

## Caregiving: Buddhist Thought Advocating Death Counseling

Somaratne I P T G

Sri Lanka University of Sabaragamuwa

indikasomaratne@gmail.com

It has been accepted in the modern world that learning about death equals to learning about life. Death counseling is an excellent example to show that the modern world has paid attention to learning about death and helping someone at death. The attention and emphasis about death in Buddhism takes priority. According to Buddhism, “ Buddhas are born to the world to find solution for three questions; birth” aging and death’ In other words” Vimukthi in Buddhism is related to going beyond the existing conditions. Accordingly, death has been classified in a broad context in Buddhism and it is crucial for every human being to assist someone at death not only in professional practice but also as a responsibility. According to Pali cannon, “ visions that is said to be seen by visualization of merits helps a person at death bed to manage spiritual stability. In *Petakopadesha*, death itself can be considered an investment for the accomplishment of reality: Dhamma. The counselor, on the other hand, is responsible for calming mental instability of some death. The trustworthy discussion on the lifestyle of living beings after death introduced by *Nakulapitu Sutta* explains the way in which it helped to calm down the mind of a dying person. Thus, the objective of this study is to highlight facts on how reconcile a person who is approaching his death through an ethical philosophy such as Buddhism. Theravada Pali cannon has been utilized as the sources and the descriptive method has been utilized as its research methodology. It can be concluded that Buddhist teaching provides a great spiritual assistance for the dying.

**Key words:** *Buddhism “Caregiving” Death, “Death counseling” Nakulapitu sutta*