

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPLEMENTS WITH THE
FUSION OF ECONOMIC STRENGTH & SPIRITUAL WELL-
BEING WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO PĀLI CANON**

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Introduction

This paper basically discusses the proposition that personal development complements with the fusion of Economic strength & spiritual well-being. Mostly people may understand personal development is merely growing materially. Therefore, most people of the society struggle and fail in their endeavours. Their life and even their companies have collapsed, because they have been giving priority to develop only material aspects.

Many people underestimate the value of spiritual growth, although it is an extremely relevant part of personal development. Developing spiritually means opening your mind and heart to the possibility of achieving a belief system that can improve your outlook on life; better your personality and make people appreciate what they already have. Spiritual growth can help establishment of “highest calling and life purpose”.

Buddhism advocates personal development should be pillar of spiritual development and material strength. In other words both should go parallel. Buddhism emphasizes the importance of material wealth as a basic necessity towards people. PĀli canon has given sufficient sources with reference to the way of achieving personal development by improving spiritual values and material wealth in parallel.

Research Problem

Is that an intelligent solution to achieve personal development by cultivating spiritual values and material wealth in parallel?

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Methods and Procedure

The data for this research have been collected from the primary Buddhist sources and the pertinent monograph and the articles that have been written related to the field.

Discussion

In Buddhism, substantial account related to personal development has been included in Pāli canon. The way to achieve personal development is taught by means of Spiritual values as well as Physical necessities in parallel. Therefore, if there is lack of one side it affects the imbalance of livelihood.

Due to the competitive society people work hard to achieve their goals, therefore people attempt to earn wealth righteously or in unrighteous ways, because they may contemplate 'success'. Success for them means to fulfil merely material wealth; consequently, most of them are suffering from mental illnesses due to the disappointments, competitions and work stress, main reason is they are willingly or unwillingly forget the value of development of mind. On the other hand lack of material wealth equally affects the imbalance of life styles. The golden rule of personal development is spiritual values and material development in parallel.

Indeed, when paying attention to Pāli canon, there is substantial evidence discussing personal development. Andhasutta(AN) expounds the importance of personal development by means of spiritual values as well as material wealth. There is a person called two-eyed person. What is intended of two-eyed person? In accordance with that AndhaSutta explained, 'he has the kind of eye with which one can acquire wealth not yet acquired and increase wealth already acquired, and he also has the kind of eye with which one can know wholesome and unwholesome qualities, blameworthy and blameless qualities, inferior and superior qualities, dark and bright qualities with their counterparts.'

According to that explanation “one can acquire wealth not yet acquired and increase wealth already acquired” is intended to gain success of worldly life. And other portion is ‘one can know wholesome and unwholesome qualities, blameworthy and blameless qualities, inferior and superior qualities, dark and bright qualities of their counterparts. That implies the importance of development of spiritual values.

Generally, while man engages in society, he must be able to deal with others confidently as well as righteously. Buddhist standpoint is, if man stands with confidence in society he has to attain both material wealth and spiritual wellbeing. Therefore, personal development is not merely power of money or strength of material wealth.

Contemplation of mind is the key in achieving of personal development. According to Buddhist perspective, mind is the heart of life. If a man is able to concentrate in proper manner, definitely he wins his life. It has the power to handle our life, so most important thing is to control our senses and live a contented life. At present moment people attempt to escape from their life because they have no good concentration. If they have good concentration, they are able to control their senses even if they lose their wealth. Other thing is they have awareness about eight worldly conditions. (*lābha, alābha, yasa, ayasa, nindā, pasamsā, sukha, dukkha*). Therefore, that stressed how much concentration is important in the personal development.

The concept of “*Ubhayenavaddeti*” is given Buddhist standpoint on way of personal development. The term of “*Ubhayattha*” means happiness and well-being in this life and after life. From this concept it is encouraged the development of worldly life and spiritual life simultaneously. For instance, *Dīghajāṇusutta* *AnguttaraNikāya* enumerate four qualities that lead to a person’s happiness and well-being in this life; being consummate in initiative (*utthāṇsāmpadā*), being consummate in vigilance (*ārakkhasāmpadā*), admirable friendship (*kalyāṇmittatā*), and marinating

one's livelihood in tune (*samajivikatā*). Thereafter, it explained those four qualities are helpful and lead to a person's happiness and well-being in lives to come. They are;- being consummate in conviction (*saddhā*), virtue (*sīla*), generosity (*cāgha*), and being consummate in discernment (*paññā*). According to that categorization first four are considered as worldly happiness and social communication, and rest of the four qualities belong to spiritual happiness. Here people should get awareness what is expected in Buddhism. Indeed, that emphasizes both worldly happiness and spiritual happiness equally important for personal development.

VaḍḍhiSuttaAnguttaraNikāya stressed while growing in ten ways, the noble disciple grows in nobility and the body, coming closer to the truth and acquiring the best. Among them first five relates to success of worldly life and rest of others are considered for success of spiritual life. They are, growing in fields and resources, wealth and grains, wife and children, slaves and workmen, in the four footed-animals, in faith, in virtues, in learnedness, in benevolence, and in wisdom.

Mahācattārīsakasutta clearly enumerates that the noble eight fold path can lead one along two directions of success; one is 'sāsava, puññabhāgiya, upadivepakka.' That path gives instructions on the process of achieving success of worldly life. With the fulfillment of material gain and economy one can achieve spiritual purification.

Buddhism emphasizes economy is most essential and a basic necessity of life. Though, according to Buddhism development of materialism is not merely Humans, basic necessity. It is the foundation of existence itself. Therefore, personal development complements with the fusion of economic strength and spiritual well-being.

Conclusion

Personal development allows one to achieve expected level of success and stand out in the field he or she deals in. It is the key to person's well-being, as well as success. One is able to nourish his or her life

spiritually and materially, so that their life will overflow with happiness. Personal development can be built by means of not only spiritual development but also with the help of material development. These two paths are going parallel according to Buddhism

Keywords : Personal development, Economic strength, Spiritual well-being, Pāli canon

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