

## Geographical Analysis on Hostel Distribution and Function of Maubin, Ayeyarwady Region

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### Abstract

A hostel is a building which provides lodging and food for a specific group of people such as students and young people working away from home. This research focuses on hostel distribution and its function in Maubin. The main aim is to study on *directional shifting* of hostel distribution in Maubin. The objectives are to analyze on the *distribution* pattern of hostels in Maubin and to study on *function* of hostels in Maubin. The statistical technique (directional distribution by standard deviation ellipse) and descriptive method are used to analyze the research. The finding is that the variation in land value which controls the distribution pattern of hostel is southwest-southeast direction in Maubin.

**Keywords:** hostel, function, distribution pattern, directional shifting

### Introduction

Maubin is situated on the western bank of Toe River in Ayeyarwady Region. It is located at the 16° 42' 30" to 16° 45' north latitude and 95° 38' 15" to 95° 40' east longitude (Figure 1 and 2). Maubin University (MUB), Technological University (TU) and University of Computer Studies (CU) are in Maubin and its surrounding village tract. MUB was opened in 2002 in Aing Waing Village, TU in 2002 in Aung Heit Village and CU in 2003 in Ward No.1. MUB (Arts and Science University) has both internal and distance education students (UDE).

The implementation in education sector within study area supports for the development of economic situation especially in services sector. There are 414 registered hostels in Maubin (Table 1). The revenue for registration is based on number of hostellers. If a hostel has less than 10 persons, it needs to pay ten thousand kyats for tax. If a hostel has more than ten hostellers it has to pay one thousand kyats per head.

At these three universities, the student enrolment number increases year by year. These three universities implemented hostels for male students and for female students. However it is impossible to accept all enrolled students. Majority of university students from outside Maubin rely on hostels in Maubin. A few government staff also rely on hostels within Maubin. University students as seasonal migrants, they rely on hostels for shelter and food shops during their school days.

Everyone can easily see the multiplier effect of development in Maubin. Internal students attend two semesters (Semester I: December to March and Semester II: June to September) in one academic year. University students have to spend money on hostel fees, shopping, beautifying, eating and other services during they stay at Maubin.

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### Data and Methodology

The secondary data (the total number of registered hostels and their locations) are got from related offices. The primary data used in this research are obtained from 88 hostels by carrying out a questionnaire survey (21% convenience sample conducted during December 2019 to January 2020) and open talk to key persons for getting information about characteristics and functions of hostels and other related data. To create a map, maubin.shp file is downloaded from Open Street Map (OSM). ArcMap software is used for displaying map. Using spatial statistical tools for measuring geographic distribution and it shows the directional distribution by standard deviation ellipse.

### Distribution of Hostels within Maubin

Maubin is composed of 12 wards (Figure 2). Kanna Road runs along the River Toe. Min Rd. is located in the east, Yangon-Kyaiklat Rd. is located in the west, and Yele Rd. and Payar Rd. run east to west and are located in the middle of Maubin. In urban area, there are Ward No. 1 to 7 and Ward No. 8 to 12 are located in the left and right side of Yele Rd.

Government offices and University of Computer Studies are located in Ward No. 1. Based on registered data and questionnaire survey, most of hostel owners have started to run this economic activity since 2003 - 2004. According to (Table 1 and Figure 3), Ward No. 7 is the high hostel density area followed by Ward No. 6. This type of economic activity gradually spread to other wards. New hostel booming area is in Ward No.11 and Ward No. 12 after 2015.

**Table 1 Hostel Ratio and Sample Number by Ward**

Sr. No.	Ward No.	Number of House	Number of Hostel	Total hostel %	Sample Number
1	Ward No. 1	1012	24	5.8	0
2	Ward No. 2	950	11	2.7	0
3	Ward No. 3	315	3	0.7	0
4	Ward No. 4	338	8	1.9	0
5	Ward No. 5	380	20	4.8	0
6	Ward No. 6	750	36	8.7	10
7	Ward No. 7	627	96	23.2	19
8	Ward No. 8	643	24	5.8	0
9	Ward No. 9	619	49	11.8	31
10	Ward No. 10	548	34	8.2	9
11	Ward No. 11	816	50	12.1	10
12	Ward No. 12	778	59	14.3	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7776</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>

**Source:** General Administration Department (GAD) and Maubin Town Development Committee (MTDC)

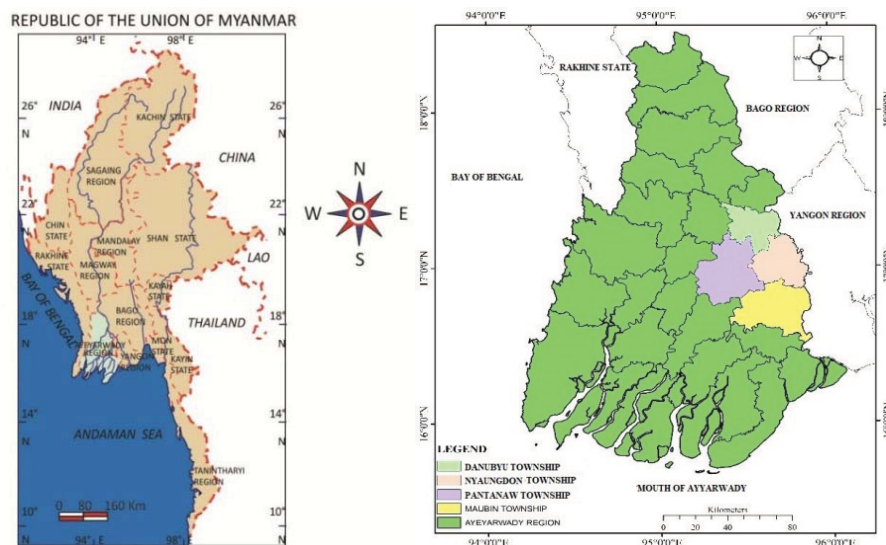
The 12 rules are prescribed for giving permission for the registration of a hostel by Revenue Department, Maubin Town Development Committee. They are (a) A hostel must register with the regional revenue department. One must be licensed to

open a hostel. (b) A single room must have an area of 6' x 8' and a double room must have an area of 8' x 12' and both must be well ventilated and well lighted. (c) Each room must have a door, a window and a trash can. (d) Toilet room must be clean. (e) Water buckets, sand bags and fire extinguishers must be provided in case of fire. (f) The system of electric wiring and parts in the hostel must be safe and sound. (g) Toilet rooms and bathrooms must be well lighted. (h) Garbage must be disposed systematically. (i) Only permitted number of hostellers must be accepted. (j) A hostel must not be a mixed one. (k) A warden must be appointed for each hostel. (l) All hostels must observe the rules and regulations laid down by the authorities concerned.

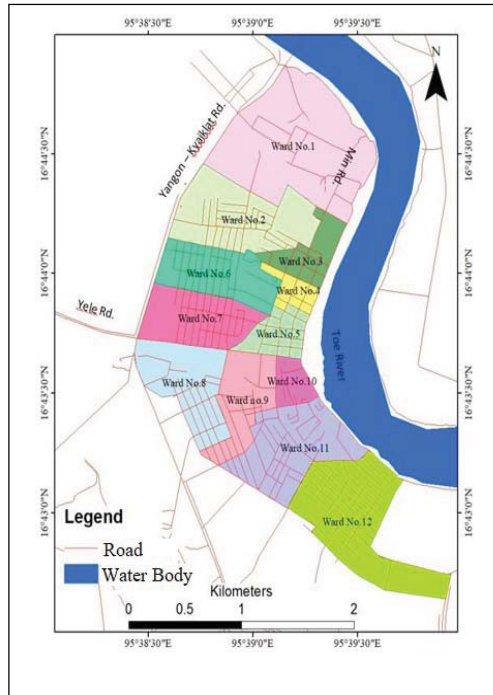
Figure 4 shows the distribution and sample of hostel points in Maubin. Points are sparsely distributed in Ward No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 and moderately concentrated in Ward No. 9 and 10. In Ward No. 11 and 12, hostels are concentrated along easily accessible line. Hostels are highly concentrated in Ward No. 7.

Hostels' Directional Distribution by Standard Deviation Ellipse in Maubin is shown in Figure 5. Mean Centre for all hostel points is in northern part of Ward No. 9. Weighted Mean Centre is shifted to south within Ward No. 9. Weighted Directional Deviation Ellipse shows the northwest-southeast direction. It shows that hostels are distributed to Ward No. 11 and 12. The main controlling factor for this situation is land value and other factors depend on hostellers who are natives of Kyaiklat, Bogalay, Dedaye and Pyarpon Townships.

Land Value varies with being accessible to economic activities. The more accessible to the economic activity, the higher the land value. In Maubin, commercial area is located in Kanna Rd. and most of the services sector economic activities can be seen in Min Rd., Yele Rd., and Yangon-Kyaiklat Rd. Land value is high in the main roads. Ten local key persons were interviewed about the land value in Maubin urban area. The price for a plot of land in Ward No. 3, 4, 5 of (40' x 120' = 4800 sq-ft) costs between 100,000,000 – 300,000,000 kyats, moderate price in Ward No. 6, 7 (40' x 60' = 2400 sq-ft) costs between 40,000,000 - 50,000,000 kyats and cheap price in Ward No. 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (40' x 60' = 2400 sq-ft) costs between 15,000,000 – 35,000,000 kyats respectively. Therefore, hostels are distributed moderately in cheap parts of Maubin.

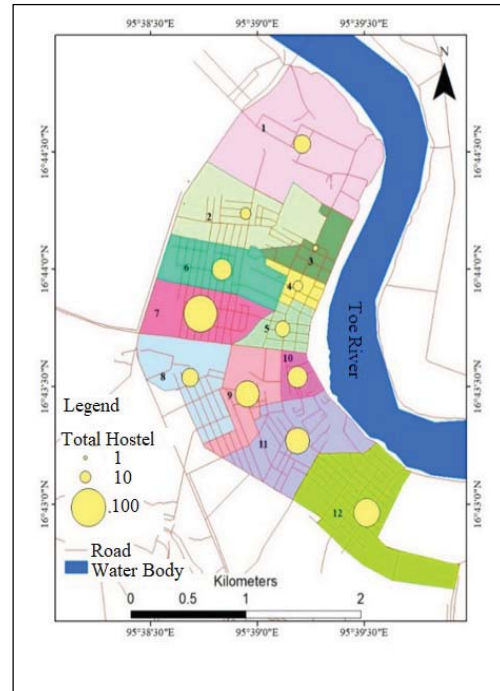


**Figure 1 Location of Maubin Township**



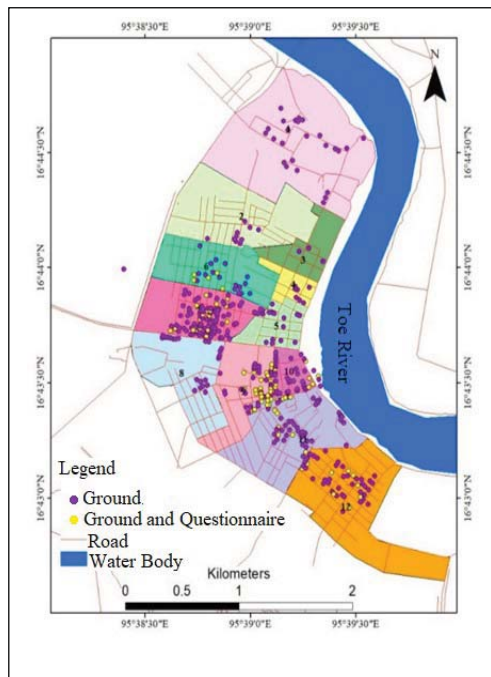
**Figure 2 Wards of Maubin**

Source: www.gad.gov.mm



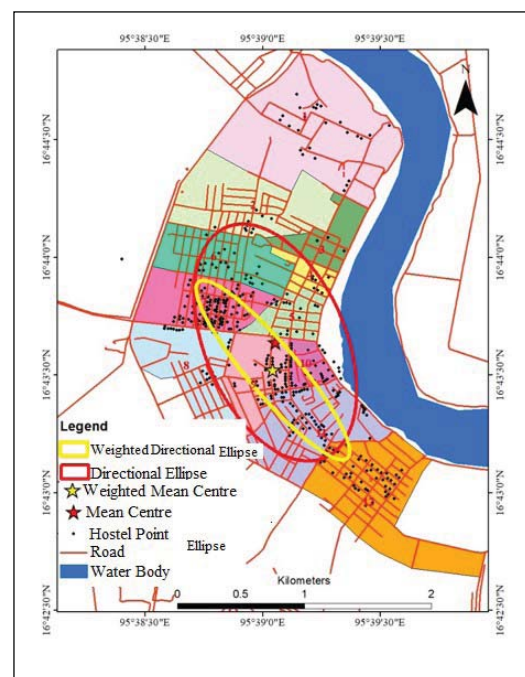
**Figure 3 Number Ratio of Hostel by Ward**

Source: Revenue Department, Maubin Town Development Committee



**Figure 4 Distribution and Sample of Hostel Points in Maubin**

Source: Revenue Department, Maubin Town Development Committee



**Figure 5 Hostels' Directional Distribution by Standard Deviation Ellipse in Maubin**

Source: Source: Field survey, December 2019

### Functions of Hostels in Maubin

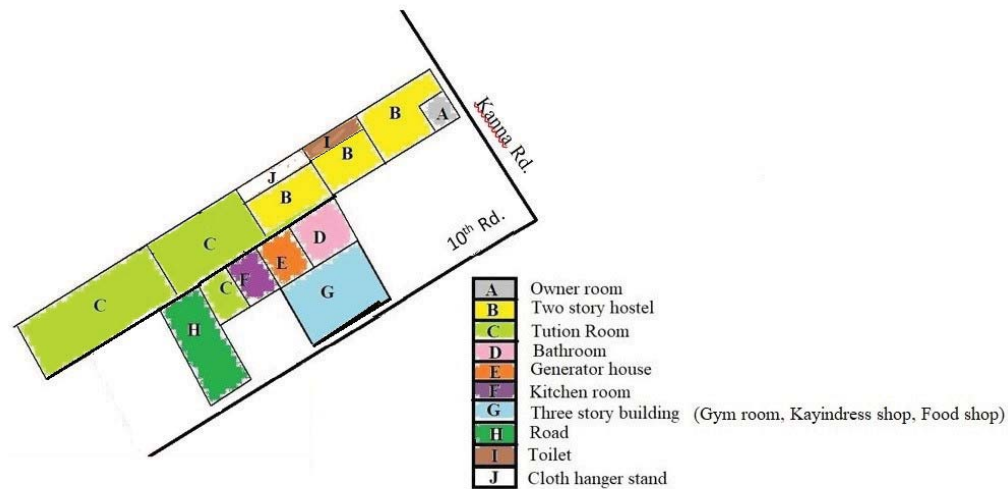
There are varieties of definitions for hostels based on people's experiences. One definition about hostel is budget accommodation with a minimum of one dormitory and a common area. It means simply a shared accommodation instead of staying in a private room with a private bathroom, one stays in a dorm room sharing the room with other people; a cheap place where mainly long term guests sleep. A hostel is not only about sleeping for a cheap price, it has more meaning for both owner and hosteller, a place to socialize with strangers. Every private hostel hangs dos and don'ts list which consists of 10 to 20 facts for hostellers. Some rules in hostel are (1) Speaking loudly is not allowed. (2) Electric kettle is not allowed to use. (3) Electric irons must be switched off after use. (4) Visitors who come to lodge at the hostel are not allowed. (5) Staying out late is not allowed. (6) The rule and regulations laid down by warden must be observed. (7) Hostel fees must be given in the first week of a month. (8) Tomboys and sissies are not allowed to stay at the hostel. (9) Cooking rice and curry is not allowed. (10) Foot wearing is not allowed on the staircase and upstairs, etc. Dos and don'ts rules of behavior is put up in the notice board.

In Maubin University, there are two hostels for male (Ayeyarwady Hostel) and for female (Pearl Hostel). There are 25 facts for hostellers. University hostel is stricter than private hostels. The students get more self-study time. Time schedule is training for effective time consumption by the individual. University hostellers are trained to practice community praying habit, studying the lessons during study hour at study room, and duty consciousness. There is a common place for meeting each other. If a student fails his or her exam, he or she does not get a chance to live in. The advantages of private hostels for students are getting more hours to attend other certificate courses and working part time job.

The capacity of hostels and percentage can be classed into small (29%), moderate (51%) and large (20%). It is ranged from less than 15, 16 to 30 and more than 30 hostellers. This capacity condition is changed by situation, during the period of intensive course for UDE students. The popular male hostels are *Shwe La Wun*, *Sanda Thakin* and *Mya Thida*. The popular female hostels are *Thin Thabyae*, *Daw Shu Yin*, *Su Latt Pyae*, *Sopyae Ein* and *Ein Chu San* in Maubin.

The large amount of hostellers (80 hostellers) stay at *Thin Thabyae* Hostel. It is located in Kanna Rd. in Ward No. 10. Figure 6 shows the plan map of this hostel compound. Within this compound, three of the two-story building are for hostellers, one bath place, toilet place, a place for clothes hanging, a place for generator house, and kitchen room, three buildings for tuition class and one three-story building. In the three-story building, ground floor is used for gym room, the first floor is used for Kayin dress shop and the second floor is used for food shop.

In Maubin, the building types of the hostels are wooden houses (20%), semi-pucca houses (20%) and pucca buildings (60%). At the present time, constructing brick building is more aesthetic, easier, swifter and safer than using wood and readymade wall panel. The room style is 52% twin bedded room, 20% hall type and 28 % others. Some people are afraid of living in a single room. Most prefer twin bedded room because it has more privacy than other types of room style and can closely live with intimate friends. Monthly fees can be graded into three types. The first class is 25001 kyats and over per month (20%) and the second class is 20001-25000 kyats per month (20%) and the third class is 15000-20000 kyats per month ( 60% ). That is only for accommodation. There is a hostel which serves both accommodation and food for hostellers.



**Figure 6 Plan Map of Hostel Located at Ward No. 10 in Maubin**

Source: Field survey, December 2019

Garbage is disposed systematically by the collected system of Town Development Committee. All hostels allow to use some electronic utensils such as iron and fan. Almost all use artesian water for domestic use and purified water for drinking. The condition of shading, penetration of natural light, good ventilation around the hostels are available in 80% of hostels. Personal documents such as identity card and family contact number are collected. Hostel closing hour varies depending on the hostel. 45 % of the hostels close between 7 to 8 pm.

Safety preparedness idea is necessary for our society. A hostel, having an emergency exit and putting portable fire extinguisher are essential for current lifestyle. Most hostels in Maubin are two story buildings. Using the Stairway or climbing down through a tree's branch are used for emergency exit who live upstairs. 57% of the hostels have both emergency exit and portable fire extinguisher, 14% of the hostels have only emergency exit, 14% of the hostel have only portable fire extinguisher and others item 15% respectively.

In preparedness for health problem, 90% of hostel owners or wardens rely on clinic and the rest 10% rely on traditional medicine. The hostel owners are not responsible for loss or damage of hostellers' utensils. There are some stories behind the rules. The hostels' rules are announced for only just prevention before outbreak. If something breaks out in hostel, the small cases are solved by the owners themselves. In some cases they call for help from authorities concerned and solve it. Some owners do not give permission to do some items in their compound although they take obligation by linking to other people who proficiency in their work (for example: food shops, laundry services).

**Table 2 Year Hostel Staying Condition in Maubin**

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Internal Students</b>												
<b>UDE Students</b>												

Source: Field survey, December 2019

Table 2 shows the hosteller calendar for a year. Internal students stay in hostel during their school days. The academic year starts in the month of December and ends in September. April and May are vacation months. They go back to their parents' homes. For UDE students, especially who specialize in Arts, they stay in hostels from September to November for attending tuition and sitting for the exam. In September, internal and UDE students overlap and create Maubin over crowded.

### **Hostel owners' point of view on their economic activity**

Hostel renting is one of the economic activities. Twenty five percent of the owners perceive it as a family's main income job and 75 percent perceive it as the second job for family income. It is depending on owners' value on their economic activity. Some are also government staff, owners of food shops, services, technical works and etc. Whatever it is a big or small economic activity, getting large or few amounts of benefits they achieve, they are owners of their jobs. They support the regional development in education, economic and social sector. Ninety percent of respondents believe that their economic activity, hostel renting supports the region's education and economy.

### **Findings and Suggestion**

A hostel is a cheap accommodation area for school girls and boys. The hostel rule is like an agreement between the owner and the customer. Hostel rules must be respected. It is necessary for our society. For example, being quiet in hostel after 10 pm is the time that the roommate or neighbours sleep. Because the noise disturbs others. The noise of plastic bags, snoring and speaking aloud on cell phone irritates others while they are sleeping or trying to get asleep.

For hostellers who stay at hostels, hostel etiquette is a nice social behaviour. It can make life-time friendship at hostels. Every hosteller should have good manners. The good hostel manners are being tidy and clean, turning off the electric lights when one leaves the room, and keeping the common spaces and one's own space clean. One should keep everything tidy. When meeting a new friend or people a simply smile is the best way to make friendship. It helps to start a conversation. Many hostels have the common area completely separated from the rooms or in front of house for sitting and chatting there. Silence at night is a good practice for everyone but making a noise can disturb the roommate and others. Helping each other and paying respect each other.

These facts are necessary for building the life - long friendships. The advantage of staying in hostel is knowing about the mindset of the people and it is a shared space and caring others. Helping each other and paying respect each other is a sympathetic way of behaviour.

After implementation of three universities in Maubin, many types of service sectors economic activities are booming up. The multiplier economic effect can be

seen in Maubin. It supports for development of the study area. The land value is also high in Maubin. It controls on the distribution of hostels in Maubin. It positively affects on local people's economy, upgrades the region's education level, links the social tie between urban and rural dwellers, widens the social network and it teaches them proper and polite way to behave in society.

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