

Dissertation Title: The Status and Role of the Vietnamese
Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in Social Development

Researcher: Bhikkhunī Nguyen Thi Be Loan (TN Hue Tinh)

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy (Buddhist Studies)

Dissertation Supervisory Committee:

Phra Rajapariyattimuni, Asst. Prof. Dr.,
Pāli IX, M.A. (Pāli & Sanskrit), Ph.D. (Pāli).
Phramaha Somboon Vuḍḍhikaro, Dr.,
Pāli VII, B.A. (English), M.A. (Buddhist
Studies). Ph.D. (Buddhist Studies).
Dr. Veerachart Nimannong,
Pāli VI, B.A. (Buddhist Studies & Philosophy),
M. A. (Philosophy), Ph.D. (Philosophy).

Date of Graduation: April 12, 2017.

Abstract

This dissertation entitled “The status and role of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in Social Development” has three objectives: (1) to study the history of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha, (2) to study the status and role of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha and (3) to propose the working model of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in social development. This is a qualitative research study that was completed by studying documentaries and in-depth interview.

In this research, the researcher found that the origin and history of Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha have been given notoriously. It shows the exact period that Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha was establishment and development. Moreover, the research has made statistics of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in each province clearer. Next, the research has also listed the duties and activities of Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha. The status

and role of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha is to assert their position in every person's mind. Finally, the working model of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha indicates their activities and contributions to the Buddhist Saṅgha and social welfare.

Suggestions made from this study showed that the researcher should document the activities of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in a way that expresses the actual Buddhist practices in social life. Secondly, the structure activities support the domestic network of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha, which must be developed and used in social development. Thirdly, systematized the way the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha incorporated social development. Finally, the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha should corporate with Buddhist women, in the world, to develop Vietnam and world Buddhism.

Acknowledgements

I, as the researcher, would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, in Thailand, which is such a National Buddhist. I am grateful for the Most Venerable Professor Dr. Phra Brahmapundit, the Rector of MCU, the Most Venerable Professor Dr. Phra Phrarajapariyatkavi, Vice Rector MCU, for being the chairperson of my Doctoral Degree Examination Committee, Vice Rector for General Affairs, Professor Dr. Surapon Suyaprom Ph.D., and all of the Directors who helped me complete my dissertation for a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Buddhist Studies.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Phramaha Dr. Somboon Vuḍḍhikaro Ph.D., Dean of Graduate School, for being the member of my Doctoral Degree Supervisory Committee; Phra Rajapariyattimuni (Thiab) Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Buddhism, for being the chairperson of my Doctoral Degree Supervisory Committee; Phramaha Dr. Pornchai Sirivaro Ph.D., for being the member of my Doctoral Degree Supervisory Committee, and Dr. Veerachart Nimannong Ph.D., for being the member of my Doctoral Degree Supervisory Committee, and all Ajahn in the office of Graduate School Ph.D. for their valuable and important advice in my studies.

I would like to extend my deep gratitude for the kind support of my Master, the Most Venerable Bhikkhunī Thich Nu Nhu Quang, Abbess of the Dong Thanh Temple at Long Xuyen City, Vietnam, the Most Venerable Bhikkhunī Thich Nu Nguyen Nghiem, Abbess of the Lau Temple, Tinh Bien Province, aunt Dieu Quy, uncle Minh Vien, teacher Dr. Tony L. Sessoms Ph.D., Owner, CEO, and Editor for Ynot Research Group, for volunteering his valuable time to edit the English for my dissertation, interviewees, and my friends for their kindness in helping me complete my study.

Bhikkhunī Nguyen Thi Be Loan
(Visuddhipaṇṇa -Thich Nu Hue Tinh)

Dated 19/12/2016

List of Abbreviations

VBS	Vietnam Buddhist Saṅgha
VBSCS	Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha Central Subcommittee
VBSPS	Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha Provincial Subcommittee
MVBS	Model for Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha
VBSSD	Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha Social Development
VBSD	Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha Development
MCU	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
ven.	Venerable
op. cit	the same book
Ibid.	the same paragraph in a book
etc.	et cetera
ed.	edited by
No.	number
p.	page
pp.	pages (s)
tr.	translated by
vol.	volume

Table of Contents

	Page No.
Approval page	I
Abstract	II
List of tables	III
Acknowledgements	IV
List of abbreviations	V
Table of contents	VI
Chapter I: Introduction	1
1.1 Background and significance of the issue	1
1.2 Objectives of the research	3
1.3 Research questions	4
1.4 Scope of the research	4
1.5 Definitions of the terms used in the research	5
1.6 Review of related literatures.	6
1.7 Method of the research	8
1.8 Expected benefits	10
Chapter II: History of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha	11
2.1 The original history of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha.	11
2.2 The establishment and organization of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha.	18
2.3 The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's personnel.	23
2.4 Rules, regulations, and forms of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's mission.	31
2.4.1 Rules	31
2.4.2 Regulations and forms.	34
Chapter III: The Status and Role of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in Social Development	50
3.1 The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha response to conflicts.	50

3.1.1 Social conflicts.	50
3.1.2 Family conflicts.	56
3.1.3 National economy conflicts.	58
3.1.4 Education conflicts.	61
3.2 The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's activities in social development.	66
3.2.1 Social activities.	66
3.2.2 Buddhist activities.	69
3.3 The achievements, difficulties, and solving difficulties of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's activities.	76
3.3.1 Achievements.	76
3.3.2 Difficulties.	80
3.3.3 Solving difficulties.	83
3.4 The impact of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's role in social development.	86
Chapter IV: The Working Model of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in Social Development	91
4.1 Administrative structure of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha.	91
4.1.1 Organization committee.	91
4.1.2 The number of Bhikkhunīs and temples.	98
4.1.3 The number of Bhikkhunīs from 2014 to 2016.	101
4.1.4 The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha provinces and cities subcommittee establishment.	103
4.2 The working model of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha.	105
4.2.1 Administration.	105
4.2.2 Education.	116
4.2.3 Propagation.	128
4.2.4 Social welfare.	131
4.3 Success and failure of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's activities.	134
4.3.1 Success.	135
4.3.2 Failure.	137
4.4 Proposed the working model of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in the future.	139

4.5 In-depth interview.	146
Chapter V: Conclusion	161
5.1 Conclusion.	161
5.2 Suggestions	162
Appendix 1 In-depth interview and rules	164
Appendix 2 Pictures	186
Section 1: The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's organization	186
Section 2: The activities of Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha.	194
Section 3: The Vietnamese Bhikkhunīs Mendicant's tradition.	200
Section 4: The Vietnamese Bhikkhunīs Theravāda's tradition.	202
Section 5: Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's traditional vassa.	203
Section 6: The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's festivals.	206
Section 7: The great ordination ceremony.	207
Section 8: The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha's education.	214
Bibliography	223
The Researcher's Biography	230

List of Tables

No. Tables		Page
1 (2.2)	The Mahāyāna Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in 1972.	19
2 (2.2)	Establishment & organization of the VBSCS.	21
3 (2.3)	The South Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha in 1956.	23
4 (2.3)	The Mahāyāna Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha 1964.	25
5 (2.3)	The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha 2009.	26
6 (2.3)	Personnel of term VII (2012-2017).	29
7 (2.4.2)	Regulations & forms of the mission of VBSCS in 2016.	34
8 (2.4.2)	Number of Bhikkhunīs and temples.	36
9 (2.4.2)	Name of Lecturers.	42
10 (2.4.2)	Sakyadhita IABW.	43
11 (3.1.4)	Buddhist education.	63
12 (3.2.1)	Social activities.	67
13 (3.2.2)	Buddhist activities.	72
14 (3.3.2)	The organizational difficulties.	82
15 (3.4)	The roles of Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha.	86
16 (3.4)	Impact activities of the Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha.	86
17 (4.1.2)	The number of Bhikkhunīs and temples.	98
18 (4.1.3)	The number of Bhikkhunīs from 2014 to 2016.	101
19 (4.1.4)	The number of the VBSP & CS establishment.	103
20 (4.2.1)	Buddhist clergymen's certification.	106
21 (4.2.1)	Appointed abbess.	108
22 (4.2.1)	Bhikkhunīs vassa.	111
23 (4.2.1)	Bhikkhunīs vasa certification.	112
24 (4.2.1)	Ordination certification.	115
25 (4.2.2)	Education - term III (1992-1997).	121
26 (4.2.2)	Education - term IV (1997-2001)	122
27 (4.2.2)	Education - term V (2002-2007)	122
28 (4.2.2)	Education - term VI (2007-2012)	123
29 (4.2.2)	Education - term VII (2012 - 2017)	123
30 (4.2.2)	Summary the number of Bhikkhunī's education.	125
31 (4.2.3)	Preaching Dharma.	128
32 (4.2.4)	Compassionate class, school child rearing.	131
33 (4.2.4)	Refuge Triple Gem.	132

34 (4.2.4)	Buddhists family activities.	133
35 (4.4.1)	Activities in the future.	141

List of Figures

No. Figures		Page
1 (2.3)	The Vietnamese Bhikkhunī Saṅgha CS term VII.	30
2 (4.2.1)	The rules 24 articles 4 chapters.	33
3 (3.1)	Social conflicts.	55
4 (3.1.4)	Educational system of the Vietnam Buddhist Saṅgha.	64
5 (3.2.2)	Achivement.	79
6 (4.1.1)	Organization committee of the VBSCS.	92
7 (4.2.1)	The personnel of VBSCS	105
8 (4.2.2)	The Vietnam Buddhist educational system.	117
9 (4.2.2)	The level of Buddhist studies.	118

List of Diagrams

No. Diagrams		Page
1 (4.1.2)	The number of Bhikkhunīs and temples.	100
2 (4.1.3)	Bhikkhunīs (2014 & 2016).	102
3 (4.1.3)	Bhikkhunī's numbers in 2016.	102
4 (4.2.2)	Educational orientation.	120
5 (4.1.2)	Percent of the Bhikkhunīs education.	126