



Factors Influencing Community Participation of Youth Affairs Committee Members in Mon State Myanmar

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ABSTRACT

This research to explain which factors (usage of social media, social factors, political & factors) most effect on community participation of youth affairs committee members. This research work was conducted in Myanmar before the Military Coup. The CEC (Chief Executive Committees) members were actively participation in Military coup protest. Moreover, most of the committee members exponent the democratic values to community in this times. The study area was selected Mon State because of the media age of Mon state is 26.7 years. Moreover, there were three major ethnic group – Mon , Kayan and Burma lived in Mon state. This condition shows that youth person settled diverse opinions and thoughts in Mon state. The 131 youth affairs committee members were proportionally selected from each layer of Mon state youth affair committee for collect data. Linear regression and descriptive methods was employed to analyze collected data. It was found that social factors and political & legal factors have positively significant effect on community participation of youth leaders. The policy makers of Mon state should provide the opportunities for youth to engage in community development works.

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INTRODUCTION

The force of Youth leaders are the crucial role in community development by participating as active working groups. Community participation includes the community representatives, developing forums, voting, volunteer works and political participation (Burns et al., 2001).The significant of youth participation in community is working the volunteer works for filling the community gap.

In the global, sixteen percent of world population are youth person. The community participation of youth is the major driving force for solving the global problem. Furthermore, there are many opportunities for youth to engage in political, social economic process and other community development content. In one hand, there are many challenges for youth to engage in community participations such as lack of favorable policies, social pressure and so on. For instance, around 175 million young people in developing countries who lack of literacy and nutrition that was the major cause for community participation. Moreover, some of the scholars argued that most of the youths are formally participated in community development works that is relatively low with senior citizen in



some countries. Governments made the effective youth affairs policies to extract the youth workforce for community development (Iskamto, 2020; Zindiye et al., 2012).

In Myanmar, twenty eight percent of country's population are youth person that is the great chance for country economy development. Government should create the effective youth affair policy for extracting the youth force in order to build the nation's reform process. Derweanna Bah Simpong et al (2012) conducted the study to explore the effect of determinant factors on community participation of youth in Malaysia. This research work inspires to conduct this study in order to examine the factors that influence on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State.

However there are many youth organizations in Myanmar, Myanmar youth affairs committees were founded by leading of government as non-governmental organization. Moreover, Myanmar youth affairs committee was only one national wide institution in Myanmar one hand, the rest of youth organizations were regional based organizations. The role of Myanmar youth affairs committee members was very critical for formulating the national youth affairs policies in Myanmar. Thus, this research focus on the role of youth affairs committee members in order to examine the research objectives.

Myanmar Youth Affair Committees exist at five levels; national level, division level and state level youth affair committee, district level and township level. The formation of youth affair committee was based on youth affair policy which enacted in 2017. The main objectives of this policy is to build the Myanmar's young people as developed in all aspects of health, strength, education, social, ethics, leadership capacities and cooperation in order to become good citizens.

Myanmar youth affair policy mainly focus on education, health, sport, job creation, economic, political, gender equity, technology, science and good citizenship. Myanmar youth affair policy was formulated by initiatives of active youth person, members of parliament, ministers and other interesting stakeholders in order to extract the youth energetic power for community development.

Rationale of the Study

Myanmar reformed their political system into democratic one since 2010 in order to build the democratic federal country. The exploration and implications of youths' energetic power is vital case for government in order to implement this reform process successfully in long term. Myanmar also have various ethnic group that causes the various issues in countries. Thus, youth person attitude of ethnic region is considerable point for regional development level.

Community participation can take account as the major apparatus for enriching the involvement of youth in societies by implementing the community development activities (Allaman, 2012). The governments of all nations took the proactive actions regarding with youth in order to explore the youth energetic power for nations by enacting the youth affairs policy. In Myanmar, active youth person and other civilian service organizations encourage the government to enact the youth affairs policy since president U Thein Sein administration. As the consequences of this enforcement, nation's wide Myanmar youth forum was arranged in Yangon Division. The declarations of this forum were the valuable inputs for designing the youth affairs policy. The various researchers prove that effective government youth affair policies can enhance the youth leadership participation for community (Iskamto et al., 2020).

There are a lot of factors that encourage to conduct this study. Among all, the obviously participation of youth in volunteer works and regional community development program concerning with political, economic and social reform process of Myanmar in recent years is the major reason for

conduct this study. Political and legal framework provides the greatest opportunities for youth to make formally engagement in community development works. Although youth attitude is important for initiative the leadership activities, family, friends and other peers' opinions can also significantly effect on their leadership activities in community. If the youth have the accurate and sufficient information in accordance with community, they can make the effective participation for regional development works. The usage of social media are greatly provide the effective platform in order to exchange the needed information among the youth person. Thus, this paper tries to explore the youth leadership participation in community and investigate the effect of social factors, usage of social media and political & legal factors on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State.

The objectives of this study are-

1. To examine the community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State.
2. To analyze the effect of social media usage, social factors and political & legal factors on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)

The theory of planned behavior (TPB) was developed by Ajzen (1991). TPB explains the linkage of individual intention to perform a particular behavior uphold the attentions is the major antecedents of performing the specific behavior. In the works of Ajzen, 1991, social factors was the key determinants for predict and explain the human behavior. In terms of empirical evidence, numerous behavioral studies have employed the TPB to support their research related to social media and leadership participation (Aminu, 2012; Gazzar, 2011; Kahne and Middaugh, 2012; Koe and Majid, 2014). The only studies found employing the construct of political-legal influence was that of Mohamad et al. (2009) and Pandian (2014), however both studies differ from the present in measuring leadership participation, as they used the Lewin Leadership and the Ohio and Michigan Leadership theories, respectively, instead of the TPB. Therefore, this study attempts to examine the effect of usage of social media, social factors and political & legal factors on community in this study.

The main theme of theory of planned behavior focus on intentions and behavior of person. Normally, there are three important determinants factors of individual's intentions. They are subjective norms, behavior control and attitude. This is very imperative point for explaining how to apply TBP theory in this study. In this article, political & legal factors, social factors and social media usage applied as the determinants factors for community participation. All of these determinants factors are inclusive in subjective norms of TPB. Community participation is the behavior sense youth.

Community Participation

Youth leaders' community participation can be defined as actively involvement in community development works (McFarland and Thomas, 2006). Moreover, On reviewing the literature various views on community participation were found where the values of public participation were widely acknowledged and the objectives of community involvement clearly identified. Silong et al., 2008 mentioned the community participation as involving in planning and organizing of charity activities, volunteer works, religious activities and other social works. The linkages of antecedent factors and community participation describe in the following sections.

- Social Media Usage and Community Participation



Social media includes of online platforms and applications that encourage users to share and create information and participate in social network. The advancement of information technologies that can enhance the awareness of leadership participation in community (Ahmad et al., 2012). This proves usage of social media can provide the necessary information to the youths for enhancing the leadership activities. In addition, Chang et al. (2014) described that social media can effect youth decision in various aspects. Kafai et al. (2012) argued that there is positive relationship between social awareness and task completion due to collaborative work. Empirically, previous studies have founded that social media usage profound effect on community participation of youth.(Tata and Prasad, 2008).

Social Factors and Community Participation

Social influence takes various forms, and is usually reflected in socialization, conformity, peer pressure, leadership, obedience, and persuasion. Social attitude and personality trait have significant roles in predicting human behavior, provided resources and opportunities such as money, time, skill and required support of other people (Ajzen, 1991). This supports social networks that help to share information, experiences and motives, and encourages future community participation among youths (McFarland and Thomas, 2006). Moreover, social influence linked to societal voices such as drug abuse and sexual assault among youths in most developing countries, including Malaysia (C.E.C., 2009). A good societal relationship with parents at home and peers at school was able to produce better behavior and the pursuit of excellence (Blair et al., 2008; Asikhia, 2009). In one hand, Oc and Bashshur (2013) reveal that followers directly influence the behavior of leaders in regards to group cohesion and individual strength. Derweanna and et al (2017) investigated the relationship between social factors and community participation of youth in Peninsular, Malaysia. This study found that there is good relationship between social factors and community participation of youth.

- Political & Legal Factors and Community Participation

Political-legal influences include public policies in the terms of democratization process, freedom of express, gender equality and minority right (Kuhn, 2012). Environmental issues such as political and legal factors could effect on community participation of youth especially in Myanmar is characterized by various ethnic groups. The favorable political and legal framework could provide the opportunities for youth to practices the leadership activities in community that described in previous studies. Allaman, 2012 acknowledged that political and legal influence take account as the critical influencing factor on youth leadership activities. According to these previous literature works, constructive political and legal framework well support the youth in order to practicing the leadership activities to community development works. Previous studies have established that favorable political-legal factors such as political freedom, multi-party democracy, and ethnic minority tolerance could provide youths the opportunity to work with the adults and peers, and gain information and resources on sustainability, as required for leadership participation (Ahmad et al., 2012; Powers and Allaman, 2012). Hence, based on literature, this study acknowledges political-legal influence as a key factor in community participation.

Based on these literature works and the various concepts discussed above, the following framework was developed:

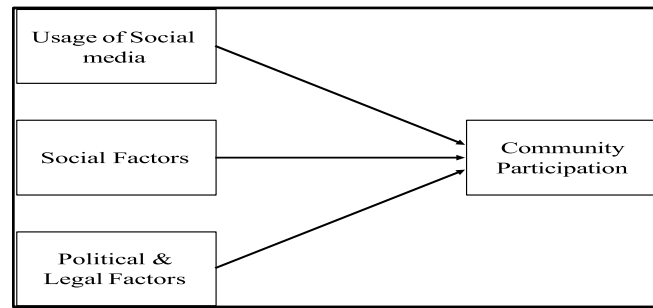


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework (Source: Own Compilation, 2020)

The usage of social media, social factors and political and legal factors applied as the precedent factors for community participation of youth in this study. According to the previous literature review, there are positive relationship with usage of social media, social factors and political & legal factors and community participation of youth. In Myanmar, most of the young person widely used the social media in order to gain the required information and practices of community development works. The encouragement of family, peers and friends are major source for enhancing their community participation works. Myanmar government formulated the youth affair policy for extracting the youth force for community development.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study examines the effect of political and legal factors, legal factors and usage of social media on information resources and youth leadership participation in Mon state.

- Population

This study mainly targeted the committee members of Youth Affairs Committee in Mon state. There are two types of committee members in Youth Affairs committee government representatives and the elective members form youth - regarding with their constitution. This study focused the elective members form youth as target respondents. The target respondents of this study was proportionally extracted from each layer of youth affair committee in Mon state. According to the constitution of youth affair committee, there are three layers- township level, district level and state level. From the side of elective committee members, there are 150 members in township level, 30 members in district level and 15 members in state level.

Yamane (1967) developed the simple sample size formula that used to determine the sample size in this research work. According to this calculation result, 131 number of youth person was determined as the sample size for this research work. The simple random sampling method was applied for collect the data in this study. Face to face interviews and online survey forms was used in this study. The multiple linear regression analysis method was employed to examine the effect of usage of social media, social factors and political and legal factors on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon state. The descriptive method was also applied to explore the nature of each variables in this study. Table (1) describes the sampling frame of this study.

Table 1: Sampling Frame



Layer of Youth Affairs Committee	No. of Committee Members	Percentage	Selected Sample size
Township level	150	77%	101
District level	30	15%	20
State Level	15	8%	10
Total	195	100%	131

Source: Survey Data (2020)

- Questionnaire Design

Five point Likert scale questions was used in this study which intent to explore the perceptions on each variables of this study. Moreover, most of the question items was designed based on the environmental factors which reflect to political, legal and social situation of Myanmar. There are 7 items Likert questions were used for examining the youths' community participation which adopted from Al-Rahmi and Othman (2013). Gazzar (2011), Kennedy et al. (2003), Pandian (2014) argued that 4 questions items of each variable such as usage of social media, social factors and political & legal factors. The questionnaire was framed as self- assessment questions and in bilingual languages including both Myanmar and English language. For instance, this types of questions was used for collecting data "I'm always involved in planning and organizing charity activities" and " I'm always involved in planning and organizing campaigns for volunteer works"

Data Analysis

This study conducted reliability analysis of collected data measuring the all variables usage of social media, social factors, political factors, information resources and youth leadership participation. Descriptive analysis also applied in this study for explore the perception of respondents on each variables. Moreover, this study used the multiple lineal regression method to examine the effect of political, social and usage of social media on information resources and youth leadership participation. The result of this analysis are shown in Tables 2, 3, and 4 respectively. Table 2 shows the mean vale, standard deviation and Cronbach Alpha value of each variables in this study.

Table 2: Mean Value, Standard Deviation & Cronbach Alpha

Variables	Mean Value	Std. Deviation	Cronbach Alpha	Number of Items
Usage of Social Media	4.1	.757	.752	4
Social Factors	3.1	.904	.784	4
Political & Legal Factors	3.6	.794	.668	4

Source: Survey Data (2020)

As shown in Table 2, the value of Cronbach Alpha is more than 0.7 that can be take account as the good result for reliability of questionnaire (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). The mean value of social media usage is 4.1 that highlight the young person enjoy the use of social media in order to gain the insightful information for their volunteerism works and other social activities. The mean value of social factors is 3.1 that is lightly above the natural scale that point out the family, friends and other peer groups well support the valuable suggestions and guidance for youth for practicing their

leadership activities in respective community. The mean value of political and legal factors is 3.6 that is more above the natural scale and it indicates the well institutionalized formulated policies can enhance the youth power for practicing the leadership activities.

Table 3: Mean Value of Community Participation

Sr.No.	Statement	Mean Value
1	Involved in planning and organizing charity activities.	3.3
2	Involved in planning and organizing sporting activities.	2.6
3	Involved in planning and organizing religious activities.	3.2
4	Involved in planning and organizing campaigns for volunteer works.	3.5
5	Gave ideas to associations for community development.	2.9
6	Involved in decision making of my club/ associations.	3.7
7	Performed the community development project.	3.5
	Overall Mean Value	3.2

Table 3 describes the mean value of each statement to measure the community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State. The highest mean value is 3.7 that reveals the youth actively engage in decision making process of their club and associations. The lowest mean value is 2.6 that mentions youth have little participate in sporting activities of their community. The overall mean value of community participation is 3.2 that reveal the youth well practices leadership works for community volunteerism, political volunteerism and so on.

Analyze the Factors Influencing Community Participation of Youth Affair Committee Members

In order to analyze the effect of antecedent factors on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon state, the linear regression was carried out. For this analysis, political & legal factors, social factors and social media usage are the independent variables and community participation is dependent variables. The linear regression model for the effect of antecedent factors on community participation is –

$$Y_i = b_0 + b_1X_{1j} + b_2X_{2j} + b_3X_{3j} + e_i$$

Whereas : Y_i = mean of community participation
 X_{1j} = mean of social media usage
 X_{2j} = mean of social factors
 X_{3j} = means of political & legal factors

Table 4: Regression Analysis

Model 1	B	Std.Error	Sig.
Constant (Community participation)	.943	.343	.007
Social Media Usage	-.020	.077	.793
Social Factors	.441***	.065	.000
Political & Legal Factors	.279***	.077	.000
R Square	.422		
Adjusted R Square	.408		
F Value	30.905		

Source: Survey Data (2020)

Table 4 describes the output of regression analysis. The regression analysis method was applied to examine the effect of social media usage, social factors and political and legal factors on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon state.

According to this analysis, social factors and political and legal factors have positively significant



effect on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State. From the statistical points of views, one unit increase in social factors, political and legal factors that will enhance the 0.441 and 0.279 level of community participation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study had two major objectives. The first one was to examine the community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State. The second objective was to analyze the effect of social media usage, social factors and political & legal factors on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon State. The logical findings was found that based on these objectives.

After making descriptive analysis, the overall mean value of community participation is 3.2 that lightly above natural scale. This illustrate that youth slightly participate in community works such as charity activities, sporting activities and volunteer works. This research work found out youth affairs committee members are actively participate in planning and organizing of volunteer campaigns and decision making process of their committee and representative clubs and associations.

The social factors, political & legal factors have positively significant effect on community participation of youth affairs committee members in Mon state. The coefficient of social factors (0.441) is significant at 99% confidence interval. In addition, the coefficient of political and legal factors (0.279) is significant at 99% confidence interval. It reveal that respondents are mainly influenced by their family members, friends and other social groups for engaging in community development works as volunteerism because youth person have always discuss with their friends, family and other close related person for making the important decisions in their life. Thus, families, friends, teachers and mentors provide valuable suggestions for youth to participate in community development works.

Moreover, these findings reflect the well designed and formulated policies provide the chance for youth in order to participate in community development works. Myanmar government formulated the youth affair policy in 2017 under the administration of National league for Democracy (NLD) government that highly support valuable opportunities for youth for preserving the youths' right and engaging in community development works.

This section describes implications for both academic and practical world. This research analyze the possible effect of social media usage, social factors and political & legal factors on community participation of youth affair committee members in Mon state. This research works was employed by building the conceptual frame which is adapted from theory of planned behavior. This study describes social media usage, social factors and political & legal factor as the major determinant factors for community participation of youth. The another factors not include this study should add as another antecedent factors under the premises of theory of planned behavior.

This research work attempt to explain the effect of social media usage, social factors and political & legal factors for youth who have intention to works volunteerism for their community. Furthermore, this paper well investigate the youth's perception on youth affairs policies, it will brings the great information for focal Ministry regard with youth affair policies. The Mon state government should carefully diagnosis the findings of this study in order to extract the youth's energetic power for community development by designing and building the effective youth affair policy and programs. This type of research should conduct for other state and divisions youth affair committee members in order to insightful known the nature of community participation in future.

CONCLUSION

According to the research's findings, this study conclude and discuss these points. Among of three precedent factors, social factors and political legal factors are strongly relationship with community participation. This could be interpreted family opinions, friends' encouragement and coworkers were trenchant role for youth in community participation. If social group of one youth have optimistic view for community development project such as volunteer works, making charity, participating in student unions that well encourage to him or her in order to participate in community development works. In one hand, if these groups have pessimist view on community participation works that may be hesitate for youth to engage in community participation.

As we known, efficacious government policies can highly contribute for society development by offering excellence public services, making law enforcement and so on. In addition, if the public more interest on government policies that is positive signature for engaging in community development project. According to the nature of youth, they are more interesting in entertainment activities rather than political progress. Thus, government of every nations should develop effective youth affairs policies in order to extract the youth force for community development.

There are many limitations of this study because of time and resource limits. This study mainly focus on youth affairs committee members of Mon State in Myanmar. Further studies should extend the scope of this research by focusing on other person especially in youth affairs committee members of other state such as Rakhine, Shan, Kayan Kayar and so on. Moreover, further studie should add more precedents factors to the conceptual framework in order to more strong in literature works.

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