

**SOCIOCULTURAL CHANGES DUE TO GOLD  
MINING IN WAPHYUTAUNG VILLAGE TRACT,  
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**PHD DISSERTATION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis intends to study how the economic changes due to Gold Mining affect the sociocultural changes and how the local people respond and accept those changes. The sociocultural changes reform the former sociocultural patterns. Sociocultural patterns mean the real-life expression of designs for living in particular environments, not just the designs. It includes environmental, demographic, technological economic, social organization, political, and religious variables. The specific objectives are to elicit sociocultural changes in the study area after 2002, to find out the main factors influencing their sociocultural changes, and to explore the community's responses on sociocultural changes. Research area, Waphyutaung village tract, is located in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region of Upper Myanmar. It is inhabited different nationals: Pa-O, Taungyoe and Bamar. The qualitative research method is used in this study. The field-work is conducted from June 2009 to May 2013. The study population covers not only all residents but also the migrants in this tract. Data collection methods are key informant interview, in-depth interview, participant observation, focus group discussion, etc. Key findings showed that after 2002, the companies stepped in the gold mining enterprise to do business. More people from other regions came and invested in finding gold and its other related jobs. The local people who practiced shifting cultivation also came to know that working at the gold mining gave the immediate profits so that some people changed their economy from agriculture to gold mining and other related jobs. The sociocultural patterns of Waphyutaung village tract have undergone a change, after the year 2002, due to the changes of land utilization. These changes lead to the growth and improvement of economy by means of transportation and communication improvement. Such activities have impact on the local people and bring about changes such as custom, valued systems, sociocultural behavior patterns and environmental conditions. In conclusion, the locals show that by adapting to the environment, their sociocultural patterns changed somewhat, resulting in disadvantages as well as advantages.

**Key words:** economic changes, gold mining, sociocultural changes, sociocultural patterns