

UNIVERSITY OF YANGON
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

CRAFT AND MAN: THE LIFESTYLE OF PEOPLE
WHO DEPEND ON POTTERY
IN O-BO, SAGAING TOWNSHIP

THIDA

Roll No. MRes-Anth-1(2009-2010)

MASTER OF RESEARCH (ANTHROPOLOGY)

Abstract

This research illustrates the lifestyle of people who depend on pottery. The patterns of behavior on pottery are considered as peoples' lifestyle. Study site is O-Bo at Sagaing Township. O-Bo means the place for making pots and the pots made from O-Bo are very famous in Sagaing Township. The aims of this study are to understand the lifestyle of people who depend on pottery and to mention their values on pottery. The objectives are to describe their pottery making, to study their economic activities based on pottery, and to point out their social and cultural activities in their life.

The study of pottery in O-Bo quarter shows that it needs a great input of physical strength, intellectual power and capital investment. The structure of labor consist many orders of segments, where professionals execute their work. To the potters and daily wagers, pottery is a professional occupation by which they can earn for their living. This is not only for the adult people, but also for the children, who can get their pocket money, in taking part in the industry. For these reasons, pottery is not only on income generating industry but also of important profession in keeping the family. Besides, pottery is the industry that makes various associations of O-Bo alive and enliven by contributing major portion of the community fund.

By all these accounts, the choice of pottery as the professional occupation, may be due to the followings: the ancestral tradition experienced and in touched since childhood, acquired expertise by helping in pottery in childhood, a home industry for the married women and the possibility of doing other businesses in other times as the pottery is seasonal.

Key Words: pottery, lifestyle, the structure of economy, enculturation.