
Thai Buddhist Families

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Abstract

The study aims to discuss the main topic of Thai Buddhist Families. The family is also a source of nurturing political skills. Living legally has roles and responsibilities, respecting each other's rights, joint decision knowing, listening and communicating, reconciling with love, understanding, and reason, and knowing forgiveness. There is a separation of duties and responsibilities that divide work between families. That will see in the previous Thai society, even wives were inferior to husbands, but there were separate duties of husband and wife, such as the authority to make decisions outside the home to be a leader, while the burden of care. Houses and family members in the house are the wife's duty to take care of. For the elderly, it is responsible for training, teaching, and polishing child members have to learn how to live for inherits the family lineage.

Keywords: Thai; Buddhist; Families

1. Introduction

The population of Thailand is mostly well-proportioned, black hair and black eyes, the skin is a mixed form ethnicity as well as Mongolian, Chinese, Malay, ordinary features as Asian people in general Thai is the regular language Nation in both the spoken and written. There are traditions and good culture to carry on until becoming one of the country's unique traits. The local population is different depending on the topography,

the existing environment, which will be expressed in terms of the Thai language used. And personalities such as the southern region, which has an ever-changing climate, with risks at sea, using life depends on the season and nature their language is therefore short and concise. Resolute decisions quickly committed to a good life. The northern region, cool and climate beautiful landscape with forests and flowers. Many types of things make the northern people look cold, bountiful mind full kinds of arts and crafts occur in this region.

A group of people are engaged and living together through marriage and pedigree. The family acts as the primary institution for training and caring for family members as the core of the social relations system is the cornerstone of family life. Various types of Thai society can be classified into 2 types which are (1) single-family and (2) extension or a large family. If the family is stable, they can develop and lead people to prosperity. On the contrary, if a family has a conflict, it leads to the deterioration of the family and society (Phrakru Kosonsanakit Silakhom, 2017).

2. Perspective in Thai Family's Characteristics

A family is a group of people descended from the same ancestor and close to each other and live in the same place. The meaning of family in genetics considers the relationship of blood. But in society people tend to understand the meaning of the family in terms of the image rather than genetics. Family is a social institution, meaning a social institution that is related to marriage patterns. Parenting and the relationship pattern between genders which is recognized as correct according to society, social institutions such as family institution, education institutions, politics, government, etc. Therefore, when the family is organized as an institution as one type of society has the definition of family meaning seem as follows The Royal Institute Dictionary 1999 has given the meaning that mentions Family as 'Basic institution of society consisting of husband, wife and refers to children as well' (Royal Institute, 2003).

Several Thai academicians and scholars define 'family' such Chamngang Adiwasi and the group has given the meaning the family means two or more people come to live

together by relationship through marriage or by pedigree connection or by receiving adopted and live within the same household and the family can become a complete family only when having children. Buntheung Phapichit has given the meaning of family is considered the first institution in human society (Ockey, 1994). It is the important institutions that created humanity. Family institutions are the crucible of human beings. Therefore, society, state, or nation will have good quality human resources or not depend on the family institute.

Paitoon Kruekaew has given the meaning of family that must consist of people of different sex since 2 or more, people have sexual relations with another one. There are obligations to give sexual relations to each other assure and have a long enough time to give birth to children. Other than that, there must have mutual economic and social agreements and able to raise children to have the opportunity to grow up (Paitoon Kruekaew, 1973). Tassanee Thongsawang has given the meaning that a family is a group of close relatives who are on the roof living in the same house or the same fence area. Usually, the family performs all necessary basic duties with basic human needs. Family is therefore the most important institution in society because it is the foundation or it is the first institution in the evolution of human society (Tassanee Thongsawang, 1994).

Suphattra Supaph has given the meaning that the family consists of two or more people who have relationships with sexually as beings of a husband and wife compose to children or it does not mention. Because it is not everyone can have children but may have adopted children to fulfill family. Amporn Sukantawanit and the group have given the meaning that the family is the basic institution that has to convey knowledge, culture, and values to members of the family, including refining behavior or personality according to the role and expectations of society through the socialization process (Amporn Sukantawanit & groups, 2007).

Summary in terms of Thai Buddhist family clarifies as a form the above meaning as it can be noted that the family refers to a group or numbers of people who have a blood lineage or marriage relationship that have agreed to live together within the same

house. According belong to Buddhism as the tradition of society such as parents, children, relatives, related blood, or marriage or have adopted which prepares and responds to human needs.

3. Types of Thai Families

Various family types including determining the membership count and hierarchy of each family typed together here. Families are arranged in order of establishment and size of the family. Family organizations classification is based on the family formation of various generations, including the size of families with can be classified into 2 types as follows;

3.1 Nuclear family is a family consisting of parents and children only. Western society will be familiar with this features, children will be raised to be independent. Which ordinary will provide care until age 18 years, children must struggle to survive or build their own as Nuclear family or single family. Often that have problems with divorcing, so high that the appearance as Single Parent Home. It is a single family that has only a single parent with child only. Nurture children in Western society will focus on training to have responsibility, recognize if the duty is a duty to do, but if not a duty the parents must employ to do that.

In a single family, children are easily exposed to social role models and do not have child substitutes will have an anti-social behavior. Because the family is not dependent on meaningless family, no anchor point from parenting that forces children to be independent and fast personally leaving quickly, resulting in a lack of attachment to his original family. The attachment of parents to children is minimal thoughtful parent and senior families. Therefore, found that is the problem of neglected elderly people much more common in Western society. In the end of lives the elderly therefore is like social surplus. The death rate of the elderly is very high at the family festival. The senior families have a depression because the children didn't come leave there lonely. Some people

therefore turn their attention to pets that likes a best friend at this time, some people give possessions to dogs, cats etc.

3.2 Extended family is a family consisting of single families since the two families came together. The extended family will consist of three generations of members. People or more who are relative's extended families can happen because married children do not go out to set up their family or new home. Most often there are not fully extended families that seem as 2 types, which are;

(1) Patrilineality Extended family must consist of mainly the male line with father and mother, son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

(2) Matrilineality Extended family must consist of mainly the female line with father and mother, daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Summary generally, the extended family or large family is normally seeing in Thai society or social characteristics of Asian people except for families in urban. The extended family or large family is namely an apart from husband, wife, children, but also consisting of relatives of either parties or any party, including those close by the cohabitation of the family. That is often a favorable feature.

Benefits to each other in various fields, such as husbands and wives to work often have relatives of the male or female side take care of their children. Meanwhile, there are also living with this family. In addition, there may be relatives of either parties or any party coming to live for studying or working.

4. Characteristics of Thai Families

Concerning to the research of several sociologists found that generally is the family characteristics tend to have different important depending on social foundations including values, norm, traditions and culture of each society. Thai family is influenced by “values” culture especially and traditions from Buddhism very so much that can be seen from various characteristics which appears to be the identity of Thai family as follows;

4.1 Thai families admire men as head of the family. He has a duty to protect and prevent danger and provide support, love, and honor to family members as appropriate for their status. So a man leader is the person responsible for the economy of the family and is the leader of the family has the most power and rights in the family. That is the executive within the family and is the descendant. Children must use the surname of father and wife must use husband's surname.

4.2 Thai families play importance to the seniority system and have respect and obedience, respectively. It can be seen that most Thai families tend to teach their family members to respect the elders such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc., especially in general rural society elderly person in the family. There will always receive respect and always dependent on minors, both personal and work counseling. Therefore, there are many senior families in Thai families (grandparents, uncles, aunts) with the expression of respect and obedience to the elders may be a result of the value of praising Thai elders. That is important because Thai people tend to honor the elderly because they believed that life experiences of them. Therefore, the elders could understand various conditions better than younger people. Then seniors are accepted by the general public in Thai society seem a saying such an idiom "following the adult dog does not bite".

4.3 The Thai family is a single family (Monogamy) that a man with a single wife according to the law, but the reality of the Thai family characteristics in that a man who has one or more wives cannot determine clearly due to no evident various evidences. In the past it has shown that Thai men tend to have multiple wives, which is Polygyny marriage, as we can see from the King, noblemen, civil servants, merchants or even ordinary people in the previous days popular with many wives at a time. That can have considered as creating prestige and acting high sexual ability of some king. Therefore, the law clearly states promulgates that Thai men can marry only once. Subsequent marriages are considered not legally. Therefore, if we considered in terms of current Thai law, it can be said that Thai families are monopoly, but in practice Thai men especially those with

good economic and a high social position, polygamy is still popular with many wives at the same time, which socialism calls illegal wives “ethics”.

4.4 Family is having blood ties as meaning that Thai families often have relatives among families live together as large family. Parents love to bond with their children. Even though children are married, have separated families, still care and still providing patronage always. Although the houses are far away, they still come to rely on each other as before.

4.5 Children are the center of the family, that is to say in general every Thai family loves children. Mother sacrificed everything for the child encouraged children to receive education and to create stability in life. Children will be trained to know how to help one since young and when growing up, children will try to create as much as possible.

4.6 The Thai family is a small family (Nuclear Family) in today, the Thai family is single-family families mostly have parents and children especially in urban society. Often Thai families have not relatives to live with the single family becoming an important family of society because it is a family that reaches freedom, independence and individuality. Which is consistent with the values of the Thai people today, but still it appears different are many extended families in rural society. Most of Thai family will find it in the form of relatives among families live in the same area or build a similar house even after getting married. Elder relatives have the power above all family members and the decisive there is help within the family. Both power and labor force also in modern times this type of family is very small. Because of the influence of civilization from the western.

5. The Importance of Families in Thai Society

Since Thailand is a developing country, one of the important resources in Human resources or people. The Thai society can be improved as must consider the condition of the public that there are any problems such as 'what is the behavior to develop the people to move towards developing the nation?'

The basic institution for creating people in the Thai nation is the family because the family is the person who created the personality of everyone growth every aspect. Whether physical has development intellectual, emotional, or social naturally depends on the care of parents. Which we always calm that parents are the first teacher of children, even though children to grow until entering school, parents must still function as a teacher. Which is to pay attention to training to teach children in various fields whether manners, behavior, sin, merit, blames also 'what should do? or what should do not? Therefore, the family is the first unit of society because it is the first institution. That serves laid the foundation for other institutions in the society without any institution being able to perform this role for the family. The parents gave love and warmth to transfer knowledge as well as nurturing habits help each other to persuade the child has good behaved. It can be considered that the family has completed its duties. In creating the nation's people for social development and live a peaceful life in a democracy in the future.

The Thai family was originally an extended family. There are families' members of many ages, at least 3 generations are 1) Grandparents 2) Parents 3) Children as family members who have cooperated in various activities including economy, education, parenting cultivation of ethics, moral and also values, attention to in a crisis for targets of the family is warm and safe. The family acts as a source of melting potency of human beings and affecting to social quality. The family is responsible for raising children to grow, but other hades the family is a fundamental unit of society. Because what form will society come into being? It mostly depends on the lifestyle or upbringing of the family. Therefore, every family must be responsible for the state of society in the future. That is every family has performed their duties well. It may be expected that society in the future is indeed a well-being society with solidarity (Delhey, & Dragolov, 2016).

In considering the importance of families to humans is the best way to consider 'What are the roles and responsibilities of the family?' and those duties meet the needs of each human being, and "how to respond to humans as members of society?" Families

can meet various needs with a lot of human families also very important to human society. Sociologists and anthropologists have studied family duties found that the family has a very important role in the development of one's personality and also serves to meet the needs of humans both in economic, social, and psychological. The duties of the family can be divided into 4 aspects as follows;

1) Duty to produce new members for the society to replace members of the society that have died.

2) Duty to raise new members to survive because newborns and children cannot take care of themselves.

3) Duty to transfer the culture of society to new members. This is a socialization process for children to grow up as good members of society.

4) Duty to shape the socialization, that socialization is a very important role because human nature does not know what is suitable or inappropriate. We will use our instincts to determine our actions.

Therefore, there must be a process of socialization for humans to behave by the rules and regulations, and social norms so that society can coexist peacefully if not there will cause chaos. Therefore, families have to act and shape children into desirable members of society. Thus the importance of family reminds as

1) The family is a crucible for the personality and characteristics of members. Interaction is relevant between members of the same household. The value is shared feeling, attitude, beliefs, faith, and culture of life from one generation of members to another and also as well as there is recreation, and activities together under the factors of atmosphere and methods of raising. Training being a template is both formal and informal either consciously or unconsciously. Whatever the family environment is a factor positively or negatively, can gradually foundry way of personality and physical, social, emotional and psychological characteristics of family members. Various forms have a direct impact on the role of social roles and members in other institutions.

2) The family is an educational institution of society. Family is a place to broadcast knowledge, training, and practicing for members to learn about social order or socialization both formal and informal.

3) Families create a quality of life with various features that indicate quality characteristics of life above. The family will be an institution that will allow happening in the lives of family members.

4) The family is a basic institution for social development and acts as an institution that is very important in social and community development like other social institutions. The cycle of birth and growth up until going to school, working, marriage, raising children of their own, looking after parents when old, that teaching and training for everyone to have roles and responsibilities as various positions in the family. In other words, that is getting into the role obligations and responsibilities as members of a community or society.

5) The family is the foundation for various levels of government the family performs important primary duties. The extreme duty is the birth of children providing care for minors, educating, creating people, knowing social order. Although the family has the transfer of culture to future generations as a way of living by social conditions belonging to that society. What kind of children are born and raised in a family? Naturally receives the transmission of ideas various attitudes and behaviors. That is attached from the same family more or less and applies it to the society in which they existing (Keown, 2014).

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, Thai society is a society that has the same social structure as the general social structure of the society and social institutions. The Thai society has changed all the time despite being change even though changing with patterns and changing without patterns that cause both good and bad effects in Thai society. In terms of disadvantages find that the process of these changes causes many problems in Thai

society. The study shows that the importance of the family as a unit of society relating to laying the foundation for governance at various levels of the family. The most important primary duty is to give birth to children, raising children, educating, creating people to know social order.

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