

**SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON COPING
STRATEGIES FOR THE LIVELIHOOD OF CHIN NATIONAL
LIVING IN FALAM TOWNSHIP, CHIN STATE**

PHD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

The socio-cultural perspectives shape the livelihood of people and the livelihood create coping strategies, they connect each other. Coping strategies is the range and combination of activities that people undertake in order to obtain their livelihood objectives. The title of this thesis is "*Socio-cultural perspectives on coping strategies for the livelihood of Chin National*". The aim of this thesis is to describe the livelihood and coping strategies of Chin National living in *Falam Township*. It was viewed from socio-cultural anthropological points and the specific objectives of this thesis are: to find out the socio-cultural factors influence on their livelihood and to explore the effectiveness of coping strategies on their livelihood, to identify possible access to assets to address livelihood vulnerability in *Khuangli, Lente, Ramthlo* villages in *Falam Township*. In order to achieve the goal of this thesis qualitative research method was used to collect data. Key informant interview (KII) focus group discussion (FGD), individual conversation (IC) were used to collect data. The findings showed that one of the socio-cultural factors of kinship system strongly influences on their land tenure and tenant in cultivation. In addition, borrowing money and food in the time of food gap in every year of March, April, May and reciprocity from their kin is one of their effective coping strategies. The coping strategies in cultivation, there are advantages and disadvantages: by practicing the slash and burn system because of the ashes, the farmers have profit to cultivate Chin rice (*lai fang*) in the year. The following year *laifang* is not fruitful because the ash in the *lo* (cultivated land) has less fertile. Nevertheless there are four facts of disadvantages of the systems: Loss of top soil, deforestation, more works (but less income), due to smoke and dust coming out during summer and many people may have to face throat and lung problems. As their staple food is maize the remedies for their sustainable livelihood is to change their cultivated method, such as terrace system and they are now testing and in some areas it is successful.

Key words: socio-cultural perspectives, coping strategies, livelihood