

A Review on The Buddhist Temple Drug Dependence Treatment in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

Experience thus far from the rehabilitation and treatment of drug dependence by the temples in Thailand demonstrated many merits that seemed to specifically related to the traditional means and ways of their development and the religious milieu of the country. There were many obvious benefits on drug dependence demand reduction and attractive components in the treatment model that some of which were closely related to the non-replicable personal charisma of individuals. Description of drug dependence services of religious institutions that applied traditional medicine, belief in rituals and personal charisma in Asian countries was referred to at the beginning of this communication. Yet the services seemed to attract little attention of the authority. What constitute the lack of interest may be a crucial issue to elucidate in order to further develop the valuable potential of religious institutions in the field of drug dependence treatment and prevention in any country. The intrinsic virtue of the temple in public welfare is a delicate and fragile treasure. To apply this valuable treasure probably need sophisticated and understanding hands unlike other scientific knowledge that could be applied and transferred systematically in large scale. Inappropriate application of religious institution in the worldly welfare service could render highly damaging long term impact difficult to justified by the immediate and limited benefits of transient behavioural modification.

Key words: Buddhist temple, Drug dependence treatment, Thailand.

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