
ภาควิชาการ/ภาษาอังกฤษ



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Buddhist Ethics and Education

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I. What is Buddhist Ethics?

General definition: Ethics can be defined as the conduct, morality integrity, moral conduct, social valise moral practice, principles, code of right and wrong, natural law, honesty, goodness, honour, social law, human nature, categorical imperative the golden rules.

Concisely speaking, Buddhist Ethics concern with Buddhist ideas and beliefs about what type of behavior is morally right and wrong (Cambridge Learner's Dictionary p.225.)

Buddhist Ethics refers to the Buddhist moral conduct or social discipline. The Buddhist Ethics can be divided into three levels:

1. Primary Step: Buddhists should not do five things and should do five conducts;

Should not do	Should do
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Killing2. Stealing3. Sexual miss conduct4. False Speech5. Consuming drug, drinking intoxicants	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Compassion2. Right Livelihood3. Family Satisfaction sexual control4. Truth, honesty5. Heedfulness.

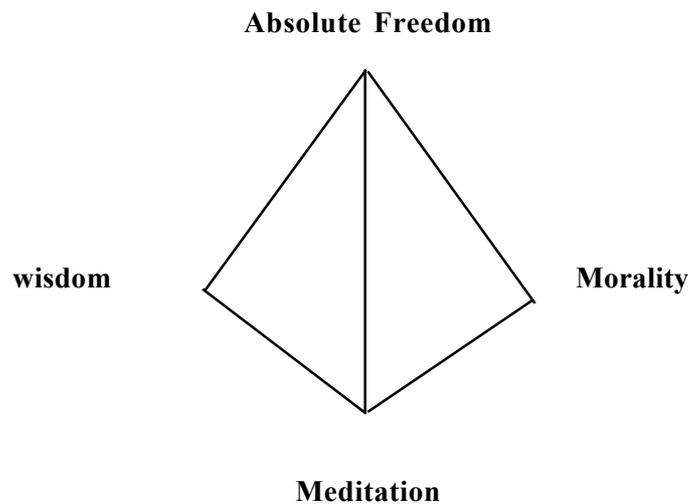
2. Intermediate Step : To avoid 10 unwholesome and cultivable 10 wholesome ;

10 Unwholesome	10 Wholesome
<p>3 Bodily Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. killing 2. Stealing 3. Sexual misconduct <p>4 Verbal Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. False speech 5. Unity breaking 6. Unpleasant speech 7. Non-assertion speech <p>3 Mental Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Hanking without limitation 9. Ill-will 10. Violence 	<p>3 Bodily Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No killing 2. No Stealing 3. No Sexual misconduct <p>4 Verbal Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. True Speech 5. Speech for unity 6. Pleasant speech 7. Essential speech <p>3 Mental Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Sharing Thought 9. Loving-kindness 10. Non-Violence

3. Advanced Step: To give up wrong practice and cultivate or develop the right practice of the Noble Eightfold Path or Middle way:

To gave up	To cultivate
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrong understanding 2. Wrong Concept 3. Wrong Speech 4. Wrong Action 5. Wrong Livelihood 6. Wrong Effort 7. Wrong Mindfulness 8. Wrong Concentration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Right Understanding 2. Right Concept 3. Right Speech 4. Right Action 5. Right Livelihood 6. Right Effort 7. Right Mindfulness 8. Right Concentration

The Noble Eightfold Path can be summarized into three kinds as morality, meditation and wisdom. Right speech, Right Action and Right Livelihood are called Morality. Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration are called Meditation. Right Understanding, Right Concept are called Wisdom... This is the way leading to the Absolute Freedom as the pyramid:



II. What is Education?

Education, according to root in Latin language, can be divided into three meanings:

1) In the word of “Educare” it means “to bring up” or “to nourish” as the mother takes care children to be grown up.

2) In the word of “Educere” it means “to lead out” or “draw out” That refers to create skill in different ways.

3) In the word of “Educatum” it refers to “teaching” or “training” This meaning is close-up with education system in the present day.

Moreover, educational scholars had given definition of “education” in many ways such as:

John Dewey has gives 3 definitions;

1) Education is life and life is education.

2) Education is growth.

3) Education is the promotion of experiences to life.

For Spindler and Kneller, education is cultural transformation from one generation to another.

According to Schultz and Friend, Education is the investment for individual and social development.

In the sense of Buddhadasa Bhikkhu of Thailand, education is the destruction of animal instinct.

For P.A. Payutto (PhraBrohmaganabhorn), education is the process of wisdom and virtue development.

According to Professor Dr. Vichit Srisa-an and Sumondhip Bornsombat, education is the instrument of human personality and behavioral development.

In United States of America, Education Committee has laid down the four aims of education; for self-realization, human relations, economic efficiency and civic responsibility.

UNESCO has settle the four pillars of education as follows :

- 1) Learning to know.
- 2) Learning to do
- 3) Learning to live together and
- 4) Learning to be.

The first pillar refers to general education. The second pillar points to sciences and technologies. The third pillar refers to humanities and social sciences. The fourth pillar is leaning to be good health with physical sciences and Mental Health.

III. What is Noble Education in the Buddhist Perspectives?

In Pali Tipitaka, the Buddha accepted his followers to be Bhikkhu by saying that, “Come to be Bhikkhu, well-proclaimed Dhamma, practice holy life (Brahmacariya) for the end of suffering”. So education in the point of Buddhism, it means “training” and “practice”. All Buddhist followers should train themselves according to discipline (vinaya) or morality. At the same time, all followers should practice doctrine (Dhamma), particularly right practice as the Buddha proclaimed in the Middle way.

‘What is the Noble Education or Brahmacariya in Buddhism?’

The Buddha has given the answer in Samyuttanikaya Mahavaravagga as follows:

Q - What is Noble Education?

A - The Noble Eightfold Path?

Q - Who is called Noble Educator?

A - A person who consists of the Noble Eightfold Path is called “Noble Educator”

Q - What is the aim of the Noble Education?

A - The destruction of lust, hate and illusion is the aim of Noble Education.

Q - What is the fruition of the Noble Education?

A - The Noblehood (Stream-enterer, One-returner, Non-returner and Arahant) is the fruition of the Noble Education.

These factors of Noble Education can be summarized into threefold training. Right understanding and right thought are training on wisdom. Right speech, right action and right livelihood are training on morality. Right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are training on meditation.

The Special Text and Visuddhimagga compiled by Buddhaghosa Acariya and Vimuttimagga by Arahant Upatissa have reformed that morality, meditation and wisdom are the path or way of purification and freedom of human beings.

In Vimuthimagga gives the information that if one practices threefold training up to the fruition of stream-enterer, one’s morality, meditation and wisdom will be changed to be higher morality (Adhisīlasikkhā) higher meditation (Adhicittasikkhā) higher wisdom (Adhipaññāsikkhā)

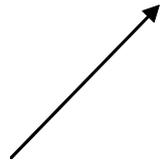
What is the key of right practice or Noble Education?

The key of Noble Education consists of seven virtues:

- 1) Having a good friend (kalyāṇamittatā)
- 2) Perfection of morality (Sīlasampadā)
- 3) Perfection of aspiration (Chandasampada)
- 4) Perfection of self-actualization (Attasampadā)
- 5) Perfection of right view (Ditthisampadā)
- 6) Perfection of heedfulness (Appamādasampadā)
- 7) Perfection of wise reflection or systematic attention (yonisomanasikārasampadā)

Among seven virtues, the most imperfect virtues are good friend, heedfulness and wise attention. These are the key or root of Noble Eightfold Path. If threefold training is practiced in fulfillment, it leads to the Noblehood as follows:

Arahant
 Non-returner
 One-returner
 Steam-enterer



III. Let us cultivate the seeds of Noble Education on the world.

When we talked about “Buddhist Ethics” it not means only the primary step , but also intermediate step and advanced step. That is the special characteristic of Buddhism: Education and Practice in Buddhism should be step by step such the ocean is deep step by step.

Moral Education or Moral Training is cultivated for controlling physical and verbal behaviors to be clean. Meditation is cultivated for controlling the mind to be pure. Wisdom is cultivated for controlling the view and thought to be bright light.

In Thailand, Buddhist Ethical Education is introduced in fundamental education. All pupils are trained to chanting for meditation on the virtues as being shown in the primary step.

The fundamental principle . teachings of the Buddhist are introduced; viz:

- Not to do any evil
- To cultivate the good
- To purify one’s mind.

All students should be progress on the way of the best blessing (Mangala Sutta). They should know the duties of themselves in Society such as parent and children teacher and student, husband and wife, friend and friend, religious person and people , employees and employers. They are informed about the way of decline and the way of progress in daily life.

Moreover, students are trained on the way of problem - solving through the Four Noble Truths –

- Dukkha : The problem
- Samudaya : The origin of problem
- Nirodha : The Solution
- Magga : The way leading to the solution.

The Buddhist Ethical Education needs both theory and practice. All needs to be beautiful with action. Change the word into action is the best policy. For the world, advanced step should be introduced and developed. That is the Middle Way, the way of right practice

All human beings have the right view and right thought on life and world. They avoid violent treatment to non – violence. Right speech, right action and right livelihood are introduced and practiced by right communication creative, actions and constructive trade and professionals.

Right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are introduced and trained for being sound mental health, happy and promoting peace of the world.

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