

Opportunities and Implementation

(A Case Study: Economic Development of Kyaukta Village, Sagaing Township)

Khin Thein Oo¹, Thuzar Win Shwe²

¹Dr, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Meiktila University

²Dr, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Loikaw University

Abstract

The study on economic opportunities is a crucial one not only for economic development but also for all round development of the respective area. In this study, economic opportunities of a village are assessed by means of qualitative method. Due to good location and the given economic opportunities of the study area, people in Kyaukta village know well about different economic opportunities in addition to their traditional farming. By taking an interview to the local residents, the past, present and future economic development pattern could be portrayed systematically. Due to the great efforts of local people in their implementation processes, the different types of economic activities were found within one family. The results show that the economic activities for the individual household could be extracted from the minimum of one in one economic activity to the maximum of five in one household. This situation highlights the greater potentiality of the study area to be developed during the time frame of near future.

Key Words: Opportunity, Implementation, Qualitative method

Introduction

Naturally given opportunities are different from one locality to another depending upon the existing physical and man-made features of the respective areas. In some areas physical features give very great opportunities than man-made features do and in some other areas man-made features exceed than natural ones. The area under study is located between two areas of given opportunities; the first one is in natural features and the second one is in man-made one. It is, therefore, essential to study the effort of local people who utilize natural and man-made environments and which one is more beneficial for present and future development of the study area and native people as well.

Aim and Objectives

The major aim of this study is to make an assessment on economic opportunities of a village from the stand point of human geographic perspective. As the supportive elements for the above aim, following objectives are also adopted here. They are:

- 1) To observe the present economic activities of the study area, Kyauk-ta village,
- 2) To study the given economic opportunities of the study area, and
- 3) To assess the present and future economic opportunities and potential development of socio-economic condition in this area.

Data and Methods

Data collected and used in this research are both primary and secondary sources. Secondary sources contain library, previous research works, reports; census and primary sources are obtained from personal interview, key informant interview, open talk and group discussion.

Methods used in this paper contain simple quantitative and more advanced qualitative methods.

Distribution are illustrated by GIS tools and the other distribution and analysis are portrayed by means of graphical presentation and correlation analysis.

Problem

In this research two probable questions are to be answered and they are;

Which type of economic activities may be the most suitable one for this area?

How can we organize the economic activities of the area to be developed rapidly and equally?

The Study Area

The area under study is Kyauk-ta village tract, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region. It is the head village of Kyauk-ta village tract and it contains two small villages namely Taungnyo and Kyauk-ta.

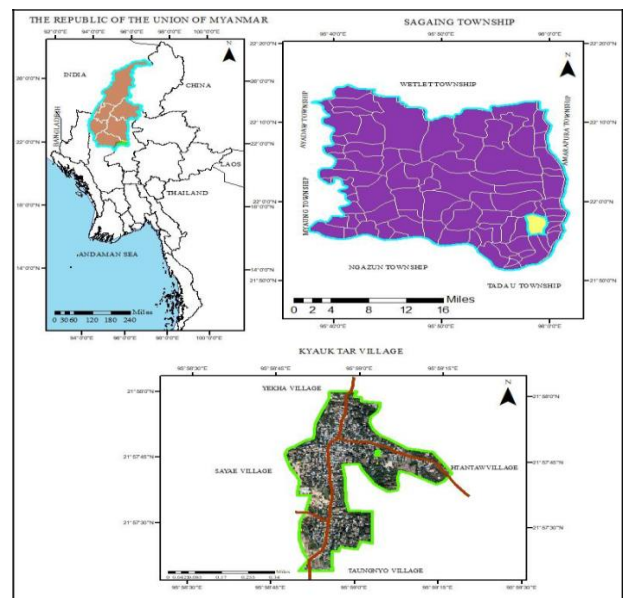


Figure 1: Location of Kyaukta Village, Sagaing Township

As an astronomical location, the study area is located between the north latitudes 21°57'20" to 21°58'00" and the east longitudes 95°55'45" to 95°56'10". As an administrative unit, it is one of (88) village tracts of Sagaing Township.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic Factors

According to the record of field survey which was conducted from (28-3-2018 to 29-3-2018), it is found that the total population of the study area is (3095) persons. Facts about population data are presented in the Table (1).

According to the table, it is found that the study area is composed by (1419) persons of male and (1676) females. Therefore, the gender ratio of the study area is (1:1.2). This ratio reveals the larger proportion of female over male and thus it is suitable for the development of cottage industries. That is why; most of female labours are widely used in cottage industries of this study area.

In considering the dependency ratio, it is found that in the study area, the number of independent persons is 2141 and that of the dependent ones is 954. Therefore it has the dependency ratio of (1:0.45). This situation highlights the very good potentiality for development particularly due to the fewer dependent persons.

Table (1) Population by Age Group of Kyauk - Ta Village

Sr	Age Group	Gender		Total	Remark
		Male	Female		
1	< 21	384	402	786	Dependent
2	21-40	621	754	1375	Independent
3	41 -60	349	417	766	Independent
4	> 60	65	103	168	Dependent
Total		1419	1676	3095	
Gender ratio		1419	1676	1:1.2	
Dependency ratio		2141	954	1:0.45	

Source: Field Data

Education Level

When considering the education level of the study area, two different ideas are used here. The first idea is extracted from the persons who escaped the schooling age and the respective education lives and the second idea is extracted from the persons who are now attending the different schools and universities.

Data related to the first idea are presented in the Table (2). According to the table, it can be noted that the under graduate level is composed of 47.95% of the total population. Thus its education standard is to some extent lowered in the past. The data related to the second idea are presented in the Table (3).

Table (2) Education Levels of People (Finished) in Kyauk - Ta Village

Sr.	Education Level	Male	Female	Total	Remark
1	Monastic	136	181	317	
2	Primary	240	236	476	
3	Middle	165	170	335	
4	High	180	176	356	
Total		721	763	1484	

Source: Field Data

Table (3) Education Levels of People (Attending) in Kyauk - Ta Village

Sr.	Education Level	Male	Female	Total	Remark
1	Primary	182	311	493	
2	Middle	205	259	464	
3	High	140	175	315	
4	University	22	13	35	
5	Graduate	30	27	57	
6	Post Graduate	5	2	7	
Total		584	787	1371	

Source: Field Data

By summing up the situation above it can be said that the education and knowledge level of the study area is comparatively high and this situation will support the sustainable development of the study area by means of intellectual perspective.

Major Land Use

As economic bases, major types of land use are also considered here. According to the field observation result five different types of land uses are found in this area and they are residential land use, land use for dry agriculture, land use for wet agriculture, garden land use and other land uses. The data related to land uses are shown in the Table (4).

The study area is basically developed in dry agriculture work and it was basic economic potential for socio-economic lives of people in the past. Today, land use and agricultural pattern are gradually changed from agro-based economy to cottage industry and services.

Table (4) Major Land Use of Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Types of Land use	Acres	Percent
1	Ya (Dry Agriculture)	2159	68.82
2	Residential	869	27.70
3	Le (Wet Agriculture)	86	2.74
4	Garden	16	0.51
5	Others	7	0.23
Total		3137	100.00
Total Household		650	

Source: Field Data

Rural Economy of Kyauk-Ta Village

When analyze the rural economy of the study area, two distinct patterns can be portrayed here. The first one is Staff pattern and the second one is Private pattern. The first pattern can be divided into two and it

contains government staff and the staff on private company limited. The second one, Private pattern, contains private cottage industries, private small scale economies and private services. The general pattern of rural economy can be summarized in the Figure (2).

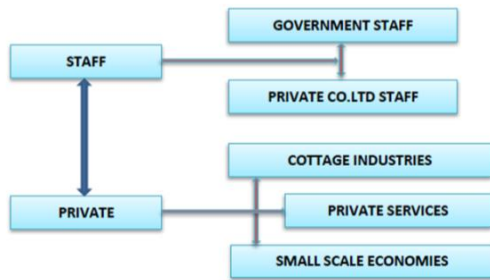


Figure 2: Patterns of Rural Economy in Kyauk-Ta Village

Source: Field Observation

Table (5) Government Staff of Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Occupation	In service	Retired	Remark
1	Teaching Staff	18	-	
2	Military Servant	-	2	
3	Government Staff	3	-	Military Servant
4	Government Staff	2	-	Clerk
5	Government Staff	-	2	Forest Department
6	Government Staff	-	1	Agro - Department
7	Engineer	1	2	
Total		24	7	

Source: Field Data

According to the field observation, it is known that (7) different types of government staff are found in this area. See Table (5).

The number of staff on the private company limited measures (28) total. Although, they are known as the staff of company limited, the total numbers of these are too small to account see Table (6). Four different staffs are organized and they are engineer, lottery shop, electronic shop and factory workers. When compare to the total population of the study area, the number of staff on the private company limited is relatively few. But the knowledge of these staffs is critically importance for economic development of the study area.

Table (6) Staff on the Private Co. Ltd of Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Occupation	Number	Remark
1	Engineer	1	0.03%
2	Lottery Shop	2	0.06%
3	Electronic Shop	3	0.10%
4	Factory Worker	22	0.71%
Total		28	0.90%
Total Population		3095	100.00

Source: Field Data

In studying the private economic activities (3) different groups are classified and they are cottage industry, private services and small scale economy. Field observation shows that four different types of cottage industries are found in this area and they are stone slab making, weaving industry, furniture work and blacksmith. See Table (7). Among the cottage industries, stone slab making is the largest household number with (40) and the furniture work accounts the second largest with (31).

Only one blacksmith is recorded as cottage industry in this area. The spatial distribution of cottage industry is illustrated as dot map drawn by GIS techniques and it is shown in the Figure (3). Most of stone slab making are found in the northern most part of the study area while weaving industry is distributed in the middle and northern parts of study area. Most of furniture works are concentrated at the center of the study area.

Table (7) Cottage Industries in Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr	Item	Number	Remark
1	Stone Slab	40	Family
2	Weaving	30	Family
3	Furniture	31	Family
4	Black Smith	1	Family
Total		102	15.69 Percent
Total Household		650	

Source: Field Data

There are ten types of services in this area and facts about them are shown in Table (8). Among the private services, carpenter and craft mason are the largest number of household with (72) and (16). Apart from these two services all the remaining ones have small number.

The other items of services contain two different services and they are iron grill and iron work. The total number of household for the works of private services measure (119) and it represents about (18.3%) of the total household of the study area. See table (9).

According to the table, miscellaneous store is the largest with (7) household and other has the second largest with household. The third largest number of household is recorded for teashop and it accounts four families. The remaining three of store, restaurant and clothing appraisal have the smallest number with (2), (1) and (1) families respectively. The total number of small scale enterprises is (20) and it accounts for (3.07%) of the total number of household.

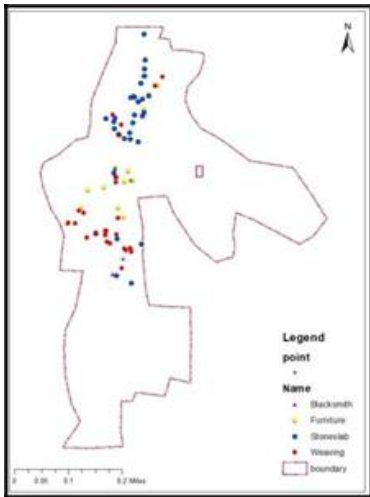


Figure 3: Spatial Distribution of Cottage Industries
Source: Field Data

Table (8) Works of Private Services in Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Particular	Number	Remark
1	Heir Service	5	Agro machines
2	Rental Service	7	Light truck
3	Rental Service	6	Motorcycle
4	Cycle Workshop	2	
5	Bicycle Repairing	1	
6	Carpenter	72	
7	Craft Manson	16	
8	Sewing Machines	6	
9	Beauty Parlor	2	
10	Others	2	Iron grill and Iron work
Total		119	18.31 Percent
Total Household		650	

Source: Field Data

Table (9) Small Scale Private Enterprises in Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Particular	Number	Remark
1	Miscellaneous store	7	Family
2	Teashop	4	Family
3	Restaurant	1	Family
4	Store	2	Family
5	Clothing Appraisal	1	Family
6	Others	5	Betel, Snack
Total		20	3.07 Percent
Total Household		650	

Source: Field Data

Economic Opportunities of Kyauk-Ta Village

In analyzing the economic opportunities of the study area, the present economic structure is basically considered. The comparative study on economic opportunity is illustrated in Figure (4).

According to this figure, services and cottage industries have the greatest potentialities for upcoming new economic activities. For Example, the number of cottage industries in this area is raw material oriented

while services reveal the idea of modern economic activity. By combining these two characteristics, more and more profitable and more advanced economic pattern can be portrayed systematically.

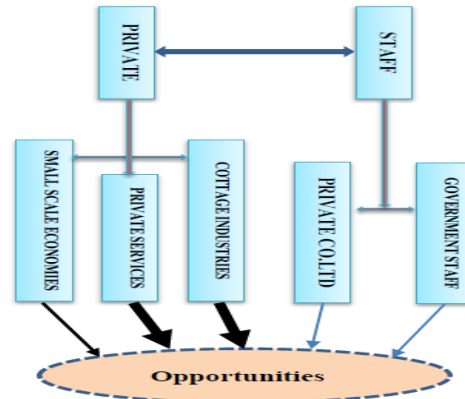


Figure 4: Comparative Study on New Economic Opportunities
Source: Field Observation

Traditional Farming to Modern Craft Works

The study show that changes from traditional farming to modern craft works with services and small scale enterprises in this area is fascinating one. Due to its strategic location (Accessible from water way and railway transportation), some sort of raw materials can be collected by means of formal or informal ways. This situation fosters the rapid development of new economic activities (not related to agriculture) and the associated services. In doing so, the process of general development may be accelerated.

Assessment

The socio - economic development of the study area is needed to observe whether it is really developed or not. According to the field observation record and the analytical result, general assessment for socio - economic development is undertaken by using four different criteria namely; housing type, transport vehicles used, uses of luxurious goods and agro – machines used. When observing the housing type of the study area, five basic house types are recorded here. Facts about them are shown in Table (10).

The largest number of brick with wooden houses and the brick house indicates the better economic conditions of the study area.

The second criterion used to measure the socio - economic development is transport vehicles used. Being based on the field records seven types of transport vehicles can be classified in this area and facts about them are shown in Table (11).

Table (10) Housing Types of Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	House type	Number	Percent
1	RC	37	5.47
2	Brick House	212	31.36
3	Brick Wooden	269	39.79
4	Bamboo House	153	22.63
5	Hut	5	0.74
Total		676	100.00

Source: Field Data

Table (11) Possession of Transport Vehicles in Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Vehicle	Number	Remarks
1	Cargo	2	Fuel
2	Light Truck	12	Fuel
3	Saloon	8	Fuel
4	Tri-cycle	4	Fuel
5	Motor Cycle	324	Fuel
6	Bicycle	120	Man Power
7	Pony cart	12	Horse Power

Source: Field Data

The third criterion used to measure the socio - economic development is the possession of luxurious goods. Being based on the field records five types of luxurious goods can be classified in this area and facts about them are shown in Table (12).

According to the uses of luxurious goods the status of people in that village is to some extent higher. That is why, most of family used one or two luxurious goods and they are all modernized one.

The last criterion used to measure the socio - economic development is the possession of agro-machines used. Being based on the field records six types of agro-machines can be classified in this area and facts about them are shown in Table (13).

Table (12) Possession of Luxurious Goods in Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr	Particular	Number	Remarks
1	TV / Video / EVD / DVD	550	Power
2	Refrigerator	200	Power
3	Washing Machines	30	Power
4	Satellite Receiver	20	Power
5	Others	350	Fan, Air conditioner, Water cooler, Air cooler

Source: Field Data

In addition to the different types of agro - machines, traditional farming material and cattle are still used in this area. The data related to the traditional farming and cattle rearing are attached with Table (13). The table shows that the traditional farming has been upgraded with the use of agro-machines and this situation highlights the development of socio - economic life of people in this study area.

Table (13) Possession of Agro-machines in Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Types	Number	Remarks
1	Tractor	7	Fuel
2	Htawlargyi	38	Fuel
3	Seeding Machine	9	Fuel
4	Water Pump	56	Power
5	Portable Electric Generator	14	Fuel
6	Cutting machine	23	Fuel
Traditional Farming			
1	Bullock Cart	593	
2	Cattle	1012	

Source: Field Data

Findings

The analytical results show that three different situations can be recognized as valuable findings in this paper. The first finding is that economic potentiality of individual family is different. The combination on economic activity of a family ranges from one in one level to five in one level. This means that one family has only one economic activity to far extend five different economic activities. Facts about these combinations are shown in the Table (14).

The second finding is that the individual family has the plan to be extended on the economic activity. The image to extend can be classified in to four different groups such as private economy, government staff, company staff and others. This situation indicates the better opportunity for long term development of the study area. See Table (15).

Table (14) Economic Potentialities of Families in Kyauk-Ta Village

Sr.	Combination	No. of Households	Remarks
1	One in One	280	43.07%
2	Two in One	52	8.00%
3	Three in One	154	23.70%
4	Four in One	128	19.70%
5	Five in One	36	5.53%
Total		650	100.00

Source: Field Data

According to the questioners' survey, economic opportunities of the study area are examined by the attitude of people with their given priority on economic activity. The levels of priority are recorded as six different types and facts about them are shown in Table (16). The table shows that the attitudes of family willing to give priority for traditional agriculture is (246) and it represents (37.85%) of the total. The families willing to give priority on government service measure (109) and it represents about (16.77%) of the total. This situation indicates that each and every household of the study area are willing to give priority on (6) different types of economic activities. By summing up the situation, it is now clear that economic opportunities of the study

area are greater with intellectual development of people in this area.

Table (15) Economic Activities to be Extended by Individual Family

Sr.	Activity	No. of Households	Remark
1	Private Economy	182	
2	Government Staff	109	
3	Company Staff	23	
4	Others	48	New ones
Total		362	

Source: Field Data

Table (16) Priority on Economic Opportunities

Sr.	Type	No. of Households	Remark
1	Agriculture	246	37.85%
2	Government Service	109	16.77%
3	Private / Company Staff	23	3.54%
4	Private Economy	182	28.00%
5	Joint	42	6.46%
6	Others	48	7.38%
Total		650	100.00

Source: Field Data

According to the results of field observation, it is found that most of families are trying to develop their economy by combining the different types of economic activities. Family members of the individual family do different works and therefore, following patterns are coming out here.

Sr	Combination	Household
1.	Farmer	104
2.	Stone-slab	70
3.	Weaving	56
4.	Furniture work	50
5.	Farmer and Staff (Government or Private)	13
6.	Stone-slab and Staff (Government or Private)	10
7.	Weaving and Staff (Government or Private)	18
8.	Furniture and Staff (Government or Private)	11
9.	Farmer, Stone-slab and Trading	52
10.	Farmer, Stone-slab and weaving	60
11.	Farmer, Stone-slab and Furniture	42
12.	Farmer, Stone-slab, Weaving and Furniture	38
13.	Farmer, Stone-slab, Furniture and Craft mason	57
14.	Farmer, Stone-slab, Furniture and Carpenter	33
15.	Farmer, Stone-slab, Furniture and Craft mason and Weaving	36
Total		650

According to the combination item of the study area, it is now confirmed that the area has greater potentiality to be developed more rapidly than the other areas.

In addition, market and marketing training should also be conducted for some value added items particularly for furniture and stone-slab works. On the other hand, traditional farming should be transformed to become organic farming and thus high prices for agro-products can be expected.

The brief answer for the first research question “Which type of economic activities may be the most suitable one for this area?” is that combining at least two or more economic activities may be the best for the development of this study area.

The answer for the second question “How can we organize the economic activities of the area to be developed rapidly and equally?” is that it can organize the economic activities of the area to be developed rapidly and equally by means of an organization which is established as community development.

Conclusion

The results of the research show that the study area has multi-dimensional economic opportunities and people in this area also doing different types of economic activities. Although it is a rural area, the economic pattern in reality is very similar to urban one. Therefore, its economic and general development pattern can be expected as modernity one. This situation will lift up the study area to be developed faster than the others. The systematic management programme developed by the people themselves can change the area faster and faster.

The economic activities for the individual household vary from the minimum of one in one economic activity to the maximum of five in one household. This situation tells about the greater potentiality of the study area to be developed during the time frame of near future.

Acknowledgements

My special thanks go to Dr. Ba Han, Rector, Meiktila University and Dr Tin Tun Aung, Pro-rector for their permission to submit this paper.

References

Boyce. R.R (1978) : The Bases of Economic Geography. Halt. Richard and Winston,
 Rolf Alter (2010): Innovation and Modernizing the Rural Economy (OECD Published Paper)
 Mya Mya Nyein, Ma (1998): Population Geography of Sagaing District, M.A. (Thesis), University of Mandalay.
 မြန်မာကျမ်းကိုးစာရင်း
 အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာန (၂၀၁၅): စစ်ကိုင်းမြို့နယ် ဒေသဆိုင်ရာ အချက်အလက်များ။
 ကျောက်တာကျေးရွာအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံး (၂၀၁၈၊ မတ်လ) အုပ်ချုပ်ရေး၊ စီးပွားရေး၊ လူမှုရေးဆိုင်ရာအချက်အလက်များ။