

LOCAL MUSEUM IN BUDDHIST PAGODA: TOURIST SITE AND POSSIBILITY IN RURAL THAILAND CONTEXT

VIROJ WIWANITKIT*

ABSTRACT

Thailand is a tropical country in Indochina. It is a country with Buddhist context. The Buddhist related tourism and pilgrimage is famous for local Thai people. For the Buddhist pagoda, not only the pilgrimage site but also other interesting object exists. In some local Buddhist pagoda in Thailand, there are local museums. Here, the author discuss on the present status of local museums in Buddhist pagodas in Thailand and the possibility for tourism promotion in the future.

KEYWORDS: Museum, Buddhist, Pagoda, Thailand.

INTRODUCTION

Thailand is a tropical country in Indochina. It is a country with Buddhist context. The Buddhist related tourism and pilgrimage is famous for local Thai people. For the Buddhist pagoda, not only the pilgrimage site but also other interesting object exists. In some local Buddhist pagoda in Thailand, there are local museums. Here, the author discuss on the present status of local museums in Buddhist pagodas in Thailand and the possibility for tourism promotion in the future.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

CURRENT STATUS OF THE LOCAL MUSEUM IN BUDDHIST PAGODA IN THAILAND

At present, there are many thousand Buddhist pagodas in Thailand. All are the religious site for the local Thai Buddhist people. Some pagodas have specific museums. Based on the local museum database in Thailand (www.sac.or.th/

www.museumdatabase/), there are few hundred museums located in the Buddhist pagodas in Thailand. Classified by group, the common types of local museum in Buddhist pagoda in Thailand (Figure 1) are:

BUDDHIST RELICS MUSEUM

This is the most common type. The presentation of ancient and precious Buddhist objects is the aim of this kind of museum. Sometimes, it was set to represent the relics and stories of Buddhist monk in that pagoda.

ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

There are many ancient Buddhist pagodas in Thailand and those pagodas usually set a local archeological museum within the area of the pagoda. In addition, some pagoda locate near the archeological burial site and used as the center for collection of the objects collected from those archeological sites.

*Adjunct Professor, Joseph Ayobabalola University, Nigeria; Honorary Professor, Dr DY Patil University, India.

Correspondence E-mail Id: editor@eurekajournals.com



(a).Buddhsit relic museum



(b).Arcehological museum



(c).Local art and culture museum

Figure 1.Examples of museums in Buddhist pagodas in Thailand

LOCAL ART AND CULTURAL MUSEUM

This is another common museum existed in Thai Buddhist pagoda. Since Buddhist pagoda is the center of Buddhist community in Thailand, the local people usually set a small museum for representing the local art and culture. This kind of museum is commonly seen in the area with specific local race.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Since Thailand is an agricultural country, it is no doubt that there some locally set agricultural museums in Buddhist pagodas in agricultural communities in Thailand. The collection in this kind of museum is usually local agricultural utensils.

SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM

There are very museum in this category in Buddhist pagoda in Thailand. The museum is usually set with cooperation with local governmental unit. The Buddhist pagoda donates the land for placement of the scientific museum in this case and the setting usually has accompanied library.

PRESENT PROBLEMS OF THE LOCAL MUSEUM IN BUDDHIST PAGODA IN THAILAND

The main problems are the lack of funding for maintenance of the museum after its first setting and the lack of specific person who specifically work at the museum. Many museums are supported by the fund of the local pagodas and there is no person who can give the story of the object in the museum. Hence, very few tourists visit to those museums. Some museums have to stop operation due to the mentioned reasons.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL MUSEUM IN BUDDHIST PAGODA IN THAILAND AIMING AT TOURISM PURPOSE

To promote the tourist activity in the museum in Buddhist pagoda is interesting. In fact, some museums, especially for those Buddhist relic museums are the present famous tourist site in Thailand.

The tourism activities are usually related to pilgrimage. The standardization and control of those pilgrimages tour can help improve the tourism activities. For the cases of other kind of museums that have problems. It requires the support from local governmental and non - governmental organization to help promote and maintain the museums. Indeed, the problem of funding is the common problem of museum around the world [1].

Setting of co-activity in the Buddhist pagoda such as setting of local markets or floating markets might be the interesting combined package for the tourists. On the other hand, in the famous museum site, the control of tourist activities is needed. Without good control the unwanted side effect to the pagoda can be expected [2].

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

REFERENCES

- [1]. Schiermeier Q. Call for cash to end the decay of Berlin's great collections. *Nature*. 2002 Sep 5; 419(6902):7.
- [2]. Lei X. Paleontology. Temple, tourism may sink Chinese museum. *Science*. 2002 May 24; 296(5572):1379.