

## An Analysis of the Economic Solutions as in the Kutadanta Sutta: A Case Study of Chim Shop Chai Project

Phrapalad Somchai Damnoen<sup>a</sup>, Phra Kusol Supanetto<sup>b</sup>, Phramaha Weeratis Varinto<sup>c</sup>  
Yota Chaiworamankul<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a,b,c,d</sup> Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand

Email:<sup>a</sup>dn.2519@gmail.com, <sup>b</sup>supanetto@gmail.com, <sup>c</sup>pmweeinthapho@gmail.com <sup>d</sup>yota\_b26@hotmail.com

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**Abstract:** This Article aimed to analyze the economic solutions of the Chim Shop Chai Project in accordance with the Kutadanta Sutta's principles. This is a qualitative as documentary research. It has been conducted through Thai Tipitaka scriptures, books, documents, academic papers, and various researchers. The findings showed that 1) Solving the economic problems based on the Kutadanta Sutta principles was to solve macroeconomic problems. The way to do this was to provide funding to 3 groups of people who are diligent in their careers, namely farmers, merchants, and government officers. 2) The Chim Shop Chai Project aimed to stimulate the economy through domestic tourism promotion. 3) the economic solution analysis of the Chim Shop Chai Project in accordance with the Kutadanta Sutta's principles showed that the Chim Shop Chai Project has the same principles as the Kutadanta Sutta in 2 cases: (a) The government wanted to alleviate economic trouble for their people by giving money to the people. (b) The government wants economic circulation according to the principles of macroeconomics resulting in increased purchasing power in the country. For the differences, It is found that the government did not select participants in to the program according to the occupational groups but allowing all professions to participate in the program freely. Not only participants who are low income, but the high-income people can also join. The government therefore does not promote production factors for farmers in any way. When this happens, it is still not to encourage those who are diligent in their careers as exemplified in. Only merchants who are registered for this project will benefit directly from this project.

**Keywords:** Economic Solutions; Kutadanta Sutta; Chim Shop Chai Project

### 1. Introduction

The economic problem has been a problem that has existed in this world for a long time. Human beings of different eras had to find different solutions to economic problems. Unstable and sustainable driving challenges in knowledge, personnel, finance, networked costs, lack of operational strategies and causal factors will positively impact direct drive [1]. The government of each country is responsible for managing the country to be able to develop in various fields. Developing and solving the economy is essential to the well-being of the people. As for the management of economic activities at the national level, it is often related to the principles of macroeconomics [2]. The aim is for the country's economy to achieve stable growth, to achieve full employment, to distribute income evenly and fairly, to ensure people's well-being, having a good quality of life and a normal society coexistence with no thieves. On the other hand, if the economy is in trouble, people will not have enough income to live, which is the cause of social problems and crimes such as poverty, unemployment, crime and drug problems, etc. Therefore, there must be a process for planning, building cooperation or enhancing mutual benefits [3]

General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand passed a cabinet resolution on 20 August 2019; it was presented by the Ministry of Finance for the issuance of a measure to promote tourism in the country commonly known as the "Chim Shop Chai" project[4]. This measure is aimed at promoting tourism in the country. The government will sponsor a limit of 1,000 baht per person by transferring to an electronic wallet (g-Wallet) as a right to purchase products and services from participating entrepreneurs. In addition, the government will support cash back at the rate of 15% of the actual expenses paid, but not more than 4,500 baht per person, to encourage tourism in the provinces that are not their home country. The government is expected to distribute income to various communities. The purchase of such products and services must be travel expenditures through the "Paotang" app to purchase products and services from a payment entrepreneur with the "Thung Ngern" app. To participate in this program must be 18 years of age or over on the registration date. The measure is said to have a wide range of both positive and pessimistic impacts on the economy and society. Those who have benefited from this measure will appreciate and mention the advantages of it. In contrast, the unprofitable may be questioning the drawbacks of the measure in various ways because the government gives money to people to travel, where the people who receive the money do not have to do any work, as if encouraging lazy people to work, which instills the wrong values among the people. On the part of economics scholars have different opinions, which show that under conditions of extreme change, leaders who have the characteristics of transformational leadership will be able to cope with various organizational situations and produce great organizational effectiveness [6].

Buddhism has been born for more than 2,500 years, from the time the Lord Buddha enlightened in the stage of "intuition is self-enlightenment" until parinirvana. There were different styles of governing. Since when the Lord Buddha was still alive, he ruled the Sangha by using sovereignty principles, the act of law and discipline, the administration of the Sangha and the religion, judgment of the monks by the Buddha as a Dharma, with Saributr as the facilitator of the work, together with Mahamokkallana and the Thera, and the assignment of the monks to meet together to do the sanctification, meeting attendees should live equally according to the principles of discipline in the areas of physical, verbal and mental control [7].

The doctrine of Buddhism contains teachings for solving economic problems in both Buddhist scriptures: The micro economy is an individual economy. The teachings that were used to solve this level of problems also existed, such as the Rich Man's Spell, vice6 (channel of decay and death), Saraneeyatham 6 (Dharma was the site of remembrance and principle of coexistence) It is a principle that works for the benefit of the present or a principle that benefits the practitioner. If this principle is applied, it will improve the economy, resulting in better living of community members as well [8]. For solving macroeconomic problems, it is a view of the economy at the overall level of the country [9]. This also appears in the Kutadanta Sutta, the Buddha's Sutra that the Buddha answered the question that the Kutadanta Brahmin had asked about the sacrifice. He has answered the right to sacrifice and can solve the economic and social problems of the country to be peaceful. Mahawichitrach King accepted the Brahmin Priest and gave plants and food to the energetic citizens of agriculture and cattle rising, bestowed a cost to citizens who are enthusiastic in the field of commerce and gave food and salaries to the diligent government officials in his country. When those citizens were determined to do their work, they did not persecute His own country, thus making the country peaceful and without harassing one another. Therefore, people rejoice with each other, be happy with their family and live without having to close their doors [10].

From the preliminary presentation, it could be seen that the Brahmin Priest gave MahawichitrachKing advice to give the people a living factor. The current government is giving away money to people in the "Chim Shop Chai" project, 1,000 baht per person, for 10 million people who participated in the project. For this reason, the researcher wishes to analyze the main economic solutions in Kutadanta Sutta with the "Chim Shop Chai" project about similarities or differences because solving economic problems according to Buddhism will be the mental development at the same time, which is called "good economy and beautiful mind" to be used as a guideline for solving economic and social problems for those who are interested in the future.

## 2. Research objectives

To analyze the economic solutions based on the Kutadanta Sutta principles with the "Chim Shop Chai" project.

## 3. Literature review

Kutadanta Sutta made known solutions to economic problems. The principle in Kutadanta Sutta was caused when Mahawichitrach King wants to worship the Great Sacrifice but the brahmin priest asked him to suppress the thief before the sacrifice and must not use the method of suppressing the thief by arresting and punishing the past. The brahmin priest had therefore proposed the first solution to the thief caused by poverty by promoting wealth to the lower three who are diligent in their livelihoods. These included farmers, merchants, and government officials [10]

The "Chim Shop Chai" project is not a project to help the poor, but a project to solve economic problems by stimulating the economy through domestic tourism. The idea is to alleviate the economic distress of the people by giving money to the people who participate in the project to spend on tourism in order to achieve economic turnover. This will alleviate the suffering of the people. The "Chim Shop Chai" project will provide 1,000 baht into E-Wallet1 to 10 million people who have successfully registered for the project via mobile phone system and give cash back 15% but not more than 45,000 baht into E-Wallet2 of specific project participants who spend outside their province. The government expects that there will be 310,000 million baht in circulation in the system, calculated from 1,000 baht in the E-Wallet1 and 30,000 baht from the E-Wallet2, combining both E-Wallets, the amount is 31,000 baht per person, totaling 10 million people (Thai government, 2019).

Kutadanta Sutta was the Buddha's Sutra that the Buddha answered the question that the Kutadanta Brahmin had asked about the sacrifice. He has answered the right to sacrifice and can solve the economic and social problems of the country to be peaceful. Mahawichitrach King accepted the Brahmin Priest and gave plants and food to the energetic citizens of agriculture and cattle rising, bestowed a cost to citizens who are enthusiastic in the field of commerce and gave food and salaries to the diligent government officials in his country. When those citizens were determined to do their work, they did not persecute His own country, thus making the country peaceful and without harassing one another. Therefore, people rejoiced with each other, were happy with their family and lived without having to close their doors (Maha Chulalongkorn Rajavidyalaya University, 1996).

From the preliminary presentation, it could be seen that the Brahmin Priest gave Mahawichitrach King advice to give the people a living factor. The current government is giving away money to people in the "Chim Shop Chai" project, 1,000 baht per person, for 10 million people who participated in the project. For this reason, the researcher wishes to analyze the main economic solutions in Kutadanta Sutta with the "Chim Shop Chai" project about similarities or differences because solving economic problems according to Buddhism will be the mental development at the same time, which is called "good economy and beautiful mind" to be used as a guideline for solving economic and social problems for those who are interested in the future

#### **4. Research method**

This research is qualitative research, separated into the following studies.

1. To study solutions to economic problems that appear in Kutadanta Sutta in Theravada Buddhist scriptures, Primary Source: tripitaka, commentary and secondary source using documents, books, texts, articles of Phra Thera, philosophers, experts and Buddhist scholars.

2. To study solutions to economic problems in the current government from the Cabinet resolution "Chim Shop Chai" project, press release papers, articles from economic analysts and other related academic works.

3. To use all information, including facts, concepts, theories and interviews to study, analyze and distinguish whether there is a conflict or coherence.

#### **5. Research results**

##### **5.1. Economic solutions based on the principles in Kutadanta Sutta.**

According to the study of Kutadanta Sutta, the solution to the main economic problem of Kutadanta Sutta in the sense, when Mahawichitrach King wanted to perform a rite of worship, but the Brahmin, but the priest asked him to suppress the thief before the sacrifice, without using the method of suppressing the thief with the conviction of the past. The brahmin priests therefore proposed the first solution to the thief arising from poverty by promoting funds to three groups of lower-ranking people who are diligent in their livelihoods, including farmers, merchants, and government officials.

After the thief problem was gone with the solution to the economic problem. Mahawichitrach King then asked for cooperation in the worship of the Great Sacrifice from the top 4 groups of people to become a follower of the Holy Ghost. This is to want those four youths to acknowledge and accept a solution to the problem of thieves by solving economic problems. Once the four young men accepted this new solution to the thief problem, the new sacrifice was made using only clear butter, oil, condensed butter, curd, honey and sugarcane juice. This was the result of a revolution in the belief of traditional sacrifice that required mass killing of animals. Considering the advantages of using thick butter, curd milk, honey and sugarcane juice in sacrifices (Phra Prayudh Payutto, 2018), it had been shown to stop slaughter but instead to promote agriculture.

##### **5.2. Solving economic problems of the "Chim Shop Chai" project**

The "Chim Shop Chai" project is not a project to help the poor, but a project to solve economic problems by stimulating the economy through domestic tourism. The idea is to alleviate the economic distress of the people by giving money to the people who participate in the project to spend on tourism in order to achieve economic turnover. This will alleviate the suffering of the people. The "Chim Shop Chai" project will provide 1,000 baht into E-Wallet1 to 10 million people who have successfully registered for the project via mobile phone system and give cash back 15% but not more than 45,000 baht into E-Wallet2 of specific project participants who spend outside their province. The government expects that there will be 310,000 million baht in circulation in the system, calculated from 1,000 baht in the E-Wallet1 and 30,000 baht from the E-Wallet2, combining both E-Wallets, the amount is 31,000 baht per person, totaling 10 million people.

##### **5.3. Advantages of this project**

This project is to increase purchasing power or increase demand for the domestic economy. The result is that the participating merchants need to be more diligent in order to support more customers, thus increasing their income. It also encourages people to be more alert to use the app to prepare to access the cashless system. The government who owns the project will receive more popular votes from the people.

##### **5.4. Disadvantages of the "Chim Shop Chai" project**

This project does not select the participants according to the necessary occupation groups, but allows all occupations to join the project independently, thus causing the person in real trouble to not receive help. As the project does not promote the inputs for farmers, the government should address this problem by attracting more

agricultural-related stores into the project. Therefore, the policy should be introduced by all government officials to invite more agricultural-related shops and retail shops to apply for the project. Also, because of the problem of registering through the mobile phone system, the really troubled people will not receive help and found that this project does not support those who are diligent in their careers, so they will not be able to solve the problem of criminals in any way because it does not directly solve the problem of poverty for those who need help. As for the shops, it was found that this project was an opportunity for large wholesale merchants to participate in this project. The lastly point, this project does not support the principles of wholesome course of action<sup>10</sup> because the proceeds from this project can be used to buy alcohol and cigarettes.

### **5.5. Analysis of economic solutions based on the principles of Kutadanta Sutta with the "Chim Shop Chai" project**

The value of Kutadanta Sutta is used with the "Chim Shop Chai" project, it is considered to fill a gap or close the disadvantage of the "Chim Shop Chai" project for the benefit of the country as follows.

1) The "Chim Shop Chai" project that aims to stimulate the economy through tourism and can use the money in the project to buy cigarettes and spirits, therefore, it is considered to support the allegation. It is better if this project prohibits the use of money from the project to buy cigarettes and alcohol in order to further promote the good morals of the people.

2) "Chim Shop Chai" project aimed at stimulating the economy through tourism should be adjusted to be more usable by attracting shops with agricultural equipment and essentials such as fertilizers, plant tonic, seed and agricultural equipment, to join the program to benefit farmers who are the country's foundational economy. This will be considered in line with helping farmers in accordance with the principles of Kutadanta Sutta.

3) In the "Chim Shop Chai" project that aims to stimulate the economy by tourism and open for successful registration to receive 1,000 baht to spend, the project should have a selection system for only those who are diligent or have a volunteer spirit to participate in the project only in order to encourage those who are diligent and behave appropriately to be a model of merit in society.

4) "Chim Shop Chai" project aimed at stimulating the economy through tourism It is a temporary solution to economic problems because at the end of the tourism season, the economy will be sluggish as before, which is like weeding by cutting off the roots of weeds. Therefore, this project must expedite all retail stores to enter the "Chim Shop Chai" system so that every spending of the public will receive 15% cash back and the retail stores will have more sales as well.

5) The "Chim Shop Chai" project, aimed at stimulating the economy through tourism, should select only those in need of living factors for participating in the project who receive financial assistance. However, that money should not be taken for tourism because at the end of the holiday season, the economy will return to its sluggishness as before. The money should be used for further education in their own careers by using the "Chim Shop Chai" project money to support their studies instead of spending money on vacation because the use of education is to increase knowledge and skills for himself, which is considered to teach him to raise fish in order to truly solve economic problems in the long run or called "Chim Shop Chai" for education.

6) The "Chim Shop Chai" project aimed at stimulating the economy through tourism, taking into account the political values of Kutadanta Sutta, this project should choose a store that has the intention of working but lacking funds for their occupation to join the project. This will help retail merchants to capitalize on expanding their trade to be more effective in their careers that meet the Kutadanta Sutta principles. This project may be called "Chim Shop Chai" project for investment.

### **6. Discussion**

The results of the research revealed that the analysis of the economic solution based on the Kutadanta Sutta principle with the "Chim Shop Chai" project found that, the "Chim Shop Chai" project had the same principles as Kutadanta Sutta in 2 cases: The government wanted to alleviate the economic distress of its people by giving money to the people and to achieve economic circulation. This was because governments in each country had administrative duties to enable the country to develop in various fields, developing and solving economic problems was essential to the well-being of the people, management of economic activities at the national level dealt with the principles of macroeconomics. The aim was to achieve stable economic growth, full employment, a fair and even distribution of income, to make people live well and had a good quality of life, and enable society to live together happily and to accept change with a neutral mind This project was to increase purchasing power or increase demand for the national economy. The result was that the participating merchants need to be more diligent in order to support more customers, thus increasing their income. It also encouraged people to be more alert to use the app to prepare for a

cashless login. The government who owns the project would receive more popular votes from the people. The government thinks that this kind of stimulation would be the right way. However, every configuration had its own imperfections and can lead to weaknesses to be developed to be appropriate in each context.

## 7. Conclusion

Kutadanta Sutta is a formula of economic solution. The brahmin priest had proposed solving the robbery of poverty by promoting wealth to three lower-level people who are hard working in their careers including farmers, merchants, and government officials. "Chim Shop Chai" project is a project to solve economic problems by stimulating the economy through domestic tourism. The idea is to alleviate the economic distress of the people by giving money to the people who participate in the project to spend on tourism and to promote economic turnover. The advantages of the program are income generation, job creation, and state taxation. The disadvantages are the selection of the project participants, or the lack of focus on the truly in trouble.

## 8. Suggestion

In conducting this research, it is a qualitative research focused on solving economic problems based on the principles of Kutadanta Sutta with the "Chim Shop Chai" project. The government also has several other projects to solve economic problems, so the researcher would suggest as follows.

## 9. Suggestions for the use of research results

The government must focus on solving economic problems to three diligent low-income groups: supporting inputs such as seeds and funding for small farmers, supporting low-interest loans for small merchants and increasing salaries and welfare for minority officials. If the government has a project that answers these questions, solving domestic economic problems will be more efficient than at present.

## 10. Suggestions for further research

Study and analyze economic solutions based on Kutadanta Sutta principles and the "Shop Chuay Chart" project.

Studying and analyzing solving economic problems according to principles Kutadanta Sutta and the "Rice Price Guarantee" program

Study and analyze economic solutions based on Kutadanta Sutta principles and the "Rice Pawn" project.

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