

# The Role of the University Education in Myanmar

## Abstract

Education is the systematic training and instruction of the students in school or University for knowledge and abilities, development of character and mental power, resting from such training. Today, education is important role in the building of State. Generally, there are two types of education such as the Basic Education and the Higher Education or the University Education. The University Education always serves the educational system of the Government, although there may be changed in political systems of such the Government. So, in order to building up a new modern developed nation, the University Education plays an important role. It is useful in building of our society. Its aims and objectives are to produce trained intellectuals and skill of the people. They are participating in building of State. Our educational target is to bring basic education within the reach of all.

## Introduction

The University Education is important role and useful in building of a new modern developed nation. The University Education always serves the educational system of the Government. The educational system may be changed to appropriate of our country because of the Governmental policy may be changed in political systems. However, the educational system supports the building and safeguarding of the society. Our educational target is to bring basic education within the reach of all.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1962, the Revolutionary Council was formed. It took over the State power, to protect and safeguard the sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar. In the year 1964, the Law of University Education was passed by the Revolutionary Council. The Law of University Education 1964 was repealed by the Union of Myanmar University Education Law 1973. On 29<sup>th</sup> October 1973, the Revolutionary Council enacted the Union of Myanmar University Education Law, 1973. It has been amended three times in 1983, 1989 and lastly in 1998.

The Union of Myanmar Education Law 1973, Section 6 provides aims and objectives of the University. Functions and duties of University are defined in Section 7 of the Union of Myanmar Education Law, 1973. Education is the systematic training and instruction of the students in school or University for knowledge and abilities, development of character and mental power, resting from such training. Today, education is important role in the building of State.

Generally, there are two types of educational department such as the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education. The Department of Basic Education consists of the Primary Schools, the Middle Schools and the Basic High Schools. The Department of Higher Education consists of the Universities, Degree Collages and Institutes.

The Myanmar Education Committee was established in 1991. The main task of this committee is to give advice to the Government for the enactment of Educational Laws which would be in line with the three Main National causes. The Universities Central Council was founded by the Government to supervise and give guidance for all Universities of the Union of Myanmar in accordance with Section 8 of the University Education Law, 1973. The Universities Central Council is mainly responsible for the framing of broad policy for approval by the Myanmar Naing Nyan Education Committee.

The University Central Council formed two bodies at every University, in order to carry out the duties relating to administration and education of the respective Universities in accordance with Section 8 of the University Education Law, 1973. They are-

- (1) University Administrative Body
- (2) University Senate

Our vision in Myanmar education is “To create an education system that can generate a learning society capable of facing the challenges of the Knowledge Age”. Myanmar educational motto is “Building a Modern Developed Nation through Education”.

### **Aims and Objectives of University Education**

The University Education always serves the educational system of the Government. The educational system may be changed to appropriate of our country because of the Governmental policy may be changed in political systems. So, the existing educational system equated with livelihood and basic on the Governmental policy. Every citizen should have the knowledge of educational system. Any way, the educational system supports the building and safeguarding of the society. Our educational target is to bring basic education within the reach of all.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1962, the Revolutionary Council was formed and took over the State power, to protect and safeguard the sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar. In 1964, the Law of University Education (the Revolutionary Council Law No.9/64) was passed by the Revolutionary Council. The Law of University Education 1964 was repealed by the Union of Myanmar University Education Law 1973. On 29<sup>th</sup> October 1973, the Revolutionary Council enacted the Union of Myanmar University Education Law, 1973 (the Revolutionary Council Law No.13/73). It has been amended three times in 1983, 1989 and lastly in 1998.

Section 6 of the Law of University Education, 1964 (the Revolutionary Council Law No.9/64) states aims and objectives of the Universities. They are as follows;

- (a) To produce experts, specialists and skillful academicians who are participation of the establishment of Socialist Society,
- (b) To bring up experts and specialists who are capable of promoting the socialist economy, executive and social services,
- (c) To give preference to Technology and Science which will support the profession,
- (d) To carry out research-work which aim at the successful implementation of socialist system,
- (e) To train and teach people to value the dignity to appropriate of thinking of socialist system,
- (f) To train and educate people to value the dignity of labour,
- (g) To promote the continuous and better development of knowledge, ideas, views and skill of the working people who participate in the establishment of socialist society.

Therefore, the University Educational Law has ever changed in accordance with the requirements and needs of the human society. The Government believed that the educational system will produce experts, specialists and skill of the working people, who are participation of the establishment of Socialist Society. So, the candidates trained and educated to value the dignity.

In 1973, the University Educational Law was changed to appropriate of our country. The University Educational Law is amended the aims and objectives of the Universities.

- (a) To bring up experts, specialists and skillful academicians who are full of socialist thoughts and moral characters and are helpful in the establishment of Socialist Society,
- (b) To bring up experts and specialists who are capable of promoting the socialist economy, people's administrative affairs and social services of the State,
- (c) To give preference to Technology and Science which will support the profession,
- (d) To carry out research-work which aim at the successful implementation of socialist system,
- (e) To train and educate people to value the dignity of labour,
- (f) To promote the continuous and better development of knowledge, ideas, views and skill of the working people who participate in the establishment of socialist society.<sup>1</sup>

Besides, it has been amended in 1989(the State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No.19/89), aims and objectives are adopted according to the changing of the situation of policy. Section 2 (b) provides that Section 6 of the 1973 Union of Myanmar Education Law, sub- Section(a),(b),(d)and (f) substitute in following;

- (a) To produce trained intellectuals who are well cultivated in the principles and ethical codes appropriate to Myanmar society,
- (b) To produce intellectuals who will be beneficial to the State,
- (c) To train by giving priority to Arts and Science which will contribute towards earning livelihood(vocation),
- (d) To conduct works of research beneficial to the State,
- (e) To train and nature the sprit of taking pride on the dignity of labour,
- (f) To constantly develop the intellect and skill of the people who are participating in building of State.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 6 of the Union of Myanmar Education Law, 1973.

<sup>2</sup> The State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No.19/89(14- 8- 1989)

Therefore, the aims of the educational system are to produce the skillful academicians and the trained intellectuals. Education means the systematic training and instruction for knowledge and abilities, development of character and mental power. So, education means to train and teach. University means an educational institution for study, examination and conferment of degrees in the important branches of learning. Today, education is important role in the building of State.

### **Functions and Duties of University and Educational Body**

The University and the educational body consist of the University, University Central Council and University Administrative Body. Every University shall carry out the following functions and duties. Functions and duties of University are defined in Section 7 of the Union of Myanmar Education Law, 1964. They are;

Each University shall carry out the following functions and duties,

- (a) To teach branches of studies in conformity with the political, economic and Social system of the Union of Myanmar,
- (b) To teach for the emergence of intellectuals and experts such as specialist, scholars and skilled industrial technicians for the political, economic and social system of the Union of Myanmar,
- (c) To draw up schemes for research works and for advancement and dissemination of knowledge,
- (d) To hold the examinations relating to university education,
- (e) To confer university degree, diplomas, certificates for the respective university courses and other academic distinctions relating to the university,
- (f) To supervise and administer for the accommodation and discipline of the university students and to administer the progressive health and physical fitness of the university students,
- (g) To train the university students for educational work of outside conformity of socialist society,
- (h) To carry out all the matters required for the attachment and success main objectives, which tend to be carried out by the university.

Therefore, every University should carry out the functions carefully. In 1973, the University Educational Law was changed to appropriate of our country. The University Educational Law is amended the functions of the Universities. Each University shall carry out the following functions and duties.

- (a) To teach branches of studies in conformity with the political, economic and social system of the Union of Myanmar,
- (b) To teach and train for the emergence of intellectuals and experts such as specialist, scholars and skilled industrial technicians for the political, economic and social system of the Union of Myanmar,
- (c) To draw up schemes for research works and for advancement and dissemination of knowledge,
- (d) To hold the examinations relating to university education,
- (e) To confer university degree, diplomas, certificates for the respective university courses and other academic distinctions relating to the university,
- (f) To supervise and administer for the accommodation and discipline of the university students and to administer the progressive health and physical fitness of the university students,
- (g) To carry out all the matters required for the attachment and success main objectives, which tend to be carried out by the university.

Therefore, every University shall be carried out the main objectives successfully. Besides, It will be produced the well- trained of university students for the participation of building of our society. Every University shall teach branches of studies in conformity with the political, economic and social system.

Nowadays, every University confers mainly under-graduate degree and master programs. The undergraduate and master programs are subdivided into three categories: Arts (B.A.) and (M.A.), Sciences (B.Sc.) and (M.Sc.), and Law (LL.B) and (LL.M). Since the promoting of University, full-time bachelor's degree programs can be offered at this university.

The Government founded the Universities Central Council to supervise and give guidance for all Universities of the Union of Myanmar. The Universities' Central Council

is mainly responsible for the framing of broad policy and co-ordination of the work of universities and colleges.

Moreover, the University Central Council formed two bodies at every University, in order to carry out the duties relating to administration and education of the respective Universities in accordance with Section 8 of the University Education Law, 1973. They are-

- (1) University Administrative Body
- (2) University Senate

The University Central Council's functions and duties are as follows;

- (a) To lay down guidance relating to university education,
- (b) To submit recommendation for forming and opening the new University, Degree College and Institutes to the Government,
- (c) To consider and decide the type of degrees, post-graduate degrees, diplomas and certificates to be conferred by the universities,
- (d) To determine the number of students to be admitted to the universities in accordance with the requirement of the State,
- (e) To consider and determine the work of research which will the benefit of the entire country,
- (f) To determine the basic educational qualification of the university teacher at different levels who are serving at the university,
- (g) To decide on the conferring of honorary degrees,
- (h) To consider and decide on giving decisions for the functions to be carried out and to implement the aims for university education,
- (i) To supervise the functions of the University, Degree College, Institutions management Bodies and to consider and give decisions on the respective problems submitted.<sup>3</sup>

The Government formed the Council of University Senates (Academic Bodies) in order to supervise the standard of university education, syllabus, examination and all matters relating to education.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Section 8 of the Union of Myanmar University Education Law, 1973.

<sup>4</sup> Section 9 of the Union of Myanmar University Education Law, 1973.

The functions and duties of the Council of University Senates (Academic Bodies) are as follows,

- (a) To prescribe and determine the standard of University Education,
- (b) To determine educational qualification required for admission to the universities and the system of selection,
- (c) To supervise and administer reviewing teaching of university education and teaching methods,
- (d) To prescribe and determine discipline and systems for holding the university examinations,
- (e) To determine the basic educational qualification of the university teacher at different levels and to recommend and submit to the University Central Council and to lay down work of research ,
- (f) To co-ordinate the works of research of the respective University Academic Bodies and the works to be carried out in respect of duties,
- (g) To implement, after scrutinizing the university education development measures submitted by the respective University Senates.<sup>5</sup>

The University Administrative body's functions and duties provide that Section 12(c) of the Union of Myanmar University Education Law, 1973. They are as follows.

- (a) To carry out financial matters authorized under the rules, directives and orders,
- (b) To determine the discipline applicable to university students and to maintain the compliance with such discipline,
- (c) To carry out the University campus matters,
- (d) To make provisions for all sports, physical education and cultural activities for the students,
- (e) To make provisions for health matters of the university personnel and students,
- (f) To make provisions for all hostel matters,
- (g) To carry out the work of selection of students who deserve the grant of stipend and free tuition for the remaining courses except the first year course.

---

<sup>5</sup> Section 9(c) of the Union of Myanmar University Education Law, 1973.



The Universities' Central Council is mainly responsible for the framing of broad policy and co-ordination of the work of universities and colleges while the responsibility of the Council of University Academic Board lies in the adoption of all academic regulations and co-ordination of all academic work.

Therefore, educational system is supported in building of our country, produced the skillful persons and carried out the functions and duties successfully under the Union of Myanmar Education Law, in the implementation of educational system. The educational system may be changed to appropriate of our country because of the Governmental policy may be changed in political systems.

### **The Role of Educational System**

The Educational System is important role in society. The educational system may be changed to appropriate of our society. In the year 2000, The Education Department had aimed at giving basic education to all citizens of Myanmar and to reduce by half the adult illiteracy rate. Our Vision in education is “ To create an education system that can generate a learning society capable of facing the challenges of the Knowledge Age”. It requires of us to develop and expand the indigenous base in science and technology in particular with firm commitment to the national cause.

The University Education always serves the educational system of the interest of the State. For example, University legal education is quite important and plays a great role in the State. Judges, Attorneys, Procurators, Lawyers and law Lecturers are original products of legal education. They should have the spirit not merely to win the case whether right or wrong, but also to help in finding the truth and justice. Aims and Purposes of University Legal Education are to support the building and safeguarding of the society, to bring out the real truth and to produce good morality and faithful to the country.

So, University means a centre of advanced education and research. At present, education will be defined not only teaching of skillful but also researching of our subject fields. Therefore, university teachers operated the work of research to promote the educational qualification. So, teachers will be called as researchers.

In order to lay the foundations of an education system this is, equitable with the traditional, the cultural and the social values and also in keeping with the economic and political aspirations of the nation.<sup>6</sup>

Now, there are two Departments of Higher Education such as Lower Myanmar and Upper Myanmar. These departments are the executive branch of the Ministry of Education with the responsibility for administration and coordination of higher education institutions under the Ministry of Education.

The Union of Myanmar Education Committee stands as a vital role in education sector of the Union of Myanmar. This Committee always serves for development of branches of studies relating to Myanmar culture, for the peaceful pursuit of education and for appropriateness of educational programmes and to communicate and cooperate with International Development Agencies and Organizations. Moreover, Computer Training Centre, e-Education Training Centre, e-Education Resource Centre and Language Lab are teaching in there. To support the national objective, "Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation", which is one of the four social objectives laid down by the State, such as the student festival is held on yearly.

In 1990, Myanmar education committee was attended in the Declaration of the World Conference on "Education for all" held in Thailand. In the year 2000, Myanmar Naing-Ngan aims at giving basic education to all school-going age children and hopes that 80% of these children would complete primary level education. For non-formal education, the Education Department aims at reducing the adult illiteracy rate. The main task of the committee is to give advice to the Government for the enactment of Educational Laws which would be in line with the three Main National causes.

The Ministry of Education established for serve Long-term Plan of 30 years (2001-2002 financial year to 2030-2031 financial year). This plan is implementing with short-term of each 5 years. The main responsibility of successfully implementation cooperates among teachers, students and parents. The Union of Myanmar Education Committee stands as a vital position in education sector of the Union of Myanmar.

National Centre for Human Resource Development [NCHRD] was established in Department of Higher Education [Lower Myanmar]. Centre for Human Resource

---

<sup>6</sup> [www.http://G:\MODiNS](http://G:\MODiNS) [Myanmar Online Information], htm.

Development [CHRD] was established in Universities and Colleges in 1998. The Ministry of Education has joined foreign countries to further study of several fields and to attend workshops and seminars invited by other Ministry. In attending a seminar, some benefits will be got way of achieving. Now, educational system changed to accept as lifelong learning system. In Myanmar, e-Education was launched on January 1, 2001. The Ministry of Education has established the electronic Data Broadcasting System and e-education Learning Centers all over the country. Our educational target is to bring basic education within the reach of all.

### **Conclusion**

The Government of Myanmar may implement an educational system in conformity with cultural, traditional, social and economic system. So, its aims and objectives are to produce trained intellectuals and skill of the people. They are participating in building of our State. Every citizen should know the educational system. Any how, the educational system supports the building and safeguarding of the State. Our educational target is to bring basic education within the reach of all. State and education are like the two sides of the same coin.

The major changes in higher education took place with the enactment of the University Education Law of 1964. This was repealed and the University Education Law of 1973 was enacted. So, the university education's aims and objectives are to produce trained intellectuals and skill of the people. They are participating in building of new modern developed nation.

According to the State structure, every State must have legislative, executive and judicial organs. Every member or staff or the organs of the State must perform their functions in accordance with law. Therefore, the educated people need to serve State structure. In conclusion, the standard of education shows the status of a State and people. So, the University Education plays an importance role in Myanmar to produce well-trained and developed good moral character of people.

Conducting a research is one of the best ways to promote the programmes of education. In order to sustain the advancement of educational system, a need for further

research is quiet obvious. At present quality education is the national strategy to stress training and retraining of students.

#### **Acknowledgements**

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt to Dr. Htay Aung, Pro-Rector, University of Mawlamyine. I am grateful to Professor Dr. Khin Mar Yi, Head of Law Department, University of Mawlamyine for her valuable guidance , kind supervision and for her valuable advice and suggestions. Finally, my gratitude goes to all my teachers and all my friends especially Dr. Khin Swe Oo, Lecturer, Department of Law, University of Yangon.

#### **References**

The Union of Myanmar University Education Law, 1973.

The News Light of Myanmar

Education News Paper, Series (13),No.2

Education News Paper, Series (13),No.7

Education News Paper, Series (13),No.8

[www.http//G:\MODiNS](http://G:\MODiNS) [Myanmar Online Information], htm.