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Abstract- The development of factors and indicators of the environmental management for temples is another way to promote and support the knowledge and understanding about environmental issues occurring in present society which involves the environment in temples and also communities. There have been many factors which cause those environmental issues, both intentionally and unintentionally. Therefore, temples, communities, educational institutes, local administrative organizations, Sub-district (Tambon) Public Health Offices, private organizations, and other agencies have to participate in the environmental development in temples for the benefits of monks and the people who come to get benefits in temples and communities.

Keywords: development, indicators, environmental management, buddhist temples, environmental promotion.

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The Development of Environmental Management Indicators for Buddhist Temples

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Abstract- The development of factors and indicators of the environmental management for temples is another way to promote and support the knowledge and understanding about environmental issues occurring in present society which involves the environment in temples and also communities. There have been many factors which cause those environmental issues, both intentionally and unintentionally. Therefore, temples, communities, educational institutes, local administrative organizations, Sub-district (Tambon) Public Health Offices, private organizations, and other agencies have to participate in the environmental development in temples for the benefits of monks and the people who come to get benefits in temples and communities.

This development of factors and indicators of the environmental management was carried out under the Environmental Education Program, College of Innovative Management, Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat University under Royal Patronage. The research was supported by the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. The study of the relevant principles and concepts was done to gain the factors and indicators of the environmental management for temples. The participatory process was utilized with monks, temple wardens, resource persons, academics, experts, local government officials, involved persons, and people who came to get benefits in the temples. The study was carried out through brainstorming of people from the central unit and different regions namely central, northern, southern, and northeastern regions. In conclusion, the sharing factors and indicators were obtained as follows. Factor 1 Physical and Biological Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 2 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 3 The Management of Pollutions, Wastes, and Waste Water comprised 4 indicators. Factor 4 Well Being and Management comprised 9 indicators. Factor 5 The Promotion of Morals toward the Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 6 The Promotion of Learning comprised 6 indicators.

The factors and indicators obtained from the development have covered physical and biological environment, well being of the monks, and the involvement of people to promote and support the environmental management and to look after well being of the monks. The implementations of these factors and indicators depend upon the context and potential of each temple. They allow temples to have appropriate environmental management and promote sustainable management of the environment.

Keywords: development, indicators, environmental management, buddhist temples, environmental promotion.

I. Introduction

The present world has been rapidly changed from the past. The massive flow of western culture in the era of globalization has swooped countries around the world unavoidably. This has caused changes to ways of life in different levels of society starting from the levels of family, community, culture and tradition. These historical roots of society have been modified according to the fashion. The small society with kindness and sharing has been changed to big society which combines all cultures together. This matter seems to be scary if there is no any good way to manage and serve these changes. Especially, there has been a lot of fighting for limited natural resources which are not sufficient for the future needs. This will cause many problems afterward. One more issue is that, at present, natural resources and the environment have been critically destroyed to meet the requirements of humans who have more needs other than those four common needs. This dramatically phenomenon has caused the reduced numbers of trees, plants and animals. It also causes the problems of soil deterioration, water shortage, pollutions, wastes and changes of climate conditions in atmosphere which very much vary, global warming, and unbalanced ecological system.

Thai society is a society with respect of Buddhism and 95% of population is Buddhists. Buddhism is a religion with an emphasis on teaching humans with appropriate way of life, and without luxury and shortages which lead to troubles. This way is then considered to be an important approach to practice and related to way of life in Thai society. It is also a good model for practice from generation to generation and compared as a shield to protect or delay the mental and environmental deteriorations or the morals toward the environment. With this significance, Lord Buddha then set regulations for monks to practice as a model for reducing the use of excessive factors or resources other than those four common needs. The Dharma disciplines have been used as criteria or regulations established.

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They are, for example, knowing to estimate amount of offered food to be consumed, considering appropriate food, using limited number of sarongs and blankets, living in safe places, considering herbs for direct treatments, and establishing regulations for study and do & don't practices for monks and nuns as priesthood.

National Office of Buddhism established regulations for the development of temples to meet the determined standards. Temples should have roles to do the functions and arrange activities. The abbots and the temple committee must have modern management system for temples. Information technology should be brought to use for data collection. The management of a temple should provide opportunity to community to get involved. The purposes of these regulations are: 1) to be guidelines to develop temples according to the standards of National Office of Buddhism; 2) to facilitate the operations with highest efficiency and effectiveness, and the same standards; 3) to establish standards for fundamental development for temples leading to the operations of temples' activities determined by National Office of Buddhism (education park in temple, and good developed temple with outstanding performance; 4) to promote experience in developing temples as well as continuing & sustainable development; 5) to encourage temples with learning process for self development to gain quality, success, and social acceptance; and 6) to promote work integration of all sectors, efficiency and full benefits in developing temples to meet the standards.

However, the establishment of criteria for temple development to cover all aspects must include the matter of environment, especially with the way of life with environmental friendly living as a good model for society. These criteria for the environmental management for temples should contain factors covering the physical and biological areas, and the practices of those who come to get benefits within the temples, offering things to monks, and the practices of monks who are considered as important persons to teach the Dharma principles and practices, and be respected by people. Therefore, each area should have indicators as criteria for appropriate operations.

Therefore, the Environmental Education Program under Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat University under Royal Patronage conducted a project to study and develop factors and indicators of environmental management for temples. The budget for the project was supported by the Bureau of Public Participatory Promotion and the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. The project desired those who involved with temple development in the context of Thailand to participate by expressing their opinions toward the environmental management within the temples. The evaluation criteria were used as guidelines for application appropriately, and as a good model for sustainable environmental management in the future. The purposes of the development were to 1) establish factors and indicators of environmental management for temples, 2) study the factor about community participation in environmental management within temples, and 3) evaluate the implementations of the factors and indicators of environmental management for temples.

II. Methods to Develop Factors and Indicators of Environmental Management for Temples

Step 1 Arranged a meeting for the committee for developing (draft) criteria of environmental management for temples. The meeting was conducted in order to make (draft) criteria of environmental management for temples which comprised 6 factors and 73 indicators. Factor 1 Physical and Biological Environment comprised 15 indicators. Factor 2 The Promotion of Learning comprised 15 indicators. Factor 3 The Management of Pollutions and Waste comprised 10 indicators. Factor 4 Environmental Ethics comprised 11 indicators. Factor 5 Well Being and Management comprised 13 indicators. Factor 6 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment comprised 9 indicators.

Step 2 Organized a meeting for the committee for developing criteria of environmental management for temples which consisted of 15 resource persons. The meeting was conducted in order to consider the draft of management for temples which was drafted in Step 1. Regarding the results from the meeting of the resource persons, the criteria of environmental management for temples were obtained as follows. Factor 1 Physical and Biological Environment comprised 8 indicators. Factor 2 The Promotion of learning comprised 7 indicators. Factor 3 The Management of Pollution and Waste comprised 5 indicators. Factor 4 Environmental Ethics comprised 8 indicators. Factor 5 Well Being and Management comprised 11 indicators. Factor 6 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment comprised 5 indicators.

To conclude, the criteria of environmental management for temples gained from the consideration and agreement of resource persons totally comprised 6 factors and 44 indicators.

Step 3 Conducted a focus group discussion of 4 regions. The criteria of environmental management for temples from the consideration process of the resource persons were brought by the research team to the focus group discussion of 4 regions. The discussion aimed to investigate the opinions toward the participations of communities and the sample of 40 temples in both urban and rural areas. The targets of the discussion comprised 240 monks, temple wardens and people who got the benefits in the temples. They were 6 of them for each temple. The data from this focus group discussion

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were analyzed for the correlation coefficient and the confirmatory factor analysis was carried out for those 6 factors. The results gained were congruent and related into the same direction. This indicated that the criteria of environmental management for temples were appropriate to be implemented.

Step 4 Organized a public hearing. The research team brought the criteria of environmental management for temples to the public hearing of the academics, experts, local government officials, and those who involved together to consider and criticize the criteria of environmental management for temples of 4 regions. After that, the differences of data obtained from each region were analyzed and then synthesized to prioritize the factors and indicators as follows. Factor 1 Physical and Biological Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 2 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment comprised 3 indicators. Factor 3 The Management of Pollutions, Wastes, and Waste Water comprised 4 indicators. Factor 4 Well Being and Management comprised 9 indicators. Factor 5 The Promotion of Morals toward the Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 6 The Promotion of Learning comprised 5 indicators.

Step 5 Arranged a meeting to conclude the evaluation of criteria. A meeting for the committee for developing criteria of environmental management for temples was organized to consider the criteria obtained from the meetings from steps 2 to 5. It was also to conclude the factors and indicators of environmental management for temples gained from participatory process of all sectors namely monks, temple wardens, resource persons, academics, experts, local government officials, involved persons, and people who came to get benefits in the temples through brainstorming from the central unit and different regions namely central, northern, southern, and northeastern regions. To conclude, there were totally 6 main factors and 32 indicators. Factor 1 Physical and Biological Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 2 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 3 The Management of Pollutions, Wastes, and Waste Water comprised 4 indicators. Factor 4 Well Being and Management comprised 9 indicators. Factor 5 The Promotion of Morals toward the Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 6 The Promotion of Learning comprised 6 indicators.

Conclusion about the factors and indicators of environmental management for temples Details for the factors and indicators of environmental management for temples were as follows.

Factor 1 Physical and Biological Environment comprised 6 indicators as follows.

Indicator 1.1 The temple has plans for the development and the appropriate utilization of the space within the temple.

Indicator 1.2 The temple has green and shaded areas to protect sunshine, rain and natural disasters; grows local plants, important plants mentioned in Buddhism, and flowers.

Indicator 1.3 Places for monks to live, sleep and sit and other constructions are strong, save and suitable for usage.

Indicator 1.4 Infrastructures within the temple are comfortable, convenient and suitable for usage.

Indicator 1.5 The temple has boards and maps informing places, buildings and important places within the temple.

Indicator 1.6 The temple should have appropriate sanitary crematory or places for making merits for the community.

Factor 2 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment comprised 6 indicators as follows.

Indicator 2.1 The temple has gardens for herbs, local plants or various kinds of plants appropriate to geographical conditions for the best benefits of the temple and community.

Indicator 2.2 The temple has a regular maintenance of the plants.

Indicator 2.3 The temple promotes the growing of herbs for consumption.

Factor 3 The Management of Pollutions, Wastes, and Waste Water comprised 4 indicators as follows.

Indicator 3.1The temple has systems to deal with wastes and waste water.

Indicator 3.2 The temple regularly cleans its buildings and areas.

Indicator 3.3 The temple promotes and supports the prevention of insects and animals that are poisonous and carriers of disease by using natural methods.

Indicator 3.4 The temple has a protection management of smell pollution, dust, smoke, noise and others.

Factor 4 Well Being and Management comprised 9 indicators as follows.

Indicator 4.1 The temple promotes sanitation for monks and people who come for religious ceremonies within the temple.

Indicator 4.2 The temple encourages and supports the monks to look after their health regularly.

Indicator 4.3 People provide clean water and the monks have nutritious food according to the principles of food sanitation.

Indicator 4.4 The temple should have food offered by people appropriately to their health.

Indicator 4.5 The temple provides containers for food and keeps them clean as always.

Indicator 4.6 The temple encourages people to arrange simple religious ceremonies.

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Indicator 4.7 The temple should provide clean water to be used in religious ceremonies.

Indicator 4.8 The temple promotes to reduce the use of candles and incense or joss sticks in religious ceremonies.

Indicator 4.9 The temple should provide clean places for the monks to sleep.

Factor 5 The Promotion of Morals toward the Environment comprised 6 indicators as follows.

Indicator 5.1 The temple should promote good behaviors and conducts in doing the religious ceremony intentionally.

Indicator 5.2 The temple encourages appropriate and friendly uses of verbal language and practices between monks and people.

Indicator 5.3 The temple promotes the uses of environmental friendly goods.

Indicator 5.4 The temple encourages people to offer themselves for the benefits of the temple and Buddhism.

Indicator 5.5 The temple does not allow people to leave their animals in the temple.

Indicator 5.6 The temple promotes its place as all vices free zone.

Factor 6 The Promotion of Learning comprised 6 indicators as follows.

Indicator 6.1 The temple records the history of the temple, religious places and community.

Indicator 6.2 The temple has data bases for plants, herbs and places within the temple together with materials for public relations.

Indicator 6.3 The temple produces of the public relations materials for the learning sources of community.

Indicator 6.4 The community provides supports and promotion of learning within the temple.

Indicator 6.5 The teaching of monks should include knowledge about the environment, national resources, disasters, and good traditions and culture of the community.

III. Discussion

Regarding the development of criteria of environmental management for temples, it was found that the criteria comprised 6 factors as follows. Factor 1 Physical and Biological Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 2 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 3 The Management of Pollution, Wastes, and Waste Water comprised 4 indicators. Factor 4 Well Being and Management comprised 9 indicators. Factor 5 The Promotion of Morals toward the Environment comprised 6 indicators. Factor 6 The Promotion of Learning comprised 6 indicators. In each factor, the discussion was made as shown below.

Factor1 Physical and Biological Environment - The concept is that Buddhist temples, both in urban or rural areas, are different in environmental conditions. Therefore, each temple should determine its own vision, mission, and clear operational plan in relation to the Buddhist Monk and Novice Administration Act and the global changes. The development and improvement of physical and biological environment should provide Buddhists, people and organizations with opportunities to get involved. This can be done by using the environmental friendly ways of life based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy.

Factor 2 The Conservation and Quality Development of the Environment – The concept is that, at present, local plants including herbs basically used as medicines to cure illness are quite rare to fine and reduced in amount. Therefore, temples, which are considered as centers for involvement and places for different activities since the past until the present, should have roles and functions in promoting the environmental conservation of various plants. This is done in order to maintain them, make benefits to the communities, and also increase the biological diversity at the same time.

Factor 3 The Management of Pollution, Wastes, and Waste Water - The concept is that Pollutions and wastes are disgusting things for the society and have affected the heath and sanitation of people. Temples should therefore be clean and green places without wastes and pollutions suitable for monks to do religious ceremonies or activities and also people who come to practice Dharma and get other benefits. The temple should then have correct management to deal with pollutions and wastes and to prevent impacts on health, sanitation, and ecological system in general.

Factor 4 Well Being and Management - The concept is that monks are those who play important roles to inherit or continue the Buddhism and to teach its principles to people for the promotion of intellectual, moral, and ethical development. Unfortunately, at present, it has been found that monks have many health problems such as diabetics, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and chronic communicable diseases. Thus, the way to promote the strong health and well being of the monks involves things that are offered or provided by people. Also, people who come to arrange religious ceremonies or activities within the temples should have well being and can bring the good things from the temples to be used in their families and communities.

Factor 5 The Promotion of Morals toward the Environment - The concept is that the religious ceremony arrangements of people at present, without correct knowledge, are deviated from those taught by Lord Buddha. Together with the current global and natural changes, people should practice the religious ceremony strictly for their own benefits, not too much trouble to other lives.

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Factor 6 The Promotion of Learning - The concept is that in the era of globalization, there have been wider communication and learning of the people starting from community, society, country to the global levels. The present society has then become or placed an importance on a learning society. The temples are therefore considered as a learning resource in the society. They should promote life-long learning with useful information provided to people who come to contact or do activities within the temples. This will help provide them knowledge about environmental situations, and self development together at the same time with intellectual development.

From all 6 factors, they were relevant to the annual meeting of the National Health Assembly which mentioned about the roles of monks toward the society. Apart from their teaching role to people, monks also have other roles which are very important for social development. To summarize, the meeting (5th National Health Assembly, Agenda 2.3, 18 November 2012: 1-7) proposed the roles of monks for social development as follows. 1) The role in economic development involves, for example, the promotion for growing plants or natural agriculture with complete cycle, feeding silk, growing water melons, feeding fish, feeding pigs, establishing groups such as groups for gems cutting, rice bank, saving trust, and village cremation. 2) The role in social development involves being good models of behaviors and conducts, and leaders of community development such as building roads within the community, setting rules for house fences, cleaning canals, developing running water systems, and building containers for keeping rain water. These activities need cooperation between temples, villagers and government agencies. 3) The role in educational development involves many aspects, for example, providing education to the monks, looking after their well being and physical and biological environment, establishing educational parks and libraries within temples, and organizing training for career development. 4) The role in health development involves, for example, providing assistance to people by using traditional herbs for general, orthopedic, and drug addiction treatments. The important role is that the promotion of mental health including the prevention and recommendations of mental health problems, and rehabilitation of patients with chronic mental illness and drug addiction. 5) The role in environmental development involves, for example, arranging shaded and green areas within temples to relieve the sadness of people who are unhappy, being leaders in environmental development in community, and organizing training for youths in environmental conservation. This role agreed with the study of Veeravatnanond (1998) which mentioned about the roles of monks concerning the conservation and development of environmental quality. They were, for example, 1) the role in providing education and training about environmental conservation, and 2) the role in the environmental development.

From the above discussion, another role is that temples should be good models for religious ceremonies. The ceremonies with the traditional practices from the past may cause luxury and expenses. They are not linked with the knowledge and understanding about nature, but cause problems instead. Temples should be good models for the improvement of those ceremonies appropriate to the incomes of people as well as the condition of natural resources which have been gradually reduced and destroyed. The improvement of ceremonies or the cultural changes of society will lead to suitable ways of life, good values, and effective protection of environmental destruction.

To conclude, all factors and indicators of environmental management for temples gained from this development have linked people sector with temples. These parties must cooperate in encouraging and supporting each other in order to lead temples and communities to the holistic creation of environment within the temples. The environmental management will be able to facilitate the religious ceremonies and to promote good mental health which is the basis of good behaviors and conducts in society at present and also in the future. Therefore, the factors and indicators of environmental management for temples obtained from this development are not new things or tasks for monks and people. They are those old tasks used for teaching people and also tasks that people have to do with temples. These two parties must support each other. This action will bring good benefits toward the development of environmental quality within temples through the real involvement of all sectors of the community.

IV. Recommendations

a) The Implementations of Factors and Indicators of Environmental Management For Temples

The factors and indicators of environmental management for temples were obtained in this study and development by using the participatory process from all sectors. The mutual point of development followed the holistic approach in which all factors and indicators were related. The development of a factor and an indicator absolutely affected other factors or indicators. This environmental development within temples through the use of factors and indicators obtained from the mutual agreements was then quite difficult for all temples to proceed to achieve all criteria determined due to various reasons. They depended upon, for example, the readiness of budget, area, community to provide supports, and many others. Thus, the development of temples according to all factors takes time to operate.

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Therefore the development of environment within the temples should start from the management of environment in the temples with the factor that the temples have potentials to do first and upon the context of each temple. This is made at least to start the operations for promoting the pleasant environment within temples, to be useful for both the monks and people who come to get benefits in the temples, and to inspire the environmental management with the temples as the center of the development.

b) General Recommendation

The information gained from the research will be very useful directly toward the monks and people who come to the temples in terms of mental and physical conditions and also peacefulness. Thus, the development of temples must be based on the holistic principles and not only focused on any area in particular. The development must be gradually carried out. All factors of environmental management for temples must be developed. Especially, the development must get involvements of the local administrative organizations, government agencies, associations, foundations, and private sectors in order to promote and support the temples located both in urban and rural communities to have their own environmental management appropriate to the context of each temple as much as possible.

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