

Economics and Development in Buddhism

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QUESTIONS WE ASKED

- How does Buddhism affect women's careers?
- What developments both economic and other has Buddhism contributed?
- What's going on in Bodh Gaya?

RESEARCH

Our research focused on the religious tradition, Buddhism and how the teachings and traditions of Buddhism affect work life, economics, and developmental aspects of society.

The Master Plan

The Master Plan refers to a fifty-year, government led plan for Bodh Gaya, employed to convert the site into a tourist attraction to boost the local economy. The village is the site of the Buddha's enlightenment. In the process of this plan, the government has evicted many long-time residents and shop owners to make room for attractions.

Buddhist Altruistic Behavior

The behavior of the government in Bodh Gaya is in stark contrast to practicing Buddhists. According to a study, in practicing the faith, Buddhists exhibit increased altruistic behavior, which means they are willing to help out the community. This giving nature has helped Buddhism to develop.

Women and Careers

There is known gender disparity in Buddhism. However in a study of women and their careers it was found that Buddhist teachings such as the Karmic Cycle helped women feel empowered and determined since they felt they were destined for these careers.

Buddhism Meditation and Modern Medicine

A common form of cognitive therapy is mindfulness based therapy. This is a technique that has been newly utilized in modern medicine but has been practiced for years by Buddhist people. This is something that Buddhism developed and gave awareness to in modern society

Buddhism Cultural Development

By conducting interviews and looking at the different activities lay (ordinary people) Buddhists participate in, it can be seen that the Buddhism culture in South Korea was built by the lay Buddhists more than the Buddhism elites. Contrasted to Christianity and other religions with a strict hierarchy, the ordinary people play much more of a role in the development of the Buddhism culture.