

**THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-POLITICAL CHANGES
DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD OF MYANMAR
ON THE MON NATIONALS LIVING IN
KYAIKMARAW TOWNSHIP, MON STATE**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This study emphasizes on a general overview of the impact of socio-political changes during the transitional period of Myanmar on Mon nationals living in the Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State. This study is divided into three major parts: political changes, economic changes and social changes of Mon National. The main purpose of this study is to illustrate the social dynamic of Mon society during the transition period (2008-2015). The specific objectives are to describe the background history of government policy, to analyze the impact of political changes, to explore the economic situations and to find out socio-political changes on social situation.

The study sites are Mei Ka Yo and Kawt Ka Lowt villages, Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State. The study was conducted by using qualitative methods. Thus key informant interview, individual interview, in-depth interview, focus group discussion, direct observation and participant observation were done with local people from two villages to gain new perspectives of both what has changed and what has remained the same in their social life of Mon national.

Due to political reform, local people could involve in the activities of regional development. The region also has become safe, stable and developed because of peace building process. In the meantime, economic reform process created opportunities for most of local farmers to be able to transform from a traditional farming to a mechanized farming. Although agriculture is the main business of local people in that area, migration to work in abroad becomes growing today. That also effects the growth of local economy. Similarly, as the government emphasized on regional development and the local people's business were getting improved together with the social reform, health, education, religion, transportation and other social sectors were changed. Under the reform processes of government, Mon nationals who live in the villages of study area were also affected the impacts in terms of political, economic and social changes.

In the reform process, there were not only advantages but also disadvantages upon the local Mon nationals' socio-culture. By studying socio-political changes of Mon nationals through this study, it can also be observed strengths and weaknesses in the implementation activities of reform processes. Thus, it is essential to study and evaluate the results of socio-political changes in each of five-year.

Key words: transition, politics, economy, changes, development