



Buddhism: The Social Innovation for Peacebuilding and Harmony

Preecha Bunthavee

*Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University,
Nakhonphanom Buddhist College, Thailand.
Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand.
Author for correspondence email; pelek@hotmai.com



[Abstract]

This academic article aims to study the principle and process to create peace and harmony and to study how Buddhism as the innovation for peace and harmony to solve all kinds and all levels of conflicts in all elements of society. As we knew that conflict is a normal part of life and many issues could cause conflicts to arise in all communities in the world. Therefore, the social engineers should have various types of technique to use as the tool to solve the problem to create peace and harmony in the society. In this article I would like to present one of innovation to moderate the conflict and make the calm and quiet in the society to be peaceful and harmony for the long life of human being. Buddhism by nature is a peaceful religion, against the violence that comes to harm your mind and your life. As the Buddha said to his disciplines should not make a hate speech and quarrel with the other (Anupvado anupaghato: not speaking evil, not doing harm., Ovadapatimokkagatha), but go to make the benefit of all human being as the Buddha word: “Go ye forth, O Bhikkhus, on your journey, for the welfare of the many, for the happiness of many, out of compassion for the

world, for the good, the benefit, the bliss of gods and men.” Then, Buddhism as the innovation of peacebuilding, first of all men should clear their mind to be peace from craving, grit and erroneous opinions and purify their mind by pleased and greedless to be the Nirvana. Rather than, the governor or the leader in the society have to manage the members to get satisfaction in all element solution of all members in their organization or their society.

Keywords: Buddhism, Social Innovation, Peace and Harmony.

Introduction

All countries try to search new inventions or new technology to cover their business for the best production, for the lowest cost and for the cheapest price to supply the satisfied of their customer or their consumer for the higher profit and sustainable of their economic. All types of these may be called innovation or artificial intelligence and we believe that it is successfully.

But, in the world’s social problems, it is not only the business side to make world peace, for example as we have seen in Hong Kong Conflict. Actually, Hong Kong is known as the highest economies city in the world. There are full of economic accommodations. But the present violence conflict is going on and become more and more difficult to be solved and managed it. And all the business innovation or artificial intelligence cannot decrease the conflict.

In the real situation, the society of human being is the most important organization more than others but when the conflict has occurred there is no other business innovation to solve that conflict in the society such as address as “All the great devastating war will be ended on the negotiation table only.” That means all conflict will be ended by social innovation only and this is one more way on the negotiation table to create peace and harmony according to Buddhism.

Therefore, Buddhism has been demonstrated the way of peacebuilding and harmony for the human society. That means it is the social innovation or social intelligence artificial that the Buddha has given for a long time ago but it stills the model way to create the peacebuilding and harmony for all societies in the world. Because of Buddhism by nature is the religion for the peaceful, the religion for nonviolence, and the religion does not support quarrel, fighting, killing and destroying. But Buddhism is the religion for love, loving-kindness and compassion for all humankind with ideology contents and teaching methods for the real and long sustainable happiness of humankind.

Buddhism as the innovation for peace building.

Buddhism by nature is the peace religion, which have occurred in the middle of conflict in the ancient society of Indian Continuant. Then the Buddha had the strategy to expand his teaching and saved his follower from the violence. He focused on two ways to of the human being such as to solve the outer conflict to reach the harmony society and the main way to solve the inner conflict to end the suffering to reach Nirvana.

In the 21st century, we talk about innovation to solve the economic and technology sides and to develop the production or adoption, assimilation, and exploitation of a value-added novelty in economic and social spheres; renewal and enlargement of products, services, and markets; development of new methods of production; and the establishment of new management systems. It isn't limited to the commercial context but it is both a process and an outcome to creating value by applying novel solutions to meaningful problems.

But the problem in the society also we have to consider the conflict and violence of members of the communities. We have to find the way to create the peace and harmony to use as a guide for conflict resolution. It must be peaceful, "fair" or "fair". The word "fair" is used in any way. But what must be the way is presented with "good inten-

tions,” “everyone accepts and practices,” and “everyone is happy”.

Then this article aim to shown that Buddhism as the social innovation for Peace and Harmony to help the people in the world to reach both outer and inner peace and harmony, but the Buddha Way, he does not guarantee that his ways are the best and correct way to make peacebuilding and harmony but all of peacemaker and every should practice, because he is just a way pointer but the way of success the follower must practice by themselves.

What is Innovation?

“Innovation” is a new statement, especial for the side of business world after the age of the original agriculture age to transform to the industrial reformation that means the process of translating an idea or invention into a good or service that creates value or for which customers will pay.

To be called an innovation, an idea must be replicable at an economical cost and must satisfy a specific need. Innovation involves deliberate application of information, imagination and initiative in deriving greater or different values from resources and includes all processes by which new ideas are generated and converted into useful products. In business, innovation often results when ideas are applied by the company in order to further satisfy the needs and expectations of the customers.

Rather than nowadays innovation is the useful for all types of elements in the model societies such innovation takes place through the provision of more-effective products, processes, services, technologies, or business models that are made available to markets, governments and society. An innovation is something original and more effective and, as a consequence, new, that “breaks into” the market or society.

Therefore, the innovation is the new creation to make the higher value for the better ways toward the new ways of life of the humanity in the global age.

Types of Innovation

The term of Social innovation is one of type of innovation. A clear definition of the term is important for a clear, common understanding in innovation management.

Innovation can happen anywhere, whether it is a profit-driven or non-profit organization. It can affect the performance of the organization itself, i.e. the product or service, but also the structures of how the service is provided. The first classification is thus the object of innovation such as

1. Product innovation: Products concern both material products and intangible services such as services that meet customer needs and are thus acquired by the customer.

2. Service innovation: service innovations are like product innovations when it comes to selling them directly to the customer, e. g. insurance or management consultancy.

3. Business model innovation: The business model is the way a company functions and earns money. The business model innovation encompasses innovations in strategy, marketing, supply chains, value creation, pricing or cost structures.

4. Process and technology innovation: As the name implies, these are technological innovations, such as the creation of products and services.

5. Organizational innovation: Organizational innovations affect the process and organizational structure. These can be organizational process innovations or management innovations, e. g. new tools for measuring customer satisfaction or optimizing delivery processes to reduce costs.

6. Social innovation: Social innovations are innovations where the benefit lies with society and the purpose is not primarily profit. Examples include innovation in education, poverty reduction, equal opportunities and health.

7. Environmental innovation: All innovations that contribute to improving the environment are environmental innovations. This concerns for example environmentally friendly products, contributions to environmental protection or the avoidance of emissions.

An innovation can affect several innovation subjects at the same time. Logically, there is no clear demarcation here. For example, a product innovation can be a process and environmental innovation at the same time. Or a business model innovation usually also brings with it a product and organizational innovation.

Then an innovation is the way to accurate the weakness of all types of the present situation and create the new way to develop that weakness to be the strength by new process or new technology to reach the more effective target or reach the more quality production than the present time that is the innovation.

Social Innovation

Social innovations as new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) and create new social relationships or collaborations. In other words, they are innovations that are both good for society and enhance society's capacity to act

Social Innovation is one of the most important kinds of world innovation that closed to the life of human being in the society, then the social innovation is a concept, implemented to foster major change to meet social need in both health status and environmental quality to support the improvement of the government effectiveness and will also increase life expectancy and decrease infant mortality rate to make the better for organization, society and country development.

In this article would like to demonstrate that the Buddhism have an idea that can adept to solve the problem in the society especially in the case of conflict in the society, because Buddhism is not the religion of

violence, but it is the religion of harmony.

The Principle of Peace and Harmony.

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or heterogeneous groups.

Actually, Peace and Harmony is the original basic life of human being but when human being come to stay together in the society to be the social animal, Peace and harmony have been started to low and loss form human life and the conflict become high and more. Then we can say that conflict destroy peace and harmony, or conflict is the cause, peace and harmony are the result, thus we have to destroy or stop the conflict to remain peace and harmony in our society. In this article, will be classified various conflicts into 8 types of conflict such as:

1. Personal Conflict.

Personal conflict takes many forms, some more serious than others. It stems from the long-term choices you make and decisions that you have to make in an instant. Knowing your character and integrity determines how you solve your conflict. Taking responsibility for mistakes is a source of personal conflict. A person has to decide whether or not the consequences of accepting the blame are worth it.

The last violence destination of personal conflict is self-suicide.

2. Interpersonal Conflict.

An interpersonal conflict is a disagreement between two individuals or subgroups of an organization involving significant resentment and discontent. Interpersonal conflict occurs when a person or group of people frustrates or interferes with another person's efforts at achieving a goal. The interpersonal conflict can consist of three different components such as values, principles and emotions. The behavioral component of conflict involves someone interfering with the objectives of another person. The last violence destination of interpersonal conflict is quarrel, fighting,

destroying and killing.

3. Family Conflict.

Family conflict refers to active opposition between family members. Because of the nature of family relationships, it can take a wide variety of forms, including verbal, physical, sexual, financial, or psychological. Conflicts may involve different combinations of family members: it can be conflict within the couple or between parents and children or, again, between siblings.

The last violence destination of family conflict is quarrel, fighting, divorce and separate.

4. Organization conflict.

Organizational Conflict or otherwise known as workplace conflict, is described as the state of disagreement or misunderstanding, resulting from the actual or perceived dissent of needs, beliefs, resources and relationship between the members of the organization. At the workplace, whenever, two or more persons interact, conflict occurs when opinions with respect to any task or decision are in contradiction.

In simple terms, organizational conflict alludes to the result of human interaction, that starts when one member of the organization discerns that his/her goals, values or attitude are incompatible, with those of other members of the organization. The incompatibility in opinions can come into being, within a member, between two members, or between groups of the organization.

The last violence destination of organization conflict is quarrel, fighting, resign and killing.

5. Community conflict.

Community conflict concern with the attitude or the activities in a particular community or between communities. Some groups of community agree or disagree in any activities that have been started in their society, some of them can receive the profit or benefit from that and

others may get less or lose their interest or their opportunity etc.

6. Religion and belief Conflict.

Religion and belief Conflict related to the faithful of the particular trust social believing toward the spiritual God or the founder of their religion. That belief, no one can judge it right or wrong, bad or good etc, but it depends on the particular faith. When the other religion judge others or want to cover or force the other religion followers to own religion or look down the other religion, the religion conflict will be started.

The last violence destination of religion and belief conflict is killing and destroy each other's.

7. Political Conflict.

Political Conflict by nature always concerned with a distribution of power and sharing of benefits.

The last violence destination of political conflict is ended of political power by both violence and nonviolence way.

8. International conflict.

Traditionally, the term "international conflict" referred to conflicts between different nation-states and conflicts between people and organizations in different nation-states. Increasingly, however, it also applies to inter-group conflicts within one country when one group is fighting for independence or increased social, political, or economic power e.g. North Korea/South Korea, Thailand and Cambodia etc.

The last violence destination of International conflict is limited war, unlimited war or world war to destroy the opposite enemy.

All the above types of conflict are the nature part rooted in human society which are unavoidable. But the good conflict management can fulfill the satisfaction of every party which can take the conflict up to the creative development, can reduce any unnecessary loss that might happen.

Therefore, in this article will be shown one more way to manage

the conflict according to the Buddhist way to make one more choice for the peacebuilding makers.

Peace According to Buddhism Philosophy.

From a Buddhist perspective, the word ‘peace’ contains two-level meanings. Firstly, as an ultimate truth, it means ‘Nirvana’ (Nipphāṇ): The State of mind that does not have passions, such as desire, ignorance, and delusion. In other words, whenever our mind is not under the control of passions, it is calm and peaceful. So, we can call ‘true peace’.

Secondly, in general truth, ‘peace’ means human beings and societies might have conflict with each other, for instance conflict of data, interest, structure and value, but they attempt to choose the best option by negotiation or dialogue without violent action.

Therefore, ‘peace’ in term of Buddhism has much more to say that “not only when human beings and societies have problems with each other, they do not solve problems by using violence, such as war, beating, killing and so on, but they also have loving-kindness and compassion with other people in the world.

In fact, one might define peace as follows: there is a slightly different thing between the western scholars and Buddhism. The former attempts to focus on external peace; whereas the latter is aware of both external and internal peace.

The author concept about “peace” according to the Buddhism philosophy it should be from mind of each individual in the society because peaceful minds will control human being to do the peaceful actions and peaceful speech. Mind is the master of all activities of human being and mind is the center of the universal if mind is peace, our world and universal also become peace and harmony.

This concept harmonize with the research report of “The Integration of the Knowledge in Field of Peace for Developing Peace Building Process in Thai Society.” To support that all three communities such as Kadeecheen Community in Bangkok, Ban Thakhoynang Community in Srisaket and Preak Nam Deang Community in Samutsongkhram that have

the particular conflict problem in their society, but when they can persuade their particular mind by physical development, moral development, emotional development and Intellectual development to reach the inner peace as the root of peacefulness will lead to outer peace to create the reconciliation and harmony in their society.

Buddhism is the innovation for Peace and Harmony.

Term of “Peace” according to Buddhism classified into two types such as Inner Peace (ajihatta-santi) and Outer Peace (sammati-santi)

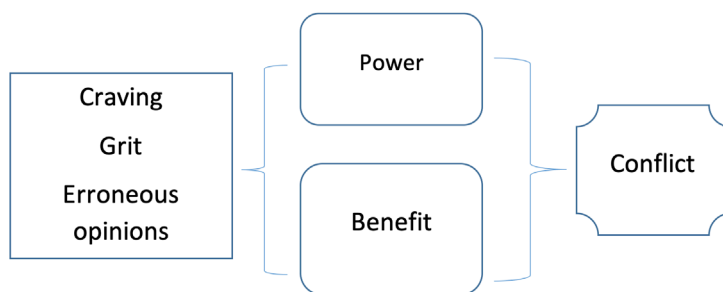
Inner Peace which is generally known as “peace of mind” is the main practice of the follower in Buddhism, Buddha said that for the outer conflict we cannot end it because outer conflict is the natural factor of the human being in the society, before Buddha age or in time of Buddha Age and After Buddha outer conflict has been going on, but inner conflict we can end it all the time without the condition of time and the condition of place.

How to end the inner conflict? Buddha said that suffering is the main and important inner conflict of human being when we have the suffering we just knowing and stop that suffering by the eight right part to reach the nirvana (nippāṇ). Then Buddha said that nirvana (nippāṇ) is the highest and sustainable peace and harmony in Buddhism.

For Outer Conflict according to Buddhism as we knew that, Buddha knows all of world and universal same as he knows all kinds of tree in the forest but he always teaches only a small part of that vice versa he knows all kinds of knowledge but he teaches only suffering and cessation of suffering, In the same way, for peace and harmony also, Actually Peace and Harmony come first but it lost form the society because on conflict, then we can say the conflict is the cause but peace and harmony is the result of conflict destroying.

And the factors to create the conflict consist of 3 mains sins such as Craving (Tanha), Grit (māna), and Erroneous opinions. Craving creates greed, Grit creates hatred and Erroneous opinions create the delu-

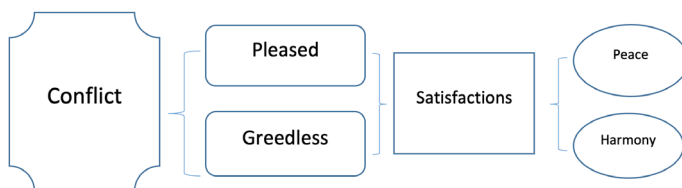
sion. Greed, hatred, and delusion are the unwholesome root, root of sin, root of bad actions. In Political idea, it means the Power and the Benefit are the cause of conflicts that can be demonstrated by the below diagram.



The cessation of conflict according to Buddhism that the human being in the society should have satisfactions in all elements of life living in the society. Then how can to fulfill the unlimited need of the people with the limited resources in the society. Actually, the sin of the people never full of need, no one can feed.

Then Buddha teaches that human beings should have pleased and greedless to make themselves satisfaction. When the human being have satisfaction. They will not quarrel or fight for their unlimited need and they want only for their necessary need only, if they have more. They will offer to another person in the society. That means they are creating peace and harmony in their society.

This concept harmonizes with the research report of “The knowledge Integration of Principles and Practicing according to Religious Way for developing peace Building Process”¹ that love, satisfactions and sharing to fulfill each other during community will create peace and loving kindness in the society. That shown by the below diagram



¹ Phramaha Duangden Tunin, *The Knowledge Integration of Principles and Practicing according to Religious Way for developing peace Building Process*, Research Report, Graduate School, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, B.E.2559, 196.

Conclusions

I would like to make some concluding remarks on the social innovation to create the peace and harmony according to the Buddhist Way that it is not the model innovation but these concept the Buddha had given to the Buddhist followers for 2600 years but his teaching still can be used to solve the social problem forever even we become to the globalization society the full of the artificial intelligent and higher technology as the present and future world.

First, Peace and Harmony is the first character of human being in the society, but it was destroyed by the various types of conflict and we believe that conflict is one characteristic of the society and conflict also is one of the process to develop the community it the human being take it as a golden opportunity to protect and make it as a lesson of social development.

Second, there are so many Buddhist scholars have suggested the way to solve the conflicts and create peacebuilding by the various Dhamma of Buddha teaching. But also, this is one more idea that help the peacemaker who have the courage to advocate peace in the community to be peacefully by trying to persuade the members in their society have the way of life with pleased and greedless to purify their mind (Saccitta pariyoḍapanang)² and full of satisfaction in all situations.

Third, all the above second concept of Buddhist way to call back the original way of the society is called social innovation that full of strategies, concepts, ideas and social processes that meet social needs of all kinds from working conditions and education to community development and health such as open source methods and techniques to provide the solution needs to of social purpose to be efficient and sustainable of humankind that extend and strengthen civil society.

All of these idea it does not mean that we must accept that the other

² Arvind Kuma Singh, *Buddhist Contribution for Human Development: Empowering Youth through Buddhist Education*, (Bangkok: Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 2018), 113

way is not useful and impossible method because the conflicts has a lot of functions deep and more complicated. Then all conflicts cannot be solved by only one pattern of innovation same as Thai people are born to eat Thai fruit, not apples and European people are born to eat bread,³ not noodle, But the idea on Buddhist way is one more way that the social serviceman and the governor can be applied to use in their area or their society for the benefit of all human being in the world. As the Buddha said, “natthi santi parang suhang”⁴. There is no higher bliss than peace.

Bibliography

Arvind Kumar Singh. *Buddhist Contribution for Human Development: Empowering Youth through Buddhist Education*. Bangkok: Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 2018.

DoNald k. Swearter, Somparn Promta. *The State of Buddhist Studies in the world 1972-1997*. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Printing House, 2000.

Frankelius, Per. “Questioning two myths in innovation literature.” *The Journal of High Technology Management Research* 20.1 (2009): 40-51.

Dwyer, Joe. “What is innovation: why almost everyone defines it wrong.” *DI and Founder Equity, CHICAGO HEADQUARTERS* 820 (2017).

Kenneth Kraft, ed. *Inner Peace, World Peace: Essays on Buddhism*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992.

Karnjana Sanglimsuwan. *Social Innovation: More Value Than You Can Imagine*. Accessed July 19, 2020, https://www.bu.ac.th/executive_journal/july_sep_12, Bangkok University.

³ DoNald K. Swearter, Somparn Promta, *The State of Buddhist Studies in the world 1972-1997*, (Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Printing house, 2000), 26-27

⁴ Dhamapada, Verse 202.

- Neminda Venerablel. "Conflict Management by Buddhist Peaceful Means of Loving-kindness (metta)." *The Journal of International Association of Buddhist Universities (JIABU)* 12(2019).
- Phramaha Hansa Dhammahaso. *Peace in Buddhism: An Analytical Study: Academic Article*. International Association of Buddhist Universities, 2010.
- _____. *Buddhist Peaceful means: The integrations of principles and equipment of conflict management*. Bangkok: 21 Century Ltd., 2011.
- Phramaha Duangden Tunin. *Philosophy of conflict*. Graduate School, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 2017.
- Phra Weerasak Teerungguro. *No Tolerance no Peace no Harm, no Peace: Managing Internal Conflicts to Lasting Peace*. The 1st International Annual Conference Southeast Vietnam Outlook 2018, Binh Duong, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, 2018.
- Pha Dhammapitaka (P.A.Payutto). *Thai Buddhism in the Buddhist World* Bangkok: Sahadhamika Co.,LTD., 2002.
- Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto). *Dictionary of Buddhism*. Bangkok: Sahathammic Com. Ltd., 2011.
- Phra Dharmakosajarn (Prayoon Dhammacitto, Melerk. *A Buddhist Worldview,: A Buddhist view on conflict Resolution*. Bangkok: Mahachulalong kornrajavidyalaya University, 2006.
- Pha Dhammapitaka (P.A.Payutto). *Thai Buddhism in the Buddhist World*. Bangkok: Sahadhamika Co., LTD., 2002.
- Rummel, Rudolph J. "Understanding conflict and war: vol. 2: the conflict helix." *Bev-erly Hills: Sage* (1976).
- Suddhinand Janthagul. *A Manual of Buddhist Studies through The Sacred Book of Buddhist Chants Pali-Thai-English Translation*. Bangkok: Thammasapa, 1995.

Bangkok: Printed by Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 2006.

Pha Dhammapitaka (P.A.Payutto), Thai Buddhism in the Buddhist World, Bangkok: Sahadhamika Co., LTD., 2002.

R.J. Rummel, Conflict in The Sociocultural Field, UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT AND WAR: VOL. 2: THE CONFLICT HELIX, Chapter 27,

Suddhinand Janthagul, A Manual of Buddhist Studies through The Sacred Book of Buddhist Chants Pali-Thai-English Translation. Bangkok: Thammasapa, 1995.