

**LIVELIHOOD AND GENDER: CASE STUDY
ON LANDLESS PEOPLE IN MEIKINGON
VILLAGE TRACT, PATHEINGYI TOWNSHIP,
MANDALAY REGION**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the gendered and livelihood dynamics of landless people in Meikingon Village Tract, Patheingyi Township, and Mandalay Region. This thesis intends to find out how gender roles and functions impact on the livelihood activities at household level and influence opportunities and barriers to the livelihood diversification. Thesis objectives included: 1) to examine how people in the community conduct their livelihood, 2) to analyze the influence of gender roles and relations and the division of labour in livelihood activities and on gender effects within the household or family unit, and 3) to explore gender issues in poverty alleviation. Data was collected by using qualitative methods such as IDI (In-depth interview), FGD (focus group discussion), informal conversation and observation. This thesis collected data from three villages in Mae-kin-gon village tract and to examine the gender analysis on livelihood by using Harvard's gender analysis framework. In all three villages, most of local people are land less. Evidences suggest that agricultural income source are less and most of income comes from non-farm activities. Especially, gender roles in productive and reproductive activities including community management were emphasized. In addition, access to and control over resources, household decision making on health, education and income distribution were explored. The findings on gender related issues in relation to the livelihoods patterns indicated that poor women largely depend on working as day labourer in non-farm income generating activities. Most women are limited access to farming because of machines are used in the farm and men are controlled in farm works. Men and women make decision together in household matters but men make final decision. Women are excluded from decision making in community meetings although women also attend the meeting. In general, the findings show that women spent much time in reproductive activities than men and are involved in productive activities. Therefore, women are work loaded than men. These factors are provided to improve women's livelihood activities and to be women empowerment in the future for policy makers.

Key words: gender roles, productive, reproductive, gender analysis, livelihood patterns, community management, household matters, empowerment