


Application of Buddhist Philosophy in Nepal: A General Review

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Abstract

The application of Buddhist Philosophy in Nepal can be analyzed in Economic Development, Gender Studies, Livelihood, Peace, Spirituality, Sustainable Development, Tantrism, Tourism, and many more. To find out the application of Buddhism in Nepal the study has been conducted. The philosophy of peace, reality, love, and compassion are universal. Thus Buddhism is a practical philosophy of middle way path of humanity. Thus it is applicable in everywhere. The study is the general review of selected researches conducted in Nepal. It is a qualitative descriptive content review of the list presented in reference. Thus in conclusion Buddhism is the way of peaceful life. It is applicable in every sector of development and humanity.

Keywords: Application, Buddhism, Philosophy, and Review

Introduction

Every Buddhist, a pure devotee, must visit Lumbini, Nepal, the birth place of Buddha before his or her death, because at the time of his departure (*Mahaparinirvana*) he had specifically named it at first in his *Mahaparinirvan Sutra*. Nepal must be able to teach the reality of faith of Buddhism and the values coined in *Mahaparinirvana Sutra* to the Buddhists of the world. It is only possible through the development and promotion of Buddhism in the world (Acharya, 2021). The governments must have very effective programs and policies to invite Buddhists from the world. Buddha was born in Kapilavastu of Nepal. The crown prince after turning or being the enlightened Buddha gave the Buddhists philosophy to the world. The Buddha has given the

middle way path. According to Buddhism, the three characteristics of existence that have in mind are the characteristics of impermanence (*Anitya*), suffering (*Duhkha*), and not-self (*Anatma*). These three characteristics are always present in or are connected with existence, and they tell about the nature of existence (Dhakal, 2021). It is the philosophy of impermanence, suffering, and not-self. In Buddhism it is believed that the present body is the demand and Karma of past body. Every human being must define his or her Karma to drive the future. Being a man or woman it is indifferent because the body is simply a vehicle for this piece of life (Sharma, 2021). Thus in Buddhism there is not any significant differences even gender issues as well. The application of Buddhist Philosophy in Nepal is the analysis of Economic Development, Gender Studies, Livelihood, Peace, Spirituality, Sustainable Development, Tantrism, Tourism, and many more. To find out the application of Buddhism in Nepal the study has been conducted. The philosophy of Peace, reality, love, and compassion are universal. Thus Buddhism is a practical philosophy of middle way path of humanity. Thus it is applicable in everywhere not only in Nepal.

Objectives and Methods

The application of Buddhist Philosophy in Nepal can be analyzed in the field of Economic development, Gender studies, Livelihood, Peace, Sustainable development, Tantrism, Tourism, and many more. To find out the application of Buddhism in Nepal the study has been conducted. The philosophy of Peace, reality, love, and compassion are universal. Thus Buddhism is a practical philosophy of middle way path of humanity. Thus it is applicable in everywhere. The study is the general review of selected researches conducted in Nepal. It is a qualitative descriptive content review of the list presented in reference. It is a qualitative general literature review of application of Buddhism in Nepal.

Review

Buddhism in Economic Development

Buddhists Economics is economic science based on Buddhists Philosophy specially focused on noble eightfold path. The economic science based on the philosophy of Gautama Buddha is Buddhists economics originated from Nepal. The contemporary economics is biased on only materialistic matters which are the causes of pain, however the Buddhists economics drives the move toward right production to right consumption. Development is the final happiness of people and that comes from the adaptation of philosophy of Buddhism. Thus Buddhism must be integrated in rural development plans and programs (Shrestha, 2021). Buddhism is applied and rate of application in economic development in modern methods are gradually increasing in Nepal. The concept of sustainable development focused attention on finding strategies to promote economic and social development without causing environmental degradation, over-exploitation or pollution. The emphasis on development was particularly welcomed by the developing countries and the groups who were primarily concerned about poverty and social deprivation.

Buddhism in Gender studies

The application of Buddhism in Nepal are also increasing in gender studies. There are strong rules for women in Buddhism because of the purpose of security law and order of the time. Only the religion was the law. That time was not like today and the security system was very loose. The four noble truths of lord Buddha are: “there is suffering in life, there is the cause of suffering, the suffering can be cured, the way out is *Dhamma- or Shila*”. The suffering is due to the birth, sickness, death of loved one, etc. they are beyond the human control. There is not any other way. Biology of birth and gender are beyond the control of human being. There are certain cases of gender transformation but are not naturally succeeded. Biological Science has to work a lot in it but not necessary. Locality, originality, and reality are the bases of knowledge of post post-modern age of sustainable development. Despite vigorous attempts by women over the past century to reject the contention that our biology must indeed be our destiny. This is not bad but feel good and accept the reality with pride and go on (Sharma, 2021). Buddhism is the science of humanity. In science human is human there is not any differences in male and female. The matter of social security is short term strategy only. Not only that there are some places that the Buddha advises to monk when they entertain the things as paints or the arts. Especially, there were some monks in the Buddha’s period who drew pictures about women in the wall of their monasteries. The Buddha advised them not to draw such pictures which are barriers to *Nibbāna* and drew something as flowers which do not cause to attain *Nibbāna*. So, like that way, Buddhism never rejects Aesthetic and the Buddha advises monks not to entertain the things which are barriers to the final goal of emancipation.

Buddhism in Livelihood

The practice of the middle path consists of eight deeds of righteousness. The following eight factors 1) Right View, 2) Right Thought, 3) Right Speech, 4) Right Action, 5) Right Livelihood, 6) Right Effort, 7) Right Mindfulness, and 8) Right Concentration (Khetjoi et.al, 2020). Noble Eightfold Path is included in the threefold training- namely, morality (*sila*) concentration (*samadhi*) and wisdom (*pañña*). Buddhist lifestyle aims to improve these three synergistic abilities to perfection by ongoing practice, which is a development process. Nevertheless, in this case development is just a by-product of Buddhist practice, not a direct aim which must be attained. The development process is an inner spiritual advancement, which is emerging by ongoing practice, and leads to liberation.

Life is the gift of nature. What nature offers that we receive! According to Buddha’s philosophy, right livelihood is the third factor of the Noble Eightfold Path. It is belonging to the group of the morality or *Sīla* together with Right speech and Right action. Generally, the Buddha said five kinds of Wrong livelihood in the *Aṅguttara Nikāya* thus “Monks, a lay follower should not engage in five types of trade. They are, trades in weapon, in living beings, in meat, in intoxicants, and in poison (Shrestha, 2021). The Buddha taught on right livelihood or transcendental livelihood for the *Samgha* in the context of ancient society where the populace

respected spiritual practitioners and it was the norm for householders to support wandering contemplatives. Buddhist economics is that subject that deals with the quality and service given by the material life and based on right livelihood (*Samyakajibika*). Many scholars have defined Buddhist economics in different ways. Right Livelihood' is one of the requirements of the Buddha's Noble Eightfold Path for economic development. Small is beautiful.

Buddhism in Peace

Peace is universal requirement. Buddha is the emblem of peace and love of the world. Peace is a vital and most cherished dream of humanity; it is a state that not only indicates the absence of direct violence but also sustains peaceful relationships among all levels and segments of society and between society and nature. 'Peace' the word itself has a great harmony, stress-free, security and calmness (Acharya, 2021). Buddhism is based on Buddhist faiths and beliefs for liberation for both believers and non-believers. There is not any differences or discrimination in Buddhism. The philosophy and practice (meditation) of getting internal peace and happiness in an integrated form is Buddhism. Buddhism is the toil, sweat, labor, and day night penance of lord Buddha to maintain peace and happiness. That is why Buddha is the light of the world now born in Nepal. The adoption and adherence to principles of Buddhism provide and guarantee an opportunity for the expansion of concepts of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence, specifically into the international realm through avenues of diplomacy.

Whilst The Buddha's teachings were conceptualized in Asia and have been consolidated even beyond, the question that begs answering is why a clear and concise comprehension, hasn't permeated through nations which have come to embrace Buddhism as a religion and as a philosophy. state of wellbeing takes place when one experiences bodily health, mind is free of affliction and defilement, and spirit is calm and at peace. The fundamental belief in non-violence and peace predicates dialogical approach in the interaction and competition between Buddhism and other belief systems. During the Buddha's lifetime, there were many schools of thought in India. The *Nikaya-pitaka* records many instances when the Buddha and his followers visited or were visited by other faith groups such as *Jainists* and engaged in debate with them (Zhang, 2012). Thus Buddhism is the way of peace and inner tranquility.

Buddhism in Sustainable development

Gautama Buddha, the emblem of peace and love, pioneer of Buddhism, was born in *Kapilabastu*, Lumbini, Nepal. Buddha is the symbol of peace and love. Compassion in Buddhism is the basic element of Sustainable development. Thus Buddha is the pioneer of sustainable development. Buddha's text *Dhammapada* in the present sustainable era is more relevant than past (Badal, 2021). The Sangha was formed on the principles of celibacy, simple livelihood, brotherhood, honesty, and self-responsibility. According to the teachings of Buddhism, human beings are born in a state of ignorance. Ignorance is a lack of knowledge, and it is this lack of knowledge that causes problems in life". This is because people without knowledge or wisdom simply follow their desires or cravings for sense pleasures. When people act in a blind craving manner, they are

unable to perceive what is of true benefit. However, “when ignorance is replaced with wisdom, it is possible. Sustainable development is the development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within two key concepts: the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given, and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs (Khetjoi et.al, 2020).

Buddhism in Tantrism

Tantrism is the science of practical spiritualism. Tantrism is the practical way out of enlightenment. It is the perfect mix of theoretical and empirical knowledge of liberation. Although there are different arguments for and against tantric Buddhism (Nepal, 2021). Shakyamuni gave the method of *Tantrayana*. *Tantrayana* gives us the powerful skill to transmute desire into the blissful path to enlightenment. From the tantric point of view, without practicing *Tantra*, it is not possible to discover enlightenment. *Tantrayana* gives the powerful skill to transmute desire into the blissful path to enlightenment. That’s why the wisdom of *Tantra* is perfect. *Tantrayana* is the way to achieve the perfect body, speech and mind we need in order to help other people. *Tantrayana* has reasonable scientific explanations; it’s not something imaginary (Nepal, 2021). Tantric adepts aspire through meditation, visualization, and mind-training to dissolve normal selfhood and simultaneously embrace both ‘conventional’ and ‘ultimate’ reality. Ethics of compassion encourage efficient reengagement with conventional world dynamics rather than escaping them: the transcendental ‘non-self’ is perceived to inform effective and compassionate waking consciousness (Bruce, 2019).

Buddhism in Tourism

A pilgrimage is an ancient form of religious travel where people make a journey to the place of their belief for experiencing spirituality (Ulak, 2022). Same as Buddha did people have to travel for pilgrimage and the pilgrim will be a form of tourism. Buddhist tourism can spread the peace around the globe. Buddhism in Nepal remains intermingled with Hinduism, and many consider the Buddha a reincarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu. Buddhism has blended with Hinduism, historically and culturally, to the extent that people share their places of worship (Acharya, 2021). Tourism for mental peace and happiness is Buddhists Tourism. With this philosophy Buddhists tourism infrastructures must be developed. Constructing a ‘place’ of Buddhist tourism is not merely reliant upon physical structures and/or landscape. Instead, other factors come into play. Tolerance and peace taught by the Buddha certainly helped the spread of Buddhism in the ancient world. This will greatly boost Buddhist tourism in the region if realized (Zhang, 2012). Thus tourism in Buddhists pilgrimage sites are increasing day by day.

Conclusion

Thus in conclusion Buddhism is the way of peaceful life. It is applicable in every sector of development and humanity. The application of Buddhist Philosophy in Nepal are found in the field of Economic development, Gender studies, Livelihood, Peace, Sustainable development, Tantrism, Tourism, and many more. The philosophy of Peace, reality, love, and compassion are universal. Thus Buddhism is a practical philosophy of middle way path of humanity. Thus it is applicable in everywhere- every sector of human life. Thus Buddhism is not to read only but it is to use in life as a medicine for peace, prosperity and happiness.

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