

**YANGON UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ECONOMICS
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME**

**ANALYSIS ON EAST-ASIA POVERTY REDUCTION
COOPERATION PILOT PROJECT IN MYANMAR
(CASE STUDY: TWO PILOT VILLAGES IN NAY PYI TAW)**

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EMPA – 29 (19th BATCH)**

JULY, 2024

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A thesis is submitted as a partial fulfilment towards the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Public Administration (MPA)

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This is to certify that this thesis entitled “**Analysis on East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar (Case Study: Two Pilot Villages in Nay Pyi Taw)**”, submitted as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Public Administration (MPA) has been accepted by the Board of Examiners.

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ABSTRACT

This research is to examine the execution of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar. Primary data was collected from 150 respondents picked from two pilot villages in Naypyitaw using a simple random sampling procedure. The project has implemented a range of extensive poverty alleviation initiatives, including rural infrastructure, public services, livelihood enhancement, and the capacity development of rural families. It is also found that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project has an effect on socio-economic conditions, agriculture, health, education, and job opportunity of local people. Among the benefits on five areas, benefit on socio-economic conditions is the largest followed by agriculture, job opportunity, education and health. The project has directly and indirectly effect on rural development. The data indicates that respondents see significant advantages from the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project.

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CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	iv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	v
Chapter (I) Introduction	1
1.1 Rationale of the Study	1
1.2 Objectives of the Study	3
1.3 Method of Study	3
1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study	3
1.5 Organization of the Study	4
Chapter (II) Literature Review	5
2.1 Concept of Poverty	5
2.2 Importance of Poverty Reduction	8
2.3 Poverty Reduction in Selected Developing Countries	10
2.4 East Asia Poverty Reduction Project	16
2.5 Benefits of Poverty Reduction Programmes	19
2.6 Reviews on Previous studies	26
Chapter (III) Overview on East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation	
Pilot Project in Myanmar	29
3.1 Project Background	29
3.2 Project Components	32
3.3 Implementation of Project	34
Chapter (IV) Analysis on Implementation of East-Asia Poverty	
Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar	41
4.1 Profile of Study Area	41
4.2 Survey Profile	43
4.3 Characteristics of Respondents	43
4.4 Activities of East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation	
Pilot Project	47
4.5 Perception about Benefits of East-Asia Poverty	
Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project	51

Chapter (V) Conclusion	60
5.1 Findings	60
5.2 Suggestion	61

REFERENCES

APPENDIX

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 3.1	Rural Infrastructure Development by the Project	44
Table 3.2	Rural Public Services Development by the Project	46
Table 3.3	Rural Livelihood Development by the Project	47
Table 3.4	Capacity Building by the Project	48
Table 4.1	Characteristics of Respondents	53
Table 4.2	Perception about Rural Infrastructure Development	56
Table 4.3	Perception about Rural Public Service Facility Development	57
Table 4.4	Perception about Rural Livelihood Improvement Project	58
Table 4.5	Perception about Capacity Building of Local People	59
Table 4.6	Benefits on Socio-Economic Conditions	61
Table 4.7	Benefits on Agriculture	62
Table 4.8	Benefits on Health	63
Table 4.9	Benefits on Education	65
Table 4.10	Benefits on Job-Opportunity	66
Table 4.11	Summary on Benefits of Project	67

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Alternating Current
ADB	Asia Development Bank
APT	ASEAN Plus Three
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CIDCA	China International Development Cooperation Agency
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
DC	Direct Current
DRD	Department of Rural Development
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
IPRCC	International Poverty Reduction Center in China
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCRD	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
MIS	Management Information System
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NEDI	North Eastern Development Initiative
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAPI	Public Administration Performance Index
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
ROK	Republic of Korea
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VHLSS	Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey
VND	Vietnamese dong

CHAPTER (I)

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale of the Study

One or more people are deemed to be living in poverty if they do not possess the resources necessary to sustain even the most fundamental aspects of their lives. It is possible that families and people who are living in poverty may not have access to clean water, good food, suitable housing, or medical treatment. Poverty is a problem that is experienced by individuals in every region of the globe worldwide. According to the publication from 2023, it is anticipated that 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people, which is little more than 18%, are living in extreme multidimensional poverty. This number is representative of 110 nations. Considering that countries with a medium income account for 730 million of the world's poor, it is imperative that action be taken in these countries in order to eradicate poverty on a global scale. As a result of the importance of reducing poverty on a global scale, the United Nations adopted the aim of eliminating extreme poverty and hunger as the first of the Millennium Development Goals (World Bank, 2023).

Poverty's impacts not only promote economic well-being but also jeopardize interconnected social, political, and environmental processes. The negative consequences of poverty on people's health, education, and work prospects are closely correlated with low levels of these factors, as well as with high rates of disorderly conduct. Growing inequality will likely lead to increased pressures in society as a result of poverty. Because of the impact of poverty, this problem commonly causes communities' crime rates to rise. The cycle of poverty is difficult to escape and is often handed down from one generation to the next. One of the hardest problems that emerging nations, where the bulk of the population lives in poverty, face is poverty.

To eliminate poverty in all of its forms is the primary objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were established in 2015. As a result of the fact that a large segment of the population still struggles to make ends meet, even in industrialized nations with thriving economy, extreme poverty is the most pressing problem on a global scale and a precondition for sustainable development. The alleviation of poverty often has an effect on an individual, a community, or a whole country. In order to raise the quality of living and provide support for efforts that seek to reduce poverty, it is

necessary to guarantee that individuals have access to the fundamental necessities of life. At the municipal, state, federal, regional, and household levels, therefore, it is necessary to implement programs that aim to alleviate poverty. The alleviation of poverty in developing countries is accomplished mostly via the implementation of programs that are designed to reduce poverty. In addition, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) goal, it is necessary to develop, monitor, and evaluate activities that aim to reduce poverty.

Myanmar is a country that is considered to be one of the developing countries. It is composed of 14 states, regions, and a union territory. There are around 70 percent of the country's population that resides in rural regions, and there are 63,899 villages that are dispersed throughout 330 townships and 76 districts. There has been significant progress achieved in Myanmar's efforts to alleviate poverty over the last two decades; in 2017, just two percent of the population lived below the international poverty threshold, while twenty-four point eight percent lived below the national poverty line. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, which aims to eliminate poverty in all of its forms and manifestations by the year 2030, the government of Burma is consistently making a significant amount of effort to reduce the poverty rate in the nation. The eight goals of the measures to reduce poverty have been elevated to the status of a national priority by the government since the year 2012. The initiatives are initiated by the government in conjunction with help from other countries (OECD, 2021).

At the 17th ASEAN plus China, Japan, and ROK (APT) Summit, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang initiated the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project. This project includes Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia as its participants. Through the implementation of poverty alleviation measures in two rural villages in Naypyitaw, the purpose of this project is to improve cooperation and exchange in the areas of poverty reduction and rural development between China and Myanmar, as well as to share China's successful experiences in this field. Yunnan International Poverty Reduction and Development Center was the Chinese agency responsible for the implementation, while the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development of Myanmar was the organization in charge of the implementation in Myanmar. Beginning in February 2018 and continuing through March 2021, the effort was carried out. The objective of the program was to enhance public services and provide farmers in Min Pyin Village and Aye Chan Thar Village with more electricity.

The effort was funded by China's International Poverty Reduction Center. It was hoped that it would serve as a model for alleviating poverty in Myanmar.

It was recently forecasted by the Asian Development Bank that the rate of poverty in Myanmar has drastically grown from 24.8% in 2017 to an alarming 46.3% in 2022. This is despite the fact that the government and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) have developed initiatives to reduce poverty. In addition to undoing over twenty years' worth of progress made in the fight against poverty, this would result in a serious crisis of poverty. In the not too distant future, it is quite probable that one third of the population will fall into poverty. The disturbing data that have been presented here bring to light the urgent need to assess the effectiveness of initiatives that are designed to alleviate poverty in order to prevent the trend that has been forecasted. Consequently, the objective of this study is to conduct an assessment of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project that is now being carried out in Myanmar.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To describe the implementation of East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar
- To analyse the benefits of East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar

1.3 Method of the Study

The descriptive technique was used in this investigation. In this research, primary and secondary data were employed to accomplish the goals. In order to gather primary data, a simple random sampling method was used to select 150 respondents from two pilot villages in Naypyitaw where the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is being implemented. These respondents were then asked questions designed to investigate the project's implementation. April 2024 was the study's conducted month. The secondary data came from a variety of sources, including published and unpublished departmental reports, thesis papers, journals, and pertinent websites, as well as associated departments within the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project's execution in Naypyitaw is the primary subject of this research. The study's duration spans from 2018

until 2023. This research focuses on evaluating the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Naypyitaw among other poverty reduction initiatives. Using a basic random sample technique, 150 respondents were surveyed in two Naypyitaw communities: Min Pyin Village in Lewe Township and Aye Chan Thar Village in Tatkone Township. The gathering of data took place in April 2024. The inability to poll every home and unforeseen difficulties during data collecting are the limitations.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This investigation is broken up into five different portions. The motivation for the study, its objectives, its methodology, its scope and constraints, as well as its organization are all presented in the first chapter of the report. The literary reviews are included in Chapter II of the book. The purpose of this chapter is to offer an outline of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project that is being carried out in Myanmar. The success of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Naypyitaw is analyzed in Chapter IV of this book. There is a presentation of the suggestions and findings at the conclusion of Chapter V.

CHAPTER (II)

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Concept of Poverty

A person or group is deemed to be living in poverty if they do not possess the resources necessary to sustain a quality of life that is judged to be at least minimum (World Bank, 2021). It is possible that families and people who are living in poverty may not have access to clean water, good food, suitable housing, or medical treatment. Departures from well-being, low income or expenditure, the inability to get needs, limited access to important public services, good housing, clean water, and sanitary circumstances are all components that are included in the concept of poverty. Individuals with lower income levels, which are often insufficient to meet the prices of essential necessities for day-to-day life, are generally the ones who are responsible for the creation of poverty. It is regarded to be poverty when one does not have access to items and requirements that are largely focused on economic or consumption-oriented activities. Then, poverty emerged as a result of the addition of the dietary and other needs of particular families to the norm for estimations. Furthermore, poverty may include a variety of factors, including a lack of access to food, medicine, education, control over one's surroundings, and other necessities (OECD, 2021).

When a person does not have sufficient resources to meet their fundamental requirements, such as having a place to live, food, clothing, and clean water, they are said to be living in poverty. In any case, it is possible that it might be broadened to encompass things like having access to education, healthcare, and even transportation. The words "absolute poverty" and "relative poverty" are often used to define poverty inside the institutions of government. When referring to those whose incomes fall below a certain national criterion, the phrase "absolute poverty" is usually used. For those living below this barrier, it is impossible for them to meet their fundamental requirements for food, water, and shelter. It is also the case that those who live below the national poverty line are denied access to fundamental services like as education, healthcare, and utilities. People are deemed to be living in relative poverty if their total income is not exactly half of the median income in the nation during the time period in question. The relative poverty line is liable to change as a consequence of changes in the median income that are brought about by the expansion of the economy. At the time where poverty is defined

as a lack of access to critical services and security that is required for well-being, rather than just having money and stuff, the global poverty rate climbs by fifty percent (OECD, 2021).

According to Bennett O. Obi (2007), poverty is a reflection that typically manifests itself in the form of widespread unemployment, inadequate welfare services, a lack of necessities, social inferiority, marginalization, deprivation, humiliation, isolation, susceptibility to health issues, economic downturn, criminality, and other social conflicts. In addition, poverty is characterized by a lack of resources. Following that, the fundamental people are disregarded as a consequence of their lack of participation in the decision-making processes that are associated with civic and social life. In countries that are still developing, it is far more prevalent.

Poverty has several dimensions and goes beyond having a poor income. Like low consumption, it is a directly proportionate loss of opportunity. It is often associated with the degree of distribution of social, material, and human resources. The second category is poor capacities, which includes a society's health and education indices remaining unchanged (OECD, 2021). In essence, it results in a person feeling insecure and excluded from their home environment. Furthermore, low levels of security are increased at both the individual and national levels by exposure to risk and income shocks. Poor people are unable to engage in institutions that actively impact human well-being because they lack the empowerment to do so (UN, 1998).

The concept of poverty is measured differently in each nation. The International Poverty Line is a statistic that is maintained by the Bank, and as of the year 2015, the definition of extreme poverty was defined as those who earn less than \$1.90 per day in the United States. Those who have a daily income that falls between \$1.90 and \$3.10 are regarded to be living in a moderately disadvantaged state. As opposed to depending just on income, this statistic additionally takes into consideration the financial appraisal of an individual's consumption (also known as consumption). The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a statistical tool that is maintained by the United Nations Development Program. It does so by taking into account three aspects: the standard of living, the state of health, and the level of education. At that point, it may be broken down into eleven different indicators, which are as follows: cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, power, housing, assets, years of education, child mortality, nutrition, and school attendance.

Because of the poor physical capital, poverty may exacerbate rural-urban migration, rural-urban isolation, and urban overload. It can have a detrimental impact on marginal production. Due to a shortage of natural capital, it reduces environmental stability and untapped potential. Low credit facilities, limited job opportunities, and little saving financial assets are all associated with a shortage of financial capital. Subsequently, it incites adverse economic effects in both production and consumption. When social capital is lacking, decentralization happens too quickly, social institutions are insufficient, policies are weaker, mortality is higher, violence and corruption are more prevalent. The overcrowding, poor health, lack of leadership in the public sector, and lack of business expertise are all results of inadequate human capital. Thus, initiatives aimed at reducing poverty are crucial for both resolving the issue and achieving general economic development (UN, 1998).

The problem of poverty is one that has repercussions not just for individuals but also for society as a whole. It is possible for an individual or family to have a wide range of medical and mental issues if they are unable to satisfy their financial obligations. According to Todaro and Smith (2014), high rates of poverty have been connected to a variety of problems, including but not limited to crime, unemployment, urban decay, education, and poor health. Furthermore, these difficulties have the potential to inhibit economic advancement on a societal level. According to the World Bank (2021), governments often use social welfare programs as a means of assisting in the process of rescuing individuals, families, and communities from experiencing poverty.

It is possible to use national poverty lines to monitor trends inside a country, but it is not possible to use them to identify differences across countries. There is a possibility that the poverty line will be established differently in different countries, even within the same country, or even depending on the composition of a family. One may argue that the most difficult component of putting poverty measurements into reality is the process of defining a poverty line. Three methods are typically used to define poverty lines: the cost of basic needs, which is usually the preferred approach, the cost of other necessities like clothing and shelter plus the estimated cost of acquiring enough food for adequate nutrition; food energy intake, which compares expenditure or income per capita against food consumption, measured in calories per person per day, to determine the expenditure or income level at which a household acquires enough food; and subjective evaluations, which involve asking people what minimum income level is necessary just to make ends meet. There is a possibility that the poverty line might be seen as the

minimum amount of money that a person needs to have in order to fulfill their fundamental needs, which include both food and nonfood things.

2.2 Importance of Poverty Reduction

Poverty is a major factor that undermines economic and social rights, including the right to adequate housing, enough water, adequate food, adequate medical care, and adequate education. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), over 700 million people, which accounts for eleven percent of the world's population, continue to live in extreme poverty and struggle to satisfy even the most fundamental necessities, such as having access to clean water and sanitation, medical care, and education. It is possible that relieving poverty might enhance the lives of millions of people all over the globe. This is due to the fact that poverty is closely related with a number of factors of living standards that are quantifiably negative.

One of the main global goals promoted by the Millennium Development Goals is the alleviation of poverty. In order to truly reduce poverty, conditions must be created where people can live creative, healthy lives with enough food, clothing, and shelter. They must also be free from discrimination by the state and community and guaranteed freedom, dignity, and self-worth. Only then can they fully engage in society (JICA, 2010).

There is a sizeable fraction of the world's population that is affected by poverty, which is a huge economic and social problem that may manifest itself in a variety of different circumstances. Chronic hunger and malnutrition, homelessness, a lack of durable goods, disease, a lack of access to clean water, a lack of education, a low life expectancy, social exclusion and discrimination, high unemployment rates, high rates of infant and maternal mortality, and a lack of participation in decision-making are some of the issues that are included in this category. Because of the negative impact that poverty has on the well-being of people, it has been recognized as a duty for mankind on several levels, including the ethical, social, political, and economic levels. Therefore, the eradication of hunger and poverty remained a high priority in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, which were subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on January 1, 2016, and were important goals in the Millennium Development Goals that the United Nations established in September of 2000.

Efforts should be undertaken by every country to eradicate poverty; the United Nations has made this target a priority among its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) owing to the close connection it has with the other goals. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are as follows: there is no poverty (SDG 1), there is no hunger (SDG 2), there is good health and well-being (SDG 3), there is quality education (SDG 4), there is gender equality (SDG 5), there is clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), there is affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), there is decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), there is industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), there are fewer inequalities (SDG 10), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), life below water (SDG 14), life on land (SDG 15), peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

Before, poverty was exclusively considered a problem of economics and development, and it was addressed within those frameworks. But it's not only an economic issue—there are other dimensions to the causality. Some pertinent factors are inadequate access to healthcare and education, inadequate transportation, and food insecurity. Over time, several nations used diverse approaches and suggested remedies to decrease the number of impoverished individuals, with generally positive results. The World Bank increased the lowest income threshold for severe poverty from \$1.05 to \$2.15 per day between 1970 and 2021, indicating an increase in average income over time. Additionally, the population living in poverty decreased from 42.6% in 1981 to 8.6% in 2018, with 70% of that decrease occurring in China (OECD, 2021).

Even though there has been a lot of progress achieved in the previous twenty years to decrease poverty, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in order to reduce the total number of people living in poverty as well as the rate of severe poverty (Liu et al., 2020; Beegle and Christiaensen, 2019; Bapna, 2013). In light of the fact that the rate of poverty may decrease while the total number of people living in poverty may increase at the same time, this is an essential component in the process of the reduction of poverty. In spite of the fact that the number of people living in poverty on the African continent increased from 278 million in 1990 to 413 million in 2015, the continent's poverty rate decreased from 54% in 1990 to 41% in 2015. This provides a compelling case in favor of well-thought-out, all-encompassing policies that concurrently address other components of well-being, such as gender equality, health, and education (World Bank, 2020). These policies should encourage inclusive and sustainable outcomes while simultaneously addressing other aspects of well-being. The poverty reduction strategy of

Ghana, the sustainable development and poverty reduction program of Ethiopia, the economic recovery strategy for wealth and employment creation of Kenya, the poverty reduction strategy of Senegal, and the poverty eradication action plan of Uganda are just a few examples of the initiatives that various countries have adopted in order to combat poverty. It was pointed out by Toye (2007) that while the policies that were described in these strategic policy papers were implemented as a requirement for development funding under the debt relief plan of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, they have not been effective in reducing poverty.

2.3 Poverty Reduction in Selected Developing Countries

Many emerging nations have seen improvements in their rates of economic development, yet a large portion of their populations still live in abject poverty. Even if the progress in lowering infant mortality, raising adult literacy rates, school attendance, and life expectancy has been agonizingly slow, the gap between the industrialized and developing nations is still quite large. Numerous global initiatives aimed at reducing poverty confirm that the key to lowering the overall poverty of impoverished and vulnerable communities is to increase socio-political inclusion of the poor and vulnerable, improve social security, and improve livelihood opportunities. Other important initiatives include fostering gender empowerment, advancing opportunities for socio-economic growth, upgrading infrastructure for improved healthcare and education, and accelerating vulnerability reduction. Policymakers and development organizations continue to favor these poverty reduction projects despite their inconsistent results in many nations and regions, which may be attributed to a range of socio-cultural and economic factors, among other things. Despite large expenditures, a number of initiatives aimed at reducing poverty are still not doing well (Bradshaw, 2009).

2.3.1 Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh

According to the Bangladesh progress Update report published by the World Bank in October 2023, steady economic progress has led to improvements in living conditions and a reduction in the percentage of people living in extreme poverty from 9.0 percent in 2016 to 5.0 percent in 2022. At this point, the rate of extreme poverty in Bangladesh is lower than the average for South Asia and is comparable to the rates in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions. There were also improvements found in other welfare indices, such as a reduction in newborn mortality and stunting, as

well as an improvement in access to sanitary bathrooms, electricity, and education. It took longer for rural populations to see a reduction in poverty when compared to metropolitan territories. Nevertheless, discrepancies have become more pronounced in urban areas, while they have been slightly more limited in rural areas.

The constant economic growth that Bangladesh has seen has made it possible for the nation to make significant progress in reducing poverty. In accordance with the worldwide poverty standard of \$1.90 per person per day, the percentage of people living in poverty has fallen from 44.2 percent in 1991 to 13.8 percent in 2016–2017. All three of these factors—life expectancy, literacy rates, and the quantity of food produced per person—have seen significant increases at the same time. Official estimates indicate that the improvement was backed by growth of at least 6% throughout the course of the decade and as high as 7.3 percent in the 2016–2017 fiscal year. The fast economic progress that Bangladesh has seen has enabled the country to enter the lower middle income group in the year 2015. As of 2018, Bangladesh has fulfilled all of the standards necessary to be removed off the list of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) maintained by the United Nations. This will allow Bangladesh to graduate from the list in 2024. The sustained growth of the economy has resulted in increased consumption of energy and transportation, as well as a quickening of the process of urbanization. It is becoming more difficult to meet the demands placed on the infrastructure as a result of insufficient investment and planning. It is imperative that the country swiftly implement structural reforms, increase investments in human capital, increase the proportion of women in the labor force, and increase productivity through greater integration of global value chains in order to achieve its growth aspiration of becoming an upper-middle income country by the year 2021, which is the country's 50th anniversary. If improvements were made to the business climate and the infrastructure, it is possible that new productive sectors would arise and generate job opportunities (World Bank, 2023).

2.3.2 Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

In sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria, a nation in West Africa, has the fastest-growing population. But as the country's population increases and its economy contracts, poverty is being reduced at a faster rate in Nigeria. In essence, there is a much greater demand for employment than there are available. According to World Bank projections, there will be

a 13 million rise in the number of Nigerians living below the national poverty line by 2025 (World Bank, 2023).

Income disparity is one of the many factors contributing to Nigeria's high rates of poverty. Nigeria's average income is drastically out of balance between rural and urban areas. In the past, Nigeria's main export was agricultural products. But the financial health of this business has declined, making those living on rural farmlands vulnerable to poor incomes. Nigeria has several challenges that lead to food insecurity. Poverty is the most prevalent, combined with climate-related issues like drought and floods that exacerbate its consequences. Millions of Nigerians live in rural, neglected regions and suffer from severe malnutrition and ongoing hunger as a consequence. At the moment, oil accounts for 80% of Nigeria's exports, yet just 1% of employment are created there. The startling figure that four out of ten Nigerians live in poverty is a result of this. The Nigerian government is making efforts to put changes into place that would help people live better lives and reduce poverty. Fuel subsidy removal is one such measure (OECD, 2021).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that aid the most impoverished areas in Nigeria include Food Clique. Food Clique works to alleviate poverty for those who are impacted by it by accepting contributions for free school lunches and wholesome food. In addition to combating hunger, these initiatives also boost productivity and attendance, develop physical stamina, and strengthen resilience to illness. Food Clique reduces poverty in Nigeria by offering long-term solutions to food insecurity. By assisting communities in gaining access to wholesome meals and encouraging long-term solutions, it also helps close the poverty gap. Food Clique wants to create a more food-secure country and lessen the consequences of poverty, which makes their work essential. According to predictions from the British Red Cross, 19.5 million Nigerians would be hungry by 2022. But there is hope for improvement because to Food Clique's and other nonprofits' persistent work.

Nigeria's efforts to reduce poverty have been gradual and intricate, with significant government changes just recently starting to bear fruit. The poorest Nigerians were most affected by the inflation that followed the elimination of gasoline subsidies. But over time, these changes may lead to the creation of new employment and enable the government to support other areas like health and education, which will lessen the effects of poverty in Nigeria.

2.3.3 Poverty Reduction in Kenya

For the last ten years, Kenya has been extensively reported in economic news, from being the site of Africa's first widespread mobile money application to being a thriving technological cluster. Kenya's economy did, in fact, develop rapidly between 2005–06 and 2015–16, averaging 5.3% annually, which was greater than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa. With almost 4.5 million Kenyans fleeing poverty as a result of this increase, progress has been made in the battle against poverty. The percentage of the population living below the federal poverty level decreased from 46.8% to 36.1%. A deeper examination reveals that not all facets of the population profited from this remarkable expansion.

Rural regions had the largest drop in poverty, going from around 50% in 2005–06 to 38.8% in 2015–16. This reduction accounted for the majority of the national fall in poverty. This was made feasible by the growing significance of non-agricultural revenue, especially from commerce, to augment agricultural revenue in rural families. This trend has been facilitated by the proliferation of mobile money and the advancement of telecommunications.

There has been uneven poverty reduction even at the county level. The North and North-Eastern counties, also known as NEDI counties, have significant and steadily rising rates of poverty (about 68% in 2015–16), necessitating a multi-sectoral effort to improve living conditions. If nothing is done, this region's improper lack of access to essential services might have long-term effects, especially when it comes to developing human capital. Particularly at the secondary level, educational enrolment rates are much lower than the national average. Indicators of health care usage and access are also very low when compared to the rest of Kenya. Approximately 40% of NEDI counties get vaccinations, but the Central province has vaccination rates of above 90%. The greatest rates of maternal death in the nation are caused by a combination of extraordinarily high fertility rates and limited access to health care. In NEDI countries, the likelihood is that a kid would be born into poverty and stay there, unable to reach their full potential as a productive adult.

2.3.4 Poverty Reduction in Philippines

In the first half of 2023, the poverty rate in the Philippines dropped from 23.7% in the same time period of 2021 to 22.4%, which is equivalent to 25.24 million people. This information was provided by the statistics office of the government. Friday was the day when this information was made public. A goal that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has set for himself is to get the poverty rate down to nine percent by the end of his six-year term in 2028. To do this, he intends to make investments in infrastructure and to attract foreign direct investment, both of which would contribute to the expansion of the economy and the creation of job opportunities. The World Bank has reduced its growth objective range for 2024 from 6.5% to 8.0% to 6.5% to 7.5% (World Bank, 2023). This change was made in order to take into consideration the consequences that the dry spell has had on the economy that is driven by consumption.

In spite of the fact that the Philippines has achieved significant progress in eradicating poverty, the reduction in income inequality has only somewhat recently begun. Because to robust growth rates and structural change, the poverty rate dropped by two thirds between the years 1985 and 2018. This occurred between the years 1985 and 2018. Nevertheless, the reduction in income disparity did not begin until the year 2012. This percentage continues to be rather high: just 14% of the nation's income is distributed to the lowest fifty percent of earners, while the highest one percent of earners get 17% of the total (OECD, 2021).

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)'s nationally defined poverty limits were used to find that, between 2012 and 2018, there was a notable 9.9 percentage point decrease in the incidence of poverty, which coincided with a period of consistent annual economic growth of at least 6 percent. There has only been a maximum 1.1 percentage point decrease per three years between 2006 and 2012. The years 2012–2018 saw an acceleration of the reducing process. The frequency of poverty decreased by 3.6 percentage points between 2012 and 2015. Furthermore, the frequency of poverty decreased by 6.3 percentage points between 2015 and 2018. In 2018, 17.7 million Filipinos lived in poverty as a result of this (OECD, 2021).

There are a variety of structural problems that are responsible for the continued existence of inequality. Beginning in the middle of the 2000s, there has been a decrease in inequality as a result of a number of factors, including the expansion of secondary education and access to jobs that pay higher, the rise in the ownership of assets and the availability of basic services by people, and the provision of social assistance by the

government. A lack of skills, gendered caregiving and cultural norms, access to postsecondary education being limited, and discrepancies in the returns on college education are all factors that contribute to the continued existence of inequality. Although the Philippines' poverty rate is lower than that of lower middle-income countries, it is still much higher than the average for upper middle-income nations. This does not mean that poverty is not prevalent in the Philippines. Similar to Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Myanmar, the poverty rate in this country is far higher than that in those other countries. This is true for each of the three poverty criteria that are currently in operation.

2.3.5 Poverty Reduction in Vietnam

In the 35 years that have passed since the Doi Moi reforms and in the fewer than 50 years that have passed since the end of the Vietnam War, Vietnam has developed into a prosperous economy and a market that is highly sought after by commercial enterprises from other countries. From \$481 in 1986 to \$2,655 in 2020, the gross domestic product per person in the United States of America saw a significant growth. The quality of life in Vietnam has significantly improved as a direct consequence of the widespread economic growth that has taken place. Based on the Lower-Middle Income Class (\$3.20/day 2011PPP) poverty criterion that was set by the World Bank, the average percentage of people living in poverty declined from 16.8 percent in 2010 to 5.0 percent in 2020. 5.7% of the population of Vietnam is estimated to be living in multidimensional poverty, according to preliminary figures provided by the General Statistics Office for the year 2019.

The issue of poverty remains a significant problem for the general population, despite the considerable progress that has been made in recent years. According to the findings of a research that was made available to the public, the most pressing problems that the government need to solve between the years 2015 and 2020 are poverty and hunger. The majority of respondents, when asked why poverty was the most significant concern, felt that it undermines national prestige and is a general drag on the economy. This was the case despite the fact that many were concerned about falling back into poverty (based on data from the 2018 United Nations Development Programme's Public Administration Performance Index [UNDP PAPI]). More than eight million Vietnamese Dong was earned by fifty percent of individuals who said that hunger and poverty were

their primary concerns. This number demonstrates that concerns over financial security continued to be a worry even among those with higher salaries.

Fears of poverty in the face of rapid economic expansion are not sporadic; taken as a whole, they show a populace that not only wants more but also an absolute and inclusive improvement in living conditions. Rapid changes in development generated a substantial proportion of the population that is neither poor nor affluent, and left those behind who were unable to participate in the most active areas of the economy. According to the VHLSS, around 85% of families say that their living circumstances improved in 2020 over 2016. However, according to UNDP PAPI statistics, 63% of families thought that their economic circumstances had improved from five years before to 2018. As a result, household assessments of improvements in living circumstances are somewhat more optimistic than assessments of changes in economic situations; in both instances, the perceived improvement was more moderate than significant.

2.4 East Asia Poverty Reduction Project

Eliminating poverty is a collective responsibility of mankind. Alongside its dedication to eradicating domestic poverty, China has actively engaged in South-South cooperation, exerting considerable effort to assist other developing countries—particularly the least developed nations—in their endeavors to eliminate poverty. This support is provided irrespective of political concerns. In 2014, the Chinese government proposed the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Initiative, advocating for the ASEAN plus China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (10+3) to emphasize collaborative efforts in poverty eradication. To promote rural poverty alleviation, establish pilot zones for cooperative poverty reduction, mitigate development impediments, and serve as a model for poverty alleviation and development in East Asian nations, China pledged RMB100 million in assistance to enhance poverty reduction collaboration with less developed countries in East Asia.

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project, henceforth referred to as the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project, was launched by the Chinese government in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar in 2015. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Initiative is the first village-level poverty alleviation program implemented by the Chinese government, focusing on collaborative efforts in poverty reduction and rural development among developing countries. The project communities of the three

countries have seen substantial alterations and a renewed look due to continuous efforts, resulting in successful results.

In 2022, the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) conducted a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project's implementation. This study aims to delineate the evaluation technique, exhibit the results of Chinese governmental assistance overseas, and consolidate the information and insights acquired from international cooperation to alleviate poverty. Since 2017, six villages in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar have participated in the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project. It was ultimately completed between 2020 and 2021. The project considers the diverse conditions of the project villages in the recipient countries and the genuine needs of the local populace, while leveraging China's practical experience in "comprehensive village development," "targeted poverty alleviation," and "poverty eradication efforts." It has formulated and executed many extensive poverty alleviation initiatives, including rural infrastructure, public services, livelihood enhancement, and the capacity development of rural families.

2.4.1 Rural Infrastructure Construction

In the project communities, initiatives for drinking water were put into place. To assist in resolving the people's daily struggles, roads, bridges, restrooms, electricity supplies, and other infrastructural services were constructed. In order to alleviate the almost 4,000 residents of the project villages' long-standing lack of access to drinking water, a rural drinking water project in Cambodia has been completed. 71 very poor families now have new homes, 190 rural households have refurbished existing homes, 132 poor households now have new toilets, 82 poor households now have access to lights, and 500 villages now have energy-efficient stoves.

The "drinking water to households" initiative in Laos has made it possible for every hamlet home to have access to tap water. 2,891 villagers from 624 families may now travel more easily thanks to the construction of bridges and repairs to existing roads. To significantly enhance rural basic living circumstances, initiatives pertaining to drinking water, public lighting, road maintenance, river bank protection, and rural home power supply have been conducted in Myanmar.

2.4.2 Rural Public Services

To improve rural public services, the project helped build community activity centers, clinics, schools and other public service facilities. In Cambodia, a new 400m² community activity center has been built to serve as the venue for group activities, trainings and exchanges at the project village. It has gradually developed into an all-rounded and one-stop public service platform of the village. Meanwhile, local primary schools have been renovated and the safety facilities have been reinforced.

In Laos, the project built a new village activity center and a clinic, implemented a lighting project, constructed teachers' and students' dormitories, public toilets and basketball courts for local schools, and put in place teaching equipment and supplies. In Myanmar, the project built school buildings and playgrounds to improve teaching facilities, new community centers, clinics and sports grounds, and properly disposed public waste to improve the environment of the village.

2.4.3 Household Livelihood Development

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Project helped the villagers develop sustainable industries based on local conditions, and enabled them to increase income. In Cambodia, the project implemented cattle raising demonstration, high-temperature mushroom cultivation, courtyard economy, and detergent processing projects. Two hundred households were engaged in pot vegetable planting, 80 in pot millet pepper planting, 28 in high-temperature mushroom planting, and 40 in cattle fodder grass planting. The project also helped build two new detergent processing factories.

The project established villagers' production groups, integrated industrial development with the growth of farmers' cooperative organizations, and assisted in the development of several industries in Laos, such as weaving, cattle/buffalo raising, corn planting, chicken raising, vegetable planting, and rural tourism. The Myanmar initiative taught how to cultivate crops with high and reliable yields, including rice, sesame, peanuts, mung beans, and sunflower, and encouraged animal agricultural practices including raising free-range hens and breeding pigs. Additionally, the initiative assisted in establishing plant nurseries on undeveloped land and encouraged more than 130 families to participate in courtyard economy activities.

2.4.4 Capacity Building

Through research tours, training excursions to China, and management and skill-building workshops, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project assisted the villages in strengthening their capacity for self-development. Two training sessions were conducted in China, one management training session, three job skills training sessions, six technical training sessions, and three study visits were arranged in Cambodia.

Technical trainings were provided to the project village production teams in Laos in order to assist them in becoming better farmers. Additionally, livelihood project management trainings were provided to the village management committees in order to assist them in becoming better self-managers. In order to strengthen the Lao side's management capacity of poverty reduction cooperation projects, the project held three training sessions in China on the subject of poverty alleviation through industrial development, the establishment and management of farmers' professional cooperatives, policy experience, and development model for poverty alleviation. These training sessions were held in China. Furthermore, in order to enhance the sharing of experiences in rural poverty alleviation, "friendly villages" exchange visits were organized between the villages that were part of the Laos project and the villages that were model villages for poverty alleviation via tourism in China.

The Chinese government arranged the participation of both central and local forces in order to stimulate the implementation of initiatives aimed at decreasing poverty in East Asia. These efforts were targeted toward reducing poverty in East Asia. When it came to the administration of the project's execution, the CIDCA and the Ministry of Commerce were responsible for carrying out their respective responsibilities. In addition to managing the implementation of the project, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) further carried out a feasibility study. There were sixteen training sessions on planting, breeding, and handicraft technique that were included in the Myanmar project. These sessions were in addition to the five training sessions that were held on project management, bidding, and finance management. Two visits to China for the purpose of training were organized by it. In addition to this, it gathered the villagers to work together in the creation of the cooperative articles of association, it developed cooperatives for the weaving of bamboo and textiles, and it improved the management of agricultural production.

The Yunnan International Poverty Alleviation and Development Center, the Guangxi Foreign Capital Poverty Reduction Project Management Center, and the Project

Center of Sichuan Poverty Alleviation and Migration Bureau were the organizations responsible for carrying out the initiatives in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, respectively. In order to ensure the successful completion of the project, joint project management offices were established with partner countries.

2.5 Benefits of Poverty Reduction Programmes

Economic growth—which is necessary for reducing poverty—must coexist with prudent macroeconomic management and effective governance to provide development that is both socially inclusive and sustainable (ADB, 1999). It is necessary to provide the impoverished with more access to markets for products, jobs, credit, water and sanitation, and health and education services. In addition, reducing the impoverished's susceptibility to natural catastrophes and economic shocks is necessary to improve their well-being, promote human capital investment, and encourage higher-risk, higher-return ventures. The quest of socially inclusive growth will be greatly aided by investments in physical infrastructure and public policy changes (Liu et al., 2020).

Most developing nations provide a range of programs aimed at reducing poverty. They consist of tools for workers outside the formal sector, such as microfinance, rural job guarantee programs, and conditional cash transfers. In order to break the cycle of poverty and improve the lives of the impoverished, it is necessary to change the circumstances in which they live. Investments in rural infrastructure for poverty reduction initiatives may result in greater job and income possibilities, productivity on farms and off, and the availability of wage items, all of which can lower poverty by increasing mean income and consumption. Investments in these areas may accelerate the reduction of poverty by enhancing income distribution, particularly if greater employment and productivity in both agriculture and nonagricultural sectors directly benefit the impoverished more than the non-poor (Liu et al., 2020). The socioeconomic, educational, health, agricultural, and employment opportunities of rural communities may all be impacted by initiatives aimed at reducing poverty (World Bank, 2020).

2.5.1 Socio-economic Condition

Programs to reduce poverty have many, physical, and intangible effects on the economy and society. The majority of the immediate effects are economic, and they show themselves as increased income, an optimized spending pattern, surpluses, savings, and asset accumulation. The majority of indirect effects are associated with social and

cultural facets of life, such as modernization, women's position, health, and education. Together, these direct and indirect advantages boost human development, poverty alleviation, and economic growth (Ondari, 2010).

Infrastructure is a wide term that includes government spending on material resources and social services. The belief that metropolitan areas are important factors influencing both long-term sustainable development and the ability of the impoverished to profit from this process is the driving force behind the push for more public expenditures in these places. In order to reduce poverty, current thinking has concentrated on three main strategies: improving security (by making people less vulnerable to shocks), promoting opportunity (by giving them access to resources, services, and productive employment), and facilitating empowerment (by allowing the poor to participate more in decision-making processes) through infrastructure development.

Programs aimed at reducing poverty make it possible to broaden and diversify sources of income in all aspects of rural life, which boosts both farm and non-farm output as well as home-based businesses. Increased work possibilities guarantee higher income, which helps to lower the rate of income poverty. Abul Barkat et al. (2002) found that the average yearly income of homes with electricity in electrified villages was 126.1% greater than that of households without electricity in non-electrified villages, and 64.5% higher than that of households in electrified villages without electricity. The families with electricity have a substantially larger percentage of non-agricultural sources of income when looking at broad categories of sources.

In addition to improving human security, especially for the poor, infrastructure development and services may be a key factor in economic growth and the fight against poverty. These factors include food security, employment security, health security, community security, personal security, and environmental security. Furthermore, services and infrastructure development take on a unique significance in the post-conflict transitional phases of conflict-ridden nations. However, there is neither a one-way nor inevitable relationship between the expansion of infrastructure and the decline in poverty. There are many infrastructure projects that have been impeded by non-economic reasons, improper feasibility studies or cost-benefit analyses, insufficient funding for operations and maintenance, and other significant and intricate concerns. Even in instances where services and infrastructure development have clearly boosted economic growth, the advantages have frequently not been converted into bettering the

lives of the impoverished. This is due in large part to a variety of factors, including poor people's lack of participation in the planning and execution of initiatives, unfavorable social and environmental effects, and the fact that the programs were not locally and community-based.

2.5.2 Agriculture

The success of the agricultural industry is largely dependent on the use of new inputs or technology. The use of technology tools like fertilizer, irrigation, better seeds and machinery, among others, grew throughout the green revolution, changing agriculture. Along with advances in resource availability and use, the nation's area under cereal production and cultivation grew. Furthermore, it's thought that a key role in the advancement of the use of other technical elements in agriculture is the direct use of energy, namely electricity and diesel. Smaller electric tractors and other agricultural tools are already powered by solar-charged electric motors in agricultural settings. Even while these advancements are remarkable, they are only the beginning. Due to ongoing technological improvements, electric machinery will eventually be found in even bigger, more powerful agricultural vehicles (Walle et al., 2013).

Energy is a vital component in today's agricultural environment. Energy is a crucial productive element in agriculture. Agriculture utilizes energy both directly, in the form of electricity for running machinery and equipment, heating or cooling buildings, and lighting the farm, and indirectly, via the production of chemicals and fertilizers off-site. Electricity is a critical input required for sustainable agricultural expansion, particularly in terms of irrigation, as emphasized by Chindarkar, Chen, and Sathe (2017). Some regions of the globe have continued to provide substantial subsidies for the delivery of electricity.

It is simpler to irrigate vast amounts of land when pumps and tube wells are powered by electricity. By irrigating a vast number of areas in a relatively short amount of time, electricity helps save time. Electric harvesters have shown to make agricultural harvesting simpler. It contributes to increasing cultivation and yield production in agriculture. Requiring little physical labor, drawing water from wells is possible. Pumps powered by AC or DC energy are widely used and come in a wide range of real electrical sources. Their output may be expanded flexibly to large-scale applications, with a starting point of 0.5 horsepower (Cook, 2012). Provided that they are used within the specified input power range, electric pumps are often very efficient and need little

maintenance. Modern farming uses a huge quantity of power for a variety of purposes, from very basic operations to intricate occupations seen in major industrial companies. Applications include the conditioning and storing of grass and grain, the preparation and rationing of animal feed, and the establishment of a regulated environment in greenhouses for crops and stock-raising structures for intensive pig and poultry rearing. The dairy sector likewise depends heavily on electricity. Routine operations including milking, refrigeration, and feed rationing need electricity. All these operations are automatically controllable using electricity. Additionally, computers are being used more and more to assist with farm management tasks and to operate automated machinery. Harvesting grain used to take months, but it may now be completed in a few short days (Ondari, 2010). Electrically powered fans and the more popular electrical heater may also be used to dry the grain to the precise moisture content needed for storage.

2.5.3 Healthcare Services

Every day, medical staff at remote clinics must overcome several obstacles. Providing essential basic health services to the rural population may be severely hampered by a shortage of skilled medical personnel, supplies, and medication, as well as by an unstable or nonexistent electricity source. Vaccines, blood, and other medications may be wasted if the cold chain is broken when supplies arrive. Most medical procedures may only be performed during the daylight without adequate electric lighting, and for nighttime emergency operations, torches or low kerosene lamps may be the sole source of illumination. Energy is usually needed for heating and pumping in addition to the supply of water (Ondari, 2010). Health facilities need thermal energy for sterilization, heating, and cooking in addition to electricity. The majority of the fuel used to meet this need is burned directly, such as gas, kerosene, diesel, or biomass. Due to the emission of particulate matter, black carbon, and CO₂, as well as fire threats, the extensive use of fossil fuels such as kerosene for lighting, diesel for power production, and biomass in inefficient cookstoves poses extra risks to staff, patients, and the environment (Lenz et al. 2017). Some of the difficulties involved in running a health institution in a developing country may be lessened by choosing suitable, sustainable energy sources and putting in place measures for energy efficiency.

Health care is a fundamental social function that must be provided, and the personnel and equipment of health centers depend greatly on reliable access and transportation. The distance and time are the biggest obstacles to rural communities'

access to healthcare services. Getting to health clinics takes time. It takes too long and is too far for many rural communities without access to roads or other forms of transportation to get to health facilities. An important consideration in the adoption of obstetric, and particularly delivery, services is location. Long distances definitely make it more difficult to get emergency delivery. According to a Zimbabwean research, the lack of emergency transport may be the reason for up to 50% of maternal fatalities due to bleeding (Ensor & Cooper, 2004).

In three ways, road connectivity makes it easier to provide healthcare in remote locations. First off, the health centers are more easily accessible to the nearby community. Second, it is simpler for mobile healthcare providers to enter the communities. Thirdly, road connectivity facilitates the staffing and supply of rural healthcare institutions, increasing the sustainability of healthcare services (Downing & Sethi, 2001). Following the improvement of rural roads, healthcare facilities saw a rise in both the number of patients using their services and the frequency of those visits. Following the improvement of the road networks, the proportion of rural population using health care services almost quadrupled (World Bank, 1996).

2.5.4 Education

Although it might be difficult to get education in areas without roads or with poor road conditions, education is seen to be a key instrument in the fight against poverty. It may also be exceedingly challenging to get education when there are huge distances to go or ineffective transit options. Additionally, it is a typical occurrence for students from underdeveloped nations to have to board in some cities or walk to school. In rural regions, there is a high school dropout rate as a result of these challenges. Another factor contributing to the rising dropout rate is financial constraint as well as the burden of the home and farm. For instance, compared to villages with road connectivity, Laotian communities without connection to the outside world had lower attendance rates and per capita spending on education (Warr, 2006).

Compared to elementary schools, secondary schools had a greater growth in enrollment. This was due to the fact that elementary schools were often located nearer to rural areas than high institutions. While going to elementary school often involves short walks (sometimes without using the road), going to secondary school might need walking for up to several hours or using motorized cars or intermediate forms of transportation to go along the road. The idea of sending kids to secondary school started

to seem more appealing and beneficial as road travel grew more convenient, affordable, and dependable. The study's second noteworthy finding is that, after road infrastructure improvements, the rise in female enrollment was noticeably larger than the increase in boy enrollment (Khandker et al., 2006). Additionally, it is discovered that after the upgrades to the road networks, there was an improvement in the quality of instruction in the rural primary schools due to a rise in the hiring of skilled teachers and a decline in teacher and student absenteeism (World Bank, 1996).

One of the Millennium Goals is to ensure that everyone has access to education. The accomplishment of these goals may be impacted by the energy sources that families utilize. Following the electrification of rural regions, significant social advancements occurred, including the establishment of new hospitals and a growth in health centers, as well as an increase in educational facilities with illumination and night courses. At first, the majority of elementary schools run without power, but as more computers are used quickly, this might quickly change. In conclusion, it seems that secondary schools, information, and healthcare are the areas where electricity is most crucial (Lenz et al. 2017). Additionally, studies show that kids who live in homes with electricity make use of it by doing their schoolwork at night and in the evening.

2.5.5 Job Opportunity

Jobs are created by infrastructure. Both direct and indirect effects were felt on employment. By 2.8%, the percentage of household members with paid occupations rose in response to access to rural roads. In rural locations, the effects were greatest for women (+2.6%) and young people (+7.5%). Research revealed that the construction of rural roads led to a rise in agricultural activity among 80% of the population. There were no discernible changes in any other jobs. The number of persons in the home who are working age has increased, which has significantly increased the household income. This was explained by giving them access to new job options in nearby communities (Asher and Novosad, 2018).

An estimated 1.1 million people work directly in agriculture on farms that use irrigation equipment with rural electrical connections. 983,829 people are employed by the 63,220 rural electricity-using companies at the moment. On average, electrified industries create 11 times as many jobs as non-electrified sectors. 848,630 people are employed by rural and wholesale businesses that use rural power (Cook, 2012). The electrified households exhibit a lower unemployment rate, a higher share of non-

agricultural employment suggests that electricity has a modernizing effect on occupation, and women in these households engage in more household level income-generating activities and better re-allocate their time for remunerative employment than those in non-electrified households. Moreover, there has been a significant knock-on impact of rural electrification on jobs in a range of support services (Lenz et al. 2017).

It is possible that electricity may change the job landscape in rural areas. This is due to the fact that it encourages the establishment of new enterprises that provide work opportunities outside the home.⁸ However, in addition to this, the manufacturing of new products and services for the market that is made feasible by electricity may directly contribute to the development of employment inside families. For instance, it is now simpler to prepare and store food for bigger gatherings, and it is also feasible to run tiny equipment in order to offer market services (for example, hair dryers, mobile phone charging stations, and the manufacture of local crafts). Consequently, even in the absence of company development, the electrification of homes has the potential to release labor demand that has not been used up to this point and to stimulate market activity (Sovacool et al., 2013).

Substitution and endowment effects influence a household's choice to provide time to the market and for domestic production in various ways once electricity is available. A family is encouraged to shift time from producing clothes to preparing meals when the marginal product of that time is greater (Lenz et al. 2017).

Village non-agricultural employment increased significantly as a result of electrification. Electrification of rural areas offers a major chance for job generation and rural development. According to Abul Barkat et al. (2002), electrification initiatives in rural areas have the potential to increase employment for rural communities by 6% to 10%. However, there are more advantages, especially for women. One major way to cut down on domestic chores is to have access to power. Time saved may be put to better use in a variety of fields, including farming and other non-agricultural enterprises, where it can boost earnings and empower women.

2.6 Review on Previous Studies

The approach for reducing poverty in South Africa after apartheid was examined by Ramnath L. in 2015. To combat poverty and inequality, South Africa's post-apartheid government has implemented a number of poverty reduction initiatives. These tactics haven't worked very well, however. The government has invested billions of rands in

efforts to combat poverty, but its results have been patchy at best. Despite the implementation of many policies aimed at reducing poverty, over 50% of the population remains impoverished and the nation has some of the highest levels of inequality globally, even after 21 years of new government (World Bank, 2014b). This research examined, from a qualitative rather than a quantitative standpoint, the efficacy of poverty reduction methods used since 1994. Strategies to reduce poverty would need to address the underlying causes of poverty, which include unemployment, a lack of education and marketable skills, and poor health.

Tanzanian and Ethiopian approaches to reducing poverty were assessed by Montanio K. (2017). The study's main concerns were whether or not assistance programs have an influence on the environment, which might affect how successful aid policies are, and whether or not there is a poverty trap—a situation in which families are permanently locked in low-income situations. The goal of the research was to improve our capacity to help impoverished communities as best we can, taking into account the underlying causes of their circumstances. According to the research, Tanzania's Conditional Cash Transfer program has unintentionally raised demand for marine products and the number of families who depend on fishing as a source of income, which has a knock-on effect on the fisheries industry. If left unchecked, this overflow may put more strain on the fisheries, lowering its future welfare. The work offered a theoretical model of a poverty trap with several equilibria, wherein The research that was done to figure out how much help would be best to provide those who are trapped in poverty. The research discovered that the major consideration should be the cost of help rather than the degree of poverty. It also discovered that underproviding aid may have serious consequences and lead to an aid trap, in which the cost of aid is high but the level of poverty is not much affected. Finally, we provide a novel empirical approach to poverty trap detection and apply it to herd data on Ethiopian Boran Pastoralists, where poverty traps have already been found before. Nevertheless, our approaches did not reveal any evidence of poverty traps in the research.

The impact of social welfare programs on reducing poverty and economic disparity in China was studied by Lu et al. (2013). This research investigated the impact of social welfare programs on poverty and income inequality in China between 1989 and 2009 using the China Health and Nutrition Surveys. The results show that social welfare programs have contributed significantly to the decline of poverty, with rates of poverty having decreased by around 32%. On the other hand, the consequences on income

inequality were the opposite. For instance, the top to bottom income quintile ratio increased after government payments, indicating that higher income households benefited more from the programs than did lower income families. Over time, there was a rise in the disparities across income quintiles and regions.

By analyzing the sectors to reduce poverty, Kyaw Soe (2014) investigated the effects of government-implemented poverty reduction programs in the Yangon Region, with a focus on infrastructure, energy provision, production, distribution products, training for capacity building, microfinance, job creation, agriculture, livestock, and rural socioeconomic development. The report suggested that, in order to attain relevant aims properly and efficiently, the government should place a high priority on fostering opportunity, enabling empowerment, and strengthening security in each area. The government's present success is unclear in terms of long-term sustainability, community involvement, visibility, programming, targeting, and publicity.

2014 saw Htun Htun Oo conduct research on the effects of a UNDP-funded integrated community development project (Case Study: Myanmar). The research discussed how community involvement plays a factor in development initiatives aimed at reducing poverty. Not only are the objectives being met, but the village's level of community engagement is also being met. In order to ensure the project's success, he recommended expanding the network as a public group approach and creating corporations amongst various civil societies with plans for continuing to promote the programs' efficacy and efficiency toward the target groups.

Nwe Ni Myint (2017) conducted a case study in Rakhine State, Myanmar, to examine the impact of poverty reduction and rural development programs on program implementation. The survey discovered that while Rakhine people have the highest unemployment rate among working-age individuals, they still rely mostly on traditional carrier development for their revenue. Even though this sector has seen a number of improvements, poverty-related problems such as intercommunal strife, instability, and natural catastrophes persisted. As a result, she recommended that programs be implemented with an eye toward meeting the needs and desires of communities in real life, with rigorous monitoring and assessment review processes in place for each sector.

CHAPTER (III)

OVERVIEW ON EAST-ASIA POVERTY REDUCTION COOPERATION PILOT PROJECT IN MYANMAR

3.1 Background of Project

The efforts in Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia are part of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project, which was initiated by Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang at the 17th ASEAN plus China, Japan, and ROK (APT) Summit. The project is comprised of the activities in these three countries. The purpose of this project is to improve cooperation and exchange in poverty reduction and rural development between China and Myanmar. This will be accomplished via the execution of poverty alleviation measures in two rural villages in Nay Pyi Taw. The project also aims to impart China's successful experiences in decreasing poverty.

Yunnan International Poverty Reduction and Development Center is the Chinese organization that is responsible for the execution of the initiative, which is known as the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot initiative. The institution that is in charge of carrying out the project in Myanmar is the Department of Rural Development, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation of Myanmar. The site of the project is located in Min Pyin Village, which is located in Lewe Township, and Aye Chan Thar Village, which is located in Tatkone Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Between January 23, 2018, and January 22, 2021, the project was carried out according to the schedule.

3.1.1 General Objective

The project's main goal is to carry out the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Initiative, which was put out by the Chinese government. It also aims to promote cooperation and exchange in poverty reduction, which will help to reduce poverty and improve people's quality of life.

3.1.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the project are:

- (a) Highlighting China's effective experience with targeted poverty reduction, including government-guided, public-participation-based programs that include integrated village development.
- (b) Implementing targeted measures to address issues and address the needs of the communities in the project area.
- (c) Implementing community poverty reduction initiatives to improve the living and production conditions of the community and strengthen its capacity for development.
- (d) Looking into diversified income channels for the community, particularly for low-income households and
- (e) Offering models for East Asian countries.

3.1.3 Project Objectives and Approaches

(a) Objective I

"To improve the villagers' accessibility to basic facilities and infrastructure as well as public services" is the first objective. This was achieved through:

- Enhancement of small-scale public works by building riverbanks, irrigating and draining land, providing drinking water, electrifying homes and public spaces, building intra-village roads, and renovating village markets: and
- Building schools, clinics, community development centers, and sports and cultural facilities will improve access to public services.

(b) Objective II

"To promote income generation and disseminate agricultural technology tailored to local conditions" is the project's second objective. This also was achieved through:

- Increasing agricultural output by having access to useful technology and technical support services;
- Enhanced production of animals by presenting and showcasing the feeding and vaccination regimen for livestock breeding;
- Extending agricultural technologies and animal breeding services to communities in response to their needs;
- Availability of high-quality animal husbandry species, superior crop variety seeds, and agricultural inputs;

- The facilitation of market connections, access, and integration of impoverished rural communities into value chains;
- establishing cooperatives for small-scale agricultural machines, bamboo handicrafts, and weaving, as well as offering technical assistance and associated equipment;
- Through local and international study trips, agricultural productivity best practices are shared and information is exchanged.

(c) Objective III

"To promote environmental protection demonstration" is the third objective. In order to do this, the project was designed to guarantee environmental enhancement via:

- implementing a solid waste management system in each community;
- supplying trash cans, waste carts, and locations for treating solid waste; and
- Increasing community knowledge of climate change adaptation and environmental protection throughout the village development planning process.

(d) Objective IV

The fourth objective is to "train local villagers, associations, and residents, assist village-level organizations in strengthening their capacity for self-management and self-governance, and develop the capacity of government employees.". The main activities for achieving Objective IV are:

- Forming M&E community management groups; forming cooperatives for agricultural machinery, weaving, and bamboo crafts;
- providing people with hands-on training in skills and livelihood to generate revenue;
- Enhancing the capabilities of project personnel, technicians, and extension organizations; and
- provide technical support for data collection, analysis, and program management.

(e) Objective V

"To share information and experiences on poverty reduction through study tours, exchange visits, and seminars" is the purpose of Objective V. This objective was achieved through:

- Holding a seminar to exchange experiences;
- Chinese Central and Provincial level advisory visit;

- Visits to different nations for mutual learning;
- Conducting study visits both domestically and abroad with project personnel and community members

3.2 Project Components

The project consists of five main parts: Part 1 is the development of rural infrastructure; Part 2 is the creation of rural public service facilities; Part 3 is the project to enhance rural livelihoods; Part 4 is the capacity building; and Part 5 is the technical assistance. The explanations of each part are provided below:

3.2.1 Component 1: Rural Infrastructure Development

Sub-projects for flood control, irrigation and drainage, rural drinking water, power supply, rural roads, bridges, and small farm product fairs were conceived and developed as part of the project to enhance the infrastructure in pilot villages based on the requirements and needs of the community. This project was mostly investigated and created by the Chinese, using local styles as a guide but according to Chinese norms. Local design institutes could be tasked with designing a few little side projects. To guarantee quality, progress, procurement contract fulfillment, and investment plan management, construction sub-projects were overseen.

3.2.2 Component 2: Rural Public Service Facility Development

Supporting facilities for primary schools and rural clinics were constructed as part of the project, along with village-level activity and training centers, village cultural facilities, and facilities for improving the rural environment (such as waste treatment).

3.2.3 Component 3: Rural Livelihood Improvement Project

Through community-participated procurement and execution, the initiative will help pilot villages in developing breeding, planting, courtyard economy, micromachining, and rural tourism.

3.2.4 Component 4: Capacity Building

The competencies of all main players were developed. The activities scheduled for capacity development mostly include:

- Development of farmer organizations: assisting pilot communities in the establishment of various types of farmer organizations, including farmer water user associations.
- Skill training: coordinating farmers, particularly impoverished families in pilot villages, to undergo fundamental instruction in agriculture, livestock management, and migratory labor.
- Training for managerial personnel: facilitating skill development for managerial staff and pertinent departments in recipient nations to enhance the management of poverty alleviation efforts.
- International training: coordinating pertinent professionals from recipient countries to visit relevant Chinese regions for training and participation in exchange activities focused on 'integrated village development.' poverty alleviation and focused poverty alleviation.
- International field visit: coordinating individuals from recipient nations to explore impoverished regions in China to examine the methodologies and practices of 'integrated village development' and targeted poverty alleviation.
- Evaluating and analyzing the execution and impact of a poverty alleviation cooperation pilot project in six designated communities, along with conducting a baseline inquiry and yearly monitoring and evaluation.

3.2.5 Component 5: Technical Support

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Project's technical assistance mostly consists :

- Technical assistance from the Chinese specialists: the project's implementation agency assembled a team of experts in the recipient nations to provide on-the-ground supervision. The team received assessment, direction, skill development, project implementation oversight, and consultation throughout the implementation phase. When technical assistance was required, the project sent temporary specialists to the pilot communities.
- Project discussion and exchange workshop: To promote and exchange ideas about the experience and accomplishments of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project and expand its influence, the management and implementation agencies of the project organized a discussion and exchange workshop during the implementation period. They also organized a summing-up seminar at the end of the project.

- Production of instructional materials: To support the promotion of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project, the project's management and implementation agencies created training guides, manuals, and films.
- Monitoring and evaluation: The six pilot villages throughout the three nations served as the basis for the monitoring and evaluation process. Based on the monitor and evaluation, reports for the yearly assessment, performance assessment, and baseline investigation were created. In order to enhance management, the IPRCC assembled specialists to analyze and build the MIS and apply it to the project's investment strategy, procurement plan, and reimbursement.
- Project management, supervision, and examination: To guarantee the successful completion of this project, the IPRCC carried out coordination, examination, supervision, and guidance projects on an annual basis. Additionally, the project was examined sporadically by the MOFCOM.

3.3 Implementation of Project

The following criteria are used in the selection of villages, along with conversations with locals in the states/regions in question and relevant organizations.

- i. The impoverished villages;
- ii. The village has the ability to earn more money through the project component;
- iii. The village needs to have at least 80 households;
- iv. The village must be able to implement livestock farming (possibility of doing livestock farming with own capacity);
- v. Law and order administration (free from illegal alcohol, gambling, and drug use).

In spite of this, future project coverage extensions will also include priority villages that have been designated by the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation of Myanmar. These villages will be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation of Myanmar, which will be responsible for determining which villages truly require development support.

There were three villages in Myanmar that were chosen to participate in the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project. These villages were Aye Chan Thar Village in Tatkone Township, Nay Pyi Taw, and Min Pyin Village in Lewe Township.

The project has developed and implemented a wide variety of comprehensive poverty reduction support activities, including those linked to rural infrastructure, public services, livelihood development, and household capacity building. These efforts have been put into effect.

3.3.1 Rural Infrastructure Development

Drinking water, public lighting, road maintenance, river bank protection, and rural home power supply are some of the efforts that have been put into place in Myanmar's rural regions in order to drastically improve the basic living conditions of the people who live there. Table (3.1) provides an overview of the rural infrastructure development projects that were carried out in Myanmar as part of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project.

Table (3.1) Rural Infrastructure Development by the Project

Activity	Aye Chan Thar		Min Pyin		Total	
	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)
Project related to drinking water (Nos)	2	295.068	2	198.149	4	493.217
Solar electrification (Nos)	40	20.24	80	40.48	120	60.72
Grid Extension (Mile)	3.99	173.00	4.53	214.99	8.52	387.99
Road Repair (Mile)	1.22	290.032	2.42	638.655	3.64	928.687
Bridge Repair (Nos)	24	12.743	12	35.490	36	48.233
River Bank Protection (Mile)	0.08	2.900	0.24	124.926	0.32	127.826
Total		793.983		1252.690		2046.673

Source: DRD (2021)

According to Table (3.1), the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural infrastructure development related to drinking water cost about 493.217 million kyats including 2 projects: valued 295.068 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 198.149 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. Before the project, the

villages took drinking water directly from dug water wells and river water. The project implemented the installation of two tube wells and water purification systems in each village for safe drinking water for people. Additionally, the drinking water to families initiative has made tap water available to every family in the hamlet. Prior to the project, the communities used wood and oil for cooking and heating, as well as candles, oil lamps, and natural light for lighting. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented solar electrification cost about 60.72 million kyats including 120 solar lights: valued 20.24 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 40.48 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project also implemented grid extension about 8.52 miles cost about 387.99 million kyats: 3.99 mile valued 295.068 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 4.53 mile valued 198.149 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. Roads provide a convenient and fast mode of transportation, connecting remote and rural areas to urban areas. Before the project, the villages connected to nearest towns with soil roads thus the travel time was very long. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented road repair from soil types to concrete type about 3.64 miles cost about 928.687 million kyats: 1.22 mile valued 295.068 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 2.42 miles valued 198.149 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project repaired 36 bridges cost about 48.233 million kyats: 24 bridges valued 12.743 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 36 bridges valued 35.490 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented river banking protection about 0.32 miles cost about 127.826 million kyats: 0.08 mile valued 2.9 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 0.24 miles valued 124.926 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. In total, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural infrastructure development in Myanmar cost about 2046.673 million kyats including 793.983 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 1252.690 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The cost for two villages were differed from each other according to their distance from the nearest town.

3.3.2 Rural Public Services Development

In Myanmar, the project built school buildings and playgrounds to improve teaching facilities, new community centers, clinics and sports grounds, and properly disposed public waste to improve the environment of the village. Table (3.2) shows the

rural public services development implemented by the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar.

Table (3.2) Rural Public Services Development by the Project

Activity	Aye Chan Thar		Min Pyin		Total	
	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)
Community Centers	1	97.076	1	102.592	2	199.668
School Buildings	5	189.479	1	185.995	6	375.474
Library Buildings	1	30.09	-	-	1	30.09
School Playground	1	2.07	1	7.217	2	9.287
Village Sport Ground	1	8.864	-	-	1	8.864
Rural Clinics	1	33.350	-	-	1	33.350
Public Waste Management Facilities	1	7.258	1	7.689	2	14.947
Total		368.187		303.493		671.68

Source: DRD (2021)

Table (3.2) shows that the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project spent approximately 199.668 million kyats on two community centers that were built to provide rural public services development. The community centers were valued at 97.076 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 102.952 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. People of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds may meet, connect, and engage with one another in a neutral setting in community centers. These kinds of relationships are critical to the welfare of the individual and the group. Additionally, six school buildings totaling around 375.474 million kyats were constructed by the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project. Five of the structures are located in Aye Chan Thar Village and are valued at 189.479 million and 185.995 million, respectively. Before the initiative, schools lacked adequate facilities, thus pupils were housed in dilapidated structures. In Aye Chan Thar Village, one library building was constructed under the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project at a cost of around 30.09 million kyats. Two school playgrounds were built under the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project at a cost of around 9.287 million kyats: 2.07 million

in Aye Chan Thar Village and 7.217 million in Min Pyin Village. In Aye Chan Thar Village, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project established a single village sports field worth 8.864 million kyats. In Aye Chan Thar Village, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project established a single rural clinic at a cost of around 33.350 million kyats. Waste management facilities were installed under the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project at a cost of around 14.947 million kyats, or 7.258 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 7.689 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The implementation of rural public services development in Myanmar under the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project came at a total cost of about 671.68 million kyats, including 368.187 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 303.493 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. In Min Pyin Village, a rural clinic, a village sports field, and a library have already been established. Good public services are necessary for rural economies to flourish. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project made high-quality rural public services development in the areas of waste management, public transportation, sport utilities, health, and education available.

3.3.3 Rural Livelihood Development

The Myanmar initiative showcased the production of high-yield crops including rice, sesame, peanuts, mung beans, and sunflower while promoting animal farming techniques like raising free-range hens and rearing pigs. In addition, the initiative assisted in establishing plant nurseries on undeveloped land and encouraged participation in courtyard economy activities by over 130 families. The expansion of rural public services carried out in Myanmar by the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is shown in Table (3.3).

Table (3.3) Rural Livelihood Development by the Project

Activity	Aye Chan Thar		Min Pyin		Total	
	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)
Home Garden Facilities Input (Households)	76	4.037	30	2.315	106	6.352
Cultivation of High Yield Crops (Acre)	43	5.831	395	6.111	438	11.942

Demonstration of Farming Technologies (Frequency)	1	23.760	2	1.2	3	24.960
Total		33.628		9.626		43.254

Source: DRD (2021)

According to Table (3.2), the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural livelihood development through home garden facilities input about 6.352 million kyats: 76 households valued 4.037 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 30 households valued 2.315 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project also implemented cultivation of high yield crops about 438 acres cost 11.942 million kyats: 43 acre valued 5.831 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 395 acre valued 6.111 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project demonstrated farming technologies about 3 time cost 24.960 million kyats: one time valued 23.670 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and two times valued 1.2 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. In total, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural livelihood development in Myanmar cost about 43.254 million kyats including 33.628 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 9.626 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Project helped the villagers develop sustainable industries based on local conditions, and enabled them to increase income

3.3.4 Capacity Building

Training workshops on planting, breeding, and handicraft technologies were offered by the Myanmar project, along with lessons on project management, tendering, and financial management. It arranged trips to China for training. Additionally, it organized villagers to collaborate in creating the cooperative articles of association, established cooperatives for bamboo weaving and textiles, and improved the management of agricultural output.

Table (3.4) Capacity Building by the Project

Activity	Aye Chan Thar		Min Pyin		Total	
	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)	Number	Value (Kyat Million)

Workshop on Weaving Industry	1	17.500	-	-	1	17.500
Workshop on Handcraft	-	-	1	5.517	1	5.517
Handcraft Training	-	-	1	0.922	1	0.922
Training on Planting	9	0.322	3	0.213	12	0.535
Training on Farming	4	1.300	2	0.375	6	1.675
Tours to China	1	3.105	1	3.105	2	6.210
Total		22.227		10.132		32.359

Source: DRD (2021)

Table (3.4) shows that the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Aye Chan Thar Village spent around 17.5 million kyats on capacity development workshops related to the weaving sector. The workshop on handcrafts that was done in Min Pyin Village as part of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project cost around 5.517 million kyats. In Aye Chan Thar Village, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project conducted a handicraft training program that cost over 0.922 million kyats. Aye Chan Thar Village received 0.322 million kyats from the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project, while Min Pyin Village received 0.213 million kyats. A total of 0.535 million kyats were spent on planting trainings. Six agricultural trainings worth 1.675 million kyats were conducted as part of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project: 1.3 million kyats in Aye Chan Thar Village and 0.375 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. Two training trips to China were arranged by the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project at a cost of around 6.21 million kyats. The capacity development project carried out by the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar cost around 32.359 million kyats in total, of which 22.227 million kyats were spent in Aye Chan Thar Village and 10.132 million kyats in Min Pyin Village. Through research tours, training excursions to China, and management and skill-building workshops, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project assisted the villages in strengthening their capacity for self-development.

CHAPTER (IV)

ANALYSIS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EAST-ASIA POVERTY REDUCTION COOPERATION PILOT PROJECT IN MYANMAR

4.1 Profile of Study Area

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project was carried out in Tatkone Township's Aye Chan Thar Village and Lewe Township's Min Pyin Village in Myanmar.

4.1.1 Profile of Min Pyin Village

Lewe Township is 20 km to the west of Min Pyin Village. The 3,037 residents of Min Pyin Village are made up of 1473 men and 1564 women. Min Pyin Village has around 1670 inhabitants who are of working age. Approximately 400 residents are employed as migrant laborers outside of their community. In the neighboring capital, as well as in towns and cities including Mandalay, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, and Laukkai Townships, over 300 of them are employed. There are around ninety-five migrant laborers employed abroad, mostly in China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore. There are 655 households in all, and almost half of them are impoverished.

There are 1043.05 acres of land available for agriculture out of the approximately 69.50 acres that make up the settlement. The paddy field has 618.7 acres in total size. 24 feet wide and 590 feet long is the length of the village's current hardened country road. It's the kind of dirt road. In the settlement, there are six lanes. Although there is a dirt road leading to the settlement, it is only passable during the summer or dry season. To make the dirt road useable throughout the year, it has to be expanded by an additional 5.5 kilometers. Within the settlement, there is another asphalt road that stretches fifteen kilometers and one furlong. The settlement is reachable by train, at the top of the village is the railway station. There are eight trains that run every day (four up and four down). The railway is in quite good working order.

There is a single, 100 square foot rural health facility. It is made up of one clinic building and one two-unit staff residence building. In the community, there are two medical professionals: a health supervisor and a midwife. There are 17 monks overall at the village's one monastery. The town lacks a community development center and a center for culture and recreation. The community has one football field that is one acre in

size. A facility for treating waste does not exist. Although there isn't a designated location for disposing of rubbish, the people throw their trash into the stream. Some homes incinerate their waste. There isn't a public restroom in the community. The hamlet is home to a single government school, called Basic Education High School (Sub) Min Pyin. approximately 120 people pass the matriculation test, and approximately 37 villagers have graduated from universities. Over 750 villagers have completed middle school, and approximately 280 have completed high school or vocational training. More than a hundred villages lack literacy.

4.1.2 Profile of Aye Chan Thar Village

Tatkone Township is four kilometers to the northwest of Aye Chan Thar Village. There are 1,436 women and 1,338 men among the 2,774 people living in Aye Chan Thar Village. At the time of collecting baseline data, there were 1855 working-age villagers (18 to 60 years old). Approximately 170 residents labor outside of their community. Approximately 25% of the village's 627 homes are impoverished.

Aye Chan Thar Village has 240.73 acres of land altogether. There are around 50 acres of paddy fields and 75 acres of total agricultural land. The village's principal thoroughfare is a 3,700-foot-long, 50-foot-wide dirt road. Thirteen streets/lanes and three more major routes make up the village. It is possible to drive to the settlement. The road continues to the Tatkone Township link road, which continues to the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

The community lacks a clinic or health facility. The community does not have any designated medical personnel. In the hamlet, there are four monasteries housing nine Buddhist monks. Furthermore, there isn't a community entertainment and cultural center. There isn't a village development center at the moment, but there is a 40' by 32' structure next to the main road that served as a meeting place for officials when the residents were first relocated to this hamlet. The 100 square foot hall and surrounding complex will be rebuilt as a community development center.)

The residents of the village utilize one field as a playground. But there aren't any of the amenities seen on a typical football field, such bleachers, goal nets, etc. The community doesn't have any additional sporting facilities. There's no designated spot for getting rid of trash. Waste management is a task that each household handles alone. The people generally dispose of their rubbish by burning it and throwing it over the edge of the graveyard. The hamlet does not have a methodical trash disposal system. At least

once a year, the village administrative body requests that the people clean up the area around their homes. The community does not have any public restrooms. Two school buildings are located inside the school grounds, and there is one school in the hamlet. In the community, there are around 80 university grads (ten master's and 70 bachelor's degree holders). Approximately 420 of the inhabitants have completed high school or a similar educational program. More than eighty villagers have completed middle school. approximately 37 of the people are illiterate, and approximately 50 of them received their education in monasteries rather than secular schools.

4.2 Survey Profile

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in Myanmar was examined in this research. In this research, primary and secondary data were employed to accomplish the goals. In order to gather primary data, a simple random sampling method was used to select 150 households out of the total 1282 households in the two pilot villages where the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is being implemented. These households were then asked a series of questions designed to investigate the efficacy of the project. April 2024 was the study's conducted month. The secondary data came from a variety of sources, including published and unpublished departmental reports, thesis papers, journals, and pertinent websites, as well as associated departments within the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The questionnaire is divided into three sections: Section A covers respondent characteristics, while Section B details the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project's operations. The advantages of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project are discussed in Section (C). Five points were used in the creation of the survey questionnaire. Likert Scale: 1 for strongly disagreeing, 2 for disagreeing, 3 for neutral, 4 for agreeing, and 5 for strongly agreeing. Descriptive statistics were used to tabulate, evaluate, and interpret the collected data in light of the study's goal.

4.3 Characteristics of Respondents

The general socio-economic characteristics of 150 respondents are presented in this section. This includes village, gender, age, educational status, marital status, occupational status, income per month, household income per month and number of household members.

Table (4.1) Characteristics of Respondents

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Number	Percent
1	Number of Respondents by Village		
	Min Pyin	80	53.33
	Aye Chan Thar	70	46.67
2	Gender		
	Male	86	57.33
	Female	64	42.67
3	Age (Years)		
	≤30	21	14.00
	31-40	36	24.00
	41-50	41	27.33
	51-60	32	21.33
	>60	20	13.34
4	Educational Status		
	Primary School Level	49	32.67
	Middle School Level	36	24.00
	High School Level	28	18.67
	University Level	21	14.00
	Graduated	16	10.66
5	Marital Status		
	Single	26	17.33
	Married	108	72.00
	Divorce	4	2.67
	Widow	12	8.00
6	Occupational Status		
	Self-employed	36	24.00
	Government Staff	8	5.33
	Company Staff	14	9.33
	Dependent	18	12.00
	Farming	63	42.00
	Others	11	7.34

7	Income Per Month (Kyat)		
	<100,000	9	6.00
	100,000-200,000	76	50.67
	200,000-300,000	21	14.00
	300,000-400,000	26	17.33
	400,000-500,000	11	7.33
	>500,000	7	4.67
8	Household Income Per Month (Kyat)		
	<100,000	-	-
	100,000-200,000	18	12.00
	200,000-300,000	24	16.00
	300,000-400,000	68	45.33
	400,000-500,000	26	17.33
	>500,000	14	9.34
9	Household Members		
	1	4	2.67
	2	13	8.66
	3	46	30.67
	4	52	34.67
	5	22	14.67
	>5	13	8.66

Source: Survey Data (2024)

According to Table (4.1), 53.33% of the respondents are from Min Pyin Village of Lewe Township and 46.67% of the respondents are from Aye Chan Thar Village of Tatkone Township. Min Pyin Village has higher population than Aye Chan Thar Village, therefore, the respondents are more from Min Pyin Village. 57.33% of the respondents are males and 42.67% of the respondents are females. The results indicating that approximately equal gender distribution in this study.

The ages of the respondents are categorized into five groups: ≤ 30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years and >60 years. 14% of the respondents are younger than 30 years of age, 24% of the respondents aged between 31 and 40 years, 27.33% of respondents aged between 41 and 50 years, 21.33% of respondents aged between 51 and

60 years and 13.34% of respondents are older than 60 years of age. The results show that most of the respondents are age between 31 and 60 years of age.

According to the results, 32.67% of the respondents had primary school level education, 24% of the respondents had middle school level education, 18.67% of the respondents had high school level education and 14% of the respondents had university level education. Only 10.66% of the respondents are graduated. The results show that most of the respondents had lower than high school level education. 17.33% of the respondents are singles, 72% of the respondents are married persons, 2.67% of the respondents are divorced persons and 8% of the respondents are widows. The results show that most of the respondents are married.

According to Table (4.1), 24% of the respondents are self-employed, 5.33% of the respondents are government staffs, 9.33% of the respondents are company staffs, 12% of the respondents are dependents, 42% of the respondents are farmers and 7.34% of the respondents are odd-job men. The results show that most of the respondents are farmers and self-employed. 6% of the respondents has monthly income less than 100000 kyats, 50.67% of the respondents has monthly income between 100000 and 200000 kyats, 14% of the respondents has monthly income between 200000 and 300000 kyats, 17.33% of the respondents has monthly income between 300000 and 400000 kyats, 7.33% of the respondents has monthly income between 400000 and 500000 kyats, and 4.67% of the respondents has monthly income more than 500000 kyats. Results show that most of the respondents have monthly income less than 200000 kyats.

According to results, 12% of the respondents has monthly household income between 100000 and 200000 kyats, 16% of the respondents has monthly household income between 200000 and 300000 kyats, 45.33% of the respondents has monthly household income between 300000 and 400000 kyats, 17.33% of the respondents has monthly household income between 400000 and 500000 kyats, and 9.34% of the respondents has monthly household income more than 500000 kyats. Results show that most of the respondents have monthly income less than 400000 kyats. 2.67% of the respondents has only one household member, 8.66% of the respondents has two household members, 30.67% of the respondents has three household members, 34.67% of the respondents has four household members, 14.67% of the respondents has five household members, and 8.66% of the respondents has more than five household members. Results show that most of the respondents have more than three household members.

4.4 Activities of East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project

The East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project's activities include developing rural public services facilities, rural infrastructure, improving rural livelihoods, and enhancing locals' ability.

4.4.1 Rural Infrastructure Development

Table (4.2) describes the perception of people on the rural infrastructure development implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project.

Table (4.2) Perception about Rural Infrastructure Development

(n=150)

Activity	Mean	SD
The village has accessed to clean drinking water from tube well implemented by the project.	4.56	0.64
The village has accessed to electricity through solar street light implemented by the project.	4.52	0.50
Road transport of the village has improved due to rural road construction implemented by the project.	4.37	0.49
The incidence of flood has been reduced after building river bank protection implemented by the project.	4.42	0.50
The rural electrification rate increased through the household power supply implemented by the project.	4.25	0.69
Overall Mean	4.42	0.56

Source: Survey Data (2024)

In order to significantly enhance rural basic living circumstances, initiatives pertaining to drinking water, public lighting, road maintenance, river bank protection, and rural home power supply have been conducted as part of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project. According to results, mean value of the statement that the village has accessed to clean drinking water from tube well implemented by the project is the highest (4.56), followed by the village has accessed to electricity through solar street light implemented by the project (4.52), the incidence of flood has been reduced after building river bank protection implemented by the project (4.42), road transport of the village has improved due to rural road construction implemented by the

project (4.37), and the rural electrification rate increased through the household power supply implemented by the project (4.25). Overall mean value for the rural infrastructure development implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.42) which mean that the respondents highly perceived that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural infrastructure development of their villages. Based on the findings, the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project was able to significantly enhance rural basic living circumstances by implementing clean drinking water projects, public lighting, protecting river banks, repairing roads, and providing home electricity.

4.4.2 Rural Public Service Facility Development

Table (4.3) describes the perception of people on the rural public service facility development implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project.

Table (4.3) Perception about Rural Public Service Facility Development

(n=150)

Activity	Mean	SD
The teaching facilities of the school have been improved because the project built school buildings and playground.	4.55	0.50
The project built the new community centers.	4.79	0.41
Healthcare services of the village have been improved through the rural clinics supported by the project.	3.51	1.22
The project supported the sport facilities to promote outdoor sports and physical activities.	3.46	1.27
The environment of the village has more clean and green through properly disposed public waste system implemented by the project.	4.73	0.45
Overall Mean	4.21	0.77

Source: Survey Data (2024)

To improve rural public services, the project helped build community activity centers, clinics, schools and other public service facilities. According to results, mean value of the statement that the project built the new community centers is the highest (4.79), followed by the environment of the village has more clean and green through properly disposed public waste system implemented by the project (4.73), the teaching

facilities of the school have been improved because the project built school buildings and playground (4.55), healthcare services of the village have been improved through the rural clinics supported by the project (3.51), and the project supported the sport facilities to promote outdoor sports and physical activities (3.46). Overall mean value for the rural public service facility development implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.21) which mean that the respondents highly perceived that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural public service facility development of their villages. The project built school buildings and playgrounds to improve teaching facilities, new community centers, clinics and sports grounds, and properly disposed public waste to improve the environment of the village. But the project not implemented the clinics, and village playground in Min Pyin Village, therefore, most of the respondents from Min Pyin Village did not agree the project’s activities on rural clinic and sport activities. The results show that the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented effectively on school buildings and playgrounds to improve teaching facilities, new community centers, clinics and sports grounds, and properly disposed public waste to improve the environment of the village.

4.4.3 Rural Livelihood Improvement Project

Table (4.4) describes the perception of people on the rural livelihood improvement project implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project.

Table (4.4) Perception about Rural Livelihood Improvement Project

(n=150)

Activity	Mean	SD
The project promoted the farming technologies of livestock such as <u>freerange chickens</u> and breeding pigs.	4.37	0.49
The project demonstrated the cultivation of high and stable yield crops such as rice, sesame, peanut, mung bean and sunflower.	4.71	0.45
The project helped set up plant nurseries on vacant grounds.	4.51	0.50
The project helped the households to engage in courtyard economy activities.	4.58	0.50
Overall Mean	4.54	0.49

Source: Survey Data (2024)

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Project gave the villagers the means to enhance their income by assisting them in creating sustainable enterprises tailored to their environment. The project assisted households in engaging in courtyard economy activities (4.58), helped establish plant nurseries on vacant land (4.51), and promoted livestock farming practices such as raising free-range chickens and breeding pigs (4.37), with the highest mean value among the results. The project demonstrated the cultivation of high and stable yield crops, such as rice, sesame, peanut, mung bean, and sunflower. The overall mean value for the project to improve rural livelihoods carried out by the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.54), indicating that the respondents strongly believed that the project improved their villages' rural livelihoods. The initiative showcased the production of high-yield crops including rice, sesame, peanuts, mung beans, and sunflower while promoting animal farming techniques like raising free-range hens and rearing pigs. In addition, the initiative assisted in establishing plant nurseries on undeveloped land and encouraged participation in courtyard economy activities by over 130 families. The findings demonstrate how well the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project promoted cattle farming techniques, high-yield crop cultivation, the establishment of plant nurseries on unoccupied land, and courtyard economy activities.

4.4.4 Capacity Building of Local People

Table (4.5) describes the perception of people on the capacity building activities of local people implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project.

Table (4.5) Perception about Capacity Building of Local People

(n=150)

Activity	Mean	SD
The international knowledge of the local people has been increased through tours arranged by the project.	4.08	0.66
New income generation and entrepreneurial opportunities have been improved through the training on planting, breeding and handcraft technologies, implemented by the project.	4.49	0.50
The project supported the financial management trainings to educate the villagers for financial activities.	3.63	0.97

The level of agricultural production organizations has been raised through the trainings of the project.	4.05	0.74
Overall Mean	4.06	0.72

Source: Survey Data (2024)

Through research tours, training excursions to China, and management and skill-building workshops, the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project assisted the villages in strengthening their capacity for self-development. According to results, mean value of the statement that new income generation and entrepreneurial opportunities have been improved through the training on planting, breeding and handcraft technologies, implemented by the project is the highest (4.49), followed by the international knowledge of the local people has been increased through tours arranged by the project (4.08), the level of agricultural production organizations has been raised through the trainings of the project (4.05) and the project supported the financial management trainings to educate the villagers for financial activities (3.63). Overall mean value for the capacity building of local people implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.06) which mean that the respondents highly perceived that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented capacity building of local people in their villages. In addition to offering instruction on planting, breeding, and handcraft techniques, the initiative also included project management, bidding, and financial management training. It arranged trips to China for training. Additionally, it organized villagers to collaborate in creating the cooperative articles of association, established cooperatives for bamboo weaving and textiles, and improved the management of agricultural output. The findings demonstrate that the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project successfully carried out training sessions on planting, breeding, and handicraft technologies in addition to project management, bidding, and finance management training sessions.

4.5 Perception about Benefits of East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project

There are many benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on socio-economic conditions, agriculture, health, education and job opportunity.

4.5.1 Socio-economic Conditions

Table (4.6) describes the perception of respondents about benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on socio-economic conditions.

Table (4.6) Benefits on Socio-Economic Conditions

(n=150)

Statement	Mean	SD
Family can have great entertainment by watching TV programs, internet service and other media apps all the time due to electrification by project.	4.51	0.50
After village has <u>been connected with electricity</u> by project, social activities are more performed any time.	4.36	0.48
The project improved the community welfare and livelihoods of people.	4.67	0.47
After the implementation of the project, there is increased in family income due to high entrepreneurial opportunities.	4.59	0.49
After implementation of the project, the living standard of village is high.	4.74	0.44
Overall Mean	4.57	0.48

Source: Survey Data (2024)

The statement that the village's living standard has increased after the project is implemented has the highest mean value (4.74), according to Table (4.6). This is followed by the statement that the project has improved community welfare and people's livelihoods (4.67); the statement that the project has increased family income due to high entrepreneurial opportunities (4.59); the statement that the family can enjoy great entertainment by watching TV programs, internet service, and other media apps all the time due to electrification by the project (4.51); and the statement that social activities are more frequently performed after the village has been connected with electricity (4.36). The overall mean value of the advantages of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on socioeconomic circumstances is (4.57), indicating that the respondents thought the project had the greatest degree of socioeconomic benefits. There are several advantages for developing economic productivity in rural areas, including the definition of poverty reduction and the acquisition of socioeconomic possibilities. After the project's implementation of residential electricity supply, many families have altered how they spend the evenings. Spending more time together as a family has brought about

wonderful benefits. The respondents believe that they may participate more cooperatively in social activities, such as those undertaken for the benefit of others, as well as recreational and entertainment pursuits during the day and after dark. Because street lights is turned on after dark, the respondents believe that electrification has increased their sense of safety and convenience. They may thus go anywhere in the hamlet at any moment. The majority of respondents firmly agreed that the communities are now more developed than they were before electricity. As a result, the majority of respondents say that rural residents' standards of living have increased from the preceding.

4.5.2 Agriculture

Table (4.7) describes the perception of respondents about benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on agriculture.

Table (4.7) Benefits on Agriculture

(n=150)

Statement	Mean	SD
After the implementation of the project, the modernisation of agriculture by using motor for mill and water pumping.	4.45	0.50
Industrial development in farming is increased after the implementation of the project.	3.98	0.60
Agriculture activities of the village are improved due to the agricultural input subsidies by project.	4.55	0.50
Modern agricultural methods can be learned by the training of project.	4.71	0.45
There is increased in agricultural productivity after the cultivation of high and stable yield crop supported by project.	4.75	0.43
Overall Mean	4.49	0.50

Source: Survey Data (2024)

According to Table (4.7), mean value of the statement that there is increased in agricultural productivity after the cultivation of high and stable yield crop supported by project is the highest (4.75), followed by modern agricultural methods can be learned by the training of project (4.71), agriculture activities of the village are improved due to the agricultural input subsidies by project (4.55), after the implementation of the project, the

modernisation of agriculture by using motor for mill and water pumping (4.45), and industrial development in farming is increased after the implementation of the project (3.98). The respondents' perception of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project's high degree of agricultural advantages is shown by the overall mean value of (4.49) for the project's benefits to agriculture. The respondents agreed that enhanced agricultural output resulted from the employment of cutting-edge farming tools and efficient growing technologies after the village's installation of power. The project had a direct impact on agricultural productivity through modernization of agriculture by using motor for mill and water pumping, and solar water irrigation. Electric irrigation pumps are cost-efficient and time-efficient and reflect one channel through which households may be able to reduce their reliance on rainfall and traditional irrigation methods like diesel pumps. This may enable farmers to cultivate more in each cropping season and insure themselves against rainfall shocks, which are becoming increasingly more common in the light of climate change. Thus, it can be said that agricultural mechanization is supported by the project's availability to energy in the research region.

4.5.3 Health

Table (4.8) describes the perception of respondents about benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on health.

Table (4.8) Benefits on Health

(n=150)

Statement	Mean	SD
It can be improvement of health services from clinics/hospitals supported by the project.	3.73	1.07
After the implementation of project, the rural people receive health knowledge through health education by the project.	3.90	0.95
After village has <u>been connected with</u> electricity by project, health electrical equipment is more used in clinics.	4.23	0.79
After the implementation of project, <u>disease like</u> diarrhea is reduced by access to clean water.	4.18	0.77
There is decrease in maternal mortality and infant mortality after implementation of project.	4.12	0.43
Overall Mean	4.03	0.80

Source: Survey Data (2024)

The statement that health electrical equipment is more frequently used in clinics after a village has been connected to the grid by the project has the highest mean value (4.23) in Table (4.8). This is followed by the statements that disease like diarrhea is reduced by access to clean water (4.18), that maternal and infant mortality are decreased after the project is implemented (4.12), that rural people receive health education from the project (3.90), and that the project may improve the quality of health services provided by clinics and hospitals (3.73). Overall mean value for the benefits of East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on health is (4.03) which mean that the respondents perceived high level on health benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project. The majority of the respondents experience improvement of health care service in the villages after rural electrification by the project because they can go to the clinic and receive the medical treatment any time. After the project electrifies the rural areas, the respondents get health-related information via TV or social media. Furthermore, since the project's solar electrification, health-related electrical equipment is used more in remote clinics. Because most rural residents use electric stoves instead of traditional biomass stoves, which produce interior air pollution, the prevalence of respiratory diseases caused by indoor air pollution has decreased. We may infer that the village clinic's ability to provide better healthcare is impacted by solar electrification. Due of the widespread TV ownership, people may learn more about health issues and possibly improve their health. When rural residents have access to clean water, their health improves and the prevalence of water-borne illnesses like dysentery and diarrhea declines in comparison to the pre-project period. After the project is implemented, mother and newborn mortality rates are reduced because of the increased prenatal and postnatal care provided by the establishment of rural clinics. Nonetheless, the village clinic still need health-related electrical equipment in order to provide sophisticated services.

4.5.4 Education

Table (4.9) describes the perception of respondents about benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on education.

Table (4.9) Benefits on Education**(n=150)**

Statement	Mean	SD
It can be improvement of education by using electronic devices after access to electricity by project.	4.39	0.68
After the implementation of project, the schools have enough buildings and educational facilities to support the educational activities.	4.39	0.72
The project supplied multi-media education in rural areas.	3.98	0.60
After the implementation of project, the educational quality of school is improved by using modern facilities.	4.46	0.69
After village has been connected with rural roads by project, the students of distance university receive educational achievement by connecting with urban.	4.53	0.68
Overall Mean	4.35	0.67

Source: Survey Data (2024)

According to Table (4.9), mean value of the statement that after village has been connected with rural roads by project, the students of distance university receive educational achievement by connecting with urban is the highest (4.53), followed by after the implementation of project, the educational quality of school is improved by using modern facilities (4.46), it can be improvement of education by using electronic devices after access to electricity by project (4.39), after the implementation of project, the schools have enough buildings and educational facilities to support the educational activities (4.39), and the project supplied multi-media education in rural areas (3.98). The respondents' perception of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project's high degree of educational advantages is shown by the overall mean value of (4.35) for the project's benefits on education. Due to the students' extended study sessions after dusk, the project's rural electrification has improved the educational outcomes for the villages' pupils. Furthermore, the majority of respondents thought that once the project electrified rural areas, young people would get more general knowledge by watching TV and reading newspapers, periodicals, and journals. The initiative has resulted in improvements to the school's infrastructure, including the installation of fluorescent lighting in the classrooms after rural electrification. It may be inferred that the project's rural electrification not only enhances the quality of instruction for remote

and basic pupils, but also increases general knowledge via nighttime TV viewing and book reading. However, educational aids like as televisions, media rooms, and computers are still required in classrooms.

4.5.5 Job-Opportunity

Table (4.10) describes the perception of respondents about benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project on job opportunity.

Table (4.10) Benefits on Job Opportunity

(n=150)

Statement	Mean	SD
The project creates new income generation and entrepreneurial opportunities. (e.g., copier shop, hair saloon and carpenter shop are opened after taking solar electricity)	4.57	0.75
Developed of Small industry in the village <u>is occurred</u> after the implementation of project.	4.47	0.50
The project accesses to strengthening the employability of young persons.	4.56	0.50
Because of educational improvement after implementing the project, there is increased in employability of young people in company staffs or government staffs.	4.16	0.77
The project enhances off-farm employment opportunities.	4.21	0.74
Overall Mean	4.39	0.65

Source: Survey Data (2024)

According to Table (4.10), mean value of the statement that the project creates new income generation and entrepreneurial opportunities is the highest (4.57), followed by the project accesses to strengthening the employability of young persons (4.56), development of small industry in the village is occurred after the implementation of project (4.47), the project enhances off-farm employment opportunities (4.21), and because of educational improvement after implementing the project, there is increased in employability of young people in company staffs or government staffs (4.16). The overall mean value for the advantages of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in terms of work opportunity is (4.39), indicating that respondents thought the project had a significant degree of impact on locals' employment opportunities. Due to the project's rural electrification, home businesses are more productive since stores

and sewing facilities may stay open later at night. Through the project's rural electrification, new employment possibilities might be generated by power directly invested in the communities' mills, ice cream makers, noodle makers, and other machinery. The responders discovered that the project's rural electrification program included their environment development MSME. We may infer that the project's rural electrification can improve small and medium-sized businesses (SME) in the villages, with the exception of microbusinesses. It supports the expansion of home businesses, the majority of which hire family members and expand working hours. As a result, the longer working hours at night boost the productivity of home businesses. Additionally, it may result in the creation of new jobs in the communities.

4.5.6 Summary on the Benefits of Project

Table (4.11) shows the summary on the perception of respondents about benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project.

Table (4.11) Summary on Benefits of Project

(n=150)

Sr. No.	Effects	Mean	SD
1	Socio-economic conditions	4.57	0.48
2	Agriculture	4.49	0.50
3	Health	4.03	0.80
4	Education	4.35	0.67
5	Job Opportunity	4.39	0.65
Overall Mean		4.37	0.62

Source: Survey Data (2024)

The overall mean for respondents' perceptions of the advantages of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.37), as shown in Table (4.11), indicating a high degree of benefits. Benefits on socioeconomic circumstances had the greatest mean value (4.57) out of the five domains, followed by benefits on agriculture (4.49), employment opportunities (4.39), education (4.35), and health (4.03). The initiative plays a significant role in both socioeconomic situations and agriculture by using time and labor-saving contemporary agricultural equipment including electric planting machines, electric blowers, and electric dryers. Water is supplied via irrigation

or subsurface water pumping using an electric irrigation pump. Thus, it can be said that agricultural mechanization is supported by the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in the studied region. As a consequence, it saves time and effort, increases production per acre, and improves the socioeconomic standing of the locals.

CHAPTER (V)

CONCLUSION

5.1 Findings

This study used data from two villages in Myanmar that were participating in the execution of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project in order to evaluate the benefits and activities associated with the project. Aye Chan Thar Village in Tatkone Township, Nay Pyi Taw, and Min Pyin Village in Lewe Township were the three villages in Myanmar that participated in the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project. This project was carried out throughout the years 2018 through 2021. The project has conceived up and carried out a broad variety of comprehensive poverty reduction assistance activities. These initiatives include the creation of livelihoods, the provision of public services in rural areas, the development of infrastructure, and the building of capacity for families living in rural areas. As part of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project, activities relevant to drinking water, public lighting, road maintenance, river bank protection, and rural home power supply have been carried out. The goal of these initiatives is to entirely improve the fundamental living conditions in rural areas. When it comes to the development of public services in rural areas, the project included the construction of new community centers, clinics, and sports fields in addition to playgrounds and school buildings that were designed to improve learning settings. Additionally, it provided responsible disposal of public rubbish in order to improve the general image of the community. In terms of the development of rural livelihoods, the initiative highlighted the cultivation of crops that have high and predictable yields. These crops include rice, sesame, peanuts, mung beans, and sunflowers. Additionally, the program encouraged animal husbandry practices such as the growing of free-range chickens and breeding pigs. Additionally, the project supported in the establishment of plant nurseries on parcels of land that had not yet been developed and promoted involvement in activities related to the courtyard economy by more than 130 families. In addition to training classes on project management, bidding, and financial management, the initiative also featured training courses on planting, breeding, and handicraft technologies. The objective of the program was to improve the capabilities of the local community. For the purpose of training, it scheduled excursions to China. In addition to this, it gathered the villagers to work together in the creation of

the cooperative articles of association, it developed cooperatives for the weaving of bamboo and textiles, and it improved the management of agricultural production.

Overall mean value for the rural infrastructure development implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.42) which mean that the respondents highly perceived that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural infrastructure development of their villages. Overall mean value for the rural public service facility development implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.21) which mean that the respondents highly perceived that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural public service facility development of their villages. Overall mean value for the rural livelihood improvement project implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.54) which mean that the respondents highly perceived that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented rural livelihood improvement of their villages. Overall mean value for the capacity building of local people implemented by East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project is (4.06) which mean that the respondents highly perceived that East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project implemented capacity building of local people in their villages.

The benefits of the East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project were analysed on socio-economic conditions, agriculture, health, education, and job opportunity of local people. Among the benefits on five areas, benefits on socio-economic conditions is highest mean value with (4.57) followed by agriculture (4.57), job opportunity (4.39), education (4.35) and health (4.03). The project resulted both directly and indirectly on rural development. According to the analysis's findings, respondents' overall mean perceptions of the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project's benefits are (4.37), indicating that the project has a high degree of benefits. There are a variety of benefits to adopting the poverty reduction programs. The project provides power for households, development of schools, clinics, or small businesses.

5.2 Suggestion

According to the findings this study suggests recommendations to optimize the benefits of poverty reduction programs in Myanmar. While implementing poverty reduction programs in rural communities presents significant effects on socio-economic, agriculture, health, education and job opportunity aspects of rural development, there are

strategies and solutions that can be employed poverty reduction programs to overcome the challenges in rural development.

In order for Myanmar to achieve comprehensive economic growth, rural development is an essential component and a prerequisite for excellent citizen living standards. Strong ties between the local community and government are necessary for sustained development in rural areas via collaboration. A robust strategy, a system that is goal-oriented, results-oriented, and has a long-term view are necessary for the program to succeed in achieving its objectives. It is very difficult to achieve sustainable development by assessing the local community as well as the government in a methodical, long-term manner.

When it comes to fundamental infrastructure development, the bridges and all of the current roads—which are all seasonal roads—should be upgraded and renovated more. In order to guarantee quality control inspection, they must formulate in order to monitor and assess sustainability. Long-term assistance offers rural infrastructure, such as a strong road system, to enable timely delivery of products and services to the market. Programs for rural community development should focus on meeting the needs and desires of the current human resource base in order to end poverty.

The research concludes that the implementation of poverty reduction initiatives in rural areas contributes to the economic and social progress of the local community. In rural areas, there has been an advance in technology, business process, information and knowledge, and organizational capabilities. In the twenty-first century, human resource development—including the development of technical, conceptual, and human skills—is crucial for the sustainable growth of regions. It faces several obstacles to success and perseveres in initiatives aimed at reducing poverty. As the government makes sure that sufficient funding is provided and that the operations are closely supervised by a chosen group of responsible and receptive community members. More specialization is needed in the key areas. To reach the goal, the most important things to do are thorough assessment and effective monitoring. When developing proactive, inclusive policies using bottom-up methodologies, the government has to be aware of the project villages' strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, in order to achieve sustainable development, the government must upgrade both the physical and intangible infrastructures in rural areas. For this reason, rural infrastructure development is crucial.

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Questionnaire Form

This survey aims to collect information for thesis of Master of Public Administration and I use for only my thesis and not use other.

Your answer is invaluable to help us conduct our thesis and so please right answer our question.

We acknowledge your time is valuable, and we are highly obliged to your cooperation.

Section (A): Respondent's Profile

1. Village
2. Gender
 - (a) Male
 - (b) Female
3. Ageyear
4. Educational Status
 - (a) Primary School
 - (b) Middle School
 - (c) High School
 - (d) University
 - (e) Graduated
 - (f) Others
5. Marital Status
 - (a) Single
 - (b) Married
 - (c) Widow
 - (d) Divorce
6. Occupational Status
 - (a) Self-employed
 - (b) Government staff
 - (c) Company Staff
 - (d) Dependent
 - (e) Farming
 - (f) Others
7. Income per Month (Kyat)
 - (a) <100000
 - (b) 100000-200000
 - (c) 200000-300000
 - (d) 300000-400000
 - (e) 400000-500000
 - (f) >500000
8. Household Income per Month (Kyat)
 - (a) <100000
 - (b) 100000-200000
 - (c) 200000-300000
 - (d) 300000-400000
 - (e) 400000-500000
 - (f) >500000
9. Number of Family Member

Section (B): Activities of East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project
1(Strongly Disagree) 2(Disagree) 3(Neutral) 4(Agree) 5 (Strongly Agree)

Sr. No.	Statement	Score
Rural Infrastructure Development		
1	The village has accessed to clean drinking water from tube well implemented by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
2	The village has accessed to electricity through solar street light implemented by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
3	Road transport of the village has improved due to rural road construction implemented by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
4	The incidence of flood has been reduced after building river bank protection implemented by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
5	The rural electrification rate increased through the household power supply implemented by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
Rural Public Service Facility Development		
1	The teaching facilities of the school have been improved because the project built school buildings and playground.	1 2 3 4 5
2	The project built the new community centers.	
3	Healthcare services of the village have been improved through the rural clinics supported by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
4	The project supported the sport facilities to promote outdoor sports and physical activities.	1 2 3 4 5
5	The environment of the village has more clean and green through properly disposed public waste system implemented by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
Rural Livelihood Improvement Project		
1	The project promoted the farming technologies of livestock such as freerange chickens and breeding pigs.	1 2 3 4 5
2	The project demonstrated the cultivation of high and stable yield crops such as rice, sesame, peanut, mung bean and sunflower.	1 2 3 4 5
3	The project helped set up plant nurseries on vacant grounds.	1 2 3 4 5
4	The project helped the households to engage in courtyard	1 2 3 4 5

	economy activities.	
Capacity Building		
1	The international knowledge of the local people has been increased through tours arranged by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
2	New income generation and entrepreneurial opportunities have been improved through the training on planting, breeding and handcraft technologies, implemented by the project.	
3	The project supported the financial management trainings to educate the villagers for financial activities.	1 2 3 4 5
4	The level of agricultural production organizations has been raised through the trainings of the project.	1 2 3 4 5

Section (C): Perception about Benefits of East-Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project

1(Strongly Disagree) 2(Disagree) 3(Neutral) 4(Agree) 5 (Strongly Agree)

Sr. No.	Statement	Score
Socio-economic Conditions		
1	Family can have great entertainment by watching TV programs, internet service and other media apps all the time due to electrification by project.	1 2 3 4 5
2	After village has been connected with electricity by project, social activities are more performed any time.	1 2 3 4 5
3	The project improved the community welfare and livelihoods of people.	1 2 3 4 5
4	After the implementation of the project, there is increased in family income due to high entrepreneurial opportunities.	1 2 3 4 5
5	After implementation of the project, the living standard of village is high.	1 2 3 4 5
Agriculture		
1	After the implementation of the project, the modernisation of agriculture by using motor for mill and water pumping.	1 2 3 4 5
2	Industrial development in farming is increased after the	

	implementation of the project.	
3	Agriculture activities of the village are improved due to the agricultural input subsidies by project.	1 2 3 4 5
4	Modern agricultural methods can be learned by the training of project.	1 2 3 4 5
5	There is increased in agricultural productivity after the cultivation of high and stable yield crop supported by project.	1 2 3 4 5
Health		
1	It can be improvement of health services from clinics/hospitals supported by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
2	After the implementation of project, the rural people receive health knowledge through health education by the project.	1 2 3 4 5
3	After village has been connected with electricity by project, health electrical equipment is more used in clinics.	1 2 3 4 5
4	After the implementation of project, disease like diarrhea is reduced by access to clean water.	1 2 3 4 5
5	There is decreased in maternal mortality and infant mortality after implementation of project.	1 2 3 4 5
Education		
1	It can be improvement of education by using electronic devices after access to electricity by project.	1 2 3 4 5
2	After the implementation of project, the schools have enough buildings and educational facilities to support the educational activities.	
3	The project supplied multi-media education in rural areas.	1 2 3 4 5
4	After the implementation of project, the educational quality of school is improved by using modern facilities.	1 2 3 4 5
5	After village has been connected with rural roads by project, the students of distance university receive educational achievement by connecting with urban.	1 2 3 4 5
Job Opportunity		
1	The project creates new income generation and	1 2 3 4 5

	entrepreneurial opportunities. (e.g., copier shop, hair saloon and carpenter shop are opened after taking solar electricity)	
2	Developed of Small industry in the village is occurred after the implementation of project.	1 2 3 4 5
3	The project accesses to strengthening the employability of young persons.	1 2 3 4 5
4	Because of educational improvement after implementing the project, there is increased in employability of young people in company staffs or government staffs.	1 2 3 4 5
5	The project enhances off-farm employment opportunities.	1 2 3 4 5