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***“Strengthening Institutional Capacity, Extension Services
and Rural Livelihoods in the Central Dry Zone and
Ayeyarwaddy Delta Region of Myanmar”***

(ASEM-2011-043)



**Investigating the Migration Patterns,
Gender Perception and Migrant Remittance
on Rural Household Development in
Myanmar**

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**INVESTIGATING THE MIGRATION PATTERNS,
GENDER PERCEPTION AND MIGRANT
REMITTANCE ON RURAL HOUSEHOLD
DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nowadays, migration is widely adopted as one of the common coping strategies to stabilize livelihoods of poor households as well as to adapt social, political, economic and climate change. Thus, migration has been a major source of human survival, adaptation, and development across the centuries. Moreover, migration can contribute to economic growth and improve food security and rural livelihoods, therefore, advancing progress of countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. One of the prominent issues of labor migration started globally important since the migrants send the remittances back to their families which can be accounted as a significant share of household income, especially for poor households in the Third World.

Myanmar, the second largest country in the Southeast Asia Region has grown to be the largest migration source in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regions. The development of Myanmar was pulled down by long standing conflicts and decades of military rules though the agrarian based Myanmar is rich in natural resources across the country. Migration process involves a number of different movement streams, characterized by varying patterns and processes associated with various socio-economic factors in places of both origin and destination. Internal and external migration of people in Myanmar is more visible not only for education purpose but also for the economic condition of the household. Migration within country and across its long borders with Thailand, China, India, Laos and Bangladesh, is becoming integral issue to improve the livelihoods or to avoid poor socioeconomic conditions in Myanmar.

Growing urbanization and better job opportunity in urban area have a significant impact on migration and mobility patterns that account for a large part of the rural workforce in Myanmar. This study conducted the investigation of migration conditions in Myanmar through the various potential migrant areas with different case studies as the pull and push factors for migration. Therefore, this study focus is to establish an empirical basis of a better understanding the role of migration in household decisions making processes from which through different migration patterns, role of gender perspective on decision making processes and remittance allocation, and impact of remittance in household economy.



Migration patterns in the study areas are very different: internal migration, cross-border migration and international migration. In this study, internal mobility of labor generally refers to migration from their native location (original area) to other place (endpoint area) for their different purposes across the regions and state within the-country. Remoteness, occurrence and interval of such actions vary based on the situation but most of them are permanent migration. Regarding the internal migration, among destinations the Region/State, the most common and favored location give the impression of being urban and semi-urban areas of Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw for the better income and living standard. Moreover, the observations of the study pointed out that there is a general trend to cross-border/international migration and internal migration. Cross border migration is observed more systematic within legal framework based on the language training, purpose and visa preparation by the agents in dry zone especially in Minbu Township. Some cross border migrations to Thailand are still out of the legal framework in study areas. Some migrants to Thailand moved first to border area in Mon state as the transact area where can earn high wage and more available job opportunity then moved again to Thailand as the cross border migration finally.

Regarding the migrant households in the Dry Zone, migration is regularly a coping strategy to overcome the low farm productivity and unstable crop price made low farm income and addition the high ratio of landlessness. However, this study found out internal migration is not only subsistence strategy but also it happened with other purposes such as better living standard, better education and job opportunity based on the preference of job in destination area especially in big cities. Nevertheless, migration is well recognized as the most common one of the coping strategies used by low income households for their livelihoods and to adapt to environment of climate, market, political and economic changes in the county.

It can be seen that migration has significant impacts on various sectors of community livelihood of migrants' and migrant's households in this study. In study areas, the international migration to Thailand was mostly dominated by female migrants due to inclination of Thai employers although international migration was neutral. Roles and responsibilities of women had seemed to increase in migrant households where their



husbands or brothers were being migrants in abroad. There could be seen the improvement in social activities of the migrant households such as more education investment used, donation to schools and religious places as well as more participation in social activities such as wedding receptions and other donation ceremonies with the use of the remittances. Regards of a married woman leaving the children at home and migrated, such household had a rather negative impact mainly affecting the education of her children, social relations and family cohesion. In that case, the technological advancement through social media and telephone calls helped to create as the social ties between migrants and their families, thus the emotional cost could be reduced to some extent.

Usually migration has both positive and negative impacts for the community, the study found that more positive impact of internal migration on women empowerment, rural community, household economy also on environment which people can concern more income from migration than less income from farming sector before migration. Migration had an important impact on agricultural production, labor allocation decisions and investment of households because crop farming and related agricultural activities was the main source of income for farm households in rural area in Myanmar. On the other hand, negative impact of migration found that labor scarcity problem which creates high production cost and less profit in farming sector, business apart from farming sector also facing the labor shortage and brain drain problem which is caused by educated persons migrated to other countries. However, the loss in unskilled household labor could be compensated by improvements in other areas, such as increased access to capital through remittances sent by migrants. International labor migration had a significant positive impact on the economic conditions of the masses residing in study areas. The main source of migrant households was the remittances and their household incomes were very low before migration, which were noticeably increased after the employment of their household members abroad. Therefore, the overall impact of international and internal migration was significantly seen as positive on the household economy of migrant communities left behind in rural areas.



Therefore, the state would be developed not only agricultural sector but also manufacturing sector of agribusiness industry especially. Agribusiness small and medium enterprise development will create high income job opportunity for the migrants coming back to Myanmar. Moreover, technological innovation would be scaling up by encouraging investment in research and development of institutions in line related to the whole supply chain. In addition, cultural, traditional, natural and ecological environment of Myanmar would be employed upgrading the service sector for international would be the promising rural income earning job opportunity for Myanmar rural community which are famous for hospitality around the world.

At the meantime, impact of migration would be sustainable by facilitating legal framework for migrants with respectable relationship with neighboring countries where are Myanmar labor working in. It would be diplomatic way of intelligent for win-win situation of both countries which are labor provider and business possessors with Myanmar labor on the other hand. Since migration is one of economic and livelihood inducement in Myanmar at present, intervention, cooperation, facilitation and legally protection would be really needed for maximizing sustainable advantage of safe migration.



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Migration is an inherent part of the economic development process in order to earn higher returns to their labor. Over the past several years, rural areas in the developing countries have experienced the structural transformation with profound demographic change primarily due to massive out-migration towards internal and international destinations.

Moreover, migration can contribute to economic growth and improve food security and rural livelihoods, therefore, advancing progress of countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Migration is also widely adopted as one of the common coping strategies to stabilize livelihoods of poor households as well as to adapt social, political, economic and climate change. Thus, migration has been a major source of human survival, adaptation, and development across the centuries. Nowadays, labor migration is globally important issue since the migrants send the remittances back to their families which can be accounted as a prominent share of household income, especially for poor households in the Third World. A huge share of migrants come from rural areas where more than 75 percent of the world's poor and food insecure depend on agriculture and natural resource based livelihoods. Internal or international migration mostly originated in the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe (FAO 2017).

There were about 763 million internal migrants who moved within national borders in 2013 (FAO 2017). World Bank (2016) stated that more than 247 million people that were 3.4 percent of total world population were living outside their places of origin. About one third of all international migrants were between 15 and 34 years old and nearly half were women. The international migrants rose from 175 million in 2000 to more than 247 million in 2013 and were forecasted that the number will surpass 251 million in 2015. The share of international migrants has still remained above 3 percent of world



population during the last fifteen years. As well, there were more numbers of internal migrants in comparison with those of international migrants in 2013.

As mentioned in “Migration and Remittances Fact book” by World Bank in 2016, high income countries are not only the main destination countries but also main source of remittances for international migrants. In 2015, global remittance flows were estimated to be over USD 601 billion and the developing countries were estimated to receive about USD 441 billion of total worldwide remittances. The remittances of international migrants were more than three times of the international development aids. Moreover, migrants hold above USD 500 billion as annual savings. The remittances and savings of migrants can improve a lifeline for millions of households in developing countries.

UNDP (2010) reported that the impact of labor migration on economies of destination countries as well as the departure countries is still debatable issue although many researchers generally viewed the impact of labor migration as positive that was bringing benefits to both countries. On the other side, others viewed that there were some problems associated with labor migration such as social and environmental conflicts as well as economic problems.

However, migration is a crucial factor in the population growth and more importantly in the socio-economic development in the country, especially in employment and provision of social services to the migrants and their family (Nyi, 2013). In order to consider the formulation and implementation of well-being social, economic and political policies, it is required to find out the migration levels, patterns and trend for a country.

Before 1980, migration was regarded as a male-oriented phenomenon. Recently the participation of women in migration accounted nearly half of the migrant population. Migration is often seen as gender-neutral because it deals with the process of movement persons; however it is in fact gender-related because migration impacts differently on men and women, and on different groups of men and women in their process of movement (IOM, 2015). In the world today, women are recognized not only as dependants but also independents and family supporters.



Nowadays, migration has become an area of increasing focus for research and policy development in the developing world. Internal and external migration of people in Myanmar is more visible not only for education purpose but also for the economic condition of the household. Migration process involves a number of different movement streams, characterized by varying patterns and processes associated with various socio-economic factors in places of both origin and destination.

1.2 Migration and Gender in Myanmar

Myanmar, the second largest country in the Southeast Asia Region has grown to be the largest migration source in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. The development of Myanmar was pulled down by long standing conflicts and decades of military rules though the agrarian based Myanmar is rich in natural resources across the country. About 25.6% of Myanmar's approximately 53 million populations were under poverty line, and poverty incidence was two times higher in rural than urban areas of Myanmar. Rural poverty, lack of employment and economic opportunities, and fragile livelihoods address as the principle drivers of both internal and international migration from Myanmar (LIFT, 2016). Migration within country and across its long borders with Thailand, China, India, Laos and Bangladesh, is becoming integral issue to improve the livelihoods or to avoid poor socioeconomic conditions in Myanmar.

There are very few research and limited literature on internal labor migration in Myanmar. The recent findings mostly indicated that majority of labor migration within the country have seen as internally movement toward urban centers and big cities from countryside. Yangon, not only business city but also former capital had been still the main center of migration flows from other States and Regions of Myanmar. There was also high proportion of female labor movement in the urban to urban migration trend between 1991 and 2007 (DoP and UNFPA, 2013).

LIFT (2016) found that the movement of labors from Ayeyawaddy Region to Yangon Region noticeably took place after severe attack of Cyclone Nargis in 2008 in response to loss of assets and income, experiencing food insecurity, irregular seasonal agricultural incomes or difficulties to stand household earning only from farm-based activities.



According to Okamoto (2009), the principal reason of internal labor migration in fishing villages of Rakhine State was to supplement income.

Amina, M. and Theingi Myint (2015) studied the internal labor migration issue in the Dry Zone, Shan State and the Southeast of Myanmar. They also addressed that lack of off-farm employment opportunities in rural area and the seasonality of agriculture were the key drivers of labor movement from rural to urban area. Their findings also found that the temporary forms of internal labor migration in rural areas were prevalent and these are survival strategies rather than wealth accumulation strategies particularly for agricultural workers in rural areas.

There is no clear and specific policy that directly impacts on internal labor migration in Myanmar. However, the population registration system and the sites of industrial zones which can offer employment opportunities can be expected to have an indirect effect on internal labor migration.

International labor migration has also increased beyond internal migration in Myanmar. Continuing lack of employment opportunities, deep-rooted ethnic, religious and other forms of violence, and an infrastructure taxed by natural disasters in Myanmar are key driving factors towards international labor migration. Crossing the international border for people who live along such a border in order to get employment opportunities also looks like usual phenomenon in labor movement. Young migrants' mobility especially from the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar to Thailand and China via crossing borders with higher wage expectation has become very popular and recent trend in international migration issue (IOM, 2013).

Thailand has been historically the largest recipient of Myanmar labor enabled by a porous 1,300 miles shared border. In response to economic and political conflicts in Myanmar, policy of Thai government to import foreign labor to fuel economic growth in the service sectors and establishing key manufacturing hubs such as Mae Sot near the Thailand-Myanmar border were major driving forces of initial outflows of labor from Myanmar in the mid to late 1980s. Higher GDP per capita in Thailand also attracts Myanmar workers to migrate and work there. However, as in Thailand, workers are typically concentrated in



unskilled sectors such as agriculture, fishing, seafood processing, manufacturing, construction industries and domestic work which are suitable especially for woman labor from Myanmar. IOM (2013) estimated that there are about 2.3 million migrants including 900,000 undocumented migrants from Myanmar residing in Thailand. Thai government later signed agreements with the neighboring countries including Myanmar in order to manage the undocumented labor migration.

New labor regulations adopted by the military government of Thailand in July, 2017 affected to flee tens of thousands of migrant workers including Myanmar migrants. Both legal and undocumented Myanmar migrants had returned home since June 29, 2017 and the number was increasing day by day but not yet known in detail. The exodus of migrants also hit some companies from construction to the multi-billion dollar invested seafood industry which mainly depend upon migrants (Lefevre 2017).

There are three main factors which contribute to the diversification of Myanmar migrants beyond Thailand. Firstly, Myanmar workers have gained access to new labor market especially after country engaged into Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) since 1997. The prior government of Myanmar, President U Thein Sein's USDP instituted a raft of reforms conducive to international labor mobility. Secondly, Myanmar is increasingly politically cooperative with major labor-importing countries nowadays which can be seen as officially instituted the visa-free relationship with ASEAN member countries.

Lastly, the increasing infrastructure of migration market intermediaries such as private worker-exporting agencies, spreading networks of village-level recruiters, migrant-processing and training facilities in urban centers, increasing partnership with worker-importing agencies of destination countries has led to growing outflows of labor to diversified overseas labor markets. Within Southeast Asian Region, Malaysia and Thailand require the migrants to augment the size of labor force. Malaysia is therefore the second largest recipient for Myanmar labor, which hosted more than 250,000 Myanmar workers in 2015.



Migration of Myanmar to China is little data available due to be largely irregular nature. Most information is related to daily or seasonal migration at border crossing point to work in different industrial areas of China. China ranks as the third country of destination for migrants from Myanmar (ILO 2015).

Singapore has emerged as a popular destination for Myanmar migrants and currently more than 200,000 Myanmar people live there. Construction and marine (shipping, shipyard, and maintenance) industries in Singapore are main concentrated employment industries for Myanmar migrants (World Bank, 2016).

Moreover, the Myanmar Government estimates that there are 4.25 million Myanmar nationals living abroad. Regionally, drivers of migration can include higher wages in neighboring countries, conflict and environmental migration due to natural disasters among other factors. It is also reported that up to 70% of migrants living abroad are based in Thailand, followed by Malaysia (15%), China (4.6%), Singapore (3.9%) and the USA (1.9%). IOM estimates there could be as many as 3 million Myanmar migrants living in Thailand as at 2016. The highest numbers of migrants, according to the latest census, came from Mon State (427,000), Kayin State (323,000) and Shan State (236,000) <https://www.iom.int/countries/myanmar>.

In Myanmar, nearly 71% of all migrants to the formal sector are from four regions: Ayeyarwaddy, Yangon, Mandalay and Bago. The majority of migrants in formal sector labour in Yangon, net importer, are from Ayeyarwaddy Region and Dry Zone, net exporters of migrant labour to the formal sector (Griffiths and Kyaw Zaw Oo 2014). In relation to overseas migration, 61% and 39% of household members (2,021,910), respectively, were male and female (UNPF 2015). The census 2014 was reported that Shan State has women migrated more than men to China, Singapore and even Malaysia. Around 60% and 40% of migrants overall were men and women, respectively. Furthermore, 40 % of all migrants to Malaysia were highly women.

1.3 Rationale of the Study

In Myanmar, agriculture is the primary source of rural household income, and so proceeds from agricultural production are the main source of liquidity for the household.





If households in general face constraints against investing in migration, one would expect migration to be more likely to occur from more productive households. Alternatively, if less productive households send out migrants, one would infer that credit constraints are not an issue; and in fact higher productivity households find that retaining the labor of potential migrants locally would be more productive. Therefore, this study focus and investigating on migration became the big issue for the country economy especially in the agriculture sector.

Understanding the current migration pattern in Myanmar, this study tends to focus on the dynamics involved in the movement of people; those interested in remittances tend to focus on the dynamics involved in the movement of money. When considering the development impact of the remittances resource for households, all of these perspectives are relevant the core factors to estimate the situation of migration process in Myanmar. Moreover, the choosing focus areas in this study have their potential impacts on migration in comparing with other areas in Myanmar because of their geographical condition of the neighboring country as Thailand (Mon and Kayin States) and suffering the natural disaster impact of cyclone Nargis such as Ayeyarwaddy delta region and the other geographic location of the Dry zone. Regarding these caveats, this study examines the migrations pattern, the role of women in the migration process and how to allocate the migrants remittance on their household economy in Myanmar.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1. Assessment of different labor migration patterns towards internal and international among different areas
2. To analysis the role of gender perspective of decision making process on migration
3. To investigate the impact of migrant remittances on the individual household economy
4. To examine the role of women empower migrant remittance allocation on the household economy based on gender perspective



CHAPTER II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2. Study Sites and Research Methodology

2.1 Study Areas

Study areas aimed on selected sample Townships in Dry Zone, Mon state, Kayin State for migrants' households and Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for migrants information. Some general population features of sampled States/Regions for the study are given in the below Table 2.1. Sampled villages and townships of the study and location of the study areas in Myanmar map are presented in Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1.

Table 2.1 General descriptions of the selected study States/Regions

State/Region	Population	% of total population	% of urban	Population density	Household size
1. Dry zone					
Magway	3,917,055	7.6	15	87	4.1
2. Mon	2,054,393	4.0	28	167	4.6
3. Kayin	1,574,079	3.1	22	52	4.7
4. Yangon	7,360,703	14.3	70	716	4.4
5. Nay Pyi Taw	1,160,242	2.3	32	164	4.1

Source: Myanmar census, 2014



Table 2.2 Name of sample villages and townships

State/Region	Townships	Villages
Magway	Minbu and Pakokku	Chaung Phyu and West Chaut Kan
Mon	Mudon and Kyaikemaraw	Phae Tho, Ka Mar Watt, Thone Pa, Kyun la, Kyaikwe, Nyaung Kone and Ka Lot Thaw
Kayin	Hpa-an	Ohn Ta Pin
Yangon	Tarmwe, Hlaing and Kamaryut	-
Nay Pyi Taw	Pyinmana and Tatkon	-



Figure 2.1 Map of the study areas



2.1.1 General Information of Study Areas in Dry Zone

Dry Zone located between latitudes 19° and 23.5° North and between longitudes 94° and 96.5° East. Dry Zone is composed of central regions of Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing and it covers about 13% of country's total land area. In Dry Zone, the rainfall level is remarkably low ranging from 600 mm to 1400 mm per annum and frequent drought is the most common climatic shock on rain-fed cultivation of pulses/legumes and oil seed crops. Agriculture dominate 64 % of total Dry Zone area, thus majority of households are farmers while 40% are landless and 18.5% of households have food insecurity problem in Dry Zone (Myanmar Dry Zone Development Program 2014).

Chaung Phyu village in Minbu Township and West Chaut Kan village (in Burmese; Anout Chaut Kan) in Pakokku Township in Magway Region were purposively selected for the field visits based on being as principally rain-fed agriculture dependents along with prominent migration trials. Main agricultural commodities in study villages were white beans, green gram, pigeon peas, sesame, groundnut and other crops such as tha-nat-kha and poon trees (*Streculia versicola* Wall). The dry climate and erratic rainfall, unimproved conventional technologies leading lower crop productivity; low farm gate prices and diminished margins for cultivated crops; very few off-farm and non-farm employment opportunities mainly push the people from study sites to migrate as seasonally, temporarily or permanently. Attractive and better wage rates for both skilled and unskilled labors and regular job opportunities in non-farm sectors which can improve livelihoods of people caused as pull factors for people to migrate from the study villages to both internal and international working places.

2.1.2 General Information of Study Areas in Mon State

Mon state is situated between latitudes 14°52' and 17°32' North and longitudes 96° 51' and 98° 13' East. It is located in the Southern part of Myanmar, bordering Bago Division in the North, Kayin State in the East, Taninthayi Division in the South and Thailand (Kanchanaburi Province) in the Southeast. On its West, there is Andaman Sea and Gulf of Mottama, formerly known as Gulf of Martaban where Thanlwin and Sittaung rivers empty into it. The Daw-na range forms a natural border between Mon and Kayin states



(Modins, 2002). According to Census, 2014, the total area of Mon State is 12296.64 square kilometer and the total population is 2054393.

Mon State is divided into two districts: Thaton in the north and Mawlamyine in the south with ten townships, total of 433 wards and village tracts. It includes many small islands along its 566 km of coastline. The capital is Mawlamyine. The Mawlamyine district has eight sub-townships: Mawlamyine, Kyaikemaraw, Chaungzon, Thanphyu Zayat, Mudon, Ye, Lamine (ST) and Khawzar (ST) Township. Mon State has a tropical climate and has temperate weather, as it is located in the low latitude zone and near the sea. Rain is especially heavy in July and August where annual rainfall in Mawlamyine is 190 inches (4.8 m) and in Thaton is 217 inches (5.5 m) (Modins, 2002). The selected area for migration study is Mudon and Kyaikemaraw Township, Mon state. Both Townships are located in Mawlamyine district. This study was carried out in different villages in Kyaikemaraw Township such as Pankone, Ka Na Lo, Ka Line Ka Naing Kyun Ywar and Taung Ka Lay villages. In Mudon Township, the survey was conducted at Phae Tho, Ka Mar Watt, Thone Pa, Kyun la, Kyaikwe, Nyaung Kone and Ka Lot Thaw villages.

2.1.3 General Information of Study Areas in Kayin State

Kayin State is one of the administrative divisions in Myanmar and also known as Karen State. Mount Zwegabin is the landmark of Kayin State. Thanlwin Bridge crossing the mighty Thanlwin River has been constructed and accessibility became more convenient to the state. Kayin State located in South-Eastern Myanmar; it is bordered by Thailand to the East, Mon State and Bago Region to the West and Kayah and Shan States to the North. Hpa-an is the capital city of Kayin State. The state covers the area 30,385km². Ethnic composition includes Kayen (Sagaw Kayins, Po Kayins, Bwe Kayins and Pako Kayins), Padaung, Bamar, Shan, Pa-O, Mon, Rakhine, Burmese-Thai and others. The common languages are Kayin and Myanmar. The Karen people in Myanmar are Christian, Buddhist and animist. Most Christian Karens are Baptists (HMIS 2014). Administrative divisions are 4 districts, 7 townships, 84 wards, 374 village tracts and 2063 villages (MIMU 2012).



The main economic activities are agriculture, mining, and forestry. It is also the home for garden products (fruits and vegetables) due to the temperate climatic conditions. It is also the place for Myanmar's rubber plantations. All these sectors are highly labor-intensive and source of attraction for migrant workers from the nearby other places towards Myawaddy, Mesauk and Thailand as destination. The integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) allowed estimation of monetary poverty, as measured by consumption expenditure on food and non-food items. According to this measure, about 17 percent of the population was estimated to be living below the poverty line in Kayin State. This is the sound reason for migration to get more income to fulfill for their livelihood.

2.1.4 General Information of Yangon Division

Yangon is the most populous city with the population of nearly 7 million people in Myanmar. As Yangon is the nation's biggest city and the most vital business center, it is also the country's main center for trade, industry, real estate, media, entertainment and tourism. Manufacturing accounts for a sizeable share of employment. At least 14 light industrial zones ring Yangon. Construction is also a major source of employment in Yangon. The majority of internal labor migration within the country is movement toward urban centers and big cities from countryside. Therefore, Yangon has been still the main center of migration flows from other States and Regions of Myanmar. Tarmwe, Hlaing and Kamaryut townships were collected to field visit of the study.

2.1.5 General Information of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Nay Pyi Taw is the capital city of Myanmar since 2006. Nay Pyi Taw is located between the Bago Yoma and Shan Yoma mountain ranges as well as lies between 1.9 miles West of Pynmana Township and approximately 200 miles North of Yangon. It is also at the Southern tip of the central dry zone. It stands at 19° 45' North latitude and 96° 6' East longitude and has an area of 7,054.37 km². It is situated at 400 ft elevation above the sea level. It is more centrally and strategically located than the old capital, Yangon. It is also a transportation hub located adjacent to the Shan, Kayah and Kayin states. Nay Pyi Taw



Union Territory consists of eight administrative townships: Pyinmana, Lewe, Tatkon, Ottarathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Pobbathiri, Zabuthiri and Zeyarthiri Townships (Department of population 2015). In Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana and Tatkon Townships were chosen for the field visits.

2.2 Research Methodology

Growing urbanization and better job opportunity in urban area have a significant impact on migration and mobility patterns that account for a large part of the rural workforce in Myanmar. Therefore, this study focus is to establish an empirical basis of a better understanding the role of migration in household decisions making processes from which through different migration patterns, role of gender perspective on decision making processes and remittance allocation, and impact of remittance in household economy. The following data collection methodology was done in each study area.

2.2.1 Primary Data Collection in Dry Zone

Both quantitative and qualitative data were included in primary data collection. By applying purposive random sampling method, total six migrant households from Chaung Phyu village and two migrant households' members from West Chaut Kan village were randomly selected and individually interviewed with structured questionnaires. Socio-economic characteristics of households and detail information about migrants such as reasons of migration, initial migration costs and sources, occupational status and income before and after migration, remittance allocation etc. were specially gathered from selected migrant households. Their opinions about impact of migration on various sectors of community livelihoods were also included. The findings of the study were qualitatively valued and exemplified as case studies although there was some quantitative data.

Focus group discussions and key informants interview with 15 to 30 people in each study village were carried out in order to know the overview of household economic activities as well as the profile of existing migration patterns and migration related information. Not only village administration authorities but also family members of migrant households actively involved in focus group discussions.



2.2.2 Primary Data Collection in Mon State

The field visit involved 31 migrant households by interviewing with structured questionnaire. In Mon State, there are internal migrants from other part of the countries filling the place of workers who migrated to Thailand and other countries (K. N. H. Zaw, 2013). Therefore both internal migrant and international migrant information were gathered. 9 migrants and 3 migrant households from Pankone, Ka Na Lo, Ka Line Ka Naing, Kyun Ywar and Taung Ka Lay villages in Kyaikemaraw Township were interviewed.

Both quantitative data and qualitative data are collected with purposive random sampling. The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of sample household, migrant's information, types of occupation, information on assets and business activities, reasons for migration and benefits of migration and impact of migration were collected by interviewing migrant households. The information was collected through simple random sampling and personal interview. Qualitative data were based on the opinion of migrants and migrant households on the impact of migration.

2.2.3 Primary Data Collection in Kayin State

A purposive random sampling method was used to select the sample households for the study. Primary data were collected from sample respondents through personal interview by using structured questionnaire and focus group discussion was composed with 20 migrant households at Ohn Ta Pin village, Hpa-an township. Secondary data were gathered from various sources such as research literatures, official records of Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI), Department of Agriculture (DoA) and other related publications.

These included migrant in both origin and destination areas, including migrant families in origin areas, household information, migrant's information, household assets, household business activities, reasons for migration, income and remittance allocation, and impact of migration on various sectors of community livelihood. In this study, both quantitative and qualitative data were collected.



A labor migration profile in the study site is similar. In this study area, international migration to Thailand is an important livelihood strategy undertaken by urban and rural household members. The sector of work at the destination depends on the social network as well as on levels of education and skills. In this area, most people migrate to Thailand.

2.2.4 Primary Data Collection in Yangon Division

Most of the internal migration destination is Yangon division in lower part of Myanmar. For this case study, eight migrant workers (seven male and one female) coming from different regions and working in different occupations were purposive randomly selected and interviewed with structured questionnaire. In this personal interview, basic information and demographic characteristics of the migrants such as their places of origin, gender, age, marital status, family number, migrated year and education level were collected. Descriptive statistics (mean, maximum and minimum) were computed to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the sample migrants.

2.2.5 Primary Data Collection in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Nay Pyi Taw became one of the destination areas for migrants since the formulation of the capital city of Myanmar. Forming a capital city can create different job opportunity in this area. The primary data were collected for the investigation of internal migration dynamics by interviewing 9 migrants who came from various regions and worked different occupations such as waiter, beekeeper, taxi driver, nurse, supervisor and worker in construction site. Personal interviews were implemented with well structural questionnaires. By conducting the interview, both quantitative and qualitative data such as demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants, types of occupation, reasons for migration, benefits of migration and impact of migration were collected.



CHAPTER III

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Profile of Labor Migration and Remittance Used in Study Areas

3.1.1 Profile of Labor Migration and Remittance Used in Dry Zone

Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia and is rich in natural resources. However, long-standing conflicts and decades of martial law and rule have set back the development of this once prosperous Southeast Asian country. Majority of the rural population in Myanmar is dependent on farm incomes which are low and seasonal in nature. Thus, Myanmar has very high mobility of people within the country boundaries for labor purpose (Amina, M. and Theingi Myint 2015).

One of the study area in Dry Zone, Chaung Phyu situated in Minbu Township, Magway Region was primarily agrarian village for many years and sesame and white beans have been major cultivated crops in that village. Mercy Corps (2016) described that unfavorable climate change such as uncertain rainfall and unusual flood, seasonal unemployment, labor scarcity, low wage rate, conventional production technologies, high production costs, price fluctuation of agricultural commodities, lack of credit and insurance markets, unstable income, diminishing profit margins and poor economic conditions are critical challenges to agricultural communities in Central Dry Zone. Chaung Phyu village as a part of Central Dry Zone has also experienced aforementioned concerns and the majority of famers faced difficulties to continue agriculture solely as their main source of income. In 2010, about 173 houses among total 597 houses in Chaung Phyu were fully burnt down and affected due to severe fire accident. After that, many households seriously started to look for different income generation activities beside agriculture.

Expectations to get better employment opportunities, better working conditions and environments, better wage rates, regular and higher income in non-farm sectors extremely attracted villagers to leave agriculture and migrate from Chaung Phyu especially to big urban cities such as Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw within two years after fire accident. Very



few villagers from Chaung Phyu village were working abroad mostly in Thailand and Malaysia since half decade ago prior 2010.

Many remaining villagers heard about working situations and wage rates through returned migrants who were working in above two countries. They have later decided to follow with these returned migrants and searched better working places in Thailand and Malaysia since the beginning of 2012. At the early time of oversea migration, the premature migrants were single, unmarried or widows/widowers, and most of them were landless or near-landless. Many remaining households who had even own agricultural land well ahead decided to migrate overseas as they faced labor scarcity and difficulties to pay high production cost in agricultural activities. Nowadays, the numbers of international migrants from Chaung Phyu village ranged from at least one to six migrants per household and the age limits of migrants were 18 to 35 years old. Only around 200 households of total 597 households remained the same as non-migrant households because they didn't have within working aged household members.

All migrants from Chaung Phyu village got used to take one month English speaking course and received legal documents from respective embassies prior they migrated to Thailand or Malaysia. The initial migration cost per migrants from Chaung Phyu village to Thailand varied from 5 to 7 lakh MMK and that to Malaysia were from 12 to 14 lakh MMK depending on their jobs at destination countries. Migrants usually received initial migration cost from their families in own saving cash or by selling some properties and some borrowed from relatives or money lenders with interests. Most of migrants are currently working together in food manufacturing industries (eg: Canned Fish) which looks like small community of Chaung Phyu in abroad. Wage rates received by Myanmar migrants in oversea countries might vary depending on the jobs, working places and migrants' gender. Male migrant workers in Thailand did not settle down in only one working place and they had very often job shifting behavior. Thai employers thus prefer female labors although they usually provide equal wage rates to both male and female labors. International migration to Thailand was thus mostly female dominated due to high demand of Thai employers.



Average income of migrants ranged from 3 lakh to 3.5 lakh MMK per month in Thailand while Myanmar migrants in Malaysia earned minimum 5 lakh to maximum 7 lakh MMK per month. Migrant workers could immediately transfer the money to their families since they received the first salary. The majority of Myanmar migrants monthly and regularly transferred extra money to their families after excluding their food and living expenses while very few migrants transferred as two to three month interval. The amount of remittances from Thailand were ranging from at least 2 lakh to maximum 2.5 lakh MMK while those from Malaysia were between 3 lakh to 5.5 lakh MMK per month to their families in Chaung Phyu village. There can be therefore seen that the remittances as well as the initial migration cost for migrants in Malaysia were relatively higher in comparison with those of migrants in Thailand. Myanmar migrants usually applied formal private banking network from KBZ bank representative office in Bangkok to KBZ bank in Minbu to stretch their salaries back to families. Agent to agent network was still using to reach the remittances of Myanmar migrants in Malaysia to their families.

Almost all migrant households in Chaung Phyu village principally relied their main earning on the remittances and allocation of remittances varied from one household to another. Remittance utilization was mainly decided by household heads or the parents or sometime the household heads' wives whereas their education level and households' financial status would determine whether the remittance allocation was efficient or not.

Migrant households mostly used remittances for households' basic food consumption and education of young generations. Only the rest of the remittances could reach investing in farming or livestock rearing and other family businesses, construction or maintenance of housing, and other social functions after repaying the debt used by migrants as initial migration costs. Some migrant household saved some parts of remittances as in cash or in kind such as cultivated or residential land or gold and jewellery. However, the number of migrant households who could save remittances was relatively few.

The another focus area of the study in Dry Zone is A-nauk Chauk-kan village which is under the Chauk-kan village tract located in Pakokku Twonship, Mandalay Region in Dry Zone of Myanmar. The total population of the village is 1,600 under the 370 households.



According to the village head, this village has about 60 graduated villagers which are about 4% of total population at present. The major economic activities are farming, weaving, and working at the garment factory near the village in the study area. The major crops grown in this village are groundnut, sesame, pigeon pea, green gram, thanakha etc. Raising the livestock especially cattle, goat, and pig was done before however this activities was lesser because of the scarcity of pasture and prohibiting the selling of livestock by government.

One of the surprising cases in the study area is that there are many job opportunities for women than men. Their weaving industry is developing not only inside the village but also employ in the Pakokku Township with a reasonable daily wage (3500-4000 MMK/day). Therefore, they can help their family farming operations when they need. Moreover, the garment factory resident near the village (operated by China) employed most of the female workers. That village represents the area has reasonable job opportunities and there has better coping strategies a part from not only internal but also cross border migration.

Migration to other regions started from the year of 2003-2004 in the study area and gradually increased because of the low and unstable income in agriculture sector (especially crop price instability and bad weather condition). There are two type of migration patterns can be found in the study area. The first one is seasonal migration; who is working in other regions but come back and helping in the family farming during the peak season and the second one is temporary migration to internal and international. Internal migration generally refers to mobility of people from their origin areas (departure area) to a new place (destination area) for work purpose but remaining in-country. Destinations of the internal migrants are major cities of Myanmar such as Yangon, Mandalay and Pakokku Townships and for international destinations are Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and Thailand respectively. Among these countries, most of the migrants are working in Malaysia as factory workers in various sectors with monthly salary about 4 lakh of MMK. Migrants to Japan and Korea got more monthly income from 10 to 15 lakh of MMK.



In this study area migrants are generally young, predominantly male within the age range of 18 to 35 years, and better educated than their peers. They tend to migrate in order to find jobs in urban area such as construction, restaurants, tea shops, garment factories, and services. In the case of international migrants, most of the migrants are going to the formal way by conducting the legal agencies where the migrants had already attended the training related to their respective working fields before migration and giving some initial cost for migration. So, they went to abroad as skilled labor with formal channel therefore they have guaranteed and insurance for their work and social life in abroad. Migration in the study area is only taking the stable income job opportunity rather than the sustainable livelihood strategy in other cases of Myanmar because their village has many other local job opportunities as mention above. Most of the migrants' families in the study area have more or less experiences as the same channels of migration activities.

Reasons for International Migration in Dry Zone

Achievement of sufficient basic food and employment opportunity were the common goals of migrant households in Chaung Phyu village. Low wage rate for agricultural labor, unprofitable crop productivity, poor economic conditions and few income generating activities mainly encouraged the rural community in Chaung Phyu to migrate different destinations especially after severe fire accident in 2010. Various other reasons for migration were noted among interviewed migrant households. The reasons for migration varied according to gender, age, education level, skills and socio-economic situations. Low wage rate and seasonal unemployment were the major driving forces to migrate the people as seen in Case Study 1.

To get own capital for their future without depending on the parents was the major cause of young working aged people from households which had large household members, as could be seen in Case Study 2.

Failure in the farming activities such as diminishing crop productivity due to unfavorable weather condition, insufficient input usage and unprofitable returns for the poor farm households also created the people to migrate, which could be seen as Case Study 3:



The people also decided to migrate in order to get better working condition with improved facilities and high income, which could be seen in the following Case Study 4:

Landless household with very poor economic conditions, less income source and large household size caused the household members to migrate, as could be seen in Case Study 5.

Attractive invitation of relatives from oversea countries and to diversify income of household also encouraged the people to engage in international labor migration, which could be seen as following Case Study 6.

Regarding the migrants from A-nauk Chauk-kan village in Pakokku Twonship, better employment opportunities, better working environment, and high living standard are the reasons for them to be migrated (Case Study 7).

Other case study in A-nauk Chauk-kan village, the major reasons for migration for family are better education services and high income earning which is observed in Case Study 8.



Case Study 1: Low wage and seasonal unemployment

In this case, the migrant household had five family members headed by a father who was about 49 years old. The main income of the entire family was the earnings from cultivation of sesame, groundnut and white beans on their own 10 acres upland (Yar). Household head alone managed the farming activities and about 10 lakh MMK was annually earned from crop cultivations. Household head's wife who was about 47 years old had a shop which sold the basic requirements such as rice, cooking oil, and other kitchen stuffs. This shop also provided the profit around 80,000 MMK per month to the family. The youngest family member was Grade 6 student. Low wage rate as farm labor, and seasonal unemployment led the eldest daughter and son (who were 23 and 19 years old respectively) to leave Chaung Phyu village. The eldest daughter heard about better employment opportunity and high wage rate in Thailand from returned migrants. Her decision to migrate was also allowed by the parents but they could not provide enough money to apply visa and to buy flight ticket. She borrowed the initial migration costs from the relatives with 8% interest rate and it was repaid within 3 months after she got job at canned fish industry in Thailand. She had been already two years there and her younger brother also migrated and worked at the same place with her since 2015. After deducting their monthly expenditure for food and other living costs, they used to transfer 4.5 lakh MMK per two month interval to the family via KBZ, Bangkok to KBZ bank in Minbu. They could return to home once since they left Chaung Phyu village. The allocation of remittances was jointly decided by the migrant's parents and mostly spent in household's basic food, education for the youngest son as well as invested in farming. The migrants' mother said that there had been not only more investment in farming but also the improvement in both household income and living standard in comparison with before migration of her children.



Case Study 2: To get own capital for future

The case took place in a household composed of 8 household members headed by a father. Apart from the youngest Grade 4 student, the remaining household members (household head, his wife, four sons and one daughter) were working aged people ranging from 18 to 46 years old. The household owned total 12 acres of upland, however, only 8 acres were under sesame cultivation and the rest could not be grown any crops. Household head and his three sons could easily manage their farm business while his wife and their daughter took responsibilities for other household works such as cooking, washing and feeding to their four draft cattle. The eldest son who was about 30 years old and worked as farm labor was losing interest in farming as wage rate was very low, only 3,000 MMK per day and there was no regular off-farm employment. He wanted to get married soon but he did not have own cultivated land or enough capital and did not want to depend his parents anymore. Thus, he decided himself to migrate from Chaung Phyu with an expectation to get better employment opportunities, high wage/salary and high living standard. He borrowed the initial migration cost with 5% interest rate from the relatives and prepared English speaking course along with legal documents to migrate to Thailand. He had been working now in poultry processing industry in Thailand since 2016 and he could send remittances of about 2 lakh MMK monthly through KBZ bank to his family. A younger brother who was 19 years old also followed to Thailand after he had been one year in Thailand. They two migrants were currently staying together and working at the same industry. The younger brother also could regularly send the money about 2 lakh MMK per month back to family. Their parents did not use all remittances for household expenditure and they bought the residential plot for the eldest son with 5 lakh MMK and the remaining remittances were saved in KBZ bank. The whole household could improve the household income through the remittances as well as the participation in social activities and donation. The migrants themselves could possess own land and working capital for their future lives.



Case Study 3: Failure in farming activity

The livelihood of the entire farm household headed by 55 years old father was dependent on the cultivation of pigeon pea and sesame. The household head's wife was only a housewife at home and they had four children including Grade 7 student. The eldest son and two daughters (who were 27, 21 and 17 years old respectively) helped their father in farming activities. The family earned around 15 lakh MMK per year from crop cultivation on their own 10 acres upland. However, this earning could not provide sufficient basic requirements for the whole household. Their own house and all properties were disappeared in 2010 fire accident and the family could not invest sufficient resources in their crop cultivation. Increasing farm input costs also affected the family to reduce the amount of input usages. Crop productivity of the family went down due to insufficient input usages along with experiences in unexpected weather shocks. The second eldest daughter took the responsibility as a tailor after 2010 though it was not enough (around 90,000 MMK per month) to fulfill the basic needs of the entire household. Thus, she was forced by her parents to work in Thailand since the middle of 2015. Her initial migration cost was about 5 lakh MMK to reach Thailand. Her parents provided it by borrowing from friends with 10% interest rate and giving their 2 draft cattle and homestead land as a guarantee. She could repay it within three months after she started working at the garment industry in Thailand. Her elder brother also migrated to Thailand in February 2017 and he had been currently working in the same industry. She could also provide the migration cost of about 8 lakh MMK for her brother. She and her brother received 2.5 lakh MMK each per month in Thailand which was much higher as compared to their income before migration. They used to transfer total 5 lakh MMK to the family in every two months. About 70% of the family earning could be contributed by their remittances. Their mother allocated the remittances mostly in household's basic food expenses, investment in farming and education along with saving gold and some cash.



Case Study 4: For better working condition with high income

This case was observed in a farm household which consists of four sons, one daughter and their parents. The household owned 10 acres of upland and only two draft cattle; and the entire household annually engaged in cultivation of white beans and sesame. Only crop income about 15 lakh MMK per year was the main and only one income generating activity for the household. In 2010, the household also faced losses of their house and other assets in fire burnt down. The household still continued only crop cultivation; however, they started to search different job opportunities to feed the household sufficiently and to get better working conditions with higher regular income. Lack of off-farm employment in Chaung Phyu village also pushed them to find out employment opportunities outside their community. They heard about better working conditions and wage rate from the returned migrants from Thailand. Thus, with this expectation, the eldest brother who was 37 years old, his second youngest sister (who was 25 years old) and the youngest brother (who was 21 years old) migrated to Thailand together in 2015. They applied the required legal documents to work in Thailand through a labor-importing agency and their migration cost was about 5 lakh MMK per head. Their parents borrowed that money from the relatives with 8% interest rate with a guaranteed homestead land. Their salary as industrial workers in Thailand was 3.5 lakh MMK per person and they could return the debt after 5 months of migration. They monthly transferred total 7.5 lakh MMK per month to their parents via KBZ bank. The migrant household purchased a tractor with 320 lakh MMK as two year installment in 2017. The household already paid 120 lakh MMK for the tractor by the remittances alone in first year of purchase. Two non-migrant brothers of the household had provided tractor rental service at home and they could earn about 70 lakh MMK within 5 months of crop growing season. The mother discussed with other family members in allocation of the remittances and other crop income. This migrant household could also purchase a mechanized forage cutter and water pump beside a tractor in order to expand their farm machinery rental services. The household income could be increased through the remittances and other income generating activities although the family could not stay together under the same roof.



Case Study 5: Landless household, less income source and large family size

This case happened in a big household which had total 10 household members without any cultivated land holdings. The household head was about 60 years old and his entire life worked as farm labor with very low wage rate and his 52 years old wife had very small blanket-weaving business at home. The household had total seven children (only one son and six daughters) including Grade 9 and Grade 10 students and one daughter in law. Apart from two students, all children were working aged people and their ages ranged from the youngest 20 to the eldest 33 years old. All of them worked as wage farm labors with 2,500 MMK per day before they migrated. Very low wage rate, hard working conditions and seasonal unemployment in the village seriously affected this landless household to search jobs with regular income after the huge part of their village was damaged by fire accident in 2010. In 2012, the household head decided his two daughters to send to Thailand. They got job as wage labors in poultry processing industry. Other one daughter also migrated to work as wage labor in seafood industry in 2014. Later in 2016, the remaining daughter together with the son and his wife also followed to Thailand as legal migrants. The initial migration cost of the first two migrants was around 5 lakh MMK per person and the household head borrowed from money lender. These debts could be repaid within 3 months after they got the remittances. The migration cost for the remaining siblings were paid by their earlier migrant sisters. Currently, the household had been monthly receiving total 12 lakh MMK per month as remittances. The migrants used to return back 15 days to 1 month once in every two years with official leaves. Remittance allocation was decided by the household head and the migrant household could build new house charged about 30 lakh MMK in 2014 and could purchase 2 residential plots in 2016 with remittances. In addition, monthly depositing in bank, gold and jewelry were the ways of saving for migrant household after subtracting the expenditures for daily basic food needs and education for the students. Thus, in this case, labor migration could be seen as a positive strategy to survive the landless household towards improved livelihood.



Case Study 6: Attractive invitation of relatives from Malaysia

The migrant household was composed of only four household members. The household head's mother was 70 years old and she was only dependent at home. The household had only 3 acre Yar land managed by the household head and his wife who were 33 years old respectively. They also worked as wage labors in other farms with very low wage rate. The household had no extra earning to expand their farming activities and they were just quiet enough conditions for basic food and the education expenses of their daughter who was Grade 5 student. Household head's younger brother and many relatives had been working in Malaysia since around 2012. Invitation of younger brother along with explanation about better working condition, high job availability and high wage/salary in Malaysia attracted the household head to leave Chaung Phyu village where there was only weather relied crop farming and low wage labor network. He expected that he would diversify household income from different sources and provide better education for his daughter. Therefore, he migrated to Malaysia with the help of his younger brother in October 2015. The initial migration cost was about 14 lakh MMK including visa application fee and travel documents; and he could return this debt during 7 months after he got job at packing section of mobile phone accessories producing industry. His wife also contributed to repay the debt by selling two draft cattle with 5.5 lakh MMK. Total annual household income before migration was around 5 to 6 lakh MMK from sesame cultivation and about 55,000 MMK per month by working as farm labor. Household head's wife allocated the remittances as 1 lakh MMK for monthly basic food needs and 2 lakh MMK for monthly saving in KBZ bank. She also invested around 20 lakh MMK remittances in money lending business and still had been continuing sesame cultivation and wage labor at other farms. Her dream was to expand cultivated land area and to save not only cash but also properties such as gold for her only one daughter's future. Nowadays, the migrant household could improve their household income through international migration as an income generating activity as well as the participation in social welfare activities.



Case Study 7: Skill labor migration to Japan and Malaysia for better employment opportunity

The family has 8 persons member among them two sons were migrated to Malaysia and Japan. The other four daughter and sons are students. The age of household head (father) is about 50 years with primary education level and he is working as farmer and as daily wage worker in paper printing business. His wife is also working as home business of pulse crushing plant in A-nauk Chauk-kan village, Pakokku Twonship. The average family income was about 3 lakh MMK/month. They possess 8 acres of land for upland crops. Both of the migrant's sons are mechanical high school and high school level education backgrounds with age about 23 and 21 years old, respectively. They got their migrant information from their teachers who have introduced them to the agent. The initial cost of migration incurred from their parents and borrows from relatives too. The one who went to Malaysia was about two years ago and he is working as salesmen at pipe shop with 4 lakh MMK/month. The other one who went to Japan was about 7 months ago and before he worked as mechanic in Malaysia. Now he is also working as mechanic in Japan with higher income about 11 lakh MMK/month as skill labor. They sent their money back to home every month. Mother is the main decision makers for their usage of remittance allocation. The remittance money is now used in children education expenditure and saving for future business. Better employment opportunities, better working environment, and high living standard are the pull factors for them to be migrated.



Case Study 8: Skill labor migration to Japan for better education and high income

The age of household head is 63 years old with high school education level living in A-nauk Chau-kan village, Pakokku Twonship.. The major occupation is farmer and he had pulse crushing machine for family own business. They have 20 acres of upland where they grow groundnut and pigeon pea. In this family, there are 7 family members. The son of this family who was 27 years old with graduated educational background went to Japan attending the language school and he also working as part-time job in restaurant. Before migration he was working as a clerk at private bank. Information about the migration obtained from his friend who is now in Japan too. The initial cost of migration provided from his family and borrowed with interest which was covered the costs of transportation, agent fee, and living in Japan. He must attend the language training before migration. Now he was sent his earning back to family about 2 times within three months and his family used this money for giving back the loan he took. According to the family head, they will use the money from his son in their family education, health care, and home mechanical business in village. Decisions on migration, remittance allocation are managed by all family members. The major pull factors for migration in this family is better education services and high income. In this case, push factor is unstable crop price which in turn influence the farm income.



3.1.2 Profile of Labor Migration and Remittance Used in Mon State

Actually, Mon State is the most interesting area for migrant workers in Myanmar. Moreover, several studies said rubber sector in Mon State would be the transaction from internal migration to cross border migration of Thailand and Malaysia especially. As the area is located to border area of Thailand nearby, local workers can easily migrate to Thailand then labor requirement of rubber sector lures the internal migration of labor from other regions such as Ayeyarwaddy and Dry Zone of Myanmar (Amina M and Theingi Myint, 2015).

The study was carried out in different villages in Kyaikemaraw Township and Mudon Township in Mon State to know the information of migrant household and migrants not only internal but also cross border migration. In Kyaikemaraw Township, the study villages were Pankone, Ka Na Lo, Ka Line Ka Naing Kyun Ywar and Taung Ka Lay villages. In the study area, the people migrated both internally and internationally. In the field site, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants, types of occupation, reasons for migration and benefits of migration and impact of migration were collected by interviewing 9 migrants and 3 migrant households. In the study area, there were different kinds of works such as tapper, fishery worker, grocery workers, farm labor, skilled labor, etc. Therefore, the study would like to depict based on their work and status of migration.

Case Study 9: Internal migration of tappers as skilled labor

The selected area was Kyaikemaraw Township, Mon State. This study was carried out by interviewing 5 migrant workers about migrant situation, reasons of migration, stakeholder mapping, and benefits of migration and impact of migration on various sectors of community livelihoods. These migrants were from Tharyarwaddy Township in Bago Region and, Myanaung Township in Ayeyarwaddy Region, and Ye and Kyaikto Townships in Mon State. The migrant workers were occupied as tappers. The poverty status of migrant workers was mostly medium. The average duration of migration was 7



years. The return time interval of migrant workers depended upon the traditional holidays and the working season. The migrant workers preset their work by connecting with returned migrants or relatives.

The migrants earned around 15,000 MMK per day; however, they had off-day at every three days interval as to the job nature. There was no difficult to do their tasks because they had already learned about tapping. The average cost of migration was 10,000MMK. The migrant workers organized themselves to migrate and they came with their families and so, they needed not to transfer money. The employer provided residential place for migrant workers in rubber plantation where they worked. It was difficult to connect with the employer because most of the employers were urban residents and they did not come to the field regularly. Therefore, the migrant workers could not receive their wages timely.

There was no special access to health for them but they knew personal hygiene and sanitation were good for health. Some migrant workers slept in long lasting insecticidal net to protect against mosquito transmitted diseases including Malaria. The benefit of migration was more earning for investment and saving. Among these 5 migrant workers, it was observed that the two migrant workers benefited markedly from migration. In this case, the one migrant worker got more efficient because he could buy farms in his native town and he had planned to come back to his home town and to do agriculture as his family's own business by using income earning from migration. The other one had to work in banana plantation as well as rubber plantation because his employer owned both kinds of plantations. He had a future plan to grow banana in his local area with his valuable experience got from current work.



Case Study 10: Internal migration of unskilled labor to rubber and rice farm

Primary data collection was carried out by interviewing 4 migrant workers in Kyaikemaraw Township about migrant situation, reason of migrant, stakeholder mapping, benefit of migration and impact of migration on various sectors of community livelihoods. The migrant workers were unskilled labors working in both rubber plantation and rice field. The poverty status of migrant workers was mostly medium i.e., their earnings was not beyond family food expenditure. They are originally from Bago Region and Yangon Region. The average duration of migration was 7 years. The return time interval of migrant worker was ranged from none to maximum seven times.

The work for them was set in advance by connecting with returned local migrants or relatives. The average cost of migration was 72,500 MMK. The migrant workers came with family and they organized by themselves. They decided to migrate expecting to get year round work and higher daily wage than that in their local areas. Without the requirement of any special skill for work, the wage rate they earned was 5,000 MMK per day and it was less than that of skilled labors e.g., tappers. The average wages were 117,500 MMK/month provided with huts to stay in. The migrant workers supposed that their livelihood would improve after migration. The benefit of migration was earning some amount of saving and they dreamt they would go back native town one day when they had saved enough amount of money to invest in family business. With the lack of no special access to health, the migrants looked after themselves to be healthy.

Case Study 11: Improve economic condition by cross border migrant households

Three migrant households from three different villages were interviewed with structured questionnaire in Kyaikemaraw Township. The family members migrated to Thailand. The average family size of migrant household was seven members. In Ka Na Lo village,



migrant households occupied as daily waged labor in collection of rubber latex and driver. The family size of migrant household was 8 members. The education level of both migrant household member and migrant was primary. A couple of 22 years of age migrated from the family. The migrants returned home only one time along their migration period about six years.

Before migration, the husband was driver and the wife worked as daily labor in collection of rubber latex. The wage of migrant was 200,000 MMK/month for driver and 5,000 MMK for daily waged labor in collection of latex before migration. After migration, their occupation was in livestock farm. The wage for men was 13,500 Baht/month (540,000 MMK/month) and wage for women was 12,000 Baht/month (360,000 MMK/month). Parents had to cost for the initial migration expenditure. The reason for migration was to improve their economic condition and to support their parents. Moreover, the push factors for migration were low wage rate and no stable income. The pull factor for migration was high income. They transferred 200,000 MMK monthly. The remittance income was used beneficially by buying land, home construction and to support family. They believed that their livelihood would benefit from migration because they could support family more earnings than they did before.

In Taung Ka Lay village, the main source of income for migrant household was rubber plantation. The family size of migrant household was eight members. The education level of 32-year-old migrant was middle level. Only one member of household had migrated to Thailand for three years. He discussed with his family and decided together to migrate and the parents paid the money for initial migration cost. The reason for migration was that he would like to support his parents and to improve household economic condition because they were small rubber farmer. The migrant had not returned home since the first time of migration. Before migration, he worked in their rubber plantation. However, in Thailand, his occupation was fishery worker. The wage of fishery worker was 9000 Baht/month (360,000 MMK/month). He could quarterly remit 200,000 MMK to the family. The remittance was used beneficially by buying motorcycle and health care. How much the remittance he sent, his family supposed that migration has a positive impact on household economic condition.



In Kyun Ywar village, migrant household mainly generated their income from rubber plantation. Three household members migrated internally to Minepon Township in Shan State. The family size of migrant household was 6 members. The education level of migrant household member was primary and middle and migrants were high school student. The age of migrant ranged between 20-28 years. Before migration, their occupation was family labor in rubber plantation. However, they were not interested in working as farm labor on the rubber plantation, which was their household's economy. They felt the farm work was tiring and boring. And their family stayed in Minepon for some years. Moreover, their relatives left there and advised them to come and work there. Their parents let them go and they provided the transportation cost and food cost along the travel to Minepon. Since they had migrated from the village, they came back home only one time during six-year-duration of migration. They worked as salespersons in a grocery store. The job earned 250,000 MMK/month for each. The hard work of agriculture pushed them to migrate and the pull factors such as high income and better working condition attracted them to migrate. They transferred 500,000 MMK monthly. The remittance earning was used beneficially for buying land, home construction and input costs in rubber farm. They accepted that migration made improved household economy creating by income diversification of the household members.

The next migration survey was done in Mudon Township. Phae Tho, Ka Mar Watt, Thone Pa, Kyun La, Kyaikywe, Nyaung Kone and Ka Lot Thaw villages are study villages in Mudon Township. In the study area, there were international and internal migrants. In the field site, the information about demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants, types of occupation, reasons for migration, benefits of migration and impact of migration were collected by interviewing 31 migrant households. In the study area, there were different kinds of works carried out by migrants such as farmer, bricklayer, student, farm labor, tapper, jobless, etc.

In the study area, the major sources of income for migrant households were rubber plantation, rice farm, and sale of vegetables. The average family size of migrant household was 11 members. The education levels of most household members were primary and secondary level and some are high school level or graduated. The ethnicity



of migrant household were Mon and Myanmar. The average number of migrant per household was 3 with the range of 1-7. The duration of migration ranged between 2-10 years. Almost all households were male-headed and only three households were female-headed. Before migration, migrants worked as family labor in rubber plantation, as daily waged labor in agriculture, and as sellers. During migration, their occupations were bricklayer, waiter, tappers, flower arranger, factory worker, construction worker and fisherman. They got the information for migration from family members and returned migrants. Mostly parents gave the migrants' initial migration cost and sometimes it was got from own saving and borrowed from others. The return time interval was mainly depend on the free time in work. Their earnings was transferred non-frequently i.e., once or twice a year. The range of remittance amount was between 50,000-600,000 MMK per time. The remittances were used beneficially to buy land, for home construction or maintenance, for saving, for basic food needs, for health care, to buy gold and to buy yard. The reasons for migration were landlessness, low wage, lack of year-round employment, low agricultural productivity, poor economic condition, almost unemployment and family conflict. In this area, lack of year round employment was the main reason for migration. The skill labor as tapper from rubber sector migrated to Thailand from study area was observed as the case study below.

Case Study 12: Higher income of tappers of rubber sector in Thailand

The migrant households were the farmers working in rubber plantations and rice farms. The average family size was seven. The average age of migrants was 28 years ranged from 22-39 years. The education level of migrant was mainly primary and secondary level. Each family had at least one migrant member and the largest number was 4. They were daughter, daughter-in-law, son and son-in-law in the relationship with household heads. They did tapping, off-farm works, on-farm works, and some were students before migration. However, tapping was the only occupation that the migrants were working abroad. They could earn only 5,000MMK per day before migration. After migration, their wage rate was ranged from 10,000MMK to 20,000 MMK per day when they did tapping



in Thailand. In tapping work, they only needed the skill to tap. The amount of their earning mainly depended on their working power. The more they could tap, the greater income they could generate. Most of them had been migrating for 7 years. The returned time interval of migrants was once a year in average and some did not return yet. Most of the migrants decided themselves to migrate. The migrant households' generated their income from rubber plantation, intercropping (vegetables and fruits), rice farms and retailed shop. Household head decided the household business activities in every household. The initial migration cost was usually paid by parents and some borrowed from others and some used own saving. The pull factors for migrants were high income, greater job opportunity in large-scale rubber plantation, sufficient employment in the external area so that they could generate higher income than working in the village.

The various reasons for migration even the family had own rubber plantation or farm were low wage rate, low yield of latex, poor soil condition, low agricultural productivity, and poor economic condition in local region. In the study area, migrant farm households earned their family income mainly from remittance and rubber plantation or rice farm. Some of the farm income obtained from sale of crops such as pumpkin and cucumber. Most of the migrants transferred money monthly but some transferred quarterly.

Remittances were used for basic food need, investment in saving, health and education and credit payment, investment in farm and buying land. Mother decided the remittance usage in the study area. The benefit of remittance usage was buying the land, saving, basic food need. Most migrant household could not use the remittance for local development. It was observed that the migrant household members should have the skills of better management of finance in order to win the better result of using remittance. Whatever the gender of the migrant was, they could get at least a job to earn their livelihood in Thailand. There was no change in gender roles and responsibility. The migrant did not hear and see about gender based violence and also women disempowerment or empowerment from their neighbors and workmates. When one migrated, it could be said that the household economy improved in the study area because they could buy land and save more money for investment. Therefore, they believed that household economy improved after migration.



Case Study 13: Low agricultural productivity pushes cross border migration

These migrant households were smallholder rubber farmers and some were rice producing farmers. The average number of family size was five. The average age of migrants was 27 years. The education level was primary, high school and graduate. Each family had 1-4 migrant members. They were daughter, daughter-in-law, son and son-in-law with regarding the relationship of household head. Their occupations before migration were farm labor, labor of hair salon and students. After they had migrated to Thailand, they worked as construction worker, waiter, factory workers, and nurse.

Family members got the wage rate around 5,000MMK per day in local area while they could earn up to 12,000MMK per day when they worked abroad. The average duration year of migration was 1.5years. Most of them decided to work at abroad by own decision but some decided by suggestion of family members. The migrant household business activity was agriculture. Although the migrants decided to migrate on their own, usually their parents paid the initial migration cost for them. The pull factors for migrant were high income and high job opportunity in non-farm sectors, and the push factors to migrate were landlessness, low wage rate, low agricultural productivity, and poor economic condition except government staff in local region. The main attraction for migrant was high incoming job opportunity in neighboring country. In the study area, migrant farm households earned their family income mainly from two main sources, i.e., remittance and farm income. Mostly they transferred money non-frequently i.e., usually quarterly. Remittances used for basic food need, health and education and credit payment. Only mother managed the remittance usage in the study area. The benefit of remittance usage was mainly for credit payment and basic food needs.

As the impact of migration, most of the household economy improved in the study area. Migrants supposed that even if all family members were working in agriculture, their livelihood would not improve because of low agricultural productivity, low wage and uncertain crop price. Therefore, they believed that household economy could only be improved when they migrated and earned money abroad.



The following were some cases that represented the examples of migrant households in Mudon Township except the case study 14 which was about a superior migrant in the study area. Other cases were cross border migration to Thailand as the best coping strategy of their livelihoods.

Case Study 14: Cross border migration led the migrants to manage own business

The main causes of migration for a landless couple from Mudon Township were low wage rate and no stable income. The migrants were Mon tribe and the wife was 26 years old and the husband was 30 years. Without the land to cultivate, they could not earn regular income and their main work as off-farm labor was not beyond their basic food cost. Their family included the wife's parents, themselves and their only son. Although the parents also worked as off-farm labors in rice farms as well as in rubber farms, their income was nothing to say about family own business. As the farm work was not year round work, their income was depending on the growing season in spite of the wage of 3000-4000 MMK per day.

Later, the information carried by return migrants, better employment opportunity, attracted them to migrate. Therefore, they decided to migrate themselves, but the parents had to cost for initial migration, 360,000 MMK per head. The couple contacted with a broker and then migrated to Thailand and worked as wage-earner at the architectural business manufacturing concrete columns that used to decorate the buildings. The job paid 300 Baht per day for wife and 350 Baht per days for husband with the facility of residence. From their job, they not only could earn money but also could get the experience, idea and expectation to work on their own business.

After 4 year working in Thailand, they came back home at least once a year especially in local traditional festival period. In the earlier months of migration, they had paid back the money for initial migration cost to the parents. After that, they sent remittance every seven months mostly 350,000-400,000 MMK and it was well utilized for food, social functions and saving to invest in home business. Mainly, their mother decided to allocate



the remittance and they supposed that systematic management to utilize the money was the key factor to promote household economy.

In the beginning of 2017, they started to invest in the architectural business to produce concrete columns. Nevertheless, the saving money could not cover all costs for investment of own business and so they would have to go back their work in Thailand and need to earn some more money to make sufficient investment in their family business. If their income from migration covered all investment costs, they would return home and do the own business together with their family members. They answered that their migration had a great impact on their household economy. Moreover, the family could take care of their health more than before. However, it had better if they had the official passport and work permit from the employer.

Case Study 15: Landless was a main driver of cross border migration

In this case, the family was landless and the household head was not fit for working. Household wife had to earn wage money by working in others' farms. Their daughter who was a pregnant mother and her child were living together with them in the village. Their son-in-law had migrated to Thailand for three years since 2015. Low wage rate, seasonal off-farm work and landlessness made their family difficult to have enough income for family food security, health and social cost.

Therefore, it was reasonable for him to migrate so that he could look after his own family as well as his parents-in-law. He discussed with his wife and decided together to migrate. Firstly, they used the gift money got from their wedding ceremony as the initial migration cost, 400,000 MMK. Before migration, they were farm labors like his mother-in-law. After migration, they worked at a sardine can factory and got 310 Baht per day which was more than a double of daily income of farm labor in the village. Nevertheless, the wife was pregnant and returned home in 2016. He transferred his earnings quarterly and the amount was 150,000-200,000 MMK. However, he could not send the money when the



passport had to be renewed or in the low season. The mother-in-law decided on remittance utilization and it was used for health care, food cost and education cost for children. Nonetheless, it could not be used to sustain the benefits because of lack of own farm and poor health of household head. He sent 1,100,000 MMK in total to pay for the health care. Therefore, his earning became a money pit and the family did not have extra money for saving. By the time he could not transfer the money, the family had to borrow some money from their relatives without interest and paid it back when the remittance had been received. Migration had a significant impact on this landless family for household economy and income diversification, however, the son-in-law still needed to migrate to earn more money for family welfare.

Case Study 16: Female household head cross border migrated for family subsistence

A female household head was 39 years old, and she was the only working force of their family. Her parents were over 70 years of age and her brother was graduated from the Government Technology Institute in 2016 and looking for a job in Yangon when she was a single. Although the family had 20 acres of rice farm, she also could not manage the farm business very well. Her brother also was not willing to manage the farm and he was just interested in his education. Low agricultural productivity, poor soil condition, labor scarcity and low price of rice also disappointed her to handle the farm work. Therefore, the farms were tenanted and she supported the family by working as the farm labor. Only fifty baskets of paddy were received from tenant annually from total acres. She got the information of migration from a return migrant in the village and she decided on her own that working abroad would be better for her than working as a farm labor in the village.

The initial migration cost of 300,000 MMK was supported by her old parents. She left home to Thailand illegally since 2015. She worked at a sardine can factory with the wage rate of 311 Baht per day. She transferred money mostly three times a year and about 200,000 MMK in one time. However, she could not send the money when the work was not convenient. Her mother decided remittance usage and it was well utilized for food,



education and health care. It was difficult for her to find a better job in Thailand because she migrated illegally.

In her opinion, migration had not marked impact on household economy because all her earnings were spent for household daily expenditure for subsistence and there was no saving or investment for family business. Yet, she expected she would stop migration when her brother got a higher level job and looked after the family back.

3.1.3 Profile of Labor Migration and Remittance Used in Kayin State

Kayin State is situated in Southern Myanmar bordered by Mandalay Region and Shan State to the north, Kayah State and Thailand to the east, and Bago Region and Mon State to the west. Kayin State has 30,383 sq. km area of land. The area is mainly inhabited by Karen ethnicities. The lowland areas, especially in the west, practice rice farming. In the east, many areas are hilly and covered with forests, with people practicing upland farming. DoP (2015) stated that Kayin State has the population of 1,574,079 which rank 10th in state population density in Myanmar. For the population in urban and rural areas, the census results showed that 78 percent of population lives in rural area while 22 percent lives in urban area.

Kayin State is also part of the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), and is thus considered as an important focal point for border trade and tourism between Thailand and Myanmar. Myawaddy plays a significant role in cross border trading with Thailand, in comparison to the other three border trading zones in Tachilek, Kawthaung, and Myeik. According to the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar, the total volume of imports and exports increased by 174.393 million USD from the 2015-2016 fiscal year to the 2016-2017 fiscal year (www.commerce.gov.mm/en/dobt/border-trade-data).

In the future, the Asian Highway will better connect Myanmar to Thailand, and further on to Laos and Vietnam. It will serve as the main road that passes through Hpa-An and Myawaddy. The main agricultural products of Kayin State are forest products, rubber, betel nuts and leaves, fruit trees, cardamom, and coffee. Resources include tin, tungsten and timber. Based on the results of Kayin State Economy Overview, most of the



population of Kayin State relies on agricultural products, with 75% of the population in the agricultural industry. Season fruits like durian, avocado, cucumber, tomato, carrots and mangosteen are also available in Kyaukgyi area, Kayin State.

According to a Special Report FAO (2016), during their crop and food security assessment mission to Myanmar in 2015, the paddy planted areas of Kayin State amounted to 260,000 hectares, and the total production was 962,000 tons. In addition, the maize planted area in Kayin state, as of 2015, was 21,000 hectares and the total production was 95,000 tons.

A case study about labor migration was done in Ohn Ta Pin village situated in Hpa-An Township in July 2017. The study village had over 460 households and among them, there were more than 100 households that are engaging in agriculture. In almost of all households, at least one of the family members was working in Thailand. In the study area, the major cropping pattern was rice based cropping pattern. After rice production, normally they grew pulses. There was no adequate farm labor for crop production; rice farmers hired labors mainly form Ayeyarwaddy and Bago Regions as seasonal labors. And so, they faced difficulty for skilled labor. The shortage of skilled labor was one of the most demographic phenomena faced by many developing countries in the world. The wage for farm labor became higher relating to its scarcity.

In study area, most of the farmers grew rice for household consumption. The rice farmers select varieties according to their preference. The most commonly grown rice varieties are Manawthukha, Sinthukha and Manawhtun. They incurred the production cost above 3 lakhs of MMK for one acre rice production. But farmers received the paddy price of about 4,000 MMK per basket in 2016. Thus, the average yield must not be lower than 75 baskets per acre. In reality, the rice growers roared to get this yield because of poor soil fertility, low level of input utilization and poor management practices. But they kept growing rice because of their tradition and the purpose of household food security. Actually they did not realize how much they got profit form rice production. Therefore, they became less interest in agriculture and more interest to work as migrants in other area especially Thailand because of short distance to reach there. The migrant workers



were between the ages of 18 to 40 years old and there was no difference in job opportunity for gender, both male and female migrated to work in Thailand.

Reasons of Cross border migration in Ohn Ta Pin Village

The reasons for migration varied according to gender, age, education level, skills and socio-economic situations. Household food security, better employment opportunities, higher income and better standard of living were the major driving forces to migrate the people as seen in the case study below:

Case Study 17: Inadequately farm income for household basic needs

The case took place in a household with eight household members headed by father. Apart from the granddaughter of 2 years old, the remaining household members (household head, his wife, one son, three daughters and one son-in-law) were working aged people ranging from 23 to 58 years old. The household owned only about 1.75 acres of low land and grew monsoon and summer paddy. The household head and his wife worked together in rice production and they earned about 4 lakh MMK per year. It could not support adequately for household basic needs. The household also reared chicken and pig as a small scale and earned money about one lakh MMK annually. The eldest son worked as a driver and used to support monthly for household expenditure about one lakh MMK. The eldest daughter could not work because she had to look for her child. But the other two daughters and the son-in-law had been working in Thailand since 2014. They had jointly decided to migrate and the household head gave permission. These two daughters worked as maids and the son-in-law worked as a casual labor in Thailand. As their poor work conditions, they could remit money back to their home about 5 lakh MMK in three to four months interval. During three years, they could return home once and stayed nearly one month at home with their family. The allocation of remittances was jointly decided by the migrants' parents and mostly spent in household's basic food. The remaining remittance after spending in household food was used for donation and social activities.



Case Study 18: Expectation for future of the whole family

In this case, the migrant household had seven family members headed by a father who was about 48 years old. The household owned 4.5 acres of land (2 acres are paddy farm and 2.5 acres are upland) and grew monsoon paddy and pulses in paddy farm and horticultural crops in upland. The annual crop income was about 5 lakh MMK. The family also possessed three cattle. From the livestock rearing, the household could earn about 15 lakh MMK within two years. Among the household members, the elder daughter had been working in Thailand since 2014. She decided to be migrated herself as she was the eldest one in her family. The migrant used money about 7 lakh MMK for initial cost of migration including passport and labor card to work in Thailand. But she did not take any loan from others. She had married with Myanmar migrant worker like her in Thailand. They had been working as farm labors and used to send money back to the wife's family only about 20 lakh MMK per two month interval because the husband's parents passed away before. They returned home one time in every year and stayed about one week in their home. In this family, the main household income was based on the remittance from migrants working in Thailand. The other daughter had been working together with household head helping in horticultural crop production and livestock rearing. Among the household members, the two members were school aged: one was younger daughter, a matriculation student studying in Hpa-An and another one was the youngest son, Grade 5 student studying at BEHS of Ohn Ta Pin village. The allocation of remittances was decided by household head only and mostly spent in educational purpose. After three years working in Thailand, this migrant household could purchase two residential plots (80 lakh MMK and 50 lakh MMK) and saved money about 50 lakh MMK in bank for their future livelihood.



Case Study 19: Landless household in debt and less income opportunity

This case happened in a household which had total of 6 household members without any cultivated land holdings. The household head worked as delivery service of 20 liter purified drinking water bottles and his wife sold out eggs in near markets. The daily income of household head was about 2000 MMK and that of his wife was about 3000 MMK. Although their household income was very low, the eldest son and one daughter were graduated and the other son reached to Grade 11 but not passed the matriculation exam. Recently, the youngest daughter was attending in Grade 11. As a lot of money had been used in education, the household had debt many years ago. Although the two household members were graduated, the eldest son was a monk and the other daughter did not find a suitable work in the home country. Finally, she moved to Thailand as a migrant in 2010. Even she was a graduate; she worked as a maid in Thailand and earned about 5 lakh MMK per month. The initial cost for migration was about 4 lakh MMK and it was received from relatives working in Thailand. She had been already two years there and her younger brother also migrated and worked at the same place as security. But his monthly salary was only 3 lakh MMK. His migration cost was paid by the earlier migrated sister. Currently, the household had been receiving 145 lakh MMK per year as remittances. The allocation of remittances was jointly decided by the migrants' parents and spent in household's basic food, invested in education of youngest daughter, repaid for the debt and repaired their house. The household did not still have surplus money as saving.



3.1.4 Profile of Labor Migration and Remittance Used in Yangon

In Yangon, the study focused on the internal migrant workers. Eight migrant workers coming from different regions and working in different occupations were interviewed with structured questionnaire.

There were 2 migrants were coming from Magway, two from Taungthar and Myingyan in Mandalay region, one from Palae, Saging region, the last one from Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw. Therefore most of them came from Central dry zone. The majority of selected migrants were male workers and only one was female worker from Myingyan. The selected migrant workers were about 27 years old in average with five years in migration experience within the range from 1 to 5. Apart from one migrant, the remaining respondents were graduates because of completing thirteen years in educational background. Most of them were single except one from Taungtha was married. Their family size was about five family members in average.

In the selected migrants, the cost of migration was ranged from 0.5 lakh to 8 lakhs. In this study, most of the migrants received initial migration cost from their families and some cost came from own saving. No one borrowed money for migration cost. Among the migrants, the lowest income was 3 lakhs per months and the highest was 11.9 lakhs per month. Most of the selected migrants transferred money monthly to their families but only one migrant transferred quarterly. The amounts of remittance were from 6 to 84 lakhs per year. Thus, it was found that the migrants transferred money about 15.5 to 87.5 percent of their income. The migrants normally use the formal banks (especially KBZ bank) for the transfer of remittances.

The remittance use is determined by the amount of remittance and the financial status of the family. Remittance earning from internal migration is relatively small and is mostly used to smoothen household consumption with little saving. In this study, the migrants' families use the remittance for housing, repaying of debt, investing in family business and investing on education of other younger family members respectively. For the effectiveness in utilization of the remittance, education level of the family members is very important. Mostly, the parents decide together on remittance usage. The migrants



also get the benefit themselves as becoming more self-reliance, getting experience in related job, widen in social network, better social communication, developing in business perspective and finally raising their living standard.

Reasons for migration of the migrants

Remaining food secure is the major goal of the most migrant households. Common reason choosing to work in Yangon is that the migrants want to attend the training and further diploma course as educational purpose for future career. The other reasons for migration are income generation, better paying employment opportunity, and employment with possibility of gaining additional technical skills.

Case Study 20: Better opportunity for future career in Yangon

The selected migrant is a graduate in agricultural science. He started working as a marketing staff in agricultural input company in Magway. But his ambition is to become a freelance translator. Thus he moved to Yangon for his ambition because there is better employment opportunity.

Firstly, he had joined to Ain Arr sport journal in which he did translation for football news. He had worked for only six months in this job and then he had moved to e Trade Myanmar Co., Ltd. as an interpreter for economic news. In this company, he worked for one and half years and searched for another job because of low salary (120,000 kyats per month). Now he is working as an agricultural news composer in The Farmer Journal and a freelance translator in Soccer Star Myanmar.com. In addition, he has many own projects for translating from English to Myanmar language. Nowadays, he can do his career effectively at home because online system is widely being developed in Myanmar economy. Therefore, he has a plan to back to his native town, Monywa in near future. The major reasons working as a migrant are to get better opportunity based on his interest and then to provide basic requirements for his family.



Case Study 21: Willingness of migrant to Yangon for future career

The major reason of the engineering migrant workers working in Yangon is better employment opportunity and suitable with their professions. They can get great experience of mega construction of buildings. Moreover they have good opportunity for learning further study abroad. Though they earn lower salary in Yangon than working in other regions; they still have more willingness to work in Yangon for his future career.

Case Study 22: Educational purpose internal migration in Yangon

In this case, the young migrant worker started migration after passing the matriculation exam. He wanted to attend university but his parents could not afford to support for graduation. That is why he decided to move out from home for searching job opportunity, and then he expected to attend the university. For studying at University with a job, he thought Yangon is the most suitable and possible area. Therefore, he moved to Yangon. Another reason is that his uncle lives in Yangon.

Firstly, he stayed with his uncle family and searched for a job for three months. He faced difficulties to get the job with enough salary for the under graduate study because he was not a graduate. For the food and other basic requirements, he took the supports from his uncle. His first job was as a sale and marketing staff in Police Brand Glasses and Skin Care shop. He had worked for a year in this position. And then he changed to another job with better salary. His destination is a marketing staff in Royal Aqua Star Co., Ltd.. He is still working in this company and he became a third year student with Physics at the distance university in Yangon. He can also remit money back to parents monthly over and above cost of study and basic needs. His expectation was coming true in Yangon as the impact of internal migration.



3.1.5 Profile of Labor Migration and Remittance Used in Nay Pyi Taw

The case study was focused on internal migrants who work in Pyinmana Township within Nay Pyi Taw council area. Regarding the data collection, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants, types of their occupation, reasons for migration, and benefits of migration and impact of migration were collected by interviewing five migrants. In the study area, the migrants were working in different occupations such as waiter, car driver, nurse, beekeeper and supervisor in construction business. All of the migrants were single and most of these migrants were young people and are mostly males who were working in the non-agricultural sectors.

Reasons for migration

The various reasons for migration described by migrants were seasonal unemployment, unfavorable circumstances to do the desired business and few job opportunities in their local regions. Some migrants wanted to get high living standard in urban than rural area where is their native. Moreover, there are some more stories mentioned in case studies.

Case Study 23: Higher income job and better living standard in Nay Pyi Taw

Migrant worker was 20-year-old and his education level was grade 9. He had migrated from Waw Township, Bago Region since 2014. His family owned 10 acres of paddy land but he was not interested in farming activities. Away from rural area, he would like to seek new job opportunities in urban. He expected that there would be higher income job and better living standard than in his region. He left for Pyinmana where his uncle was living. He stayed with his uncle and he didn't need to worry about accommodation and food cost. He learnt to drive and when he got driving-license, he started working as a taxi driver. He earned about 100,000 MMK per month and totally he transferred 600,000 MMK per year to his parent's food expenditure and welfare such as repairing home and digging well. The migrant returned parent's home twice a year. He felt pleased about his migration because he could earn more money and be enjoying higher living standard in urban area than in rural area.



Case Study 24: Seasonal unemployment leading to migrate to Nay Pyi Taw

In this case, the migrant was a Chin Tribe youth of 19 years with a Grade-8 education level and came from Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw. His family had six members and family economy was not very much convenient. This meant that household income could just cover only the family food expenditure. The major reason of migration was lack of year-round employment and less job opportunities in his village. In the village, he had to work as a farm labor and it was a seasonal work. It was difficult for him to earn much money in the village. Therefore, he decided to work as a waiter at a restaurant in Nay Pyi Taw to provide household for more money to overcome poverty. He had the initial cost for migration about only 6000 MMK. It was because Lewe is located in Nay Pyi Taw region. He earned 60,000 MMK per month with free food and free accommodation. He provided nearly 50,000 MMK per month to his parents. As his work place and native town was near, his parents came to him to receive money. Mainly mother decided remittance usage and it was utilized mainly for family food expenditure and education for his younger brother. In the early period, he did not know how to serve and properly communicate with customers in restaurant. Later, he understood more and more how the work was going well in restaurant. Finally, he became enjoy in his job and he could learn how to cook and how to manage a restaurant kitchen to fulfill customer's demand. However, if there was an opportunity, he would like to work in his native town and he preferred doing as own business. Hence, his final goal was to become a skillful chef who could get more earning at restaurant and later to manage his own restaurant in his native town.



Case Study 25: Migratory beekeeping business in Nay Pyi Taw

A self-employed migrant was around 25 years old and he was graduated (B. Sc Physics) from Taunggyi University. He was originally from Myinmahti village, Pin Laung Township, Shan State. Actually, most of the natives from his village worked as beekeepers migrating to other places across the country. While he was a university student, he was willing to do his own business. Beekeeping business (apiculture) was the most interesting business for him although crop cultivation farm was his family business. Therefore, he decided to work migratory beekeeping. Before he did his own business, he moved to Lewe Township with his friend and learned how to do beekeeping. Then, he migrated to Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw and started doing apiculture in 2016. The reason why he migrated from his native was that there was no sufficient food for bees in the local area. As the initial investment cost, he had to use about 20 lakhs MMK given by his parents. He could collect and sell the fragrant and sweet honey from September to March. The income was around 21 lakhs MMK during the honey producing season even in the first year of migratory beekeeping. From his income, he sent nearly 10 lakhs MMK to his parent during the peak seasons of crop cultivation for labor requirement such as planting and harvesting time. He came back home once a month. Migration encouraged household income and income source diversification as two businesses i.e., farming and beekeeping could have a mutual effect in allocating more capital investment for both businesses.



Case Study 26: Migrate to the area where the desirable job opportunity existed

The female migrant was 22 years old from a farm family and her education level was high school. The reason for migration was due to less job opportunities in her village (Nyaung Tone Ai village, Tatkon Township) and actually, she would like to become a nurse. Because private medical service was not improved in her native town yet, she decided to move to Nay Pyi Taw as her parents advised. When she migrated to Nay Pyi Taw in December, 2016, her elder sister helped her to find a job and then she was interviewed and accepted to work at a private hospital in Nay Pyi Taw in early 2017. However, before she worked as a nurse, she had to join medical service training for two years given by the hospital and she had to pay 150,000 MMK as the training fee and 40,000 MMK as accommodation fee while she was attending the training. Her parents provided all the cost she had to spend by the time she was attending the training. Later she started as an apprentice for two weeks and after that she could work as a certificated nurse at that private hospital. The salary for her job was 120,000 MMK per month and accommodation is provided by employer. Monthly, she remits 40,000 - 60,000 MMK to her parents and the rest amount could not beyond the food expenditure for her. Her parents together allocated remittance money for agricultural inputs and household basic needs. She returned home once a month. In this case, migration could bring better job opportunity and earning surplus money for parents who work in farming sector facing market and climate change risks nowadays in Myanmar.



Case Study 27: Construction sites in Nay Pyi Taw pull the migrants

The migrant was 42-year-old man from Yangon and he was a graduated person. There were many work opportunities around Nay Pyi Taw, particularly construction work. So, he migrated to this region since 2000. He worked in construction sites as supervisor and his wage was 300,000 MMK per month. There were so many labor migrants in construction sites when Nay Pyi Taw was developed. After the year of 2015, construction sites were becoming less and less but still he got the job based on his experiences. He supports his family even though his family's income is sufficient enough for their daily food, social dealing and other needs. He used to return home three times per year.

Case Study 28: Regular income of migrant in construction site

Selected respondent was 31-year-old migrant from Aung Lan Township, Magway Region and he was working as a wage labor at construction site in Nay Pyi Taw. He moved together with his wife and four-year-old son to Nay Pyi Taw in January, 2017. The initial migration cost was about 12000 MMK. As he took the whole family to the work place, he did not need to remit the money. In his job, he worked in pipefitter peer group for underground piping system. He earned 150,000 MMK per month from that job. They decided to migrate because there were not regular job opportunities in his native town and it was difficult for him to have family food security. Therefore, he discussed with his wife and migrated to Nay Pyi Taw expecting to get regular income. Really, if there were sufficient job opportunity, they would live in their native place. However, they had to continue migration for some more years. They believed that the livelihood situation of their family would be improved as a result of migration and they wished their son would become a educated person.



Case Study 29: Internal migration fulfills the family success

In this case, the migrant worker was 49 years old with a high school education level. He was born in Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region. He preferred migration because he thought that he could earn more money working in other places than in hometown. He had been working in construction since 2010. He had six year experience in migration (first two years in Tharyarwaddy Township and the rest years in Nay Pyi Taw). Firstly, he migrated to Tharyarwaddy Township, Bago Region and worked as a tractor operator. His friend helped him for finding the job. Two years later, he moved to Nay Pyi Taw where the construction site at which he was working moved. His main occupations were operating tractor and managing the other operators to work happily, actively and dutifully in their occupations. He earned 700,000 MMK per month and also received health care service from his job. He used to come back home quarterly of the year. He remits 500,000 MMK monthly to his wife who was the sole decision maker in remittance utilization. The remittance was used especially for food expenditure, family welfare and investment in education of their children who are studying at Grade 7 and Grade 11. He believed that he succeeded by migration for fulfilling family needs and wants. He wished his son and daughter would become educated persons. As for him, he would like to have additional skills in the field of construction technique and management. He found himself compatible in every new circumstance, however, weak in social dealings with the old friends left in his native town.



Case Study 30: Large family size led internal migration for enough income

The respondent was from Kan Tha Village, Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw. He was a 43-year-old tradesman like worker doing various kinds of work related with construction such as carpentry, masonry, ironwork, painting, etc. However, the job opportunities were limited with low wage rate. His big family including 7 members could not have sufficient income for food, education and social cost. Therefore, he decided to migrate to Nay Pyi Taw as a carpenter in a construction site to earn higher income in 2010. He had left his native town for seven years and the cost of migration was about 90,000 MMK from Kan Tha village to a construction company in Nay Pyi Taw because almost the whole family migrated altogether except some children (two sons and one daughter). They lived together with his relative in-laws in the village and were attending their basic education classes. He earned 400,000 MMK per month from his job and transferred 200,000 MMK monthly to his relative in-laws for the cost of education of his children. He believed that family livelihood had improved as a result of migration. If there were sufficient work at home town, he would not migrate to other places. He expected that his sons and daughter ought to be graduates and having the good job with better living standard.



Case Study 31: Farm labor migration to urban for household secure

In this case, migrant worker was 42 years old and he was from Shauk Kone Village, Tatkon Township and before migration he worked as a farm labor. He earned low wage rate, 4000 MMK per day from his farm job with irregular working time. Thus, he decided to migrate to Nay Pyi Taw with traveling cost 20,000 MMK. He was working as wage labor especially as a gravedigger for foundation of a building, ditch in a construction. From his job, he earned daily wage rate of 6,000 MMK. Thus, he sent the money quarterly to his family by the amount of 200,000 MMK in one time. His wife managed to allocate the remittance and it was well utilized for home consumption, and other living cost. He hoped that if he could earn more money than before, his family could own a house and therefore, he would continue migration to meet his family's needs.

Case Study 32: Governmental staff migrant's dream for future

This migrant worker was 26 years old and came from Kukai Township, Shan State. He graduated from Associate of Government Technical Institute (AGTI) and also a degree holder as B. Sc. (Physics). His parents were government staffs and they also wanted him to live on regular income based on his qualification and education. They preferred him to work in the government sector. Therefore, he applied to work as government staff in 2015. According to the nature of his work, he might migrate from place to place where he was posted. He earned 150,000 MMK per month with free accommodation. He couldn't transfer his earnings to his parents. He needed to learn in English for 4 skills and engineering management training for capacity building to get higher level of responsibility. However, he believed that he would improve the livelihood situation of his parents by providing with money as well as mental pleasure in the future.



3.2 Migration Pattern of Internal and Cross Border Migration in Study Areas

Migration patterns in the study areas are very different: internal migration, cross-border migration and international migration. In this study, internal mobility of labor generally refers to migration from their native location (original area) to a other place (endpoint area) for their different purposes across the regions and state within the-country. Remoteness, occurrence and interval of such actions vary based on the situation but most of them are permanent migration.

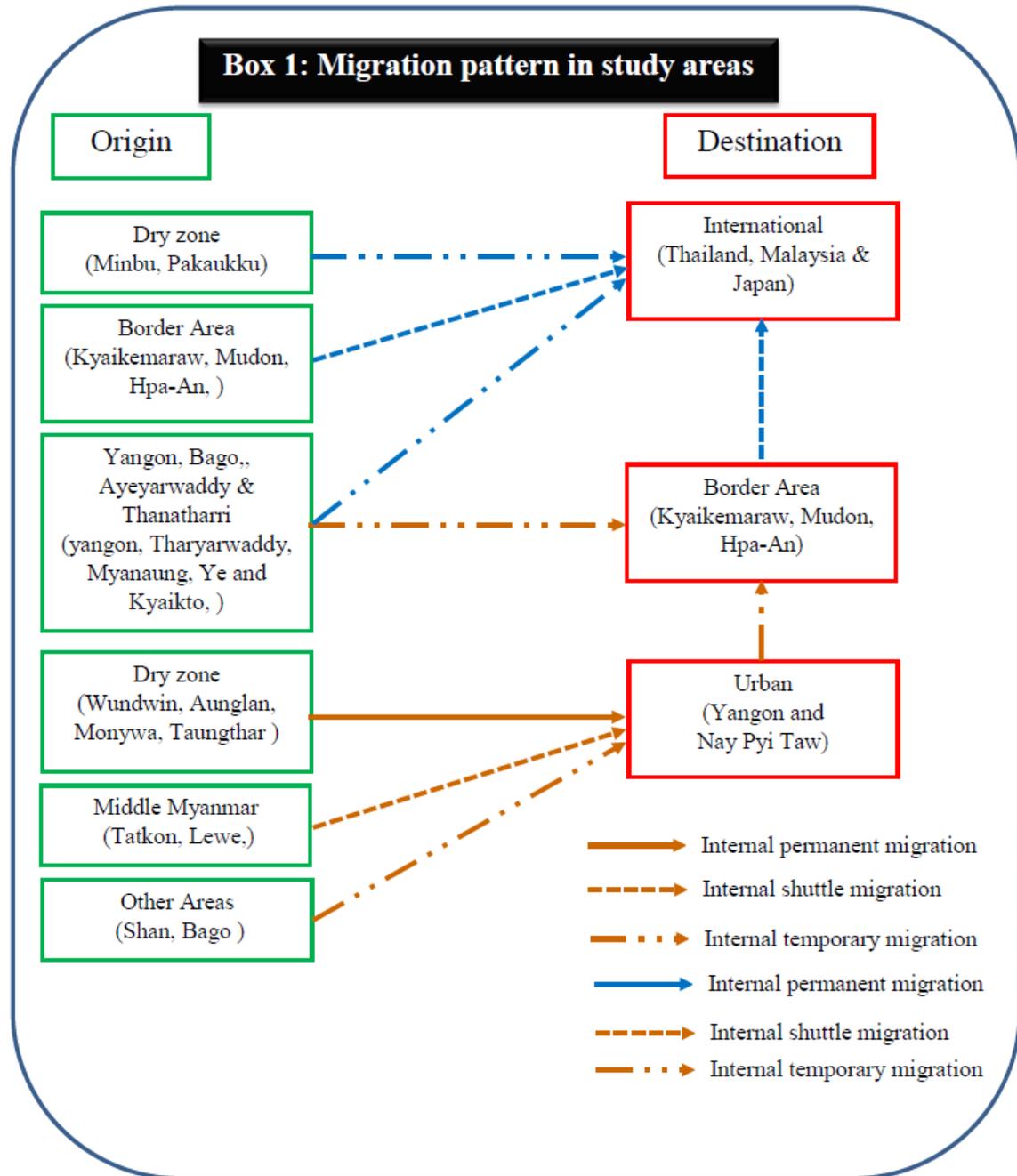
Regarding the internal migration, among destinations the Region/State, the most common and favored location give the impression of being urban and semi-urban areas of Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw for the better income and living standard. Moreover, the observations of the study pointed out that there is a general trend to cross-border/international migration internal migration.

Cross border migration is observed more systematic within legal framework based on the language training, purpose and visa preparation by the agents in dry zone especially in Minbu Township. Some cross border migrations to Thailand are still out of the legal framework in study areas. Some migrants to Thailand moved first to border area in Mon state as the transact area where can earn high wage and more available job opportunity then moved again to Thailand as the cross border migration finally (Box 1).

The common reason for internal migration is the insufficient income for their households in their original working communities. Regarding the migrant households in the Dry Zone, migration is regularly a coping strategy to overcome the low farm productivity and unstable crop price made low farm income and addition the high ratio of landlessness. Amina, M. and Theingi Myint (2015).study pointed out internal migration seem to be a subsistence strategy and international migration is more likely to be a wealth buildup strategy. However, this study found out internal migration is not only subsistence strategy but also it happened with other purposes such as better living standard, better education and job opportunity based on the preference of job in destination area especially in big cities.



Nevertheless, migration is well recognized as the most common one of the coping strategies used by low income households for their livelihoods and to adapt to environment of climate, market, political and economic changes in the county. Actually migration means more than that definition for the people in different communities with different reasons.





3.3 Impact of Migration on Various Sectors of Community Livelihoods in the Study Areas

3.3.1 Impact on Gender Role

In study areas, the international migration to Thailand was mostly dominated by female migrants due to inclination of Thai employers although international migration was neutral. Roles and responsibilities of women had seemed to increase in migrant households where their husbands or brothers were being migrants in abroad. In this case, women left behind at home mostly took all responsibilities for family caring and managing farm business including the allocation of remittances. Household head alone or together with his wife typically involve in decision making of farm and household expenditures particularly for migrant households with young and unmarried migrants, in this context, gender role appeared as impartial. Women disempowerment and gender based violence because of migration were not observed within the community of study area. Actually, women can get the opportunity for income earning by migration either apart from that decision making empowerment and management capacity of women can be seen while husband migrated and remitted the money for family and own business. Regarding the agricultural farm, women participation in crop production and livestock enterprise is more and more critically important.

3.3.2 Impact on Social Inclusion

After many people from study areas migrated to overseas and internal regions and urban areas sent the remittances back to their families, there could be seen the improvement in social activities of the migrant households such as more education investment used, donation to schools and religious places as well as more participation in social activities such as wedding receptions and other donation ceremonies. Consequently, social harmony among the whole community had deepened and the communal infrastructures of the village such as the main road and shared wells were also developed with the helping hands of the migrant households. Furthermore, the migrant households could provide better environment for education to their young generation with the use of the remittances.



Nevertheless, as regards of a married woman leaving the children at home and migrated to Thailand, such household had a rather negative impact mainly affecting the education of her children, social relations and family cohesion. Moreover, the emotional impact could be seen in migrant households especially in the households whose the migrants could not get leave from their jobs and could not come back even once since they left home. The longer the separation between the migrants and their families, the more especially the children lost the parents' position in the management of the household, their role as providers of love and material care. The feelings of especially young kids left behind could not be completely compensated by the material gifts and remittances sent from abroad. However, the technological contacts mostly through social media such as Viber, Facebook, and We Chat and telephone calls helped to create as the social ties between migrants and their families, thus the emotional cost could be reduced to some extent.

3.3.3 Impact on Local Economic Sector

Crop farming and related agricultural activities was the main income source of farm households in rural area normally before international migration played important role in household livelihood. Migration had an important impact on agricultural production, labor allocation decisions and investment of households. Based on the study of Nandar Aye Chan and Theingi Myint (2015) pointed out migrant farm households can use more input cost for high productivity by getting remittance than non-migrant farm households in Kyaukpadaung township. It would be positive outcome of migration and remittance in agricultural sector in rural households.

Nonetheless, food insecurity and lack of economic opportunities in agriculture and relative activities led to many households to migrate abroad in search of employment and income earning opportunity. In case of Chaung Phyu, village level administration authority recognized that about 25 to 30% of total cultivated land area had drastically decreased after incidence of migration because many households realized the agriculture as subsistence and unprofitable traditional activity. International migration and remittances could not act as a catalyst in transforming the subsistence farming to a more



productive and commercial agriculture since the remittance was mainly contributed to household food expenditure and less investment in farming so far.

Labor migration also tended to exert a downward pressure on availability of agricultural labor in the village. On the other hand, these labor shortages or imbalance and losing interest in subsistence farming did not automatically lead to reduce household income because the loss in unskilled household labor could be compensated by improvements in other areas, such as increased access to capital through remittances sent by migrants.

3.3.4 Impact on Household Economy

International labor migration had a significant positive impact on the economic conditions of the masses residing in study areas. The main source of migrant households was the remittances and their household incomes were very low before migration, which were noticeably increased after the employment of their household members abroad. Migrant households had originated food security, more capital for investment and making savings for future business and welfare. They also had enlarged possession of physical assets such as land and farm machineries which were considered profitable and could be utilized in investment for future. Migrant households could expand new businesses, invest in existing businesses that enhanced their household incomes and also created the employment opportunities for their non-migrant household members as well. Repaying the debts, purchasing of more vehicles, starting new businesses and savings could be done as the outcomes of the remittances. Moreover, migrants have satisfaction for working with high income than the original areas and getting technical and business management experiences from the job by migration which could create human capital for the future of their livelihood as well. Therefore, the overall impact of international and internal migration was significantly seen as positive on the household economy of migrant communities left behind in rural areas.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Migration is a crucial factor in the population growth and more importantly in the socioeconomic development in the country, especially in employment and provision of income opportunity of the livelihoods in Myanmar. Based on the country economic development, Myanmar is still in developing based on the agricultural sector. Employment opportunity is more rely on agricultural production of farming sector which is facing different types of shocks such as climate change, market and price instability, economic and political pressure and so on. Actually about 70% of total population of the country depends on rural economy related to crop and livestock sector with not well developed manufacturing sector which can produce low value raw products. The situation of agricultural sector creates low farm income, less job opportunity and non-attractive income earning from agribusiness industry for rural youth and working labor who seek better job opportunity and sufficient income for their family.

Neighboring countries of Myanmar such as Thailand, China and Malaysia are in developing economy with increasing rate of transaction. The manufacturing and industrial sectors of these countries lure the labor from other countries including Myanmar with slightly higher wage rate than that of Myanmar economy. Therefore, cross border migration in Myanmar is increasing as the most common coping strategy to overcome the household problems. There are different types of migration as legally arranged and informally arranged one. Some of migrants have good working environment and some are facing difficulties with insecure working environment based on the rules and regulation enforcements of the host countries.

Myanmar has different ecologies and administrative regions where people are working across the country based on the types of job. Most of the rural people use to migrate as the survival strategy for their subsistence cost of household. Apart from that, migration to urban area especially big cities, some migrants have higher expectations of their life such as education, technical knowledge, living standard and so on.



Usually migration has both positive and negative impacts for the community, the study found that more positive impact of internal migration on women empowerment, rural community, household economy also on environment which people can concern more income from migration than less income from farming sector before migration. Moreover, international migration also has positive impact on household economy, rural community and gender concerned but also experience of business and technical knowhow are included. However, negative impact of migration found that labor scarcity problem which creates high production cost and less profit in farming sector, business apart from farming sector also facing the labor shortage and brain drain problem which is caused by educated persons migrated to other countries.

On the other hand, total remittance money flow to the country also considerable amount for the economy which be made up of money circulation from migrant households to other sector across the country. Moreover, educational improvement, technical experience and management skill getting from migrated working environment would be the human capital building up for the country, if Myanmar economy can attract back the migrants by higher income opportunity and better working environment of developing economy in future. Most of the Myanmar citizens love to stay in Myanmar if it has good enough income and pleasant working environment of course.

Therefore, the state would be developed not only agricultural sector but also manufacturing sector of agribusiness industry especially. Agribusiness small and medium enterprise development will create high income job opportunity for the migrants coming back to Myanmar. Regarding the agribusiness SME development, internal and external investment would be attracted by decent, sustainable and reliable business legal context for the country. Moreover, technological innovation would be scaling up by encouraging investment in research and development of institutions in line related to the whole supply chain. In addition, cultural, traditional, natural and ecological environment of Myanmar would be employed upgrading the service sector for international would be the promising rural income earning job opportunity for Myanmar rural community which are famous for hospitality around the world.



At the meantime, impact of migration would be sustainable by facilitating legal framework for migrants with respectable relationship with neighboring countries where are Myanmar labor working in. It would be diplomatic way of intelligent for win-win situation of both countries which are labor provider and business possessors with Myanmar labor on the other hand. Since migration is one of economic and livelihood inducement in Myanmar at present, intervention, cooperation, facilitation and legally protection would be really needed for maximizing sustainable advantage of safe migration.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. List of participants in Dry Zone

No.	Name	Gender	Type of job	Study Area
1	Daw San San Nu	Female	Farmer	Chaung Phyu village, Minbu Township, Magway Region
2	Daw Han Mu	Female	Shop keeper	
3	Daw Thein Hla	Female	Farmer	
4	Daw Win Than	Female	Farmer	
5	U Arloo	Male	Unemployment	
6	Daw Nan San Wai	Female	Farmer	
7	Daw Htar Htar Oo	Female	Causal labor and farmer	Anout Chaut Kan village, Pakokku Township, Magway Region
8	U Nyan San	Male	Farmer	

Appendix 2. List of participants in Mon State

No.	Name	Gender	Type of job	Study area
1	Daw Hla Kyi	Female	Rubber farmer	Kyaikemaraw
2	DawThida	Female	Farm labor	Kyaikemaraw
3	Daw San Lwin	Female	Rubber farmer	Kyaikemaraw
4	Daw Khin Thi	Female	Tapper	Mudon
5	Daw Kyi Kyi Win	Female	Sewing	Mudon
6	Daw Khin Saw Tint	Female	Farmer	Mudon
7	Daw Kin Yee	Female	Farmer	Mudon
8	Daw HninThuzar	Female	Sewing	Mudon
9	Daw Saw Kyi	Female	Rubber farmer	Mudon
10	Daw Zin Mar Win	Female	Non-government staff	Mudon
11	Daw Win Win Mar	Female	Rubber farmer	Mudon
12	Daw Khin Ohn	Female	Vegetable seller	Mudon
13	Daw Saw Nyo	Female	Rubber farmer	Mudon
14	Daw Myint Aung	Female	Farmer	Mudon



15	Daw Thizar Tun	Female	Farmer	Mudon
16	Daw Sein Tin	Female	Farm labor	Mudon
17	Daw Myint Yee	Female	Farm labor	Mudon
18	Daw Thi	Female	Farmer	Mudon
19	Daw Khin Htay	Female	Farm labor	Mudon
20	Daw NgeNge	Female	Weaving	Mudon
21	Daw Pan Sein	Female	Rubber farmer	Mudon
22	Daw Mya Mon	Female	Farmer	Mudon
23	Daw Saw Kyi	Female	Vegetable seller	Mudon
24	Daw Aye Maw	Female	Vegetable seller	Mudon
25	Daw Yee Yee Mon	Female	Sewing	Mudon
26	U Phoe Nyein	Male	Rubber farmer	Mudon
27	U Par	Male	Rubber farmer	Mudon
28	U San Yin	Male	Farmer	Mudon
29	U Aung Thein	Male	Farmer	Mudon
30	U Phoe Khaing	Male	Rubber farmer	Mudon
31	U Aung Kyi	Male	Rubber farmer	Mudon
32	U Khit Chan	Male	Bricklayer	Mudon
33	U Aung Htein	Male	Farmer	Mudon
34	U Kyaw Zaw	Male	Shop keeper	Mudon

Appendix 3. List of participants in Kayin State

No.	Name	Gender	Type of job	Study Area
1	Daw Nan Marlar Win	Female	Farmer	Hpa-an
2	U Aung Htay Sein	Male	Farmer	Hpa-an
3	U San Win	Male	Farmer	Hpa-an
4	U Sein Phoe	Male	Farmer	Hpa-an
5	U Win Ku	Male	Furniture business	Hpa-an
6	U Saw Hla Tun	Male	Farmer	Hpa-an
7	Daw Nan Myint Sein	Female	Egg Seller	Hpa-an



Appendix 4. List of participants in Yangon Division

No.	Name	Gender	Type of job	Study Area
1	Ko Wai Yan Hein	Male	Freelance translator	Yangon
2	Ko Zayar Soe	Male	Marketing staff in Royal Aqua Star Co. Ltd.	Yangon
3	Ko Kyaw Thant Zin	Male	Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) coordinator in Mechanical Electrical Company	Yangon
4	Ko Aung Ko Ko Oo	Male	Power project coordinator in OCK Yangon Company	Yangon
5	Ko Kyaw Si Thu	Male	Butler position in Strand Hotel	Yangon
6	Ma Myint Sandar Aung	Female	Quality control (QC) staff in Crown Advanced Company	Yangon
7	Ko Thet Naing Oo	Male	Junior QC consultant (private)	Yangon
8	Ko Nay Say	Male	Book seller (Nay Say Sar Pay)	Yangon

Appendix 5. List of participants in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

No	Name	Gender	Type of job	Study Area
1	Daw Myint Myint Khaing	Female	Pipefitter	Nay Pyi Taw
2	U Kyaw Nyunt Win	Male	Caterpillar Tractor Operator	Nay Pyi Taw
3	U San Win	Male	Carpentry, Masonry, Ironwork, Painting, etc.	Nay Pyi Taw
4	U Htein Lin	Male	Gravedigger	Nay Pyi Taw
5	U Wai Phyo Han	Male	Government Staff	Nay Pyi Taw
6	U Salai Naung Naung	Male	Waiter	Nay Pyi Taw
7	U Khun Kyaw Hein	Male	Beekeeper	Nay Pyi Taw
8	U Thiha	Male	Taxi driver	Nay Pyi Taw
9	Daw Phyo Ei Mon	Female	Nurse aid	Nay Pyi Taw
10	U Soe Moe Htet	Male	Supervisor at construction site	Nay Pyi Taw



Photos are books which have been published by YAU_ACIAR_ Strengthening Institutional Capacity, Extension Services and Rural Livelihoods in the Central Dry Zone and Ayeyarwaddy Delta Region of Myanmar (ASEM-2011-043)

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