

The Administration of Archaeological Sites in Buddhist Monasteries for Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at the Administration of Archaeological Sites in Buddhist Monasteries for Sustainable Development will focus on Buddhist monasteries that have archaeological sites within to have a good model for sustainable development.

Therefore, the duty of abbots to participate in sustainable development in the form of cultural conservation manner which is suitable for the image and identity of such archaeological sites will be extremely important together with the understanding and cooperation with villagers and local organizations to perform as a leader who creates harmony sustainably as so far.

Keywords: Administration, Archaeological, Buddhist Monasteries,
Sustainable Development

บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษาค้นคว้าครั้งนี้เพื่อให้เกิดความเข้าใจในการบริหารวัดของเจ้าอาวาสที่มีโบราณสถานในการบริหารจัดการโบราณสถานในวัดเพื่อการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืน โดยเน้นความสำคัญของวัดที่มีโบราณสถานเพื่อสร้างความยั่งยืนในการบริหารจัดการและพัฒนาให้เกิดขึ้น

ดังนั้นหน้าที่ของเจ้าอาวาสในการบริหารวัด จึงต้องการเปิดโอกาสให้มีส่วนร่วมและมีการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืนในรูปแบบของการอนุรักษ์ในเชิงวัฒนธรรมและอนุรักษ์โบราณสถานอันเป็นเอกลักษณ์และอัตลักษณ์ของสถานที่นั้น ๆ จึงมีความสำคัญเป็นอย่างมากในการที่จะเข้าใจ และให้การร่วมมือของเจ้าของถิ่นอันมีประชาชนและองค์กรท้องถิ่น โดยมีเจ้าอาวาสเป็นผู้นำและสร้างความเข้าใจให้เป็นอันหนึ่งอันเดียวกันเพื่อการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืนของวัดให้เกิดขึ้นต่อไป

คำสำคัญ : การบริหารจัดการ, โบราณสถาน, การพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืน

1. Introduction

The administration of archaeological sites in Buddhist monasteries for sustainable development relates to Buddhism organizations and Buddhism activities. The most significant organization is Buddhist Monks Association, the main organization in administering to all monks in Thailand. There are Acts which are the principles and procedures related to the monastery as well as rules laid by Buddhist Monks Association who are the top hierarchy to administer monks. Monasteries are legal entities according to Thai Law and the position of an abbot is the very important position (voravit khongkhopyayo,2545: 16) The monastery administrations which have been defined composed of (1) the administration, (2) the religious education, (3) the patronage education, (4) the Buddhism propagation, (5) the facilities and (6) the public welfare.(Department of religion, 2538: 32)

The archaeological site is considered as precious cultural heritage and national unique virtuals of Thailand. At present, the monastery is playing a more important role than before, it becomes an important religious tourism place because inside the monastery, it consists of arts and culture that reflect the civilization and prosperity of nations in ancient age which is suitable to study the history, archaeology, culture, arts, architecture including the linking of community culture and the resettlement of the community. In addition, the monastery is composed of tourism resources of the natural environment, the beauty, and peaceful seclusion according to the principles of Buddhism.

Accordingly, the archaeological site is a type of cultural resource that humans apply intellectual and knowledge to create or adapt from natural resources. As time goes by for many years, when a legacy comes to a new generation, they naturally become a symbol of the ancient monuments as archeological evidence. Therefore, the archaeological site is a type of historical monument that tells the story of the ancestors in different levels of society, from a small community of urban villages to national stage, to show the history of the creator's initiatives. As for the part to conserve them, it is the duty of our generation and the next generation to maintain "conservation" with the standard of administration system to preserve that cultural heritage. (Phisit Charoen WONG, 2550: 21)

The monastery administration is currently stuck with conventional image sensors which are being as is or deteriorated respectively. They are rarely getting the concrete and appropriate development patterns and strategies to administer at the present situation when facing the rapid development of modern technology with changes in many aspects of economic, social, environment, culture, and society in the fast-changing world with many different issues. Also, some are lack of appropriate administration according to Buddhism together with the critical lack of monks and novices to run good administration of the monastery lead to finally become wastelands. These problems have not yet been resolved properly and may result in broader disaster to Thai Buddhism soon (Phra khru villas Charlie views, 2557)

The monastery with the archaeological site is a good tourism persuasion location which contains Buddhist arts. Buddhist art is a good visual teaching of Dhamma and good Buddhism propagation. Also, being valuable and cultural resources for attraction to tourism which is beneficial to the nation's economy. It is a valuable resource because of the physical attractions of culture in both concrete and abstract resources. The key problem is only how to convey properly the valuable archaeological site. If it is being split and discontinue the overall contents and value but just for tourists to come and take photos at the beautiful monastery then it will become waste. The administration of archaeological sites in Buddhist monasteries for sustainable development should combine the business administration of cultural heritage tourism and the religious administration together with the transport industry, the archaeological art museum at the site which can be touched and seen and other various cultural output although tourism administration in the monastery even in the Royal Monastery, also have significant limits in both the physical aspects of physical, policy and personnel development of tourism and the environment (Phra Maha Boon Pichet Chan Chan, 2553)

From the above, it shows that the monastery is likely to be destroyed across the country on the ancient cloister, church, pagoda, and major buildings at a higher rate although they have been registered as historical sites under Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Artifacts and the National Museum Act B.E. 2504 (1961). Needless to say for those which have not yet been registered which sometimes have been targeted or mistakenly damaged by the abbot of such monastery to rebuild as a replacement, a bigger and modern style competitive church which is a contrast to the objectives of Department of Fine Art who would like to maintain and conserve the ancient church with valuable arts. Currently, there are many of the prosecution cases addressing. The Commission and officers of the Department of Fine Arts, therefore, have to work proactively to allocate 15 centers around the country to work aggressively to protect the destruction of ancient monuments prior to being destroyed because the abbot of such monastery is arbitrary and not aware of such buildings are so important. To work and access to those abbots with the understanding of the development of the monastery must take into consideration the scope of conservation (Mrs. Somsuda Liyawanit. The Director-General of fine arts disclose information in newspapers, live news, Nov. 2, 2010, page 31)

The Abbots have to learn about the monastery administration of ancient monastery to sustainable development, therefore, it will include the awareness of problems, administration knowledge for sustainable tourism so that the ancient monastery is being managed for sustainable development and as a tourist attraction location. It is still a lack of concrete administration policy and procedures so it is very important to learn how to solve the problems for sustainable development of the ancient monastery from the current situation in order to develop sustainable value and quality monastery.

2. The form of monastery administration

It is necessary to study on monastery administration. Firstly, to understand the meaning of the word “Monastery” and the scope of managing what can do and what cannot do in the monastery. The field of monastery administration is to monitor the oversee monks, novices, and secular people who are living in there. Those purposes for they can live in a tidy with morality and to conduct programs of activities with maximum efficiency (Department of religion, 2542: 2) It is something that must be determined to fulfill and meet the changes of the society in the modern era because the work will succeed or fail is pretty much depends on executives’ techniques who work differently especially working with the public. Monastery administration is the key to make the operation more systematically to make it easy to coordinate and related to an effective operational saving also to be able to keep track of the progress and make the successful with satisfaction from everyone (Department of religion, mpp:31)

The monastery administrations are significant in making the monastery to be sustainable development in the right track. To have monks and novices to learn and earn knowledge with disciplines to makes the monastery can serve as precious for long life missions to society. To make the villagers feel that the monastery belongs to the community, to be the center of education and getting recreation of villagers (Phra Maha Somchai Kuson spirit grow, 2543: 101) The administration in the era of The Great Buddha used to be in the form of the administration principles of Dharma and disciplines (Vinaya). The monks who live in the monastery, they hold the core discipline in which the Buddha set that was the law of living together. In the modern era, monastery administration, therefore, is a form of Dhamma democracy. However, as time passed, things will be changed to go through, at the present age of people’s minds in social relevance factors and with many aspects, particularly in spiritual relevance. Monastery administration must adjust the pattern to fit the modern world to keep up with the changes that occur at all times. Furthermore, the presentation of the Buddha’s teaching must adapt to a new format of how to keep pace with social change together with the people in a society that constantly changes.

The monastery administration has been changed in the method of system design and to create a system which is suitable to the resident in the monastery and the surrounding society to administration through its own with caring for group operations, the activities of the group or organization to get things done with the policies and objectives of the organization to have aspected performance.

The Buddhism administration or monastery administration is more complicated because there are several factors associated with managing as follows :

1. Religious parties include the monks and novices who are living in the same community oronastery.

2. Dhamma's principles include the religious instruction of the Great Buddha that could put in the center of the monastery administration; it will not be inattentive to contains Dhamma teaching and discipline rules.

3. Places of worship include the religious objects or treasures of the monastery were various ordinances include property, both movable and non-movable property.

4. The ordinances included activities associated with the Buddhism community classified as one of the elements that make Buddhism to be related to general social dimensions that relate to the administration of the monastery. It is something that executive monks cannot forget because it is precious. However, there is another involvement difference from people in society, which the supreme monks have to take into consideration as well.

Particularly, social institutions that will impact the overall monastery administration include 7 social institutions. They are consistent with the monastery administration to do good and live together with society. They are as follow:

1. Family Institution
2. Religious Institution
3. Educational Institution
4. Economical Institution
5. Political Institution
6. Recreational Institution
7. Mass Communication Institution

All the above institutions are institutions and rites of every institution that behave of their own to be tidy. Furthermore what should be another consideration is the nature of society. The important thing about the monastery administration should be the awareness of Buddhist monks and novices are representative of Buddhism with their operations at all levels in society under the Monks Association to be successfully monitored on those disciplines. All traditional laws and regulations for the monks and novices have been executed for the benefit of all in the society which can be divided into 6 factors as follow :

1. Administration includes treatment to have monks and novices to perform in a good tidy manner and discipline as an example to laymen. Also to provide good practice of training and teaching to laymen according to Buddhism principles thoroughly.

2. Study theology includes the process of providing monks, novices, and laymen to learn Buddhism principles and disciplines with understanding and can follow to perform according to their status.

3. Education welfare includes helping children and the public to have education both inside and outside the normal state education system to be able to survive happily and as good quality citizens of the nation.

4. Propagation of Buddhism includes the actions to propagate people to understand the principles of Buddhism so that they understand and can practice mindfulness to skip the sorrows, suffering and achieve happiness according to the practices of Buddhism which will result in a good society with peace and progress.

5. Facilities include actions of monastery across the country to be a completed residency for Buddhism education and practice according to the discipline of the monks and novices. As a place to do merit for the community, charity activities, listen to a sermon, practicing meditation, and the conservation of cultural relics of ancient monuments.

6. Public welfare includes patronage to public mentally and by material that is not polished and overrides disciplines for the benefit and happiness of peoples in general and around such monastery (Phra khru Shih thatho, 2553)

The important part of monastery administration is the right and real implementing to make it happen according to the modern monastery administration, it must contain the following principles :

1. Shared Values include the creation of love for both executives and those in the administrative structure to strengthen the concepts and practices in the system with a planned model for administration to maximize monastery efficiency and effectiveness.

2. The structure includes an appropriate administration system with goals or purposes as plan. The structure is considered to be an important part in the formation of successful monastery administration.

3. Systems include the major administrative tasks of the monastery. Once the system is organized, it can avoid confusion in the operation and will be easy to analyze and evaluate.

4. The style includes hands-on format creation to ensure compliance with the administration to well-performed in both theory and practice.

5. Staff is individuals who are involved with the administration whether they are executives or resident in that particular monastery. Choosing the right to earn knowledge and skill is something that should be especially aware of because the administration will succeed or not is depending more on putting the right man on the right job.

6. Skills include the process of adding knowledge to the existing personnel to be more productive for more efficient administration.

7. Strategy or tactics used in the administration system. The strategy format must be appropriate to the various social factors and the environment.

1. The research includes searching for information whether it is about the administrative structure or even the personnel. To have a fully equipped information in various aspects to help the administration to be systematic and clutter.

2. Communication includes 2-way of both presenting and getting the data from the various sources. The presentation must be clear, efficient, and diverting and also to choose to receive useful information wisely. Communication from information in the form of good managing should be obtained from the basic survey.

3. Planning includes defining the plan from theory for practical. Practice in administration must conform to the theory. The planning, therefore, is an important part that creates a form of practice that leads to success.

4. The evaluation includes a summary of the administration. In the evaluation section, it will allow us to be informed of errors and parts that should be revised or which supplementary provision is already good for a more effective administration (Department of religion, 2546: 46-48)

Monastery administration can create a learning society that can be built as part of the guidance for the correct development direction of which again makes monastery development as part of the community and promote the concentration of community. Effective monastery administration will be the most important impact of using resources includes the self-value of archaeological sites (Sam Waleed colors, 2539: 119)

1. Mission of Abbot

Abbot is referred to as a guardian who administers monastery with the role and mission to undertake monastery administration and be represented by the intent and the objectives of the Act (No. 2) B.E. 2535 (1992) the rules by Supreme Monk Association.

The importance of the Abbot - Buddhism is the Thai national religion which to flourish permanently will require competent and enlightenment monks to engage closely with citizens. Especially, the Abbot who is the head of the monastery enshrines respect from the laymen. According to the Monks Act, the Abbot has full authority in administrating the monastery to be efficient (Department of religion, 2540: preface) Abbot plays an important role of having duty and responsibility to autonomy and parental monastery in 4 status as :

1. To have a role or duty and responsibility as a monk in Buddhism.
2. To have a role or duty and responsibility as a monastery's representative.
3. To have a role or duty and responsibility to be an enlightenment abbot.
4. To have a role or duty and responsibility as an officer by Law.

In addition to the 4 roles or duty and responsibilities as above, it is also a monastery administrator's role to meet the intent and objectives of the Monk Act (No. 2), B.E. 2535 (1992) without objection to monks' disciplines (Phra Krua Siri, 2550)

That is why except the specific rules of each monastery, it also must be administered under the rules and regulations of the Kingdom of Thailand's Law and Acts and Regulations from the Board of Monks which should not be contradictory to the principles and disciplines. Subdivisions within the monastery personnel, apart from the monks and novices, such as monastery secular workers including nuns and others who live in the monastery, the Abbot will delegate to the Executive Committee of the monastery the duty and authority to heal and develop all monastery personnel within the monastery. The monastery administration Committee is also important because they are responsible for the affairs and activities of the monastery on the monastery progress. By helping each other, discuss and monitor to perform and to adapt to the needs of the public, it will make the monastery's mission to be achieved (Phramaha Maha Chai pisud, integrity, 2545)

To make the administrative monastery perform well and tidy, there are Monks' Acts and Regulation stated that each monastery to have administrative positions within the monastery including the Abbot, Deputy Abbot, and Assistant Abbot. In section 36-37 indicates the duty and responsibility of Abbot to rule the monks and novices in compliance with the regulations or an order of the Supreme Monk Association and to do surveillance operations to maintain goodness within the monastery for those laymen who come to live in the monastery with good and tidy manners (Tweet bird, 2547) Moreover, the important role which the abbot to bear in the mind is how to administer the monastery to be a steady growth and the development of the potential gauge permitting public benefits to the community and to maintain conservation of ancient monuments. To have these happen, it will require a mechanism for administration, regulation, and to do consistently and continuously.

The Abbot has the duty of maintaining the monastery, conservation, activities arrangements, undertakings properties of the monastery and administrates both monks and laymen in the monastery according to the regulation or order of the Supreme Monks Association, to engage in providing the training and education on Buddhism Dhamma and sufficient hospitality in charity activities for the community (Phra Vihati Pattarathada, mpp:84)

3. Summary

The Abbot must be competent executives in 3 main virtues of self-virtue, virtue on others, and virtue on the tasks. Abbots have a critical person who plays an important role in the administration of the organization. The organization will not be good if the abbot is not capable and if the abbot is capable then the monastery will not be bad. This is to demonstrate that capable abbot who has the knowledge, ability, and integrity will administer better the organization.

The maintenance of the monastery is inclusive of new construction and renovation, to define the plan and floor plans, all of which will require money, labor force, and mindful creativity of the places.

Together with the objective of the monastery which has been persistently updated for the development to go well all are the duty of the abbot.

To organize the affairs of the monastery is the duty of the abbot and the committee as a representative of a legal entity. The 5 categories of the affair of the monastery are to study Buddhism theology, to study the welfare, to do propagation of Buddhism, to support utilities and public welfare, which corresponds to the regulations defined by Supreme Monks Association and the traditional culture. To manage the monastery as a representative on receiving of property, legal cases and others are all fall under the duty of the abbot.

The handling of the religious treasures, caring and treating of procurement, spending of all the property of the monastery, as well as the accounting function is the job of the abbot to perform well in accordance with the prescribed in the administrative regulations.

The Abbot must protect any external hazards which will impact or exploiting to the monks and novices or the laymen inside the monastery. To provide the security from all dangers comparable to the hen's wings unfurl their child protection to be safe from all dangers that can occur from both external and internal, so that the monastery administration is effective and efficient whether in any conditions for the sustainable development.

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