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Applying Buddha's Cause and Effects to Ethical Education for Current Students

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Abstract

Over more than two thousand years, Buddhism was introduced into our country, and Buddhist philosophical ideas, typically the philosophy of cause and effect, have had a profound influence on Vietnamese social life. Currently, the majority of Vietnamese students have knowledge and good morals... But besides that, there is a large number of students who show signs of moral degradation, leading a loose and carefree lifestyle with many evils. Faced with that situation, the issue of religious education for students

through the doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism becomes even more important. That does not mean imposing a prejudice on the young generation, but rather educating and guiding them to correctly perceive the doctrine of cause and effect in the most practical and scientific perspective, helping students see the role, the important responsibilities and values of each person towards themselves and society.

Keywords: Buddhism, Doctrine of Cause and Effect, Student Ethics

1. Introduction

Buddhism has been spread and attached to the Vietnamese people for 20 centuries, a period of time long enough to affirm the value of Buddhism in the hearts of the nation. Buddhist thought has blended and permeated culture, creating precious traditional values. In particular, the doctrine of cause and effect karma has deeply influenced the daily life and customs and practices of the Vietnamese people, guiding people to "truth, goodness, beauty", to perfect themselves and relationships in society.

Vietnam is currently in the stage of developing a market economy and international integration. Preserving and promoting traditional ethical values as well as building a new ethical value system has been a priority need to be resolved. Reality shows that in social life there have been signs of disregarding traditional cultural values and following unhealthy tastes. The struggle between progress and backwardness, between a healthy, honest, idealistic lifestyle... and a selfish, pragmatic lifestyle... is happening every day. Besides the new value systems formed during the integration process, negative things are also penetrating the ethics and lifestyle of many classes of people, especially students and future generations of Vietnam today.

The doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism is a necessary means and content to educate students on ethics and lifestyle, helping them become virtuous and talented citizens, making an important contribution to the cause of construction and protect the Fatherland.

2. Research Results

2.1 The doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism and the influence of the doctrine of cause and effect in Vietnamese social life

2.1.1 The doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism

Cause and effect is the basic teaching of Buddhism, teaching people to see the reincarnation and change of all things so that they can apply it skillfully in daily life.

Each religion, each doctrine in general has different concepts about cause and effect. According to the Buddhist point of view, cause is the cause, effect is the effect. In the correlative world of phenomena, each phenomenon has its causes. The cause for the existence of existence is called cause, and existence is called effect. If the cause is a seed, then the fruit is a sprout. If the cause is the sprout, then the effect is the flowering... Every phenomenon is both the cause and the effect. That cause and effect

relationship is called the relationship of dependent origination and was talked about by the Buddha through the doctrine of dependent origination. From cause to effect, one must go through a process that is greatly influenced and influenced by predestined factors according to an inevitable process (cause-condition-effect). Therefore, sometimes we see that even though the causes are the same, the effects are still different. It depends on the strong or weak, favorable or unfavorable impact of the conditions in the middle, which will result sooner or later, or even not result at all. For example, whether a rice plant is good or bad, whether the rice grain is firm or flat, not only depends on the rice grower choosing good varieties, good fertilizer, and sowing on schedule, but also because of the fate of the weather and favorable terrain. If the weather is unfavorable, no matter how good the "cause" is, the "fruit" of that year's crop will also fail. Buddhists call it bad fate. On the contrary, if there is good fate, even though the farmer is not proficient in his craft or lacks experience, because of favorable weather conditions, the rice crop that year will be successful, it is thanks to good fate.

When talking about cause and effect, Buddhism often refers to reincarnation. The word Luan means vehicle. The word return means to return, to return. According to Buddhist teachings, reincarnation is the continuation and transformation of an organism's life through many lives according to reincarnation. The symbol of the wheel of reincarnation is often used in Buddhist decorations. Buddha taught that all things and all phenomena are impermanent, meaning they are not permanent but change every moment. That change is called reincarnation. The cloud reincarnates into rain and the rain reincarnates into drinking water every day. When holding a cup of tea to drink. Tea is the continuation of the rain, the rain is the continuation of the clouds, and the clouds are the continuation of the sun's heat and the water of ponds, lakes, rivers, and seas. Life always has such continuity, called reincarnation.

Because of cause and effect and reincarnation, if you want to have beautiful results, beautiful reincarnation, a continuation of beauty for your children, family, and loved ones, you must create good karma. That means speaking must be the right speech, thinking and thinking must be right thinking and action must be right action.

Cause and effect is expressed through three categories of time, called present retribution, birth retribution and post retribution. Present results are results that bloom right in the present life, maybe immediately, or in a day, a month, a year, many years... in this life. Rebirth is the result that blooms in the next life after receiving a new body. Therefore, there are people who create good deeds now but still encounter bad things because of evil deeds created in previous lives. The result is that when we create good or bad deeds in this life, the results do not immediately bloom in this or the next life, but many lifetimes later, because the conditions are not enough. Based on the principle of cause and effect, we talk about three times, three aspects of cause and effect.

Buddha said: "Whatever you do, you must think about its results." Because no human action, whether good or evil, even if cleverly concealed or covered up, can avoid retribution and escape the law of cause and effect. It is an inevitable law that no one can be outside its influence. Therefore, the Buddhist doctrine of cause and effect has profound educational significance, helping to train and

foster morality for each person.

2.1.2 The influence of the doctrine of cause and effect in Vietnamese social life

With the motto "Immutable depending on fate" or conversely "Immutable depending on fate", Buddhism has been cleverly used as an effective means to bring Buddhist teachings to life. Therefore, when Buddhism comes to any country, it takes a form that adapts to the culture, customs, and practices of that country. Over a period of more than two thousand years, Buddhism was introduced into our country. The philosophical ideas of Buddhism, typically the philosophical ideas of cause and effect, have had profound and great influences on daily life of Vietnamese society.

From ancient times to the present, the doctrine of cause and effect has had a very profound and widespread influence in daily life, in customs and traditions, in popular literature, literary poetry, in communication... Whether they are Buddhists or simply outsiders, when it comes to cause and effect, everyone seems to believe and accept it. That has been clearly shown through the way of life and behavior of all Vietnamese people. People know how to choose for themselves a gentle and honest way of life. That teaching is deeply and boldly imprinted in the hearts of every Vietnamese person and has a strong and widespread impact on many different aspects of society.

Vietnamese people and the Vietnamese people have known the nature of cause and effect as a moral lifestyle established from within the family to outside society. Drawing from practical life experiences, our ancestors sent great educational moral lessons to their descendants. Here, the meaning and value of the word "virtue" under the concept of cause and effect philosophy has been positively and deeply received by the Vietnamese people. In the activities of ancient families, the word "virtue" is considered a noble sacred symbol, a goal for future descendants.

As time passes, everything changes, status, money, and fame all disappear, only the good names of virtuous people will remain forever with time. As the Buddha taught in the Sutras:

"The scent of flowers
Cannot fly against the wind
The scent of that virtuous person
Flying against the wind in all directions."

That philosophy is also hidden in the Vietnamese cultural treasure, from proverbs and folk songs to fairy tales or immortal poems, we all see the gentle yet profound shadow of the philosophy of cause and effect.

"Whatever Causes, That's What"
"If there are no clouds, why would there be rain?"
Or "Without flour, how can you make paste?"

Although all of these implications do not completely convey the content of life in the most accurate way, they do reflect a certain aspect, a characteristic of the law of cause and effect affecting human life.

"Whoever is ungrateful forgets gratitude,
Wearing a hundred rose petals doesn't smell good."
Or: "Heaven's blessings do not last long,
So, the beginning of good and evil is not wrong."

Or in the treasury of Vietnamese folk tales such as Tam Cam, Thach Sanh Ly Thong, Eating Starfruit for Gold... we see that most of the storylines have happy endings. It has the effect of discouraging evil and promoting good. The main content of the storylines clearly shows people the inevitable rule in life: "Eat well, reap goodness" or "Sow the wind, reap the storm". The form and content of the plot are extremely attractive, easy to understand and rich. Therefore, it has been easily accepted by all classes, all ages and many different generations.

Just as the historian - Professor Nguyen Khac Thuan said: "From awareness at different levels and from the practical application of the theory of cause and effect to life, human morality is honored and transcended all other material values. Of course, the morality of being human in the midst of many changes is not the only thing, but a component originating from the philosophy of cause and effect is undeniable.

2.2 Applying the doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism to foster morality for Vietnamese students today

Vietnamese students are the nation's high intellectual class - the future of the country, and the ones who determine the prosperity of the nation because they are the "spring of society". To become useful citizens, students must not only be knowledgeable but also have good ethics and lifestyle.

Understanding the philosophy of cause and effect in Buddhism will help students see the important role, responsibility and value of each person towards themselves, others and society. The humanity in the doctrine of cause and effect is used properly to educate students on ethics, it will help them learn how to cultivate themselves, improve themselves, live a good life, stay away from social evils and help them know how to build good relationships between people.

2.2.1 Applying the Buddhist doctrine of cause and effect helps students cultivate and perfect themselves

During the country's renewal process, especially during the period of international integration, the majority of Vietnamese students have been aware of their role in society, they have clear living ideals, and demonstrate many advantages such as being intelligent, diligent, eager to learn, living humbly, respecting discipline and law, not afraid of hardship... But besides that, there is a large number of students whose ideals in life have faded, cannot orient their learning path, live indifferently to everything around them, are easily tempted by material things, compete, and race following a consumerist lifestyle, disregarding traditional values... The cause of the above situation is that young people lack self-improvement and training and are not stable in political ideology. Currently, a part of young people have been overly pampered since birth, but live in an imperfect family environment, are too indifferent to education... The downside of the market economy is causing a stir moral values, creating many painful problems in society... All of this has had a significant impact on the morality of students. Faced with these realities, the issue of moral education through educating people to recognize and deeply believe in the doctrine of cause and effect becomes even more important. That does not mean imposing prejudice on young people, but rather educating and guiding them to correctly perceive the doctrine of cause and effect in the most

practical and scientific perspective.

The cause and effect philosophy of Buddhism puts the responsibility and value of each individual first. Buddha always affirmed the view that "He is only a guide" and does not participate in the decision-making function. Humans are the operating center that governs all actions and all human actions are formed on the basis of consciousness. Cause and effect in Buddhism raises the issue of personal responsibility, because humans are both the owner of karma and also the heir of karma. Self-actions are the determining factor for each person's happiness or suffering. In the Dhammapada, the Buddha affirmed the above point of view through his teachings:

"Do evil on your own
Contaminate yourself
Evil is not done by oneself
Purify yourself
Pure is not pure in itself
No one is pure"

Here, talking about karma is talking about a process of human creation that leads to a happy or miserable life. At the same time, depending on different psychology, it creates a peaceful or unhappy life. Throughout that process, humans are the creators and play the central role. As the Buddha teaches in the sutras: "Man is the owner of karma, the heir to karma. Karma is the womb, karma is the relatives."

On the other hand, the theory of karma and reincarnation also shows that people are not only responsible for their actions while alive, but also after death, because death is not the end. The end of one life will be the continuation of another life. Thus, it helps people limit desires, selfishness, ego promotion that leads to greed, brutality, disregard for reason and morality, thanks to which people in particular and society in general will have a better life. Buddhism upholds kindness and equality for everyone as the basic moral standards of social life.

Understanding the doctrine of cause and effect helps students cultivate their own morality. Students will know how to distinguish between bad and good, between good and evil, to self-reflect and consider their own actions and lifestyle because they understand that they will be responsible for themselves. This is the basic value that helps students cultivate their own morality to aim for good things.

2.2.2 Applying the doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism helps students live a good, healthy life and overcome social evils

Most students today have built a good lifestyle for themselves, know how to absorb traditional beauties, and promote good customs and habits of the nation. But besides that, there still exists a large portion of students with a deformed and pragmatic lifestyle. Many students follow the lifestyle of countries such as Korea, China, Western countries... gradually forgetting the inherent traditions of the nation. Many young people have a pragmatic way of life, chasing after money regardless of the future consequences. In addition, the explosion of information technology has created a virtual environment that exposes students to many social evils that have a significant impact on school culture. The phenomenon of students playing games all night, transforming themselves into unrealistic characters, neglecting their studies, liking to watch depraved cultures,

living carelessly... has become no longer strange in the student community. This is considered a warning bell about the ethics and lifestyle of students in the current period.

Using humanity in the Buddhist philosophy of cause and effect for education will help students live correctly, lead good lives, and steadfastly overcome all temptations and social evils.

Buddhism's theory of cause and effect has shown that people are responsible for their own happiness or suffering through their own actions, not by luck, fate or gods. The value of this theory is to affirm that people have control over their lives, placing people in their correct position and role in society. On that basis, Buddhist ethics helps people develop all their superior characteristics and reduce factors that lead to disadvantages for themselves, their families, and society.

The Buddha taught: "If someone commits ten evil actions, then a large crowd comes to beg, pray, clasp their hands, hoping that that person will be reborn in a good realm, a heavenly world. Such supplication is useless. Because that person commits ten evil deeds, he will fall into hell. For example, a person throws a rock into a lake, then a large number of people come to pray, pray, clasp their hands and pray that the rock will float up. Such supplication is useless. Because that rock, with its weight, could not float up, could not drift to shore as the people prayed. On the contrary, if a person abandons ten evil deeds and performs ten good deeds, if a large crowd comes to beg, plead, and clasp their hands together to pray that he will be born in hell, a fallen place, then the prayer was also not achieved. That person will still be reborn in a good place, in the heavenly world, in the human world. For example, if a person sinks an oil tank into a lake and then breaks it, the oil will float to the surface. Even though a large crowd came to beg, plead, and clasped their hands to pray that the oil would sink to the bottom of the water. That prayer was all in vain, the oil was still floating on the water's surface. So, there is no benefit to praying or praying."

Through the above passage, we see more clearly the futility of praying. All phenomena and human actions are based on cause and effect. In other words, people must have faith in themselves, no amount of begging can change the living situation around them.

Through the doctrine of cause and effect, people will easily perceive correctly the nature of things and phenomena. Therefore, people soon wake up to the cover-up of superstitious phenomena that have been taking place, and do not follow the habits and customs of asking for fortune-telling tattoos and borrowing money from gods to pursue prosperous business success, buy and sell well, have good health... All of these things are not realistic, lack scientific basis, and especially are not consistent with the cause and effect characteristics of Buddhism.

"The doctrine of cause and effect therefore, on the one hand, both clearly points out the path of human birth and death to avoid, and also encourages people to do good deeds. On the other hand, teach people a sense of responsibility, to live without dependence, without running away, without blaming, without begging. This is a very healthy and positive educational spirit in educating a good person in both personal and social aspects."

This also means that the object of Buddhist education is people in their living situations. Beyond racial discrimination, geographical or cultural boundaries, Buddhist education takes people in social relationships as

the object as well as the goal. Therefore, Buddhist education emphasizes the value of human self-mastery.

Understanding the philosophy of cause and effect contributes to improving each student's responsibility, having the effect of regulating not only their moral consciousness but also their moral behavior. Help students strive to improve themselves, stand up for themselves, without asking for help or relying on any force when they are truly their own masters. Because, once people lose the value of self-mastery, they are easily tempted by the pitfalls of moral degradation. Therefore, understanding the doctrine of cause and effect helps students stay away from temptations and social evils, helping them build the right life ideals and ambitions for themselves.

2.2.3 Applying the Buddhist doctrine of cause and effect helps students build relationships of equality and respect between people

Most students today are well educated, live a cultured life, always love their family and friends, and behave properly with everyone. However, some phenomena such as profanity, swearing, partying, racing, and school violence among students are increasing. In particular, insensitivity in society in general and in the living environment of students in particular is increasing to an alarming level. Students become indifferent in their relationships with teachers and friends; ignore evil and cruel actions in society; insensitive to the misfortune and misfortune of those living around them; There are even many students who are indifferent to their own lives and futures.

Ethical education for students through the philosophy of cause and effect not only helps them know their own responsibilities but also their responsibilities to society, not only knowing how to live beautifully for themselves but also knowing how to contribute to building good relationships.

Over thousands of years of history, the culture of the Vietnamese people has been deeply influenced by Buddhist ethics. In particular, the philosophy of cause and effect has contributed to building the spirit of national solidarity, one of the strengths that plays a decisive role in maintaining the country's independence. Aware of the value of self, the role and responsibility of each individual in society, the Vietnamese ethnic community has joined together to build a strong solidarity. The doctrine of cause and effect also teaches Vietnamese people that if they want to maintain the country's peace and independence, each individual in society must strive and not sit back and wait for happiness. Although the country is small, the economy is still poor and backward, but that does not make the Vietnamese people feel inferior or guilty, or accept a painful past as destiny. In that situation, every Vietnamese person is more aware of their role and responsibility, to together contribute to building a richer, stronger, and more beautiful country.

The great value of the doctrine of cause and effect is to guide people to live well and act in a practical and meaningful way for themselves, their families and society. According to the spirit of Buddhism, solidarity also has a more noble and open meaning, which is moving away from a narrow, selfish lifestyle. The doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism also contributes to fostering the tradition of mutual love and affection of the Vietnamese people. The characteristics of love and openness of heart are most clearly shown through acts of kindness and helping each other in times of difficulty and tribulation. Uphold the spirit of

mutual love and affection with the motto "Give rice and tear clothes", "Good leaves protect torn leaves", "A piece when hungry is equal to a package when full". These actions partly reflect the good qualities of Vietnamese people. It is true as the late Venerable Thich Duc Nhuan said: "Show yourself to be virtuous, courageous and wholehearted. Try to love all species. Humans are only worthy of their name as long as they control their thoughts, words and actions in both the internal and external worlds. Conquering your grandmother is a great achievement, but what is most praiseworthy is still controlling yourself. Therefore, in terms of morality, Buddhism places emphasis on good and evil, on the clear retribution of sins and on the law of cause and effect, because it knows that: Doing good will bring happiness, doing evil will bring suffering, whatever the result. Whatever our actions are today, the results will be the same tomorrow. An individual's good or bad action will have a significant impact on the whole... A virtuous person is the happiest person in the world, just like a beautiful blooming flower, fragrant for the world."

Thus, the doctrine of cause and effect is a constructive philosophy that helps students recognize personal responsibility to perfect themselves the healthiest and most meaningful lifestyle. Help them know how to love, share, and sympathize with those around them to build close, good relationships between people, between people and society, with the country, and with the nation.

3. Conclusion

When introduced to Vietnam, Buddhism was accepted easily and naturally because its ideology has many similarities with the customs, traditions, and traditions of the nation. Buddhism from foreign to local, from strange to familiar to everyone. It can be said that the nation's existing traditions have easily blended with Buddhist teachings, creating a cultural identity with Vietnamese colors, a lasting factor in the nation's outlook on life.

Today, the market economy and globalization trends are having a strong impact on the material and spiritual life of each person. Besides the positive impacts, there are also many negative impacts, especially the issue of moral degradation and lifestyle of the younger generation with different manifestations of idealism and falling into individualism, selfish, opportunistic, chasing after money, leading a carefree and indulgent lifestyle with many evils. Vietnamese Buddhism in the new context has also had changes appropriate to the needs of the times and the function of social and moral education also has many new features. But, using the doctrine of cause and effect in moral education for the young generation, especially students, at any time remains valuable because the humanity and noble philosophy of life in the doctrine of cause and effect will always be present. Therefore, applying the doctrine of cause and effect of Buddhism to educate students on ethics will be easily received, learned and followed by students, because it is closely related to the views and ethics of life. Helping students understand that the source of having a good and happy life is cultivating humanity, accumulating virtue, doing good deeds in the present, sowing good causes to reap sweet fruits in the future.

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