

THAI POPULATION DOCTRINES COMPLIANCE FOR PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING REINFORCEMENT AMONG RELIGIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This research aims to 1) study Thai population compliance with doctrines, 2) study the good understandings among religions, and 3) study the practical application of doctrines. Thai population who are more than 13 years old is used as a sample group. 2,858 representatives of the 5 religions; Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Brahmanism-Hinduism and Sikhism, from each region and a Bangkok district were selected. Therefore, the total number of people is 20,006 in the sample group. Questionnaire was used for collecting data while statistics used for data analysis were frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, F-test, and P-value.

Research results show that

(1) Doctrines compliance: It was found that in overall, 92.64% of the votaries comply with their doctrines. When considered by individual religions, all (100%) Brahman and Hindus and Sikhs comply with their doctrines, followed by 93.72% of Islamic, 93.26% of Christians, and 75.19% of Buddhists.

(2) Good understanding among religions: It was found that in overall, 51.58% of the votaries well understand one another among their religions. Christians have the best understanding with 83.75%, followed by 58.11% of Islamic, 55.29% of Buddhists, 42.86% of Brahman and Hindus, and 17.86% of Sikhs.

(3) Practical application of doctrines: It was found that in overall, 97.56% of the votaries practically apply their doctrines. The most are the Brahman and Hindus and Sikhs (100%), followed by 98.23% of Islamic, 97.55% of Christians, and 92.02% of Buddhists.

(4) Comparison results of doctrines compliance, good understanding among religions, and its practical application show that various types of votaries have

different doctrines compliance, good understanding among religions and its practical application with statistical significance at 0.05 level while different sex, age, education, region, and occupation have no difference with statistical significance at 0.05 level.

Keywords: Doctrines compliance, good understanding among religions, practical application of doctrines

INTRODUCTION

Religions are considered as a center of society. In the past, religions played a role in incubating mind, belief, or awareness of suitable and right things. So, religions are greatly important. All of them have mutual characteristics; teach how to be a good and moral person living peacefully in the society. Moreover, they are spiritual restraints and guide how to live a safe and right life. No matter how modern or out-of-date human are, religions therefore relate to every of them as they certainly have their national, group or family religions. In addition to the aforementioned religious importance, it can be more distinguished as follows: (Department of Religious Affairs, 2014) 1) Religions are teaching tools guiding human to behave well in order to benefit themselves, societies, and the countries., 2) Religions are the origin of righteous morality and tradition which are supporting tools for unity, identity, civilization and beautiful culture., 3) Religions are suffer-relieving and happiness-maintaining tools for human's minds and bodies., 4) Religions are considered as lamps lighting ways of human beings in this world., 5) Religions help warm family's lives which is the valuable human resource source for the society., 6) Religions are willpower for human to bravely live their lives without being sensitive to the worldly conditions and live happily and peacefully., 7) Religions enhance human's minds for being respectful and help urge awareness of humanity value to people in the society., 8) Religions help create a good friendship, reduce social gap, ensure reliability among one another, are the basis of unity and cooperation for community development and bring about peace and security for the community., 9) Religions help human ultimately be so happy and peaceful that they could reach their highest life targets, i.e., being free of misery., and 10) Religions are precious heritage of humanity, hopes and the last path of humankind survival.

Religions are considered as a center of society, not only in mind and belief but also effects on the society or the nation. They are all called "values of religions". They are variously beneficial. Values of religions on human are sentimental and considered being higher than practical values. The values can be coded as follows, for example, (1) It is human spiritual restraints, i.e., sentimental anchor which cause no loneliness., (2) It is the origin of group unity including humanity mass., (3) It is the origin of education in Buddhism and morality., (4) It is the origin of morality and virtue., (5) It is the origin of good culture and tradition., (6) It ends mental impatience and brings about peace., (7) It is the lamp for lighting the dark world., and (8) It separates human from animal because animal has no religions. (Kanchanakijksakul. C., 2013)

Nowadays, problems in social condition are more violent due to the crucible that is lack of moral enhancement according to the doctrines. Human behavior therefore tends to prefer violence, aggressiveness, constraint shortage, bad disposition, good conscience, and offense in accordance with opinion survey regarding to problematic situations on social morality of Moral Promotion Center (Public Organization) (2017). It is found that critical problems of morality in Thai society needed to be solved consist of (1) the new gen's respect shortage, (2) materialism and consumerism behavior without sufficiency, (3) lack of discipline, rule and law respect, (4) lack of service mind, social responsibility, common interest and, (5) lack of integrity and corruption. Such problems partly come from the lack of incubation of morality according to doctrines.

Due to these reasons, roles of religious institutes and Thai society development directions are greatly related to each other. However, it depends on components and factors leading to sustainable growth of the country development which firstly relies on mental basis of people before applying doctrines as a tool for enhancing people's higher sentimental quality and turning into the society of excellence that everyone holds on to goodness, correctness and assistance. Mentioning about religions in Thailand where rights and freedom of each doctrine respect and compliance are freely opened according to personal belief. Therefore, religion is the major institute that people respect with variety and confidence. They believe that every doctrine aims to support good morality and ethics including maintain good social disciplines and peaceful cohabitation in Thai society.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study doctrines compliance of Thai population
2. To study good understanding among religions
3. To study the practical application of doctrines

CONCEPT AND THEORY

Concept of Doctrines

Tithita Nakkasem (2007: 37) explained that doctrines might have mutual, similar or different orders not only in social characteristics but also duties. They all have mutual goals, i.e., teach people to be good and in accordance with the society, have something for people to restrain, build unity and practical norms including set up the center of human's beliefs and the highest respect for cohabitation. In order to live together, there are the following components of religions:

1. Prophets might be the ones who find out the truth and practical guidelines to have people survive from their suffer and teach their experiences to the humankind.
2. Sacred books where direct (from the prophets) or indirect (the Lord's order) doctrines are collected, transferred, respected and followed by the votaries.
3. Doctrines are the ultimate goals. Each religion might have similar or different ultimate goals, for example, the ultimate goal of Buddhism is nirvana; a transcendent state in which there is no desire at all.

4. Disciples and priests are successors of the doctrines and maintain them accordingly or there are groups of people who comply with religious practice.

5. Worship: Every religion has its own worship for the votaries to follow. Each worship has different goals.

6. Religious place for worship are both similarly and differently called, for example, the religious place in Buddhism, Brahmanism and Christianity is so called “chapel/temple”, while it is “mosque” in Islam.

Good Understanding among Religions

Generally, when people in the society faith in a religion, belief of such religions is the most correct and the highest doctrines. This case absolutely happens to every religion and is not considered being strange or weird, however, the problem is when the disciples of such religions have to interact with other religions, their attitudes on other religions are very important. History has proved that attitudes towards a religion have caused several historical events as being known by those who are interested in the history especially religious history. Due to the attitudes and understanding in the religion, religions affair technical officers divided concepts of religious understanding into 3 following types: (Pantarakij N., 2016: 6-18)

1st Type: Disciple’s understanding or attitudes towards other religions is called Religious Exclusivism. The principle is even there are a great number of religions in this world, only one religion or belief system is right. This disciple’s attitude shows that only one truth exists especially in the religions the disciple believe, others are incorrect and imperfect with no paths or ways for life achievement aside from specific paths of their self-believed religions.

This exclusivism is not only about the attitudes towards other religions, but also different beliefs or practical system in the same religion. People with this attitude show that only their beliefs or practical guidelines of schools of thoughts can achieve the religious ultimate goal. Concepts or other practical ways of other beliefs or schools of thought will never do; not for “extrication”, “nirvana”, or “heaven”.

2nd Type: Religious inclusivism is the attitudes showing that even there are several religions, every of them have mutual righteous beliefs. However, it is just only a religion, religious belief or single-belief system with the highest truth. It means that correctness of other belief systems or creeds are accepted, i.e., being open-minded to accept the truth that other belief systems or religions can be correct, still being reserved by admiring that the believed religions are in higher status than other religions or belief systems.

3rd Type: Religious pluralism is recently occurred. Significant reasons are that when a country, a society, or probably global overall image during globalization are the society consisting of different ethnics and religious conflicts, the history has proved that exclusivism attitudes and understanding are especially dangerous belief due to the admiring attitudes towards religions they believe and look down on other absolutely cause conflicts and wars. No members in any societies desire to live without peace and serenity.

Practical Application of Doctrines

Pongpakasatien J. (2551: 17) said that human learning system comes to a great point of revision and rebuilding. Studying only external subjects are unable to solve problems or crisis including lead the society to wellness, but alternatives for society and humanity by emphasizing on mental and intellectual internal quality of human. This will have human overcome fixed different scopes of science. It is like to further develop existing knowledge by more increasing human nature in occupation and various fields. This will be solutions for human-human and human-environment conflicts as they can be seen nowadays. Such phenomenon indicates changing current of humanity on being interested in how to develop human's potential in the society to perfect humanity. The word "Contemplative Education" is therefore originated and means a pedagogical development process of minds and wisdom designed for balanced and perfect human who are able to connect to create peaceful and equal society. Contemplative Education means a study aiming to internally examine and survey one's self, learn from direct experiences and open-heartedly listen. These will bring to self-awareness, intuition, and receptivity of social diversity. Due to self-awareness, admiration of other's experience value will also be resulted. The goal of contemplative education is not only for internal deliberation. Contemplative education is not to leave the academics, but to deeply root something to become direct-touched personal experiences and to more balance with autogenic training especially meditation so that internal and external knowledge development will simultaneously grow together. In addition, the study of such balances will incubate learner's abilities to be beyond levels of words and concept including mental issues, personalities, creativity, self-awareness, concentration, receptivity, and flexibility. This is so called "contemplative education".

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Research design is quantitative by surveying sample group's opinions (Survey Research). Data were collected from a sample group of 54,477,444 people who are 13 years old or older and believe in the following religions: Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Brahmanism-Hinduism and Sikhism according to database of religious votaries in 2019. Quotas of the number of sample groups were determined and distinguished by religions and regions which were divided into 6 areas with 2,858 each including another 2,858 people from Bangkok district. Sample groups were determined in form of using quotas of each religion in each region. Results of sample group selection for this survey are 20,006 people which are designated as Infinity--∞ value, i.e., the uncertain number of populations believing in each religion in each region, and might result in population error. (Tirakanant S., 2012: 174-177)
2. Questionnaire was used as a research tool for collecting data. It was divided into 4 sections: Section 1 Respondent's personal information, Section 2 Doctrines compliance, Section 3 Good understanding among religions, and Section 4 The practical application of doctrines. 2 types of tool quality were examined before actual use in this research as follows:

2.1 *Validity*: Item Objective Congruence Index –IOC was used with questionnaires and to-be-studied contents for tool quality examination in order to identify whether each question is corresponding or relating to Thai population doctrines compliance for peace and understanding among religions for sustainable national development. It is carried out by having the experts rate IOC scores in the examination for calculating tool quality value. The experts have calculation methods by rating IOC scores of questionnaire contents. (Mehrens & Lehmann, 1991).

2.2 *Reliability*: Questionnaire was tried out with the sample group for reliability. Cronbach’s coefficient – α was tried out with 30 people in the sample group which is similar to the target group. Calculation results of reliability value of tool used for data collection show the overall value at 0.89 which implies that the tool is high-level confidence and able to be used for data collection.

3. Data analysis and statistics consist of percentage, mean, standard deviation, F-test, and P-value.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Research results from research methodology regarding to Thai population doctrines compliance for peace and understanding reinforcement among religions for sustainable national development are concluded according to the objectives as follows:

1. *Doctrines compliance*: It was found that in overall, 92.64% of the votaries comply with their doctrines. When considered by individual religions, all (100%) Brahman and Hindus and Sikhs comply with their doctrines, followed by 93.72% of Islamic, 93.26% of Christians, and 75.19% of Buddhists as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Percentage of Doctrines Compliance

Doctrines Compliance	Every religion	Buddhism	Islam	Christianity	Brahmanism and Hinduism	Sikhism
Percentage of Doctrines Compliance	92.64	76.19	93.72	93.29	100	100

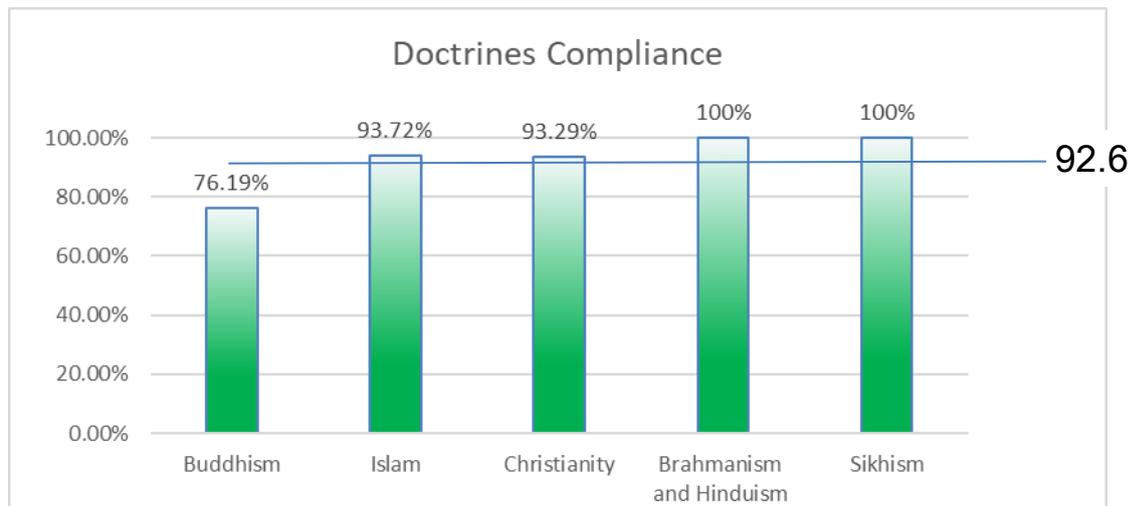


Fig 1 Percentage of Doctrines Compliance

According to individual regions, comparison result of doctrines compliance shows that votaries have no difference in doctrines with statistical significance at 0.05 level. (F-test = 0.52, P-value = 0.7882) Details of doctrines compliance according to individual regions are described in Fig 2.

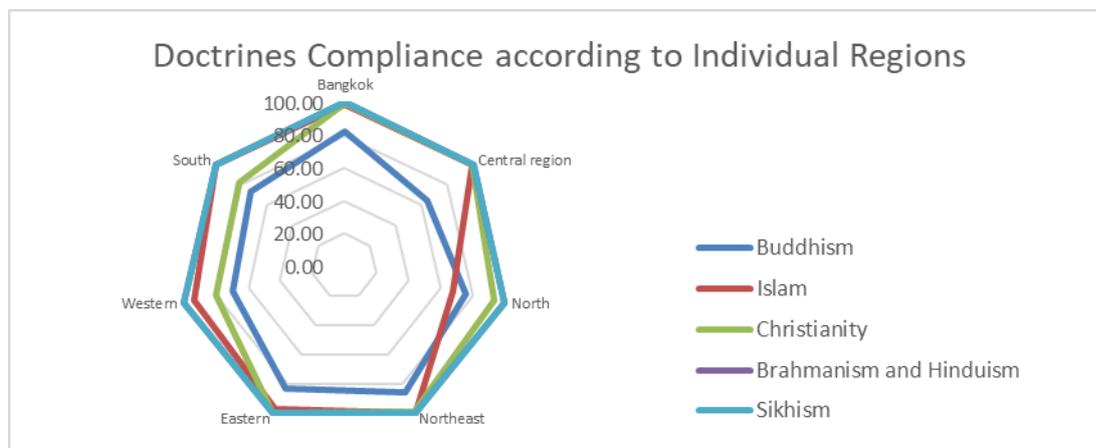


Fig 2 Doctrines Compliance according to Individual Regions

(2) Good understanding among religions: It was found that in overall, 51.58% of all Thai votaries well understand one another among their religions. When considering by religion, Christians have the best understanding with 83.75%, followed by 58.11% of Islamic, 55.29% of Buddhists, 42.86% of Brahman and Hindus, and 17.86% of Sikhs as described in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Percentage of Good Understanding among Religions:

Good Understanding	Every religion	Buddhis m	Islam	Christianit y	Brahmanis m	Sikhis m

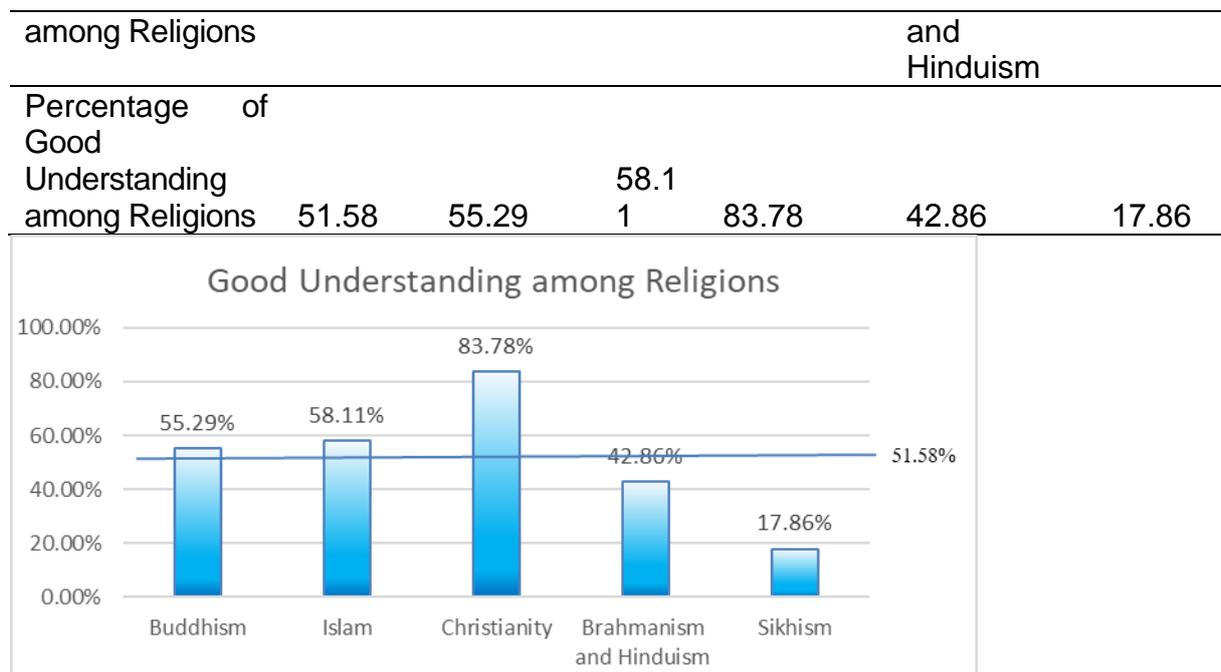


Fig 3 Good Understanding among Religions

(3) Practical application of doctrines: It was found that in overall, 97.56% of Thai votaries practically apply their doctrines. When considering by religion, all Brahman and Hindus and Sikhs (100%) do, followed by 98.23% of Islamic, 97.55% of Christians, and 92.02% of Buddhists as shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Percentage of Practical Application of Doctrines by Religion

Practical Application of Doctrines	of Every religion	Buddhis m	Isla m	Christianit y	Brahmanis m and Hinduism	Sikhis m
Percentage of Practical Application of Doctrines	97.56	92.02	98.23	97.55	100	100

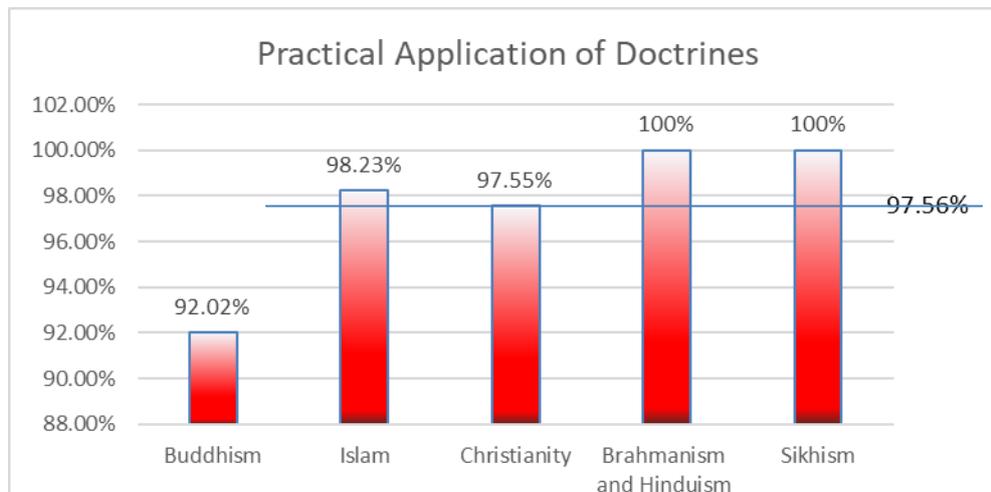


Fig 4 Practical Application of Doctrines

According to individual regions, comparison result of practical application of doctrines shows that different types of votaries have differences with statistical significance at 0.05 level. (F-test = 22.02, P-value = 0.000)

DISCUSSION

Research results on Thai population doctrines compliance for peace and understanding reinforcement among religions for sustainable national development can be discussed in 3 sections according to research objectives as follows:

(1) Doctrines compliance: It was found that in overall, 92.64% of the votaries comply with their doctrines. When considered by individual religions, all (100%) Brahman and Hindus and Sikhs comply with their doctrines, followed by 93.72% of Islamic, 93.26% of Christians, and 75.19% of Buddhists, respectively. Important basis before doctrines acceptance and compliance is cultivated belief and faith via learning process. This is in accordance with the study of Freeman (2008) who studied “Morality and Giftedness”. The study concerns with security of relationship between morality, ethics and giftedness which is corresponding to theory of moral ability being taught in schools like discussion in class and working on real-life problems. Attributes of morality can be seen as sets of skills which can be practiced accordingly including training and practical guidelines. A skill of moral sensitivity helps in reading and making decision for various moral conflict issues of the context. These skills include work goal preservation and moral confidence in works. Finally, morality of an individual is able to reinforce one’s belief, be flexible and the best solution. A suggestion is that morality and ethics demand for being higher than the others is prohibited. One can understand life morality and bring about it in social contexts of doctrines compliance.

(2) Good understanding among religions: It was found that in overall, 51.58% of the votaries well understand one another among their religions. Christians have the best understanding with 83.75%, followed by 58.11% of Islamic, 55.29% of Buddhists, 42.86% of Brahman and Hindus, and 17.86% of Sikhs, respectively. Due to differences of origins and details of practical guidelines including doctrines of each

religion, good understanding among religions is therefore still in the middle level. This is in accordance with Nirand Pantarakij, (2016: 1-2) who said that religious difference partly comes from various origins, originating time, backgrounds and traditions. Human religious differences sometimes support one another and lead to conflicts. Truly considered, the conflicts in this world all implies and links to religions. There are 3 levels of religious beliefs; starting from adhering to one religion so much that denying other religions' existence, accepting other religions' existence but appreciating one's own religion, and accepting diversity of every belief and religion. The latter concept is the solution of religious conflicts and tries to collaborate understandings among religions in levels of individual, community, and global religious leaders until the mutual conclusion is gained which shows that all religion has the same goals, i.e., teaching how to be a good person living peacefully in the society even believing in different religions or beliefs.

Widely-accepted concept is that human do not need to have the same beliefs or lifestyles. Likewise, goodness of each religion should not be interpreted the same. Getting rid of conflicts leading to good understanding among different religious votaries is to look back and truly study one's own doctrines. This will bring about the mutual conclusion, i.e., all religion has the same goals; teaching how to be a good person, never denying other beliefs or religions and recognizing other's values which lead the humanity to peacefully live together. It is in accordance with the concept of Kung (2009) who said that there is no peace among the nations. When there is no peace among religions, the religions have no peach. When there is no talk among religions, the religions have no talk. When there is no validation of doctrines basis for better understanding and people's normal cohabitation, there is nothing. The concept is in accordance with research results of Yutthana Norachettho and Jutharat Thonginchan (2019) on "cohabitation of people in multicultural society in Thailand". The study shows that cohabitation principle of people in multicultural society according to important doctrines in Thailand is that Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Brahmanism, and Sikhism are conformed. They teach about living together with love, kindness, generosity, respect in differences, and creative and progressive participation in activities. Cohabitation principle of communities in multicultural society in Thailand according to doctrines and human rights principles are in the same direction, i.e., living together in each religion even it has different specific doctrines, it has similar main points such as Five Percepts in Buddhism, Ten Commandments in Christianity, and 6 Faith Principles in Islam etc.

(3) Practical application of doctrines: It was found that in overall, 97.56% of the votaries practically apply their doctrines. The most are the Brahman and Hindus and Sikhs (100%), followed by 98.23% of Islamic, 97.55% of Christians, and 92.02% of Buddhists, respectively. To practically apply doctrines, people in every religion must firstly emphasize on the practical application because it is important for the cohabitation of people in every level of the society. This is in accordance with religious important principles mentioned by Department of Religion Affairs (2018). The department comprehensively talked about religious importance as follows (1) It is important in various aspects and effects on the ethnics and the nation such as

culture and tradition, architecture, sculpture, literature, fine arts, and fellowship of people in the nation or mutual-religion votaries without consideration nationalities. Especially in architecture, it can be seen that well-known ancient buildings mostly belong to religions such as Pyramid, the Temple of Emerald Buddha (Wat Pra Kaew), and Vatican Palace etc., (2) Some religions are supporting tools for politics and government., (3) Religion have people govern themselves both in secret or disclosure., and (4) Religion teaches human to be the perfect ones, not puppets or machines and make them different from animal. According to these reasons, people have been enhanced to apply doctrines for cohabitation until nowadays and still developing their morality and ethics by using doctrine practical guidelines and right values accordingly. This is in accordance with the study of Vessels and Huitt (2018) on "Moral and Character Development". The study results concluded characteristics details of moral theories, attribute development, and solutions for being a good adult by using studies of values, moral decision, analysis of separated values according to the study objectives for considering goodness, values, intention, pattern compliance and working hard on changing student's behaviors (speaking and action) leading to better behaviors due to doctrines compliance.

CONCLUSION

In order to develop the society and the nation for security and sustainability, doctrines are important starting points that will instruct the population to be kind and lead to excellent thought and actions for themselves and the society including cohabitation of people in multicultural society by using 3 ways of religious mechanism as a tool for national human resource development; (1) reinforcing population to comply with the doctrines, (2) setting up good understanding among the population, and (3) encouraging the population to comply with the doctrines for peace and good understanding among religions effecting on sustainable national development in every aspect accordingly.

SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions for Thai population doctrines compliance for peace and understanding among religions for sustainable national development are divided into 3 topics according to research issues as follows:

1. Doctrines compliance: Policies for religious institute enhancement to develop proactive roles in order to solve social problems due to individual's behaviors in the society should be developed by using religions as a tool for human resource and people's life quality development and enabling them to live with the other properly.

2. Good understanding among religions

- 2.1 Government and relating agencies should pay more attention to setting up understanding among religions by developing co-activities forms so that votaries from each religion can attend and share their knowledge. This will lead to more understanding among one another. Better understanding among religions can be carried out by using projects or pilot activities for enhancing people to comply with

their doctrines and strengthening good network and role models in order to have good values of doctrines compliance.

2.2 Education agencies should provide religion, society, and culture-related curriculum with overall image on doctrines in order to have students learn each religious doctrine for good understanding among religions. When people in different religions well understand one another, they will not disrespect other religious beliefs or worships.

3. Practical application of doctrines

3.1 Direct-religious agencies should improve new, interesting and easy-to-understand forms of doctrines propagandas for children, youth, and general public. It should not be boring, still modern and used as a tool in votaries' daily lives.

3.2 Collaboration among agencies should be established in order to enhance people to access and apply their doctrines more, for example, the improvement of curriculum in elementary and high schools will allow the youth to learn and be able to practically apply the doctrines more.

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