IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH NAWIN DAM ON IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN PAUKKAUNG, PYAY AND THEGON TOWNSHIPS

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation attempts to highlight the impact on irrigated agriculture by the construction of South Nawin Dam. The study area is located in Pyay District (western part of the Bago Region, Myanmar). It lies between the transitional zone, including in three main townships. Which is composed of two main towns and 52 village tracts in Paukkaung, Pyay and Thegon Townships. Agriculture plays an important role in the study area. Most of the people in the study area live in rural area and engaged in agriculture sector. But, the study area does not have enough water for crops cultivation. To fulfill the water need for crops cultivation, South Nawin Dam was constructed near Yitthit Village and South Nawin Diversion Weir was built near Chaunggwa Village (West) in Paukkaung Township. It provides water needed for agriculture by the irrigation system of South Nawin Dam. The main economy of the study area depends on agriculture, especially irrigated agriculture. The principle crop is paddy, monsoon and summer paddy. The monsoon paddy is chiefly grown in the rainy season depending on the rainfall before dam construction. After construction of the dam, monsoon paddy and summer paddy are grown as double crops and other crops are grown as triple and mixed crops within the study area. Dam construction may result positive and negative impacts within the study area. Depending upon the availability of water from South Nawin Dam, extent of irrigated area and types of crop pattern are changed. Beside, The avaiable water supply of South Nawin Dam affects the economic status of local people. Most of the irrigated areas lack sufficient water supply to cultivate for summer paddy. The farmland that have sufficient irrigated water do not use it for growing summer paddy, instead the farmers grow such cash crops as vegetables, black gram and sugarcane, deviating from the main purpose of the dam construction.

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