

Socio-Economic Transformation Process of a New Town: A Case Study of Ayemyatharyar Myothit, Okpo Township

Aung Kyaw¹, Khin Myat Mon²

Abstract

This paper tried to analyze the socio-economic transformation process of Ayemyatharyar Myothit based on data derived from official statistics and personal interviews (authority concerns and residents) in the study area. Major economy supporting the study area in the early period of establishment is timber extraction and wood processing. Based on these major economies, minor economies like restaurants, tea shops and grocery shops were developed. Then, economic development encouraged the social functions like education, health and religions in the study area. However, in the late 1990s timber extraction was restricted in the area. Many timber related industries were closed and it affected the minor economic activities and social functions. This paper analyzed this process of development and tried to construct a model of a new town development from the case study of Ayemyatharyar Myothit.

Key Words: Socio-economic transformation process, new town, major economy, minor economy, social functions

Introduction

Ayemyatharyar Myothit was established in 1989 with the relocation of peoples from Yangon and nearby villages. Authority concern gave one plot of land for the construction of a house and an acre of farm land for cultivation. Some infrastructures like hospitals, water supply, schools and roads were also provided at the same time. The major economy at that time was agriculture. It has had some difficulties to do farming for people moving from Yangon. Thus, the authority concern created many other jobs. Of them, peoples moving from Yangon were mainly engaged in timber extraction and processing. They sold out their farm to the local farmers. After a couple of years, some Yangon people start doing business by opening tea shops and restaurants. Some services like trishaw and running of small grocery shops also started in the 1990s. However, regional government policy towards the timber extraction changed in the late 1990s. Thus, many Yangon natives lost their jobs. As a

1. Lecturer, Department of Geography, Yangon University

2. Graduate student, Department of Geography, Yangon University

consequence, many of them moved back to Yangon and other parts of the country.

Problem

Based on the above background, this paper tried to examine the socio-economic transformation process of Ayemyatharyar Myothit by means of following questions.

- (1) How socio-economic condition of Ayemyatharyar Myothit was transformed as a new town development process?
- (2) What is the future development prospect of Ayemyatharyar Myothit?

Conceptual Framework of a New Town Development

Before examining the development process of Ayemyatharyar Myothit, it is necessary to develop the framework of new town development processes. Three types of new towns development patterns are found in Myanmar: *planned new town*¹ (PN), *urban fringe new town* (UFN), and *upgraded new town*² (UGN). Development processes of PN have different characteristics from the UFNs those are established at the edge of large cities as a process of urban expansions. The majority of urban fringe new towns depend their economy mainly on the adjacent large cities and then gradually divert the dependency to the newly established economic activities that utilize the locational advantages (especially cheap and abundant labor, low land cost and availability of large land space) of the new town. Upgraded new town has different characteristic from the former two types. Since it was upgraded from a large village, it has its own stable economy and socio-economic function compared to the PN and UFN. In case of PN, it has to depend on the natural resources as its driving economy. Thus, it is necessary to divert its major economy from the resources based to other more value-added-production-base economy before exhausting the natural resources.

Figure (1) shows the conceptual framework for the socioeconomic transformation process of a PN. Generally, it is established by relocation of peoples from urban slum and/or gathering of small villages originally located in the area. Infrastructure including roads, hospitals, and schools are generally

¹ The new town that is established in a place that has little influence by existing urbanized area and base its own economy on natural resources.

² The new town that is upgraded from large village.

constructed for this type of new town at the beginning. Since PN could not totally depend upon near large urban centers for its economy, it generally has one or two major economies in the village to sustain the economy of the new town. In that case, major economy generally should be able to feed many people and could absorb further population.

At this early stage of development the residents will effectively use the infrastructure. Income generated from major economy will supply for their family. Thus, purchasing power of the residents increased. To fulfill this requirement, other economies like restaurants, tea shops, stores, and services, cinema hall, and hair dressing services will develop. Furthermore, residents could invest their surplus income on the social facilities like construction of *Dhamayon*, monastery, etc. and celebration of religious ceremonies. They could also improve their living standard in areas like water supply, electricity supply, and sanitation, education, etc. As a result consolidated social development will occur. This social development, on the other hand, will benefit the economic development.

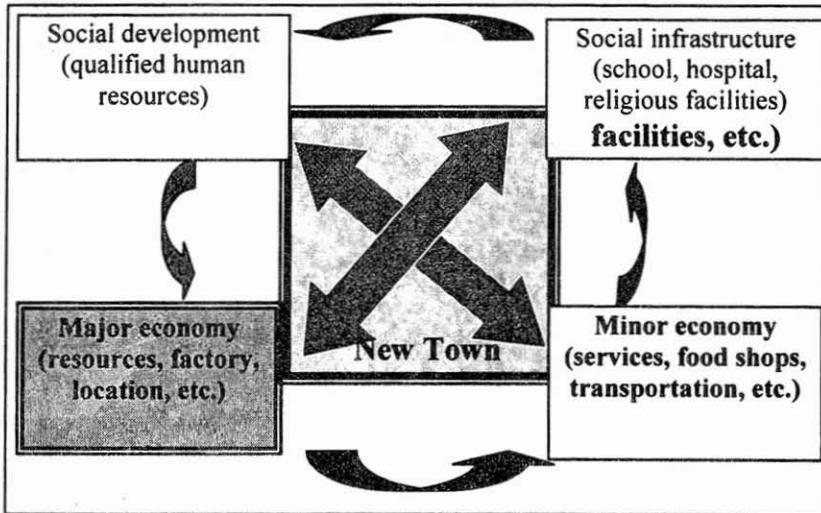


Figure (1) Conceptual frame work for socio-economic transformation process of a planned new town

Data

Data derived from Ayemyatharyar Village Peace and Development Council and social facilities (like school, monastery) were used to be able to understand the socio- economic transformation of study area. However,

official data were limited only to three time-points: 1992, 1999 and 2004. Derived data were verified by ground surveys and personal interviews of local residents during several trips taken at the end of 2004 and early 2005.

In addition, structured interviews related to socio-economic changes were conducted to the 262 households (10 percent of the target population) by using systematic sampling methods. Derived data were also used in the analysis of socio-economic change of residents.

Geographical Background of Study Area

Ayemyatharyar Myothit is located between north latitudes $18^{\circ}4'12''$ and $18^{\circ}5'24''$ and between east longitudes $95^{\circ}43'18''$ and $95^{\circ}45'00''$ (Fig. 2). Administratively, it is included in Okpo Township, Bago Division. It is located at 1 mile distance in the eastern part of Yagon-Pyay Road. The location of the area is in the midway between Bago Yoma and Yagon-Pyay Road. This locational advantage gives different incentives for the development of the region.

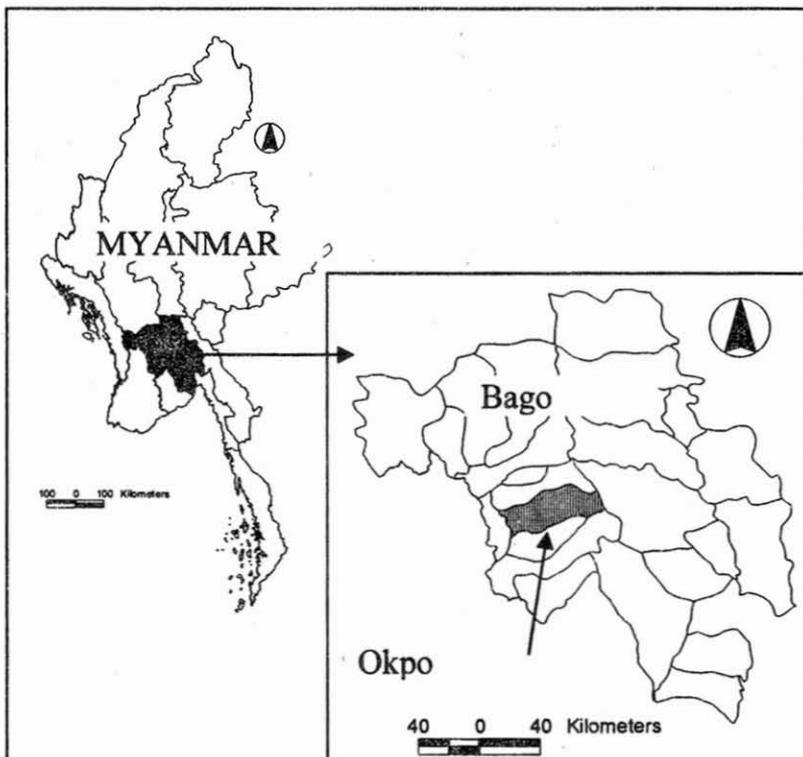


Figure (2) Location of Okpo Township

Source: Department of Geography, Yangon University.

Ayemyatharyar Village Tract is composed of Ayemyatharyar Myothit and its surrounding paddy fields (Kwin). The whole village tract falls into the flat plain and favors the cultivation of paddy. It receives humid tropical monsoon climate. According to 13 years record data (1984-1996), April is the hottest month of the year with mean temperature of 88.23°F. The mean temperature of coldest month January is 73.04 °F. The annual rainfall is 87.48 inches and mainly occurs during the high sun period (from June to October). Predominant soil type of study area is *Le* (meadow soil). It is very suitable for the cultivation of paddy. Underground water table is quite close to the surface.

Establishment of Ayemyatharyar Myothit

Ayemyatharyar Myothit and its environment was formerly a reserved forest known as "Satpok". This reserved forest was established in 1931 and has an area of 5316 acres. In 1952, settlement increased up to 218 households and farming area expanded to 484.95 acres in the area (Thein Htut, 1979). Then, forest area was gradually changed into settlement and farming areas. In the 1960s, Pyidawthar Plan (Welfare State Plan) was adopted and many degraded forest lands were changed into farm lands. With the increasing population and expansion of farming land, forest area decreased and existing forests also degraded due to illegal timber extraction and firewood collection. Although replanting works were carried out to a certain extent, it did not cover the extraction. Thus, the Satpok Reserved Forest became gradually destructed³.

On 26th October 1988, Ayemyatharyar Myothit Plan was adopted on the part of Satpok Reserved Forest by State Peace and Development Council under the close supervision of Bago Division Peace and Development Council. On 1st December 1988, the plan was actualized with surveying and extraction of land plots and farm lands. Totally, 3500 land plots were constructed under the plan. On 9th February 1989, 2599 households, mainly from Yangon and nearby villages, were relocated in the newly established Ayemyatharyar Myothit. The area was officially designated as a new town (settlement area) by Ministry of Forestry on 17th January 1990. Ministry of Home Affair officially designated Ayemyatharyar Myothit on 26th May 1992⁴.

³ Base on the personal interview to U Kyaw Hlaing, 71 year old villager of Pyidawthar.

⁴ Village Peace and Development Council, Ayemyatharyar Myothit

Ayemyatharyar Myothit is composed of 10 Wards with an area of 1853 acres. It was intended to locate 2597 households in this new settlement area. Of them, 239 households are from the nearby villages and original settlements in the area, 2050 households are to be relocated from Yangon, and 90 households are war veterans, and 109 households are government servants. One land plot (60 feet × 85 feet) for construction of house and 1 acre of farm land for cultivation were freely supported to all relocated peoples. In addition, rice, cooking oil, and kerosene oil were supported to each household from the late 1990s to 1992. As an infrastructure, basic social and economic activities are supported with the close supervision of one military officer (No. 35 Light Infantry, 2000).

Economic Formation

Originally, agriculture was intended to become a major economy of the Ayemyatharyar Myothit. Each relocated families were granted an acre of land for cultivation. However, agriculture could not support for the development of the whole new town. Since most of the relocated people from Yangon are not too familiar with the agriculture, it has had many difficulties. Thus, authority concerned implemented new job opportunities to support the resident's economy in the new town. Type of newly created job included (1) agro- based activities like Japanese cucumber growing, fish breeding, (2) timber related industries like saw mill, furniture factory, wood carving and (3) basic manufacturing industries like rice mill, liquor distillery, paper factory, cheroot industry, garment factory, stone polishing industries, (4) commercial and services like trishaw, carpenter and masonry, (5) temporal and resource based industries like laterite extraction, firewood and bamboo extraction. Of them, highly market dependent agriculture and manufacturing industries like Japanese cucumber growing, cheroot making, stone polishing, and garment factories are last only up to 1993 and 1994. Temporal resources based industries especially, laterite stone extraction, firewood and bamboo extractions are important only in the early period of Myothit establishment. The major economy that actually supported to the development of Ayemyatharyar in the 1990s was timber related industries. Most of the timber logs were extracted from Bago Yoma and processed at Ayemyatharyar before exporting to Yangon and other markets.

Social Formation

Since majority of population (99%) are Buddhist, 3 places in the Myothit were reserved for monastery construction. At these three places, three monasteries namely, Myo Oo, Myo Le, and Myo Suan, were constructed. The population of Myothit increased up to 8042 with the household of 1983 in the late 1990s (No. 35 Infantry, 2000). Since relocated people came from different places they constructed and supported different monastery. Myo Oo and Myo Suan Monasteries were constructed in 1989 by relocated residents from Nanattaw's (Kamayut Township, Yangon) and Tharkayta Township's respectively. On the other hand, Myo Le Monastery was constructed and supported by local peoples (relocated from nearby villages) in 1989.

As an education infrastructure two Basic Education Primary Schools were constructed and opened in 1989. To be able to accommodate more students and to facilitate primary school graduated students, one Basic Education Middle School and one Basic Education High School were opened after 1994 (No. 35 Infantry, 2000). In addition, monastery education system was adopted and taught up to post primary education level for the poor.

Health care system is one of the basic necessities in the new settlement area. One hospital was founded in Ayemyatharyar Myothit in 1991. In addition, one traditional medicine clinic was also opened in the area.

In 10 wards, there were 47 artesian well dug by the sate arrangement. Of them, 35 were hand pumping, 8 used air compressor, and 4 used electric motors.

Since the beginning, one transformer that could handle 10 KV, form 33 KV line was constructed in the area. Meter box permit were given to the residents and economic activities. Up to year 2000 there was about 200 households using meter box in the area.

As a communication facility, one post office and one telephone exchanger were established in 1990. Road infrastructures were also supported in the Ayemyatharyar Myothit. To facilitate the relocated peoples from Yangon, three buses were arranged to run daily between Ayemyatharyar and Yangon. In addition, one bus stand was constructed at the junction of Yangon-Pyay Highway and Ayemyatharyar Myo Le Road (No. 35 Infantry, 2000).

Relationship Between Major Economy, Minor Economy and Social Development

In this section, relationships between development of major economy and minor economic activities, and economic and social development will be examined. Most of the data used in this section were derived from personal interviews to the authority concerned, related social organizations, and local residents.

Major economic activities and development of minor economic activities

As mentioned in previous section, agriculture was intended to become a major economy for the development of Ayemyatharyar. However, it was very difficult and hard tasks for the people relocated from Yangon. Thus, many other economic activities were founded or allowed to establish by private entrepreneurs for the development of study area. Although many economic activities were created, some economic activities like timber extraction and processing played the key role in the development process. Based on these major industries, subsequent industries such as furniture industries and wood carving industries developed. Since these major economic activities could generate not only job opportunities but also higher income, other minor economies like commercial and service activities also developed.

Both agriculture and manufacturing industry should be analyzed as major economies of the area. However, the number of farmers in Ayemyatharyar and cultivated area owned by Ayemyatharyar's residents were decreasing successively (Fig. 3). It was due to changes of some cultivated land to fishing ponds, and some were sold out to the people of nearby villages. Thus, although the agricultural area of Ayemyatharyar Village has not change, the area working by the residents of Ayemyatharyar is shrinking. Thus, agriculture was omitted from the further analysis.

Other economic activities are divided into major economic activities and minor economic activities to be able to analyze the changes of economic activities. Major economic activities include saw mills and furniture factory while minor economic activities are referred to tea shops, restaurants, grocery shops, services. In addition to industries included in the above two groups, there are rice mills and liquor distillery. However, these manufacturing

industries are not considered in the economic change analysis since they are in small number and are relatively stable economic activities.

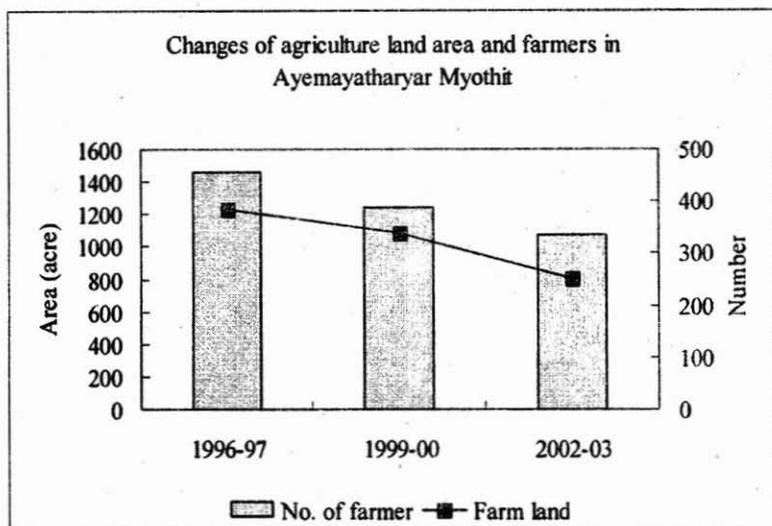


Figure (3) Changing in number of agriculture land and farmer living in Ayemyathayar Myothit

Source: Ayemyatharyar Village Peace and Development Council.

Figure (4) shows the changes of major economic activities in three periods. As a general trend, the number of factories increased during 1992 and 1999, and decreased during 1999 and 2004. Especially, some large scale saw mills found in 1992 were absent in 2004. In addition, number of small saw mill greatly decrease in 2004 while the furniture factory still remain as 1992 level. Thus, it can be assumed that saw mills and furniture factories grow together in the 1990s. When saw mills were closed in the early 2000, some furniture factories still maintain their business.

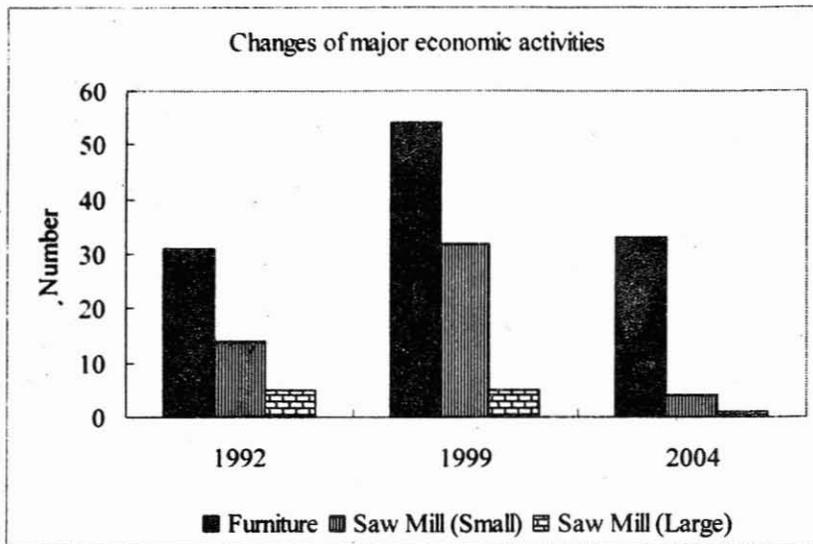


Figure (4) Changes of major economy in Ayemyatharyar Myothit

Source: Based on personal interview (authority concern) results (2004)

To examine the relationships between major economic and minor economic activities, newly established and close down numbers of factories/shops by each category in the periods 1992-1999 and 1999-2004 are shown in Table (1).

Table (1) Number of major and minor economic activities newly established and closed down during two periods

	1992-99		1999-04	
	Established	Closed down	Established	Closed down
Furniture Factory	35	15	11	23
Saw Mill	16	3	1	18
Furniture + Saw Mill	6	2	0	8
Major economic activities Total	57	20	12	49
Tea Shop	7	1	3	3
Restaurant	6	0	8	1

	1992-99		1999-04	
	Established	Closed down	Established	Closed down
Grocery Shop	3	0	4	3
Services	6	1	6	4
Minor economic activities Total	22	2	21	11

Source: Based on personal interview (authority concern) results (2004)

During 1992 and 1999, 57 major economic activities were newly established while 20 were closed down. Based on the development of saw mill, many furniture factories were newly established. At the same period 22 minor economic activities, especially teashops, restaurant and services were opened while only 2 minor economies were closed. Thus, it can be said that development of major economy brings the subsequent development of minor economies.

During 1999 and 2004, only 12 major economic activities (especially furniture factories) were opened and 49 factories (both furniture and saw mill) were closed. This is due to reinforcement of forest law. Although the number of newly established minor economic activities was nearly the same with the high economic period (1992-1999), 11 minor economic activities were close down. Although major economic activities were falling down since the late 1999, its affect is clearly shown on the minor economy. On the other hand, there are 22 newly opened minor economic activities. Most of these economic activities are located near the municipal market. It seems that since the major economy of the area is declining, minor economic activities have to change their market area from the Ayemyatharyar to nearby villages.

Results of the questionnaire survey for economic changes of residents were shown in Table (2). Casual workers and sellers that occupied about 50% of the total population in the area show changes in the three period. Casual workers have no fixed or regular job. Sellers are composed of two types: selling in fixed places like in the market or grocery shops, and vending from house to house by selling meats and vegetables throughout the village. In fact, the latter type need only very few amount of capital investment. Some fixed shops sell only a few materials such as instant coffee-mix, and confectionary.

When people are faced with economic difficulties, sellers selling such petty things generally increased. On the other hand, farmers, daily wage earners, government employees and industrial workers have more stable job compared to previous mentioned two categories. From the Table (2) it can be interpreted that before 1999 there was no stable job structure (large share of casual labor and seller). But, with the development of timber related industries, casual labor and seller decreased during 1992 and 1999. On the other hand, the share of service workers, industrial workers, and daily wage earners increased. After 1999, the major economy decline and many workers engaged in timber related industries become unemployed and changed into casual workers and sellers. Some moved out to other towns (See Fig. 3). In addition, the share of farmers was also decreasing due to increase of firm size owned by one farmer⁵.

Table (2) Change of major economic structure in Ayemyatharyar Myothit (%)

Occupation Type	Before 1992	1992-1999	1999-2004
Casual Labor	32.6	26.2	31.3
Seller	19.4	16.3	21.0
Farmer	25.7	26.2	18.3
Daily Wages Earner	9.0	15.4	14.5
Industrial Worker	2.8	5.0	5.3
Service Worker	1.4	3.6	3.8
Government Employee	3.5	2.7	1.1
Others	5.6	4.5	4.6
No. of Sample	144	221	262

Source: Based on personal interview conducted to the residents (2004)

Note: For definition of occupation types see the text.

With the diversification of economic activities Ayemyatharyar Myothit could support economic functions to both residents and nearby villagers.

⁵ Small farmer could not able to survive with small farm land when their side jobs of timber related industries were decline. Then they sold out to the large farmers. As a consequence the people engaging in farming decreased.

As a general trend, major economic activities of saw mill and furniture industries developed during the 1992-1999. As a consequence, the minor economic activities like tea shops, restaurants, grocery stores and services emerged in the area. Occupation structure of the area became more diversified and balanced than the early time. Dependency to the nearby towns gradually decreased and the function of a new town gradually developed. However, after 1999 major economies declined and minor economies were also affected. Fortunately, some minor economic activities extended their market areas up to nearby village and concentrated near the municipal market.

Relationship between Economic and Social Infrastructure Development

As a social development religion, health, education, lighting system, water supply system, and population were considered.

Religion

Although three monasteries were established since the beginning of Ayemyatharyar Myothit establishment, they were only bamboo buildings. With the development of economies, the income level of the residents gradually became higher. Hence, enormous growth of donations was made. From these donations, old religious buildings were upgraded and new brick and timber monasteries were constructed. All these improvement can be defined as social infrastructure development. Based on this social infrastructure development and generosity of residents, the number of monks and novices gradually increased. Of the three monasteries, Myo Oo and Myo Saun were constructed with the donation of residents. On the other hand, Myo Le monastery was constructed with donation of town people and arrangement of the state authority.

Figure (5) shows the change in number of monk and novices population in the study area. Clearly, monk and novices population increased in the 1990s together with flourishing of major and minor economies in the area. However, it decreased in 2004. The exception is Myo Le monastery which has a monastic education supported by the state. Thus, there are many novices learning or teaching Buddha's principles and public educations. Concerning with the food offering to the monks, the interview results show that Myo Oo and Myo Saun monasteries do not have to worry during 1992 and 1999. But there are some problems with *Soon* (foods) after 2000, since the

number of donator are gradually decreasing. But state sponsored Myo Le Monastery need not worry about Soon. Thus, it is apparent that the religious activities are closely related to the economies of the area.

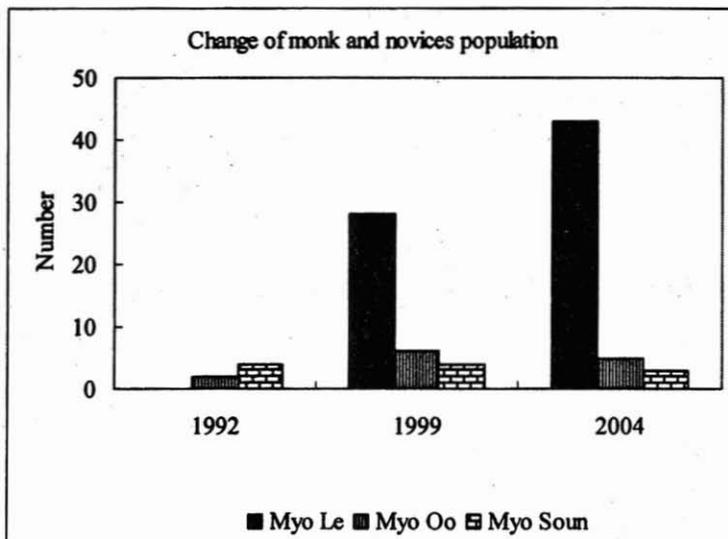


Figure (5) Changes of monk and novices population

Source: Based on personal interview to each monastery (2004).

Health

There are hospital and traditional medicine clinic in Ayemyatharyar. Figure (6) shows the healthcare function of Ayemyatharyar Myothit. At the beginning of establishment, some people have had to rely on nearby town, especially Okpo Town, for health care. However, with the construction of a hospital in 1991, healthcare condition of the area greatly improved. At present nearly all residents relied on the hospital for their healthcare.

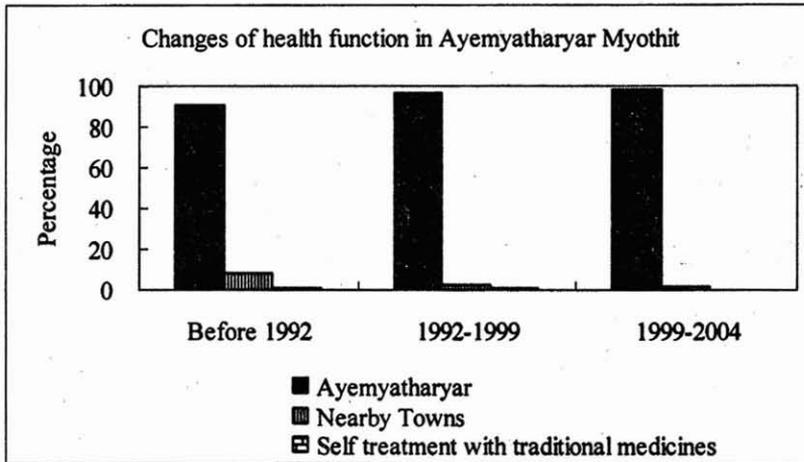


Figure (6) Percentage changes of health care dependency in Ayemyatharyar Myothit

Source : Based on the personal interview results to the residents (2004).

Note : The number of sample size for before 1992, 1992-1999 and 1999-2004 are 121, 213 and 262, respectively.

Education

In case of education, Basic Education Middle School and Basic Education High School were constructed to accommodate the students for higher studies in the mid 1990s. With such a social infrastructure development the number of student population in these schools also increased as a total social development⁶. After 1999 economic decline, the number of student decreased due to decreasing population. On the other hand, the number of teachers increased. It means that the teacher student ratio became higher and student relatively got more intensive care and teaching.

⁶ The students come not only from the study area but also nearby villages.

Table (3) Changed in number of student and teacher in Ayemyatharyar Myothit

	Monastery Education			Primary School (1)			High School		
	Student	Teacher	T:S	Student	Teacher	T:S	Student	Teacher	T:S
1992	0	0	-	512	12	1:43	710	25	1:28
1999	0	0	-	576	14	1:41	980	31	1:32
2004	240	9	1:27	577	20	1:28	901	35	1:26

Source: Interview results of each school (2004).

Lighting System

Lighting is one important measure of social development. Change of lighting system in the study area is shown in Fig. (7). There are three lighting systems in the Ayemyatharyar Myothit. Before 1992 majority of the residents have had to depend on oil lamp as their main lighting system. But during the period of 1992-1999 candle and electricity replace the oil lamp. It was based on two reasons. First, before 1992 the authority distributed the rations including kerosene oil to the residents. Thus the oil lamp was major source of lighting before 1992. Second, with the development of economic activities, infrastructure like electric supply became more efficient. In addition, some rich residents used their own generators. Thus, number of households using electricity increased in that period. During 1999 and 2004 period, the whole economy decline and the residents have to rely on candle that is easily available in the market.

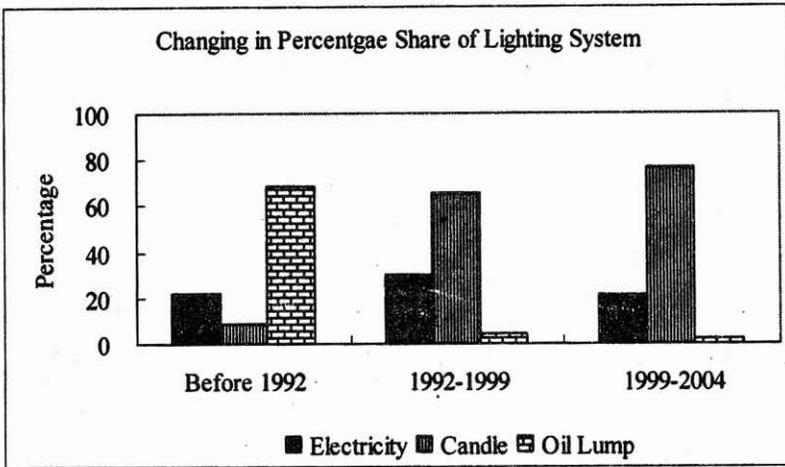


Figure (7) Changes of lighting system in Ayemaytharyar Myothit
 Source: Interviewed to residents (2004).

Water supply system

Figure (8) depicts the source of water supply in three periods. Before 1992, majority of people relied on public hand pump. It is due to the fact that authority concern dug many tube wells as a provision of new town. Thus, availability of safe drinking water is not a problem. But those public and pump only last for three or four years due to lack of proper management and poor quality of wells. As a consequence, dependency on the public tube wells greatly decreased. On the other hand, dependency on the private hand pump increased. It is related to the development of economy in that period. Since income level of resident become higher, they invest on their own social infrastructure. During 1999 and 2004, dependency on the lake water increased. With the declining economy, residents rely more on cheaply available water supply sources. One distinguished feature through out three periods is emergence of water selling business. Some peoples run this business by carrying on the cart or on the shoulder.

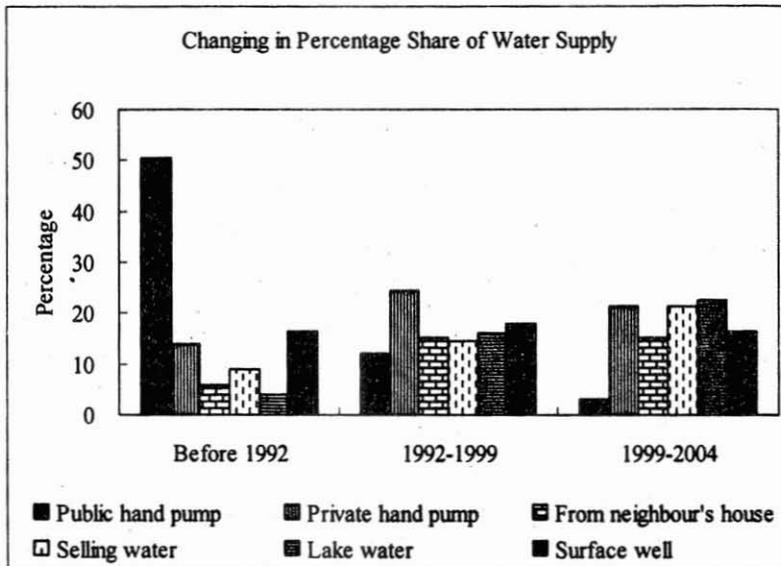


Figure (8) Changes in water supply system in Ayemyatharyar Myothit

Source: Interviewed to residents (2004). Sample case for before 1992,

1992-99 and 1999-2004 periods are 121, 213, and 262 respectively.

Population

Figure (9) shows the changes of population by origin in Ayemyatharyar Myothit. From this figure we could find two distinguished things: first, the population of Ayemyatharyar was abruptly decreasing since the late 1990s; second, most of the population decreases are from Yangon origin and it was partly replaced by peoples from nearby villages. As a consequence of declining timber-related industries, most of the Yangon people move back to Yangon and other towns. They sold out their lands to the other people. On the other hand, Ayemyatharyar Myothit has relatively high social infrastructure (especially health and education) developments mentioned before. Therefore, people from the nearby villages moved into the Myothit by buying cheap land plots.

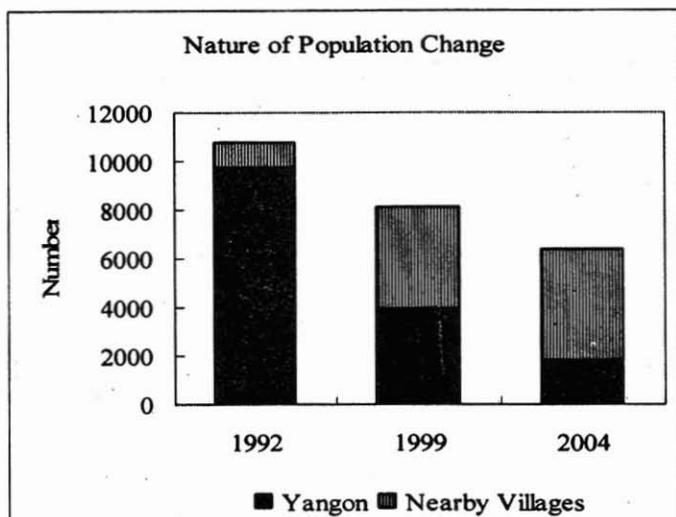


Figure (9) Population changes by their origin in Ayemyatharyar Myothit

Source: Ayemyatharyar Village Peace and Development Council

In general, although declining major economy has effected to minor economic activities and job opportunities of the residents, social infrastructures that developed during high economic period (1992-1999) are still maintained to the certain level. Some social facilities like religion, water supply and electricity start declining while government sponsored facilities like health and education was still maintained. Some people from the nearby villages moved into the area to take this advantage.

Discussion and Conclusions

Based on above study, socio-economic transformation process of the Ayemyatharyar Myothit could be explained by Fig. (10). It was established by relocation of peoples from urban slum (Relocation I) and from small villages originally located in the area (Relocation II). Infrastructure including roads, hospitals, and schools are generally constructed for this type of new town at the beginning.

At the initial stage, the population of study area increased due to relocation process. They used government supported infrastructures and

economic opportunities for their living. Since agriculture could not support all residents, timber related industries were created by allowing saw mills and furniture factories. This major economy was able to feed many people and absorbed further population.

In the development stage, the residents effectively used the infrastructure. In addition, income generated from major economy sufficiently supply for their family. Thus, purchasing power of the residents increased. To fulfill this requirement, other economies like restaurants, tea shops, and services were developed. Furthermore, residents invested their surplus income on the social facilities like construction of *Dhamayon*, monastery, etc. and holding of religious ceremonies. They also improved their living standard by improving water supply, electricity supply, and sanitation, education, etc. As a result, consolidated social developments occur. These social developments, on the other hand, benefit the economic development. In this development stage, therefore, the population is sustained or increased due to total development.

After a second step, however, the major economy of the Ayemyatharyar Myothit declined and it effect the minor economy and to a certain extent social development. *Although the social conditions of the Ayemyatharyar were still relatively high at present, it will decline in the near future if there is no proper major economy to feed the majority of the residents.*

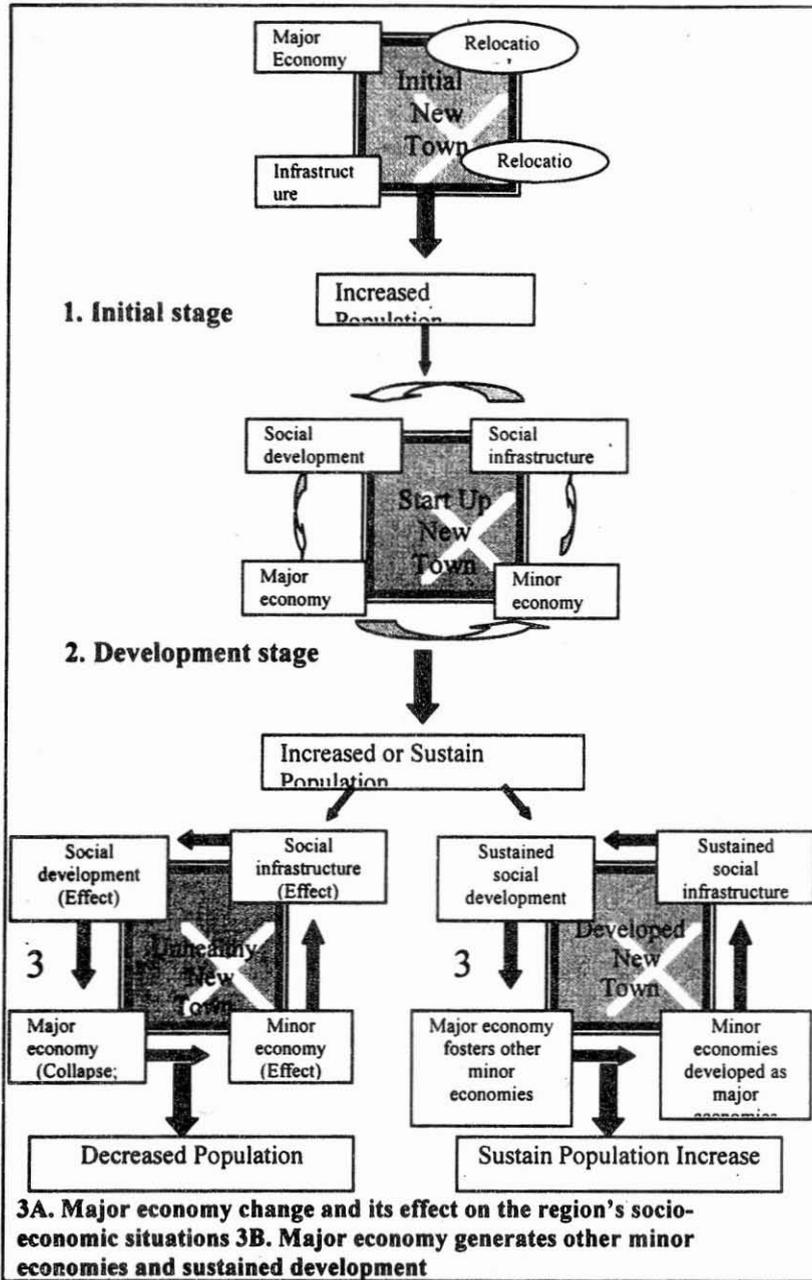


Figure (10) Conceptual framework of socio-economic transformation process of stand alone new town

On the other hand, if major economy of timber related industry could maintain itself until some of minor economic activities changed into major economies, process of socio-economic development will continue. For instance, some grocery shops could attract people from nearby villages to buy the goods from their shops and the area could gradually become commercial center for the whole region (nearby villages). If many such minor economic activities (like commercial) could developed as a major economy, the declining of originate major economy will not affect much on the development process.

At present Ayemyatharyar Myothit is lacking major economy that could feed its population. Thus, it urgently needs to develop (or) create new major economy before the social development level decline.

References

- No. 35 Light Infantry (2000). *First quarterly report of Ayemyatharyar Myothit, Okpo Township, Bago Division*. Ayemyatharyar Myothit.
- Khin Myat Myat Mon (2004). *Geographical study of socio-economic conditions in Okpo Town, Tharyarwady District*. Unpublished M.A. Thesis submitted to the Department of Geography, Yangon University.
- Thein Htut (1979). *Timber production and reforestation, West Bago forest Division*. Unpublished M.A. Thesis submitted to the Department of Geography, Yangon University.