

The Guidance of Pariyatti Sāsanā on Social Dealings, Economy, Education and Health

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Abstract

Sāsanā is the teachings of the Buddha. The nature of the Sāsanā, the three categories of Sāsanā and their similes are mentioned in this paper. Moreover, how the Pariyatti Sāsanā takes the most important role among the three categories of Sāsanā is delved thoroughly. Pariyatti Sāsanā is not only fundamental but also it can guide the nature of the other Sāsanā as a teacher. Furthermore, it can provide the light of wisdom. Pariyatti Sāsanā is the most important among the three Sāsanā for it actasa fort to protect the people from being disappearance of Sāsanā and for being last long. Therefore, this paper is written aiming to know the nature of Sasana and the importance of Sāsanā. Having known these, proliferation and prosperity of Pariyatti Sāsanā must be achieved by trying hard.

Keywords: Sāsanā, Social dealing, Economy, Education, Health

Introduction

While exploring the importance of Pariyatti Sāsanā, first we would like to explain what the Sāsanā is. The usage of the word "Sāsanā" is now flourishing in the field of Myanmar culture. However, it is not a Myanmar word. It is adopted from the Pāīi word "Sāsana" means verbal news, literal news and admonishing. The word "Sāsanā" in combination here with Pariyatti refers to admonishing. Admonishing here means the admonishing of the Buddha. There are three categories of Sāsanā. They are namely,

- (1) Pariyatti Sāsanā
- (2) Paripatti Sāsanā
- (3) Parivedha Sāsanā

Pariyatti Sāsanā means having leaned three Pitakas, five Nikāya of the words of the Buddha.

Reasons for the importance of Pariyatti Sāsanā

Pariyatti dhamma is showing the benefits for the people of the world as a teacher. This fact is supported by the Buddha's words delivered near to enter Parinibbāna.

"Ānanda! I have admonished the Dhamma and promulgated the Vinaya for you. That Dhamma and Vinaya will be your teacher when I pass away."

According to this speech, the Buddha taught and promulgated the Dhamma and Vinaya for the forty five years (vassa) are Pariyatti dhamma. These Pariyatti dhamma will guide as a teacher instead of the Buddha when He passed away (Parinibbāna). While the Buddha is alive the teacher who teaches the world is only one who is the Buddha but when He passed away the Dhamma and Vinaya will become teachers for the world. The Dhamma and Vinaya, here, are three in terms of Pīfaka, five in terms of Nikāya, eighty four thousand in terms of Dhammakhandhā. Therefore, it is just like eighty four thousand teachers were giving instructions.

Instructions concerning social association, economy, education and health that seem to be important for the people of present day world are going to select and delve from the methods instructed and mentioned in the Pariyatti dhamma.

Guides for Social Association

Regarding social association we would like to express the guides mentioned in the Aāguttara Nikāya, the Jigujjitabba Sutta and the Khuddaka Nikāya, the Khaggavisāṅgī Sutta first. In these suttas,

- (1) not to associate with those who are inferior and vulgar than oneself
 - (2) to associate with equal and superior status than oneself
- are instructed.

"Person who is inferior and vulgar than oneself" mainly denotes one who is inferior in morality (sīla), concentration (samādhi) and wisdom (paññā). If one were associating with this kind of person, one will be being infected with his bad habits and one's already arisen morality will become weaker and weaker and finally disappear. Therefore, Pariyatti dhamma instructs us not to associate with this kind of person.

Person who is equal and superior status also is measured with the practice of morality. If one associates with a person of equal status in morality, one can discuss about practice and training rules etc, will have good advices will be obtained method that can destroy the skeptical doubts. Therefore, associating with a person of equal status one will develop instead on decrease. Thus, Pariyatti dhamma instructs to associate with this kind of person.

One who associates with a person who is superior status will get the good practice and morality which have not been arisen in one and the good practice and morality which have already arisen will develop and increase. Therefore, Pariyatti dhamma instructs to associate with this kind of person.

Instructions concerning social association, economy, education and health that seem to be important for the people of present day world are going to select and delve from the methods instructed and mentioned in the Pariyatti dhamma.

Instructions concerning the economy

Thence the instructions regarding with economy are going to be studied.

The instruction given from the religious point of view is worthy to be noted which is mentioned in the Vaṇṇijja Sutta. It is continue to discuss. There are four kinds of businessman.

- (1) one who is doing business but no develop and prosperous in business at all.
- (2) one who is doing business but not develop and prosperous in business as much as he invested.
- (3) one who is doing business and develop and prosperous in business as much as he invested.
- (4) one who is doing business and develop and prosperous in business more than what he invested.

These four factors of endowments are as follows.

- (1) Utthānasampadā: active and diligent exertion in business undertaking
- (2) Ārakkhasampadā: the ability to manage wisely what one has earned
- (3) Kalyāṇmittasampadā: the ability to associate with a wide circle of good friends
- (4) Samajīvitasampadā: the ability to live within one's means, i.e., not spending more than what one has earned by lawful means.

When one endows with these four sampadā one will gain wealth and happiness.

In this way, Pariyatti dhamma shows the instruction for business.

Educational instructions

Again, educational instructions are going to discuss.

The eight factors to gain and develop wisdom are explored in the Milindapañhā Pāḷi. These are as follows.

- (1) being old
- (2) having fame and many companions
- (3) asking repeatedly
- (4) associate with teacher who is like a harbor
- (5) proper consideration
- (6) to consult and discuss
- (7) associate with loved one
- (8) living in the suitable place

These dhamma should be followed by those who want to gain wisdom too.

People are learning for various kinds of knowledge with spending much money in this world. However, some are listed in learned and some are not. Pariyatti dhamma throw a light on the reason why it is happened as follows. Thus, Pariyatti dhamma points out the educational instructions.

Health instructions

Health is a very important thing. One can perform for the development of the world only when one is healthy and enjoy wealth what he had possessed by hard working. Pariyatti dhamma show according to the sayings of "Ārogyaparamālabhā" being healthy is the best of all gains.

Health instructions are now continue to express.

- (1) doing everything with thorough thinking (sappāya kāṛī)
- (2) knowing the measure (mattaè jānāti)
- (3) taking easily digestible food and medicines (phariṇatabhojī)
- (4) going at proper time (kālacārī)
- (5) having noble practice, morality (brahmacārī)
- (6) associate with good friend (kalyāṇamitto)

Pariyatti dhamms is showing the medical instructions.

It should be noted that, it is one of the reasons for why Pariyatti dhamma is important among three dhammas as it takes a teacher's role in instruction of social association, economy, education and medicine.¹

Conclusion

According to the facts mentioned above, it is clearly known that Pariyatti Sāsanā is the most fundamental Sāsanā. It can show the Pattipatti practices and the nature of the Pativedha for the propagation of Sāsanā. Moreover, it can point out the instructions which are beneficial for the people by taking the duties of the teaching. Furthermore, it and shed the light of wisdom over the world people.

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