

2022 RIN Online Workshop Series

**Reconnect East Asia towards Building a
Dynamic, Sustainable, Inclusive, Resilient, and
Peaceful East Asia**

Workshop Proceedings

RIN

Research Institutes Network

March 2023

Published by

Research Institutes Network (RIN)

c/o IDE-JETRO Bangkok Research Center (BRC), JETRO Bangkok

127 Gaysorn Tower, 29th Floor, Ratchadamri Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan,
Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Published in March 2023

Disclaimer

The views, thoughts, and opinions in the proceedings are those of the authors, and they do not represent the views of the Research Institutes Network (RIN)'s institutes or those of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

Foreword

In 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Research Institutes Network (RIN) of 16 research institutes from East Asia Summit countries launched the RIN Online Workshop Series. This workshop is held between RIN Member institutes and ERIA for the purpose of promoting intellectual exchange and sharing the latest knowledge and views on ASEAN and East Asian economies.

ASEAN and East Asia still face challenges in rebooting economic growth while controlling the spread of COVID-19. In addition, countries in these regions must continuously cope with policy issues, such as deepening regional integration, energy transition, circular economy, supply chain, and innovation, and new technologies. The 2022 RIN Online Workshop Series "Reconnect East Asia towards Building a Dynamic, Sustainable, Inclusive, Resilient, and Peaceful East Asia" focused on these issues. To expand the current knowledge and stimulate interactive discussions among researchers in RIN member institutes and ERIA, 13 speakers from 7 institutes and ERIA shared their findings and views from their current researches at the workshops.

We are bringing out this Proceedings, comprising of the speaker's extended abstracts from 5 workshops, and hope it to be a timely and useful publication and serve as a resource for researchers, academics, and businesses. We would like to sincerely gratitude for the contributions of all participants from RIN member institutes and ERIA.

RIN will continue to engage in the activities such as RIN annual meeting, RIN website, and the workshops, undertaken a role as the secretariat of RIN by Bangkok Research Center (BRC), JETRO Bangkok/IDE-JETRO and with the cooperations of RIN member institutes.

Hank Lim
Chairperson
Research Institutes Network (RIN)

Atsusuke Kawada
President, Bangkok Research Center (BRC)
JETRO Bangkok/IDE-JETRO, RIN Secretariat

Program

Workshop I

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Moderator: Shujiro Urata (ERIA / IDE-JETRO)

12:05-12:40 Speaker: Chris Nixon (NZIER, New Zealand)
Recognising the gains and overcoming the implementation challenges

12:40-13:15 Speaker: Lukman Raimi (Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei)
Business continuity and disaster recovery strategies (BCRS) as resilience tools after cyberattacks in entrepreneurship ecosystems. How ready is the peaceful East Asia?

13:20-13:55 Speaker: Kartini Rahman (Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS), Brunei)
Emerging issues of population ageing affecting ASEAN and East Asian nation states in the post Covid-19 era

Workshop II

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Moderator: Nguyen Hoa Cuong (CIEM, Vietnam)

12:05-12:50 Speaker: Nguyen Anh Duong (CIEM, Vietnam)
Enhancing Viet Nam's trade with East Asia for rapid and resilient post-COVID recovery

12:55-13:40 Speaker: Ikumo Isono (ERIA / IDE-JETRO)
Impact of global economic decoupling on ASEAN: Geographical simulation analysis

Workshop III

Friday, October 14, 2022

Moderator: Yasushi Ueki (IDE-JETRO, Japan)

12:05-12:40 Speaker: Mya Thandar & Win Thiri Aung (YUE, Myanmar)
International out-migration in Myanmar

12:40-13:15 Speaker: May Phyo Phyo Han (YUE, Myanmar)
Accompanied by May Thu San (YUE, Myanmar)
Analysis of life satisfaction among elderly in Myanmar

13:15-13:50 Speaker: Nan Nan Aung (YUE, Myanmar)
Accompanied by Khin Thet Tun (YUE, Myanmar)
Measuring efficiency of public hospitals in Myanmar

Workshop IV

Friday, October 21, 2022

Moderator: Ei Sun Oh (SIIA, Singapore)

12:05-12:50 Speaker: Durgesh Kumar Rai (RIS, India)

Recent policy developments and growth prospects in India: Opportunities for East Asia summit countries

12:55-13:40 Speaker: Souknilanh Keola (IDE-JETRO, Japan)

Estimating the impacts of international bridges on foreign firm locations: A machine learning approach

Workshop V

Thursday, October 27, 2022

Moderator: Kirida Bhaopichitr (TDRI, Thailand)

12:05-12:40 Nuttanan Wichitaksorn (TDRI, Thailand)

Estimating output and labor loss from COVID-19: Evidence from some East Asian countries

12:40-13:15 Speaker: Thanarat Chotikasathian (TDRI, Thailand)

Analyzing the effect of rice price on rice farming household's income through a mixed-frequency data approach

13:15-13:50 Speaker: Nakarin Amarase (Bank of Thailand, Thailand)

A portrait of high-income Thailand: Future labor market outlook

The time is shown in South East Asia Standard Time (GMT+7).

Workshop Proceedings

Analysis of Life Satisfaction among the Elderly in Myanmar⁴

May Phyo Phyo Han

Tutor, Department of Applied Statistics, Yangon University of Economics (YUE)

May Thu San

Associate Professor, Department of Applied Statistics, Yangon University of Economics (YUE)

Synopsis

- Although issues related to the elderly are very important in Myanmar, research on elderly people is sparse.
- This study aims to investigate the condition of demographic aging with selected aging indicators, describes and analyzes the demographic and socioeconomic factors that influence life satisfaction among the elderly in Myanmar using descriptive statistics and multinomial logistic regression.
- In recent times, there have been an unprecedented set of challenges due to the rapid aging population in Myanmar, and Burmese people do not enjoy successful aging. Moreover, general health status, participation in any community/activity, housing ownership status, educational attainment, gender, place of residence, and marital status are the main determinants of elderly people's life satisfaction in Myanmar.
- The Myanmar government should be able to promote the quality of life of the elderly and enhance their ability to work and live independently.

Introduction

Myanmar was considered one of the most secluded nations until a series of ongoing political and structural reforms was initiated in 2010 (The Lancet, 2012). It is the largest country in mainland Southeast Asia in terms of area, with a total conventional household population of 51.1 million, according to the 2019 Inter-censal Survey (ICS). Population aging and substantial increases in the numbers of elderly people are occurring throughout Southeast Asia, including Myanmar, although at different paces (Knodel & Teerawichitchainan, 2017).

The World Health Organization (WHO, 2010) pointed out that the aging of the world's population is due to the continued decline in fertility rates and the increase in health and longevity. The current trends in aging or the rejuvenation of the population might be due to the interaction between several demographic and socioeconomic factors (Bucher, 2014).

Countries worldwide are facing an aging population, including the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Except for the Philippines, the proportion of people over the age of 65 in ASEAN is expected to triple from 2015 to 2050, according to ASEAN and United Nations data. Singapore tops the list, expecting 33.6 % of its population to be above the age of 65 by 2050. However, it is not only Singapore but also Brunei, Thailand, and Vietnam would also have 21% or more of their population in the same age range by 2050. While elderly people currently account for about 9 % of the population in Myanmar, by 2050, one-quarter of the population would be aged 60 and above. According to a ranking of ASEAN

⁴ The authors of this study are Daw May Thu San, Associate Professor and Daw May Phyo Phyo Han, Tutor, Department of Applied Statistics, Yangon University of Economics.

member countries by the percentage of the population aged 60 years in 2019, Myanmar was in the fourth place.

The changes in aggregate age structure are seen in nearly all social institutions, from firms to families. In an aging society, the well-being of the elderly is an important area for research. Life satisfaction is a multidimensional indicator connected with the political, economical, and social life of every country. It has a quite volatile formula depending on several factors, especially the specificity of each individual (Asandului & Hritcu, 2011).

Many studies have considered life satisfaction as a subjective evaluation of the general quality of life, an important factor in successful aging and an indicator of efficacy in old-age. It would be advantageous for policymakers to know how the conditions of elderly people are linked with life satisfaction (Meggiolaro & Ongaro, 2014). Therefore, life satisfaction among the elderly in Myanmar is studied as the main variable using demographic and socioeconomic factors of the elderly in the 2019 ICS. If elderly people are satisfied with life, they can provide wisdom and advice to younger generations and society as a whole.

Materials and methods

Measures

The variable utilized in this study is a regressor (Y), namely life satisfaction among the elderly, which is measured as satisfaction with life all, most, some, or none of the time. The explanatory variables are selected from previous literature and directly affect the value of a regressor. However, some variables were not considered in this study because they were not included in the 2019 ICS. Hence, demographic characteristics, such as gender, place of residence, age, and marital status, and socioeconomic characteristics such as educational attainment, health status, occupation, housing ownership status, currently receiving a pension, getting support, and participation in any community/activity of the elderly are used as the explanatory variables.

Data analysis

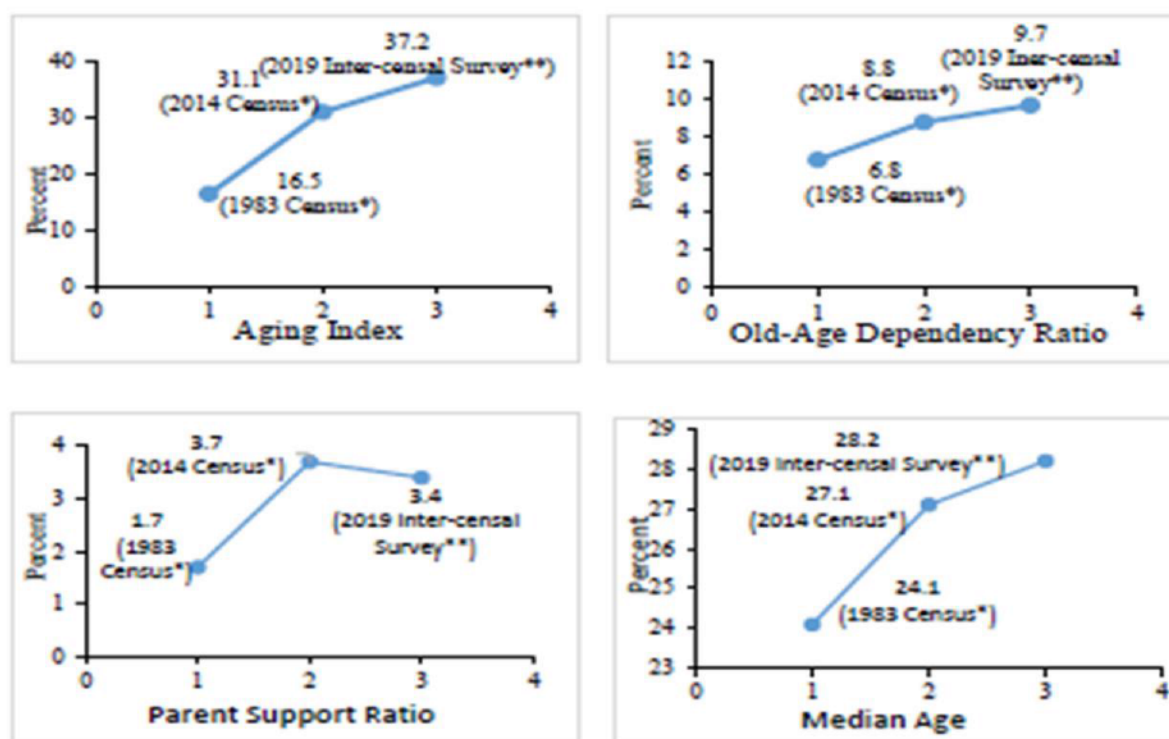
A sample of 3,0931 elderly people surveyed in the 2019 ICS was studied. Selected aging indicators, such as the aging index², old-age dependency ratio³, potential support ratio⁴, parent support ratio⁵, and median age⁶ are used to investigate the condition of demographic aging in Myanmar. Descriptive statistics are used to describe the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the elderly, and multinomial logistic regression is employed to analyze life satisfaction among the elderly in Myanmar. Data analysis was performed using SPSS version 23.

Findings and discussion

The selected aging indicators

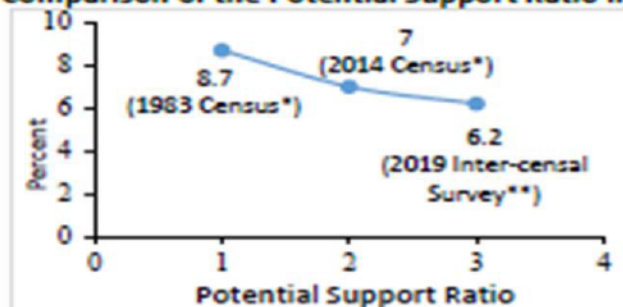
A brief description of the condition of demographic aging in Myanmar is depicted in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Comparison of the Aging Index, Old-Age Dependency Ratio, Parent Support Ratio, and Median Age in Myanmar



Source: Key Findings of the 2019 ICS

Figure 2. Comparison of the Potential Support Ratio in Myanmar



Source: Key findings of the 2019 ICS

Note: * Total enumerated population

** Population in conventional households only

According to the results, the aging index, old-age dependency ratio, parent support ratio and median age in Myanmar increased from 1983 to 2019, while the potential support ratio decreased. This would burden the economically active population who offers economic and social support to the elderly. Hence, Myanmar has begun a new phase of a rapid aging population and has been confronted with an unprecedented set of challenges related to the

	Educational Attainment	High school and above	.451**	.217	4.318	1	.038	1.570	1.026	2.402	
		Middle school	.426**	.198	4.624	1	.032	1.531	1.038	2.257	
		Below primary and primary school (ref.)									
	General Health Status	Good	3.665***	.208	311.392	1	.000	39.069	26.004	58.700	
		Fair	2.467***	.157	248.370	1	.000	11.791	8.675	16.025	
		Poor(ref.)									
	Occupation	Employed	.379	.369	1.053	1	.305	1.461	.708	3.014	
		Unemployed (ref.)									
	Housing Ownership Status	Owned	1.163***	.314	13.703	1	.000	3.199	1.728	5.922	
		Rented	.361	.398	.821	1	.365	1.435	.657	3.131	
		Provided free (ref.)									
	Currently receiving a pension	Yes	.076	.174	.189	1	.664	1.079	.766	1.518	
		No (ref.)									
	Receiving Support	Yes	-.048	.144	.109	1	.741	.953	.719	1.265	
		No									
	Participation in any community/activity	Yes	.608***	.173	12.363	1	.000	1.837	1.309	2.577	
		No (ref.)									
	Most of the time		Intercept	.982***	.367	7.151	1	.007			
		Gender	Male	-.307**	.143	4.614	1	.032	.736	.556	.973
			Female (ref.)								
		Place of residence	Urban	-.323**	.149	4.697	1	.030	.724	.541	.970
Rural (ref.)											
Age		60-69	-.010	.203	.002	1	.962	.990	.665	1.475	
		70-79	-.091	.201	.206	1	.650	.913	.615	1.354	
		80 years and above (ref.)									
Marital Status		Single	-.028	.251	.013	1	.911	.972	.594	1.591	
		Married	.251*	.149	2.843	1	.092	1.286	.960	1.721	

		Other (ref.) (Widowed and divorced/separated)								
	Educational Attainment	High school and above	.304	.216	1.986	1	.159	1.355	.888	2.068
		Middle school	.341*	.197	3.014	1	.083	1.407	.957	2.068
		Below primary and primary school (ref.)								
	General Health Status	Good	3.414***	.204	279.231	1	.000	30.398	20.367	45.370
		Fair	2.387***	.152	247.434	1	.000	10.879	8.080	14.647
		Poor(ref.)								
	Occupation	Employed	.303	.368	.679	1	.410	1.354	.659	2.784
		Unemployed (ref.)								
	Housing Ownership Status	Owned	1.032***	.307	11.282	1	.001	2.806	1.537	5.123
		Rented	.315	.391	.650	1	.420	1.370	.637	2.946
		Provided free (ref.)								
	Currently receiving a pension	Yes	-.018	.173	.011	1	.916	.982	.700	1.378
		No (ref.)								
	Receiving Support	Yes	.093	.143	.426	1	.514	1.098	.830	1.452
		No								
	Participation in any community/activity	Yes	.614***	.172	12.775	1	.000	1.848	1.320	2.588
		No (ref.)								
Some of the time		Intercept	1.923***	.365	27.685	1	.000			
	Gender	Male	-.213	.143	2.230	1	.135	.808	.611	1.069
		Female (ref.)								
	Place of residence	Urban	-.307**	.149	4.268	1	.039	.735	.549	.984
		Rural (ref.)								
	Age	60-69	-.073	.203	.128	1	.720	.930	.625	1.384
70-79		-.180	.201	.801	1	.371	.836	.564	1.238	

	80 years and above (ref.)								
Marital Status	Single	-.121	.251	.231	1	.630	.886	.542	1.450
	Married	.128	.149	.744	1	.388	1.137	.849	1.522
	Other (ref.) (Widowed and divorced/separated)								
Educational Attainment	High school and above	.012	.216	.003	1	.956	1.012	.663	1.546
	Middle school	.193	.197	.959	1	.327	1.212	.825	1.783
	Below primary and primary school (ref.)								
General Health Status	Good	1.364***	.204	44.518	1	.000	3.913	2.621	5.842
	Fair	1.537***	.151	104.176	1	.000	4.653	3.463	6.250
	Poor(ref.)								
Occupation	Employed	.282	.368	.587	1	.444	1.326	.644	2.728
	Unemployed (ref.)								
Housing Ownership Status	Owned	.932***	.306	9.244	1	.002	2.538	1.392	4.627
	Rented	.338	.390	.751	1	.386	1.402	.653	3.010
	Provided free (ref.)								
Currently receiving a pension	Yes	-.186	.173	1.149	1	.284	.831	.592	1.166
	No (ref.)								
Receiving Support	Yes	-.027	.143	.037	1	.848	.973	.735	1.287
	No								
Participation in any community/activity	Yes	.478***	.172	7.721	1	.005	1.613	1.151	2.260
	No (ref.)								

Source: The 2019 ICS

Note: ***, **, * denote significance at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, respectively.

The reference category = None of the time

As described by these results, indicators such as general health status with the good and fair levels, participation in any community/activity, and housing ownership status (owned) have a significant positive impact on the life satisfaction of the elderly at all, most, and some of the time compared with none of the time. Moreover, educational attainment has a significant positive impact, while being an elderly male has a significant negative impact on life satisfaction among the elderly all and most of the time compared with none of the time. Living in urban areas has a significant negative impact on life satisfaction among the elderly most and some of the time compared with none of the time. Marriage has a significant positive impact on life satisfaction among the elderly most of the time compared with none of the time.

Limitations

This study has some limitations. The Birth, morbidity, and mortality variables were not included in this study when investigating demographic aging because these variables could not be derived from the 2019 ICS. When investigating life satisfaction among the elderly, previous studies also considered living arrangements as well as emotional and mental variables (such as anxiety, depression, psychosocial trait, and self-efficacy). However, these variables were not collected in the 2019 ICS. Therefore, this study could not analyze the effect of these variables on life satisfaction among the elderly.

Conclusion

To address the challenges of rapid aging population and maintain a good quality of life among the elderly, the Myanmar government should always pay attention to their needs and problems, create suitable job opportunities, and allocate equal and sufficient resources to developmental programs for the elderly. In future studies, the analysis of life satisfaction among the elderly needs to be estimated precisely. This is because these precise estimates can assist in designing policies and programs related to the elderly. Moreover, the currently adopted national policy for them should be checked and prepared adequately.

References

- Asandului, L., and Hritcu, R.O.S. (2011). *Logistic Regression Used in Determining The Factors That Influence The Perceptions on Life Satisfaction in Central and Eastern Europe*. Iasi: Alexandru Ioan Cuza University.
- Bucher, S. (2014). Selected Indicators of Population ageing in the World: Trends, Impacts and Consequences. *Geographica Pannonica*, 18, 26-33.
- Department of Population (2020). *The 2019 Inter-Censal Survey, The Union Report*, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Knodel, J., and Teerawichitchainan, B. (2017). Aging in Myanmar. *Gerontology*, 54(4), 599-605. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnw211>

Meggiolaro, S., and Ongaro, F. (2014). Life satisfaction among older people in Italy in a gender approach-CORRIGENDUM. *Ageing and Society*. Italy: University of Cambridge. <https://doi:10.1017/S0144686X14000646>

Swanson, D.A., and Stephan, G.E. (2004). *The Methods and Materials of Demography* (2nd ed.). United States: Elsevier Academic Press.

The Lancet. (2012). Burma: Health and transition. *The Lancet*, 379, 2313. [https://doi:10.1016/s01406736\(12\)609982](https://doi:10.1016/s01406736(12)609982)

WHO (2010). Ageing: Global Population.