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Economic Performance of Agricultural Sector in the Selected Area of Nay Pyi Taw

Le Le Wai¹, Tint Khine²

Abstract

In Myanmar, paddy crop is important not only for local food security but also for foreign exchange earning. Black gram is also a major export item. A survey was conducted in 4 villages of Pyinmana Township and the data were collected from 160 paddy-based triple cropping and double cropping farmers. According to this survey, farmers were facing increased labour cost, high inputs cost and low price received and these were major constraints for farmers. Their benefit and income were low due to soil fertility and disease problem, increasing production cost and low crops price. The study found that the average crop yield and benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of triple cropping farms was lower than those of double cropping farms. Farmers' household incomes in the study area were mainly from black gram. Soil fertility and disease problem became serious in monsoon paddy and black gram production for sustainable crop productivity. It was evident that the government's assistance of crops price guarantee has been crucial in order to achieve appropriate cost and benefit ratio.

Key words: double cropping, triple cropping, benefit - cost ratio.

1. Introduction

After adopting market-oriented economy, the degree of government control over on cropping and pricing and marketing decisions of farmers has diminished and the reforms undertaken have altered substantially.

Over the past decades, it was considered that the construction of dams and reservoirs throughout the country is a top priority in order to increase crop productivity in Myanmar. Total irrigated area had 0.54 million hectare before 1988 and increased to 1.14 million hectare in 2010. The net sown area has been increasing from 8.05 million hectare (19.9 million acre) in 1988/89 to 13.64 million hectare (33.69 million acre) in 2010/11 (DAP, MOAI, 2011). However, price received by farmers is still low while encouraging for increasing crop productivity.

Currently, price volatility of agricultural commodities becomes significant in the world. After the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and global financial crisis in 2008, food prices have been increasing gradually at international level and became an issue for food security and income of farmers, producers and exporters. It was considered that there has no direct effect of global financial crisis on Myanmar's agricultural sector. However, the exporters

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would receive less income in terms of domestic currency due to depreciation of U.S dollar and it affects the domestic food crops prices. Moreover, increasing the prices of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer price affects the crop yield and incomes of farmers. In parallel, availability of quality seeds and agricultural credit also became crucial for the farmers to improve their productivity and economic competency.

Currently, farmers sell agricultural products at farm gates to the local brokers, primary collectors and farmers receive only small marginal profit. Increased labour cost in sowing and harvesting time, and high inputs cost are major concerns of increasing agricultural production cost at farmers' level. Most farmers have been facing the limitation of financing for the farm. Most farmers, therefore, sell the products to local merchants, primary collectors and brokers with low price during harvesting time with immediate effect and sometimes sell the products in advance to pay credits for agricultural inputs used. Moreover, most farmers have limitation on market information for wholesale and export markets while merchants, exporters and brokers received the market information through commodities exchange centers (CEXCs). The paper is mainly aimed to analyze the benefit-cost ratio of major cultivated crops and to reveal the major constraints on crop production in the selected area of Nay Pyi Taw. The study was designed to collect the data from 160 sample farmers through the personal interview. The assessment focused on monsoon paddy-black gram farming system for 2010-2011 season and structured interviews were undertaken in January and February 2012. Pyinmana Township is currently one of the potential areas for paddy production in Nay Pyi Taw District and contributing local food sufficiency. Black gram production is the second largest area in their region and contributing higher income for farmers rather than paddy crop.

2. Brief Overview of Agricultural Performance in Myanmar

After 1988, with the introduction of market-oriented economic policy, the government control over cropping decisions was relaxed substantially, and still with the exception of summer paddy production on irrigated paddy land, farmers are now free to make own cropping decisions. In 1992/93, the government introduced summer paddy production and enhanced the irrigation facilities. Micro and macro dam and irrigation system/networks projects were implemented over the country. Due to this effort, cropping intensity has been increasing and irrigated area reached to 2.31 million hectare in 2011. Private exports of agricultural produce such as rice, corn and oilseeds have been permitted with certain intervention and control of the government from time to time over the past decade.

Policies conducive to the improvement of agriculture sector leading to the uplift of national economy are laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. These policies are (1) to allow freedom of choice in agricultural production, (2) to expand agricultural land and to safeguard the rights of farmers, and (3) to encourage the participation of private sector in the commercial production of seasonal and perennial crops, and distribution farm machineries and other inputs.

Myanmar is rich in potential land, water and human resources for crop production, and the agriculture sector is crucial for accelerating the economic growth of the country. Agricultural sector is also supporting on other socio-economic development of the country, particularly on rural economy. Moreover, two-third of processing and manufacturing sector is agro-based and exports are dominated by agricultural products. The agriculture sector in Myanmar's economy is still important although share of GDP has been decreasing over the decade. According to Table (1), the share of agricultural sector in GDP was 52.1 per cent in 1997/98 and 29.5 per cent in 2010/11. Cultivated area of crops from 1995/96 to 2010/11 is shown in Table (2).

Due to its major reform measures on liberalization and market economy after 1988, Myanmar remains at top ten world rice exporters, and is a lead country of pulses producer and exporter among ASEAN member countries in 2009. According to FAO, Myanmar rice export was 0.82 million metric tons in 2009 and it was lower than other rice exporting countries although total harvested area and production of paddy was high. Paddy production of Myanmar and neighboring countries is shown in Table (3). Harvested area of black gram in Myanmar was 4,382 thousand hectare and production was 27,557 thousand metric tons after India. According to Table A.4, Myanmar is the largest exporter among ASEAN countries accounted for 2,734 thousand metric tons in 2009.

Table (1) Gross Domestic Product and Agricultural Output (Current Price)

Year	G.D.P (Kyat Million)	Agriculture (Kyat Million)	Share in GDP (%)
1997/98	1119509.2	583437.1	52.1
1998/99	1609775.6	841222.2	52.2
1999/00	2190319.7	1143169.5	52.2
2000/01	2552732.5	1245437.8	48.8
2001/02	3548472.2	1740174.2	49.0
2002/03	5625254.7	2717625.1	48.3
2003/04	7716616.2	3461961.9	44.9
2004/05	9078928.5	3714681.2	40.9
2005/06	12286765.4	4718474.3	38.4
2006/07	16852757.8	6068007.3	36.0
2007/08	23336112.7	8246217.0	35.3
2008/09	29227535.0	9235953.3	31.6
2009/10	33760927.9	9957062.0	29.5

Source: Myanmar Agricultural Statistics (1997/98-2009/10), CSO (2011)

Table (2) Total Cultivation Area of Different Crops (1995/96-2010/11)

		(000' ha)					
Sr.	Crop Name	1995/96	2000/01	2005/06	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
1	Cereal Crops	6661	6946	8101	8776	8777	8779
2	Oil Crops	2091	2685	3059	3655	3748	3690
3	Pulses	2046	2934	3808	4277	4383	4501
4	Industrial Crops	710	882	952	1238	1260	1299
5	Culinary Crops	133	221	285	289	335	328
6	Other Crops	1243	1782	2550	4726	4860	4970
	Total Sown	12884	15450	18755	22926	22363	23567

Source: Myanmar Agriculture at A Glance (2011), Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Table (3) Paddy Production in Myanmar and Neighbouring Countries (2009)

Country	Harvested Area (mil Ha)	Yield (kg/ha)	Production (mil MT)	Export (000' MT)
World	159	4,307	686	33,081
Asia	142	4,378	622	24,943
Myanmar	8	4,056	33	818
Thailand	10	2,963	32	9,196
Vietnam	7	5,223	39	4,558
Indonesia	12	4,895	60	1.2
Malaysia	0.6	3,586	2	0.2
Philippines	4	3,770	17	0.4
Lao PDR	0.8	3,546	3	-
Cambodia	3	2,746	7	2.6
China	29	6,556	193	1,325
Bangladesh	12	3,995	47	19
India	44	3,370	148	6,450

Source: Selected Indicators of Food and Agriculture Development in Asia and the Pacific Region, 1999-2009, FAORAP Publication 2010-2012

Table (4) Pulses Production in Myanmar and Neighbouring Countries (2009)

Country	Harvested Area (000' ha)	Yield (kg/ha)	Production (000' MT)	Export (000' MT)
World	71,807	856	61,498	12,006
Asia	34,933	789	27,557	2,734
Myanmar	4,382	1252	5,486	902
Thailand	223	866	193	66
Vietnam	338	754	255	0.7
Indonesia	312	1045	326	46
Philippines	77	804	62	0.03
Lao PDR	17	1052	18	-
Cambodia	46	846	39	-
Bangladesh	225	879	197	-
India	22,672	628	14,245	100

Source: Selected Indicators of Food and Agriculture Development in Asia and the Pacific Region, 1999-2009, FAORAP Publication 2010-2012

In Myanmar, paddy is major crop, and pulses and oil seed crops successively occupy the next largest area planted. Rice production has increased by 1.75 times between 1995/96 and 2010/11, and pulses production increased by 4.32 times at the same period. In Myanmar, black gram is commercial species of pulses and it is contributing the major income source for farmers because price of black gram per basket is higher than that of paddy per basket. Therefore, total sown area of black gram increased from 747 thousand hectares in 1995/96 to 1,055 thousand hectares in 2010/11. According to Table (5), black gram production also increased from 371 thousand metric tons in 1995/96 to 1,604 thousand metric tons in 2010/11.

Table A.5 Black Gram Sown Area, Yield and Production (1995/96 to 2010/11)

Year	Sown Area (^{'000} ha)	Harvested Area (^{'000} ha)	Yield (MT ha)	Production (^{'000} MT)
1995/96	747	473	0.78	371
2005/06	815	815	1.25	1021
2007/08	980	980	1.41	1381
2008/09	988	988	1.46	1446
2009/10	1023	1023	1.48	1509
2010/11	1055	1055	1.52	1604

Source: Myanma Agriculture at a Glance (2011), Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Cultivation of paddy was being implemented aiming to meet the total area of 8.3 million hectares in 2010/11. According to Table (6), total paddy sown area increased gradually from 6.14 million hectares in 1995/96 to 8.05 million hectares in 2010/11. Total production of paddy was 18.58 million metric tons in 1995/96 and reached to 32.57 million metric tons in 2010/11. Total sown area and production of paddy was increasing gradually during 1995/96 and 2010/11 and production increased in double. Average yield per acre was also targeted to reach 4.1 metric tons per ha. Average yield of paddy was 3.06 metric tons per hectare in 1995/96 and that of 4.07 metric tons per hectare in 2010/11.

Table (6) Paddy Production of Myanmar (1995/96 to 2010/11)

Year	Sown Area (mil ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Production (mil MT)
1995/96	6.14	3.06	18.58
2000/01	6.36	3.13	21.32
2001/02	6.45	3.42	21.92
2002/03	6.49	3.42	21.81
2003/04	6.54	3.54	23.14
2004/05	6.86	3.64	24.75
2005/06	7.39	3.75	27.68
2006/07	8.12	3.83	30.92
2007/08	8.09	3.93	31.45
2008/09	8.09	4.03	32.57
2009/10	8.07	4.06	32.68
2010/11	8.05	4.07	32.57

Source: Myanma Agriculture at a Glance (2011), Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Cropping systems and patterns vary according to agro-climatic conditions. Paddy-paddy or paddy-pulses-paddy patterns are mostly practiced in the irrigated areas. In the dry zones and other upland rainfed areas, the mixed cropping or intercropping of pigeon pea with sesame or peanut or other pulse patterns are practiced. In central dryzone, sunflower is also growing as an oilseed crop and as a intercropping and mixcropping in some area. In mountain or hilly region grows upland paddy, maize, millet, oil crops, and pulses. Many farmers in these area still practising shifting cultivation. Fruit crops and vegetables are grown throughout Myanmar all-year-round.

There are two seasons for growing paddy: monsoon season and summer season. Monsoon paddy is usually rainfed in lower Myanmar and Rakhine State. Similarly, the upland paddy in Chin, Kachin and Shan States are also rainfed. However, monsoon paddy is grown under irrigation in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magwe Divisions, and in other irrigated area. Summer paddy in Myanmar is grown in irrigated area. In the delta region of lower Myanmar, water from the rivers and creeks can be irrigated gravitationally when the tide is high, and by pumps in some areas.

Among the States and Regions, Chin State and Kayar State were the lowest paddy cultivated area and represented 0.70 per cent and 0.56 per cent respectively of the union total. Ayeyarwady, Bago and Sagaing Regions were the largest paddy cultivated area and represented 25.13 per cent, 17.27 per cent and 11.53 per cent respectively of the union total. Ayeyarwady Region contributed highest paddy production accounted for 26.45 per cent and followed by Bago Region (16.95 per cent) and Sagaing Region (12.61 per cent) respectively. Paddy cultivation of States and Region in 2010/11 is shown in Table (7).

Table (7) Paddy Cultivation of States and Regions (2010/11)

Sr.	State/Region	Total Area (%)	Harvested Area (%)	Average Yield (Bsk/ac)	Production (%)
1	Kachin	3.32	3.33	71.22	3.00
2	Kayar	0.56	0.57	67.77	0.49
3	Kayin	3.42	3.43	69.70	3.03
4	Chin	0.70	0.70	44.66	0.40
5	Sagaing	11.53	11.57	86.01	12.61
6	Tanintharyi	1.87	1.88	70.09	1.67
7	Bago (East)	9.93	9.97	77.57	9.81
8	Bago (West)	7.34	7.37	76.35	7.14
9	Magway	5.30	5.31	84.47	5.69
10	Mandalay	4.85	4.87	86.34	5.33
11	Mon	5.06	5.09	72.50	4.68
12	Rakhine	6.22	5.85	72.58	5.38
13	Yangon	7.01	7.04	70.98	6.33
14	Shan (South)	3.21	3.22	69.10	2.82
15	Shan (North)	2.46	2.47	98.90	3.10
16	Shan (East)	2.08	2.09	77.98	2.07
17	Ayeyarwady	25.13	25.25	82.64	26.45
Union Total		100	100	78.87	100

Source: Myanmar Agriculture in Brief (2011), Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Myanmar has not received any significant official development assistance for nearly two decades and it has been experiencing a serious investment gap in the rural economy. National investments in agriculture and its sub-sectors have been limited by a scarcity of domestic resources and have not always been based on solid feasibility work or underpinned

by necessary policy changes. The result has been low productivity growth and increasing rural poverty in many rural areas (CFSAM, MOAI and FAO/WFP, 2009).

The production of adequate quantities of fertilizer is an important factor in Myanmar's agriculture, as there is a declining rate of fertilizer application. Distribution of farm inputs like chemical fertilizers, pesticides and quality seeds that were formerly handled solely by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) formerly Myanma Agriculture Service (MAS) is being dramatically transferred to the private sector, while subsidies on farm inputs are being removed. However, lack of sufficient incentives, lack of credit and inappropriate technical support services constrain farmers' ability to use the optimum level of fertilizer. The private sector was permitted to import and distribute fertilizer, but its ability to do so is constrained by the requirement of a distribution network, prevailing import and export regulations and insufficiency of foreign exchange.

Furthermore, the provision of quality seeds is necessary to increase yields, and policies on seed production need to be reviewed. The use of chemical fertilizers in Myanmar was relatively low at farmer level, compared to ASEAN countries. Table (8) shows the fertilizer consumption of ASEAN countries and Myanmar. According to this, Malaysia was the highest mineral fertilizer consumption per hectare in 2005 while the lowest mineral fertilizer consumption was found in Cambodia. Myanmar used 0.2 kg per hectare of mineral fertilizer in 2005.

Table (8) Mineral Fertilizer Consumption Per Hectare of ASEAN Countries

No	Country	Unit: kg Plant nutrient/ha				
		1995	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	Cambodia	2.6	5.6	3.7	5.2	0
2	Indonesia	83.2	89.9	79.2	100.6	94.1
3	Malaysia	143.6	156.9	174.6	233.0	200.1
4	Myanmar	17.8	1.5	2.0	0.7	0.2
5	Philippines	60.4	67.5	87.7	88.7	76.0
6	Thailand	73.8	87.8	128.2	113.6	97.5

Source: FAO (2007)

Urea and other fertilizer are imported commodity in Myanmar. The domestic prices of fertilizers were increasing in both Yangon and Mandalay markets. Therefore, the use of fertilizer has been decreasing in Myanmar over the decade. Table (9) shows the domestic prices of fertilizers in Yangon and Mandalay.

**Table (9) Average Price of Fertilizers in Yangon and Mandalay Markets
(2010-2011)**

(Kyats/50kg bag)

Items	2010		2011	
	Yangon (Kyat)	Mandalay (Kyat)	Yangon (Kyat)	Mandalay (Kyat)
Urea fertilizer -from China (46%)	19271	18493	21776	20464
Potash fertilizer Potash (red)	23789	24959	23789	26000
T-super fertilizer (1)GTSP (46%)	19446	18752	25051	24466
(2)GSSP (16%)	9135	8369	10602	10120
(3)GSSP (12%)	8372	9033	10838	9429
Compound fertilizer (1)Armo(16:16:8:13)	35487	16:16;8:13	35146	36843
(2)Armo(15:15:15)	40063	15:15:15	40109	41076
(3)Armo(10:10:5)	14238	10:10:5	14275	NA
(4)Golden lion(16:16:8)	25700	15:7:8	NA	19239
(5)Golden Lion (15:7:8)	21900	10:10:5	21743	17138
(6)Golden Lion (10:10:5)	18137	16:16:8	18264	24209

Source: Market Information Service, DAP (monthly data) NA= Not Available

The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) is a state-owned bank established in 1953 as the State Agricultural Bank. Between 1970 and 1975, it became the Agricultural Finance Division of a pooled monolithic system called the People's Bank and was reconstituted in 1976 as the Myanmar Agricultural Bank. It became the MADB in 1990 and was under the Myanmar Agricultural and Rural Development Bank Law, which did not adhere to the Myanmar Companies Act.

There are loan portfolios consisting of three types of loans: (1) a seasonal crop production loan (e.g. paddy 5000 - 8000 ks/ac. 2,0000 ks/ac and later on 40,000 ks/ac commencing 2011), (2) a farm development and investment loan, and (3) a border area development loan available from the MADB. Seasonal crop production loans are given for one year, covering three separate seasons for the cultivation of the following main crops: paddy, groundnut, sesame, mustard, maize, peas and beans, sugarcane, jute and long staple cotton.

The loans for farm development and investment are given for short-term periods up to 4 years and long term periods from 5 to 20 years. The loans for border area developments deal with the substitution and eradication of poppy plantations and to improve the living standards of ethnic nationals in remote border areas. However, the MADB is facing difficult issues with insufficiency of funds to meet the demand for agricultural credit, mismatches in the funding-lending structure and geographical constraints. Currently, the MADB remains the main source of institutional credit for small-scale farmers in terms of proportion, coverage and accessibility. Loan for paddy and pulses of private sector through leading companies was started in 2009 and contributing the needs of farmers in potential area. Loan of private sector could not cover the requirement and had some financial limitation.

Research and Development (R & D) is very important for agriculture development. Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) was reformed as a specialized institute of MOAI in 2004 from the previous institute (Agricultural Research Institute-ARI) under Myanmar Agriculture Service (MAS) of MOAI.

Although the government urged for the development of R & D activities, it was allowed 0.70 per cent of its budget for R & D and it was quite low compared to other agricultural activities such as irrigation (39.54 per cent), farm mechanization (8.63 per cent) and industrial crops (20.72 per cent), MAS's (now DOA) agricultural extension and state-owned farms (10.45 per cent) and policy and planning (0.39 per cent). Budget sharing of different activity of MOAI can be seen in Table (10).

Table (10) Expenditure in Agricultural Sector (2010/11)

Sr.	Title	Expenditure (%)
1.	Minister's Office	0.07
2.	Department of Agricultural Planning	0.39
3.	Irrigation Department	39.54
4.	Myanmar Agriculture Service	10.45
5.	Water Resource Utilization Department	5.28
6.	Myanma Industrial Development Enterprise	20.72
7.	Settlement Land Records Department	3.54
8.	Survey Department	0.45
9.	Yezin Agricultural University	0.68
10.	Myanma Agricultural Development Bank	9.54
11.	Agricultural Mechanization Department	8.63
12.	Department of Agricultural Research	0.70

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Annual Budget Report (2010).

As the availability of adequate water for agriculture is critical factor and remains crucial in enhancing crop productivity, the government accordingly made concerted efforts to construct large, medium and small scale dams and irrigation systems by using large investment. Apart from such established programs, sinking tube-wells, developing artesian wells, using pumps on rivers, streams and lakes, and blockage of streams and creeks, provide sufficient irrigation water for increased yields and cropping intensity.

The potential water resource is 1,576.6 cubic km and less than 10 per cent of the total water resources are annually utilized. Since 1988, following dramatic economic changes, the Government has made continuous efforts in the construction of dams, reservoirs and pump irrigation facilities throughout the country. Total irrigated lands have increased from 1.87 million hectares in 2002/03 to 2.31 million hectares in 2010/11, after the completion of 235 irrigation projects, 307 pumping stations and 7,578 tube wells. The percentage of total irrigable land has reached 17.1 per cent and 16.6 per cent of the total net sown area in 2008/09 and 2010/11 respectively compared to 12.6 per cent in 1988/89. The annual increment of irrigated area could be observed in Table (11).

Table (11) Sown Area under Irrigation (2001/02-2010/11)

Year	Net Sown Area (mil.ha)	Irrigated Area (mil.ha)	Per cent (%)
2001/02	10.65	1.99	18.6
2002/03	10.82	1.87	17.3
2003/04	11.04	1.96	17.7
2004/05	11.41	1.93	16.9
2005/06	11.94	2.14	17.9
2006/07	12.61	2.24	17.8
2007/08	13.22	2.22	16.8
2008/09	13.49	2.28	16.9
2009/10	13.64	2.33	17.1
2010/11	13.75	2.31	16.8

Source: Myanmar Agriculture at A Glance (2011), DAP, MOAI

Before the adoption of the new rice trade policy in 2003, the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading (MAPT) coordinated with local regional authorities to convince farmers to meet their obligations to the MAPT. The MAPT had to undertake the process of milling, packaging, storing and distributing rice for target groups with subsidized prices and organize the export of surplus rice as well.

Rice constitutes an important source of foreign exchange in Myanmar. The country exported approximately one million metric tons of rice in 1994/95, but this quantity greatly declined in 2000/01. In 2001/02, rice exports rose again to almost one million metric tons and gradually declined during 2002/03 and 2006/07, mainly due to prioritized on domestic consumption and increasing export limitations. According to Table (12), rice export increased in 2008/09 accounted for 0.71 million metric tons and reached to 0.90 million metric tons in 2009/10. Rice export decreased to 0.54 million metric tons in 2010/11.

Table (12) Rice Production and Export of Myanmar (1995/96 to 2010/11)

Year	Production (mil MT)	Rice export (mil MT)	Value (USD million)
1995/96	18.58	0.35	71.21
2000/01	21.32	0.19	26.17
2001/02	21.92	0.84	104.55
2002/03	21.81	0.63	86.74
2003/04	23.14	0.11	15.26
2004/05	24.75	0.18	33.04
2005/06	27.68	0.17	36.03
2006/07	30.92	0.02	3.05
2007/08	31.45	0.36	104.64
2008/09	32.57	0.71	210.45
2009/10	32.68	0.90	280.03
2010/11	32.58	0.54	198.07

Source: Myanmar Agricultural Statistics, CSO; DAP, MOAI and MOC

Due to adopting market economy and relaxing state intervention in pulses industry since 1988, production and export of black gram has been increased over the period. Black gram production reached to 1.60 million metric tons in 2010/11 compared to 0.37 million metric tons in 1995/96. Black gram export was gradually increasing over the decades. Total export of black gram was accounted for 0.35 million metric tons in 1995/96 and increased to 0.62 million metric tons in 2009/10. Black gram export decreased to 0.46 million metric tons in 2010/11. Production and export of black gram in Myanmar is shown in Table (13).

Table (13) Black Gram Production and Export of Myanmar (1995/96 to 2010/11)

Year	Production (mil MT)	Blackgram export (mil MT)	Value (USD million)
1995/96	0.37	0.12	160.58
2000/01	0.53	0.23	84.20
2001/02	0.62	0.32	101.79
2002/03	0.65	0.31	77.24
2003/04	0.72	0.46	85.27
2004/05	0.90	0.44	102.04
2005/06	1.00	0.39	149.85
2006/07	1.18	0.49	303.85
2007/08	1.35	0.51	281.99
2008/09	1.42	0.53	264.16
2009/10	1.51	0.62	464.26
2010/11	1.60	0.46	458.19

Source: Myanmar Agricultural Statistics, CSO; DAP, MOAI and MOC

In Myanmar, farmers solely rely on village brokers and local primary collectors for price information, and it is a significant characteristic of farmers' marketing system for selling farm products. In general, marketing system and supply chain of agricultural commodities has many intermediaries such as village brokers, primary collectors, millers/processors, mediators/service providers, wholesalers, and exporters, and these steps reflect high transition cost between farmers and exporters. Finally, the result is that price received by farmers is lower than actual market price in wholesale and commodities exchange centres (CEXCs). Myanmar has established 40 CEXCs under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and additional 20 CEXCs are planning to set up in the major States and Regions in 2011.

As market information is important, all participants in supply chain make decision based on up to date market information and historical trends analysis. Private sector information services in Myanmar are Crop Exchange Centers (CEXCs) and E-Trade. The primary role of CEXC is to facilitate business and market information for its members who have applied the member fee every year. Electric Trade (E-trade) service was established in 2003 to provide trade and business intelligence to Myanmar traders and exporters through internet and Short Message Service (SMS) by mobile phones with some charges. Government market information service (MIS) has been implemented by the Department of Agriculture Planning (DAP) of the Ministry of Agricultural and Irrigation (MOAI) since 2000. MIS is publishing weekly prices especially for agricultural commodities in terms of Agri-Business Journal and Bulletins but it has some limitations to be received by farmers in time. Moreover, farmers' interest on using this information and providing awareness programme for farmers by public and private sector is low so far.

Due to staple food and major export item in Myanmar, farmers have to grow paddy at least one season in monsoon. However, average benefit of paddy was lower than black gram over the decade. Average production cost of paddy was gradually increasing due to higher input cost and labour cost. Total cost of production was 161,800 Kyat per acre in 2007 and 217,750 Kyat per acre in 2010. Production cost has been increasing due to increase in labour cost and input cost. Price received by farmers are 112,001, 133,549, 138,784 and 165566 Kyat per metric ton in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. BCR of monsoon paddy was 1.10, 1.13, 1.15 and 1.25 during the period from 2007 to 2010 respectively. Over the period, average BCR was low although yeild and price have been increased. Table (14) shows the estimated production cost and benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of monsoon paddy over the period between 2007 and 2010.

Table A.14 Average Production Cost, Gross Margin and Benefit-Cost Ratio of Monsoon

Paddy (2007-2010)				
Items	2007	2008	2009	2010
Yield (MT/ha)	3.93	4.03	4.06	4.07
Price (Kyat/MT)	112001	133549	138784	165566
Gross return (Kyat/ha)	440164	538202	563463	673853
(1) Family Labour Cost (Kyat/ac)	31350	34250	41700	53500
(2) Hired Labour Cost (Kyat/ac)	65700	103500	92500	104000
(3) Input Cost (Kyat/ac)	64750	55850	64200	60250
Total production cost (Kyat/ac) (1+2+3)	161800	193600	198400	217750
Total production cost (Kyat/ha)	399646	478192	490048	537842
Gross margin (Kyat/ha)	40518	60010	73415	136011
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	1.10	1.13	1.15	1.25

Source: Myanmar Agriculture at a Glance, Department of Agricultural Planning , Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (2011)

After the adoption of market economy, black gram became a popular crop and contributing higher benefit. It was major income source for farmers although production cost has been increasing over the years. Total production cost of black gram was 105,700 Kyat per acre in 2007 and 120,384 Kyat per acre in 2010. In 2008, Farmers received low benefit due to high production cost and low price compared to 2007. During 2009 and 2010, farmers received high benefit due to immediate increasing of black gram price from 491,538 Kyat per metric ton (160,58 Kyat per basket) to 863,303 Kyat per metric ton (28,203 Kyat per basket). BCR of black gram was 2.75, 1.60, 5.99 and 4.39 in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. Production cost and price of black gram has fluctuation over the period. The estimated production cost and benefit-cost ratio of black gram between 2007 and 2010 can be seen in Table (15).

Table (15) Production Cost, Gross Margin and Benefit-Cost Ratio of Black Gram (2007-2010)

Items	2007	2008	2009	2010
Yield (MT/ha)	1.41	1.46	1.48	1.52
Price (Kyat/MT)	590312	491538	863303	859414
Gross return (Kyat/ha)	718130	717645	1277688	1306309
(1) Family Labour Cost (Kyat/ac)	50800	21000	36000	42917
(2)Hired Labour Cost (Kyat/ac)	22800	47000	36000	44417
(3) Input Cost (Kyat/ac)	32100	113340	14300	33050
Total production cost (Kyat/ac) (1+2+3)	105700	181340	86300	120384
Total production cost (Kyat/ha)	261185	448091	213247	297469
Gross margin (Kyat/ha)	456945	269554	1064441	1008840
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	2.75	1.60	5.99	4.39

Source: Myanmar Agriculture at a Glance (2011), Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

3. Benefit-Cost Ratio in Study Area

A field survey was undertaken in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw. In Pyinmana Township, paddy-based double cropping system is the most dominant and irrigated area covers monsoon paddy-black gram- summer paddy cropping pattern and monsoon paddy-black gram. Sesame, groundnut, peas and beans and green gram crops are grown in upland (*Yar*). In mountainous area, upland paddy, rained paddy, coffee and tea are grown in mountainous area and mix cropping pattern (such as maize, chili, cucumber) is more dominant there. Paddy is grown in both irrigated and non-irrigated areas. The populations lived in rural areas of Pyinmana Township directly engage in agriculture for their livelihood. Therefore agriculture is the main stay of the economy of the township. Pyinmana Township is currently one of the potential areas for paddy production in Nay Pyi Taw District contributing local food sufficiency. Black gram production is the second largest area in this region contributing higher income for farmers rather than paddy crop production. The study was based on the data collected from 160 sample farmers through personal interview. Study focused on monsoon paddy- black gram- summer paddy farming system and monsoon paddy-black gram farming system in Pyinmana Township for 2010-2011 season and structured interviews were undertaken in January and February of 2012.

According to the survey results, the average monsoon paddy yield was 75.35 baskets per acre (3.88 ton per ha) in triple cropping area and 84.75 baskets per acre (4.37 ton per ha) as shown in Table (16). The average prices of monsoon paddy had about 3,278 Kyat per basket and 3,180 Kyat per basket. Value of production was 246874. 12 Kyat and 269473.20 kyat in triple cropping and double cropping respectively. Although average yield of double cropping farmers was high the price received was low. Because double cropping farmers could not store their products for longer term as triple cropping farmers.

Table (16)
Estimation of the Yield, Price and Production Value of Monsoon Paddy

Items	Triple Cropping (n=65)	Double Cropping (n=95)
Yield (bsk/ac)		
-Mean	75.35	84.74
-Std.deviation	14.10	16.72
-Maximum	78.84	88.15
-Minimum	71.85	81.33
Price(Ks/bsk)		
-Means	3277.69	3180.00
-Std.deviation	193.05	594.94
-Maximum	3325.52	3301.19
-Minimum	3229.85	3058.80
Value of Production (Ks/ac)	246874.12	269473.20

Source: Field survey (2012)

In 2010/11, farm households in study area received the average yield of 14.80 baskets per acre (1.19 tons per hectare) in triple cropping and 21.46 baskets per acre (1.73 tons per hectare) in double cropping area. The average price of black gram was about 20,230 Kyat per basket (619,443 Kyat per ton) in triple cropping and 21,589 Kyat per basket (661,055 Kyat per ton) in double cropping. Average value of production in double cropping farm households was higher than that of triple cropping farm households. Estimated yield, price and production of black gram in selected villages can be observed in Table (17).

Table (17)
Estimation of the Yield, Price and Production Value of Black Gram

Items	Triple Cropping (n=65)	Double Cropping (n=95)
Yield (bsk/ac)		
-Mean	14.80	21.46
-Std.deviation	6.72	4.73
-Maximum	16.45	22.42
-Minimum	13.1271	20.49
Price(Kyat /bsk)		
-Means	20230.76	21589.47
-Std.deviation	4335.60	1784.95
-Maximum	21305.0797	21953.08
-Minimum	19156.4588	21225.86
Value of Production (Kyat/ac)	299415.24	463310.02

Source: Field survey (2012)

The results of the complementary face to face interview in the selected villages provided actual situation of paddy and black gram production costs and benefit-cost ratio (BCR). According to Table (18), average BCR of monsoon paddy, black gram and summer paddy were 1.20, 2.30 and 1.40 respectively.

Table (18)
Production Cost and Benefit-Cost Ratio of Major Crops in Pyinmana

Items	Monsoon Paddy (n=160)	Black Gram (n=160)	Summer Paddy (n=160)
Yield (bsk/ac)	81.07	18.05	93.71
Price (bsk/ac)	3280.82	20910.63	2969.23
Gross return (Ks/ac)	265953.4	383592.66	285219.23
(1)Machinery cost (Ks/ac)	46594.02	41375.74	43994.62
-land preparation	32855.03	29164.56	27923.08
-threshing	13738.99	11011.18	16071.54
(2)Labor and cattle cost (Ks/ac)	110542.48	56754.70	95079.42
-land preparation (cattle)	9891.32	5039.68	5761.54
-transplanting (labor)	38184.18	1537.27	13784.62
-inputs application (labor)	8447.44	10211.18	6932.06
-harvesting cost (labor)	24056.25	19795.03	25884.62
-transportation cost (cart)	17662.66	6877.42	26078.13
-drying, rolling (labor)	10598.66	10569.12	16638.46

(3)Material cost	59385.47	67889.78	58722.31
-Seed cost (Kyat/ha)	12100.15625	21973.63	11369.23
-Chemical cost (Kyat/ha)	47285.3125	45916.15	47353.08
Total production cost (Kyat/ca)	214820.00	162095.34	198924.00
Gross margin (Kyat/ac)	50695.65	226864.46	86294.62
Benefit cost ratio (BCR)	1.20	2.30	1.40

Source: Field survey (2012)

Table (19)
Production Cost and Benefit-Cost Ratio of Monsoon Paddy in Pyinmana

Items	Triple Cropping (n=65)	Double Cropping (n=95)	Average (n=160)
Yield (bsk/ac)	75.35	84.74	81.07
Price (Kyat/ac)	3277.69	3283.00	3280.82
Gross return (Kyat/ac)	246717.69	278387.37	265953.40
	29142.31	38855.79	34909.69
(1) Family Cost (Kyat/ac)			
(2)Hired Cost (Kyat/ac)	140399.20	108468.90	121440.63
(3) Input Cost (Kyat/ac)	54318.46	61310.00	58469.69
Total production cost (Kyat/ha)	223860.00	208634.70	214820.00
(1+2+3)			
Gross margin	28142.31	70494.68	50695.65
Benefit cost ratio (BCR)	1.10	1.30	1.20

Source: Field survey (2012)

Table (19) shows production cost and benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of monsoon paddy. BCR calculation was based on all farm activities to observe family and hired cost. BCR of monsoon paddy in triple and double cropping farmers was 1.10 and 1.30 respectively and double cropping BCR is higher than triple cropping. Black gram contributes major income source for farmers in the study area. Benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of black gram in triple and double cropping households was 2.2 and 2.5 respectively. BCR of double cropping farmers was higher than triple cropping farmers as shown in Table (20). Due to decreasing price of summer paddy in 2010/11 growing season, farmers received the profit at low level and affected the farmers' income. According to Table (21), BCR of summer paddy was 1.4 but it was higher than BCR of monsoon paddy due to higher yield.

Table (20) Production Cost and Benefit-Cost Ratio of Black Gram

Items	Triple Cropping (n=65)	Double Cropping (n=95)	Average (n=160)
Yield (bsk/ac)	14.67	21.48	18.05
Price (Kyat/ac)	20230.77	21505.26	20910.63
Gross return (Kyat/ac)	303476.92	462589.47	383592.66
(1) Family Cost(Kyat/ac)	19523.08	23394.74	21821.88
(2)Hired Cost (Kyat/ac)	67938.46	76442.11	72987.50
(3) Input Cost (Kyat/ac)	43175.38	83519.53	67129.72
Total production cost (Kyat/ha) (1+2+3)	130636.9	183619.5	162095.34
Gross margin (Kyat/ac)	172840.00	279813.1	226864.46
Benefit cost ratio (BCR)	2.2	2.5	2.3

Source: Field survey (2012)

Table 21 Production Cost and Benefit-cost Ratio of Summer Paddy

Items	Average (n=65)
Yield (bsk/ac)	93.71
Price (Kyat/ac)	2969.23
Gross return (Kyat/ac)	285219.23
(1) Family Cost (Kyat/ac)	25700.00
(2)Hired Cost (Kyat/ac)	114502.31
(3) Input Cost (Kyat/ac)	58722.31
Total production cost (Kyat/ac) (1+2+3)	198924.00
Gross margin (Kyat/ac)	86294.62
Benefit cost ratio (BCR)	1.4

Source: Field survey (2012)

According to income crop growing, total estimated gross margin and income of double cropping farmers is higher than triple cropping households due to higher yield and more using of family labour in Table (22).

Table (22) Income Estimation for Triple and Double Cropping Farmers

Item	Triple Cropping (n=65)	Double Cropping (n=95)
1. Monsoon Paddy Income (Kyat/ac)	57284.62	109350.47
- Gross margin	28142.31	70494.68
- Family Cost	29142.31	38855.79
2. Black Gram Income (Kyat/ac)	192363.08	303207.84
- Gross margin	172840.00	279813.10
- Family Cost	19523.08	23394.74

3. Summer Paddy (Kyat/ac)	111994.62	-
- Gross margin	86294.62	-
- Family Cost	25700.00	-
Total Gross Margin (1+2+3) (Kyat/ac)	287276.93	350307.78
Total Income (1+2+3) (Kyat/ac)	361642.32	412558.31

Source: Field survey (2012)

4. Major Constraints of Farmers in Crops production

The farmers indicated that low price of paddy, availability of irrigation water for paddy cultivation, agricultural financing, high inputs cost, labour scarcity, high daily wage and technical problem such as unknown death of black gram and farm road infrastructure are limiting factors to crop production. These factors reflect to the benefit-cost ratio and profit margin of farmers in crop production, and effect the crop production and farmers' income. The farmers from selected villages also pointed out that if the farmers could get fertilizer by subsidized rate, they will apply more fertilizer in order to increase the yield. Farmers also expressed their willingness to get suitable crop price and market stability, particularly farm gate price during harvest period.

According to the paddy yield, the significant influencing factor of summer paddy productivity was high labour cost for transplanting, harvesting and carrying in time. Especially the harvesting time for summer paddy was around May-June and farmers will have to harvest their paddy under the rain. It made increase in labour cost to carry from the field to farm road or highway road. It also caused the post harvest losses. After harvested the summer paddy, farmers will have to prepare their land for monsoon paddy as soon as possible. Therefore, paddy straw could not decay enough and it affects the soil quality and the yield of monsoon paddy.

Currently, the death of black gram in Pyinmana area became a major problem and particularly in triple cropping village in the study area was more serious. It was observed that the problem was due to continuous growing of single black gram variety for over 7 years or soil born disease. Therefore, farmers received very low black gram yield and it affected their income. Death of black gram is widely spread and became serious issues in the region.

5 Conclusion

According to the field study in Pyinmana Township, double paddy cropping pattern (summer paddy after monsoon paddy) affected soil structure and caused decreasing crop yield. Moreover, death of black gram was serious and widely spreading in the area. Black gram seems to be substituted with other crop. Government extension service and its capacity are still insufficient. More problems such as use of fertilizer, quality of seed and crop yield were found in triple cropping area. The use of fertilizer rate was limited due to price increase over the period.

Low food price and price volatilization of food crop affected the households' income directly or indirectly. Paddy crop was not an attractive crop for farmers after the mid 1990s due to low paddy price, high input cost and labour cost. Total income of double cropping farmers was higher than that of triple cropping due to higher income from black gram and more family labour in their farms.

Increased use of chemical fertilizer, double paddy cropping system and soil problem are related. Training and awareness programmes should be provided for proper soil conservation and soil quality control in order to achieve sustainable crop production. Appropriate technology, cropping system and inputs should be provided to increase productivity. Single paddy-based cropping pattern should be more encouraged rather than double paddy-based cropping system.

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Exploring Customer Satisfaction towards Service Quality of Selected Express Businesses

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Abstract

Service quality and customer satisfaction are related concepts that the companies must focus on if they are to maintain competitive advantage. In addition, the level of service quality reflects the general well being of a society. Accordingly, the aim of this paper is to describe how customer evaluated service quality and whether they were satisfied with the service quality provided by the five express businesses on Yangon-Mandalay Route. From the analysis, it was found that customers were not generally satisfied with the service quality because their expectations were higher than their perception. Findings also provide the possible implications for the gaining greater customer satisfaction by improving the service quality of each express business.

Key words: service quality, customer satisfaction, SEQUAL

1. Introduction

The prominent of service sector in a nation's economy has long been recognized by its proportion of contribution to GDP. This sector now constitutes the large economic sector in most post industrialized countries. Likewise, it has become the important sector with sizeable contribution to GDP of some developing societies as well.

In Myanmar, transport service, one of the service sub sectors, plays essential role in promoting the economic development of the country through the effective and efficient flows of goods, services, technology from one place to another. Of Myanmar various means of transport like rail, water, air and road, road transport mainly accounts for the substantial portion for movement of people and their goods and services. Passenger transport system, by and large, enlarges the market and helps development of other sectors by smooth transportation. As such, there is a need for study that can explore the efficiency of express businesses by means of measuring service quality that affects customer satisfaction towards their businesses. So, this paper focuses on exploring the customer perception towards service quality of selected five express businesses.

Objectives of the Study

- (1) To examine the level of customer expectation and perception of each dimension for express businesses
- (2) To investigate whether the customers' perceptions deviate from meeting their expectation for respective dimensions

2. Theoretical Background

Several authors provided different definition of services. But one general agreement is that a "service" is any activity of benefits that one party can offer to another that is essentially intangible and does not result in the ownership of anything. "Quality", on the other hand, is defined as "fitness for use" (Juran & Gryna, 1988), 'conformance to requirement' (Crosby,

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1979), “conformance to specification” (Gilmore, 1974), “meeting and/or exceeding customers’ expectation” (Parasuraman, Zeithaml & Berry, 1985), “performance over expectation” (Besterfield, 1999) etc. Likewise, according to Hansemark & Albinson (2004) “satisfaction is an overall customer attitude towards a service provider, or an emotional reaction to the difference between what customers anticipate and what they receive, regarding the fulfillment of some needs, goals or desires”. Overall, customers’ satisfaction is the outcome felt by those that have experienced a company’s performance that have fulfilled their expectations. Service quality that is delivered can meet or exceed customers’ expectations that are mainly influenced by customer’s prior expectations.

Ideally, service quality and customer satisfaction are the related concepts that can explain competitive advantage of the firms. Especially, in today’s competitive environment delivering high quality service is the key for a customer satisfaction. Customer satisfaction does have a positive effect on an organization’s profitability (Anderson, E. W, Fornell, D.R. Lehmann, 1994) because satisfied customers form the foundation of any successful business due to repeated purchases and positive words of mouth. Customers’ loyalty refers to a deeply held commitment to re-buy a preferred product or service in the future despite situational influences and marketing efforts. Many researchers point out that satisfied customers share their experiences with other five or six people while dissatisfied customers are more likely to tell another ten people of their experience with a product or service. Much empirical evidences also show the positive connection between customers’ satisfaction, loyalty and retention (Hansemark, O. C. & Albinson, M., 2004).

In order to measure and evaluate customers’ satisfaction with service quality provided at the five express businesses, SERVQUAL model developed by Parasuraman et al., (1988) was chosen. The model provides comprehensive framework for understanding the concept of the service quality and the factors that influence on it. The original model identified the four gaps that can cause the quality problems in many organizations. However, later modified with the inclusion “the fifth gap” which is the difference between customers’ expectation and perception of the service quality (Figure 1). More specifically, the five gaps mentioned in the model are:

Gap 1: Difference between consumers’ expectation and management’s perceptions of those expectations, i.e. not knowing what consumers expect

Gap 2: Difference between management’s perceptions of consumer’s expectations and service quality specifications, i.e. improper service-quality standards

Gap 3: Difference between service quality specifications and service actually delivered i.e. the service performance gap

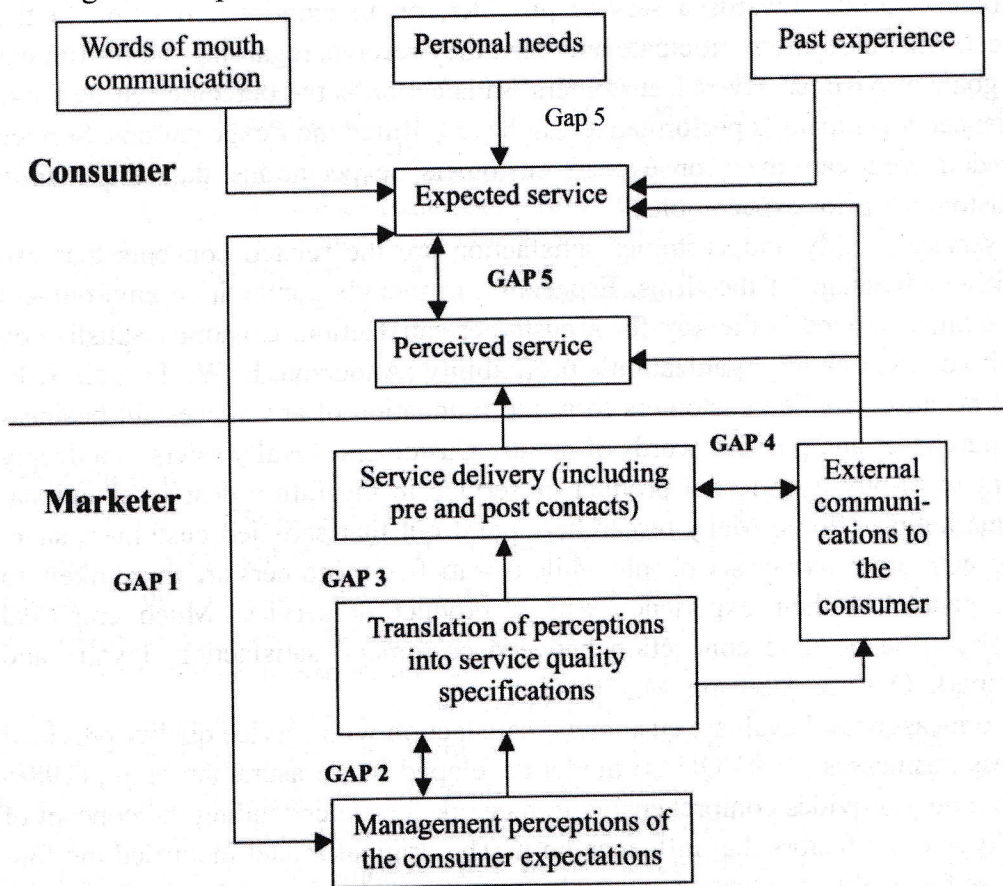
Gap 4: Difference between service delivery and the communications to consumers about service delivery, i.e. whether promises match delivery?

Gap 5: Difference between consumer’s expectation and perceived service

However, the focus of the study is only on the Gap 5, which is the major determinant of other service quality gaps and indicator of service quality. According to the model, service quality is the function of the differences between perceived and expected service quality along five dimensions such as reliability, responsiveness, tangibles, assurance, and empathy because customers usually use these dimensions to firm their judgment of service quality. The

service quality gap for each dimension is identified by subtracting perceived service quality from expected service quality.

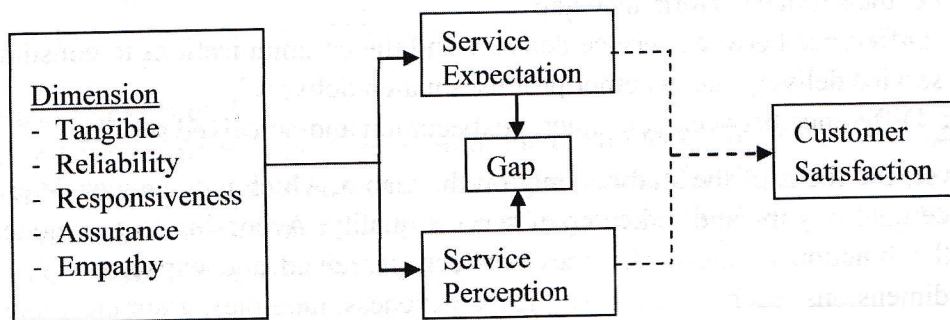
Figure.1 Gap model



Source: Parasuraman et al. (1985)

If the figure reflects the positive scores, it might mean that customers are satisfied with the service quality provided to them because their actual experience with service quality is better than they originally expected. If they are negative, customers are not happy with the services. The main analytical framework for this survey, which is the mainly the Gap 5 mentioned above, is presented in Figure (2).

Figure (2) Analytical framework



Source: Adapted from Valarie A. Zeithaml, A. Parasuraman, Leonard L. Berry; 1990.

3. Methodology

3.1 Data and Sample

Although there are many routes that connect the largest city of Yangon and other parts of the country, this study focused on the five express business that run on Yangon-Mandalay Route namely; Myat Mandalay Htun, New Mandalay Htun, Shwe Mandalay, Shwe Sin Sat Kyar and Tatt Lann. Express businesses from this route were chosen as samples because it is the longest of all routes on which most major cities and towns are located. In addition, it is the most important of all routes that has a dramatic impact on the socio economic development of the country by linking the lower and central region of Myanmar.

The fifty passengers from each express business were randomly chosen for the respondents of the study, resulting total sample of 250 passengers. Then the primary data regarding the service quality dimensions were collected with structured questionnaires.

In addition to calculating gap scores, paired sample test was carried out with SPSS in order to test the statistically significant differences between perception and expectation scores.

3.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

50 passengers are chosen from each express business under study. Therefore, totally 250 passengers are chosen as sample of the study. Demographic characteristics, such as gender, age, marital status, occupation and some other characteristics are also considered as relevant factors that might help to understand the passengers' attitude on five express businesses services. The detail information about personal data of the respondents is shown as below.

3.2.1 Gender

Table 1. Gender distribution of respondents by express business

EBS \ Sex	Myat Mandalay Htun		New Mandalay Htun		Shwe Mandalay		Shwe Sin Sat Kyar		Tatt Lann		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male	29	58	23	46	23	46	32	64	25	50	132	52.8
Female	21	42	27	54	27	54	18	36	25	50	118	47.2
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	250	100

ESB = Express businesses services; F = Frequency

Source: Surveyed Data, 2012

As shown in Table 1, 52.8 % of respondents are male and the rest 47.2 % of respondents are female passengers. This data suggests that it might be more convenience for male to travel from one place to another.

3.2.2 Age

The age groups of respondents are divided into four groups. The numbers of respondents according to each group are shown in Table 2. Depending on age group, the passenger behavior, thinking power, attitude and practice may differ.

Table 2. Age distribution of respondents by express business

EBS Age (Year)	Myat Mandalar Htun		New Mandalar Htun		Shwe Mandalar		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
≤25	19	38	23	46	24	48	17	34	31	62	114	45.6
26-35	15	30	6	12	7	14	11	22	9	18	48	19.2
36-45	8	16	14	28	7	14	7	14	4	8	40	16
≥46	8	16	7	14	12	24	15	30	6	12	48	19.2
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	250	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

Based on Table 2, majority of the passengers or respondents are in the age of ≤25 and the age between 36-45years shows the lowest share.

3.2.3 Marital Status of Respondents

Table 3. Marital status distribution of respondents by express business

EBS Mar- ital Status	Myat Mandalar Htun		New Mandalar Htun		Shwe Mandalar		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Single	27	54	27	54	30	60	25	50	37	74	146	58.4
Married	23	46	23	46	20	40	25	50	13	26	104	41.6
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	250	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

According to Table 3, single passengers are 58.4%. Married passengers are 41.6%. This implies that single passengers seem to have relatively a bit more time and enjoy travelling than married passengers.

3.2.4 Education Level

Education level is also influential factor on passenger's expectation and perception upon service quality. Education levels of passengers are divided into six groups and these groups are described in Table 4.

Table 4. Education level distribution of respondents by express business

EBS Education	Myat Mandalar Htun		New Mandalar Htun		Shwe Mandalar		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Primary School	0	0	2	4	2	4	4	8	4	8	12	4.8
Middle School	1	2	10	20	7	14	6	12	5	10	29	11.6
High School	4	8	20	40	14	28	14	28	6	12	58	23.2
Graduate	38	76	14	28	24	48	19	38	22	44	117	46.8
Post-graduate	5	10	3	6	3	6	4	8	13	26	28	11.2
Others	2	4	1	2	0	0	3	6	0	0	6	2.4
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	250	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

Table 4 shows that 117 passengers (46.8%) are graduates implying that quality evaluation of express services were mostly provided by educated people.

3.2.5 Occupations

Occupation levels of respondents were also categorized into dependent, student, self-employed, government staff, company-employed and others. The numbers of passengers according to each group are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Occupation distribution of respondents by express business

EBS Occupation	Myat Mandalar Htun		New Mandalar Htun		Shwe Mandalar		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Dependent	2	4	11	22	9	18	4	8	2	4	28	11.2
Student	5	10	6	12	10	20	7	14	11	22	39	15.6
Self-employed	9	18	6	12	12	24	8	16	8	16	43	17.2
Government staff	4	8	1	2	4	8	2	4	8	16	19	7.6
Company-employed	14	28	13	26	7	14	12	24	12	24	58	23.2
Others	16	32	13	26	8	16	17	34	9	18	63	25.2
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	250	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

According to Table 5, a greater portion of respondents are company-employed (23.2%). Since there are many other seasonal jobs in Myanmar, other group also represents the largest level.

3.2.6 Monthly Income (Kyats)

Passengers' income levels were generally classified as six groups for the study.

Table 6. Monthly income distribution of respondents by express business

EBS Income (ks'000)	Myat Mandalar Htun		New Mandalar Htun		Shwe Mandalar		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Dependent	7	14	17	34	19	38	11	22	13	26	67	26.8
<50	7	14	4	8	6	12	8	16	4	8	29	11.6
50-100	7	14	15	30	13	26	11	22	15	30	61	24.4
101-200	6	12	5	10	5	10	6	12	8	16	30	12
201-300	8	16	4	8	3	6	6	12	4	8	25	10
>300	15	30	5	10	4	8	8	16	6	12	38	15.2
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	250	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

As shown in Table 6, income level of passengers of the express businesses services is mostly no income, having 67 passengers and 26.8 %. Most of them might be the dependent and students who were travelling from one place to another place with their parents' income. In addition, income level between 50,000 kyats and 100,000 kyats is second largest group.

3.3 Demographic Characteristics of Passengers and Express Business

Totally 250 passengers are randomly selected to determine their perception on service quality rendered by express businesses. Demographic analysis on passengers in the sample may highlight the characteristics of customers who regularly or mostly use express businesses' services. In term of gender, there is not much different between two genders (males 52.8% and females 47.2%) that use express businesses although males' population is a little bit higher than females. In terms of age, it is found that majority of customers are age range under 25 year (45.6% of total). That means most of the customers of express businesses are youth population. Related to this, it has been seen that about 58% of customers are single. Majority of customer are graduated which represents about 47% of total customers. In terms of occupation of the passengers, it is found that 23.2 % of total are working for the private companies and 17.2 percent are self-employed. As related to the fact that majority of customers are youth population, most of them are dependent which is about 27% of total. A significant portion of customers (about 25%) gets monthly income between 50,000 kyat and 100,000 kyat and about 15% of customers receive more than 300,000 kyat per month.

3.3.1 Passenger Satisfaction on the Overall Service Quality

In addition to the SERQUAL dimensions, passenger satisfaction levels about service quality of selected express businesses were also investigated in order to gain thorough understanding on their assessment for the service quality with three groups. They were asked to state their level of overall satisfaction.

Table 7. Perceived satisfaction level of overall service quality by express business

EBS Level	Myat Mandalar Htun		New Mandalar Htun		Shwe Mandalar		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Good	15	30	21	42	18	36	24	48	27	54	105	42
Fair	30	60	29	58	32	64	26	52	22	44	139	55.6
Poor	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	2.4
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	250	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

It can be seen from the table that only 2.4% of the respondents perceived the quality of service as poor, almost all of them are passengers of the tow express services. However, the majority of respondents, 55.6%, said that it is fair, some others 42 % of the respondents said that it is good.

3.4 Measurement

Accordingly to the Parasuraman et al., (1996), scale for service quality covered the five dimensions of tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, assurance and empathy. The tangibility was measured as an extent of appearance for physical surrounding and facilities. Reliability was accessed by the extent of employees gaining first hand impression. Skill levels of employees to gain customer trust and confidence was evaluated by assurance dimension. The level of individualized attention to customers to fell extra value and special was mainly determined by empathy dimension. All the items were based on the 5 point likert scale that asked the customers to rate their level of expectation and perception for each item under respective dimension. (1=very low to 5=very high)

4. Analysis and Results

4.1 Reliability Tests

Before performing the statistical test, the internal consistency of the each items for the SEQUAL dimensions were tested with the reliability test. This statistical test shows that the attributes are related to each other and to the composite score. Table (8) shows the Cronbach's Alpha scores for each dimension for both expectations and perceptions. Apparently their Cronbach's alpha ranged from 0.72 to 0.96 exceeding acceptable criterion of 0.70 (Nunnally, 1978).

Table 8. Cronbach's alpha scores of selected express business services (EBS)

EBS Dimension	Myat Mandalar Htun		New Mandalar Htun		Shwe Mandalar		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann	
	Cronbach's α		Cronbach's α		Cronbach's α		Cronbach's α		Cronbach's α	
	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P
Tangible	0.90	0.86	0.85	0.72	0.93	0.90	0.80	0.79	0.88	0.93
Reliability	0.84	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.92	0.91	0.85	0.83	0.85	0.89
Responsiveness	0.90	0.88	0.89	0.84	0.96	0.96	0.87	0.91	0.86	0.94
Assurance	0.86	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.92	0.89	0.88	0.83	0.89	0.92
Empathy	0.90	0.89	0.85	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.85	0.89	0.89	0.93

E = Expectations; P= Perceptions

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

4.2 Calculating Mean Scores

Table (9) shows means scores of selected express businesses services (EBS). It was generally found the differences between the mean expectations and perceptions in all businesses. All the businesses expectation scores are higher than their perception scores.

Table 9. Mean scores for expectation and perception of five dimensions by selected express business services (EBS)

EBS Mean Dimension	Myat Mandalor Htun		New Mandalor Htun		Shwe Mandalor		Shwe Sin Sat Khyar		Tatt Lann	
	Mean		Mean		Mean		Mean		Mean	
	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P
Tangible	4.41	3.61	4.25	3.92	4.07	3.83	3.90	3.66	4.17	3.8
Reliability	4.17	3.34	4.23	3.84	4.11	3.86	3.75	3.63	3.99	3.74
Responsiveness	3.96	2.75	4.15	3.70	4.03	3.78	3.81	3.54	3.99	3.56
Assurance	4.04	2.93	4.26	3.56	4.07	3.69	3.76	3.52	4.00	3.60
Empathy	3.78	2.53	4.23	3.40	3.96	3.47	3.58	3.30	3.88	3.34

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

4.5 Analysis of Service Quality Gaps

In the following section, the analysis of service gaps between the expectations and perceptions of the five express businesses is presented in detail. This is important because it reflects the service performance gaps. The SERVQUAL gap for each dimension is calculated the differences between the mean scores for expectation and perception. Moreover, paired sample t-test is used to analyze statistically differences between the mean expectations and perceptions for each dimension. The findings for the difference between expectation and perception are illustrated in Table 10.

Table 10. Analysis of gap scores for expectation and perception of five dimensions by selected express business services (EBS)

EBS Dimension	Myat Mandalor Htun	New Mandalor Htun	Shwe Mandalor	Shwe Sin Sat Khyar	Tatt Lann
	1	2	3	4	5
Tangible					
GAP (P-E)	-0.8	-0.33	-0.24	-0.24	-0.37
P-Value	0.0000	0.0038	0.0539	0.0539	0.0116
Reliability					
GAP (P-E)	-0.83	-0.39	-0.25	-0.12	-0.25
P-Value	0.0000	0.0106	0.1255	0.2856	0.1255
Responsiveness					
GAP (P-E)	-1.21	-0.45	-0.25	-0.27	-0.43
P-Value	0.0000	0.0260	0.1255	0.0576	0.0166
Assurance					
GAP (P-E)	-1.11	-0.7	-0.38	-0.24	-0.4
P-Value	0.0000	0.0000	0.0366	0.0539	0.0082
Empathy					
GAP (P-E)	-1.25	-0.83	-0.49	-0.28	-0.54
P-Value	0.0000	0.0000	0.0266	0.0562	0.0019

Significant p values are presented in bold (at 5%)

Source: Surveyed data, 2012

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The results reveal that gap scores for all dimensions in Myat Mandalar Htun and New Mandalar Htun Express Business are all negative. In addition, the results of t-test show that there are statistically differences between the customers' expectations and their perceptions in all dimensions for Myat Mandalar Htun and New Mandlalar Htun express businesses (p-value < 0.05). Even though all dimensions of Shwe Mandalar express business prove negative gap scores, only two dimensions such as Assurance and Empathy show statistically significant differences between expectations and perceptions scores. Likewise, all dimensions for measuring service quality in Shwe Zin Sat Kyar express do have negative gap scores. However, customer expectations and perceptions are not significance different for none of the dimension, interestingly. Tatt Lann Express Business also has negative gap scores in each dimension. Almost all dimensions show statistically differences between the customers' expectations and their perceptions except reliability (p-value < 0.05).

5. Conclusion

This study explored whether the passengers or customer experiences are far away from meeting their expectation towards express businesses. As a result the customers' experiences with service quality affect their level of satisfaction. By doing so, managers in each express business could understand how the service performance of their businesses to be improved. Especially businesses should be paid pay attention to the areas where the negative gap scores are large and the differences between expectation and perception scores are significant.

According to the results of this study, gap scores of many dimensions for selected five express businesses are negative implying that sampled customers were not satisfied with the services provided by the express businesses.

The finding of negative gaps can be assumed that sample customers were not satisfied with the services provided by the express businesses. However, according to the sample passengers' responses to questions for accessing the overall service quality, it was given that their satisfaction level towards the service quality of selected five express businesses as "fairly" and "good" except a few customers rating as "poor". This means that even though gap scores are negative and most of them are significant, passengers accepted certain level of service quality gap of transport business services. It is the fact that most Myanmar people are contented and their levels of tolerance for service quality gap seem to be high. While competing the express businesses, providing comparable services are not very different among them. But this result partly calls for exploring the acceptable threshold level of service quality gaps felt by most Myanmar people in future service quality studies. The managers in the selected express business services should try to improve the level of service quality offered for the customer satisfaction.

5.1 Implications

The following suggestions can be provided to respective express business according to the analysis of results.

Due to the negative scores, gate managers and employees of the Myat Mndalar Htun express need to improve service quality. The customers' expectations for this express showed very high, probably, by looking at their business image. So, it is highly and exactly necessary to upgrade the services for matching with their business images. Especially the business should provide services for small things, attract and train their employees to understand customers and their needs and devise incentive payment systems based on customer service improvements.

According to the results of negative gap scores and paired sample t- test, New Mandalay Htun Express Business Service should carefully promote for assurance and empathy dimensions. Even though customers were assumed to be satisfied with some dimension, this business should attract, train and provide incentive for employees based on empathizing and willing to help their customers. In addition, New Mandalay Htun express business' employees should be encouraged to welcome advices on improving customers' satisfactions.

Although Shwe Mandalay Express Business Service differentiates itself by using modern machines, modern buses, and gate styles, this business should emphasize the assurance and empathy dimensions according to the result of paired sample t-test. This business's employees probably have some weaknesses in customers' request, response to the customers' questions, understanding their specific needs and interests at heart. They need to be more efficient in order to do services on time. If they had as promised and sincere interest in solving customer problems, they would attain competitive advantages. This can be accomplished if the management can adopt persuasive performance measurement system regarding service delivery activities. The employees who are directly linked to service delivery should be trained to understand varying situations and improve relationships with customers.

According to the results, Shwe Sin Sat Khyar Express Business Service has lower gap scores than that of the other business services because this business can give services to passengers as almost they expected. Even though the customer perception towards service quality is fairly good according to the insignificant t-tests, customers' needs, wants and desires and competitors actions might be changed in the long run. So, Shwe Sin Sat Khyar Express Business Service should continue to offer better services and maintain customers satisfaction in order to sustain their business in the long run. Tat Lann express business should ensure to promote responsiveness and empathy dimension. It should pay attention to customers' requests and problems. Many programs such as advertising program, ticket selling program, member card program should be designed to improve customers' services and their satisfaction.

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A Study on Socioeconomic Conditions and Determinants of Poverty Situation in Shan TeGyi Village (2010-2011)

Aye Thida¹

Abstract

This paper has attempted to study the current socioeconomic conditions and the factor which influence on households expenditure of Shan TeGyi village based on 2011 survey data. The sample survey is made from 100 sample households in Shan TeGyi village. Among 100 sample households, there were 41 households in bamboo houses, 56 houses are wooden house and 3 houses are brick building and semi-brick houses. There were one middle school in Shan TeGyi village. The adult literacy rate was 75.67% in this study. Concerning the educational status of household heads, there were 16 illiterate persons, and most of household head were of primary level education. Thirty eight percent of household heads were casual workers. In the Shan TeGyi village have two rural health care centers and two nurses. The people in this village have favorable condition of water supply and sanitation. Employing binary logistic regression model, the dependent variable, poverty situation of households, was regressed on seven explanatory variables so as to identify determinants of poverty situation in Shan TeGyi village. Regression results revealed that poverty situation falls as the economically active member in each household increases. On the other hand, poverty situation was found to rise with household size and casual workers.

Keywords: Socioeconomic, Poverty Line, Factor Analysis, Binary Logistic Model

1. Introduction

Myanmar has embarked on programmed all around national development and promoting the living standard of the people to achieve the aim of the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation since 1989. The government has been building infrastructure through systematic plans for all the citizens to be able to enjoy a rich and secure socioeconomic life and to possess a promising future.

In line with the objectives, the government has set up the five rural development task; securing smooth and better transportation in the rural areas, availability of clean water in the rural areas, uplift of the education standard of the rural people, uplift of health care for the rural people and development of the economy in the rural regions to promote the socioeconomic situation of rural areas and to narrow the socioeconomic gaps between urban and rural areas by alleviating poverty in rural areas. In performing rural development activities, the State plays its role as policy maker, strategy planner, and supervisor, and rural development measures to implement these strategic plans have taken in rural development

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measures to implement these strategic plans have taken in selected Target Areas by constructing model village approach. Therefore, the implementation of socioeconomic status of the Shan TeGyi village in East Dagon Township at Yangon Region is studied in this paper.

The objectives of the study are to review the socioeconomic services and to determine the factors which influence on poverty situation of Shan TeGyi village.

The data used in this study are the primary data from socioeconomic survey of Shan TeGyi village. The information of the socioeconomic conditions is analyzed by using the simple random sampling. A field survey was conducted to get the required data from complete enumeration of households of the Shan TeGyi village in 2011.

2. Background History of Shan TeGyi Village

Shan TeGyi village is located on No.2 Yangon-Bago Highway which connects Yangon and Zayatquin Village. Shan-Tè-Gyi model village is about 21 miles away from the Sule Pagoda and its length is 2.5 miles from East to West and 3 miles from North to South. When established, the population was about 200 people in that village. Shan TeGyi stream is passing across the middle of lower Shan TeGyi village and the village is separated into Southern and Eastern Village which lay on each side of No.2 Highway.

The area of Eastern Shan TeGyi village is 3.46 square miles and the quarter included in it are Kan-Gyi-Su, Aungmingalar, Ywar-Ma, Ywarthit. It has 1602 acres of farms and 120 farmers are occupying on it. The area of southern Shan-Tè-Gyi is 8 square miles and the quarter included in it are Kan-Gyi-Su, Aung-theidi and Ywar-thit. It has 3394 acres of farms and 271 farmers are occupying on it. There are 509 households, and 2265 people, 1129 male and 1136 female in the Shan TeGyi village. The sex ratio for the total population is about 99 percent. There are 11 industrial workers and some are working as tailors and lathe-workers. The others are working in agriculture. They cultivate paddy (both summer and in the rainy season), beans, tomatoes and chilies. They get irrigation from ShanTeGyi village stream. They get drinking water from lakes and tube wells.

3. Data Analysis

3.1 Sample Design

The design of the survey has been based on a random sample which includes 100 households. These household were chosen from 509 households which are registered in Shan TeGyi village Peace and Development Council using the design of simple random sampling. The aim of the survey was to obtain some useful information associated with the demographic and social situations and to know the living condition of people who are living in the Shan TeGyi village. Therefore, this survey emphasizes socioeconomic conditions of people in Shan TeGyi village and it was conducted in year 2011.

The data collection method used in this survey was interview method. The final year Statistics students were given training and the field operations were carried out under the closed supervision of staffs of the statistics department in Yangon Institute of Economics.

The list of households in this survey was obtained from the village Peace and Development Council Office. In this survey, 100 sample households were selected, which is approximately 20% of total households in Shan TeGyi village.

3.2 Educational Status

There is one middle school in Shan TeGyi village. The primary level and the middle level students by sex are shown in Table (1).

Table (1)

Distribution of Students

Education Level	Student		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female		
Primary	158	143	301	76
Middle	103	94	194	24
Total	261	237	495	100

According to the results of Table (1), seventy six percent of the students are primary students and twenty four percent are middle student.

3.2.1 Ratio of Girls to Boys in Education Level

Table (2) shows the ratios of the female students enrolled at each education level to the number of male students enrolled at the same education level.

Table (2)
Ration of Girls to Boys

Education Level	Student		Ratio of Girls to Boys
	Female	Male	
Primary	143	158	90.51
Middle	94	103	91.26

The ratio of girls to boys at the primary education level is 90.51 and that of 91.26 in middle level education.

3.2.2 Teacher-Student Ratio

The teacher-student ratios for each education level are shown in table (3).

Table (3)
Teacher-Student Ratio

Education Level	Teachers	Students	Teacher-Student Ratio
Primary	7	301	1:43
Middle	7	197	1:28

The teacher-student ratio is found to be 1:43 at the primary level and 1:28 at the middle level in Shan TeGyi village. Therefore, Teacher-student ratio in Shan TeGyi village is inadequate.

3.2.3 Adult Literacy Rate

In Myanmar, any person 15 years and above is considered to be adult, and this is lower age limit for computing the adult literacy rate. The 75.67% of village adult literacy rate is found. The following table (4) shows the educational attainment of adults.

Table (4)**Educational Attainment of Adult Population**

Education Level	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	28	23	51	15.46
Primary	73	84	157	48.3
Middle	46	48	94	28.9
High	3	13	16	4.92
Graduate	3	4	7	2.15
Total	133	172	305	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the table (4) , in the Shan TeGyi village the illiteracy rate is 15.69%, 48.31% of population are at the primary level, 28.92% of population are at the middle level, 4.92% are at the higher level and 2.1% are at the graduate level. It can clearly be seen that education level of inhabitants in Shan TeGyi village is still at lower level. It may decline the socio-economic development not only in the village but also the whole township.

3.3 Health Status

There are two health care centers and two nurses in Shan TeGyi village. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 53 per thousand live - births and Childhood Mortality Rate (CMR) is 3 per thousand live-births. There is no encounter Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in this village.

3.4 The Population of Sample Households in Shan TeGyi Village

According to survey data, about 85% of the sample households are male-headed households and 14% are female-headed households. The following Table (5) shows the population of sample households by sex and age.

Table (5)**Population of sample Households by Sex and Age**

Age Group	Sex		Percentage
	Male	Female	
0 - 4	9	15	5.44
5 - 9	26	21	10.7
10 - 14	23	20	10.1
15 - 19	24	23	10.7
20 - 24	19	25	10.02
25 - 29	25	19	10.02
30 - 34	15	15	6.68
35 - 39	10	18	6.34
40 - 44	14	13	6.14
45 - 49	11	20	7.06
50 - 54	16	8	5.44
55 - 59	5	11	4.51
60 - 64	5	7	2.73
65 - 69	2	3	1.14
70 - 74	4	6	2.27
75 - 79	2	0	0.4
80 - 84	1	2	0.65
85+	0	2	0.43
Total	211	228	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to table (5), in the total population of age between 1 to 14 years are 26.24%, and the total population of age above 59 years are 7.62%. Out of the total population of age between 15 to 59 years are 66.51%. Therefore, the working group is larger than that of dependency ratio in this village. It can also be said that the labour force is high in this village. Thus, it causes the increase of per capita income.

3.4.1 Sex Ratio

The sex-ratio is 93. It means that there are 93 males for 100 female in sample data.

3.4.2 The Ageing Index

The aged-child ratio (or) index of aging is 29.82. It means that there are about 30 persons in old age per 100 children. Therefore, it can be said that the number of youth is greater than the number of older person.

3.4.3 Dependency Ratio

The following Table (6) shows dependency ratio of sample households.

Table (6)
Dependency Ratio of Sample Household

Dependent	Number of People		Total	Dependency Ratio (%)
	Male	Female		
Young	58	56	114	39.18
Old	14	20	34	11.6
Total	72	76	148	50.78

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the Table (6), old dependency ratio is 11.6 % and young dependency ratio is 39.18%. Therefore, the total dependency ratio is 50.78%. It can be seen that young dependency ratio is greater than old dependency ratio.

3.5 Household Size

According to the Table (7), the average household size of Shan TeGyi Model village is 4.39 (nearly 5 persons). Therefore, the household size of Shan TeGyi Village is medium level.

Table (7)
Distribution of Household Size

Number of Household Member	Number of Households
1	5
2	11
3	16
4	25
5	18
6	13
7	5
8	4
9	2
10	1
Total	100

3.6 Housing Characteristics

The following Table (8) shows the housing characteristics of Shan TeGyi village.

Table (8)

Percentage of Distribution of Housing Characteristics

Factors	Frequency	Percent
Houses in poor structure (bamboo with thatch roof)	41	41
Houses in fair strong structure (wooden house)	56	56
Houses in good structure (brick building) and semi-brick house	3	3
Total	100	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the Table (8), most of the houses are wood houses, it was 56%. Only 3% houses are brick of brick and semi-brick house. 41% are the houses made of bamboo. It shows that the housing condition of Shan TeGyi village is fairly good and medium level.

3.7 Water System

The following Table (3.10) shows the water system of Shan TeGyi village.

Table (9)

Percentage Distribution of Water System

Factors	Frequency	Percent
Irrigated cultivation	37	37
lake, Poor	42	42
Tube-well	9	9
wells	12	12
Total	100	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the result of Table (9), 37% of household can get water from irrigated cultivation and 42% can get from lake and poor. 9% of households can get from tube-well and 12% get from wells. It shows that the accessibility of water system is convenient in Shan TeGyi village. But, most of household use the water from lake and poor. It may be assumed

that ground water are cleaner than surface-water and these ground water is of "reasonably safe" quality. Therefore, it assumes that the drinking water of Shan TeGyi village is not good.

3.8 Sanitation Condition

Table (10)

Percentage Distribution of Type of Sanitation Used by Households

Factor	Frequency	Percent
Fly-Proof Latrine (Good conditions)	79	79
Covered pit latrine	8	8
Open pit latrine	11	11
Other	2	2
Total	100	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the result of Table (10), most of households use the fly-proof latrines. It was 79%. Another 8% were used to covered pit latrine and 11% were used to open pit latrine. It can be seen that the standard of living is not low in Shan TeGyi village. These improvements were due to the health education given by village authority concerned.

3.9 Electricity

The following Table (11) shows the electricity status and lighting for Shan TeGyi village.

Table (11)

Percentage Distribution of Type of Lighting Used by Households

Factors	Frequency	Percent
Public	33	33
Private	7	7
Own generator	15	15
Candle and other	45	45
Total	100	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the results of Table (11), only in 33 houses used electricity, 15 houses use electricity from their own generator and 7 houses they use Private electricity. But most houses still remain using candle-lights. Those are about 45 percent.

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good.

3.10 Fuel for Cooking

The following Table (12) shows the use of fuel for cooking in Shan TeGyivillage.

Table (12)

Percentage distribution of Type of Fuel for Cooking Used by Households

Factors	Frequency	Percent
Wood fuel	75	75
Charcoal	13	13
Electricity	2	2
Total	100	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to table result of Table (3.13), 75% of households use wood fuel, 13% use charcoal and only 2% use electricity. Therefore, it can be assumed that the families of Shan TeGyi village still using fuel for cooking.

3.11 Households' Expenditure

The following Table (13) shows the households' expenditure.

Table (13)

Monthly Household Expenditure of Sample Households in the Survey

Amount (Kyat)	Number of Household	Percentage
Under 20000	-	-
20000 - 70000	25	25
70000 - 120000	59	59
120000 - 170000	11	11
170000 - 220000	2	2
220000 - 270000	1	1
270000 Above	2	2
Total	100	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the results of Table (13) shows most of households' expenditure fall between 70000 to 120000 and the percentage is 59%.

3.12 Transportation and Communication

The transportation is indicated by the type of road and public transportation buses. ShanTeGyivillage is accessible only by road. Public transport buses are widely used in that village. The effectiveness of transport depends on the quality of roads and the motor vehicles. There are several types of public transport buses serving between the study area and other parts of Yangon City. Those who go to the downtown area and the other parts of Yangon City depend on public transport buses.

Communication condition is based on the number of telephones. The most respondent private auto phones and some use in mobile phones.

3.13 Sex- Age Structures of Heads of Sample Households

The following Table (14) shows the sex-age structure of heads of sample households.

Table (14)

Sex-age Structure of Heads of Households

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
24-32	7	-	7
33-41	25	6	31
42-50	30	6	36
51-59	40	6	10
60-68	74	3	10
69-77	4	-	4
78-86	1	1	2
Total	78	22	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyi village, 2011

According to the results in Table (14), it can be said that out of 100 sample households under the study, 78 households are led by men and only 22 households are led by women. Therefore, the age of the heads of households (33-41) to (42-50) is 67 percent. It shows that the community of village is formed by young and healthy heads.

3.14 Female Headed Ratio for Sample Households

The female headed ratio for Shan TeGyi village is 22. The female headed ratio for union level for the year (2010) is 20.8. This ratio for ShanTeGyi village is greater than that of Union Level.

3.15 Educational Qualifications of Heads of Household

The following Table (15) shows the education qualification of households head.

Table (15)

Educational Qualifications of Heads of Household

Level of Education	Frequency
Illiterate	16
Primary	50
Middle	27
High	5
Graduate	2
Total	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyivillage, 2011

According to the results of Table (15), it can be seen that the education level of the heads are classified into five types. The heads of household who finished education at the primary and middle are 50% and 27%. Out of 16% and 5% are illiterate and high school. Out of the 100 heads, there are only two graduate heads. It shows that the functional literacy still is low among the heads of households.

3.16 Occupational Status of Heads of Household

The following Table (16) shows the occupational status of heads of household.

Table (16)

Heads of Household by Occupational Status

Factors	Frequency
Employer	12
Own account business	34
Government services	16
Casual worker	38
Total	100

Sources: Survey from Shan TeGyivillage, 2011

According to the results of Table(16), most of household heads are casual worker. It assumed that casual worker is an important correlated of poverty and lower of living standard. Therefore, the occupational status of heads of households Shan TeGyivillage is still low.

2.17 Marital Status of Heads of Households

The following Table (17) shows the marital status of heads of households.

Table (17)

Heads of Household by Marital Status

Factors	Number
Single	9
Married	76
Widowed	13
Divorce	2
Total	100

Sources: Survey from ShanTeGyilvillage, 2011

According to the results of Table (17), 76% marital heads of household are married and 13% are widowed. 9% and 2% are single and divorce.

2.18.Determinants of Poverty Situation in Shan TeGyi Village

In this study, the relationship between household expenditure (dependent variable) and socioeconomic variables (independent variables) such as household size, economically active member of each household and occupation of household's head will be analyzed by binary logistic regression model. To estimate the binary logistic regression model, the poverty situation of households, designated by 1 if the households' expenditure is above or equal the actual value of the poverty line in Myanmar and non poor 0 if otherwise is used as dependent variable. According to the 100 sample households, 30% of households' expenditures are above the actual value of the poverty line in Myanmar (376, 151 kyats) and the rest 70% of households' expenditures are below that value.

The binary logistic model can be described as follows:

$$L_i = \ln \frac{\pi_i}{1 - \pi_i} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_{1i} + \beta_3 x_{2i} + \beta_4 x_{3i}$$

Where π_i = the probability that the households' expenditure is above or equal the actual value of poverty line.

$1 - \pi_i$ = the probability that the households' expenditure is below poverty line.

In constructing the model, the variables are noted as:

$Y = 1$ if households' expenditure is above or equal the actual value of poverty line

$= 0$ otherwise

x_1 = household size

x_2 = economically active member in each household

x_3 = occupation

$= 1$ if head of household is casual worker

$= 0$ otherwise

The corrective prediction for effect of socioeconomic variable on household expenditure was 88%. Two R^2 in this model are 0.478 and 0.677 which gives the range of the variability of the dependent variable. It means that only between 48% and 68% of the variability in this model dependent variable (household expenditure) can be explained by independent variable (socioeconomic variable).

The occupation status of household's head, economically active member and household size are significant at 5% and 1% level. The sign for coefficient of household size is negative. Therefore, it can be said that the decrease of per person in a household, the expenditure of household for per person will increase, other being remain unchanged. The sign for coefficient of economically active member is positive. Therefore, it can be said that the increase of economically active member per person in a household, the expenditure of household for per person will increase. The sign for coefficient of occupation status of household's head is negative relationship.

4. Conclusion

Shan TeGyivillage is situated on No.2 Road which connects Yangon and Zayatquin. Shan TeGyivillage is about 21 miles away from Sule Pagoda and the length is 2.5 miles from East to West and 3 miles from North to South. There are 2101 people in 509 households. . The sex ratio for the total population is about 99 percent.

In hundred sample households, there were 41 bamboo houses (poor structure), 56 wooden houses (fair strong structure) and 3 brick building and semi-brick houses (good structure). Therefore, half of the sample households are in poor structure. In these houses, 54% of households use candles and others for lighting and 33% households get public electricity. There were 15% of households that use their own generators and 7% of households have private electricity for lighting.

With regard to the household population in 100 sample households, there were 439 people which include 211 males and 228 females. The sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) was 93. The average size of household was 4.39 (4 persons). Therefore, the household size of ShanTeGyivillage is medium level. Young dependency ratio is 39.18% and old dependency ratio was 9.28%. Therefore, the young dependency ratio is higher than old dependency ratio. The total dependency ratio was 50.78%. The aged-child ratio is 19.3. Therefore, Government sectors, local authorities, non-government organizations and entrepreneurs should be create job opportunities for youth in this village.

In the study of water supply, the majority of households get drinking water from lakes and pools. Therefore, the drinking water is not properly purified. Most households used fly-proof latrines.

There is one middle school in this village. The teacher-student ratio is found to be 1:43 at the primary level and 1:28 at the middle level in Shan TeGyi village. Therefore, the number of teachers in ShanTeGyi village is inadequate. The ratio of girls to boys is 90 girls per 100 male students at the primary level and 91 girls per 100 male students at the middle level. It can be said that the gender equality for at each educational level is nearly the same. The adult literacy rate was 75.67%. In the educational development, the number of schools should be uplifted to raise the number of educated persons, and educational facilities should be upgraded and set up the schools in this area. The middle school should be uplifted to high school as education is one of the best investments any country can make.

In the health sector, they have two health care centers and two nurses. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 53.33 and childhood Mortality Rate (CMR) is 2.7 in this survey area.

Seventy-eight percent of household heads were men and 22% were women. The age of household heads were between 24 years and 86 years. In educational status, there were 16 illiterate persons, and most of the household heads were primary level education. Sixteen percent of household heads were government services. Most of the household heads were casual worker (38%) and 34% of household heads were own business.

Most of the monthly household expenditure was between 70,000 Kyats and 120,000 Kyats. The average monthly expenditure of households is found to be 99884 Kyats. The sign for coefficient of household size was found to be a significant correlate of household expenditure in the study area. Thus, expansion of education and intensification of family planning programme should be promoted at the study area. The sign for coefficient of economically active member is positive. It can be said that the higher the number of economically active member, the expenditure of household for per person will increase. The sign for coefficient of occupation status household heads is negative.

Communication and transportation are essential for the development of economic, social and cultural sectors. So, sufficient telephone communication should be maintained in this area. Although Shan TeGyi village is a model village, the socioeconomic conditions of the village is not strong enough.

Household heads will get more self-confidence and they will support their families and they will reduce their families' poverty and the economic hardship in their lives. If government and non-government organizations make such some programmes for head of households in this village.

Therefore, to get the improvement in socioeconomic development of rural village, the supporting of government sector and non-government organizations are necessary. But, the native people's participation is one of the essential things. These organizations look at the situation of these villages and they should provide the requirements yearly or every two years. If all the villages like ShanTeGyi in rural area are uplifted and up graded, the poverty in the rural area can be significantly reduced and there will be all round the development in every sectors. If there will be development in rural area, so will be in urban area. Therefore, the whole nation will be developing, and the entire citizen will enjoy the fruits of development.

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The Impact of Human Resource Management Practices on Employee Performance of Large Manufacturing Firms in Yangon

Aye Thanda Soe¹

Abstract

This study intends to analyze the current HRM practices of large manufacturing firms in Yangon and to explore the impact of HRM practices on employee performance. The descriptive and exploratory research methods were used and 100 owners or managers and 500 employees were randomly selected from the scope of 100 private large manufacturing firms. The results describe that people management in surveyed firms could generally be characterized as still personnel management. Any acceptance and development of the HRM concept has been slow and cautious especially in most locally-owned firms. It is found that due to the insufficient knowledge on HRM, the majority of firms conduct only a few of the HRM practices. The surveyed firms apply both external and internal recruitment sources and use different selection methods for different positions. Concerning the training and development practices, the majority of firms conduct on-the-job training. Regarding performance appraisal practices, the majority of firms utilize the simple way like close observation by supervisors and managers whereas some firms apply systematic employee appraisal system. It is observed that the majority of firms design financial and non financial reward based on the specific conditions of the individual firms. According to the results, HRM practices are positively related to employee commitment, high productivity gain, low labor absenteeism and labor turnover rate. In addition, this study proved that the bundle of HRM practices has a stronger more and positive impact on employee performance.

Key words: Human Resource Management Practices, Recruitment and Selection, Training and Development, Performance Appraisal, Reward

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1. Introduction

In today's flattened, downsized, and high-performing organizations, trained, committed, talented and satisfied employees are the essential keys for the achievement of the organizations' competitiveness. As organizations are in the business of achieving sustained high performance, they do this through the effective and efficient management of their employees. Therefore, human resource management (HRM) is emerging as the key concept in assessing the competitive assets of organizations as well as playing a critical role in creating the committed, motivated and competent workforce for the success of the organizations.

HRM includes the practices of analyzing and designing work, determining human resource needs, attracting potential employees, selecting employees, giving training to employees how to perform their jobs and preparing them for the future, rewarding employees, evaluating their performance and creating a positive work environment. Thus, the organization expects high performance from its employees through getting happy, faithful and satisfied employees by adopting the effective and efficient human resource management practices (HRM practices).

Mostly, people management of locally- owned firms in Myanmar emphasized on normal personnel activities. Personnel activities of most business firms are concerned with administrative tasks, staffing, payroll and contractual obligations. One of the main reasons for such practices is recruitment of former government officers to lead administration and management activities based on the selection criteria of length of experience and age level. Other reasons are lack of enough experience in doing business in respective areas, lack of sufficient knowledge of HRM, lack of research evidence based on successful Myanmar business firms which are applying HRM practices, lack of awareness of importance of HRM, and insufficient supports in terms of relevant training programmes in real business area etc. New business environment changes in Myanmar have become to create more awareness of HRM.

Furthermore, in order not to be a bottleneck in the forward movement of the association and the achievement of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), Myanmar has been striving for getting a hold on this situation. It is widely acknowledged that this ambitious objective can be achieved through qualified people with high performance standards working in environments with appropriate human resources principles and practices.

Nowadays, there are increasing numbers of business opportunities generated for local people due to the changes in the rules and regulations of the government, economic policies, political changes, and extended business networks with other neighboring countries. To capture these business opportunities, business practitioners rely more on high skill workers. These conditions have prompted the business practitioners to new interest in the HRM concepts and practices because most business firms are faced the challenges of attracting and maintaining skilful and talented persons. Furthermore, a stable workforce is one of the key drivers to get advantages from opportunities in the new business environments. Therefore, the demand of emerging business organizations for sufficient knowledge of HRM is critical in the current context of people management in Myanmar.

However, only a very few business firms in Myanmar understand HRM functions as a crucial agent to both strategy formulation and implementation. As a result, many firms are slow in adopting HRM practices that contribute to the improvement of employee performance for organizational success. Therefore, attract the attention of Myanmar business firms on HRM for achievement of high organization performance, this study is an attempt to establish the strong evidence of relationships between HRM practices and employee performance in Myanmar manufacturing firms.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to assess the relationship between HRM practices and employee performance in large manufacturing firms in Yangon. The specific objectives of this study are;

- (1) to analyze the HRM practices that are currently being adopted in large manufacturing firms in Yangon
- (2) to explore the impact of HRM practices on employee performance of large manufacturing firms in Yangon
 - (a) to explore the impact of an individual HRM practice on employee performance of large manufacturing firms in Yangon
 - (b) to analyze the impact of the bundle of HRM practices on employee performance of large manufacturing firms in Yangon

2. Scope, Method and Limitation of the Study

This study emphasizes only on large private manufacturing firms which employ 100 employees, or whose capital outlay of more than 5 million kyat, or has annual production value of more than 10 million kyat and/ or use more than 50 HP (electrical power) in Yangon area. The main reason for choosing large manufacturing firms in this study is that HRM activities and HRM practices are well adopted in most large manufacturing firms due to the large number of employees.

Concerning the scope of the numbers of firms, as described in the report of Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (2010), among 1,067 large manufacturing firms which are located in industrial zones, 100 firms were selected by using simple random sampling method for this study. The different industrial zones involved in this study are Hlaing Thar Yar, Shwe Phi Thar, South Dagon, Dagon Seik Kan, Mingaladon, Shwe Pauk Kan, North Okkalapa, East Dagon, Tharketa, North Dagon and South Okkalapa industrial zones. Furthermore, different industry types involved in this study are food and beverages, garment, construction materials, personal goods, household goods, industrial raw materials, transport vehicles and electrical goods.

The common HRM practices in this study are recruitment and selection, training and development, performance appraisal, reward and employee participation. Furthermore, the measurements of employee performance in this study are employee commitment, labor productivity, labor absenteeism and labor turnover.

Regarding the study design and methodology, descriptive and exploratory methods are used in this study. Descriptive method is used to present the first objective of this study which describes the current HRM practices in large manufacturing firms whereas exploratory method is applied to explore the second objective which explains the impact of HRM practices on employee performance in large manufacturing firms. To obtain the required data, the sample survey method was employed in this study.

As a sampling technique, simple random sampling method was used in this study. As the first stage, 100 large manufacturing firms which represent 9.4 % of total numbers of large manufacturing firms in Yangon area were selected without replacement from the population of 1,067 firms by using simple random sampling method. As the second stage, among the total number of employees in each firm, 5 employees were selected among the total employees of production area by using simple random sampling method. Therefore, 500 employees were selected as the sample size of this study.

The required data were obtained from the sample of large manufacturing firms by using the method of face-to-face interview with owner or manager or HR manager using structured questionnaires as well as unstructured questionnaires and the focus is on the interviewee's point of views. For secondary data, text books on HRM, relevant articles, journals, websites, reports and previous researches, were used in this study. To sum up, in this study, the sample consists of 100 owners or managers from 100 large manufacturing firms and 500 respondents which included 5 from production area in each of 100 firms by using two stage simple random sampling method.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1 HRM Practices in Large Manufacturing Firms

The first objective of the study is to examine the current HRM practices in private large manufacturing firms. Therefore, common HRM practices are examined under 10 sections such as existence of HRM departments, HRM planning, job design, recruitment sources, selection practices, training and development, reward, performance appraisal, employee participation and health and safety practices.

3.1.1 HR Departments in Large Manufacturing Firms

The existence of a HR department is, perhaps, the most crucial factor in determining the degree of importance of HRM practices for the specific manufacturing firms. According to the survey result, 65% of total firms do not have separate HR department. Therefore, administrative department is responsible for collaborations between personnel administration and business administration activities. Table (1) shows the number of respondent firms with HR departments.

Table (1) Existence of a HR Department in Surveyed Manufacturing Firms

Description	No. of Firms	%
Existence of HR department	35	35
No existence of HR department	65	65
Total	100	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

Table 1 shows that only 35 % of firms have a separate HR department. The remaining 65% of firms are reported as not having HR department. Although those firms do not set up separate HR department, these firms are performing HRM functions under the name of the departments which are shown in Table (2).

Table (2) Names of the Departments Operating HRM Functions

Name of the department	No. of Firms	%
Personnel and Administrative Department	8	12
Administrative Department	57	88
Total	65	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

The findings in the Table 2 show that 8 of the 65 firms (12%) in this study used the name of Personnel and Administrative Department. Moreover, a frequency analysis shows that 57 out of 65 firms (88%) are operating in the area of HRM under the name of Administrative Department.

Based on the above results, this study concludes that some large firms have separate HR department and most of the firms do not set up separate HR department but they perform HRM activities under the name of administrative department. Some surveyed joint venture firms have strong central HR departments at the headquarters that design HRM practices which meet the needs of the entire business organizations. HR department from those organizations get tools and supports from a central, corporate wide HR departments and it is balancing centralization and standardization with decentralization and flexibility in implementing HRM activities designed by head office. Moreover, numbers of employees from respective HR departments, personnel and administrative department, and administrative department who are involved in HRM activities are shown in Table (3).

Table (3) Number of Employees Involved in HRM Activities

Number of Employees	No. of Firms	%
1	0	0
2	9	9
3	44	44
4	33	33
5	11	11
6	3	3
Total	100	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

The frequency analysis in Table 3 reveals that the minimum number of employees performing HRM activities is 2 which represent 9% of the surveyed firms and the maximum number was 6 which accounts for 3% of firms. 44 % of surveyed firms have 3 employees in HRM activities. Firms with 4 employees in HRM activities accounts for 33%, and firms with 5 employees in HRM activities represents 11% of the surveyed firms. Based on the above findings, it can be said that manufacturing firms with above 500 employees need more HR staff to manage personnel matters and HRM activities systematically. Another frequency analysis is conducted to examine the positions of the primary responsible persons of HRM activities which are shown in Table (4).

Table (4) Positions of Primary Responsible Persons of HRM Activities

Title	No. of Firms	%
General Manager	21	21
HRM Manager	32	32
Administrative Manager	47	47
Total	100	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

The findings in Table 4 shows that General Manager from 21% of the surveyed firms, HR managers from 32% of the surveyed firms and administrative managers from 47% of the surveyed firms are the primary responsible persons for HRM activities. Joint venture firms, fully foreign-owned firms and some locally-owned firms carry out HRM activities systematically under the guidance of HR managers due to training by foreign experts and some Myanmar HR professionals and consultants.

Some of the surveyed firms hire foreign HR specialists to transfer HRM knowledge for organizations. Most of HR managers from those organizations get better opportunities to learn practical HRM knowledge and HRM practices. Therefore, these HR managers actively participate in managing human resources providing the organization's specific needs. In addition, HR managers make regular HR planning and keep systematic records of human resources data concerning the absenteeism rate, turnover rate and other HRM data. Some respondent firms provide opportunities for HR managers to attend foreign workshops, seminars and training courses to upgrade their HRM management practices.

The most responsible persons for HRM activities in some manufacturing firms are administrative managers who are not specifically trained in HRM area. But HRM responsibilities are entirely carried out by administrative managers using their experience, and knowledge of labor laws and registrations. Managers from some garment firms achieve HRM guidance from oversea buyers. Therefore, those managers perform normal HRM practices combined with other business administration activities. Administrative managers expressed frustration at not having sufficient time to deal with HRM issues because of other priorities such as output rate, reducing costs and on time delivery.

3.1.2 Recruitment Practices in Large Manufacturing Firms

In analyzing the recruitment practice, it can be seen that the majority of the surveyed firms are practising recruiting both within and outside the organization. Most common recruitment sources which are currently practised in the surveyed firms for managerial positions and non-managerial positions are shown in Table 5. Managerial position in this study means top level managers such as directors, general managers, administrative managers, HR managers and other line managers etc. Non-managerial position in this study means supervisors, office staff, accounting staff, store staff, sales persons, and production workers etc.

Table (5) Recruitment Methods for Non-managerial and Managerial Positions

Sr. No	Recruitment Methods	No. of firms	
		Non-Managerial Position	Managerial Position
1	Employee referrals	100	40
2	Recommendation from trusted persons	80	60
3	Advertising in journals and newspapers	52	100
4	Other sources (relatives, former employees etc.)	35	20
5	Walk-Ins	35	0
6	Employment agency	0	25

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

According to the results shown in Table 5 Surveyed firms recruit within the organization through the immediate boss referrals for promotion and job posting method. With regard to recruiting outside the organization, it can be found that the majority of firms use different sources for recruitment based on different positions.

3.1.3 Selection Practices in Large Manufacturing Firms

Selection practices which are currently adopted in the surveyed firms are shown in Table 6. Most of the surveyed firms use different selection methods for different positions.

Table (6) Selection Methods for Non- managerial and Managerial Positions

No	Selection Methods	No. of Firms	
		Non-Managerial Position	Managerial Position
1	CV form only	25	0
2	CV and personal interviews	100	100
3	CV and practical test	100	100
4	Reference check	100	100
5	Other skill tests (language, computer, etc.)	100	100
6	Medical check up	45	45
7	IQ test	5	40
8	Other tests (psychological, personality etc.)	0	8

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

As shown in Table 6, 25% of the firms used CV forms only for non-managerial positions for the urgent need of employees. Some firms have interview first, and then a successful candidate is allowed to fill up the CV form. CV and practical test are used to check employees' skills. Reference check is common because firms need to check labor registration card and letter of recommendation from the police station for the criminal clearance. Medical checkup is used because of suggestions and proposals from buyers. The personality tests are more preferred for use in managerial positions and IQ test, personality test, and psychometric tests is less commonly used because of lack of the experts, and resources.

3.1.4 Training and Development Practices in Large Manufacturing Firms

Most surveyed manufacturing firms rarely conduct training needs analysis. Table 7 shows the training and development practices of the surveyed firms.

Table (7) Training and Development Practices in Manufacturing Firms

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of Firms	
		Exercise	Not Exercise
1	Types of training		
	On the job training	100	0
	Off the job training	45	55
2	Trainers for on job training		
	Managers	75	25
	Technicians, outside experts etc.	35	65
	Supervisors	30	70
3	Training assessment methods		
	Observation	100	0
	Practical test	20	80
	Interview	15	85

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

As shown in Table 7, most firms, almost 100%, conduct in-house training. 45% of firms are using off-the-job training in combination with in house training. Off the job trainings used in the firms are in class training, workshops, seminars, and short courses. Most of the trainers for on the job training are senior staff such as managers from different respective fields, supervisors and line in charge. Some joint venture firms have received trainings from foreign technicians when it is needed to change product design based on customers' requirements. Evaluation of training effectiveness is informal and almost 100% carried out the training evaluation by the respective managers and supervisors through their close observation. But, 20 % of the firms set examinations and tests and only 15 % of the firms assess the effectiveness of training by interviewing for managerial positions.

3.1.5 Performance Appraisal Practices in Large Manufacturing Firms

A few firms have a systematic approach to performance appraisal system. Remaining firms pay attention to employee performance by using simple ways such as observing and talking to them, most for lack of experience in implementing sophisticated performance appraisal. Performance appraisal practices of surveyed firms are shown in Table 8.

Table (8) Performance Appraisal Practices in Manufacturing Firms

Sr. No	Particulars	No. of Firms	
		Performed	Not Performed
1	Bases of appraisal		
	Individual based	90	10
	Teams based	80	20
2	Types of appraisal		
	Observation	100	0
	Check list	18	82
	Rating	8	92
3	Appraisers		
	Owners/ Directors/General Manager	75	25
	Managers	85	15
	Supervisors	90	10
	Assessment team	15	85

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

As shown in Table 8, it can be seen that surveyed firms evaluate their employee performance based on individual and team work. Most firms assess their employee performance through close observation. Among the surveyed firms, especially in joint ventures with foreign companies, a variety of methods are used for employee performance appraisal. Some surveyed firms use check list for employee appraisal and some firms tend to use rating scales. In all the surveyed firms, it can be observed that appraisers are managers and supervisors. Owners/ directors/ general managers as the appraiser made final performance appraisal decisions by reviewing results which are reported from different managers and supervisors in some surveyed firms. Only a few firms made employee performance appraisal by organizing appraisal team. Concerning the frequency of appraisal, some surveyed firms conduct appraisals annually where as others carry out two times a year.

3.1.6 Reward Practices in Large Manufacturing Firms

The surveyed results show that different reward practices are being used based on firm size, employees' skill level and experience. Most firms perform increasing pay level based on factors which is shown in Table 9.

Table (9) Factors Affecting the Salary Increment in Surveyed Firms

Sr. No.	Factors	No. of Firms	%
1	Inflation	100	100
2	Individual performance	100	100
3	Group performance	100	100
4	Education level	100	100
5	Job evaluation	100	100
6	Seniority	100	100
7	Target achievement	90	90
8	Annual sales amount	75	75
9	Company's profits	60	60
10	Personal relations within the organization	5	5
11	Others (wage observation, and demand from employees etc)	100	100

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

As shown in Table 9, firms usually upgrade their salary level based on the inflation, individual and group performance, employees' education level, seniority and job evaluation. But personal reasons are rarely considered for salary increments. Reward practices applied large manufacturing firms are shown in Table 10.

Table (10) Reward Practices in Surveyed Manufacturing Firms

Sr. No	Items of rewards	Managerial Position	Non - managerial Position
1	Basic pays	✓	✓
2	Performance based pay	✓	✓
3	Bonus	✓	✓
4	Overtime	✓	✓
5	Promotion	✓	✓
6	Medical allowance	✓	✓
7	Uniform allowance	✓	✓
8	Travelling allowance	✓	✗
9	Car	✓	✗
10	Mobile phone	✓	✗
11	Ferry	✓	✓
12	Lunch	✓	✓
13	Maternity leave	✓	✗
14	Accommodation arrangements	✓	✓
15	Study leave	✓	✗
16	Holiday	✓	✓
17	Others(scholarship, salary saving etc)	✓	✗

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

According to Table 10, benefits between managerial and non-managerial positions are a bit different. Basically, most surveyed firms provide basic pay, performance-based pay, bonus, overtime premium, promotion, health care provision, uniform allowance, ferry, lunch and accommodation arrangements. Reward packages for managerial positions are also included in addition to salary; they are allowed to get car, mobile phones and study leave. In many of the factories, team bonuses are given to the supervisors and to the employees according to individual and group performance. Merit pay and profit sharing schemes are less common in Myanmar manufacturing firms. Manufacturing firms having over 200 employees have designated clinics where employees and family members are given free medical treatment, although usually there is a limit to the number of family members who can benefit from this service.

3.1.7 Employee Participation in Large Manufacturing Firms

Survey results reveal that employees are involved in decision making process to some extent in large manufacturing firms. Employee participation practices in large manufacturing firms are shown in Table 11.

Table (11) Employee Participation Practices in Manufacturing Firms

Sr. No	Employee participation practices	No. of Firms	
		Exist	Not Exist
1	Team work participation	100	0
2	Acceptance of suggestions from employees	100	0
3	Information sharing	100	0
4	Involvement in decision making	35	65
5	Involvement in problem solving	20	80
6	Sharing goals between employees and managers	10	90

Source: Surveyed data, 2010

The results in Table 3.21 show that most employees have been allowed in team work participation. In addition, almost all surveyed firms are willing to accept good suggestions from the employees in the field of product design, packing style, quality aspects and other workplace issues. Moreover, information sharing is one of the important factors to build up trust between firms and employees. Furthermore, employees from some surveyed firms are allowed to make decisions in their respective field to some extent, such as, treatment of absent workers, taking actions for failure to follow the rules and regulations within working hours etc. But this practice is not common in all surveyed manufacturing firms. Involvement in problem solving and sharing goals between employees and managers are accepted in a few firms by conducting meetings and discussions with employees from respective areas of organizations.

3.2 The Impact of HRM Practices on Employee Performance

Binary logistic regression analysis is applied to explore what factors predict the likelihood that respondents would react positively or negatively. In this study, independent variables are HRM practices such as recruitment and selection, training and development, performance appraisal, reward, employee participation and bundle of HRM. In addition, identification of dependent variable for this study is employee performance. Employee performance is measured by labor productivity, labor turnover rate, absenteeism rate and employee commitment. Specification of dependent variables included in the binary logistic regression model is shown in Table 12.

Table (12) Specification of Dependent Variables in Binary Logistic Regression Model

Sr. No.	Dependent Variables	Dependent Variable Coding
1	Productivity gain	1- Increased productivity
		0 – Decreased/neutral productivity
2	Labor Turnover rate	1 – Decreased turnover rate
		0 – Increased/neutral turnover rate
3	Absenteeism rate	1- Decreased absenteeism rate
		0- Increased/neutral absenteeism rate
4	Employee commitment	1- Highly committed
		0- Low committed

Source: Own identification based on SPSS for intermediate statistics, 2nd ed (2005)

According to Table 12, since the dependent variables should be dichotomous in a binary logistic regression, it was needed to make to transform a 0/1 coded. Employee commitment was measured by 5 point Likert scale and total number of measured items is 4. Therefore, it can be assumed that the coded value 0 is classified as low committed including the total score from 4 to 15. Similarly, the coded value 1 is organized as highly committed including total score from 16 to 20. In the case of labor productivity, the negative and zero results were coded to 0 which means lower and remains unchanged labor productivity within two years, from 2010 and 2009. But, positive results were coded to 1 indicating higher labor productivity within two years. In the case for labor absenteeism and turnover rate, the negative results were coded as 1 which means the decrease in labor absenteeism and turnover rate. On the other hand, positive and zero results were coded as 0 which points out the increase in labor absenteeism and turnover rate during these two years. The results of binary logistic regression analysis are divided into five Models based on combination of the independent variables and different dependent variables which is shown in Table 13.

Table (13) Identification of Independent and Dependent Variables for Binary Logistic Regression Analysis

No.	Independent Variables	Dependent Variables	Model
1	HRM Practices	Employee Commitment	Model 1
2	HRM Practices	Labor Productivity Gain	Model 2
3	HRM Practices	Decrease in Labor Absenteeism Rate	Model 3
4	HRM Practices	Decrease in Labor Turnover Rate	Model 4
5	Bundle of HRM Practices	Employee Commitment	Model 5-A
		Labor Productivity Gain	Model 5-B
		Decrease in Labor Absenteeism Rate	Model 5- C
		Decrease in Labor Turnover Rate	Model 5-D

Source: Own identification

According to Table 13, five different models represented the results of binary logistic regression analysis in this study, based on different combinations of independent and dependent variables. Summary comparisons of all of the results of binary logistic regression analysis from Model 1 to Model 5 are compared in Table 14.

Table (14) Summary Comparisons of All Results from Model 1 to Model 5

Dependent Independent	Employee Commitment	Labor Productivity	Decrease in Labor Absenteeism Rate	Decrease in Labor Turnover Rate
Recruitment and Selection	.628*	.735**	.813**	.669**
Training and development	.889**	.578*	.791**	.612*
Performance appraisal	.995**	1.147***	1.28***	1.32***
Reward system	1.316***	.887**	.648*	1.004***
Employee participation	.692*	.834**	.692**	.645*
Bundle of HRM practices	4.4***	4.1***	4.2***	4.2***

***, **, * Statistically significant at 1%, 5% and 10% level respectively.

Source: Based on Table 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20 and 4.21

According to the Table 14, the results of statistical analysis of relationship between HRM practices and employee performance show that the majority of the surveyed firms achieve high labor productivity, highly committed employees, low labor absenteeism rate, and low labor turnover rate by exercising HRM practices such as recruitment and selection, training and development, performance appraisal, reward practices and employee participation. On the other hand, owners and managers in some surveyed firms are still facing challenges of low labor productivity, less committed employees, high turnover rate, and high absenteeism problems especially in the case of low skilled employees. Main reasons for issues of employee performance come out with inefficiencies of recruitment and selection, inappropriate reward, lack of sufficient training, lack of systematic performance appraisal and lack of employee participation in some firms based on the survey results.

4. Suggestions and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions and recommendations are provided for the private large manufacturing firms to implement high performance, and high commitment based HRM as not only responses for current personnel issues but also as the proactive manner for facing future challenges and threats.

(1) Need for Changing Perspective of People Management

Business practitioners of people management in large manufacturing firms should change ideas, concepts, and practices to broader views of people management rather than focusing only on personnel recordkeeping and corrective action.

(2) Need for Commitment of Owners and Managers

HRM initiatives should get the full support from the people involved such as executives, managers and business owners. All concerned parties need to be genuinely and visibly committed to the implementation of HR philosophy, policies, procedures, program and practices in large manufacturing firms.

(3) Need for appropriate HRM Practices in Matching with Own Context

The study results describe that HRM practices adopted in the majority of the firms are largely based on practices applied in other firms. Therefore, there should be a good fit between the HRM approaches and the organizational characteristics and context to achieve sustained improvements in organizational performance.

(4) Need to Have a Separate HR Department

Large manufacturing firms should keep separate HR department to introduce HR strategies, policies and practices, to maintain talented workforce, to develop well-being of people, to make the best use of employee capacities, to make sure the quality of working life and to achieve employee satisfaction.

(5) Need for Shared Responsibilities of Line Managers

Successful implementation of HRM in firms does not depend solely on HR managers and HR professionals but individual employees and line managers also play an important role in accomplishment of HRM.

(6) Need for Systematic Recruitment and Selection Practices

Large manufacturing firms should take care of appropriate recruitment and selection techniques in order to achieve fitness of vacancies in respective firms and to attract people with more accurate expectations and better fit to the job of the firms.

(7) Need for Extensive Training and Development Practices

Business firms should continuously invest on training and development practices based on the market pressures and needs in order to remain competitive, produce quality goods and for efficiency. In addition, top management should ensure that training is on-going and covering a wide variety of activities and not as a dictate of fashion.

(8) Need for Systematic Performance Appraisal System

Large manufacturing firms should use systematic performance appraisal system to achieve ultimate outcomes of performance. In addition, firms should not focus on only one appraiser but should consult other appropriate persons in the performance appraisal process.

(9) Need for More Appropriate Rewards System

Firms should try to create an innovative reward system which is most appropriate with their employees' needs and conditions. Thus, owners and managers of large manufacturing firms should design reward system based on the analysis of needs, requirements, and individual condition of employees in order to retain committed and talented workforce.

(10) Need for High Level of Employee Participation

At a high level of participation, firms should allow employees to involve in problem solving and decision making to create high employee commitment and labor productivity. In addition, owners and managers from large manufacturing firms should treat employees as partners and it should be respected to employees' contribution.

(11) Need for Integration of HRM Practices

As the horizontal integration, HRM system of manufacturing firms should try to build linkages and integration between HRM activities to add value and achieve the ultimate contribution of HRM for the success of large manufacturing firms.

(12) Need for Contribution of Relevant Institutions

Effective participation and supports of relevant institutions are also essential for implementation of HRM practices in business firms. Cooperation between private and public sectors is necessary to achieve good industrial relationship.

(13) Need to prepare for the future

To respond effectively to these business challenges, the job of HR managers and administrative managers will become more difficult and challenging in the future. They would need to acquire new skills, values, attitudes in the discharge their new responsibilities successfully and to play a creative and developmental role in the future. In addition, not only HR managers and administrative managers but also employees need to have both the background knowledge of business and HRM practices.

5 Needs for Further Studies

This study only focuses on HRM of the private sector. Thus, HRM practices of the public sector in Myanmar should be explored as a further study in order to compare and contrast the two sectors. In addition, the total sample size of this study is 100 large manufacturing firms and 500 employees from core production areas. Therefore, further study with a larger sample firms should be conducted and considering larger number of employees from different departments. This study is to conduct impact of HRM practices in employee performance in large manufacturing firms. Therefore, further study should focus HRM practices on other sectors such as trading and service sectors in order to generate how different between HRM practices across different sectors. In addition, this study has highlighted only impact of five HRM practices on employee performance. Clearly, there is a need for greater analysis of more HRM practices such as employee motivation, flexible working arrangements, health and safety, and job design. Consequently, future study should describe the impact of HRM practices on organizational performance in terms of profitability, sales growth, customer satisfaction and market share.

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A Study on Juvenile Delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School Soe Wuttie Htoo¹

Abstract

The survey conducted in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School revealed interesting results pertaining to juvenile delinquency. The study concerns itself with a sample of 100 juvenile delinquents randomly selected from four hostels in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The survey was carried out through a pre-coded questionnaire, administered to four hostels with the assistance of the responsible persons in this training school. A large number of respondents are between the age of 16 and 18 years. Most of the respondents (43.0%) come from semi-urban of Yangon and almost all are Myanmar Buddhists. Among the 100 respondents, 10 respondents have never attended school and nearly one fourth (22.0%) of the remaining 90 respondents only has the primary level education. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents (50.0%) come from intact families that have faced the domestic violence. Most respondents (70.0%) committed theft case. Among 100 respondents, (30.0%) of them committed theft case because of financial difficulty and another (30.0%) committed theft case due to the peer influence.

1. Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is closely associated with fundamental changes in modern society to see the problem in its broader perspective. It is necessary to take into consideration the society's disruptive forces and process, as contrasted with the processes of integration; to consider the society social problem, of which delinquency and if a conspicuous example; and to note the changing attitude towards the problems of delinquent and deviant behavior. More than one million children worldwide are detained by law enforcement official.

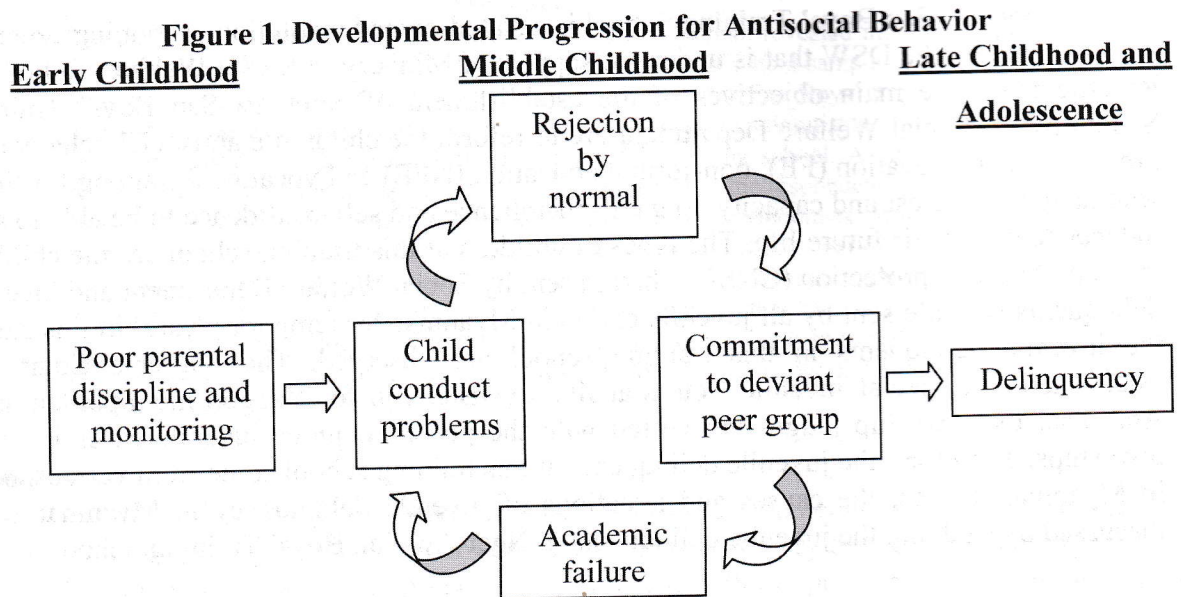
In Myanmar, the government organized the National Committee on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) in order to implement effectively and successfully the provisions of Myanmar child law in 1993. The main functions of NCRC are to protect the right of the child and to carry out measures for the best interest of the child with the cooperation and coordination of GOs, NGOs and INGOs. And also the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and government organization under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR). The DSW is carrying out social welfare services through preventive, protective and rehabilitative measures focusing on juvenile delinquents. There are eight training schools for boys/girls run by the DSW.

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Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School is a stated-owned institution or training center as it is operated by the DSW that is under the support of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The main objectives of the establishment of Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School by the Social Welfare Department are to reform the children's antisocial behavior, to provide formal education (FE), non-formal education (NFE) and vocational training for those who have the interest and capacity, to gain self-reliance and self-confidence to be able to stay independent in their future life. The types of children at this training school are the children in need of special protection (CNSP) who are sent by Social Welfare Department and juvenile delinquents who are sent by all juvenile courts in Myanmar for temporary care. In this study, the juvenile delinquents in this training school are observed. The Supreme Court has established five special Juvenile Courts at five townships in for Yangon metropolitan area. And also, the township judges are vested with the power to judge juvenile cases in other townships. Therefore, the juvenile delinquents in this training school come from various areas in Myanmar. Hence, the causes and situations of juvenile delinquency in Myanmar were discussed by studying the juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School.

2. Conceptual Framework on Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile Delinquency refers to antisocial or illegal behavior by children or adolescents. Delinquency is a legal term for criminal behavior carried out by a juvenile. It is often the result of escalating problematic behavior. The United Nations General Assembly defined "youth" as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years inclusive. This definition was made for the international year of Youth, held around the world in 1985. All United Nations statistics on youth are based on this definition, as illustrated by the annual yearbook of statistics published by the United Nations system on demography, education, employment and health.



Source: Patterson, Debarryshe, & Ramsey, 1989

In a nutshell, these early-occurring delinquents trigger the anger of their parents; alienate peers by their refusal to play by the rules, anger teachers with their disobedient and disruptive behavior, and short-circuit their own ability to master more prosaically skills (Prothrow-Stith & Weissman, 1991). These behaviors appear to be quite stable, beginning during preschool and continuing through old age (Moffitt & Harrington, in press). Overtime, the negative consequences snow-ball; these early delinquents lack the social skills necessary to find work or marriages that might enable them to drop out of crime (Caspi, Elder, & Bern, 1987; Patterson & Yoerger, 1993). Those who continue to commit crimes at the age of 25years are more apt to become dependent on alcohol and other drugs, abuse their spouse and children, and suffer from psychiatric disorder (Moffit, 1993).

3. Circumstances of Children in Myanmar

In Myanmar, children rights recognize immediate rights (civil, political rights and fundamental rights) as well as progressive rights (economic, social, cultural rights and rights to health and education) like human rights.

The category of rights provided by the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) are as follows:

- (1) Survival Rights: right to life and right to the highest standard of health and medical care
- (2) Protection Rights: protection from discrimination, abuse, neglects protection for children without families and refugee children.
- (3) Development rights: formal and non-formal education and the right to a standard of living which is adequate for child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development
- (4) Participation rights: right to express his/her view about all matters which concern him/her.

Without any consideration of sex, nationality and culture, a special protection is provided for children because of their age and development. This protection is afforded by States, institutions and individuals.

3.1. Children's Rights Institutions and National Coordinating Mechanism

The government ministries concerned with children are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, and Ministry of Religious Affairs. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is the leading ministry in implementing the national functions for children.

For abused and exploited children who are in need of protection from the Government, the Department of Social Welfare has established eight training schools for boys and girls to provide physical and mental rehabilitation services and reintegration programmes. One thousand two hundred and ninety-eight children are being taken care for all-round development. In doing so, after they are given formal education and vocational education, they have to return to parents/guardians. The reintegration programmes are also implemented. In addition, 13,836 children are being looked after in 158 Youth Development Centers.

The Department of Social Welfare focuses on rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. For the rehabilitation, specialized training schools have been established for the physically handicapped, hearing handicapped and mentally retarded- two schools for the blind, a school for the deaf, and a vocational training school for the disabled adults and a school for disabled children.

Twenty-seven youth development training schools have been established for the children in border areas to enable them to have access to education. Thirty-four women vocational training schools have also been provided with vocational training to girl children. The Nationalities Youth Technical Schools have been established for the youths from national races in the border areas. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Relief and Resettlement and other NGOs specially provided the following programmes;

- (1) Street/ working children: establishment of drop in centre, hostel, community development programme
- (2) A bandoned/orphan children: residential care and adoption service
- (3) Insitutionalised children: institutins run by government organization (GO) and non-government organization (NGO) providing education, vocational and social training, relocation program
- (4) Children is conflict with the law: protection in classification home,probation services
- (5) Disabled children: institutions run by GO and NGO, institutional care, community based prevention program
- (6) Abused and exploited children: situational analysis of advocacy meeting, awareness raising meeting and production of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.

The National Committee on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) was established in 1993 as a main coordination mechanism to systematically enforce the Child Law and the Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee was founded in 1999, which also aims to share information and knowledge in Asia-Pacific countries. However, there is no independent mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress regularly in the implementation of the CRC at the local and national levels

3.2 Type of Juvenile Delinquents in Myanmar

The term of juvenile is used to include all types of children. The children's rights from theory to practice in the literature classified juvenile delinquency into two types: pre delinquent juvenile and delinquent juvenile.

Pre delinquent juvenile: do not commit any offence, but shows strong tendencies towards committing offence such as staying away from their home without good reason, associated with a person of criminal propensity.

Delinquent juvenile: is of minimum age of criminal responsibility and has committed an offence.

3.3 Legal Protection for Juvenile Delinquents in Myanmar

Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on July 14th 1991. To comply with its principles, the child law was adopted in 1993 and the former Acts of 1930 and 1955 were repealed. Under the Child Law of 1993, courts come into contact with young offenders only when they are arrested for prosecution or sent up for trial. The Social Welfare Department (DSW) is the most responsible government agency for children in training and care.

4. Materials and Methods

Primary data was obtained from the field through the administration of structured questionnaires as well as personal observation.

The sample frame included the 100 juvenile delinquents in the four hostels in Nget-Aw-San Training School under the study. Data collected include their family background, peer influence and appearance. Nominal data was collected on the cases they committed to know why they became juveniles delinquents. These were tested by the use of closed questions where possible answers were defined in advance for the respondents to choose.

4.1 Methods of data analysis

The survey methods used in this study are both quantitative and qualitative method to find the overall causes and family situation of juvenile delinquency in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. Qualitative research employs mostly interviews and observations to gather information. In qualitative research method, the interviews were taken to get the correct and complete case studies from juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The quantitative research method is supported by the questionnaire to allow for the accommodation of statistical presentation of information.

The data obtained was analyzed using quantitative statistics such as frequency distribution tables and percentages with the aid of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 16 and Microsoft excel 2007.

5. Results and Discussions

5.1 Survey Area and Survey Population

The chosen survey site is Nget-Aw-San boys' Training School. The total number of juvenile delinquents in this training school is 315. In this study, 100 (31.7%) of the total juvenile delinquents from Nget-Aw-San Training School responded.

Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution among Four Hostels in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School

Hostel	Observed Frequency	
	Frequency	%
Ban-Du-La	20	20.0
Kyan-Sit-Thar	35	35.0
A-Laung-Pha-Yar	17	17.0
Ba-Yint-Naung	28	28.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Table 1 shows that an observed frequency of 20 (20.0%), 35(35.0%), 17(17.0%), and 28(28.0%) for four hostels, namely, Bandula, Kyan-Sit-Thar, A-Laung-Pha-Yar and Ba-Yint-Naung respectively in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The table clearly depicts the status of questionnaire distribution among the different, selected hostels in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School.

5.2 Demographic Particulars of Respondents

Some characteristics and family situation of 100 (31.7%) juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School are described as follows:

Table 2: Age of Respondents

Age groups (Years)	Frequency	%
8-10	1	1.0
11-15	41	41.0
16-18	58	58.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Note: "Other" includes races which are Chinese and Indian.

Table 2 describes the age group concerned; the largest number is between the 16 and 18 years of age (58.0%) followed by the age between 11 and 15 years (41.0%) which is commonly the expected age of juvenile delinquents at Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The smallest number is between the 8 and 10 years of age (1.0%) which points out this age group do not nearly include in crime cases.

Table 3: Educational Level of Respondents

Ever attended in school?	Frequency	%
Yes	90	90.0
No	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0
If yes, which grade?	Frequency	%
Grade 1	7	7.8
Grade 2	9	10.0
Grade 3	22	24.4
Grade 4	10	11.2
Grade 5	9	10.0
Grade 6	5	5.6
Grade 7	13	14.4
Grade 8	7	7.8
Grade 9	3	3.3
Grade 10	4	4.4
Grade 11	1	1.1
Total	90	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Table 3 shows that the educational level of the respondents. (90.0%) of the respondents surveyed who ever attended in school and another respondents (10.0%) who never attended school. Among the respondents 90 (90.0%) who ever attended in school, about one fourth (24.4%) of the 90 respondents have just finished only grade 3. Hence, the educational level of all respondents is very low because nearly one fourth of the 90 respondents only have the primary level education and another 10 respondents have never attended school.

5.3 Family Background of Respondents

Table 4: Family Socio-Economic Status

Expected monthly income of parents/guardians (in Kyats)	Frequency	%
Ks 10,000 & below	8	8.0
Between ks 10,000 & ks 30,000	41	41.0
Between ks 30,000 & 50,000	38	38.0
Ks 50,000 & above	13	13.0
Total	100	100.0
Number of children (or siblings) in the family	Frequency	%
One only	7	7.0
Two	20	20.0
Three to four	33	33.0
Five to six	24	24.0
Seven to eight	8	8.0
More than eight	5	5.0
Not a single one: I am the only child	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0
Number of children (or siblings) attending formal school in the family	Frequency	%
One	22	22.0
Two to three	24	24.0
Four to five	13	13.0
More than five	2	2.0
Nobody	39	39.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Table 4 shows that about half of the respondents' parents/guardians (41 or 41.0%) get income between ks 10,000 and ks 30,000 monthly, followed by income between ks 30,000 and ks 50,000 (38 or 38.0%), and income between ks 50,000 and above (13 or 13.0%) monthly. The lowest income group earns less than ks 10,000 (8 or 8.0%) per month. Hence, it can be interpreted that the respondents' families may be economically inactive because about half of the respondents' families earn income between ks 10,000 and ks 30,000 per month. The majority of families have three to four (33 or 33.0%) and five to six (24 or 24.0%) children to rise. The earning is too little to provide food, clothing, and especially education for children. According to the number of children's schooling, over one third of the respondents (39 or 39.0%) answer that there is no one who can attend the formal school in their family. It can be interpreted that the more financial problem there is, the lower socio-economic status in the respondents' family.

5.4 Committed Criminal Cases

Table 5: Causes of Committing, by Type of Respondents' Criminal Cases

Type of criminal cases		Causes of Committing						Total	
		Peer influence	Financial difficulty	Emotional effects	Accidental event	By force	Because of accusing		Other
Murder	Count	1	0	5	1	0	0	1	8
	% of Total	1.0%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	8.0%
Drugs	Count	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Hurts	Count	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	7
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	7.0%
Politic	Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Theft	Count	30	30	3	2	1	4	0	70
	% of Total	30.0%	30.0%	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	4.0%	0.0%	70.0%
Rape	Count	1	0	7	0	0	0	2	10
	% of Total	1.0%	0.0%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	10.0%
Gambling	Count	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Total	Count	36	30	17	5	2	5	5	100
	% of Total	36.0%	30.0%	17.0%	5.0%	2.0%	5.0%	5.0%	100.0%

Source: Surveyed Data

Note: 'Other' includes many reasons which are not clearly specified.

According to the Table 5, the highest rate (70.0%) of the respondents had committed theft case which is over the half of all types of committed crime. In the theft case, each highest same amount of the respondents (30 or 30.0%) reported that they had committed the crime because of peer influence and financial difficulty they/their family faced respectively. The second highest (10.0%) of the respondents had committed rape case. In the rape case, the (7 or 7.0%) of the respondents answered that they committed this crime because of their emotion such as need for immediate gratification which is the inter push factor for being juvenile delinquent describes in containment theory. In murder case, (8 or 8.0%) of the respondents had committed. Among the (8.0%), (5 or 5.0%) of the respondents did this case because of their emotion. In hurts case, (7 or 7.0%) of the respondents had committed, reported that causes of committing are emotional effects (2.0%), accidental event (2.0%), and other causes (2.0%). The respondent (2.0%) had committed drug case because of peer influence. And another (2.0%) did gambling case the same cause like the drug case. The lowest rate (1.0%) of the respondents had committed political case cause of giving force. The finding reflects that peer influence and financial difficulty are the most likely causes of committing.

5.5 Disciplinary Control

Table 6: Parents/Guardians Disciplinary Control on Respondents

Times of Parents/Guardians' Disciplinary Control	Frequency	%
Always	13	13.0
Sometimes	8	8.0
Often	36	36.0
Never	43	43.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

According to the parents/guardians' disciplinary control, Table 6 shows the largest number of respondents (43 or 43.0%) never get disciplinary control from their parents/guardians. But, the second highest rate of the respondents (36 or 36.0%) was often controlled with the discipline by their parents/guardians. It can be interpreted that nearly half of the respondents (43%) lived without discipline. Hence, children who grew up without parents/guardians' disciplinary control may commit crime easily. Thus, disciplinary control of parents/guardians is the relevant reason of being juvenile delinquents.

5.6 Peer Influence

Table 7: Respondents' Doing Things while Meeting with Friends, by Type of Criminal Cases

Type of criminal case		Respondents' Doing Things while Meeting with Friends							Total
		Drinking	Gambling	Smoking/Drug using	Watching TV/Video s	Playing TV games	One and over	Other	
Murder	Count	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	8
	% of Total	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	8.0%
Drugs	Count	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Hurts	Count	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	7
	% of Total	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	7.0%
Politic	Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Theft	Count	8	3	10	1	13	25	10	70
	% of Total	8.0%	3.0%	10.0%	1.0%	13.0%	25.0%	10.0%	70.0%
Rape	Count	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	10
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%	3.0%	1.0%	10.0%
Gambling	Count	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Total	Count	12	6	11	1	24	31	15	100
	% of Total	12.0%	6.0%	11.0%	1.0%	24.0%	31.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Source: Survey data

Note: 'Other' includes things respondents do which are not clearly specified.

Table 7 reports the results of a cross-correlation of data reflecting the doing things of the respondents while they meet with their friends. The cross-correlation data describes that just one fourth of the respondents (25 or 25.0%) not only they did one and over (i.e. not doing exactly one) but also those respondents committed theft case. The highest rate of respondents (70 or 70.0%) committed theft case. If so, it can be interpreted that just one fourth of the 100 respondents has the peer influence which is the relevant cause of committing theft case. In the second highest rate of the respondents (10 or 10.0%) committed rape case. (6 or 6.0%) of the 100 respondents did both committing rape case and playing TV games while they meet with their friends are the source to produce delinquent behaviors.

5.7 Media Influence

Table 8: Media Influence on Respondents

Wish to imitate like an actor or not	Frequency	%
Yes	71	71.0
No	29	29.0
Total	100	100.0
If yes, character respondents like the most	Frequency	%
Smoking/drinking/splitting	10	14.1
Gambling	4	5.6
Rudely killing	9	12.7
Fighting	28	39.4
Other	20	28.2
Total	71	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Note: 'Other' includes many characters which are not clearly specified.

Table 8 reports that over half of the respondents (71 or 71.0%) want to be actors. It can be reported that the (71.0%) of the 100 respondents ever imitated the character they like most as the actor did in the film. The over one third (28 or 28.0%) of the 71 respondents who want to imitate like the fighting in the film. Most respondents like action films. If so, it is noted that most respondents want to fight as the actors in the action film which is a motivated factor towards involvement in crime for being juvenile delinquents.

6. Conclusion

According to the results from above mentioned summary, it can clearly be seen that the main causes of juvenile delinquency among juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Training School are poverty, lack of education, peer influence, lack of disciplinary control and media influence.

The study found out the causes and family situation of juvenile delinquents, who are in the Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The results of the study indicated that most of the juvenile delinquents come from intact families. But, the families of the most juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San are on the poverty line. On other hand, the parents of most juvenile delinquents cannot provide both education and enough security for their children. Because even though they always struggle violently, they earn a small amount of money only for foods. In addition, most of their parents are misbehaved addicted persons such as alcoholics, gamblers, etc. Hence, most of the respondents brought up without parental control and discipline. It can be concluded that poverty is the main cause for juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The study also showed other relevant factors which are lack of education, and lack of disciplinary control. These factors are extra-consequences of poverty.

It is noted that environmental affects including peer and media influence played a vital role for being juvenile delinquents. It is also important to note that all delinquent juveniles in Nget-Aw-San do not come from deviant families although their societies might have been disorganized. There are juveniles who will take an effort to teach others the skills of committing juvenile activities and devote further efforts to convince them to stay in the delinquent side of life. In most cases delinquent children are made by others the skills of committing juvenile side of life. In most cases delinquent children are made by others or some adults to believe that they need to express their own needs, values, and norms and reflect their deviant culture.

Parental approaches to socialization also warrant blame, especially when it comes to the juvenile delinquency. Mostly, many parents are guilty of neglecting their children to fend on their own. Inconsistent ways of parenting or disciplining their children e.g. by spoiling them may cause children to disregard or disrespect other people or agencies called upon to exert formal discipline in society. As a result of this study, if children are not properly shaped by their parents, they may face the challenges in life.

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ပင်းယခေတ် အလှူမှတ်တမ်းတင် ကျောက်စာများမှ တွေ့ရသော ဆုတောင်းများနှင့် ဘာသာရေးအမြင်

သော်တာလွင်^၁

စာတမ်းအကျဉ်း

ပုဂံခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိတို့အလှူပြုပြီးလျှင် ဆုတောင်းလေ့ရှိကြသည်။ ထိုကဲ့သို့ပင် ပင်းယခေတ် အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိတို့အလှူပြုပြီးတိုင်း ဆုတောင်းလေ့ရှိကြသည်။ ထို့နောက် အလှူရှင်တို့သည် အလှူအတန်းများပြုပြီးလျှင် အလှူမှတ်တမ်းတင် ကျောက်စာများ ရေးထိုးလေ့ရှိကြသည်။ ပင်းယခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိတို့ အလှူပြုပြီးလျှင် မိမိတို့၏ စိတ်ဆန္ဒအတိုင်း နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆု၊ ဘုရားဆု၊ ယောက်ျားဆု စသည်ဖြင့် ဆုတောင်းအမျိုးမျိုးကို တောင်းလေ့ရှိကြောင်း လေ့လာတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ယင်းတို့ တောင်းသောဆုတောင်းများမှ တစ်ဆင့် ယင်းတို့၏ ဘာသာရေးအဆင့်အတန်းကို တွေ့မြင်နိုင်ပါသည်။

သော့ချက်စကားလုံးများ

နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆု၊ ဘုရားဆု၊ ယောက်ျားဆု၊ အထွေထွေဆုတောင်း၊

ရည်ရွယ်ချက်

ပင်းယခေတ် မြန်မာကျောက်စာများမှ စိတ်ဝင်စားဖွယ်ကောင်းသည့် အလှူမှတ်တမ်းများအကြောင်း သိစေလိုခြင်း၊ ထိုအလှူမှတ်တမ်းကျောက်စာများမှတစ်ဆင့် ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်များ၏ ဆုတောင်းပုံအမျိုးမျိုးကို သိစေလိုခြင်း ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အချက်အလက်နှင့် အသုံးပြုနည်း

ဤစာတမ်းတွင် ဦးငြိမ်းမောင်၏ ရှေးဟောင်း မြန်မာကျောက်စာများ၊ စောလူ၏ ပုဂံခေတ်မြန်မာစာ၊ သန်းထွန်း၏ခေတ်ဟောင်း မြန်မာရာဇဝင်တို့ကို အခြေခံ၍ လေ့လာထားပါသည်။ ယင်းလေ့လာချက်များမှ ထိုခေတ် အလှူရှင်တို့၏ ဆုတောင်းနှင့် ဘာသာရေးအမြင်ကို လေ့လာတင်ပြထားပါသည်။

၁။ နိဒါန်း

ဆုတောင်းခြင်းသည် မိမိဖြစ်လိုသောအခြေအနေ မိမိရလိုသောဘဝကို စိတ်ထဲ၌ ထားရှိခြင်း (သို့မဟုတ်) နှုတ်ဖြင့် မြွက်ဆိုခြင်းပင်ဖြစ်သည်။^၁ သို့သော် နှုတ်မှ မြွက်ဆိုတောင့် တရံဖြင့် မိမိ၏လိုအင်ဆန္ဒများသည် ပြည့်ဝနိုင်မည်မဟုတ်ပေ။ လိုလားသောဘဝကို ရရှိနိုင်အောင် ကြိုးပမ်းမှုရှိမှသာလျှင် ထိုအလိုဆန္ဒအတိုင်း ဖြစ်လာနိုင်ပေသည်။ ဤသဘောကိုသိသော ပင်းယခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် အလှူအတန်းများပြု၍ ဆုတောင်းကြသည်။ ဤသို့ မိမိတို့၏ အလှူမှတ်တမ်းတင်ကျောက်စာများအား တွေ့မြင်နေသရွေ့ မိမိတို့၏ ကုသိုလ်များကိုလည်း ပွားများသကဲ့သို့ ဖြစ်နေသည်။ ဤသို့ ပွားများခြင်းဖြင့် မိမိတို့၏ အလိုဆန္ဒများပြည့်ဝစေရန်အတွက်လည်း ကြိုးစားမှုတစ်ရပ်ဖြစ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

၂။ ဆုတောင်းအမျိုးမျိုး

ပင်းယခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် ဆုတောင်းများကို မိမိတို့၏ စိတ်ကူးအမျိုးမျိုးဖြင့် တောင်းလာကြ သည်။ အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိတို့၏ အလိုဆန္ဒအမျိုးမျိုးအတွက် ဆုတောင်းကြရာတွင် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆု၊ ဘုရားဆု၊ ယောက်ျားဆုနှင့် အထွေထွေဆုတောင်းဟူ၍ ဆုတောင်းအမျိုးမျိုးကို လေ့လာတွေ့ရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

၂-၁။ နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆု

နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုဆိုသည်မှာ ဝဋ်ဆင်းရဲမှ လွတ်မြောက်ခြင်းအတွက် တောင့်တလိုလားချက်ပင်ဖြစ်ပါ သည်။^၂ နိဗ္ဗာန်သည် ပါဠိအခေါ် နိဗ္ဗာန၊ သက္ကတအခေါ် နိဝါန၊ ပါဠိသက် မြန်မာခေါ် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆိုသည်မှာ “ငြိမ်းရာ၊ ငြိမ်းကြောင်း” ဟု ဆိုလိုရင်းဖြစ်သည်။ ရာဂမီး၊ ဒေါသမီးစသော မီး (၁၁)ပါးတို့၏ ငြိမ်းရာချုပ်ရာ ဖြစ်သောကြောင့် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဟု ခေါ်ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။^၃

နိဗ္ဗာန်သည် ဒုက္ခမှ လွတ်ငြိမ်းခြင်းအခြေအနေဖြစ်သည်။ အမြင့်မြတ်ဆုံးသော ရွှင်လန်းချမ်းမြေ့မှု၏ အခြေအနေဖြစ်သည်။^၄

နိဗ္ဗာန်သည် ကိလေသာတို့၏ ကင်းရာ ပျောက်ရာဖြစ်၍ ဒုက္ခအဖုံဖုံတို့၏ ကုန်ရာကင်းရာလည်းဖြစ် သည်။ ဤကဲ့သို့ ဒုက္ခများမရှိ၍ ငြိမ်းအေးမှုဟူသော အငြိမ်းဓာတ်သာရှိပေသည်။ နိဗ္ဗာန်တွင် လောကနှင့် လိုချင်စရာဟူ၍ ဘာမျှမရှိပေ။ ဣဿ၊ မစ္ဆရိယ၊ ကိလေသာ စသည်တို့လည်း မရှိပေ။ အဝိဇ္ဇာကင်းသော ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များသာ နိဗ္ဗာန်၏ အရသာကို ခံစားကြရသည်။

ပင်းယခေတ် ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင်တို့သည် နိဗ္ဗာန်၏သဘောကို သိရှိသည့်အတွက် နိဗ္ဗာန်ကို မျက်မှောက် ပြုရန် တောင်းထားသောဆုများကို များစွာတွေ့ရသည်။ ရှေးဟောင်းမြန်မာကျောက်စာများကို လေ့လာရာတွင် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုကို တောင်းသည့်ဆုတောင်းများကို လေ့လာတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။

^၁ အရှေ့တိုင်း ယဉ်ကျေးမှု ပို့ချချက် အတွဲ (၂)

^၂ မြန်မာအဘိဓာန် အတွဲ (၂)

^၃ နိဗ္ဗာန်ဝါဒသမိုင်း ဆရာမာဃ

^၄ နိဗ္ဗာန် ပါဠိ

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သက္ကရာဇ် ၆၇၂ မိဖုရားစော ကျောက်စာတွင်

“ခပ်သိမ်းသော သံသရာဆင်ငြယ်ကတ်ရာ ဖြစ်သော နိတ်ရပန်ဆုကို လိုချင်သည်ကြောင့်”^၁

ဟူ၍ အလှူရှင် မိဖုရားစောသည် မြေနှင့်ကျွန်တို့ကို လှူသည်။ ဤသို့ အလှူပြုခြင်းမှာ ခပ်သိမ်းသော သံသရာဆင်းရဲတို့ ကင်းဝေးရာ ကျွတ်လွတ်ရာ နိဗ္ဗာန်ကို ရောက်လိုသည်ဟု မိမိ၏ လိုအပ်ဆန္ဒကို ရည်ရွယ်ချက်အသွင်ဖြင့် ဖော်ပြရေးထိုးထားပါသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၆၇၈ မြတ်ကြီးညောင် မယားကျောက်စာတွင်

“ဤကောင်မူကိုပင် မွတ်နိုးဝိပင်ပါသသူက ဖုန်းကြီးအသက်ရှည်စွာ အံနာမယ်ဖွစ်ရယ် အဆုံကာ အမြိုက်ချံယန် နိရပန်ချံသာ ရစိယ်ကုန်သတေ”^၂

ဟူ၍ အလှူရှင်မြတ်ကြီး ညောင်မယားသည် မိမိ၏ ကျွန် (၅)ယောက်ကို မဟာထေရ်၊ မင်းမတ်ကလန်၊ သံပျင်စသူတို့၏ ရှေ့မှောက်တွင် ဆရာသခင်အားလှူ၏။ ထိုအလှူကို မြတ်နိုးချီးပင့်သူသည် ဖုန်းကြီး၍ အသက်ရှည် စွာ အနာရောဂါလည်း ကင်းဝေးပါစေဟူ၍ ဆုတောင်းပြီး နောက်ဆုံးဘဝတွင် နိဗ္ဗာန်ချမ်းသာကို ရပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းထားပါသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၆၉၄၊ စစ်သူကြီး လကျပ်တိယံမောင်နံကျောက်စာတွင်

“ငါပျူသော ကောင်မူ အကျိုက်ကာ၊ ရေဓမ္မစိုပ်သော၊ မင်းကြီးစသအမတျာ ပိုပ်ပါ သဗ္ဗသတ္တဝါ ခပ်သိမ်းလျှင် ငါနှင့်ထပ်တူ ရစပါစိယ်ကုန် သတေ အဆုံမိစွန်ကာ နိယံရပန်ဆုကို ရချင်သတေ”^၃

ဟူ၍ မိမိသည် ဘုရားရှင်အား လယ်၊ ကျွန်၊ နွား စသည်တို့ကို လှူရသော ကောင်းမှုအကျိုးကြောင့် ရေမြေကို အစိုးရသော မင်းကြီး၊ အမတ်၊ ဗိုလ်ပါနှင့် သတ္တဝါခပ်သိမ်းတို့သည် မိမိနှင့်အတူ ရပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းပေးထားပြီး မိမိသည်လည်း သံသရာ၏အဆုံး နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုကို ရချင်ပါသည်ဟု ဆုတောင်းထားသည်ကိုလည်း လေ့လာတွေ့ ရှိရပါသည်။

ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် သံသရာ၌ အဖန်တလဲလဲ မကျင်လည်လို၍ ဆင်းရဲခပ်သိမ်းကင်းငြိမ်း၍ ချမ်းသာစွာ နေရသည့် မြတ်နိဗ္ဗာန်ကို ရောက်မှ လူ့ဘဝ၏လိုအပ်ဆန္ဒများဖြစ်သည့် လောဘဒေါသမောဟများ ချုပ်ငြိမ်းမည်ကို သိရသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆု တစ်ခုတည်းကိုပင် တောင်းကြသည်ကို တွေ့ရသည်။

သို့သော် ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင်တို့သည် ကံ၊ ကံ၏ အကျိုးကို ယုံကြည်သူများဖြစ်သည်။ မိမိတို့ကောင်းမှု ပြုလျှင် ကောင်းသောအကျိုးကိုရ၍ မကောင်းမှုပြုလျှင် မကောင်းကျိုးကိုသာ ရရှိမည်ကို သိကြသူများဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင်တို့သည် သံသရာအဆက်ဆက်တွင် ဆင်းရဲတွင်းသို့ တွန်းချမည့် မကောင်းမှုဒုစရိုက်များ ကို ရှောင်၍ ကောင်းသောအမှုများကိုသာ ပြုလုပ်ကြသည်။ “ဘယ်သူမပြု၊ မိမိမှု” “မိမိသည်သာ အားကိုးရာ” ဟူသော သဘောထားအမှန်ကို သိရှိကြသူများသည် မိမိတို့ကောင်းမှု ပြုပြီးတိုင်း နိဗ္ဗာန်မရမီ ကြားဘဝများ၌ လူ

^၁ ငြိမ်းမောင် (တတွဲ)၊ ၂၄၇၊ ၁၉၈၃။
^၂ ငြိမ်းမောင် (တတွဲ)၊ ၂၇၂၊ ၁၉၈၃။
^၃ ငြိမ်းမောင် (တတွဲ) ၃၂၆၊ ၁၉၈၃။

ချမ်းသာ၊ နတ်ချမ်းသာများကို တောင်းတတ်ကြသည်။ ပြီးမှသာ အေးချမ်းရာ နိဗ္ဗာန်ချမ်းသာကိုသာ တောင်းတတ်ကြသည်။

လူချမ်းသာဟူသည်မှာ လူဘုံ၊ လူ့ဌာန၌ သူဌေး၊ သူကြွယ်၊ ပညာရှိ၊ ဂုဏ်ပကာသနစသည့် ချမ်းသာများကို ခံစားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။ နတ်စည်းစိမ်မှာ စတုမဟာရာဇ် တာဝတိံသာ၊ ယာမာ၊ တုသိတာ၊ နိဗ္ဗာန်ရတီ၊ ပရိနိဗ္ဗိတ၊ ဝဿဝတီ နတ်ပြည်ခြောက်ထပ်နှင့် ဗြဟ္မာဘုံ (၂၀)တို့တွင် ခြွေရံအပေါင်း စုံလင်စွာ ခံစားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။

ဤသို့ အလှူရှင်တို့သည် အလှူပြုပြီးတိုင်း လူစည်းစိမ်၊ နတ်စည်းစိမ်တို့ကို ခံစားပြီးမှသာလျှင် နိဗ္ဗာန်စည်းစိမ်ကို တောင်းတလေ့ရှိကြသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၆၈၁ အနန္တသူဘုရားကျောက်စာတွင်

“ကောင်မူကိုဝ် ခိပင်ပါသာသူကာ ငါနှင့်အတူရစပါစေသတည်း၊

လူစည်းစိမ်၊ နတ်စည်းစိမ်၊ စည်းစိမ်စုန်ဆန်

ခံစားပြီးမူကာ အဆုံမိစ္ဆာကာ နိဗ္ဗာန်ချမ်းသာခံစရ စေသတည်း”^၁ဟု

ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။ အလှူရှင် အနန္တသူမောင်နှံသည်၊ ဘုရားရှင်အား ဆွမ်းလှူရာတွင် ဦးစွာကပ်နိုင်ရန် ကျွန်ကိုလှူသည်။ ဤသို့မိမိအလှူကို ချီးပင့်သူတို့အား ဆုတောင်းပေးသည်မှာ မိမိ၏ ကောင်းမှုကုသိုလ်များကို မိမိနှင့်အတူရ၍ လူစည်းစိမ်၊ နတ်စည်းစိမ်များကို အပြန်ပြန်အလှန်လှန်ထပ်ကာ၊ ထပ်ကာ ခံစားပြီး နောက်ဆုံးဘဝ ရောက်မှသာ နိဗ္ဗာန်တည်းဟူသော ချမ်းသာကို ရကြပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။ အလှူရှင်သည် လောကီသားပီပီ လူ၊ နတ်စည်းစိမ်များကို စိတ်တိုင်းကျ ခံစားလိုသူဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဤဆုတောင်းမှ အလှူရှင်သည် လောကီ စည်းစိမ်ကို မက်မောသူတစ်ဦးဖြစ်ကြောင်း သိနိုင်ပါသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၇၂၅၊ မင်းမတ်ကြီး ပိတ္တရစ်မောင်နှံ ကျောက်စာတွင်

“ဣာ ခွာင် အာနှင့် ပွည်စုံမိသော သူတပ်မွတ်တိုဝ် အရေအရံမ်

ယူစပါသော သူတို့အာ ဤလူတွင် လေည် အနာမဟိ သော ဖြစ်ရယ်၊

အသက်ရှည်စွာ နေရစေ၏။ နှလုံဆင်ရဲကိုဝ် ဆင်ငြိခပ်သိမ်ဖျောက်ရယ်

ခပ်သိမ်းသော စေည်စိမ်ချံသာနှင့် ပွည်စုံသော ဖြစ်စေ၏ အတေည်မယ်သော

တြာ ဖြစ်ခဲသော လေည် သံသရာ ကျင်လေည်ရရာ ဆင်ငြိ မှန်မသိမူရယ်၊

လူစည်စိမ်၊ နတ်စည်စိမ် ခံစပြီရယ် အဆုံမဲကာ လိုဝ်သောဆုကိုဝ်လေည်

ရရယ် နိတ်ပန်ချံသာရောက်စေကုန်သတေည်”^၂

ဟူ၍ သဒ္ဒါတရားနှင့် ပြည့်စုံသော သူတော်သူမြတ်တို့၊ အရေးယူသော သူတို့သည် ဖြစ်လေရာ ဘဝတွင် အနာမရှိ အသက်ရှည်စွာ နေရ၍ စိတ်ဆင်းရဲ၊ ကိုယ်ဆင်းရဲအပေါင်းတို့ ကင်းဝေးသော စည်းစိမ်ချမ်းသာနှင့် ပြည့်စုံပါစေဟူ၍ ဆုတောင်းထားပြီး အလှူရှင်သည် မမြဲခြင်းဟူသောတရားကို သိရှိသည့်အတွက် သံသရာထဲတွင် ကျင်လည်နေသမျှ ဆင်းရဲမှန်းမသိသော လူစည်းစိမ်၊ နတ်စည်းစိမ်တို့ကို ခံစားပြီးလျှင် နောက်ဆုံးဘဝတွင် မိမိလိုသည့်ဆုရ၍ နိဗ္ဗာန်ချမ်းသာကို ရောက်ကြပါစေကုန်ဟု ဆုတောင်းထားသည်ကို တွေ့ရပါသည်။

^၁ ငြိမ်းမောင် (တတွဲ)၊ ၂၉၀၊ ၁၉၈၃။

^၂ ငြိမ်းမောင် (စကဲ)၊ ၁၁၁၊ ၁၉၈၃။

ဟု
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ပုဂံခေတ်မှစ၍ ယနေ့ခေတ်တိုင် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုတောင်းသောသူသည် ဘာသာရေးအမြင်ရင့်သန်နေပြီဟု ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။ နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုတစ်ခုတည်းသာတောင်းသောသူ၏ အမြင်မှာ ခန္ဓာရလျှင် ဒုက္ခသစ္စာဟုခေါ်သော ဒုက္ခဆင်းရဲ ခြင်းနှင့်သာ တွေ့ကြုံရမည်ကို သိသည့်အတွက် ဆင်းရဲခြင်းကင်းရာ အေးငြိမ်းရာအမှန် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုကိုသာ တောင်း ကြခြင်းဖြစ်သည်ဟု ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။ နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုသည် ထေရ်ဝါဒဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင် အားလုံး၏ အမြင့်ဆုံးသော ရည်မှန်း ချက်ပန်းတိုင်ဖြစ်သည်။

၂-၂။ ဘုရားဆု

ပင်းယခေတ်သူခေတ်သားတို့သည် ဗုဒ္ဓဝါဒ၏ ဆုံးမချက်အရ မည်သည့်အရာမျှ မတည်မြဲဟူသော တရားကို နားလည်ကြသည့်အလျောက် ဒါနဟူသော အလှူကိုပြုကြသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဖြစ်နိုင်လျှင် အသဒိသဒါန ဟူ၍ သူတစ်ထူးတို့လိုက်၍ မမီနိုင်စွမ်းအောင် ပေးကမ်းခြင်းဖြင့် နိဗ္ဗာန်သို့ သွားအံ့ဟူ၍ လူတိုင်းမျှော်မှန်းထား သည်။ သို့သော် အလွန်ခွဲကြီးသူများမှာ ဘုရားဆုပန်ကြသည်။ ဘုရားဆုတောင်းရာ၌ သဗ္ဗညုဆုတောင်းခြင်း၊ သဗ္ဗညုတဆုတောင်းဟူ၍ ကွဲပြားစွာ ရေးထိုးကြသော်လည်း အဓိပ္ပာယ်မှာ အတူတူပင်ဖြစ်သည်။ ဘုရားဆုပန်ခြင်း သည် အထွတ်အမြတ်ဆုံးဖြစ်သည်။

သစ္စာလေးပါးကို ပိုင်းခြားသိမြင်တော်မူသော ဘုရားအဖြစ်သို့ ရောက်ရန်ဆုတောင်းကြရာ၌ အများ စုမှာ မင်း၊ မိဖုရား၊ မှူးမတ်များသာဖြစ်ကြသည်ကို တွေ့ရသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၆၉၉ မဟာဝိဟာရကျောင်းတော်ကျောက်စာတွင်
“ဤငါလှူသကောင်မှု အက္ခိဝံကာ ခပ်သိမ်သ လူနတ်ဗြဟ္မာ သတ္တဝါတိုဝ်ကိုဝ်
ဓမ္မစကြာတြာ လိုယ်ကြိထက်တင်ရယ်၊ နိဗ္ဗာန်ပြည်သိုဝ် သယ်နိုင်သော ဖုရာဆု မွတ်ကိုဝ်လျှင်
လိုခွင်သတေ”^၁

ဟူ၍ အလှူရှင်သည် မိမိလှူခဲ့ပြီးသော ကောင်းမှုအကျိုးကြောင့် လူနတ်ဗြဟ္မာသတ္တဝါတို့ကို ဓမ္မစကြာတရားဟူ သော လှေကြီးထက်တင်၍ ဓမ္မစကြာတရားကို ဟောကြား၍ နိဗ္ဗာန်ပြည်သို့ ရောက်အောင် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်သော ဘုရားဆုကို လိုချင်ပါသည်ဟု ဆုတောင်းထားပါသည်။

မြတ်စွာဘုရားရှင်သည် ဘုရားဖြစ်တော်မူပြီး မိမိအားပြုစုသော ပဉ္စဝဂ္ဂီ (၅)ဦးတို့အား ဓမ္မစကြာ တရားတော်ကို ဟောကြားတော်မူသည်။ ဓမ္မစကြာတရားတော်သည် တရားဦးပင်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ဓမ္မစကြာတရား တော်ကြီးကို ကြားနာရသည့် နတ်ဗြဟ္မာပေါင်း (၁၈)ကုဋေမျှမဂ်၊ ဖိုလ်တရားထူးကို ရသွားကြသည်။ လူသားဖြစ် သည့် ပဉ္စဝဂ္ဂီရဟန်းငါးဦးထဲမှ အရှင်ကောဏ္ဍညမှာ ဖြစ်ပေါ်သောတရားဟူသမျှသည် ချုပ်ငြိမ်းရခြင်းသဘော ဖြစ်သည်ဟု သိမြင်သော တရားမျက်စိ (ခေါ်)“သောတာပတ္တိမဂ်ဉာဏ်” ဖြစ်ပေါ်ပြီး “သောတာပန်”ဖြစ်သွား သည်။^၂

^၁ ငြိမ်းမောင် (တက္က)၊ ၃၆၄၊ ၁၉၈၃။

ဤအကြောင်းကိုသိသော အလှူရှင်သည်လည်း ဓမ္မစကြာတရားဦးကို ဟောကြား၍ လူနတ်ဗြဟ္မာ တို့အား နိဗ္ဗာန်သို့ ရောက်အောင် ပို့ပေးချင်သူဖြစ်သည်။ ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် ဗုဒ္ဓတရားတော်ကို သက်ဝင် ယုံကြည်သူများဖြစ်သည်။ ဘာသာရေးခံယူချက်ရှိသူဖြစ်သည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၇၂၇၊ ရာဇသင်္ကြံကျောင်းကျောက်စာတွင်
“အစိုဝ်ရသော အခါသင်္ဃာ ဖိုလ်ကိုဝ် ကြောက်စွာ ရကာ သဗ္ဗသတ္တဝါ
လူ နတ္တိကာ တိုဝ်ကိုဝ် သင်္ဃာရာမှ ကံပေးနိုင်သော သဗညုတညဉ်
ဘုရားဆုကိုဝ် ပွည်ချင်သောကြောင့်”^၁

ဟူ၍ အလှူရှင်သည် ဒုက္ခဆင်းရဲ၊ သံသရာဘေးကို ကြောက်သောကြောင့် လူနတ်တကာ သတ္တဝါတို့အား သံသရာဘေးဒုက္ခမှ ကယ်တင်ပေးနိုင်သော သဗ္ဗညုတညဉ်ဆုကို လိုချင်သောကြောင့်ဟု မိမိ၏ဆန္ဒကို ဖော်ထုတ် ရေးထိုးထားပါသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၇၀၂၊ မင်းမတ်ဥဒိန်ကြီးကျောင်းကျောက်စာတွင်
“ဒိပင်ပါသ မင်ကြိမိဘုရား စစ်သူကြီးအမတ် ရှယ်တင်နေ ငဆုယ်
င အမျိုဝ်အလုံ ငါနှင့်အတူ ရစပါစေတေ၊ ဘုရားဆုလိုဝ်သတေ”^၂

ဟူ၍ အလှူရှင်သည် မိမိအလှူကို ချီပင့်သော မင်းကြီး၊ မိဖုရား၊ စစ်သူကြီး စသော ဆွေမျိုးများအားလုံးပင် မိမိနှင့်အတူ ရပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းပေးထားသည်။ မိမိသည်လည်း ဘုရားဆုကို လိုချင်သည်ဟု ဆုတောင်းထား ပါသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၇၆၂၊ ထွဋ်တင်မာရ်အောင်ဘုရားကျောက်စာတွင်
“ဤသိုဝ် ငါလှူသ အကျိုဝ်ကာ ငသျှင်မဲမင်၊ ငသျှင်မင်ကြိလင်များ ငသျှင်နှမ၊
ငသျှင် ငမင်ရဲ၊ ငသျှင်ငီမင်တရားဖျာ၊ အမတ်ကြီးများသံပျင်ကလန် ငမျာ၊
ငသာ၊ ငမွေ၊ ငမွစ်၊ ငက္ကေ၊ ငက္ကုန်၊ သဗ္ဗသတ္တဝါခပ်သိမ် ငါနှင့်ထပ်တူ
ရကြလိုဝ်၏ အဆုံမိစ္ဆန်ကာ၊ ဗောဓိပန်လင်ထက်၊ ထဝယ်တင်ပျည်ပုံမိ၊
ဆောင်ချည်ရယ်၊ လူနတ်တကာ သဗ္ဗသတ္တဝါကိုဝ်၊ ထိုဝ်မှဘက္ကော၊
ဤမှဘက်သိုဝ် ဤမှဘက္ကော ထိုမှဘက်သိုဝ် ကံပေတတ်သော၊
ကောတမဟူသော ဖုရာဆုမွတ် မခတ် ငါကာပွည်ချင်သော”^၃

ဟူ၍ ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။ အလှူရှင်သည် မိမိ၏ ဆွေမျိုးနှင့်တကွ သတ္တဝါအပေါင်းအား မိမိနှင့် ထပ်တူရစေရန် ဆုတောင်းပေးထားသည်။ ပြီးမှသာ မိမိသည် သံသရာ၏ နောက်ဆုံးဘဝတွင် ဗောဓိပလ္လင်ထက် တင်ပလ္လင်ခွေ ထိုင်တော်မူပြီး သတ္တဝါတို့ကို သံသရာတစ်ဖက်ကမ်းမှ တစ်ဖက်ကမ်းသို့ ကယ်ပေးနိုင်သော ဂေါတမအမည်ရှိ သော ဘုရားဆုကို ငါသည် ပြည့်ချင်ပါသည်ဟု ဆုတောင်းထားပါသည်။ အလှူရှင်၏ ဆုတောင်းကို ကြည့် ခြင်းအားဖြင့် အလှူရှင်သည် ဘာသာရေးခံယူချက်မြင့်မားသူဖြစ်သည်။

^၁ ငြိမ်းမောင် (စတွဲ)၊ ၁၅၁၊ ၁၉၉၈။

^၂ ငြိမ်းမောင် (စတွဲ)၊ ၁၄၊ ၁၉၉၈။

ပုဂံခေတ်မှစ၍ အလှူရှင်တို့သည် ဘုရားဆုကိုလည်း တောင်းကြကြောင်း လေ့လာတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ဘုရားဆုတောင်းသည် အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိကိုယ်ကျိုးအတွက်သာမကြည့်ဘဲ အများအကျိုးအတွက်ကြည့်သူ၊ လူအများကို သံသရာဝဋ်ဆင်းရဲမှ ကယ်တင်လိုသူများဖြစ်သည်။ မိမိအေးချမ်းသကဲ့သို့ လူအများကို အေးချမ်းစေလို သည့် ဆန္ဒရှိသူဖြစ်သည်ဟု ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဘုရားဆုတောင်းသော အလှူရှင်တို့၏ စိတ်ထားသည် မြင့်မြတ်သော သဒ္ဓါတရား၊ မြင့်မြတ်သော စိတ်ထားရှိသောသူများ ဖြစ်သည်ဟု ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။

၂-၃။ ယောက်ျားဆု

ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်များသည် ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာအယူဝါဒကို ယုံကြည်ကိုးကွယ်မှုအမြင်အရ အလှူရှင် အမျိုးသမီးများသည် အမျိုးသားထက် ထူးခြားစွာ နိမ့်ကျသူများ မဟုတ်ကြပေ။ သို့သော် ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာယုံကြည် ကိုးကွယ်မှု အမြင်အရ အမျိုးသားအဖြစ်ကိုရမှသာ ဘုရားအဖြစ်ရရှိနိုင်မည်ဟူသော ဘာသာရေးယုံကြည်ချက် ကြောင့် အမျိုးသမီးများသည်လည်း ယောက်ျားဆုတောင်းလေ့ရှိကြသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၇၂၇၊ ရာဇသေကြီးကျောင်း ကျောက်စာတွင်

“ဤ ကြွေဝ် ပွရုယံ လှူသ အက္ခိန္တကာ သင်္ခရာ ကျင်လည်ရရာကာ ငါတောင်သာ ဆု မပွည့်မချင် အဆင်လှသကိုဝ်၊ အသံသာသကိုဝ် အမျိုဝ် မွသကိုဝ် သူတထူ က္ကညူကို သိတတ်သကိုဝ် သိမ်ပုယ် သပြည့်နှင့် ပွည့် သောကိုဝ် အသက်ရှည်သကိုဝ် အနာမဲသောကိုဝ် ပေမကံသ မခန်သကိုဝ် အာဆဲပါနှင့် ပွည့် သကိုဝ် သဗ္ဗသတ္တဝါ သကြာဗြဟ္မာ နတ္ထကာကိုဝ် သင်္ခရာ အခံကံတဖက်သိုဝ် အညာဆန်ရယ် နိပန်ကုတိုဝ် ပိုင်ရသ ယောက်ျားမွတ်လေ ငါကာ မချွတ်ဖွစ်ချင်သတေ”

ဟူ၍ ကျောက်စာတွင် အလှူရှင်သည် ပထမဦးစွာ ဘဝသံသရာထဲ၌ ကျင်လည်စဉ်တွင် မိမိတောင်းသောဆု မပြည့်မချင်း ဖြစ်လေရာဘဝတွင် အဆင်းလှသောကိုယ်၊ အသံသာသောကိုယ်၊ သိမ်မွေ့သောပညာနှင့် ပြည့်စုံ သောကိုယ်၊ အသက်ရှည်သောကိုယ် စသည်ဖြင့် မိမိ၏ အလိုဆန္ဒများကို ဖော်ထုတ်ထားပါသည်။ ထိုမျှမက သတ္တဝါခပ်သိမ်း သိကြားမြဟ္မာနတ်အပေါင်းတို့အား သံသရာထဲမှ ကယ်တင်နိုင်သော ယောက်ျားမြတ်တို့၏ဘဝကို ရရှိပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းထားသည့် အလှူရှင်သည် အမျိုးသားဖြစ်သော်လည်း အလှူအပကို မက်မောသူဖြစ်သည်။ ယဉ်ကျေးသိမ်မွေ့မှုကိုလည်း မြတ်နိုးသူတစ်ဦးဖြစ်သည်။ အလှူအတန်းတွင်လည်း ရက်ရောသည်။ ဤသို့ အလှူရှင်၏ ဆုတောင်းမှ အလှူရှင်၏ စိတ်သဘောထားကို တွေ့မြင်နိုင်ပါသည်။ အလှူရှင်သည် စိတ်ကူးဆန်းကြယ် စွာ ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။

အလှူရှင်သည် အား (၁၀)ပါးနှင့် ပြည့်စုံရပါလို၏ဟု ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။ အားဆယ်ပါးသည် မြတ်စွာဘုရားသခင်၏ ဉာဏ်တော်အားဆယ်ပါးဖြစ်သည်။ ကိုယ်တော်အားဆယ်ပါးဟုလည်း ခေါ်သည်။

ယင်းတို့မှာ-

- (၁) အရာဟုတ်သည် မဟုတ်သည်ကို သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၂) ကံကံ၏အကျိုးကို သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၃) အလုံးစုံသောဘဝတို့သို့ ရောက်ခြင်းအကြောင်း၌ သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၄) များသောလောကဓာတ်၊ အထူးထူးသော လောကဓာတ်တို့ကို သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၅) အထူးထူးသော အလိုတို့ကို သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၆) ဣန္ဒြေနှစ်ရပ်ခြင်း၌ သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၇) ဈာန်ဝိမောက္ခ စသည်တို့၌ သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၈) ရှေးကနေခဲ့ဖူးသော ခန္ဓာအစဉ်ကို သိတော်မူခြင်း။
- (၉) အပိတ်အပင်အတားအဆီးမရှိ နတ်မျက်စိကဲ့သို့ ပကတိသိတော်မြင်တော်မူခြင်း။
- (၁၀) အာသဝေါတရားတို့၏ ကုန်ရာနိဗ္ဗာန်ကို သိတော်မူခြင်း ဟူ၍ဖြစ်ပါသည်။^၁

သက္ကရာဇ် ၇၄၃၊ ၀ ပေသူကြီးကျောက်စာတွင်

“ဤသိုဝ်လှူရသ အက္ခိဝ်အာဗ္ဗင်လေရရာ သင်္ဃာတွင်
 ကိသကန်သနုသ ဝဲသစန်လဲစန်စာ ပူတတ်စွာသော သူကျွန်မျိုဝ်
 လေ ဖုရာ အကျွန်မဖွစ်ရလွင်၊ ဤကိုဝ်အဖွစ်နှိုက်ဆင်ရယ်ယုတ်မာ
 သကိုဝ်လေ ဖုရာအကျွန် မဖွစ်ရလွင်၊ သတ္တပုံ နာရတနာသုံပါ
 အမုယ်မြူတတ်သော ယောကျ်ာမွတ်လျှင်၊ ဖုရာအကျွန်
 ဖွစ်လွင်သတေ၊ ဤမှတပါဖွစ်လေသောလေ၊ လူနတ္တိကာ
 သတ္တဝါတိုဝ်ကိုဝ်။ သင်္ဃာ ဆင်ရယ်မှ ကဲ ပေတတ်သော
 ယောကျ်ာမွတ်လျှင် ဘုရာအကျွန်ဖွစ်လွင်သတေ”^၂

ဟူ၍ ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။ အလှူရှင်သည် လောကီသားပီပီ ကျိုးသော၊ နှုသော၊ ဝဲသောကိုယ်၊ ပူပင်တတ်သော
 ကိုယ် မဖြစ်လိုကြောင်း ဆုတောင်းထားပြီးဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ပြင် ဆင်းရဲပြီး ယုတ်မာသောကိုယ်လည်း မဖြစ်ချင်ကြောင်း
 ဆုတောင်းထားကာ ရတနာသုံးပါးကို စိတ်နှလုံးထဲတွင် မွေးမြူတတ်သော ယောကျ်ားမြတ်ဖြစ်ချင်သည်။
 လူနတ်သတ္တဝါတို့ကို သံသရာဆင်းရဲမှ ကယ်တင်နိုင်သော ယောကျ်ားမြတ်လည်း ဖြစ်ချင်သည်ဟု ဆုတောင်း
 ထားသည်။ အလှူရှင်သည် အမျိုးမြတ်သူလည်း ဖြစ်ချင်သည်။ ဘာသာတရားကိုရှိုင်းသူတစ်ဦးလည်း ဖြစ်သည်။
 ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာကို ယုံကြည်သက်ဝင်သူတစ်ဦးလည်းဖြစ်သည်။

^၁ အသျှင်ဩဘာသာဘိဝံသ၊ သုတေသနသရုပ်ပြအဘိဓာန်

ပုဂံခေတ်မှစ၍ ပင်းယခေတ်တိုင် အလှူမှတ်တမ်းတင်ကျောက်စာများတွင် ယောက်ျားဆုတောင်း သည့် ကျောက်စာများကိုလည်း လေ့လာတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ယောက်ျားဆုတောင်းသူသည် မြင့်မြတ်သော ယောက်ျား ဘဝကို မက်မောသူဖြစ်သည်။ ယောက်ျားဘဝသည် မိန်းမဘဝထက် မြင့်မြတ်သည်ဟု သိသူဖြစ်သည်။

ယောက်ျားဘဝကို ရရှိလျှင် မိဘများ၏ ကျေးဇူးကို အထူးဆပ်ခွင့်ရသည်ဟုလည်း ယုံကြည်ကြ သည်။ ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင် မြန်မာလူမျိုးများ၏ စိတ်ထဲတွင် ရဟန်းခံ၊ ရှင်ပြုခြင်း အလှူသည် အမြင့်ဆုံးအလှူ၊ အမြတ်ဆုံးအလှူတွင် တစ်ခုအပါအဝင်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း ယုံကြည်ကြသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် မိမိ၏ ရင်သွေးများဖြစ်သော သားယောက်ျားလေးများကို ငယ်ရွယ်စဉ်မှာပင် ရှင်ပြုပေးပြီး အရွယ်ရောက်လာသောအခါ ရဟန်းခံခြင်းဖြင့်ပင် မိဘများအတွက် အပါယ်တံခါး ပိတ်နိုင်သည်ဟု ယုံကြည်ကြသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် မိဘ၏ကျေးဇူးကိုဆပ်ချင်သော သူများသည် မြင့်မြတ်သော ယောက်ျားဘဝဆုကို တောင်းသည်ဟုလည်း ယုံကြည်မိပါသည်။

၂-၄။ အထွေထွေဆုတောင်း

မြန်မာကျောက်စာများထဲတွင် ဗုဒ္ဓတရားတော်ကို ယုံကြည်သက်ဝင်သော ဆုတောင်းများ၊ စိတ်ကူး ဆန်းကြယ်စွာ တောင်းထားသော ဆုတောင်းများ၊ မိဖုရားအဖြစ်ရလိုသော ဆုတောင်းများ စသည်ဖြင့် လေ့လာ တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၆၈၁၊ မင်းအသင်္ခယာကြီးကျောက်စာတွင်
“ဤသိုဝ် ငါစီချင် သော ကောင်မှုကိုဝ် အခါခပ်သိမ် ငါလျှင် မဟိသောလေ
ငါနှင့်ထပ်တူ ထောက်ပင်ရစ်အံ့ ထိုင်ထိုင်သော သူကာ ငါနှင့်ထပ်တူ
လည်းကောင်း သမုတြာရိယံကိုဝ် မခြင်နိုင်၏ သိုဝ် အက္ခိဝ် အတိုင်မသိဟု
ဖုရာသိခင် ဟီ၏ ဟပ်သောတြာ အတိုင်လျှင် ရစိယံ၏”^၁

ဟူ၍ ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။ မိမိအလှူကို ထောက်ပံ့သူတို့အား မိမိ၏အလှူအကျိုးကို ဘုရားရှင်၏ တရားတော်အတိုင်း ရပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းပေးထားသည်။ သမုဒ္ဒရာရေသည် ရေတွက်၍ မရချေ။ ထိုကဲ့သို့ပင် မိမိ၏ ကောင်းမှုအကျိုးသည် ရေတွက်၍မရအောင်ပင် များပြားသည်ဟု ဘုရားရှင်က ဟောတော်မူ၏။ ထိုတရား အတိုင်းပင် မိမိ၏ကောင်းမှုအကျိုးလည်း ရပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းပေးထားပါသည်။ အလှူရှင်သည် ဗုဒ္ဓတရားတော် ကို ယုံကြည်သက်ဝင်သည့် သဘောကို တွေ့ရသည်။ ကံကံ၏အကျိုးကို ယုံကြည်သူဖြစ်သည်။ စိတ်ကူးဆန်း ကြယ်စွာ ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၆၉၄ ရတနာပုံ အမိဖုရားကျောက်စာတွင်
“င ကောင်မှုကိုဝ် ခိပင်သသူ အထက်နတ်ရွာ နတ်တေစည်စိမ်ချံသာ
ငါနှင့်အတူ ခံစေသော ငါတမုလေ နိဗ္ဗာန်ပြည်သိုဝ် မရောက်သရူယံ
င ၏ မိဖုရာလျှင် ဖြစ်လိုဝ်၏”^၂

^၁ ငြိမ်းမောင် (တတွဲ)၊ ၂၈၂၊ ၁၉၈၃။

^၂ ငြိမ်းမောင် (တတွဲ)၊ ၃၈၂၊ ၁၉၈၃။

ဟူသော ဆုတောင်းတွင် မိမိအလှူကို ချီးပင့်သူသည် အထက် နတ်ရွာမှ နတ်တို့သည် မိမိနှင့်အတူ စည်းစိမ်ခံစား ရပါစေဟူ၍လည်းကောင်း၊ မိမိသည်လည်း နိဗ္ဗာန်သို့ မရောက်မချင်း မိမိသည် ဖြစ်လေရာဘဝတွင် မိဖုရားအဖြစ် သာ ရပါလို၏ဟူ၍လည်းကောင်း ဆုတောင်းထားပါသည်။ ဤဆုတောင်းတွင် အလှူရှင်သည် မိမိကောင်းမှုအတွက် နတ်လည်းဖြစ်လိုသည်။ နတ်စည်းစိမ်ကိုလည်း ခံစားလိုသည်။ ထို့နောက် ပုထုဇဉ်ပီပီဖြစ်လေရာ လူဘဝပြန်ရပါက မိဖုရားအဖြစ်ကိုသာ ရလိုသည်ဟူ၍ ဆုတောင်းထားသည်ကို လေ့လာကြည့်လျှင် အလှူရှင်သည် လောကီချမ်းသာ ကို စိတ်တိုင်းကျ ခံစားလိုသည်။ ဖြစ်လေရာဘဝတွင် အမျိုးသမီးဘဝကိုသာ ရရှိလိုသူဖြစ်သည်။

သက္ကရာဇ် ၇၀၉ အမိဖုရားစောထွတ်ကျောင်းကျောက်စာတွင်
 “ချီပင်ပါသသူကာ ငါအတူရစပါစိယံသော ငမိငဖငဖိုင် ငဖွါစသော
 ငဆုယ် အကုန်စုံလျှင် ရစိယံသတေ ငါလေလူနတ်ချံသာကြီစွာ ခံစရပြီ
 သော အဆုကာ နိဗ္ဗန်ချံသာလျှင် ခံစရချာသတေ၊ ငါလေ ဖွိယံခံရ
 သော ဖုရာ ကုတုတ် သိမ်ပျူရသော အကျိုဝ် ငမိငဖငဆိရာ ငတပေစ်
 င ဆုယ် အကုန်စုံလျှင် ရစပါစိယံသတေ၊ မစ်တည်ဖုရာဖွစ်သော
 ခါနိုက် စမ္မုတိက် ကန်ကိုဝ်အစိုင်ရသော ပုန်တန်ခိုဝ်ကြီစွာသော
 ရာဇေရစ်မည်သော ပုရာဒါယကာ မင်းကြီလျှင် ဖွစ်ချင်သော
 ဖွစ်လစ်အံဟု မစ်တည်ဖုရာ ဗျာတိတ်ပယ် (ရသောမင်ငါ)ဖွစ်ချင်သတေ”^၁

ဟူ၍ အလှူရှင်သည် (၃၈)ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာတရားတော်နှင့်အညီ မိမိနှင့်အတူ ရစေလိုသည်။ လူ၊ နတ်ချမ်းသာကို လည်း ကြီးကျယ်စွာ ခံစားလိုသည်။ နောက်ဆုံးဘဝရောက်မှ နိဗ္ဗာန်ကို ရောက်လိုသည်ဟု ဆုတောင်းထားသည်။ ထိုခေတ် အလှူရှင်တို့သည် နိဗ္ဗာန်ကို မျက်မှောက်မပြုနိုင်သေးသရွေ့ သံသရာ စက်ဝန်း၌ အကြိမ်ကြိမ်လည်ပတ် နေဦးမည်ဟု ယုံကြည်ကြသည့်အတွက် သံသရာအဆုံး နိဗ္ဗာန်ကို ရလိုသည်ဟု ဆုတောင်းကြသည်။

ထိုနောက် မိမိသည် သိမ်၊ ကုတုတ်၊ လှူရသော အကျိုးကြောင့် မိမိ၏ဆွေမျိုးသာမက ဆရာ တပည့်များကိုလည်း အမျှဝေထားသည်။ ထိုနောက် မိမိသည် နောင်ပွင့်တော်မူမည့် အရိမေတ္တေယျမြတ်စွာဘုရား လက်ထက်တွင် ဇမ္ဗူဒိပ်ကျွန်းကို အစိုးရသော ဖုန်းတန်ခိုးကြီးသော ရာဇေရာဇ် အမည်ရှိသော ဘုရား၊ ဒါယကာ ဖြစ်ချင်သည်ဟူ၍ ဗျာဒိတ်တောင်းထားသည်ကို တွေ့ရပါသည်။

ဤဆုတောင်းကိုကြည့်လျှင် လောကုတ္တရာထက် လောကီရေးကိုပို၍ အလေးပေးကာ ဆုတောင်းထား သည်ကို တွေ့ရသည်။ အလှူရှင်သည် ဘုရားဆုကို မတောင်းဘဲ လောကစည်းစိမ်ကို ခံစားနိုင်မည့် ဘုရားရှင်၏ ဗျာဒိတ်ကိုသာ တောင်းထားခြင်းသည် အများနှင့်မတူ ထူးခြားသော အလှူရှင်၏ ဆန္ဒကို ပေါ်လွင်စေပါသည်။

ထေရဝါဒဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင်များသည် ကောင်းသော ကိစ္စဖြစ်သည့် အကြောင်းတရားတစ်ခုကို ဆောင် ရွက်ပြီးလျှင် ကောင်းသောအကျိုးတရားကို ရပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းလေ့ရှိကြသည်။ ဤသို့ဆုတောင်းရာတွင် ကောင်းသောဆုတောင်းများသာမက မတောင်းသင့်သော ဆုတောင်းများလည်းရှိကြောင်း ဗုဒ္ဓတရားတော်များမှ လေ့လာတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။

^၁ ငြိမ်းမောင် (စတု)၊ ၇၁၊ ၁၉၈၈။

ကောင်းသောဆုတောင်း(သို့မဟုတ်) တောင်းသင့်သောဆုတောင်းသည် မိမိ၏ကောင်းသော အကြောင်းတရားကြောင့် ကောင်းသောအကျိုး တရားဖြစ်သည့် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆု၊ ဘုရားဆု၊ ယောကျ်ားဆုစသည့် ကောင်းကျိုးတရားများရပါစေဟု ဆုတောင်းတတ်ကြသည်။ ဤသို့သော ဆုတောင်းကို ကောင်းသောဆုတောင်း (သို့မဟုတ်) တောင်းသင့်သောဆုတောင်းဟု ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။

၇ သို့သော် တစ်ခါတစ်ရံ ရန်လိုခြင်း၊ လက်စားချေလိုခြင်း၊ လက်တုံ့ပြန်လိုခြင်း၊ အနိုင်ယူလိုစိတ်များဖြစ် လျှင် မတောင်းသင့်သောဆုများကိုလည်း တောင်းတတ်ကြသည်။ ဓမ္မပဒ အတွဲ (၂)၊ စာ (၂၂၁)တွင် သုပ္ပဗုဒ္ဓနှင့် သူငယ်ချင်းသုံးဦးတို့သည် ပြည့်တန်ဆာမတစ်ဦးအား သတ်ရန်တိုင်ပင်နေသည့်အသံကို ပြည့်တန်ဆာမကြားသော အခါ ထွက်ပြေးရန်လည်း မလွတ်နိုင်ကြောင်း သိသောအခါ ပြည့်တန်ဆာမသည် မသေမီဆုတောင်းသွားသည်မှာ “ဤရက်စက်ကြမ်းကြုတ်သောသူတို့သည် ငါ့အား အကယ်၍သတ်ခဲ့ပါက ငါသည် ဘီလူးမဖြစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်လေရာ ဘဝတိုင်း၌ ထိုသူတို့အား ပြန်၍ သတ်နိုင်သည်သာဖြစ်ရပါလို၏”ဟု ဆုတောင်းလေသည်။ ဤမတောင်းသင့်သော ဆုတောင်းကြောင့် နောက်ဘဝတွင် သုပ္ပဗုဒ္ဓနှင့် သူငယ်ချင်းသုံးဦးတို့အား ဘီလူးမသည် နွားမယောင်ဆောင်၍ သတ်ခဲ့လေသည်။ ဤသို့သော ဆုတောင်းသည် မတောင်းသင့်သောဆုတောင်းဟု ယူဆမိပါသည်။

အလားတူပင် မိန်းမငယ်တစ်ဦးသည် ကိုယ်ဝန်အရင့်အမာရှိချိန်တွင် ကိုယ်ဝန်ပျက်စေရန် ဆေးခတ် တိုက်ကျွေးလေရာ မိန်းမငယ်သည် သန္ဓေပျက်၍ မချိမဆန်ခံစားရပြီး မြောနေချိန်တွင် “ငါ ဤဘဝမှ သေရသော် နောင်ဘဝ၌သူ၏သားသမီးတို့ကို ဖျက်ဆီးနိုင်သည့်ကိုယ်ဖြစ်ရလို၏”ဟု ဆုတောင်းပြီး ကွယ်လွန်လေရာ ဤအိမ်၌ ကြောင်ဖြစ်၍ ဆေးခတ်သူအမျိုးသမီးက ကြက်ဖြစ်လေသည်။ ကြောင်မက ကြက်ဥများကို စားလေသည်။ ထို့နောက် ကြက်မက “နောင်ဘဝတွင် ကြောင်မနှင့်တကွ သားသမီးများကို စားရပါလို၏”ဟု ဆုတောင်း၍ သေလေသည်။ ဤသို့ဖြင့် ရန်ကိုရန်ချင်းတုံ့ပြန်လို၍ ဆုတောင်းလာရာ သုံးဘဝဆက်အပြန်ပြန်အလှန်လှန် လက်စားချေလာခဲ့ကြသည်။

ထို့အပြင် မတောင်းသင့်သောဆုကို တောင်းမိသည် မြွေနှင့်မြွေပါ၊ ကျီးနှင့်ပုပ်ငှက်တို့ကဲ့သို့ ကမ္ဘာပတ်လုံး မဆုံးမချင်း ရန်ငြိုးဖွဲ့ခြင်းဖြစ်ရာ၏ဟူ၍ မြတ်စွာဘုရားရှင်က ဟောကြားတော်မူလေသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဆုတောင်းရာတွင် သံသရာရှည်နိုင်သည့်ဆုကို မတောင်းမိစေရန် လိုအပ်သည်ဟု သိရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။ ထို့နောက် ဥပ္ပာဒန္တီမင်းသမီးကဲ့သို့ ဆုတောင်းမလွန်မိစေရန်လည်း လိုကြောင်း သတိပြုသင့်သည်ဟု ယူဆမိပါသည်။

အချို့သော ဆရာတော်ကြီးများသည် ကောင်းသောကိစ္စ၊ ကောင်းသောအလှူဒါနများ ပြုပြီးလျှင် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုတစ်ဆုသာ တောင်းရုံနှင့်ကျန်သော လူစည်းစိမ်၊ နတ်စည်းစိမ်စသည့် ကောင်းကျိုးများကို ခံစားရမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်းနှင့် အဆုံးဘဝတွင် နိဗ္ဗာန်ကို ရောက်နိုင်သည်ဟု ဟောကြားတော်မူခဲ့သည်ကို နာကြားဖူးပါသည်။

လူတိုင်းလူတိုင်းသည် ကောင်းသောအလုပ်လုပ်လျှင် ကောင်းသောကံရှိလျှင် ကောင်းကျိုးကို ခံစားရပြီး မကောင်းသော အလုပ်လုပ်လျှင် မကောင်းကံရှိ၍ မကောင်းကျိုးကို ခံစားရမည်မှာ အမှန်ပင်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း ပုဂံခေတ်မှစ၍ ယနေ့ခေတ်တိုင် ယုံကြည်နေဆဲပင်ဖြစ်သည်။

ပုဂံခေတ်မှစ၍ ပင်းယခေတ်တိုင် အလှူရှင်တို့သည် ကောင်းမှုအလှူပြုပြီးလျှင် အလှူမှတ်တမ်း တင်ကျောက်စာများ ရေးထိုးလေ့ရှိပြီး အလှူမှတ်တမ်း၏အဆုံးတွင် ဆုတောင်းနှင့် ကျိန်စာများကို ရေးထိုးလေ့ရှိ သည်။ ပုဂံခေတ်မှစခဲ့သော ဆုတောင်းသည် ယနေ့ခေတ်တိုင် ဆုတောင်းနေဆဲဖြစ်သည်။ သို့သော် ပုဂံခေတ်မှ စခဲ့သော ကျိန်စာသည် ယခုခေတ်တွင် မှတ်တမ်းတင်ထားသည်များ မရှိတော့ချေ။ တစ်နည်းအားဖြင့် ကျိန်စာသည် မတောင်းသင့်သောဆုတောင်းဟု ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။ သူတစ်ပါးအတွက် တောင်းသောဆုဟုလည်း ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။ ပုဂံခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိတို့အလှူတည်တဲ့စေလို၍ မိမိတို့၏ အလှူကို မဖျက်ဆီးခံအောင် ကျိန်စာများ ရေးထိုး၍ တားမြစ်လေ့ရှိသည်။

မိမိအလှူကို ဖျက်ဆီးလျှင် “ငရဲကျပါစေ၊ တိရစ္ဆာန်ဖြစ်ပါစေ၊ ငရဲသစ်ငုတ်ဖြစ်ပါစေ” စသည်ဖြင့် ပြင်းထန်သော ကျိန်စာများ၊ ပြင်းထန်သောမကောင်းသော ဆုတောင်းများ ရေးထိုး၍ မိမိတို့၏အလှူများ အချိန် ကြာမြင့်စွာ တည်တဲ့စေလို၍ ကျိန်ဆိုလေ့ရှိသည်။ ယခုခေတ် အလှူရှင်တို့သည် ကောင်းသောအကြောင်းတရား များ၊ ကောင်းသော အလှူများပြုပြီးလျှင် ကျိန်စာများကိုမူ မတွေ့ရတော့ချေ။ ယနေ့ အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိတို့ အလှူပြုပြီးလျှင် “နိဗ္ဗာန် ပစ္စယောဟောတု” ဟူ၍ လှူပြီးလျှင် လှူပြီးသော ပစ္စည်းသည် အလှူခံသူ၏ ပစ္စည်းသာဖြစ်ပြီး မိမိအတွက်မှာ ကောင်းကျိုးဆိုသည့်အထုပ်သာ မိမိပစ္စည်းဟု ယူဆပြီးသည့်အတွက် မိမိအလှူ သည် နိဗ္ဗာန်ရောက်သည်အထိ တည်တဲ့နေသည်ဟု ယုံကြည်ကြသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ပုဂံခေတ်၊ ပင်းယခေတ်ထက် ယခုခေတ်ဘာသာရေးအတွေးအခေါ် မြင့်မားနေပြီဖြစ်ကြောင်း ဆိုနိုင်ပါသည်။

၃။ ခြံငုံသုံးသပ်ချက်

မြန်မာကျောက်စာထဲမှ ပင်းယခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မိမိတို့၏ အလိုဆန္ဒများကို ဆုတောင်း အမျိုးမျိုးဖြင့် ဖော်ပြလေ့ရှိပါသည်။ ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုတောင်းရာတွင်လည်း နိဗ္ဗာန်၏သဘောကို မိမိတို့ကိုယ်တိုင် ကောင်းစွာနားလည်သဘောပေါက်၍ ဆုတောင်းခြင်းဖြစ်သည်ဟု ယူဆရပါသည်။ အချို့ အလှူရှင်တို့မှာ ဘုရားဟောစာပေကျမ်းဂန်များကို သဘောပေါက်သည့်အလျှောက် ဆုတောင်းကြသည်။ နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆု တောင်းရာ၌လည်း “ဘုရား၊ ရဟန္တာတို့ ဝင်ရာဖြစ်သော နိဗ္ဗာန်ပြည်ရစပါစိယံသတေ” “အဆုံးသောကာပစ္စေက ဗုဒ္ဓါ ရဟန္တာတို့ဝင်လေရာ၊ ငြိမ်းလေရာဖြစ်သော နိဗ္ဗာန်ဆုနှင့်နှင်ရစပါစေကုန်သတေ” စသည်ဖြင့် ဆုတောင်းထား သည်ကို တွေ့ရသည်။

ဤဆုတောင်းများအရ ပင်းယခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် နိဗ္ဗာန်၏သဘောကို ခြေခြေမြစ်မြစ် ပြည့်စုံစွာ နားလည်သူများ ဖြစ်သည်ဟု ယူဆရပါသည်။ ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင်တို့၏ ဘာသာတရားအပေါ် သက်ဝင်ယုံကြည်မှု အတိမ်အနက်ကို အကဲခတ်မှန်းဆ၍ ရနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဘုရားဆုပန်ခြင်းသည် မိမိအကျိုး၊ သတ္တဝါများ၏အကျိုးကို ရှေးရှုလိုလားရာရောက်သော ဆု ဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဘုရားဆုပန်သော ထိုခေတ်လူအလှူရှင်တို့သည် တစ်ကိုယ်ကောင်းမဆန်ဘဲ သဘောထား ကြီးစွာ အမြော်အမြင်ရှိရှိဖြင့် အများအကျိုးအတွက်ပါ ဆောင်ရွက်လိုသူများ ဖြစ်သည်ဟု ယူဆနိုင်ပါသည်။

ထို့အတူ ယောက်ျားဆုပန်ခြင်းသည် ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဆိုင်ရာ ကိစ္စအဝဝကို ထိန်းသိမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းထိန်းသိမ်း ဆောင်ရွက်လိုသော ဆန္ဒရှိ၍ ဆုတောင်းခြင်းဖြစ်သည်ဟု ယူဆရပါသည်။

ထို့ပြင် လောကီဆုတောင်းများအဖြစ် မိဖုရားဖြစ်စေရန် ရာဇမိရာဇ်အမည်ရှိသော ဘုရားဒါယကာ မင်းကြီးဖြစ်စေရန်၊ ဆင်းရဲခြင်းမရှိဘဲ၊ ချမ်းသာခြင်းများသာရှိစေရန် စသည်တို့ကိုလည်း ဆုတောင်းထားသည်ကို လေ့လာတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။

၄။ နိဂုံး

မြန်မာကျောက်စာများတွင် ရေးထိုးထားသော ပင်းယခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် ကံ,ကံ၏အကျိုး ကို ကောင်းစွာသိသူများဖြစ်သည်။ မိမိကောင်းတာလုပ်လျှင် ကောင်းကျိုးခံစားရမည်ကို နက်နဲစွာ သိရှိသည့်အတွက် ဒါနပါရမီတည်းဟူသော အလှူအတန်းများကို ပြုလုပ်၍ ဆုတောင်းကြသည်။ ဆုတောင်းခြင်းသည် မြတ်စွာဘုရား ရှင်ကိုယ်တော်တိုင် တောင်းဆိုခဲ့သည့် လုပ်ဆောင်ချက်တစ်ရပ်ဖြစ်သည်ကို ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့ ကောင်းစွာသိမြင် ကြသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ထိုခေတ်အလှူရှင်တို့သည် မြတ်စွာဘုရားရှင် ကျင့်ကြံခဲ့သည့်အတိုင်း မြတ်စွာဘုရားရှင်၏ တရားတော်အတိုင်း ဆုတောင်း အမျှဝေသည့်ခလေ့ကို လုပ်ဆောင်ခဲ့ကြသည်။ မြတ်စွာဘုရားရှင်၏ တရားတော် အတိုင်း လုပ်ဆောင်ခဲ့ကြသော ဆုတောင်း၊ အမျှဝေသည့် ခလေ့သည် ယနေ့တိုင် ပြုမူလုပ်ဆောင်ရွက်နေဆဲ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ဆုတောင်းသူတိုင်းသည် ဆုတောင်းသည့်အတိုင်း ပြည့်ချင်မှ ပြည့်မည်။ ပြည့်လည်း ပြည့်နိုင်ပါသည်။ သို့သော် ဆုတောင်းသူတိုင်းသည် မိမိဖြစ်ချင်သည့်ဆန္ဒကို မိမိနှုတ်မှ ထုတ်ဖော် ပြောကြားလိုက်ရသည့်အတွက် ဆုတောင်းသူတိုင်း၏ စိတ်ထဲတွင်ကား စိတ်ကြည်နူးမှု၊ စိတ်ကျေနပ်မှုကို ဖြစ်စေပါသည်။

၃၅၇၉
ပြည်ထောင်စု
နိုင်ငံတော်



ကျမ်းကိုးစာရင်း

- ငြိမ်းမောင် (ဦး)။ ၁၉၈၃။ - ရှေးဟောင်းမြန်မာကျောက်စာများ၊ တတိယတွဲ၊ ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန၊ ရန်ကုန်။
- ငြိမ်းမောင် (ဦး)။ ၁၉၉၈။ - ရှေးဟောင်းမြန်မာကျောက်စာများ၊ စတုတ္ထတွဲ၊ ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန၊ ရန်ကုန်။
- စောလူ။ ၁၉၉၆။ - ပုဂံခေတ်မြန်မာစာ၊ ပထမတွဲ၊ စာပေဗိမာန်ပုံနှိပ်တိုက်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
- စောလူ။ ၁၉၉၆။ - ပုဂံခေတ်မြန်မာစာ၊ ဒုတိယတွဲ၊ စာပေဗိမာန်ပုံနှိပ်တိုက်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
- စောလူ။ ၁၉၉၆။ - ပုဂံခေတ်မြန်မာစာ၊ တတိယတွဲ၊ စာပေဗိမာန်ပုံနှိပ်တိုက်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
- သန်းထွန်း။ ၁၉၆၉။ - ခေတ်ဟောင်းမြန်မာရာဇဝင်။ မဟာဒဂုံစာပေထုတ်ဝေရေး၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
- မာဃ(ဆရာ)။ ၁၉၅၉။ - နိဗ္ဗာန်ဝါဒသမိုင်း၊ မာဃစာပေထုတ်ဝေရေး၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
- ပါရဂူ။ ၁၉၇၅။ - နိဗ္ဗာန်၊ ရန်အေးပုံနှိပ်တိုက်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
- မြန်မာအဘိဓာန်၊ အတွဲ (၂)။

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