

**JADE TRADE AND SOCIOCULTURAL CHANGE:
A CASE STUDY IN HPAKANT JADE MINE AREA,
KACHIN STATE**

PhD DISSERTATION

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**UNIVERSITY OF YANGON
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KACHIN STATE**

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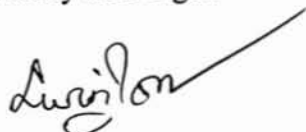
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ABSTRACT

The term sociocultural system is the real-life expression of designs for living in particular environments. Sociocultural change comes about through processes and events that are either internal or external to a society. The title of this thesis is "Jade Trade and Sociocultural change": A Case Study in Hpakant Jade Mine Area, Kachin State. This study explore jade trade effects on economic system in the study area, describe the influences of the economic system on sociocultural aspects of a community, elicit how jade trade affects the natural environment in the study area. This study was done through the approach to culture of consumption, from an economic anthropological point of view. This thesis was conducted by descriptive study design involving case study design. This study was done qualitative method. In this study, data were collected by using participant observation, key informant interviews, in-depth interview and focus group discussion. Jade mining and marketing is the main source of economic survival not only for the locals but also the migrants. Before 2000, jade mining was carried out through the use of simple technology and simple tools thus harming the natural environment to a small extent. After 2000 with the advent of jade companies, jade mining is carried out through the use of modern technology and modern machines, thus harming the natural environment considerably. However, the use of modern machines make for production of various kinds of jade. Therefore, family's income increased for jade business and associated with other economic activities. Then, businessmen dependent on jade mining and marketing bring in consumer goods for sale. When fortune seekers from various regions arrive in jade mine area, their relations with locals develop, leading to more general knowledge on the latter's part. They concentrate more on children's education, and health care for the family. Moreover, the locals' lifestyle begin to change, especially in the styles of food, clothing and shelter constituting the basic needs of human society. Under government's direction the companies have come in and their working with modern technologies in jade mine causes much economic development. For this reason sociocultural change which has accompanied the economic development were explored in this study.

Keywords : consumption culture, socio-cultural change, environmental change, economic system, subsistence patterns

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