

Prof. Dr. G.D. Sumanapala



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Current Position :

Senior Professor, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies,
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Academic Qualification:

Professor of Pali & Buddhist Studies - Merit promotion, 1998.

Professor of Pali - Chair, 1998.

Ph.D. title of the thesis: A Study on the Conception of Dhamma in the Theravada
Abhidhamma,
1998, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Associate Professor of Pali & Buddhist Studies - Merit promotion, 1994.

M.A. Title of the thesis - A Critical Edition of Abhidammatthavibhavitika, University of
Kelaniya,
1986-1987.

Ph.D. research student at the Australian National University - 1988 - 1989.

Followed three months course in Linguistics, University of Poona, India, 1984.

B.A. Honours in Pali (Sanskrit as the subsidiary subject), First Class, University of Kelaniya,
1972
-1976.

Royal Pandit Degree in Pali, Sanskrit & Sinhala (awarded Sri Wimalakirti Prize for Pali &
Prakrit),

Oriental Studies Society , Dept. of Education, Sri Lanka, 1972.

Academic Awards:

The Australian National University PhD Scholarship, 1998.

Commonwealth Scholarship awarded by the Indian Government, 1984.

Sri Wimalakirti Prize for Pali & Prakrit, Oriental Studies Society, Ministry of Education, 1972.

Current Position:

Senior Professor -Chair, Dept. of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Member of the Senate, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Member of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Kelaniya.

Member of the Board of Studies for Foreign Students, University of Kelaniya.
Member of the Higher Degrees Committee, Faculty of Humanities, University of Kelaniya.
Acting Director, Postgraduate Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya.
Member of the Senate, Buddhist & Pali University, Sri Lanka.
External Examiner, University of Colombo.
External Examiner, University of Peradeniya.
Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Buddhist Universities, Head
Office, Mahachulankarn University, Thailand.

Past positions :

Chairman, Departmental Committee, W.A.I. 2003.
Chairman, Higher Degrees Committee, W.A.I. 2003.
Course Co-ordinator, Vacaspati Degree in Ayurveda, W.A.I, 2003.
Member, Library Committee, W.A.I., 2003.
Lecturer, Post-Graduate Diploma in Hospital Management, W.A.I., 2003.
Lecturer in Sanskrit, Astrology and Psycho-Therapy, W.A.I., 2003.
Lecturer -in-charge, Dept. of Cikitsa, W.A.I., 2003.
Chairman, Board of Management, W.A.I., 2003.
Acting Director, Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute, University of Kelaniya, 2003 (W.A.I.).
A Member of the Senate Sub-Committee appointed to look into the possibility of Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Course in Buddhist Studies in Singapore, 1999.
Course Co-ordinator, Courses for foreign Students, Dept. of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1997- 2000.
Visiting Lecturer, Yuan Heng Buddhist College, Taiwan, 1994.
Temporary Teacher, Vidyalankara Pirivena, Peliyagoda, 1982.
Temporary Teacher, Vidyanivasa Pirivena, Walpola, Ragama, 1976.
Temporary Teacher, Saraswati Pirivena, Balagalla, Divulapitiya, 1975.
Visiting Lecturer, University of Ruhuna, Dept. of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Matara, 1993-1994.
Visiting Lecturer, Paramadhamma Buddhist Institute for foreign Students, Peliyagoda, 1985-1990.
Permanent teacher, Sri Jnanesvara Pirivena, Colombo 2, 1978- 1981

Seminars and Articles :

"Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies" - Lecture and Seminar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India, 2007
"Abhidhamma and Early Buddhism" - Lecture and Seminar, Delhi University, India, 2007.
"Buddhist Meditation" - a lecturer and seminar, Samadhi Buddhist Society, Singapore, 2006.
A series of lectures and seminars in the Postgraduate Diploma Course in Buddhist Studies, Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, 2005.
"Philosophical Background of Ayurveda" - a lecture and seminar held at W.A.I. 2004.
"Buddhist Rituals" - lecture and seminar held at Samadhi Foundation, Singapore, 2004.
"Research Methodology in Ayurveda" - a lecture and seminar held at W.A.I. 2003.
"Buddhist Meditation" - a lecture and seminar held at Samadhi Foundation, Singapore, 2003.
"Samadhi: Meditation" - a lecture and seminar held at Samadhi Foundation, Singapore, 2002.

"Techniques of Buddhist Meditation" - seminar held at the Graduate School of Buddhist Studies, Singapore, 2001.

"Nature of Postgraduate Buddhist Studies" - seminar held at the Graduate School of Buddhist Studies, Singapore, 2001.

"Fundamentals of Buddhist Philosophy" - lecture and seminar held at the Utkal University of Culture, Orissa, India, 2001.

"Preservation of Indian Traditional Art in Its Purity" - lecture and seminar held at the Utkal University of Culture, Orissa, India, 2001.

"Universal Characteristics in Buddhist Philosophy" - lecture and seminar held at the Utkal University of Culture, Orissa, India, 2001.

"Buddhist Studies in the Context of University Education" - lecture and seminar held at the Utkal University of Culture, Orissa, India, 2001.

"Role of Buddhist Monks in Solving Social Problems in the Present Society" - a lecture and seminar held at the Center for the study of human rights, University of Colombo, January, 2000.

"Self Understanding" - a lecture and seminar held at Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute, University of Kelaniya, January 2000.

"Astral Body and the Reality" - a lecture and seminar held at the University of Kelaniya, January 2000.

"An Introduction to Basic Teachings of Early Buddhism and the Later Buddhist Schools" - a series of lectures and a seminar held at the Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, December 1999.

"Buddhist Atomism" - Lecture and seminar held at the University of Kelaniya, August 1999.

"Buddhist Attitude to Love and Marriage" - Lecture and Seminar held at the University of Kelaniya, July 1999.

"Kamma, Rebirth and the Buddhist Ethics" - Lecture and seminar held at the University of Kelaniya, July 1999.

"Mental Problems and the Buddhist Thought" - Lecture and seminar held at the University of Kelaniya, July 1999.

"The Early Buddhist View of Existence" - Lecture and seminar held at BMICH, Colombo. The Taisho-University and Kelaniya University, Buddhist Symposium, February 1999.

"The National Heroes" - Lecture delivered at the Kelani Young Men's Buddhist Association, Kiribathgoda, September, 1998.

"Theravada Analysis of Language in Philosophical Context" - Lecture and seminar held at the University of Peradeniya, Dept. of Philosophy, July, 1998.

Editions :

Co-editor, Abhivadana, Papiliyana, 2003.

Co-editor, Sambhavana, Colombo, 2001.

Co-editor, Saraddha, Bio Print, Kirillawala, 2000.

Co-editor, Sri - Nanarama Abhinandana, Teyak Printers, Divulapitiya, 2000.

Editor, Vibhavi, A Journal in Pali Language, 1996.

Co-editor, Daham Guru Aruna, The Commemorative volume of the Buddhist Training College, Nesec Foundation, Ranmutugala, 1996.

Courses Conducted:

Advanced Pali Course of five months, Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, 2005.

"Philosophical Background of Ayurveda", a lecture and seminar held at W.A.I. 2004.

One year series of lectures in the Post-graduate Diploma Course in Buddhist Studies, Singapore, 2001.

A Course on "Keys to the Abhidhamma", Graduate School of Buddhist Studies, Geylang Singapore, September 2001.

A Course on Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit, Graduate School of Buddhist Studies, Geylang, Singapore, August 2001.

"Elementary Pali Course", Graduate school of Buddhist Studies, Geylang, Singapore, July, 2001.

"A Guide to Buddhism" twenty lectures on different aspects of Buddhist Philosophy and Culture, Graduate School of Buddhist Studies, Geylang, Singapore, December, 2001.

Research and Publication:

Books (Sinhala Medium):

Ayurveda Adhyayana, Studies in Ayurveda - History, Basic principles and Related Concepts, Colombo, 2003.

Sinhala gi sahita Namastasatakaya ha Pratyasatakaya, Kandy, 2003 (A translation of Namastasataka and Pratyasatakaya into Sinhalese poems.).

Adi Bauddha Darsanaya - Muladharmavigrahayak (Fundamentals of Early Buddhist Philosophy), Abhaya printing works, Kadawatha, 1994 (pp.239).

Bhavana Krama (Methods of Meditation), Samadhi Foundation, Kadawatha, 1994, (pp. 86).

Pali Language:- A Text book for G.C.E. (ordinary level), Co-author, Dept. of Education, 1982 (pp. 236).

Books (English Medium):

Buddhist Social Philosophy and Ethics, Singapore, 2005.

Abhidhammic Interpretations of Early Buddhist Teachings, Singapore, 2005.

Early Buddhist Philosophy and Social Concepts, Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, 2001.

A Short Introduction to Early Buddhist Meditation, Paramita International Buddhist Society, Kandy, 2000.

Reality and Expression - A Study of the Conception of Pannatti in the Theravada Abhidhamma, Paramita Institute, Kandy, 1999.

An Introduction to Theravada Abhidhamma, Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, 1997.

Author Published Book:

English Medium:

Buddhist Social Philosophy and Culture, Singapore, 2005.

A Guideline to the Post-graduate Diploma in Buddhist Studies, Singapore, 2002.

An Introduction to Sanskrit Traditional Grammar and Buddhist Sanskrit Literature, Singapore, 2002.

An Introduction to Pali Traditional Grammar, Singapore, 2002.

Sinhala Medium:

Ayurvedic Research Methodology, W.A.I., 2003.

Buddhist Research Methodology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, 2000.

Articles:

Sinhala Medium:

- " Buddhist Psychiatric Methods for Conflict Resolution", Abhivadana, Kadawatha, 2003.
- " Ayurvedic Concept of Psycho-physical Health", Ayurveda Samiksa, No. 12, Ayurvedic Educational Branch, Colombo, 2003. " Specific Features of Pali Poems", Sri Kusaladhamma Felicitation Volume, Kelaniya, 2003.
- " Specific Features of Pali Poems", Sri Kusaladhamma Felicitation Volume, Kelaniya, 2003.
- " Buddhist Concept of Management", Dharmaduta - No. 4, Kandy, 2003.
- " Principles of Institutional Management", Vivarana, Wadduwa, 2003.
- Introduction, Apaya (Hell), Ven. M. Abhayatissa, Kelaniya, 2003.
- Preface, Buddhist and Western Concepts of Mental Health, Ven. W. Sumanajoti, Negombo, 2003.
- " Charity and Human Culture", Hye Jyong Sri Kalyani Gangarama Book Series - No 03, 2003.
- " Human Abilities", Sambhavana, Colombo, 2001.
- Introduction, Humanity, Ven. D. Medhananda, Colombo, 2001.
- Introduction, States of India, Ven. S. Vijita, Colombo, 2001.
- Introduction, Buddhist Meditation, Ven. K. Upali, Colombo, 2001.
- "The Influenc of Pali Commentaries on the Organization of Early Buddhist Philosophy", Sarada, University of Kelaniya, 2001.
- A Critical Study of the Ethical Value of Theravada Abhidhamma", Anvesana, Journal of the Postgraduate Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1999.
- "Buddhist Studies in Modern Sri Lankan Universities", Journal of the Dept. of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1999.
- "Buddhist Philosophy and the Lay Life", Prabuddha, Ven. U.Buddharakkhita Felicitation volume, Samayawardana, 1999.
- "Theravada Analysis of Language in Philosophical Context", Journal of Faculty of Humanities Univeristy of Kelaniya, Vol. II, Samayawardana, 1999.
- "Relevance of Abhidhamma in Buddhist Meditational Practices" Prajna Prabha, Ven. M. Dhammasiri Felicitation Volume, Government press, 1999.
- "Majjhimanikaya Prastavanava", (An Introduction to Majjhimanikaya), Majjhimanikaya I Buddhist Cultual Center, Dehiwala, 1997.

English Medium:

- Introduction, Friendship, Ven. Pannaloka, Colombo, 2001.
- Introduction, Facts of Buddhism, Mr. Wiranjeeva, Colombo, 2001.
- "The Role of Buddhist Monks in the Present Society", Katane Dhammaloka Felicitation Volume, Sri Lanka, 2001.
- Parellel Developments of the Conception of Pannatti" Journal of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1999.
- "Nature and Objectives of Early Buddhist Philosophy", Sri Saddhatissa Buddhist Centre, London, 1999.
- "Nature and Objectives of Early Buddhist Philosophy", Sri Saddhatissa Buddhist Centre, London, 1999.
- "Extinction of Dissatisfaction and the Path of Freedom", Sambhasa Vol. 10, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Government Press, 1999.
- Definitions of Phenomena and the Noumenon in the Exegetical Works of the Theravada Abhidhamma", Recent Researches in Buddhist Studies, Essays in Honour of Prof. Y.Karunadasa, Hong Kong, 1997.

"A Comparative Study of the Theravada Theory of Language, Truth and Reality", G.S.B. Senanayake Felicitation Volume, 1996.

"The Development of the Conception of Pannatti in the Post-cannonical Abhidhammic Literature", Sri Kusaladhamma Felicitation Volume, No. iii, 1995.

"Theravada Theory of Sounds and Meanings as reflected in the Pali Traditional Grammar", Sri Lanka Journal of Buddhist Studies, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka, Vol. iv, 1994 (pp. 163-174).

Creative Works:

Pali:

Asimsana", Samadhi, Essays in Honour of Ven. Chandasiri, 1996, (Six Pali verses).

"Panamo", a composition of three Pali verses, Vibhavi, A Journal of Pali Language, 1996.

"Ubhayatthasiddhikaro Tathagatapavedito Ariyamaggo", An article in Pali prose, Vibhavi, 1996.

"Gunanussaranam", Five verses in Pali, Vibhavi, 1996.

"Patthana", Ten verses in Pali, Vibhavi 1996.

Sanskrit:

"Atmadristipariksa", A Composition of twenty Sanskrit verses on the concept of soul, Samadhi, Essays in Honour of Ven. Chandasiri, 1996.

Translations:

Saddharmapundarikasutra, Adhimuktiparivarta, 1998.

Sukhavativyuhāsutra (samksiptamatruka) 1998.

Syllabuses:

Syllabuse of the certificate Course in Ayurveda, 2003.

Syllabuses of the Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital Management, W.A.I., 2003.

Syllabuses of the Postgraduate Diploma in Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 2001.

Syllabuses on Pali, Buddhist Philosophy and Buddhist Culture, B.A. and M.A. degrees in Sinhala and English mediums, University of Kelaniya, 1999.

Syllabuses on Pali for B.A., B.A. (Hons), Diploma and certificate courses, Buddasravaka Bhiksu University, Anuradhapura, 1998.

Syllabuses on Pali for B.A., and B.A. Honours degrees, University of Kelaniya, Dept. of Pali & Buddhist Studies, 1997.

Syllabuses for the Diploma course in Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1997.

Syllabuses on Abhidhamma and Meditation, Buddhist Training Institute, Nesc Foundation, Ranmutugala, 1996.

Syllabuses on Abhidhamma and Meditation, Buddhist Training Institute, Nesc Foundation, Ranmutugala, 1996.

Supervision (Completed):

"A Critical Edition of the Apeggusaradipanitika", Ven. Kham Mai Dhammasami, MPhil Thesis, Postgraduate Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1996.

"Saddhammopayana" - A Critical Edition- and Translation , Ven. M.Kalyanatissa, MPhil Thesis, Postgraduate Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1993.

"Saddhammopayana" - Edition and a Critical Study, - MPhil Thesis, Dept. of Pali & Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, 1994.

"Concept of Mind", MPhil Thesis, Ven. K.Nanda, University of Kelaniya, 2002.

"Edition and Translation of the Pali version of St. Mathew, Ven. K.Dhammaloka MPhil Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 2002.

"Ven. Moggaliputtatissa's Contribution to the Development of the Theravada Buddhist Philosophy", Ven. Huang Chiuns Hui, MPhil Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 2001.

"Theravada Buddhism and the Concept of Amitabha" Ven. M. Mangala, MPhil Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 2001.

"Educational Concepts in the Buddhist Jataka Literature" G.Pannananda, MPhil Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 2003.

"Critical Edition of the Namaupariccheda", Ven.I. Dhammapala, MPhil Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1999.

A Critical Edition of Rajadhirajavilasini, Ven. R.Upali, MPhil. Thesis, 1998.

Theravada Concept of Language Philosophy, Ven. T. Siriniwasa, MPhil. Thesis, 1999.

Religious Organization in Anuradhapura Period, Mphil. Thesis, Ven.Waradiwela Dhammarama Thera, 2007.

Supervision (Being Continued):

"A Critical Edition of Majjhimanikaya-Atthakatha-Tika", PhD Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 2001-2004.

"Critical Edition of the Anagatavamsa" M.Phil. Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1998-1999.

"A Comprehensive Study of the Puggalapannattippakarana" M.Phil. Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1998-1999.

"Buddhist Concept of Management" Ph.D. Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1998-1999.

"Ancient Buddhist Education and the Catubhanavaapali" M.Phil. Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1998-1999.

"Buddhist Concept of Twenty Four Conditions" M.Phil. Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1998-1999.

"Religions Organization in Anuradhapura Period" MPhil. Thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1998-1999.

"Buddhist Philosophy of Education" Ph.D. thesis, University of Kelaniya, 1998-1999.

Researches (on the Process of being Published):

An Introduction to Pali Traditional Grammar, Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, 2002.

An Introduction to the Basic Doctrines of Early Buddhism and the Buddhist Schools, Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, 2002.

An Introduction to the Methods of Meditation in the Theravada Tradition, Buddhist Research Society, Singapore, 2002.

An Introduction to Buddhist Sanskrit, Buddhist Research Society, 2002.

Buddhist Meditation and Human Development:

Abstract:

Buddhism analyses the human personality into five grasping groups (pañcakkhandha) viz. form (rupa), feelings (vedana), perception (sanna), dispositions (sankhara) and consciousness (vinnana). Out of the above five groups the first refers to the physical body-

five sense faculties and their respective objects. Five sense faculties represent the internal physical world and the sense objects represent the so called external physical world. The next four groups refer to the psychological aspect of human personality.

Food is an essential factor for the development of human personality. Buddhism recommends four kinds of food for the development of human beings. viz.

Edible food - kabalinkarahara

Sensations - phassahara

Mental volition - manosancetanahara

Surviving consciousness - vinnanahara

It should be emphasized that three kinds of food out of the four are mental.

According to the above factors it should be clear that the greater part of human development is related to the mental aspect of personality.

The particular Buddhist practice recommended for mental development is called meditation (bhavana).

The methods of meditation practiced as concentration (samatha) and insight (vipassana) are aimed at developing the above mentioned aspects of human personality. The development of physical aspect of personality is the basis for mental development and the method to be followed for that is called morality (sila).

The functions of the five grasping groups are essentially interconnected. As a result, there arise greed (lobha), hatred (dosa), delusion (moha) and conceit (mana) in human personality. All these aspects when increased become harmful to the person as well as to the society in which he lives So Buddhism recommends for methods of meditation to reduce those harmful factors or defilements.

To reduce greed - reflection on filthy nature of personality

To reduce hatred - compassion meditationSD

To reduce delusion - reflection on in and out breathing

To reduce conceit - reflection on the impermanent nature of the world

A person who has eradicated the above four aspects by following the respective methods of meditation is called an aryan disciple fully developed.

This is, in brief, the relationship between human development and the Buddhist meditation.

Communications:

Seminars and lectures on various topics at Pirivenas and Government Schools, from 1999.

Participation in Dhamma discussions, National Television on Full moon days, from 1999.

One year Television programme on TNL, Sri Lanka regarding Buddhist Counseling and Buddhism and Society, 1998.
