

Positive Attitude for Social Service: A Buddhist Approach

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Abstract

Social harmony springs from the social service, but not from selfish service. Social service in turn must necessarily be sprung from selfless attitude. As a worldly being, people happen to render their service to society out of self-interest. It may yield certain amount of happiness and harmony in the society. However, it does not help the society to establish sustainable happiness, harmony and prosperity. Therefore, this paper explores positive attitude that enables selfless social service for the sustainable welfare and happiness of sentient beings. Primary sources for this exploration are the selfless service of the Buddha and Bodhisatta recorded in the Pali literature. As the Buddha has realized the selfless nature, His selfless services to all sentient beings remain guiding examples for all Buddhists. This paper highlights some of the exemplary services of the Buddha that inspire Buddhists to nurture positive attitude in providing social service to humanity. In addition to the selfless service of the Buddha, this paper also includes selfless social service of Bodhisatta so as to understand why Bodhisatta, even though he is yet to be fully enlightened, could render such selfless service to humanity. It is hoped that this paper encourages people to render social service only for the interest of other beings.

Keywords: Social Service, Selfish Attitude, Selfless Attitude, Positive Attitude

積極的社會服務態度：佛教的方法

摘要

社會和諧源於社會服務，而不是自私的服務。而社會服務必然要源自無私的態度。作為世俗的存在，人們常常出於自身的利益向社會提供服務。這可能在社會中帶來一定程度的幸福和和諧。然而，這並不能幫助社會建立可持續的幸福、和諧和繁榮。因此，本文探討了積極的態度，使得無私的社會服務能夠為有情眾生的可持續福祉和幸福奠定基礎。這個探討的主要來源是帕利文獻中記錄的佛陀和菩薩無私的服務。由於佛陀已經領悟了無私的本質，他對所有有情眾生的無私服務仍然是所有佛教徒的指導範例。本文重點突出了佛陀的一些榜樣服務，以激勵佛教徒在為人類提供社會服務時培養積極的態度。除了佛陀的無私服務外，本文還包括了菩薩的無私社會服務，以理解為什麼菩薩，即使他尚未完全覺悟，也能對人類提供這樣無私的服務。希望本文能鼓勵人們僅為他物的利益而提供社會服務。

關鍵詞：社會服務、自私的態度、無私的態度、積極的態度