

Exploring Buddhist Social Work: Outline of the Joint Research Project

What is BSW? Why Are We Interested In BSW?

Prof. Dr. Tatsuru Akimoto

Asian Research Institute for International Social Work
(ARIISW)

Shukutoku University

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Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan

The first achievement

ABC Models

Had you ever heard the term, Buddhist social work,
before you attended this conference?

What is Buddhist social work?

What do you mean by Buddhist social work?

<Three meanings/understandings of Buddhist social work>

A. Social work performed by Buddhists

e.g. temples, monks & nuns, and followers

Cf. Christian churches, priests, brothers & sisters, church members, etc.

B. Social work modified with Buddhist elements

e.g. values, philosophies, teachings and Knowledge & skills

- Buddhism has been infused in every corner of life in our societies in these thousands of years of the history.

E.g. values, the sense of beauty, the way of thinking, morals, customs, and behaviors

- Social work cannot function well or effectively without some modification and indigenization

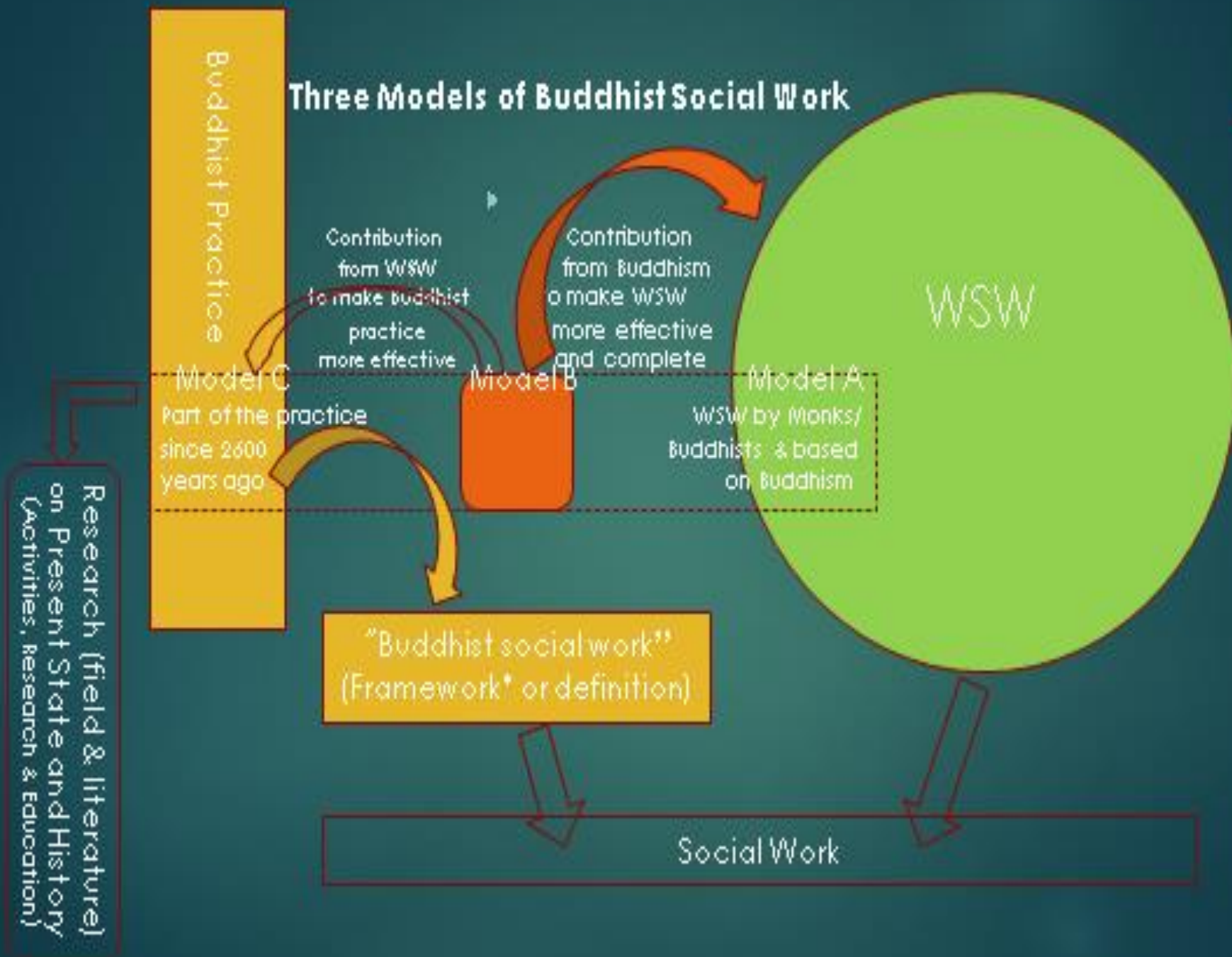
What do you mean by Buddhist social work?

<Three meanings/understandings of Buddhist social work>

C. “Social work” as Buddhist practice

- “Social work” (in C) ≠ Western-rooted Professional Social Work (in A and B)
- Part of Buddhist service while not named as social work.
- 2500 years of history vs. 150 years of history
- Neither for the globalization nor the better service of the WPSW but for the better service and the development of Buddhism

Three Models of Buddhist Social Work



The Aims

To explore and establish “BSW”

Why are we interested in Buddhist social work?

There are two kinds of people among us:
People from Buddhism and people from social work

(1) People from Buddhism

Because they love or believe in Buddhism, and want to make Buddhist service by temples, monks and nuns more effective and efficient, and contribute to people and societies (A, B, C), and (want to disseminate Buddhism and/or prevent from its decline in societies)

(2) People from social work

Because they love or believe in social work (WPSW), and

- expect and welcome Buddhist monks and nuns to carry out WPSW (the complement of WPSWers and governmental policies & programs; social capital)(A),
- want to make WPSW function and contribute more effectively and broadly in and to societies (indigenization)(B), and
- want to disseminate WPSW all over the world (globalization).

(2') People from social work No.2

Because they love social work (≠WPSW), and want to make social work something truly of the world.

- Not the globalization of the Western-rooted professional social work but the development of social work to the third stage (European's → North American's → the world's)
- Not the copy and modification of the social work based on European and Northern American life, societies and culture, but the understanding of the common social work based on the life, societies and culture of 200 countries and regions in the world

Birth and progress

(cf. TA Keynote speech)

<The history of the proceeding period>

International definition revision

“Internationalization and indigenization,”

“Functional alternatives,”

“VN-JP Buddhism’s contribution to SW, etc.

5 country Buddhist “Social Work” Activities
Primitive data collection re Present situation of B“SW”



14 countries and the book series publication project
Actual state of B“SW” activities; “good practices” →
national representativeness → why and how → history →
the level of the penetration of WPSW and the relation with governments’
policies and programs (“Welfare State”), etc.



Conceptualization and systematization of
“Buddhist social work”



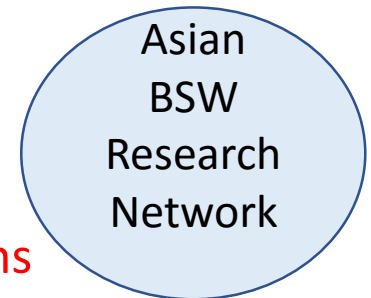
ABC Model



Conceptual framework → working definitions



Inauguration of independent acivities by individual countries
Theory, Research, Education and Practice



The Content of Book Series

Part one: Overview of the country

Part two: Actual state of the BSW

Part three: Reports or articles on any topics to deepen the content of Part one and two.

Some findings

A huge number of activities provided by Buddhist temples, Buddhists, Buddhist NGO's, etc. (cf. Theravada)

Activities for children, elderly, people with disabilities, educational programmes, medical care, rehabilitation centres, agricultural support, donations, disaster and civil war victims, building roads and bridges, protecting forests and many others. (cf. Social development)

Temples serve as institutions for religious practice and at the same as places for medical care, education, social work, and other social activities.

Why did monks started his involvement? etc.

Language issues