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Khin Thet Htwe

FACTORS INFLUENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG WOMEN IN POBBATHIRI TOWNSHIP, NAY PYI TAW, MYANMAR *Khin Sandi Myint*

Effect of Performance Appraisal on Employee Performance of Private Banks in Pyay Township *Than Thu Zar*

Service Quality of Pact Global Microfinance in Chaung U Township, Sagaing Region, Myanmar *Ei Ei Po*

Patients' Satisfaction on Service Quality of Shwe Ya Tu Tipitaka Cakkhupala Eye Hospital In Myin Mu, Sagaing *Thin Thin Yu · Khaing Wai Chaw*

CONSUMER DECISION MAKING STYLE ON MYANMAR TRADITIONAL COSTUME *Toe Toe Aung*

Effect of International Trade on Economic Growth of Myanmar *Thida Htoo*

Factor Associated with Maternal Mortality Ratio

Maw Maw Khin

Factors Influencing Formal and Informal Saving Behavior of Households in Bilu Island, Mon State, Myanmar

Myint Myint Kyi · Ye Lwin

Determinants of Labor Force Participation among Rural Women in Myanmar

Hlaing Hlaing Moe · Mar Mar Aye · May Myat Thu

Sanofi's Value-based Services for Sustainable Business: ESG and Sustainability Strategies *Jae-Woong Byun*

A study on problems and solutions of Ecotourism

Gwon Osung

Global Future Trends and Technology Required for Korean Industrial Complexes for Consumers *Shinwon*

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Myanmar and Korea have many similarities and are complementary relationship. Therefore, we believe that research exchange will expand mutual understanding between Myanmar and Korea, and will be the cornerstone for mutual development.

KOMYRA and YUE have co-published The Myanmar Journal since August 2014. So far, many scholars have published numerous papers through the journal, and We are sure that this journal has helped many people understand Myanmar and Korea more clearly and closely.

The Myanmar Journal covers various issues in Myanmar and Korea. It covers various topics that can promote bilateral development and mutual understanding, not limited to specific topics such as economy, industry, society, education, welfare, culture, energy, engineering, healthcare, and agriculture.

We hope that this journal will continue to promote understanding of the current status and potential capabilities of Myanmar and South Korea and promote in-depth international exchange and cooperation.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the editorial board and YUE and KOMYRA for their valuable support in The Myanmar Journal publication.

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It will cover all general academic and industrial issues, and share ideas, problems and solution for development of Myanmar.

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FACTORS INFLUENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG WOMEN IN POBBATHIRI TOWNSHIP, NAY PYI TAW, MYANMAR

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ABSTRACT : This study investigated how influence of income, education level, number of dependent persons, number of children, family size, and duration of marriage, religious or tradition norms and customs on domestic violence and relationship among them. This paper focused the domestic violence of Myanmar women aged (18-49) years old who live in Pobbathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. A survey was conducted to collect primary data for the research objectives. In this paper, both the descriptive statistics and binary logistic regression as well as Chi square test were applied. The results found that domestic violence is correlated with age group of the participants, marital status, duration of marriage, education level of participants, income level, kind of jobs of the respondents. Moreover, the religious factors, such as boys should be more educated than girls, experience in loss of opportunity in their family due to girl, men are nobler than women are also correlated with domestic violence. In addition, this study found that demographic factor such as age group, the number of dependent persons, social factor like education level, economic factor of income before COVID-19 and religious factor like men are assume to be nobler than women are influence on domestic violence of women in Pobbathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw.

Key words : *Domestic Violence, Descriptive Statistics method, Binary Logistic Regression*

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I. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Domestic violence is the worldwide problem. Domestic violence may be influenced by the income level, education level, age, family size, marital status and other factors such as number of dependent persons, education status of perpetrators, rural or urban area. Domestic violence against women can negatively affect the physical, mental, sexual, work and reproductive health of the women and well-being of their children (WHO, 2017). At the international level, violence against women is a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedom of women (UN,1994).

Intermate partner violence is the main problem in many countries. It is the break of human rights and has damage in demographic, economic and health outcomes. Thus, this study explored both the women' demographic, economic factors and religious factors. According to the statistical records, 10% to 70% of all women have experienced in physically abused by intermate partner (Bloom, 2008 and WHO, 2005). Most of the studies that explore the experience in victims of partner abused are focus on immigrant, homeless women and refugee. Immigration status and cultural norms and shame, isolation, lack of knowledge are the main barriers (Angelica S. Reina, B. J.,2014).

Violence against women has several interconnected sources and it is not only due to male domination and controlling behavior (Russo,2001). Domestic violence occurs mostly in border area, rural area and poor income and low education level of organizations. But mental or emotional abused may occur in some educated one in practice due to the stress and attitude and controlling behaviors. Myanmar has a larger number of women than men because there were 51.4 million of population according to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census and 52% was women. Thus, domestic violence against women and role of women in Myanmar play a key role for the country development. Most women do not want to divorce or separate and to become their children as a fatherless child in Myanmar and they have experience domestic violence by their partner or husband unfortunately. They are struggling to grow up their children with their difficulties of husband' abused (Thandar M, Moe H, 2019).

This study focused on the influence factors on domestic violence of Pobbathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw. It is not only the capital of Myanmar but also the administration region. It is still developing city. The total area is about 7,054 km² (2724 square mile) and total population is about 1160,242 according to the 2014 Myanmar Census. Nay Pyi Taw has very low population density. There are eight

townships as Pobbathiri Township, Zeyathiri Township, Dekhina thiri Township, Ottarathiri Township, Zabuthiri Township, Lewe Township, Tat Kone Township, Pyinmana Township.

Myanmar agreed to the CEDAW since 1997 and CEDAW has tried to eliminate in both discrimination and against women. The government has been making every effort to get gender equality and development of women's empowerment by coordinating with the non-government organizations (NGOs) and International non-government organizations (INGOs). Nowadays, most of Myanmar women struggle same as men in all fields such as business, social, education but there are some limitations in gender equality.

2. Literature Review

According to the research, there are one in three women are abused by someone all over the world. Previous studies in Myanmar, there are one in five women of reproductive age had experience some form of IPV (Interpersonal Violence) in their lifetimes by Myanmar Demographic Health Survey (2015-2016). It indicated that 59% of women, composed of 17% married women, 33% divorced, widowed and separated women and 9% unmarried women, are victims of physical violence and 13% of women sexual violence in Myanmar. It also suggests that uneducated women have six times more abuses than educated women physically.

Miedema, S. S., Kyaw A. T., (2022) estimated the maternal abuse and found that it was directly and indirectly associated with women's past-year experience to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) and children's experience to physical or emotional child abuse by mother in the household.

Lemwai (2005) stated that silence surrounding domestic violence stabbing all behaviors, as social stigma does not spare women with higher learning education in Dar es Salaam. It noted that few women seek legal remedies and about seven in ten women do not seek help from anyone due to their shame, dignity and to protect family honor. It described that retaliatory measure and push backs behavior have long been emerging and the belief that women are passive should be doubted as victims, decide to fight back (43%) while 60% leave their partner or husband when they cannot tolerate any more and 40% when they are badly injured in Tanzania.

Su Z., McDonnell D, et al. (2022), describe that mishandling domestic violence crimes in China like that family affairs are the main indicator of the extreme cultural influences. This study encountered inadequate awareness and lack of women's rights can rise the domestic violence. Larsen LW, Aye WT, et al. (2020) mentions that natural disasters, wars, migration, economic crisis and military rules effect on this violence. The former researches call for our study on the potential relation between

domestic violence and COVID-19 Crisis and as well as their psycho-social impacts on women in Myanmar.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Myanmar was listed as one of the least developed countries in the world in 2018. As one-fourth of people are living under poverty line, human rights violations and domestic violence are encountered (Larsen LW, Aye WT, et al. 2020). It has been reported that the prevalence of domestic violence on women in Myanmar is 61.8% of the ever-married people within the age of 18 to 49 years (Aye WT, Lien L, et al. 2020).

Angelica S. Reina, B. J. (2014) indicates that immigration status and the inability to understand domestic violence within given cultural norms are major barriers keeping Latina victims from seeking help from formal advocacy agencies. In United State, most of the studies explored nonimmigrant white women of the experiences of victims of partner abuse.

Esteban Eugenio Esquivel-Santovena, Teri L. et al. (2013) indicated at partner abuse was a common problem all over the world with several causes and used ranking of the HDI (United Nations Development Programme, 2010) as explanatory variable and partner abuse perpetration rate as predictor variable. Then, it found that there was no significance association between national level of human development and rates of partner violence. But national level of gender empowerment and rates of partner violence were significant relationship.

3. The Significance of the Study

The scope of the study was women aged (18-49) who live in Pobbathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw and survey method was used. There were many previous studies of domestic violence in Myanmar such as prevalence of intimate partner violence and association with wealth in Myanmar and domestic violence victimisation and its association with mental distress: a cross sectional study of the Yangon region, Myanmar. But there is not yet domestic violence research paper that concerning with Nay Pyi Taw only.

The previous study in Myanmar was Myanmar Demographic Health Survey and it was the last survey of domestic violence in Myanmar. After that there is no conducting of nationwide survey concerning the violence due to COVID-19 crisis. Myanmar is a developing country and it has a full of tradition and customs. These cultures and beliefs have influence on the daily life. This study describes the socio-economic and the religious variables that influencing on the domestic violence of Myanmar women age 18 to 49 years old.

Myanmar is a country in which people still stick to their traditional norms and customs. Traditionally, Myanmar women are housekeepers, caring for their household

chores as well as their husbands and children. Thus, Myanmar women have more chance to drop out according to the religious concepts, men are assumed to be nobler than women and there are still some false beliefs that discriminate women from men socially. Being weaker than men physically, there are many hidden cases women have been abused in house. Although gender gaps in literacy have closed at the national level, there are some gender discriminations especially in rural area because most household heads are men.

II. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to investigate factors influencing on the domestic violence of women aged between (18 to 49) years in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The other objectives are

- (i) To promote the awareness and knowledge of domestic violence
- (ii) To protect the women abused by their partners and others
- (iii) To make better policies to promote the women' life

III. Method of Study

The primary data of domestic violence against women aged (18 to 49) was collected. Firstly, designing a questionnaire concern with domestic violence, then make a focus group discussion and edit the questionnaire. In this case study, both the quantitative research and qualitative research were used. Finally, conducting a survey by using face to face interview to collect data. Firstly, the simple random sampling method without replacement was used to choose the quarters and then cluster sampling method was made to collect the sample. The descriptive method, binary logistic regression method and Chi-square test were used in the data analysis.

1. Studied Variables

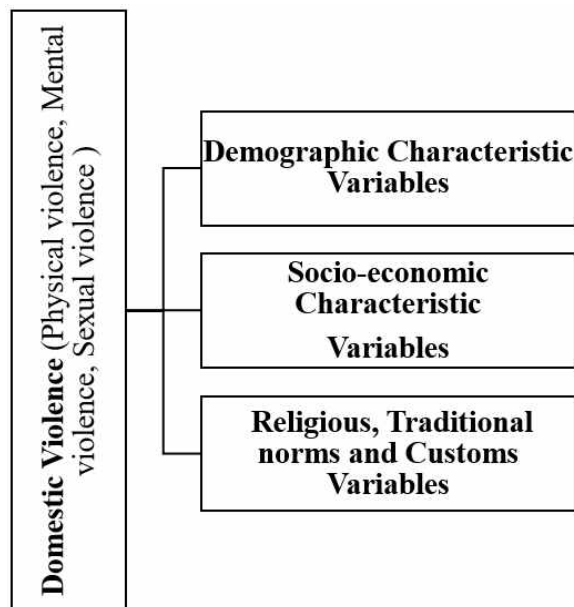
The dependent variable is the "Do you have experience in domestic violence" and the independent variables are demographic characteristic variables, socio-economic variables and religious variables. Domestic violence which separates physical violence, mental or emotional violence, sexual violence. "Do you have experience in domestic violence" has dichotomous answer such as (yes for code 1, no for code 0), if yes, "what kinds of violence do you experience" has categorical answer such as physical violence for code1, mental violence for code 2, sexual violence for code 3, Table (4)

in appendix describes the possible outcomes (answers), (1) for Yes, (0) for No.

2. Conceptual Framework of the Study

This conceptual framework was developed to specify the meaning of the concepts that can be used on the variable to be studied. Figure 3.1 shows the relationship between the study variables. The domestic violence may be physical violence, mental or emotional violence, sexual violence. This violence may be relationship their demographic characteristic variables (age, marital status), socio-economic variables (income, number of dependent persons, education level, sex of household head) and religious or traditional norms and custom variables (Is there a belief that boy should be more educated than girls, do their parents make them to have an experience in lose opportunities, how do you think the religious, culture of Myanmar that men are assumed to be nobler than women?). Moreover, there may be an influence their attitudes and behaviors on their violence

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework



3. Data Collection Process

This study focuses on women age between 18-49 years old with regardless of kind of employment status. In this study, 468 participants were interviewed by

personal at their private and convenient places. Each selected women will be asked for verbal agreement firstly after explaining them about the confidential issues and the request for using field notes during the interview. The data obtained from field notes, in-depth interviews will be transcribed and translated. Then, qualitative coding analysis will be conducted. Moreover, Likert scale is used to assess opinions, attitudes, or behaviors.

Pobbathiri township can be separated into Urban and Rural such as eighteen village groups and seventeen quarters or wards. According to the records of the Administration Office of Pobbathiri, Nay Pyi Taw, there are (117702) total population. Among them, it can be separated the people who are age (below 18 years old) and the people who are age (above and equal 18 years old). Total above 18 years old age of women are about 24460. But it includes all age of above of 18 years that means both above 49 years old and between 18 to 49 years old. There is no exact record in administration office. I chose eight quarters with simple random sampling method among seventeen wards and eighteen village groups. Then, a target population (age between 18- 49 years old women) into smaller groups known as clusters. Then random selection was made among these clusters to collect samples.

IV. Results and Discussions

In this study, the descriptive statistics method and inferential statistics method show which factors are the influence variables on domestic violence and what are the frequencies, percentages and the relationship between them.

1. Descriptive Statistics

In this paper, there are 468 sample size and among them 154 participants (32.9%) answer "yes" that they have experience in domestic violence and 314 participants (67.1%) answer "no". The average family (household) size is 4.32 (approximately 4), average number of dependent people is 1.9 (approximately 2), average number of children is 1.82 (approximately 2), average income before COVID-19 is about 279480 Kyats and during COVID-19 is 197920 Kyats. The most perpetrator is husband or partner or boyfriend (55.8%) and the frequent occurrence of kinds of violence is mental abused 66.2%, moreover, the most occurrence of kind of job of perpetrator is manual worker. Most perpetrators have alcohol consumption behavior and found that (52.6%) of perpetrators. Married person is the most frequent respondent (306) and has 65.4% of the respondents. We can see that 66.7% have experience in reducing salaries during COVID-19 pandemic. The household head is

38.7% is women and 61.3% is men. 60.7% of participants know domestic violence before but there is a little percent of seeker help from other and got counseling. Then 68.4% of respondents agree or very agree that the men are assumed to be nobler than women and 31.6% is disagree, very disagree and neither disagree nor agree. This percent describes the influence of the religious, custom and traditional norms in this study area.

2. Chi-square test

In this study, Pearson's chi-square test is used to get the association between the occurrence of domestic violence and the characteristics of the respondents.

Table 1 Results of Chi Square Tests

Variable		Chi Square Value	P-value
Demographic Variables	Age group and experience of domestic violence	6.041	0.049**
	Marital Status and experience in domestic violence	7.069	0.070*
	Duration of Marriage	43.197	0.044**
Social Variables	Education Level of participant and experience of domestic violence	12.352	0.002***
	Status of owning a house and experience of domestic violence	4.547	0.103
Economic variables	Income level before COVID-19 and experience domestic violence	15.467	0.000***
	Kinds of job and experience in domestic violence	21.985	0.001***
Religious, Traditional and custom variable	Belief: Boys should be more educated than girls	27.993	0.000***
	Experience in loss of opportunities in your family due to girl	37.080	0.000***
	Participant' opinion on "Men are assumed to be nobler than women and experience in domestic violence"	54.667	0.000***

Source: Survey data (2022)

Note: ***, **, * represent 1%,5%,10% level of significance, respectively.

3. Logistic Regression

Logistic regression is used in many socio-economic researches because most socio-economic variables are categorical variables in real world. It deals with relationships among variables with one dependent (outcome or response) variable and others independent (predictor or explanatory) variables. It can be used when dependent variable is dichotomous variable such as "yes, no" (success, failure) and independent variables are continuous or discrete variables. There are some assumptions of binary logistic regression. They are independence of errors, linearity in the logit for continuous variables, absence of multicollinearity, and lack of strongly influential outliers.

In this study, dependent variable is experience in domestic violence (dichotomous) variable and take the value 1 with the probability of success (experience in domestic violence), $P(Y=1) = p_i$, or the value 0 with the probability of failure (do not experience in domestic violence), $P(Y=0) = 1-p_i$. The independent variables are demographic variables, socio-economic variables and religious factor. Logistic regression considers the odds ratio. The objective of logistic regression to estimate the category of outcome for individual cases using the most parsimonious model and include the estimation of group membership and measures the association and strengths among the variables.

The binary logistic regression model is

$$Y_i = E(Y_i | X_i) + \epsilon_i \quad (1)$$

$$\text{where } E(Y_i | X_i) = p_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_i X_i)}} \quad (2)$$

β_0 = the constant of the equation

β_i = the coefficient of the predictor variable i

ϵ_i = the error term

p_i = the probability of success

$1-p_i$ = the probability of failure

$$\text{Odds ratio} = \frac{p_i}{1-p_i} \quad (3)$$

By taking log of equation (3)

$$L_i = \ln\left(\frac{p_i}{1-p_i}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_i X_i$$

Table 2. Brief results of Logistic Regression

Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients		Nagelkerke R Square	Hosmer and Lemeshow Test	Overall Percentage
Chi-square	84.394	0.230	.895	72.6
Significance	0.000 ***			

Source: Survey data (2022)

Note: ***, **, * represent 1%,5%,10% level of significance, respectively.

V. Conclusion and Suggestions

Binary logistic regression model was found that omnibus test of model coefficient' P-value is 0.000, thus, there are statistically significance between the domestic violence and demographic characteristic variables, socio-economic characteristic variables (the age of participants, number of dependent persons, education level of respondents, income before COVID-19) and the model is good fit. The religious variable (the religious factor of men is nobler than women), the P-value is 0.000 and thus this religious factor has an influence on domestic violence. The explanation' percent of the model is about 72.6% in this study.

The age is the positive association with experience in domestic violence. Women who age (18-30) have 0.499 times and age (31-40) have 0.596 times than women who age (41-49). The risk of a woman to experience domestic violence decreases compare to a woman who age (41-49). Thus, the older the age, the higher to experience domestic violence.

The number of dependent persons has a positive association with experience in domestic violence. Women who have no dependent person has 0.661 time than women who have three and above dependent persons. Women who have one or two dependent persons has 0.464 time than three or more dependent persons. In contrast, the risk of the women (who have no dependent and one and two dependent persons) to experience domestic violence decreases compare to women (who have three or above dependent persons).

In income before COVID-19, the income of the participant has negative association with experience in domestic violence. Women' income level (below and equal 250000) has 2.612 times more than women' income level (above 500000) to get the domestic violence. The risk of the women' income below and equal 250000) to experience domestic violence increases compare to women' income 500000 and above. Women' income (between 250001 and 500000) level have 0.637 time than women' income (above 500000) level. The risk of the women' income between 250001 and 500000 to experience domestic violence decreases compare to women'

income above 500000 because in this study the number of women who have above 500000 have a little proportion 0.036 (17/468) (3.63%) of total respondent and that percent may not represent this study. In this study, women' income below than equal 250000 is 64.53% and between is 31.84% and above 500000 is 3.63%. The most women have below and equal 250000 income level. If the sample size may be increase, this may more reasonable.

In the education level, primary and secondary school level of women is 0.478 and for high school, undergraduate and bachelor degree holder is 0.845 time than the master and above degree. The reason was the most frequent occurrence of violence was mental or emotional violence. Other reason was a little number of master degree and above holder in this study area and this small number (4.7%) cannot cover this study. The primary level and secondary level of women are 58.1% of the total respondent.

In the religious, men are assumed to be nobler than women are also the influence on domestic violence. Women who agree or strongly agree in that religious have 0.172 times to get domestic violence than women who disagree or very disagree. The risk of women who agree or very agree to experience domestic violence decreases compare to women who disagree nor very disagree. The reason was the low education level of women and influence of traditional norms.

This study explained the following points:

- (i) The main reasons for abuse are due to economic burden (50%) and social affairs (46.8%) of total violence. The poor income women can be abused due to both their poor family income and their husbands' controlling behavior as well as religious, tradition and custom norms.
- (ii) Their help seeking behavior found that women who have ever sought help from anyone after being abused is 12.3% and it is very low due to their shame or scare or low down of dignity and due to tradition and custom. 87.7% of women did not want to tell their difficulties to others and to get help because they did not want to mention their actual conditions and lack of knowledge in laws and how to solve their domestic violence.
- (iii) Getting counseling after abused is 5.2% and it is very low because most abused victim are hidden their domestic violence situations and there is a little counseling center or support center.
- (iv) The number of dependent persons is an influence factor on domestic violence among women (age 18-49). Women who the smaller number of dependent persons in their families have less chance to get domestic violence.
- (v) The income level is an influence on domestic violence and (below and equal 250000) level of women has 2.612 times than women' (500001 and above) level. The lower the income, the more to experience domestic violence.

- (vi) The religious, custom factor: how do you think that men are assumed to be nobler than women is the influence on domestic violence.

1. Limitations

There are some limitations in this study.

- (i) There is no exact record number of women aged (18-49) years old in the general administration department.
- (ii) This study includes only the age between 18-49 of women and this cannot cover the all-age women of this region and does not include child abuse and elderly abuse or older age women abuse (above 49).
- (iii) Moreover, this study cannot cover the women or ladies who do not want to expose their cases for some reasons such as fear of lowering down their pride and potential risks to them.
- (iv) Thus, there are both non-respondents and women who refused to answer the survey-questionnaire.
- (v) All the information collected will be kept confidential. Some of participants' information will be coded with pseudonyms.

2. Expected Outcomes

This study will get the following cases.

- (i) To explore the hidden issues of the participants and their fear, especially keeping silent of their abuses regardless of their education levels.
- (ii) To highlight causes like behavioral factors, financial burden and education levels of the perpetrators.
- (iii) To emerge the gender equality
- (iv) To contribute for the development of laws and regulations on violence against women in Pobbathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw

3. Policy Recommendations

Domestic violence is the threat of the development of women life in Pobbathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw. Most women did not want to mention their actual violence condition due to shame, dignity and lack of knowledge how to protect and what are the women rights and role. The belief, custom and religious factor and number of dependent persons in family are the main influence factors on domestic violence in this area. Thus, the government should make better policies to promote the women

life such as

- (i) To remove hesitation and to seek help due to tradition and custom
- (ii) To implement better laws that can protect for the victim women
- (iii) To get gender equality
- (iv) To explore the victims of different statuses and educational backgrounds will realize their own rights and that they are not alone suffering from the domestic violence
- (v) To lead a happy and successful life, overcoming these tragedies bravely and in a positive way
- (vi) To raise the people's awareness in domestic abuses
- (vii) To reduce the gender discrimination

To brief, this study showed that the spousal violence is the most occurrence and the reasons are due to family's low income and controlling behaviors of their husbands. The education level of the most participants is primary level. But the religious factors will influence on their daily life. In this study shows that not only domestic violence of women age (18-49) but also the socio-economic condition of Myanmar women who live in Pobbathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw. Nowadays, the government and non-government organizations are trying to stand for women victims by laws and to raise their awareness, knowledge and education level. Some vocational trainings for women victims are made to promote their lives. It is recommended that the government policy makers, non-government program planners make effort to emerge appropriate strategies and policies and programs to protect domestic against women.

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