

Strengthening the Consciousness of Good Citizenship along the Line of Buddhist Youth

**Phramaha Phanuwat Sankham,
Phrakrusangkarak Suphanut Puriwattano and ¹Silawat Chaiwong**

Lampang Buddhist College Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand

¹Email: ntiyod@hotmail.co.th

Abstract

This article demonstrates the attitude of the strengthening consciousness of good citizenship along the line of Buddhist youth. There are educational policies, youth development direction and the strategic proposals of the strengthening consciousness of good citizenship along the line of Buddhist youth. Country development or the development according to the world, cause the youth get the culture unknowable, absorbed into their lifestyle in the form of various media, then lack of discrimination that is good or negative impact motive to behave inappropriately. The strengthening awareness or conscious mind build human resources to be good citizenship about behavior and mental problems through the process of learning from experience and refinement socialization process along with virtue, ethics, self-sacrifice, honesty and public advantage. For Thailand, there are up to 12 copies of national economic and social development plans, the content develop Thai people to be good, artful and happy. Be society citizen staying valuable accepted in the society by law, through various institutions, such as social, education, religion, and family institute. Consequently the strengthening consciousness of good citizenship the author offers the primarily in attitude show that the religious and the education institutions, Buddhism is part of the pathway from generation to generation of Thai society people and Buddhism is also part of lifestyle based on generosity that make our society peaceful and prosperous.

Keywords: Consciousness; Good Citizenship; Line of Buddhist Youth

Introduction

Technological advances affect the development of the country causes young people have variety of cultures, both direct and indirect. That why they lack of analytical reflection of information what is good or is not good until consciousness of goodness moral lacking also behave inappropriately with age, be in allurements which lead to ruin enticement affect the development of the country broadly. The change aftermath of social flows, if you look at the object has accumulated difficult to resolve that chronic problem in society, for instance political conflict, Environmental issues, and crime problem. Education is important tool in developing human resources to be good citizens in society through the process of educational institutions. As for religious institutions have to raise awareness conscious mind for the youth then integrate principles Dharma into activities or projects creatively. Also the family institution must give warmth love, take care of the youth because it is the fundamental institution of society. These will motivate the youth to public consciousness and be good citizen. Consciousness can be divided into 3 aspects. Singhapol, 1999):

1. Self-Consciousness is awareness for self-improvement makes person more complete. Thai education has focused on this classic consciousness that everybody in the society tries their best to make that happen. Such diligence, responsibility, perseverance, these are the cultivated consciousness and have long been in the context of Thai society.

2. Others Oriented Consciousness is awareness of interpersonal relationships among people in society, such as compassion, generosity, harmony etc. It is very well consciousness instructed in most traditional foundation of Thai culture.

3. Social or Public Consciousness is awareness of the importance of coexistence or take into account others who share the same relationship. It is a consciousness that Thai people still do not have and very much lack, so the foundation of Thai society should accelerate development about economic consciousness, political consciousness, and environmental consciousness etc.

Therefore the education should not mean labour productivity into factory, business and services that developed by the project or only in development plan. We also need to think about how to manage education in a broader way, in every place education management shouldn't forget the real goal of education that it is all about human development, not only in terms of knowledge and professional skills but in terms of people potential development, intellectual development, emotion, political consciousness, and society which means developing man or human for his own not develop 'human resources for the sake of Economic growth .This is the definition of true education that we should do along with education.

44

Good Citizenship Follow the Regime Democracy

Citizens or world population are individuals sense of belonging be part of the society, ready and willingness to work that help the beneficial collective public.(UNESCO. 2015) Responsible and ready to lead change at all levels be in democratic society citizen. For good citizens, society will determine such as hard work, honest, economical, responsible, reasonable, be generous benevolent and can see the importance of the collective benefits. These are basic features and what other people in the society want to be virtuous person. In the democracy people that own the power in order to succeed, must create "citizen" to rule over self-governing it's not just only have good constitution by democratic citizens and contains 6 characteristics (Thavarnaruomitkul, 2012) as the following figure.

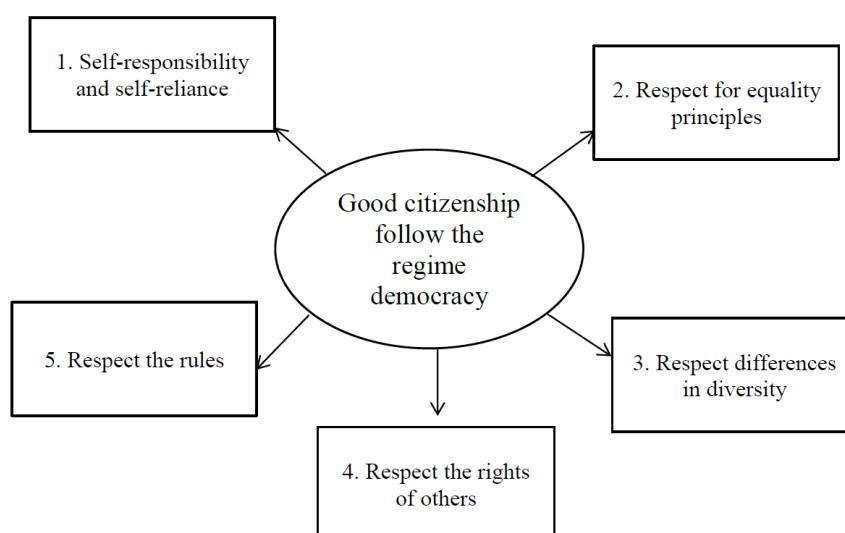


Figure 1: citizens in democratic

1. Self-responsibility and self-reliance

When people own their country they have the right of freedom in their country. The Democracy is the cause of right to freedom. And people are free to own their own lives. "Citizens" in the democratic system freedom is citizens self-reliance and self- responsibility also don't fall under the influence power or patronage system of any person that youth can be citizen or member of society in the real world.

2. Respect for equality principles

To be good citizen must respect the principle of equality and will be worth the same. See people in the horizontal, see equality with others and see others as equal with them, no matter good or bad, rich or poor everyone has dignity to be human. (Jindawat, 2012)

3. Respect differences in diversity

Respect differences in diversity matter of profession, way of life, faith, religion, or political opinions, in order to avoid the difference bring schism in society there must be no violence against those who see it differently. But they have to accept the right to different opinions, without necessarily believing or believing.

4. Respect the rights of others

Respect the rights of others, the citizens have the right to exercise their rights without infringing on the rights of others in consideration of the public interest.

5. Respect the rules

Respect the rules, the good citizens must accept laws, pact or rules that people in the society together set to keep the society peaceful.

6. Social and Public Responsibility

To be good citizen in Social and Public Responsibility must realize that he or she who is a member of society, they should responsible for their actions and don't do arbitrarily. And also social responsibility should look at themselves, linked to society, solve problems without causing problems.

45

Being Good Citizen in Democratic Way will be good for Society and Country.

1. To make the society and the nation sustainable. To make the society and the nation sustainable because everyone is involved in the variety of opinions and there are reasons for the work or projects both local level to the national level covering opportunity for people with knowledge and ability to work together .This will result in the work and performance effectively.

2. Love Happiness and harmony among the group. Love happiness and harmony among the group, when there is a joint activity, relationship and attachment, they work hard to achieve the goal.

3. Society is peaceful and orderly The society will be peaceful and orderly because everyone must follow the normative according to regulation and rules of the society which is the norm that everyone accepts.

4. The society is fair. Fair society, all members are entitled, duty, freedom, equality, according to the law, all members are treated to be fair in society.

5. Members of the society are generous and kind to each other. Members of society are generous and kind to each other as basis, based on morality for treating each other by the democratic way and there are 5 basic values of good citizenship.

The 5 basic values of good citizenship are: self-sufficient, diligence have responsibility economical and save, discipline, respect for law, morality, patriotism and kingship. So we can see that be good citizen must be mentally ready to volunteer, for the benefit of the majority more than self- interest and do not make anyone miserable. We should know our duties, respect in comment of people society, follow the rules, normative, social conditions law that set together on the basis of moral principles, ethics to make society be happy and justice.

Be Good Citizen in Buddhism Way

We have to say good people follow Buddhism way that many Buddhist principles, the people in society can integrate with their lifestyle to be good citizen in society. Here, the author will show examples that three virtues are described: (Office of the Secretary-General House of Parliament, 2012).

Deference side

The deference side is the behavior that shows respect for each other respect the rules, regulations or rules of public. We respect the rules, regulations or rules of the public. The way how to behave as follows: respect the person who concerned, especially the parents who gave birth, respect adult relatives such as grandparents, grandmothers and elders, teachers and friends. Show respect and say hello, respect for social such as adhering to the good traditions of society. Comply with the laws of the country. Respect the rights of others for example, do not hurt others by deliberately not take other people's property into their own without permission and don't let others discrediting etc. Respect comments of others and then should listen to the opinions intently and wisely before deciding whether to believe it or not and do not hold your own opinion is always right. Respect and glorify in national institute, monarchy and religion

Be in harmony side

It is expression of person that living together in society and work together then collaborate and avail interests of agencies and organizations together. Co-thinking teamwork doing or working as a team with willingness to be united then accomplish achieve objectives of the goals.

To behave as fellowship can practice the following:

1. Think together and work together willingly.
2. Joint responsibility the work and assigned the work continuously
3. Jointly monitor the progress of the operation continuously.
4. Together, improved, revised, developed effectively.
5. Working together, taking into account the benefits of the collective.

Intelligence

It is the behavior of people that expressing intelligent logic and apply intelligent esprit accuracy of development or solution in daily life. For example, using knowledge and wisdom from education to career or develop our family, community and society to live and make it beautiful

To behave as a wise man can do as follows.

1. To have broad idea by listening to news and opinions of others.
2. Use reason to solve problems, don't bring emotions or personal feelings to judge the problem.
3. Comments without prejudice.
4. Knowing the thought of critical analysis and rational criticism
5. Reasonable arguments if there is a dispute among the group, use reason and intelligence to allow the other party to accept it, never use emotions to judge the problem.

For the Duty of a Good Citizen

For the duty of a good citizen the principle of good citizenship is consist of ethical principles, ethics, morality by behaving that doesn't cause to harm others. The principles of behavior should be socially cohere stay together peacefully. (Wasri, 1998) and behave to the benefit of others, that the society sees as good principles benefit that don't harm others. At the

same time, it also benefits for all. Keeping your mind in normally never do evil nor encroach others. (Na Talang , 2013)

From the text above, being good citizen must be virtuous life, ethics and play a role in the democratic character that important element to live. The sense of Thai people have heart that concentrate on Dhamma and recognize the grace of practice in the maintenance national institute of monarchy and religion. Also adhere to the principles of religion that they respect ,all religions there are moral principles that help to build people mind to do good, don't bully and encroach, be honest sacrifice, have responsibility and timely discipline as well as ethical bravery.The way how to be good citizen as democratic way.

Acting as a good citizen

Acting as a good citizen by law people are obliged to obey the law. Constitution stated broadly but it covers all types of law no matter private law, public or international law, including National act, decree, ministerial regulations and so on. Therefore, it is necessary to study and understand the law so as not to be disadvantageous or to be punished by the ignorance.

Good behavior in Thai culture

Good behavior in Thai culture, culture is human-made, and unique in each societies to live in one of the groups expresses the exuberance, orderliness, harmony, concord and progress , most people agree that it is pretty good to create as conventional law to follow the same pattern as the model "Legacy of Society". Because culture is what people get from their ancestors or transmit to younger generation .It is the way of society as a culture of learning, such as gestures, speech, learning, dress, etiquette etc.

Good Behavior in Thai tradition

Good behavior in Thai tradition practical succession, most people in society recognizes also agree that it is pretty good and still be long-standing activities, those activities should be preserved, such as ordination ceremony, marriage, cremation, Kathin ceremony, Buddhist Lent, include local traditions that are popular in each locality. For example at the Central part of Thailand there are buffalo running tradition, carrying Buddha image dive, and traditionally made Kwan- Kown (cultivated plant especially grain), the ceremony in Southern of Thailand, traditional Chak Pra ,the fabric relics parade, at the North there are Watering Ceremony, Poy Sa Long (the ceremony Buddhist monk ordained as a novice in Buddhism)and the Northeast there are Illuminated Boat Procession, tradition of Rocket fireworks (to worship Phaya elves make the rain echo the season),Worship Candle Lent and Pageantry Phi Ta Khon etc.

Education Policy and Youth Development Direction

The studying route according to national education plan in 2017-2036 stick to education for all people, the principle of education for equality and of all sectors. The purpose in managing is developing education system and process education to be quality and efficacy then develop people to be good citizens, develop society to be society of learning and moral, ethics towards sustainable development by Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, the targeted to develop learners based on learning skills in the 21st century. The Ministry of Education as the main unit in educational management must improve Thai people quality, they recognize the importance so Ministry of Education set the plan for educational development No. 12 (2017-2021).The strategy and the target that can meet the major development needs in the field of curriculum development, teaching, evaluation management, teachers and educational personnel, production and manpower development Including research that corresponds to the needs of national development. Expand access to educational services and lifelong learning promote and develop educational technology based on the National Education Plan. The policy guide youth development in Buddhism way to create be good citizen as follows.

1. Policies and directions in education management develop the youth based on Buddhism Original Agency focus to young people with knowledge of the moral by integrate principles of Buddhism through projects or activities also the learning process based on three principles that is universal learning base as the precepts, meditation, wisdom .When the youth are empowered to raise awareness of good citizenship they will have good keen intelligence and venerate civic characteristics that mentioned in the preliminary.

2. Policy to strengthen awareness for youth, the characteristics of the youth in each course should be defined based on desirable attributes such as local educational institutions adhere to the virtues enhance and complement the youth. Each locality has different contexts together with12 principles of virtue. According to the policy of the National Council for Peace (NCP) from the text above Education Policy and Buddhist Principles is importance of education to develop the youth to be good citizen by Followed Buddhism guidelines. It consists of morality, virtue, ethics and understand the Buddhist way of life, know the way how to linking Buddhist principles as a guideline in the conduct of everyday life. Until they can practice themselves as the virtuous ethics person then can create benefits and be happiness people in society.

Suggestion

The strategies to strengthen consciousness in good citizenship follow Buddhism way by analyzing educational policies, process of creating good citizenship and attributes of good citizenship to appropriate approach. In the development of youth based on Buddhism way school, agencies and involved people need to share that analysis, any moral should be the main goal in the development to cooperate and propel. The way to act seriously must know how to integrate Learning Center Resources policies to original agency also syllabus, activities, learning and teaching, student activities go to the appropriate development guidelines. Teach students to integrate such this feature integrates seamlessly link to all activities. Continuously that based on the principles of Buddhism. As well the roles and qualities of creating process in good citizenship must be analyzed and the attribute of good citizenship due to promotes the consciousness of good youth citizenship. To be successful we should be aware of qualification of instructor, teaching process and moral of goal to develop the youth.

There are 3 elements to develop the moral ethics students.

1. Moral Ethics Side
2. How to develop moral ethics Side
3. Management process to develop moral ethics Side.

So we can be strategic the strengthening the citizenship consciousness by Buddhist concept and strategies for enhancing the consciousness of good citizenship in Buddhism As follows;

Strategy 1: Creating Knowledge and Developing Citizenship Awareness Consciousness.

Strategy 2: Develop Citizenship Awareness Consciousness Process.

Strategy 3: Creating Learning Network for Citizenship Awareness Consciousness.

That shows the strategy to create good citizenship in Buddhism way must start at children and youth. The school is a great institution to cultivate young people to get familiar with the basics good citizenship awareness consciousness ,that is a great important to develop country in the future.

Conclusion

Education management to build good citizenship with quality should have educational policies to create citizenship by teachers, administrators, learners, family, community, private sector, local administration, media, media- technology and other social institutions participate in learning management. Learning support and followers check the learning promote learning activities both in and out of school, encourage activities and educate parents, as the family model that live in democracy way. This will create the youth of the nation as a good citizen and also need to promote and support activities of community members to raise awareness and responsibility for community. Support activities of community members. Raise awareness and responsibility for the community and the society.

References

Chindavatana, A. (2012). *Document for the 13th King Prajadhipok's Institute Annual Conference 2011 Volume 2. Citizenship and the Future of Thai Democracy*. Bangkok: King Prajadhipok's Institute.

Na Thalang, A. (1973). On the Path of Seeking New Faces of Thai Education: Academic Rally Proceedings of the 4th Conference (May 1973), Department of General Education.

Secretariat of the Council of Democracies. (2012). *Democratic Citizens*. Bangkok: Office of the Secretary- General.

Singhapol, S. (1999). *Must Teach New Consciousness*. Vol. 13(27), 15-16.

Thawananormitkul, P. (2012). Education for Citizenship (Civic Education): Developing Thai Politics by Creating Democracy at People. Documentation for Subcommittee on Information Disclosure of Parliament And to strengthen democracy as a citizen in 2/2012, 11 December 2012.

UNESCO. (2015). *Global Citizenship Education: Topics and Learning Objectives*. Paris: UNESCO.

Wasi, P. (1998). *Buddhist Ethics and Society*. Bangkok: MCU Press.