

Research Title **Changes of Social Urban Life and a Model of the Faithful
Participation in Buddhism and Thai Culture Preservation:
Marble Temple Case Study**

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Abstract

The research on “Changes of Social Urban Life and a Model of the Faithful Participation in Buddhism and Thai Culture Preservation: The Marble Temple Case Study” aims to synthesize changes of the way people making merit at the temple by seizing the strength of the Temple’s Foundation as a social capital to serve the Buddhists to the following activities: making merit in front of the temple in the morning, Wian Tien festival (light waving rite) in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening, Buddhism School, Dhamma Training, Meditation Training, Sustainable Tourism for foreign tourists, a resource center of Dusit opening, monk and novice ordaining for public and hill tribe people, Thai culture conservation, activities to confirm the respect to the nation, the religion and the royal king, providing opportunities to the Association and the Foundation of the temple to manage the income, organizing a good quality environment focus on facilities, peacefulness, conveniences, simple and reconciliation, all mentioned issues draw the urban people and their family closer to the temple with the happiness to make merit.

The research result found that the temple has changed the way of making merit by allowing the lay man to participate the temple administration with the monks in the form of plans and projects. These plans and projects are implemented under the financial approval from the Bejamabopit Foundation, which was continuously developed since the reign of King Rama V. The Foundation has a policy that the temple will neither concern with sacred objects producing nor persuade people to take a chance with them. Thus, in general, the temple seems to be a temple for middle class people and the old noble whose ancestors used to serve the monks there. The temple allows those people to participate the activities. However, the feature of the temple is that it serves only for the high class people or it is a traditional temple. But in practical, it has welcome any people to participate the merit activities which in accordance to the urban changes.