

Women's Right to Education in Myanmar

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Education

- Importance of Education.
- Women and Girls' education.
- SDG 4 – Target 1 & 5

Right to Education of Women

- The Education of Girls and Women:
 - Critical to achieve the development objectives.
 - Significantly contributes to the women empowerment
 - Achieve benefits of individual and effect on all family members including healthy life.
 - Contributes to the all round national development.
 - Promote the Civil and Political rights, Economic, Social and Cultural rights.

Sustainable Development Goals

(UN Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015)

- UN SDGs- 17 Global Goals with 169 targets.

- **SDG 4: Quality Education**

By 2030 , ensure **inclusive and equitable** quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 4 – Target 1&5

❖ Target 4.1-

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

❖ Target 4.5 –

- By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

Myanmar's Commitment

- Member of International Conventions relating to Human Rights-
 - UN – UDHR
 - International Conventions-
 - CRC and OP-SC
 - CEDAW
 - CRPD
 - CTOC- Protocol Trafficking in Person especially Women and Children.
 - ILO Conventions 29, 87, 182
 - ASEAN documents

Development of Myanmar Education

- As Myanmar is a member of UN, she is obliged to fulfil the requirement of UDHR and SDG 4 goals in due time.
- Treaty obligations relating to CRC and OP SC, CEDAW, ICPD are also to be carried out.
- Myanmar is also trying to develop quality education with the assistance of UNESCO, UNICEF and other INGOs and NGOs

Country Profile

- **Name – The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
- **Location- The South East Asia**
- **Bordering Countries -Bangladesh, China, India,**
- **Laos and Thailand.**
- **Population- 52.49 m (2014 Census)**
- **Member - UN, ASEAN, BIMSTEC**
- **Economic cooperation-GATT,WTO, WIPO, ICC,**
-

State Structure and Demography

- ❖ 7 States, 7 Divisions and 1 Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw).
- ❖ Many Races or Multi Ethnic groups over 100 (135) including Bamar, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan.
- ❖ Total Population is **51.49 m (2014 census)** and Female population(26.66) outnumbered the Male population (24.82).



- Many Races or Ethnic groups over 100 (135) including
- Bamar
- Chin
- Kachin
- Kayah
- Kayin
- Mon
- Rakhine
- Shan

Cultural and Social Context

- ❑ Religion –Buddhist, 87.9%, Christian-6.2%, Islam-4.3%-, Hindu-0.5% , Animism -0.8%and other-0.3%
- ❑ Women's Education- Historically, Women are educated although less than men in number in ancient time.
- ❑ Current situation is different and opposite, especially at the Higher Education. Women graduates are more than men.

Role of Women with Education

- ❖ Women in Myanmar play vital role not only at home but also in education sector as of teachers at school.
If the wife is educated, she has more influence on the children.
- ❖ Many women at the Urban are more busy than at Rural area. They are busy with household works and working at the government service or at the private sector.
- ❖ MWAF, MNCWA and WEA support and encourage to the women. They support the women for education, health and economic development through women.

Constitutional History

- 1948 → Won independence in January
 - ★ Union of Myanmar, 1947 Constitution
- 1962 → March- Revolutionary Council Government .
- 1974 → Burmese Way to Socialism
 - ★ Socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 1974 Constitution.
- 1988 → Myanmar Peace and Development Council started Market Oriented Economy again.
- 2011 → March-Union of Myanmar Government was formed according to the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar(2008)
- 2016 → Second Parliament (Current Govt)

Myanmar has undertaken in series of significant reforms after 1988 –

- Political reform ,
- Economic reform
- Educational reforms
- Human Rights promotion and protection

according to the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008.

Constitutional provisions on HR

- ❖ Basic Principles of the Union (Ch- I)
- ❖ Citizen, fundamental rights and duties of the Union (Ch- VIII) Ss. 345- 390
 - Guarantee equal rights,
 - Nondiscrimination,
 - Freedom of religion
 - Right to education and Health,
 - Women opportunity at trade,
 - Prohibition of slavery and trafficking,

Rights of Equality

□ Basic principle

Every citizen enjoy the rights of equality,
liberty and the right of justice;

Section 21(a) of Myanmar Constitution 2008

Non-discrimination

Constitutions of Myanmar guarantee the non - discrimination of Sex.

❖ Section 347 of 2008 Constitution

“The Union shall guarantee any person to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection”.

❖ Section 348 –

- *“The Union shall not discriminate any citizen of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth.”*

Constitutional Rights to Education

- Every **citizen**, in accord with the educational policy laid down by the Union
 - (a) has the right to education;
 - (b) shall be given basic education which the Union prescribes by law as compulsory.

(Section 366)

Free, compulsory primary education system under the Constitution of Myanmar (2008)

The Union shall:

- (a) earnestly strive to improve education and health of the people;*
- (b) enact the necessary law to enable National people to participate in matters of their education and health;*
- (c) implement **free, compulsory primary education system***
- (d) implement a modern education system that will promote all-round correct thinking and a good moral character contributing towards the building of the Nation.*

(Section 28)

The National Education Law

The National Education Law 41/2014. First National Law in history was promulgated in September 2014.

- The National Education Laws was enacted reflecting the democratic way including quality assurance.
- The law refers to all citizen and inclusive education. The National Education Law has no specific provisions for gender equality perspective.
- “Education for all” under national action plan is ongoing activities which includes all girl child whether they are poor or disabled.

National Education Laws

- National Education Law, 2014 & the Law Amending the National Education Law, 2015 are promulgated for promotion of Myanmar education.
- **Section 17** of the National Education Law, 2014 provides:-
 - “Free and compulsory education has to be implemented at the primary level and it shall be extended step by step to higher grades”.
- The laws give the same rights for boys and girls.

Child Law 1993

- ❖ Child law 1993 guaranteed for all children.
- ❑ Section 22 (a) provides to have opportunity of acquiring right to education to have free basic education at government schools.
- ❑ Section 22 (b) gives the duty to the Ministry of Education to have objective of implementing free and compulsory education to reduce drop-out rates and to arrange for literacy of children.

Enforcement

- Aim is to hold Free Compulsory Primary Education and more steps.
- But no specific law for enforcement has been enacted yet.
- Under the draft of new Child Law, guarantee of the higher levels of protection of the right to education may be carried out.

(Ongoing revision of the Child Law, 1993)

Activities to Support

- All basic education schools, public and private, are under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. Formal, Non-formal, Border Area, Monastic and Nun Schools are included.
- The MOE is now implementing free education in order to ease the cost among parents and communities.

Support for accessibility

- Encouragement by Govt. and different well wisher's foundations, Business organizations and individuals to get into schools for all children at the age of 5+
- MOE support– Text book and stationary at the beginning of the school term, Scholarship and Stipend are given, but selected and very few.
- NGOs support stationary and school uniforms and cash for stipend.

Monastic Schools and Border Area Schools

- ❖ Myanmar has the high literacy rate in its own language across the Country.
- ❖ This is due not only to the Myanmar Government schools, but largely to the monastic schools that had always played through out history, and continue to play, a major role in educating the poorer sections of society. On the other hand special schools under Ministry of Border Area Development Affairs are also helping to develop the education in Myanmar.

Accessibility by Girls

- Girls in Myanmar have no discrimination to enter into learning center by law or in practice.
- Encouraged by parents as to their wish.
- Supported by women NGOs, MWAF, Women Entrepreneurs Association, individual donors and Civil Society.
- Buddhist Nun Schools.
- Among others, the monastic schools also accept girls for day-scholars.

Buddhist Nun Schools for Girls

- To day, development is the establishment of Buddhist Nun Schools for free education without Government budget.
- They accept any needy girls from underdeveloped regions, ethnic regions, border areas, orphans and children of migrant workers at border areas.
- These schools are located in both central Myanmar and border areas. Also accept from community.

Eg.-Khay Mar Yar Ma Nun School in Yangon. 957 girls Grade 1 to 11 from Kayin, Shan, Rakhine, Dawe, Bamar etc.

Some graduated and serving at their own natives as volunteers and at different ministries.

Day students In house students at Buddhist Nun School



Access to school and Gender Situation

- ❑ Adult literacy rate (2009-2010 survey) estimates, basic adult literacy rates were 96% for males and 89% for females.
- ❑ Gender role is not very effected in access to education in Myanmar.
- ❑ Percentage of Female Students at different education levels (2009) can be seen as follow:-
 - ❑ Primary(Grade 1-5) 49.4%,
 - ❑ Middle (Grade 6-9) 49.8%
 - ❑ High School (Grade 10-11) 51.8% (More girls)

Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education

- ❖ No limitation on women's education in location and curriculum at all levels.
- ❖ No practice of gender priority for education at present.
- ❖ Relevant education to their lives and job-oriented.
- ❖ Women empowerment is the National Action Plan for CEDAW in Myanmar.
- ❖ The role of women teachers are more relevant according to Myanmar culture.

MDG Report

- According to the 2011 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) report from the UN Country Team in Myanmar, achievements toward basic education targets between 2000 and 2010 included:-
 - (i) near universal enrollment in primary school;
 - (ii) gender parity in enrollment in primary and secondary schools, with a higher percentage of female students in tertiary education; and
 - (iii) expansion of the availability of secondary education.

Activities to support

- Attempts by Govt. and Organisations to get into schools for all children at the age of 5+.
- MOE support— Text book and stationary at the opening of the school, Scholarship and Stipend are given, but very few
- NGOs support stationary, school uniforms and stipend.

Challenges for Basic Education

- The MOE is now implementing free education in order to ease the cost among parents and communities.
- However, children's access to schools are still difficult due to poverty.
- Drop-out rates are still high during the transition from primary to middle school and from middle to high school.
- Parents of children at villages need more income to send their children to middle or high school. Eg. Travelling, Housing etc.
- The children themselves want to earn some money instead of going to school.

Solution for Basic Education

- ❖ School education – Public and Private
- ❖ Non – Formal & Informal Education
- ❖ Alternative Education
- ❖ Monastic Education including Buddhist Nun Schools .
- ❖ Emergency mobile schools.

Women in Higher Education

- ❖ Statistic of Higher Education students (Arts and Science) 2014-2015 shows female percentage of -
 - Undergraduates students is – 65%
 - Postgraduate diploma – 73%
 - Master's degree – 81%
 - Masters of research – 85%
 - PhD – 81.5%
- ❖ PhD in Law – 2003-2017:- Total -169
Male – 24 (14.2 %) Female 145 (85.8 %)

Gender Imbalance

- First and Second PhD holder at Yangon University is a woman in Science.(PhD Program started in 1996)
- A striking trend in Higher Education in Myanmar is the extent of the gender imbalance among students. More female students than male students.
- In 2014-2016 was almost 65% of all higher education students and 82.6% of all academic staff members were female.
- Increasing ratio of women students at different universities.

Current Women's Role in Teacher's Education

- Women's role-
Developing and women out numbered the men's role
- At Teacher's Education sector- female Principals are at 87%, Lecturer is 88%, Assistant Lecture is 86% and Tutor is 86%
- Total number of school heads is also increasing number. It was 50.3:46.1 ratio of male to female in 2000-2001 and 57.8:8.30 in 2013-2014

Graduation ceremony



Conclusion

- Statistics show gender equality in Education subject to some challenges.
- More women in teaching profession with motherly spirit is good for children in Myanmar and Good culture of paying respect to teacher makes better role of women in Myanmar.
- Teacher's salary is low and so it should be raised by the Government to promote the teacher's life and quality.
- Technical and Vocational Education should be encouraged.
- Human Rights education should be included at all levels of education.

Thank you