ABSTRACT

Background: Buddhist ceremony participation is important to keep the Buddhist remaining. At present the less of student participation in Buddhist ceremony that prepare by the Faculty of Medicine (10 percents from 400 persons who participate in Buddhist ceremony, Usanee Kwannoi Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen university, 2547) To understand this problem, we studied the prevalence and the reasons of Buddhist ceremony participation/non-participation for improve the promotion of Buddhistic ceremony of Medical Students in Khon Kaen University.

Objectives: To find out the prevalence of Buddhist ceremony of Medical students in Khon Kaen University and the reasons in participant/non-participant Buddhist ceremony of Medical students in Khon Kaen University.

Definition Buddhist ceremony: We used four ceremony which were Takbart, listen to a sermon, Vientien and Sangkatan. Takbart is putting food in the bowls of Buddhist priests in the morning. Vientien is walking with lighted candles in hand around a temple especially during by Visakha Bucha day, Makha Bucha day, Asarnha Bucha day. Sangkatan is offering things to the priest in general, not as individuals.

Design: Descriptive study

Setting: Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Amphur Mueng, Khon Kaen.

Population: The undergraduate Medical students in Khon Kaen University who are Buddhist except the undergraduate Medical students who have dropped and have not studied in Srinagarind hospital between 17th – 23rd November 2004.

Population sampling: 288 samples were obtained by simple random sampling.

Data collection: Self-administered questionnaire.

Data analysis: Descriptive statistics (mean, mode, median, percent, 95% confidence interval) and analytical statistic (Fisher ‘Exact Test).
Results: Self-administered questionnaire 288 copies which responded and could evaluate 259 copies (male:45.2% and female: 54.8%). Buddhist are 97.7% who 95.3% of them participated Buddhistic ceremony at least one time between 17th November 2003 to 17th November 2004 and 4.7% were not participation any Buddhistic ceremony. For the ratio of participated Buddhistic ceremony devided to Takbart 85%, listen to a sermon 44.3%, Vientien 42.7%, Sangkatan 72.7%. The most common reason in participation of each Buddhistic ceremony are the reason of Takbart is in the special occasion such as Birthday, New Year’s day 67.9%; an important day of Buddhist is the reason of listen to a sermon 62.5% and Vientien 92.6%; the reason of Sangkatan is dedicate to died 67.9%. In non-participation of each ceremony relative: the reason of Takbart is doing good in other way 60.5% ; busy and have no time are the same reason of Vientien 44.1%, Sangkatan 53.6% and listen to a sermon the reason 63.8%.

Conclusion: Buddhism ceremony at least one time between 17th November 2003 to 17th November 2004 but low frequency to participate each ceremony .The most common ceremony of participation was Takbart , the second was Sangkatan , the third was listen to a sermon and the last one is Vientien . The most reason of non-participation are busy and have no time (3 in 4 ceremony). We suspected that the problem about time management for Medical students. Therefore, we recommend them to understand important and usefulness about participating Buddhism ceremony and persuading them to increase the participation.