

HOUSEHOLD PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT BY THE HIGHEST BLESSINGS

(MAÑGALA SUTTA) NUMBER 1 TO 10 IN BUDDHISM*

การพัฒนาผู้คนของเรื่องโดยมงคลชีวิตที่ 1 ถึง 10 ในพระพุทธศาสนา

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Abstract

This academic article referred to Household People Development, it is one of the important matters for our Secular World that we have to birth again and again in the Rebirth Process. Our Secular World today is very confused, complicated and highly competitive. The people try to take advantage to each other both in legal ways and illegal ways. Human Beings consist of body and mind. Body needs food for nourishment and good health. Likewise, mind also need mental food or Dhamma about not to do any evil, to do good and to purify the mind for protecting defilements (e.g. greed, hatred, delusion) in order to develop themselves to be the good people. Findings of this academic article were: the appropriate Highest Blessings (Mañgala Sutta) number 1 to 10 should be the first priority to apply and implement for Household People because the Highest Blessings are the path leading for development, happiness and prosperity that we are grateful for. The Highest Blessings (Mañgala Sutta) can bring up the progress and development in this life and the next life(s) till Nibbāna, if they do the good deeds, not to do any evil and purify the mind.

Keywords: Household People; Development; Highest Blessings (Mañgala Sutta) Number 1 to 10; Buddhism

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บทคัดย่อ

บทความวิชาการนี้ ได้กล่าวถึง การพัฒนาผู้ครองเรือนซึ่งเป็นเรื่องสำคัญเรื่องหนึ่งใน โลกภัยภูมิที่เราต้องเวียนเกิดเวียนตายครั้งแล้วครั้งเล่าในสังสารวัฏ โลกภัยภูมิของเราทุกวันนี้มีความ สับสน สลับซับซ้อนและแข็งขันสูง ประชาชนพลเมืองทั่วโลกพายามເອເປີຍບແຍ່ງຊີງ ผลประโยชน์ซึ่งกันและกัน ทั้งในทางถูกกฎหมายและผิดกฎหมาย มนุษย์เราประกอบด้วยกาย กับใจ ทางกายต้องการบำรุงเลี้ยงด้วยอาหารสิ่งบริโภคและมีสุขภาพดี ในทำนองเดียวกัน ทางใจ ก็ต้องการอาหารใจหรือธรรมเกี่ยวกับการไม่ทำชั่วทั้งปวง ทำดีให้ถึงพร้อมและทำใจให้ผ่องใส สำหรับป้องกันกิเลส (โกร ໂກຮ ຫລງ) เพื่อที่จักได้พัฒนาตัวเข้าเหล่านั้นให้เป็นประชาชนพลเมือง ดี บทความวิชาการนี้ ได้พบว่า มงคลชีวิตที่ 1 ถึง 10 ควรจักนำไปประยุกต์ใช้ให้เกิดประโยชน์ สำหรับการพัฒนาผู้ครองเรือน เพราะมงคลชีวิตเป็นข้อปฏิบัติที่นำไปสู่การพัฒนา เกิดความสุข ความมั่งคั่งที่เรายินดี มงคลชีวิตยังสามารถนำไปสู่ความก้าวหน้า และพัฒนาการในชีวิตนี้และ ชีวิตในชาติหน้า ไปถึงตรابาเท่าเข้านิพพาน ถ้าเข้าเหล่านั้นทำดีให้ถึงพร้อม ไม่ทำชั่วทั้งปวง และ ทำใจให้ผ่องใสอย่างต่อเนื่อง

คำสำคัญ: ผู้ครองเรือน; การพัฒนา; มงคลชีวิตที่ 1 ถึง 10; พระพุทธศาสนา

Introduction

Household People Development can be done by education, teaching and development them to be the good people for themselves and other benefits. They will have progress, happiness and prosperity that they are grateful for. The Highest Blessings (Maṅgala Sutta) number 1 to 10 are good for Household People Development to be good people in daily life. So, the appropriate Highest Blessing (Maṅgala Sutta) number 1 to 10 should be the first priority to develop them to be the good people for family, society, country in Secular World.

What is the Blessing? More than 2,564 years ago, during the Gotama Buddha life time, In India, the several groups of people wonder what is the Blessing of life. Some groups believed that the things to make one's life the Blessing were 1) to see something that was pleasing, 2) to hear something that was pleasing and 3) to have good moods whatever from seeing and from hearing something that were pleasing. The debate went on and on without any sign of coming to the end. Then, the representative asked the Buddha : What is the Blessing of life? And his reply is.. “ What is now know as The Maṅgala Sutta or the Highest Blessings ”

Thus have I (Venerable Ananda Thera) heard : The Blessed One was once living at the monastering of Anathpindika in Jeta Grove, near Savatthi. Now when

the night was far advanced, a certain deity, whose surpassing splendour illuminated the entired Jeta Grove, came into the presence of the Blessed One, and, drawing near, respectfully saluted Him and stood on one side. Standing thus, he address the Blessed One in verse : “ Many deities and men, yearning after happiness have pondered on Blessings. Pray, told me the Highest Blessings! (Khuddakanikāya Volume III. 259-268, Siam Pāli Tapiṭaka 25/5/3, 25/317/376, Rahula, 1988).

The Highest Blessings number 1 to 10 for Household People Development

The Highest Blessings number 1 to 10 or Maṅgala Sutta are as follows :

1. Blessing number 1- Asevanā cabālanām: not Associate with fools. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 1-2).

A fool is a person who is not at all sensible and show a lack of good judgment, unreliable discretion and wrong decision, whose mind is habitually cloudy and dull. A fool characteristics always has the bad or evil conducted in thoughts, words and acts.

The disadvantages of associating with a fools : 1) are likely take led to wrong doings, 2) can be seriously jeopardized, 3) always feel frustrated, 4) always gives false promise and does not has disipline, 5) our image is not good, 6) our future life(s) may be damaged and 7) can assosiate with the wickedness.

2. Blessing number 2- Paññitanancasevanā : Associate with the Wise. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 3).

A Wise person is able to use their experience and knowledge in order to make sensible decisions and judgments, whose mind is clear, pure and radiant. A wise person’s characteristics always has the good conducted in thoughts, words and acts.

The benefits of this Blessing are : 1) have better perform good deeds, 2) be more reasonable and wisdom, 3) have the right views, 4) be respected as worthy people, 5) easily become successful in this life and the next life(s) by performing the good activities and 6) can develop ourselves for the good future life.

3. Blessing number 3- *Pūjaneyyapūjā* : Honor those who are Worthy of Honor. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 3).

Those Who are Worthy of Honor are those who perform the good deeds. We should express ourselves to respect, polite, worship to those who are worthy of respect in three channels of expressing respect – physical respect, verbal respect and mental respect. They are the good role models, we may be become like those worthy of respect in future. The worthy ones should be respected, worshiped such as the Buddha, monks, good monarch, parents and older good behavior relatives, teachers, virtuous persons. There are two kinds of expressing homages : 1) homage through material gifts such as food, money and 2) Homage to practice meditation tranquillity development and insight development.

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) can gain the right view, 2) become more right mindfulness, 3) can be the good role model and 4) can develop the good future life.

4. Blessing number 4- *Paṭirūpadesavāsa* : Living in a Suitable Region. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 3).

A Suitable Region means a good environment about all circumstances, people, things and events around them that influence their good life(s) to facilitate success in what they set out to do. The characteristics of Suitable Region are : 1) good location – good to geographical location, temperature, utilities, facilities, 2) good food, 3) good neighbours-good majority of people living, no have dangers & criminals and 4) good Dhamma – for developing ourselves and others.

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) can develop and perform merit activities easily by *Dāna* (Giving), *Sīla* (Morality), *Samādhi* (Concentration) and *Paññā* (Wisdom) and 2) can gain happiness, development of ourselves for both body and mind.

5. Blessing number 5- *Pubbekatapuṇṇatā* : Having Formerly done Meritorious Deeds. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 3).

Meritorious Deeds mean merit, goodness and happiness which arise in the mind without sorrow. There are two kinds of formerly done Meritorious Deeds : 1) from the distance past of life and 2) from the recent past – the moment we were born until today. The major ways for cultivation of Meritorious Deeds can be done by giving or generosity, observing the precepts or moral behavior and practicing

mental development. (Dīghanikāya Volume III. 218, Aṅguttaranikāya Volume IV. 239, Siam Pāli Tapiṭaka 11/228/230, 23/126/245).

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) make merits cause the happiness and comfortable life and 2) can easily make more new merits and develop ourselves for future progress.

6. Blessing number 6- Attasammāpanidhi : Setting Oneself in the Right Course. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 4).

Setting Oneself in the Right Course refers to the setting of our life's goal in the right direction with self-guidance and self-adjudgement for both Secular World and Dhamma World and implement that goal until we attain it. There are three major goals : 1) goal aimed for the benefit of this life, 2) goal aimed for the benefits of the next life(s) and 3) goal aimed the benefits of the ultimate goal of life to attain Nibbāna.

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) can manage and prepare our life wisely, appropriately for further development and 2) can be considered to be good role model citizen for society and country.

7. Blessing number 7- Bāhusacca : Great Learning. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 5).

Great Learning refers to extensive learning and having much knowledge both in Secular World and Dhamma World. The good learned persons should have 5 qualifications : 1) listened or learned many ideas, 2) retained or remembered what was learned, 3) frequently practiced or learned verbally, 4) think over what was learned with mind and 5) thoroughly penetrated what was learned by wisdom.

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) will become respectable leader and courageous in any situations, 2) will attain and honorable positions, wealth and happiness and 3) will have good great learning basis for creating skills, aptitudes, performances and competence that can easily to develop for more advanced steps.

8. Blessing number 8- Sippa : Skill & Knowledge of Arts and Sciences. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 5).

Skill & Knowledge of Arts and Sciences refer to the application of knowledge that can apply the knowledge fruitfully. Those who are skill in knowledge, in application of mind, of speech, of body about know how to use

what they learn and put it into practice in the 3 major channels : 1) skill as to gain or progress or development, 2) skill as to avoid the loss and regress and 3) skill as means, methods, visions and strategies (Dīghanikāya Volume III.220, Siam Pāli Tapiṭaka 11/228/231, 35/807/439).

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) will become a talented persons and 2) will progress quickly in gaining knowledge and development of mind, speech and body.

9. Blessing number 9- Vinaya : Highly Trained Discipline. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 5).

Highly Trained Discipline refers to rules and regulations that people use to express their bodily actions and speech in family, society and country they live in, for bringing peacefulness and preventing disagreements. Human beings should undertake to observe the Five Precepts or Sīla-5 (Dīghanikāya Volume III.235, Siam Pāli Tapiṭaka 11/286/247, 22/172/227, 35/767/388) that is the rule of morality, the virtues of Human to be observe uninterrupted.

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) can control our mind, speech and bodily actions easier for better developing our life's goals and 2) can be true qualities of people of family, society and country.

10. Blessing number 10- Subhāsitavācā : Well – Spoken Speech. (Khuddakapāṭha. Maṅgala Sutta. 5).

Well – Spoken Speech refers to speech that has been carefully filtered by the mind as good as possible, before speaking. The five characteristics of well – spoken speech must be 1) true, 2) polite, 3) useful, 4) compassionate and 5) be appropriated in the right time and occasion. When we want to speak, we should speak in the ways that are good to us and the listeners.

The benefits of this blessing are : 1) will become the well-know persons, 2) will be come the good negotiators and motivators and 3) will be the good role model in public speaking. 3. Constraint or Limitation for Househlof People Development

The constraint or limitation for household people that can make human beings develop fast, medium or slow, namely “ Puggala 4 or four kinds of persons ”. There are classified the persons that can be educated, taught, trained and

developed in fast, medium or slow tracks depend upon their individual understanding and wisdom, into 4 groups as follows.

Ugghaṭita>ū: the genius, the intuitive, a person of quick intuition.

Vipacita>ū: the intellectual, a person who understands after a detailed treatment.

Neyya: the trainable, a person who guidable.

Padaparama: an idiot, a person who has just word of the text at most. (Aṅguttaranikāya Volume II. 135, Siam Pāli Tapitaka 21/133/183, 36/108/185).

Conclusion

The findings of this academic article can be applied, implemented for Household People Development in practice daily life by the methods of educating and training of each Highest Blessing for getting the benefits of each Blessing. When we, household people, undertake to educate, observe and / or practice the Highest Blessings number 1 to 10, they can get a lot of progresses through acquired the development, prosperity, wealth, wisdom, virtues and benefits for their life(s) in various ways as follows : 1) Prerequisites to be the good people by practicing Blessing number 1, 2 and 3, 2) Found mental Preparation for the good people by practicing Blessing number 4, 5 and 6 and 3) Practice and Develop for Success in One's Life by practicing Blessing number 7, 8, 9 and 10. Those who are Household People practice Blessing number 1 to 10, they can have self-developed themselves to be good household people for achieving accomplishment of their own welfares and also they can have supporting factors for other people development in order to practice for the good or welfare of others. Those who done these things, see no defeat, go safety everywhere and get prosperity in appropriate ways. To them, these are the Highest Blessings.

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