to spread to those who are interested in this matter, to be a model for implementation for the benefit of the people, society, and the country in the future.



2) The Sangha and government agencies should support Phra Samret Dhīradhammo who works in Public Welfare as well as participation in community and social development and in carrying out various related activities between temples, homes, schools, and communities in order to create encouragement, coordinate unity, and to build the faith of the people in order to maintain Buddhism to be stable and permanent.

#### **Recommendations for Practices**

- 1) The results of this research should be used for information on social work development in other places that still need help.
- 2) Monks should develop themselves as leaders or develop laymen who have sacrificed themselves in the community to help each other.

#### **Recommendations for applying the research results**

- 1) The Sangha should integrate this research into their local area.
- 2) Government agencies and the Sangha should work together to promote and support the integration of social welfare with efficiency and productivity.

### **10. CONCLUSION**

The Role of Social Work of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai), Samakkeetham Center, Khok Kho Village, Yang Talat Sub-district, Yang Talat District, Kalasin Province found that the social work of Buddhism: Mental condition is a state of nature or nature that has an abstract nature. Training the mind is to prevent the mind from greed, anger, and delusion. Physical condition is the relief of being to calm physical actions, and speech with the truthful conversation to build unity among the people. The social work roles of Phra Samret Dhīradhammo (Khruba Kai) can be a trusted figure and can help establish a complaint center "Samakkeetham", with the purpose to listen to problems to help villagers build unity, to be the center between the people and the government and to spread Buddhism, to make people have refuge on solving various problems and have spiritual refuge. There is help to those who come to consult and ask for mercy, to promote education, to donate teaching materials to schools that lack modern equipment and teaching materials. Helping the people in trouble with the land to have a place to live for their families. Dhamma has been used to remind the people who come to complain about various matters.

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