

## **“Issues in the Retention of Novices: Perspectives of Novice on Religious Routines”**

**<sup>1</sup>Ven. Zaneinda, 2021**

### **Abstract**

Novices serve as the foundation of the Sangha, their population being the watershed from where human resources for Sangha, crucial in the perpetuation of the Buddha Sasana, are drawn. The novices, who may shoulder the burden of the long-term spread of Buddhism, should be retained to enjoy their religious routines. This study aims to investigate issues related to the long-term sustenance of Sasana in the context of improving the quality of life for novices. Specifically, its objectives are first, to identify the needs of novices for the perpetuation of Buddha's Sasana; second, to examine the current situation in the monasteries for novices and finally, to suggest improvements to the situation for novices. A questionnaire survey method was employed to collect data from the respondents. The needs and current situation in novice retention therein were identified generally. It was found that such factors as the need for quality education, good pastoral care, good material resources, good examination results and novices' satisfaction with the general atmosphere of the monastery are responsible for the retention of the novices and poor quality education or teaching methods, harsh and unreasonable disciplines, poor material resources, poor examination results and lower quality of the monastery's atmosphere lead to the decline in the novice population. These issues can possibly be addressed by improving conditions such as providing a good quality education and better teaching methods taking the novices' needs into consideration, employing more flexible disciplines while adhering to Buddhist principles and improving material resources.

Key words: retention, novices, Buddha Sasana, perpetuation, sustenance, pastoral care

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