GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN LAND UTILIZATION WITHIN HMAWBI TOWNSHIP

Ph D DISSERTATION

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MAY, 2005

Abstract

Land is a valuable natural resource. Land use is the use of land by human activities, not necessarily always from financial profit or gain. The objectives of this paper is to examine the temporal changes and spatial variations in the land use within Hmawbi Township. General land use data of forty-six village tracts for the years 1982-83, 1992-93 and 2002-03 are tabulated. For a detailed analysis of land use changes in the study area, secondary data for ten types of land use and six types of crops cultivated in the township were collected. Interviews with the cultivators as well as officials of the Land Records Department were conducted. Questionnaires were distributed to ten village tracts selected by random Sampling Method. Arc View software is used in preparing maps to obtain the temporal changes and spatial variations.

Findings show significant changes in the land use pattern with an increase in five and a decrease in four types of land use. Forest land remains constant with no change. Industrial land use, transportational land use, water body area, settlement area and land under other uses experience an increase, while there is a definite decrease in agricultural land use, culturable waste, grazing land and quarrying area. Among the factors responsible for such changes are erosion of the banks of Hlaing River, inundation and infrastructural developments including construction of embankments roads and establishment, of factories.

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