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## An Alternative and Special Education on Man and Society with Special reference to ASEAN Economic Community

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It has to be accepted that we all today equally experience the phenomenon that we are getting away from our essential human qualities and values, cultural identities and moral distinctions under the influence of globalization movement. Though the term globalization by definition implies an international integration or in other words, a global unity among the mankind in practice, it gives rise to disastrous results to the human life individually as well as collectively in many respects. Bad effects of present globalization movement as we experience today, are overcoming and suppressing small nations by powerful nations, local cultures by global culture which based on the sensory gratification, small economic ventures by worldwide business enterprises and so on. Globalization with those results is really a treat to the communities in the counties such as ASEAN which include many small countries in comparison to the powerful countries. Traditional simple living way of the people in such countries is drastically changing to an unaffordable complexity which gives rise to suffering both physically as well as psychologically.

Movement of Globalization is a very powerful revolutionary process which is rapidly taking place everywhere in the world. It involves in every aspects of the human life. It is not a spontaneous or natural process. It was started with the political treaties and economic ties between the countries in the western world. Now it is entirely governed and controlled by the powerful nations which comprised of multimillion companies. It works for their own purposes. Though it explicitly, appears as a process which brings unity and happiness of the mankind, implicitly, it gives rise to very dangerous results to the world. Powerful nations propagate and popularize their political ideologies and lifestyles over the world through this process in order to fulfill their hidden aims and purposes. Their hidden

aim is nothing but the consolidation of their political and monetary power all over the world by hook or crook.

More particularly, the effect of the economic globalization to our part of world has to be taken into our consideration. It is really govern by the multimillion companies own by the powerful nations. It not only badly effects to the small economic ventures undertaken by most of the poor class and middle class people in our countries as their living means, but also it compels people for a luxurious life style. Through the production and introduction of different consumer items people are compelled to acquire them, though they are not in a position to buy them. Producers of such items make use of modern communication system to popularize them among people in different ways in order to attract the mind of people. Not only that, but also they create and introduce daily new items to the market in the guise of the requirements for the lives of people. They are well aware of the instinctive inclinations of people. Intrinsically man has the desire of happiness. He naturally inclines to the sensory pleasure. When one get used to sensory pleasure one cannot get out of it easily. It is something like the addiction to alcohol or to dangerous drug. This situation really became a grave problem to the people who live in poor countries. They do not have enough economic resources to comply with luxurious lifestyle. According to the present globalized system of economy, it is difficult to maintain an equal financial position among the people. The reason for this is that the wealth of people is getting circulated around the multimillion economic enterprises. Therefore, people always are running short of money. This leads people to make money excessively going beyond their capacity in order to meet their requirements imposed on them by the present global environment.

When people are unable to earn sufficient to meet their requirements, they are naturally persuaded to think of easy way to achieve money. This is the reason why illegal and unethical systems of money making are abundantly getting developed in our countries. This is really a grave problem to innocent people and to the society for their wellbeing.

Another problem arising from present economic globalization is that the small business ventures owned by poor and middle class people as their living means cannot be properly maintain due to the fact that they are overcome by the grand scaled economic enterprises. With the growing interest to the western culture,

people are getting used to colourful and fashionable lifestyle. Therefore, they prefer the supermarket system which can attract people in different ways. In such a circumstance, owners of small economic ventures who cannot compete the big scaled enterprises gradually lose their living means. This leads to increase the unemployment problem in our countries. This problem already has arisen more or less giving disastrous results to the lives of people in our countries. As the result of this, many people both men and women have to look forwards for the lower jobs in the developed countries. This in turn generates bad results to their family life.

Cultural Revolution occurring under the globalization movement is another problem we are facing today. It is in the real sense is an overcoming of our traditional cultural identities by the world culture based on the western culture. The modern culture is only a showoff without any moral and spiritual value. It is based on the materialistic pleasure and develops with sophisticated lifestyle. There is an outward beauty but not inner essence. In our ASEAN countries we possess a long standing traditional cultures based on the simple way without paying much attention to the luxurious life style. Our local cultures concern more about the spiritual values rather than material prosperity. Respect to the parents and elders, cordial relation with others, peaceful, collaborative and co-operative working together with the nabours, gratefulness, loving kindness and simple livelihood are some distinctive characteristics of local cultures. Today we are gradually getting away from these our social and cultural values. We are getting used to competitive and hateful attitudes towards others.

Today we experience the dangerous results of the new trend of the present world. We cannot and must not allow developing this situation in our countries. We have to look forward to preventive methods for this epidemic condition which is prevailing all over our countries. Most effective method will be the education. Alternative and special education should be started from the schools to the universities. Our present education systems are based on either American system or British systems which have no moral basis. The aim of present educations is to produce people to meet the requirements of the world of today. People who do not have moral-based education perform their duties just like the robots without considering the emotional nature of the man. In this atmosphere, we need the learned people who can understand not only the requirements of the man but also his grievances and sufferings.

For this alternative and special education we can have more valuable lessons from Buddhism. The most of part of our traditional cultures and social values was based on Buddhism. Almost all the ASEAN countries in the past were Buddhist countries. Therefore, the life way of people of these countries was based on the Buddhist social norms and virtues.

In the real sense, the Buddhist education is started not from the school but from the house itself. Early child education is a Buddhist concept. Parents are the teachers of early child education. Therefore, parent are considered as pre-teachers (Pubb-ācaruya) According to Sigālovāda sutta, it is the prime duty of the parent that they should restrain their children from vice and exhort them in good (pāpā nivārenti kalyāne nivesenti) before they make arrangements for their children to formal education (sikkham sikkhāpentī). The teachers are also requested to train the students well (suvinītam vinenti) before they make them master that which they themselves have learned (suggahitam gāhāpentī). The function of the education is to produce the disciplined citizens. The term discipline is very important in this respect. There should be a discipline in every aspect of the human life. Buddhism pays its attention to every aspect of the human life and accordingly presents its teachings to form a perfect man who make good for himself as well as for others.

When we pay our attention to economic community not only our ASEAN countries but also all over the world, economy is shaped with three main aspects namely, production, distribution and consumption. All these three aspect, according to Buddhism should be accompanied with moral disciplines. When we consider present situation of these three aspects, it is quite evident that each aspect has corruptive elements which are harmful to the wellbeing of the society. On the one hand, we can see the products of different harmful items such as dangerous weapons, dangerous drugs and so on circulated freely in the human society. In the distribution of products we can see different unethical activities such as cheating and deceiving the consumers. In the aspect of consumption, people do not consider satisfaction (assāda) and drawback (ādinava) of what they consumed. Therefore, it is very necessary to have moral guidance for the economic aspect of the life.

The Buddha presented his social philosophy taking all the aspect of individual life as well as social life into his account to show how the activities of man should be conducive to individual and social well being, peace happiness and prosperity in

the well disciplined manner. It is our foremost duty to concern not only our own happiness but also happiness of others. The basis of the Buddhist social principles is the living kindness, compassion and the justice. We must make aware our children about these social principles to be implemented in their life. In this respect we must have an alternative education system in the curriculum of our school as well as universities. Subjective education should go along with the moral and ethical education. Then only we can have a well disciplined and well behaved future generation.