

Abstract

This research project has two objectives, namely:

1. To learn about the attitudes of Buddhist monks in Bangkok toward the behavior of Thai people concerning certain religion-related ceremonial practices which involve high expenditures.
2. To find out those variables which influence the attitudes of those monks.

A sample of 344 was drawn from monk population in Bangkok. From statistical analysis it has been shown that 66.28 per cent of the monks interviewed expressed no strong opinion one way or the other toward the religion-related ceremonial practices which involve high expenditures. As for those who agree with the practices there were 28.49 per cent. Only 5.23 per cent expressed disagreement.

By correlational analysis it has been found that 4 factors were influential in determining the attitudes of those monks. They were 1) particular religious denomination of the monks 2) ranking in the religious hierarchy 3) number of years spent in the monkhood and 4) the extent of parochial education. These four variables impinged upon the attitudes of the monks as follows :

Concerning denomination it has been found that fewer monks ordained as "Dharmayut" than those ordained as "Mahanikaya" expressed agreement with the said ceremonial practices of the people.

Concerning religious ranking it has been found that fewer monks in the upper hierarchy than in the lower one expressed agreement with the said ceremonial practices.

Concerning years spent in the monkhood it has been found that fewer monks of over 10 years in the monkhood than those with fewer years in the ordination expressed agreement with the said ceremonial practices.

As for the last factor fewer monks with parochial education expressed agreement with said ceremonial practices.

The research report also deals with problems encountered relating to the collection and analysis of the data. Suggestions to alleviate those problems have also been made.