

Pattipati and Pariyati Monasteries in Panglong Township

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Abstract

Panglong Township is situated in Loilen District and composed of four wards. The majority of people in Panglong are Shan and Pa-O nationals and major religion in township is Buddhism. As an attempt to examine the religious conditions in Panglong, this paper examines religious and social activities of five monasteries in the township namely (1) AungMingalarWunEinn Monastery, (2) MyomaMingalarNaungKwyut Monastery, (3) MingalarMwe Taw Monastery, (4) Pitakat Monastery, and (5) Veluwun (Bamboo Forest) Monastery. The people in Panglong built these monasteries by their collective donations with generosity. The grand monasteries in Panglong show the generosity of Shan and Pa-O ethnic nationals. This paper describes the Pariyati and Pattipati activities of these monasteries and their achievements in religious courses and examinations. Finally, studying of Pariyati and Pattipati Monasteries in Panglong Township shows how ethnic nationals are pious in religions and how they are generous in donations.

Key words; monastery, religion, monks and Ethnic Nationals

Introduction

Panglong Township situated in Loilen District, has four residential Quarters. Panglong Township is bounded on the east by Nansang Township, on the west by Hopong Township, and on the north by Laihka Township. Panglong Township situated in Loilen District, has four Quarters. There are five monasteries conducting Pattipati and Pariyati works. Panglong Township lies between 20° 27' and 21° 16' north latitude and 97° 20' and 97° 38' east longitude. Situated in Loilen District. It has an area of 271.67 square miles wide. It extends 19 miles from east to west and 24 miles from south to north. Panglong Township is bounded on the east by Nansang Township, on the west by Hopong Township, and on the north by Laichar Township. (Township Administration Office, Panglong Township, 2017)

Aim and objectives

The aims of this Research paper are to express the conditions of Religion and to know about how ethnic nationals are pious and they are generous in donations from Panglong Township. Literature review on the data collection from Township Administration Office and interview from the monastery's Sayadaw. The authors declared that this research compiles with the current Panglong Township monasteries' Pattipati and Pariyati condition in which it was consisted (the study of religious courses, Pitakat Translation learning of the monks and novices; Panglong).

Pattipati and Pariyati Monasteries in Panglong Township

Panglong Township has four residential Quarters, eight village tracts and 177 villages. The names of 13 monasteries in this township are (1) Aung Mingalar Wun Einn Monastery, (2) Myoma Mingalar Naung Kwyut Monastery, (3) Mingalar Mwe Taw Monastery, (4) Pitakat Monastery, (5) Veluwun (Bamboo Forest) Monastery, (6) Wun Mai Monastery, (7) Alan Tayar Monastery, (8) SunnLunn Monastery, (9) Dhammazedhi Monastery and (10) Mingun Monastery, (11) KyuuYone Monastery, (12) MwetawHonarr Monastery, and (13) Kamahtana Monastery. Among these monasteries, five monasteries; (1) AungMingalarWunEinn Monastery (Pa-O), (2) MyomaNaungKwyut Monastery (Pa-O), (3) MingalarMwe Taw Monastery (Shan), (4) Pitakat Monastery (Shan), and (5) Veluwun (Bamboo Forest) Monastery (Pa-O) are the monasteries which conduct Pattipati and Pariyati works. This paper will examine the activities of these monasteries in Panglong Township. In writing this paper, there were personal to respective monks from these monasteries and administrative officials are personally interviewed because no proper sources and printed documents concerning with Pattipati and Pariyati in Panglong. (Township Administration Office, Panglong Township, 2017)

AungMingalarWunEinn Monastery is located in No.2 Quarter, Myothit in southern part of Panglong. The monastery has an area of 24 acres. This old monastery was built by the ethnic groups from WunEinn Village from south of Panglong in the past about 200 years ago. During Japanese occupation period, Japanese army camped in this monastery, and it was bombed by allied-forces during the Second World War. When this monastery was started to build

15 monks resided there. Nowadays, 163 novices and 17 monks totally 180 are presiding in it. Pattipati activities are also conducted by novices and monks in this monastery by practicing Moegok method of meditation. Up to now, there are three PahtamanGyi(First Senior Grade) and one DhammaCariya. Children from nearer villages are sent to this monastery to study. The main supporting villages to food and necessities to this monastery are (1) WunEinn Village, (2) Wun Lon Village, (3) NaungHaing Village, (4) Par Mike Sei Village, (5) KaungMauk Mai Village and KyaungTaungMrauk and MyothitShwePyi Aye Village. Meditation centers are opened every year during water festival and about 300 devotees practiced meditation in Myanmar language in 21 times of its opening, and about from 200 to 400 devotees took meditation in Shan and Pa-O languages in five times of it opening. Learning novices are from Laihka, Panglong, Mai Kai, and Loilen. They have to learn scriptures four times a day. At night, they have to learn nights learning called NyaWā.Pattānā Recitation Ceremonies are usually held during Water Festival and after Buddhist Lent. Other religious festivals like Waso Robe Offering Ceremony to the whole monks and novices in this monastery, Preaching Sermons for ten days as commemoration of Buddha images, and holding of SadhammaNikaya Examination are held for PahtamanGyi Examination. Moreover, DhamaSaka and Pattānā Recitation Competition are held in Basic Education Schools annually and award prizes to outstanding students. MoegokVīppasanā Sermon Preaching is also held for 22 times in which DhammaCariyaSayadaws preached in Pa-O and Myanmar languages. Alms Food Offering Ceremony for 600 monks and novices is successfully held on presiding abbot's birthday in which 400 monks and novices from other monasteries in Panglong are invited. Religious festivals like Kason Water Pouring Ceremony to Bodhi Tree, Fire-Balloon Rising Ceremony in the month Nattaw are also held. (BaddantaRāzīnda, 2017)

In the compound of AungMingalarWunEinn Monastery, one Dhama Yon monastic building and ten rest houses are available. Presiding abbot of this monastery is acting as OvādaCariya (Admonishing Monk) in Border Area Development and Panglong Social Welfare Development. With an aim to propagate and spread Buddhism teaching among the youths, Dhamma Schools was opened throughout Myanmar. Dhamma School is opened in this monastery in 2016. There are 450 students in 2016 and 570 students in 2017 who attended Dhamma School. Monks teach these students in two shifts in a day. Moreover, Cultural Course was opened in which about 80 Pa-O children attended. (BaddantaRāzīnda, 2017)

About 200 years old 19 ancient pagodas and four earthen relic pots were excavated in the compound of this monastery. Two bronze Buddha images which are preserved to worship are from late 16th Century and

early 17th Century. The rest bronze images are from late Nyaungyan period and early Konbaung period. The pagodas in this monastery compound have been renovated several times that we can note their original ancient style. No one knows the founding date of these pagodas. There are 24 satellite pagodas surrounding the main pagoda. An alphabet of 24 Pattānā has been inscribed in each pagoda. A pagoda which has 31 steps of stair is known as 31 Realms Pagoda. Although it is an ancient pagoda, it cannot be dated because of its renovation. The set of pagodas in AungMingalarWunEinn Monastery are significant and such style of pagodas cannot be seen in other areas of southern Shan State. As excavated Buddha images in this monastery are over 200 years old, the religious edifices in this monastery can be dated about 400 to 500 years old. These pagodas are renovated by the State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council Administration Period(1988-2008). MyomaMingalarNaungKwyut Monastery situated at No. 2 Quarter in Panlong Township is the only existed available monastery before Panglong Township was built. It has an area of 6.64 acres. The inscribed letters in an excavated pagoda show that this monastery is over 150 years old but no evidence of the founding date of this monastery and names of first presiding abbot are. The devotees of this monastery are Shans, Pa-O, Bamar, and Taungyoe. Only about 15 novices and monks might have been available when this monastery was founded.

Since the administration of U Nyannadhaza, ancient Sima (Ordination Hall) and ancient pagoda and dining hall are renovated. Faithful pupil of U Nyannadhaza, U PinnyarBala was entrusted as Uzi: PahtarnaNayaka (Head of Chief Patron) monk in accordance with procedures prepared by representative of Monastery Patron Committee U TunThar @ U Pyan with BaddnataPyinnyarVamsaMahāSadhammaZawtikaDhaza , the chief patron monk from Veluwun (Bamboo Forest) Monastery. Sayadaw U PinnyarBala started to transform this monastery as Pariyati Learning Center. When Sayadaw U PinnyarBala assumed as a head of this monastery, about 40 novices and three lecturing monks were available. However, the number of novices and monks is increasing from four to five monks in a year. After 2005, there were increasing from 60 to 180 monks and novices, and the total number of novices and monks in 2016-17 is 162 novices and 19 monks (including 12 lecturing monks). The religious courses as *MulaTann* (basic primary), *AngeTann* (Junior Course), *PahtamaLattTann* (Intermediate Class of *Pahtaman* Examination), *PahtamanGyi*(Higher Class of *Pahtaman* Examination) are taught in this monastery. The outstanding learner monks from this monastery are mentioned as follows:

**The List of Outstanding Learners from
MyomaMingalarNaungKwyut Monastery**

No.	Names of Monks or Novices	Year	Degree or Class	Remark
1.	AshinPyinnyar Vi Linkara	2017	B.A M.A	Passed Passed
2.	AshinSuvanna	2017	Lecturing Class	Passed
3.	Ashin Su Bawga	2017	Lecturing Class	Passed
4.	AshinSandaThiri	2017	Lecturing Class	Passed

The novice who passed PahtamaGyi from with first Grade this monastery was sent to Mandalay for further study. The learner novices passed PahtamanGyi are usually sent to Yangon and Mandalay for further studies. In 2016-2017, three students in *MulaTann* (basic primary course), three students in *AngeTann* (Junior Course), three students in *PahtamaLattTann* (Intermediate Class of *PahtamanExamination*), three students in *PahtamanGyi*(Higher Class of *PahtamanExamination*) passed from this monastery. A learner novice from this monastery firstly passed *PahtamanGyi* in 50 years of examination in Panglong.(Baddanta U PyinnyarBala, 2017)

Learner novices and monks from this monastery have to get up 4:00 a.m. early in the morning and have breakfast at 5:30 a.m. They go for alms food at 6:00 a.m. and come back the monastery at 8:00 a.m. They have to attend five shifts of learning from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and lecturing hours last from one to two hours. The religious activities conducted in the monastery are Kahtina Robe Offering Ceremony by Mahā Dot (Choosing by random vote) and by rotation, Closing Ceremony for Lecturing Novices on 5 waxing of Thidingyut, and Libation Ceremony for Alms Food Providers and Pattanā Libation Ceremony. In summer, Noviciation Ceremony is held once in three years by No. 2 Transportation Regiment. In the month of Waso, the Waso Robe Offering Ceremony and Alms Food Offering Ceremony at the end of Buddhist Lent are collectively held by the devotees. On the night of Thidingyut Full Moon Day, Pinewood Firing Ceremony is held. About 100 devotees come and take meditation on the Sabbath day in this monastery. On the new moon day and full moon day of the Buddhist Lent, the presiding abbot preach sermon in the morning of these days.(Baddanta U PyinnyarBala, 2017)

The religious buildings in this monastery are collectively donated by the donors and only sole donor is available for well and gate of this monastery. Venerable SayadawBaddantaPyinnyarBala headed for the construction of 85.00 million Kyats worth two stories buildingShweKyarPann Building, Six Pagodas Dhamma Yon Rest house, Thawtuzana two stories

building, Building for the devotees, MyaSeinnTaung two stories building, a reservoir and gates in four directions.(Baddanta U PyinnyarBala, 2017)

Venerable SayadawBaddantaPyinnyarBala is now acting as OvādaCariyaSayadaw in Phyu Sin Mittā Free Funeral Service and Shwe Dagon Pagoda (Panglong), *AkyodawHsaung*(Secretary) of *PahtamaPyan*examination, vice-chairman of LoilenSanghaMahāNāyaka, and member of Pa-O Literature Development Association. Sayadaw is now building a PannThibaw wish-fulfilled pagoda at Sahaung Village Tract in Panglong with an aim for propagation of Buddhism. He is also constructing aHtinnHsuuMyoma Monastery as a sub monastery of MyomaMingalarNaungKwyut Monastery. A sub monastery of 30 x 40 feet long, LoyarPyietSone Monastery is built at the foot of LoiHalan Mountain for Pariyati learning center. MyomaMingalarNaungKwyut Monastery takes all responsibilities for the guests when the Union Day was held in Panglong from 2015 to 2017. About 1,000 people lodged in this monastery when the Union Day was held in 2017. All the responsibilities for holding All Myanmar National Ethnic Conferenceswere taken by this monastery. The 12 days training course for Labour Union was also held in this monastery. General KhinMaungMyint donated 5 million Kyats to this monastery and Asia World Company Limited also donated 5 million Kyats and necessity materials totaling 5 million Kyats. Some land from this monastery was shared for the building of Shaw Dagon Pagoda and for erecting Memorial Stone Pillar.(Baddanta U Pyin, 2017)

MingalarMwe Taw Monastery was built by townspeople from Panglong led by U Hein Khun San and clerk Hsu Pyinnyar on 8 March 1938 and libation ceremony for completion of the construction of this monastery was held on the full moon day of Tabaung or on 15 March 1938. The first presiding monk of this monastery from 1937 to 1943 was BaddantaPannava. On 27 October 1944, MyosaGyi (Town Governor)U Hsu Pyinnyar and trusteeship members of this monastery, invited LaihkaSayadaw U Visitta to reside in this monastery, and he resided as second presiding monk of this monastery up to 1962.(Baddanta U Aw Sinna , 2017)

MingalarMwe Taw monastery is located at No.1 Quarter in Panlong and has 8.36 acres. When this monastery was built in 1938, only five monks and 12 novices were available but 22 monks and 150 novices are presiding in this monastery in 2017. The novices studied in MingalarMwe Taw Monastery are from Mai Kai, Mai Pan, Tan Yan, KyaingTaung, MongNei, and Linkhe. The religious courses as *MulaTann* (basic primary), *AngeTann* (Junior Course), *PahtamaLattTann* (Intermediate Class of *PahtamanExamination*), *PahtamanGyi*(Higher Class of *PahtamanExamination*) are taught in this monastery are taught in Shan language by 15 lecturing monks by day and night shifts. In day shift, the lecturing hours are from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and five hours are given for studying. At night, they have

to recite the scriptures by heart by switching the light out. Night recitation of the learned lessons by heart is made every night. On the Sabbath day, over 300 devotees take precepts in the monastery and food is offered to them in the morning after Sabbath day.(Baddanta U Aw Sīna , 2017)

Pītakat Translation Learning Monastery of Shan State is at No. 4 Quarter, Ton Mo Quarter in Panglong Township. This monastery is extended 600 feet from east to west, and 400 feet from south to north. From 18 to 20 November 1957, a meeting was held at AungThiri Cinema Hall in Loilen to form a *Dāyaka*(supporting donors) group for translation of Pītika from Myanmar to Shan language. This meeting was attended by 150 monks, Shan Swabwas and Shan ethnic groups from different parts of Shan State. Sangha Associations and Translation of Pītika were formed as follows:

Shan State Central Sangha Association in Shan State and in Pītakat Translation Learning Monastery (Baddanta Visāranna, 2017)

No.	Names of Sayadaw	Assigned Duty
1.	U PyinnyarBawga (Venerable Mai ChuuSayadaw)	MahāNāyaka (Patron)
2.	U Visīnda (Venerable Wun Hat Sayadaw)	Chairperson (I)
3.	U Paddita (Venerable MaingNaungSayadaw)	Chairperson (II)
4.	U Visīttasara (VenerableDat Taw Monastery Sayadaw, Loilin)	Secretary (I)
5.	U Kīttasara (LinkheSayadaw)	Secretary (II)

The headquarter of Shan State Central Sangha Association was placed at Pītakat Translation Learning Monastery in Panglong but the office of *Dāyaka*(supporting donors) group was in Taunggyi. The foundation stones of Pītakat Translation Learning Monastery were laid by NaungKwutSayadaw U Gunna (representativeofSangha), Deputy Commissioner of LoilenKhunOhnKyar(Representative of Shan State Government) and Mai Naung Royal Sao OhnMaung(representative of Swabwa and Shan people). The libation ceremony for the completion of this monastery construction was held on 27 July 1958 by offering alms food to Shan novices and monks. (Baddanta Visāranna , 2017)

Venerable Mai ChuuSayadaw U PyinnyarBawga and follower monks of Pītakat Translation team came and resided in this Pītakat Translation Learning Monastery in Panglong from 18 November 1958 to translate Pītika scriptures from Myanmar to Shan language. After the translation works were finished on

18 November 1959, measures had been taken to transform this monastery as Pariyati learning Center. Nowadays, this monastery becomes a flourishing Pariyati learning center with over 500 learning novice and monks in Panglong Township. By receiving admonishing words from SayadawBaddantaNyannaSabāra, U Visāranna (at that time presiding monk or *Taik Oak*) and trusteeship committee of this monastery laid foundation stones for building 120 million Kyats worth SuvannabhumiDhama Yon (Rest House) on 5 February 2001 for commemoration of golden jubilee of this Pītakat Translation Learning Monastery, and it was finished on 8 May 2009. Only 20 novices and monks were available when this monastery was built but there increase 473 monks and novices in this monastery in 2017. The learner novices and monks are from all parts of southern, northern and eastern Shan State’s towns and villages. *MulaTann* (basic primary), *AngeTann* (Junior Course), *Pahtama-LattTann* (Intermediate Class of *Pahtaman*-Examination), *PahtamanGyi*(Higher Class of *Pahtaman*Examination) are being taught in this monastery in Shan and Bamar languages. The rate of learners who pass exams annually is 80 % and 40% of learners pass in Government Pali*Pahtaman*Pyanexamination. The shifts of learning hours for learners are four shifts; 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the morning, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon and 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at night. As religious activities, the devotees who take precepts on the Sabbath day are taught how to take meditation. (Baddanta Visāranna, 2017) The monks who were sent abroad for study religious scriptures are as follows:

Monks sent abroad from Pītakat Translation Learning Monastery and Their Visited Countries (Baddanta Visāranna, 2017)

No.	Names of Monk	Visited Countries
1.	AshinPyinnyar Nanda	Sri Lanka
2.	AshinZawtika	Sri Lanka
3.	AshinKhanhtisara	Thailand
4.	AshinKīttīasara	Thailand
5.	AshinTezawNyarnna	Thailand
6.	AshinAwwīnna	Thailand
7.	AshinNyanarsāmi	Thailand
8.	AshinNandiya	Thailand
9.	AshinThusīnadā	Thailand
10.	AshinSiriDhammā	Thailand

Veluwun (Bamboo Forest) Pariyati Learning Center is located in No.2 Quarter, Panglong Township and it was built on 7 July 1971. The plot of this monastery was bought with 13,000 Kyats on 10 may 1958. It has an area of five acres. This monastery has

been conducting Pariyati and Pattipati works for the propagation of religion.

The result of religious courses passed from this VeluwunPariyati Learning Center from 1958 to 2016 can be studied as follows:

List of the Number of Outstanding Learners from VeluwunPariyati Learning Center from 1958 to 2016(BaddantaAggaVamsa, 2017)

No.	Years	Religious Courses taken exams	Number of Sangha passed
1.	1971-1980	<i>PahtamanPyan, Pahtamanngge, PahtamanLat, PahtamanGyi, AnnalVinayadiNūgaha</i> Examination for Shan State in NyaungShwe	175
2.	1981-1990	-do-	291
3.	1991-1999	-do-	131
4.	2000-2009	-do-	358
5.	2010-2016	-do-	258
Total Number of Sangha who passed religious course in 46 years			1313

Apart from the existing religious courses, the government introduced *Achay Khan MulaTann*(basic primary course) in 1983. Thus, the novices and monks from this monastery are not necessary to go and sit for VinayadiNūgaha examination since 1987. Instead of that examination, novices and monks from this monastery sit for government *Achay Khan MulaTannPahtamanPyan, Pahtamanngge, PahtamanLat, PahtamanGyi*-examinations and Sadhamayansi examination from this monastery.(BaddantaAggaVamsa, 2017)

Sadhamayansi examination is pre-examination before the government examinations is taken that by the coordination with presiding monks, supervising monks and lecturing monks from Veluwun monastery, NaungKwut monastery, novices and monks from Veluwun Monastery, NaungKwut Monastery, WunEinn Monastery, AungZabu Monastery (Nant San), MingalarOo Monastery (Mai Pong) sit for this exam as a preparation for government exam.

The Ten Days Sermon Preaching is annually held during water festival in Veluwun Monastery since 1989. Venerable BaddantaPadītabīWuntha, chief patron of ShweTaungKoneSassanaYeikthar from Bahan, Yangon himself visits and preaches sermons. The other venerable Sayadaws who preach sermons are (1) BaddantaAggaWuntha (Presiding Monk, Veluwun Monastery), (2) Baddanta-Khatidhaza (HtiHunnSweeAriyāMaggan-Vīpassana Monastery,

Taunggyi), (3) BaddantaThunanda (HweHunn Monastery Sayadaw, Loilin), (4) BaddantaOttama (Pan Linn Sayadaw, Kyauk Ta Lone Township), (5) BaddantaVarasāmi (HweSann Monastery Sayadaw, Loilen) and (6) BaddantaCāriya (Vice-supervising Sayadaw, Veluwun Monastery). The sub-monasteries branched out from Veluwun (Bamboo Forest) Pariyati Learning Center are PariyatiMingalarOo Monastery (Mai Pong), PariyatiAungZabu Monastery (Nant San), Pariyati and PattipatiAriy- MagganVīpassana Monastery (HtiHunnSwee Monastery, Taunggyi), Pattipati Pan Linn Monastery (Pan Linn Village, Kyauktalon Township) and PattipatiHweHunn Monastery, Loilen).(BaddantaAggaVamsa, 2017)

The presiding abbot from AriyāMaggan-Vīpassana Monastery, BaddantaKhatidhaza, who received GandhaVāsakaPandīta, not only teaches Pariyati scriptures but also English language. He also preaches meditation methods to male and female devotees from local and abroad.

Conclusion

Panglong Township is a small township, which is 60 miles far from Taunggyi, and has difficult communication in going narrow mountain road. However, it is significant in Myanmar politics as General Aung San and ethnic leaders concluded Panglong Agreement for complete independence of the country from the British rule. The grand monastic buildings in Panglong witnessed that it is also one of the towns which flourish Buddhism in Shan State. Shan nationals are very generous in donations. The monasteries in Panglong served not only as religious centers but also center to educate the young in moral and cultural aspects. It is learned that monasteries in Panglong Township are as grand as the monasteries in large cities because of the generosity of Shan and Pa-O donors and the ethnic Shan and Pa-O monks are also endeavoring for the propagation of Buddhism in Panglong Township.

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References

Township Administration Office, Panglong Township, Shan State

Interview

1. Interviewed to BaddantaRāzīnda, Presiding Abbot, AungMingalarWunEinn Monastery, Panglong dated on 5 August 2017, 27 August 2017

2. Interviewed to BaddantaVisāranna, Presiding Abbot, Shan State PīṭakaTranslation learning Monastery, Panglong dated on 10 June 2017, 11 June 2017, 10 September 2017
3. Interviewed to BaddantaAggaVamsa, Presiding Abbot, Veluwun (Bamboo Forest) Monastery, Panglong dated on 16 September 2017, 24 September 2017, 15 September 2017
4. Interviewed to Baddanta U PyinnyarBala, Presiding Abbot, MyomaMingalarNaungKwutPariyati Learning Monastery, Panglong dated on 15 July 2017, 12 August 2017, 28 October 2017, 4 November 2017
5. Interviewed to Baddanta U Aw Sīnna, Presiding Abbot, MingalarMwe Taw Monastery, Panglongdated on 20 June 2017, 24 June 2017, 8 July 2017 and 9 July 2017