

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
DEVELOPMENT; A CASE STUDY IN HSIHSENG
TOWNSHIP, MYANMAR.

By

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A thesis submitted to the Department of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The thesis submitted is my own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The thesis does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The thesis does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Approval

The thesis titled “Women’s Empowerment in Community-Driven Development Project: A Case Study in Hsihseng Township, Myanmar” submitted by Sai Myat Hein Soe (19372019) of 3th semester of 2020 has been accepted as satisfactory in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Art in Governance and Development on 10th February 2020.

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Ethics Statement

Ethical issues were considered in this study. At first, to protect the right of respondents, no coercion enforced to participate in the interviews and group discussion. Before the interview, the researcher declared that the respondents have a choice to answer or not. The respondent can decline to answer if the question were not confidence for them. All of the data collected by the researcher would not be used at the outside except for my research.

Abstract/ Executive Summary

Women's empowerment is the prerequisite for economic growth and development not only for the nation but also for the world. The study explored the impact on women's empowerment affected by the National Community-Driven Development Project (NCDDP) project in Hsihseng Township, Myanmar. The project known as the National Community-Driven Development Project (NCDDP) launched in 2013. The project aims to enable poor rural people to benefit from increased access to and use of small-scale infrastructure and services by local community participation in decision-making and implementation. The study examines whether the NCDDP empowering the women in the domain of political, social, and economic in Hsihseng Township. Through from 2016-2019 data, evidence and data from the respondents, the program increased women's participation in the NCDDP project and also has an impact on the outside of the program. This study finds out that women have increased their participation in empowering roles in the political sphere, social sphere, and economic sphere.

Keywords: Women's Empowerment; Community-Driven Development; National Community-Driven Development; Participation; Women's Political Empowerment; Women's Social Empowerment; Women's Economic Empowerment.

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List of Acronyms

ADB	Asia Development Bank
CDD	Community-Driven Development
CIDSS	Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services
CFs	Community Facilitators
DRD	Department of Rural Development
FSC	Finance Sub-Committee
GOM	Government of Myanmar
GOI	Government of Italy
IDA	International Development Association
NCDDP	National Community-Driven Development Project
NUSAF 2	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
MOALI	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
PNIR	Programme National Infrastructure Rurales
OM	Operation Manual
TFs	Technical Facilities
TPIC	Township Planning and Implementation Committee
VTISC	Village Tract Implementation Support Committee
VPSC	Village Project Support Committee

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Women's empowerment is shaped by various factors, such as self-direction, self-confidence, and self-esteem. The influence and magnitude of each factor vary across the culture and countries. In particular in developing countries, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment can be difficult, such as the countries have long-standing cultural traditions. Gender equality is a fundamental human right and women can be a vital role in driving sustainable development.

Nowadays, women's empowerment is the prerequisite for the economic growth and development of the nation as well as that of the world. Empowering women is the basic factor to diminish the gender gap and promoting equal opportunities and rights between men and women. It included women have a right or opportunities to access the domain of political, social, and economic, etc. Therefore, there should be a mandate of policies or provide development programs or projects in order to ensure to enhance women's empowerment in economic, social, and political domains.

This study examines whether the development program increases women's empowerment. The evidence is utilized from the Hsihseng township of Myanmar which already implemented a development program of Community-Driven Development (CDD). This program is known as the National Community-Driven Development Project (NCDDP). While females in Myanmar are commonly regarded as having a lower status than males and in NCDDP program have a significant status to promote gender equality.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Myanmar like other countries has a complex narrative about gender equality with long-standing traditional cultures. According to the Global Gender Report 2020, Myanmar stands in 114 ranks out of 153 countries. It was lower than the neighbor's countries of Bangladesh rank in 50, India 112 rank, Lao 43 rank, and Cambodia 89 rank respectively table (1-1). The index of the national gender gap was benchmarking on economic, education, health, and political criteria (Global Gender Gap Report, 2020).

Table 1-1: The Global Gender Gap Index 2020 Rankings

No	Country	Rank	Score (0-1)
1	Lao	43	0.731
2	Bangladesh	50	0.720
3	Thailand	75	0.708
4	Cambodia	89	0.694
5	India	112	0.668
6	Myanmar	114	0.665

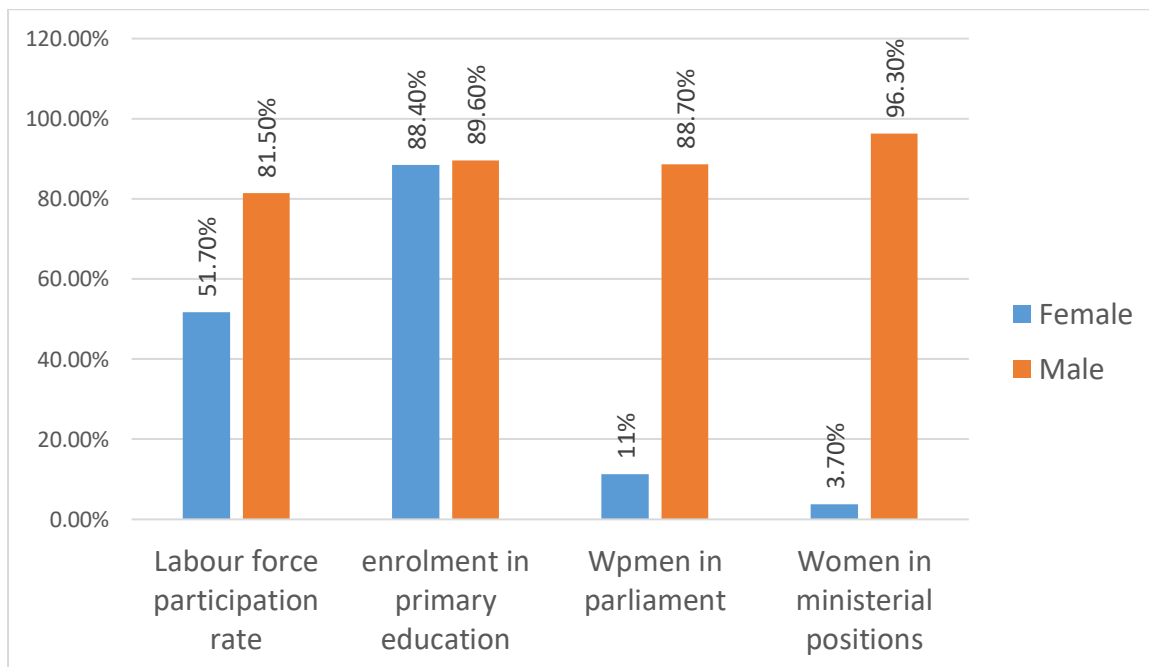
Source: Global Gender Gap Report, 2020

In the gender gap report, one of the indicators was measured by the Economic Participation and Opportunity index. In fact, that Myanmar women are persistent as less present in labor force participation than men. On average, 51.7 % of the total female population was engaged in the labor market while 81.5 % of the total male population was in the labor force figure (1.1).

In the education attainment, Myanmar has a good score in the gender gap index of educational attainment and health and survival. Almost 88.4% of the total female population attained in primary education, 62 % in secondary education, and 18.5% in tertiary education as shown in

Figure (1-2). And also, in the index of health and survival, Myanmar stands in the ranks of 57 among 153 countries. It was higher than neighbor countries of Bangladesh, India, and Lao at which ranks are 119,150, and 98 respectively (Global Gender Report, 2020). Despite a significant improvement in educational attainment and health, Myanmar women have still extremely limited in women’s presence and participation in the political sphere. Only 11.3 % of women holding in the national parliamentary seats as a share of total parliamentary seats while men have 88.7 % seats (ADB,2019). At the top level of decision-making in national ministerial positions, only a few percentages of females have a seat in those positions. As shown in Figure (1-1), only 3.7% of ministerial positions held by females while men hold 96.3% of positions. This evidence figured out a lot of gender gap between men and women at the highest level of political decision-making through the ratio of women and men in parliamentary position and top level of ministerial positions.

Figure 1-1: Gender Gap by Sub-Index, 2020



Source: Global Gender Gap Report, 2020

Accordingly, to the global gender report, the data show Myanmar has good scores in education and health but in the political spears Myanmar stands in the rank of 133 out of 153 countries table (1.2), (1.3), and (1.4) respectively. In this situation, in education and health, the score is almost close to other countries (Bangladesh, and India), but in political empowerment, the score of Myanmar has only 0.080 as shown in Table (1-4).

Table 1-2: Gender Gap by Health and Survival

No	Country	Rank	Score (0-1)
1	Bangladesh	119	0.969
2	India	150	0.944
3	Myanmar	57	0.977

Source: Global Gender Gap Report, 2020

Table1-3: Gender Gap by Educational Attainment

No	Country	Rank	Score (0-1)
1	Bangladesh	120	0.951
2	India	112	0.962
3	Myanmar	99	0.975

Source: Global Gender Gap Report, 2020

Table 1-4: Gender Gap by Political Empowerment

No	Country	Rank	Score (0-1)
1	Bangladesh	7	0.545
2	India	18	0.411
3	Myanmar	133	0.080

Source: Global Gender Gap Report, 2020

1.3 Rational of the proposed study

The study is to examine whether increase of women's empowerment in the area of political, social and economic domains by participation in the CDD projects. To undertake this research, the information and evidence from Hsihseng township were utilized, in which CDD projects were implemented from 2016 and the projects known as National Community-Driven Development Project (NCDDP).

1.4 Research Objectives

This research is focused on the women's empowerment exposed with the CDD projects in Hsihseng township, Myanmar. Objectives of this research are the following:

- (1) To explore the implementation processes of CDD projects.
- (2) To find out how CDD projects affected on women's empowerment.
- (3) To provide some recommendations for better improvement of the projects for women's empowerment.

The study is aimed towards highlighting women's empowerment through the CDD project.

Therefore, the research questions are:

For the objective No.1

- (1) What are the processes of implementation CDD projects and how many women have participated in those processes?

For the objective No.2

- (2) Do CDD project interventions improve women's empowerment?

1.5 Structure of the proposal

The research composed of six chapters and they are:

Chapter 1: it included introduction, statement of the problem, the rationale of the proposed study, objectives of the study, and structure of the proposal.

Chapter 2: it included a literature review related to the CDD project and women's empowerment.

Chapter 3: it included research strategy, the population of the study area, location of the study area, sample size or units, data collecting method, and data analysis method.

Chapter 4: it included analyzing data about NCDDP in the study areas.

Chapter 5: it included finding and analyzing women's empowerment in the NCDDP.

Chapter 6: it included conclusion and recommendation, references and appendixes are attached at the end of the study.

1.6 Conclusion

To examine the women's empowerment in the NCDDP project, a set of research objectives were created in this chapter. That is to specially analyze how the NCDDP has impacted women political, social, economic within the community and the status of women in the community and general society.

Chapter 2

Literature Reviews

The requirement data and information are collected for the relevant study in this literature review. It included a rational concept of women's empowerment and the CDD concept. Some of the shreds of evidence that CDD projects impact on women's empowerment are described in chapter two.

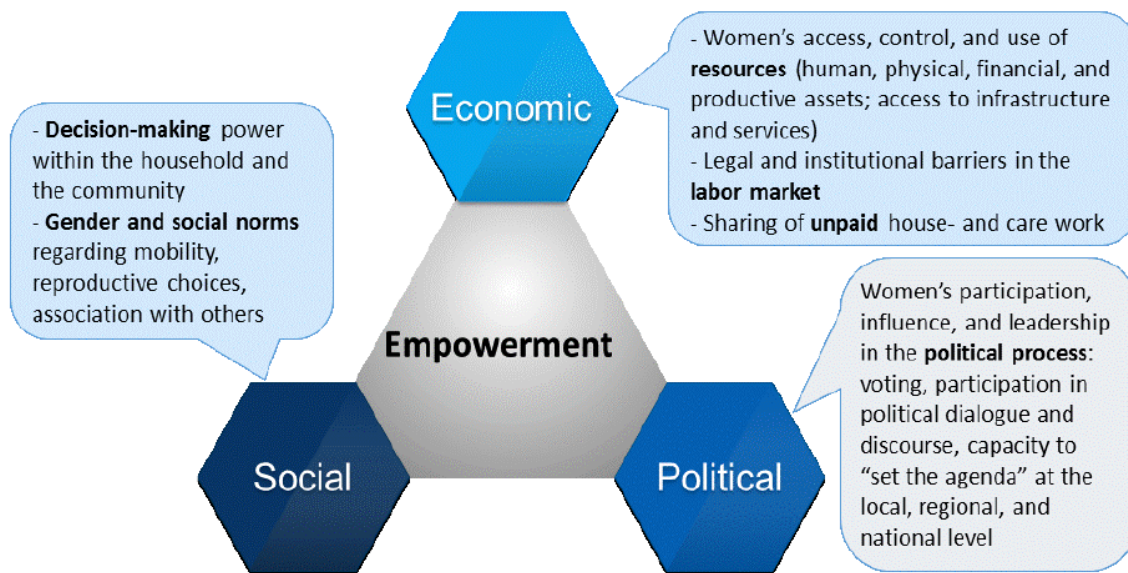
2.1 Concept of Women Empowerment and CDD

Empowerment is not a new concept; every society has its local concept such as freedom of choice, allowing decision-making, autonomy, etc... However, when measuring women's empowerment, at first, we need to know the related definition and concept of empowerment. According to the World Bank, the definition of empowerment defined as "Empowerment is the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives" (World Bank, 2005, p.5).

From this definition empowering to poor people that affect their lives by participation, controlling, and holding the accountable institutions. However, when measuring women's empowerment, different institutions have proposed their own measurements and each reflecting their distinct emphases and perspectives (World Bank, 2007). In the case of CDD projects, women's empowerment typically measures in three domains: economic, political and social (World Bank, 2007). Economic empowerment stands for that empowering women through job-creating, access markets, and income generation, political empowerment to that empowering women through decision-making, and social empowerment refers to that empowering women through access to public services such as health, education, etc.... (World

Bank, 2017). And also, in the social sphere, empowerment refers to decision-making power within the household and their environment community (World Bank, 2017). It can see Figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1: Dimension of Women’s Economic, Political and Social Empowerment

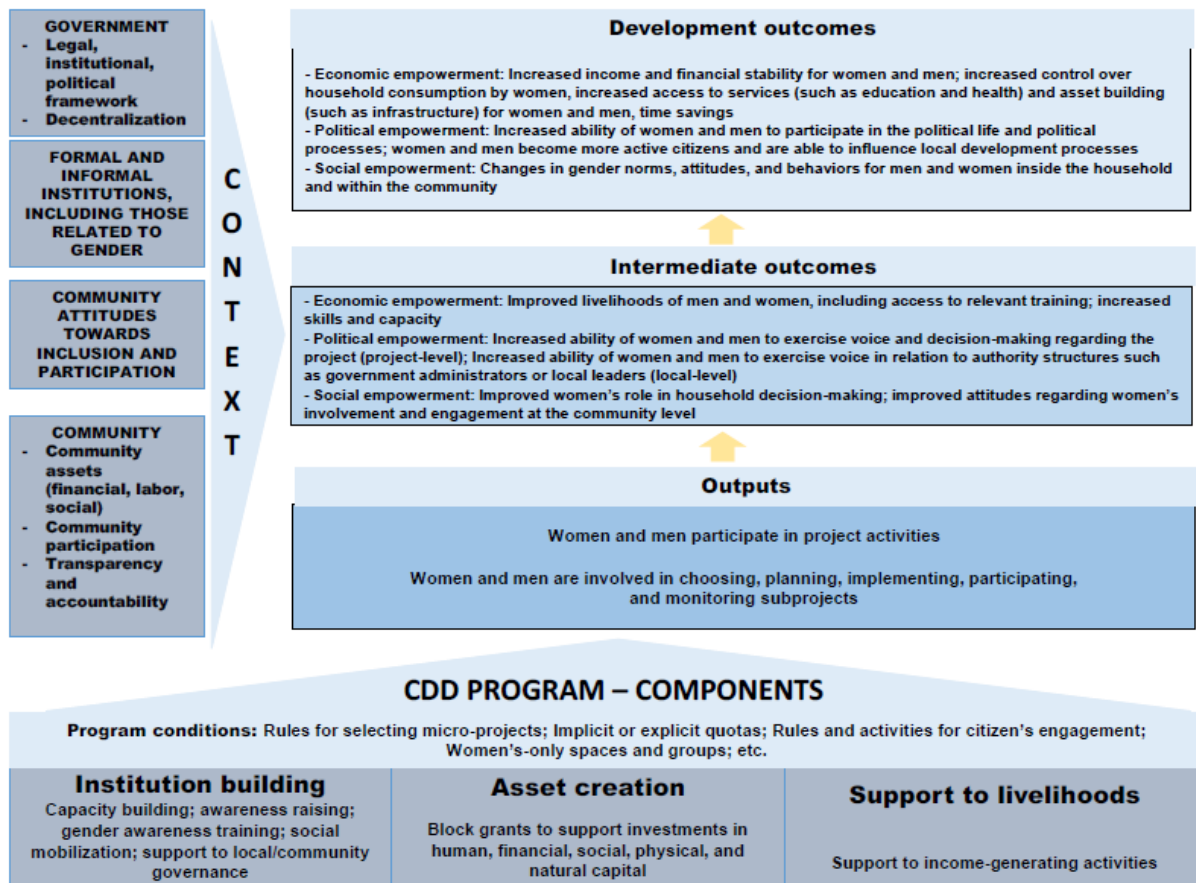


Source: World Bank, 2017

In recent decades, CDD approaches have been used by many national governments as a key operational strategy to address poverty and inequality. As of June 2019, there were 219 active CDD projects in 79 countries around the world including 57 countries supported by the International Development Association (IDA) (World Bank, 2019).

The world bank defines community-driven development as “an approach to local development that gives control over planning decisions and involvement resources to community groups (including local governments)” (World Bank, 2015). The principle of CDD is based on that community involvement in identifying needs and priorities, making decisions about projects, and managing investment funds produces better development outcomes. Empowerment is embedded in the whole approach and at all stages of the CDD result chain shows in Figure (2.- 2).

Figure2-2: CDD Results Chain, with Reference to Empowerment Dimensions



Source: World Bank, 2017

2.3 Women statement in Myanmar

Generally, women faced restrictions in access to decision-making power, confidence, and leadership (World Bank, 2017). According to the “Gender Equality and Women’s Right in Myanmar Situation Analysis report, 2016”, women have restriction in access to administration level in the country, only 42 or 0.3% of females among 16743 were selected for local lower level of ward and village tract administrators in 2012. In national parliaments in 2019, the proportion of seats held by females was only 11.3%. From those evidences, there was a significant gender gap in Myanmar.

Women in the social sphere, in some cultures, women's mobility is restricted, they are expected to stay at home, keep quiet in public meetings, and agree with decisions made by men (World Bank, 2017). In the home, women typically do not have the same decision-making power as men do (World Bank, 2017). A woman in Myanmar is traditionally responsible for her family's well-being while the husband earns the income for the household (Wikipedia). Women living in rural areas of the country have fewer opportunities for advancement than women in more urban areas of the country. Therefore, women have less chance to participate in public meetings and decisions made by men's effects on women and girls.

Women in the economic sphere, women tend to be less profitable than men's work because they have limited access to inheritance, tenure, land, insecure property rights, low access to credit, resources and extension services; and limitations in physical mobility and in accessing networks and information (World Bank, 2017). In Myanmar 2018, the proportion of the employed population below \$ 1.90 PPP a day was 3.2% for males and 3.6% for females (ADB, 2019). Women are more likely less employed rate than men. And also, the unemployment rate in 2018 was 1.2% for men and 2.1 % for women (ADB, 2019). According to the data, women faced difficulties in participation in economic.

2.3 Impacts of CDD on women's empowerment

“The intervention of CDD projects that can effectively enhance empowerment and inclusion only if they explicitly take into account gender-specific needs, constraints, and opportunities and are designed in such a way to ensure equal participation of men and women in deciding about community priorities, implementing projects, managing fund, monitoring, and evaluation community projects” (World Bank, 2015, p. 5). The dimensions of CDD are economic, social, and political empowerment that aim to positively impact on the community and some of the shreds of evidence can see in the following:

According to (World Bank, 2017), CDD projects can increase women's economic empowerment by improving access to livelihood opportunities, jobs, and income. CDD projects can also improve access to services such as education and health, especially for women and girls. For example, Uganda's NUSAF 2 project that women improved access in business assets, work hours, and earning (World Bank, 2017). And also, in Brazil opportunities and income generation were increased (Susan Wong, 2012). In Indonesia: Kecamatan Development Program 2 that increased 11 percentage points in per capita consumption for poor households and 1.5% reduced in the unemployment rate (World Bank, 2013).

According to the Bangladesh Social Investment Program, when measuring to increase community participation of women by integrating them in local rural institutions, women become participants in the project (world Bank,2017). Women can enhance political empowerment like strengthening women's participation in decision making in CDD projects (World Bank, 2017). In Afghanistan, NSP was the first project which included women to meet, share, and discuss, as a result, the woman in Afghanistan increased women's participation in the 2010 parliamentary election (Beath and other, 2013).

Women can enhance their social empowerment or confidence and autonomy by increasing their ability to access social services and participation in community decisions (World Bank, 2017). For example, in Lao poverty reduction fund, women have become more confidence and participation in community decision-making meeting and the role of women have become more elevated (World Bank, 2011).

Improvement in the access to and use of services, especially in health, education, and drinking water, are evident positive impacts from CDD programs. For example, the National Solidarity Program (NSP) in Afghanistan, the projects improved women's access to medical services and enrolment of female in school increased (Beath and other, 2013). In Senegal Programme

National Infrastructures Rurales (PNIR), access to clean water and health services increased by 22.4 percent and 24.1 percent, respectively (World Bank, 2013). In sum, impacts on access and use of services are generally positive, especially when sub-projects are implemented in particular sectors (World Bank, 2013).

2.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, measuring the impact of women's empowerment on CDD projects has its difficulties as well. For instance, different countries have different cultures, altitudes, statuses of perception of women in a community or country at-large. For example, in Nepal Poverty Alleviation Fund there was an increase in enrollment of school but no impact on health (World Bank, 2013). In the Philippines KALAHI-CIDSS (Kapit-bisig Laban Sa Kahirapan—Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Program) there was a large increase in access to health and secondary school but no impact on access to water and elementary enrollment rates (World Bank, 2013). Nevertheless, efforts are being made to find ways to increase the meaningful engagement of women in community-driven development. And also trying to examine whether the increase of women's empowerment by participation in the CDD project cycle. From the literature review, it helped define meaningful dimensions and indicators that were tracked in this research paper. The review referred to track the indicators proposed in the toolkit for the poverty reduction fund, Lao PDR that measuring the impact of CDD projects on gender (World Bank, 2011).

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

3.1 Study Design

The study shall adopt both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

3.2 Data Collection Methods

For quantitative analysis, data were collected and reviewed from project documents and implementation guidelines and manuals from the government agency's website (MIS website). Screening research documentation on other gender-related papers, studies, and reports to further understanding of the realities of women live and helped refine the focus of the study.

The qualitative fieldwork was undertaken in five villages in the Hsihseng township. It involved depth interviews with key informants (DRD officials, CDD officials, project leaders, team leaders, community leaders, CDD representatives, and civil servants. For the individual survey, in each of 5 communities visited, the individual survey was given to the 100 participants that were randomly selected to participate in the interviews and complete survey (i.e., 100 individuals total form each community). For community group survey, in each of 5 communities visited, group discussion was taken with at least 10 participants that randomly collected (i.e., 5 group discussions in which 10 participants included).

The qualitative fieldwork identified the situation of women in communities, helped understand how poor women perceived empowerment in their environment and identified the outcomes results that could be utilized to measure the impact of women’s empowerment in CDD projects.

3.3 Study Area

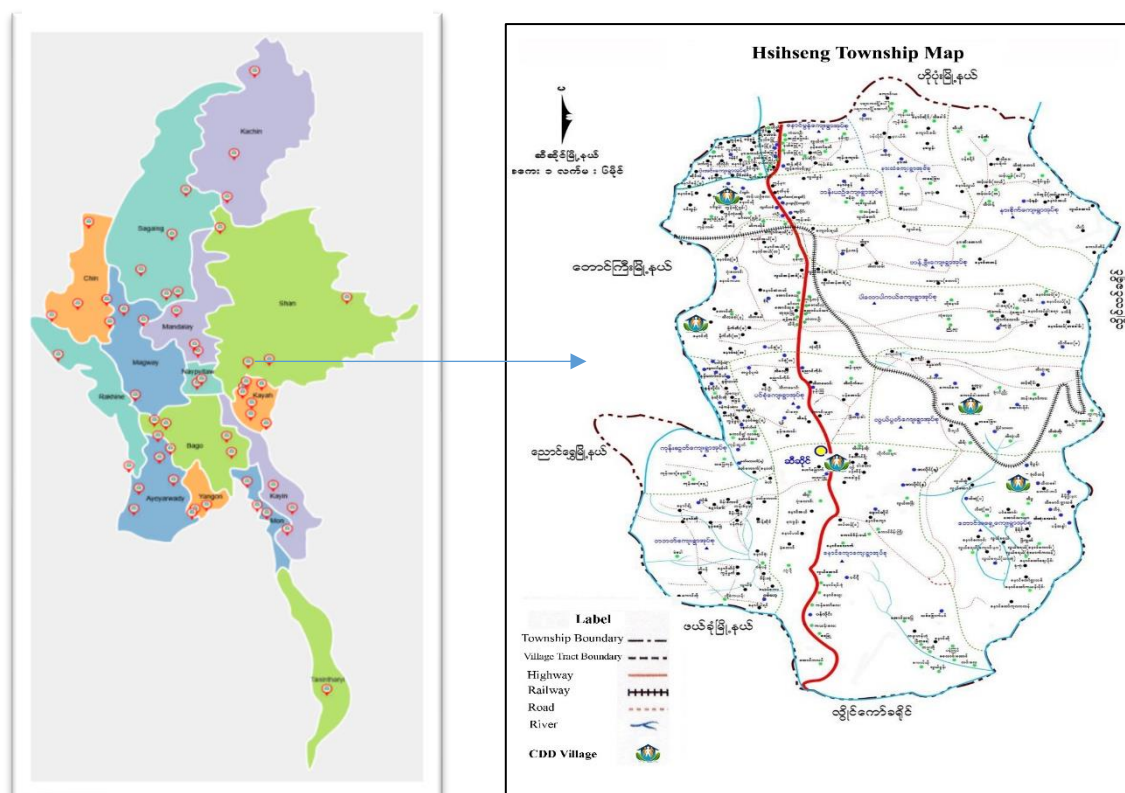
For this research study, the following five villages were selected to investigate the impact of CDD on women’s empowerment (Table 3-1). In the study area, there has a total population of 1945 among which the female population was 1069 see (Table 3-1).

Table 3-1: Study Areas

No	Village tract name	Village name	Population: male	Population: female	Total Population
1	Loi Put	Kawng War Taung	523	686	1209
2	Nawng Kyaw	Haw (North)	100	116	216
3	Taung Shae	Hti Ta Hkaw	134	141	275
4	Ban Yin	Kun Long (Shan)	54	55	109
5	Par Law Par Kei	Nawng Bo	65	71	136
(5) village Tract		(5) villages	876	1069	1945

Source: NCDD MIS website, 2020

Figure 3-1: Map of Study Areas



Source: quarterly report, Hsihseng township

3.4 Selection of Respondents

The selection of respondents for the qualitative analysis was purposive and based on several considerations. Only respondents that were beneficiaries of CDD projects had been undertaken in a random manner were chosen to ensure the availability of an appropriate control group. Table (3-2) shows the sample size of respondents that were undertaken to utilize in the research paper.

Table 3-2: Data Collection

No	Respondents from Village	Sample size	Percentage
1	Kawng War Taung	20	20%
2	Haw (North)	20	20%
3	Hti Ta Hkaw	20	20%
4	Kun Long (Shan)	20	20%
5	Nawng Bo	20	20%
		100	100%

Source: Author, 2020

3.4 Ethical issues

In this research, ethical issues were considered as an important thing. At first, for any reason, no coercion enforced to participate in the interviews and group discussion. Before starting the respondent field survey, the researcher declared the objective of the study and took permission from the respondents.

3.5 Contribution of the Study

This research report intended initially in contributing to increasing women's empowerment in local areas where CDD projects implemented. It maps out the suggestions and recommendations based on experiences in similar projects and analysis data. It is hoped that suggestions and recommendations will be contributed to better improvement of empowering local people, especially for women and better implementation processes.

3.6 Limitation of the Study

The major limitation was the research carried out in the country of Bangladesh, and the study areas were in Myanmar. Therefore, collecting the primary data was the main challenge in this study. Nevertheless, the efforts were being made to collect data to analyze the research by supporting of CDD office in Hsihseng township. Staff and township officer were contributed in the research by collecting individual interviews data and managed video conferences with respondents for group discussions. Another limitation was the limited time to carry out the research paper.

3.7 Conclusion

The research is intended initially for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Governance and Development and also for the stakeholders (Department of Rural Development). It maps out suggestions and recommendations based on the analysis data and it is hoped that it will be helped of a broader discussion leading to the preparation of an integrated strategy for NCDDP.

Chapter 4

Implementation of CDD in Hsihseng Township

This chapter included the implementation processes of CDD projects and how the projects mandate women participation in the project's activities. This chapter highlights mainly on project description.

4.1 CDD projects setting in Myanmar

Myanmar is a poor country and the country has been trying to improve all-round sustainable development. Seventy percent of the total population are lived in a rural area. Since 2013, the new Department of Rural Development (DRD) was established to carry out the obligations of rural development. DRD was under the Ministry of Agriculture, livestock, and Irrigation (MOALI). With this new department, the Government of Myanmar (GOM) was established a Community-Driven Development (CDD) program known as the National Community-Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The NCDDP was funded by the GOM, Government of Italy (GOI), and International Development Association (IDA) World Bank. The project Launch in 2013, and now it expanded to cover at least 63 townships across the country, home to an estimated seven million people (NCDDP operations manual, 2018).

The objective of NCDDP is to enable poor rural people to benefit from increased access to and use of small-scale infrastructure and services, to enhance the government's capacity to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency (NCDDP, 2018). The project's objective will be achieved through (i) financing community-identified rural infrastructure investments; (ii) strengthening the capacity of communities in partnership with local authorities to effectively identify, plan and implement their development priorities; and (iii) facilitating the participation of the poor and vulnerable, both women and men throughout the project cycle at the community level (NCDDP, 2018, p.1).

Planning Cycle of NCDDP

The project is implemented in Cycle shows in Figure (4-1). It consists of six stages and each stage has 14 steps. DRD township staff, community facilitators (CFs), technical facilities (TFs), and township-level technical assistance partners will support the process as necessary (NCDDP, 2018).

In stage 1: the first step undertakes meeting orientation in which explains the principles of community-driven development, the introduction of various committees, sub-committees and key project actors. Also, assess development needs and planning for the future by Participatory Social Assessment (PSA).

Stage 2: in stage 2 includes the selection of various committees to review the results of PSA, prepared village development plan and select the sub-projects. Committees are Village Tract Project Support Committee (VTSC), Village Project Support Committee (VPSC), and sub-committee including with finance, monitoring & evaluation, and operation and maintenance.

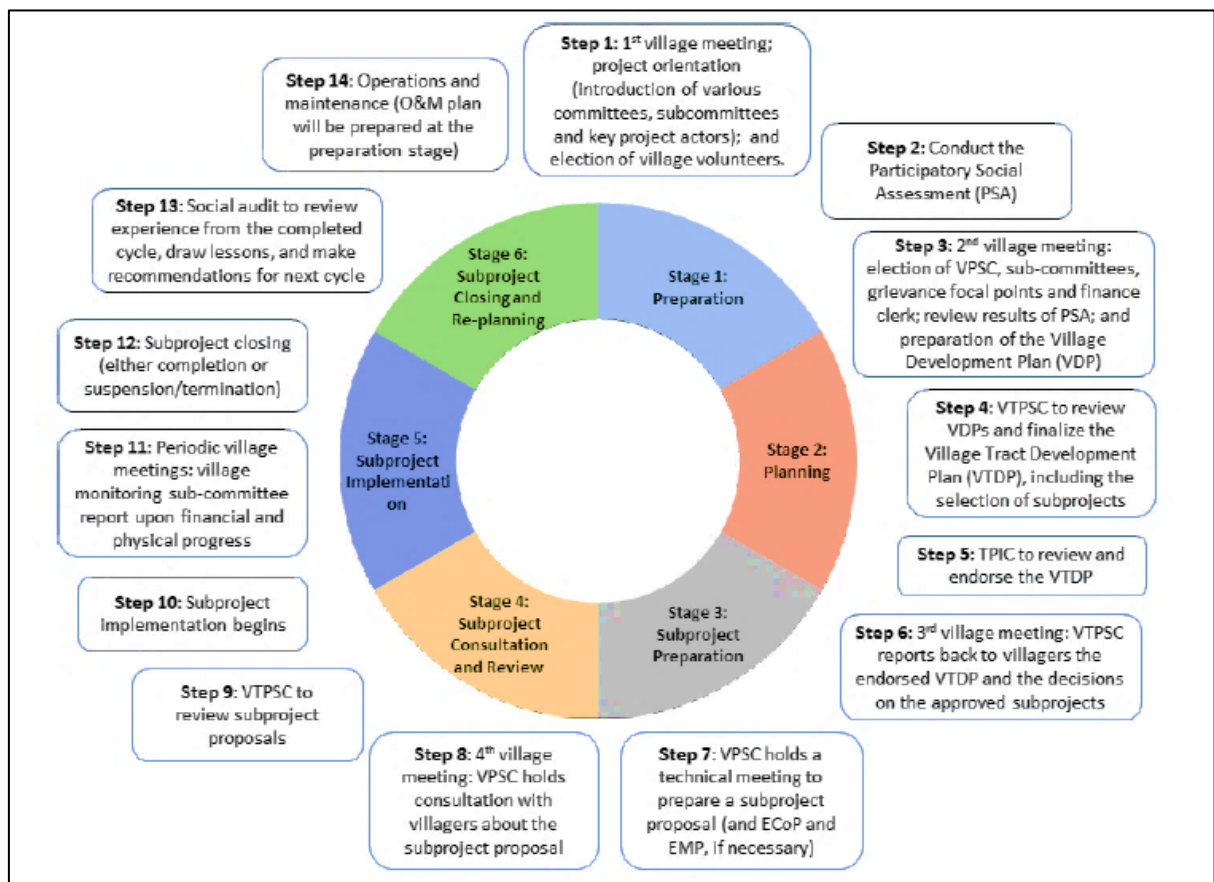
In stage 3: prepare the sub-project proposal that already selected from stage 2.

In stage 4: consulting with the villagers to ensure quality and acceptance of the sub-project proposal before the project begins.

In stage 5: implemented the sub-project and during the implementing the relative committee report on the sub-projects financial and the project progress.

Stage 6: closing the sub-project. Review the completed processes and draw the lessons and made a recommendation for the next cycle from the experiences. Finally, undertake operation and maintenance. The following figure shows the project cycle (stages and steps).

Figure 4-1: CDD Project Cycle (Stages and Steps)



Source: NCDDP, Operation & Manual, 2018

4.3 Project Implementation Arrangement

The NCDDP has four levels of implementation: The Union, Region/State level, Township level, and village tract and village level (see Figure 4-2).

At the Union level: DRD has responsibilities for the project as NCDDP secretariat include (i) helping to set the overall strategic direction of the project, (ii) ensuring overall compliance with the provisions of the Operation Manual (OM), (iii) the procurement of consultancy services for technical assistance and institutional support, (iv) communications and outreach, (v) training capacity development of all project stakeholders, and (vi) monitoring and evaluation, including consolidated reporting (NCDDP,2018).

At the Region/State level: in this level authorities play a coordination and oversight role. Provide technical support for township offices including infrastructure, monitoring and evaluation, and other issues (NCDDP OM,2018).

At the township level: Township Planning and Implementation Committee (TPIC) and township DRD office were assumed as the primary responsibility for the implementation. Each township will receive technical support from State/Region DRD office, union technical assistance teams and union DRD to manage on issues including financial, procurement, management information system (MIS), grievance handling and other (NCDDP OM,2018).

At the village tract/ village level: the main implementation body of the project was the Village Tract Implementation Support committee (VTISC) and Village Project Support Committee (VISC) at the village level. The main function of the village committee shows in Table (4-1).

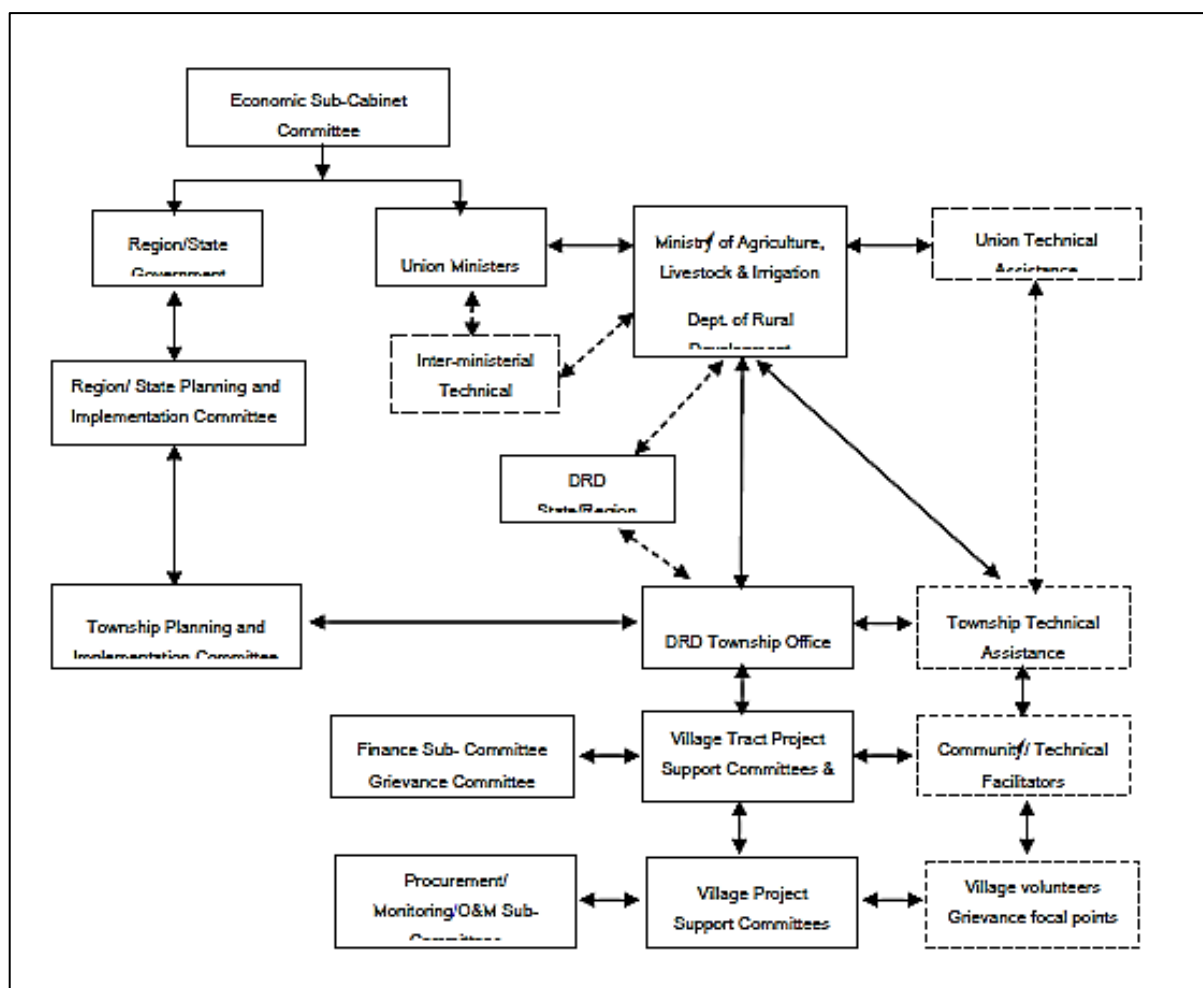
Table 4-1: Main Function of Village Levels Committees

No	Committee	Main Functions
1	Village Tract implementation support committee (VTISC)	Review village development plans and subprojects for funding. Decision making on block grant allocation.
2	Finance Sub-Committee (FSC)	Managing the finances for the village tract. Withdrawals money from the village tract bank account.
3	Village Project Support Committee (VPSC)	Prepared village development plan. Priorities for the project. Identified funding for the priority projects.
4	Sub-Committees (1) Procurement (2) Monitoring and Evaluation (3) Operation and Maintenance	1) Approving purchases and contracts 2) To oversee sub-project implementation 3) To operate and maintain the sub-project.

5	Village volunteers Grievance focal points	To ensure transparency throughout the project. To provide a contact for the community with concern about the project.
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Source: NCDDP, Operation & Manual, 2018

Figure 4-2: Institutional Structure



Source: NCDDP, Operation & Manual, 2018

4.4 NCDDP project in Hsihseng Township

In Hsihseng township, the NCDDP project was established in 2016/17 and it was cycle 1 for Hsihseng township (i.e., 2017/18 for cycle 2, 2018/19 for cycle 3, and 2019/20 for cycle 4). Mean, now in Hsihseng township NCDDP is in cycle 3. Therefore, data related to the project was collected from the 2016/17 in cycle 1.

4.5 Fund Flow and Sup-projects

Funds for community block grants flowed directly from DRD at the union to village track bank accounts in Hsihseng township and each village tract received at least four annual cycles of block grants. Block grant allocations are based on the population of village tracts as follows:

Block Grant Allocation Based on Population of Village Tracts

Village Tract Population	Village Number	Amount (Myanmar Kyat)
<3000	1-10	22000000 MMK
	11-15	30000000 MMK
	16-20	40,000,000 MMK
	>20	50,000,000 MMK
3001 to 5000	1-20	44,000,000 MMK
	21-25	50,000000 MMK
	>25	60,000,000 MMK
50001 to 9,000	1-30	60,000,000 MMK
	>30	70,000,000 MMK
>13,000	1-40	150,000,000 MMK
	>40	200,000,000 MMK

Source: NCDDP, Operation & Manual, 2018

Block grants are allocated for sub-projects that are identified by the villagers through a participatory planning process. Allocated funds for Hsihseng township in Cycle (1) was 1430 million Myanmar Kyats, 1490 million MMK, and 1995 million MMK for Cycle (2) and (3) respectively see below Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Fund Distribution for Subprojects by Year in Hsihseng Township

No	Township	Budget Distribution (million MMK)			Total Budget
		Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	
1	Hsihseng	1430	1490	1995	4915

Source: Hsihseng Township Quarterly Report (2017,2018,2019)

Investment for sub-projects in Hsihseng township shows in Table (4-3). All of the sub-projects were implemented by communities through prioritization, planning, financing, and management.

Table 4.3: Number of Implemented Sub-projects by Year in Hsihseng Township

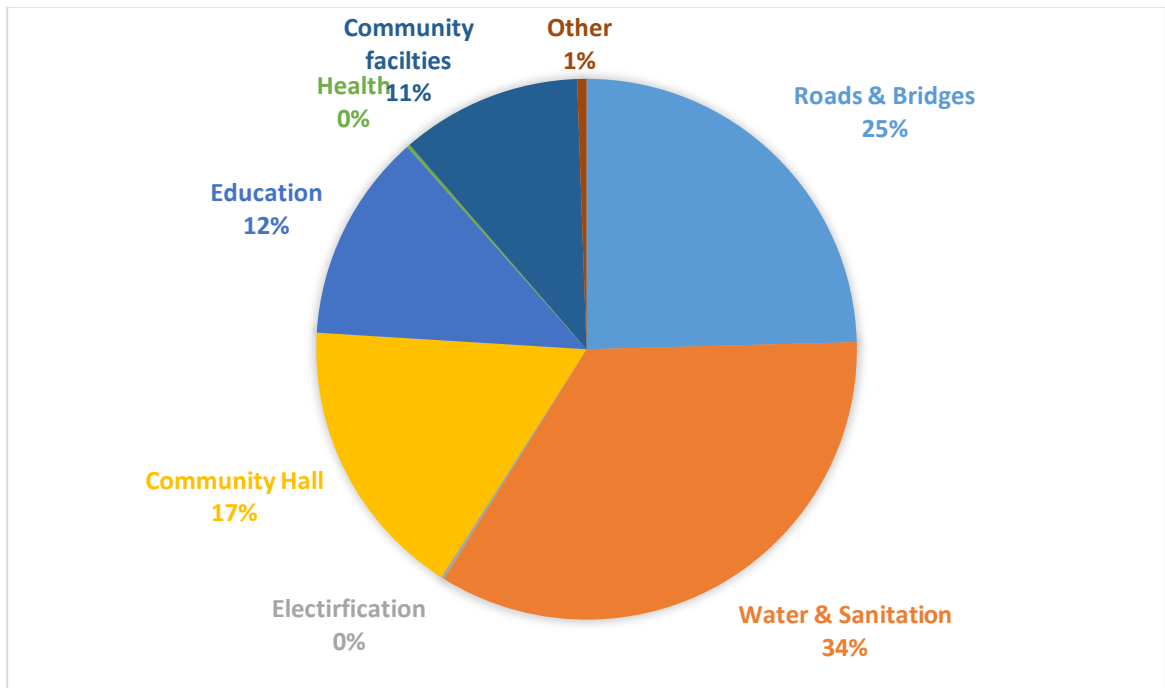
No	Sub-projects name	Facial year			Total SP
		Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	
1	Roads & Bridges	20	35	77	132
2	Water & Sanitation	109	49	26	184
3	Electrification			1	1
4	Community Facilities	32	57	60	149
5	Education	37	18	12	67
6	Health	1		-	1
7	Other		2	1	3
	Total	199	161	177	537

Source: Hsihseng Township Quarterly Report (2017,2018,2019)

The number of sub-projects investment in the Hsihseng township shows in Figure (4-3). The data shows that among the sub-projects water & sanitation project was 34% of the total sub-projects number. Currently, Hsihseng township is still difficult to access clean water, especially for poor people. By providing water supply services to the village, the project brings for the women group to be more save time and workforce on their daily domestic works. And also, the projects can contribute to improving their health by servicing of clean water. Construction of roads and bridges was 25% of the total number of sub-projects in Hsihseng township. By construction of transportation infrastructures, the project took the opportunities for local people easy access to input and output of the product markets. Consequently, local people can improve

their connection between village to village and village to the township and also, they can easily convey their products from the agriculture sectors.

Figure 4-3: Sub-projects by Sectors in Hsihseng Township



Source: Hsihseng Township Quarterly Report (2017,2018,2019)

4.6 Female participation in Village committees

CDD project mandate for female participation in all processes of implementation to ensure equality among men and women and to ensure equal access to and distribution of the social and economic benefits from the subprojects. The following Table (4-4) shows members of committees in villages level of Hsihseng township. Each member of the committee has equal parts of the gender ratio.

Table 4-4: Female Participation in Village Committees

No	Committees/Volunteer	(% of Female memberships)		
		Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
1	Village Project Support Committee (VPSC)	50%	51%	51%
2	Procurement Sub-Committee	51%	52%	51%
3	Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Committee	49%	50%	50%
4	Operation and Maintenance Sub-committee	52%	52%	52%
5	Grievance focal persons	50%	50%	50%
6	Village volunteer	50%	50%	50%
7	Village clerk	51%	49%	52%

Source: Quarterly Report (Jun-Sep, 2019), Hsihseng township

4.7 Conclusion

This chapter reviewed the implementation processes in Hsihseng township. The NCDDP has a mentation for women participation in all types of community activities, was higher and statistically significant. Further to reach in depth of women's empowerment in the political, social, and economic, the finding and analysis was carried out in the chapter 5.

Chapter 5

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Introduction

This chapter included analyzing women's empowerment in the selected five villages areas in the NCDDP projects. The results displayed in this chapter and have a positive effect size. The result suggests that female empowerment does increase with greater exposure to the NCDDP. While the result outcome is meaningful, it is also important to explore how NCDDP impacted different types of empowerment in different dimensions. To do that, the indicators undertaken into three categories of empowerment (i.e., political, economic, and social) to see which domains the NCDDP had the most impact.

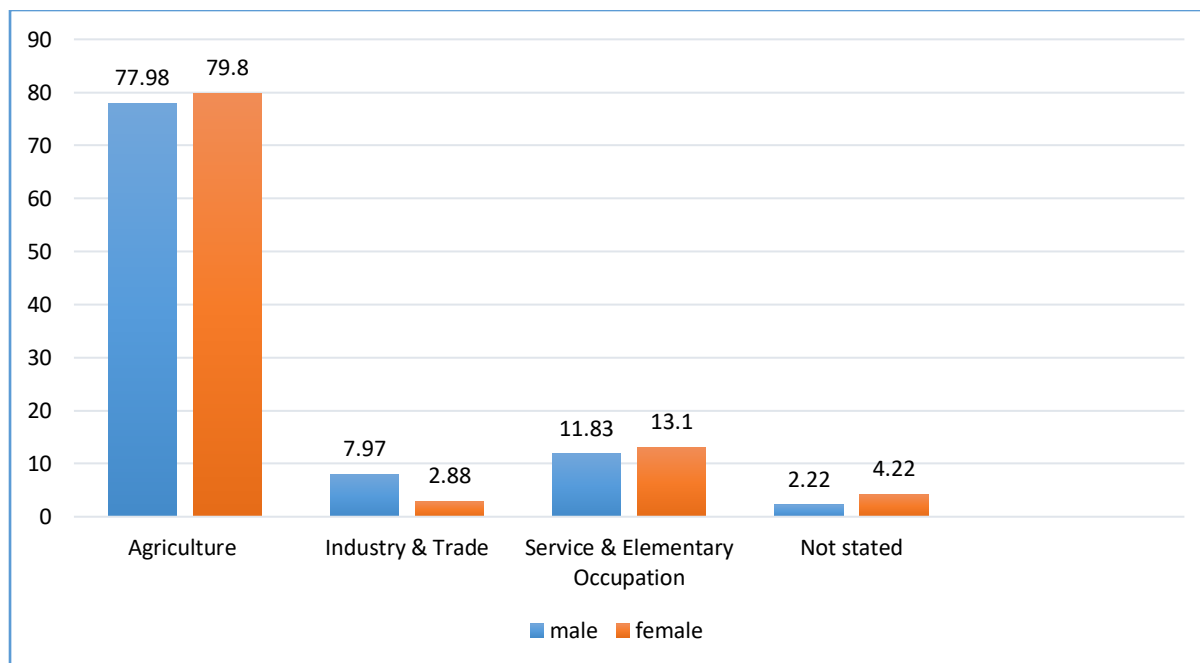
5.1 Profile of Hsihseng township and selected areas

Hsihseng is a township located in the Taunggyi District, South Shan State, Myanmar. It has a total population of 153032 with an area of 2048.6 km² according to the census of 2014. The total population of a female is 78,296 while a male has 74,736 (Census Myanmar, 2014). Therefore, the population density of Hsihseng township is 75 persons per square kilometer. There have 32771 of private households in Hsihseng township while mean female-headed households have 19.2 percent. Therefore, the average number of persons per household is 4.5 persons (Household size). The township organized with 6 wards in the urban area and 13 village tracts in the rural area. Under village tracts, 321 number of villages consist.

In Hsihseng township 92.1 percent of the total population is living in the rural area and land used which is predominantly agriculture. Therefore, the main occupation for that township mainly depends on the agricultural sector. According to census data of 2014, around 78 percent

of males and 79.8 percent of females are work in agriculture sectors and another two sectors are industry& trade and service& elementary occupations, respectively (see Figure 5-1 below).

Figure 5-1: Employed Person aged 15-64 by Occupation by Sex



Source: Censuses Myanmar, 2019

In Hsihseng township, there was 77.9 percent of literacy rate (persons aged 15 and over), in this rate female has a 69.8 percent literacy rate while a male has 86.9 percent (see Table 5-1). And also, in labor force participation, rare female has only 80.7 percent while male has 92.1 percent (see Table 5-2).

Table 5-1: Literacy Rate in Hsihseng Township

Literacy rate (Person aged 15 and over)	77.9 %
Male	86.9%
Female	69.8 %

Source: Censuses Myanmar, 2019

Table 5-2: Labor Force Participation Rate in Hsihseng Township

Labor force (aged 15-64)	Male	Female
Labor force participation rate	92.1%	80.7%
Unemployment to population ratio	91.3%	80%

Source: Censes Myanmar, 2019

To explore the effect on women’s empowerment by CDD projects to local people of Hsihseng township, five villages were selected as a study area. They are Kawng War Taung, Haw (North), Naung Bo, Hti Ta Hkaw, for the past three-cycle years of 2016/17, 2017/18, and partially of 2018/2019. Those five villages were chosen by intentionally for the purpose of to explore how communities involved in the projects, what benefits communities got from the projects and how the projects empower women to improve their lives. The main target was women group and the required data were collected from those five villages by analyzing primary and secondary data.

The map and information for those chosen five villages can be seen in appendix A. The current information and requirement data concern with the project of fives villages were collected from the secondary data available on the MIS website of NCDDP project (<https://www.ncddmis.com>). Also, the primary data collected through questionnaires, group discussions, and interviews.

5.2 Demography status of Selected for Study Area

The total population of study villages was 1945 while men were 876 and female 1069. Therefore, 55% of the total population was female. There was a total of 334 households in which 67 households were led by the female (see Table 5-3). The majority of ethnic groups in that five villages were Pa-O (94 percent of the total population), and another 5 percent of Shan

ethnic, and 1 percent of Burmese and Kayin. All five villages' demography status (see appendix C).

Table 5-3: Head of Households by Sex in Study Areas

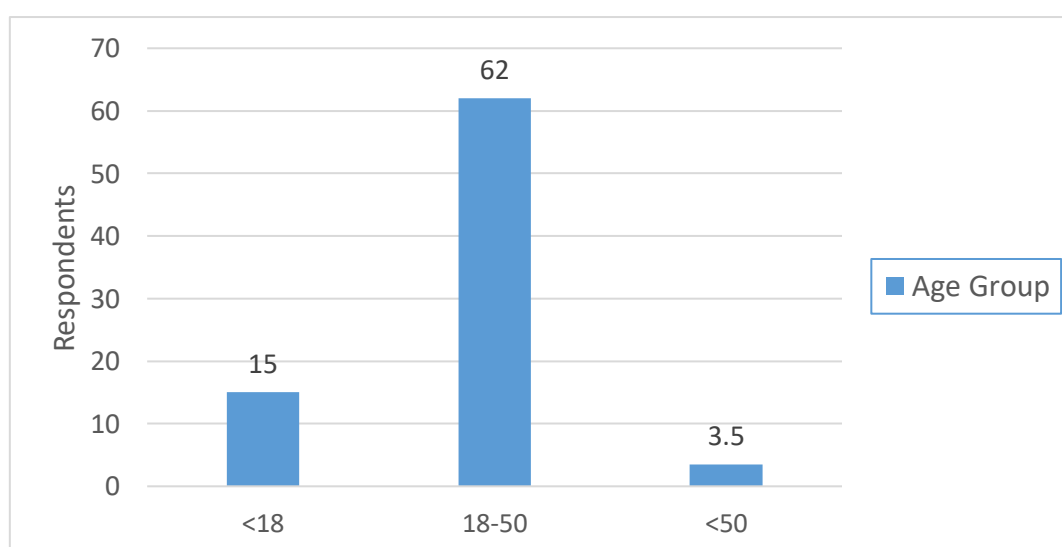
Village Name	Head of Households		
	Male	Female	Total
Kawng War Taung	148	34	182
Haw (North)	38	9	47
Hti Ta Hkaw	33	14	47
Kun Long (Shan)	21	8	29
Nawng Bo	27	2	29
Total	267	67	334

Source: NCDDP Office Hsihseng township, DRD 2019

5.3 Respondents Characteristics

According to the study objectives, the analysis used only female respondents from the study areas. The respondents were chosen at random from the study areas that had implemented NCDDP subprojects. There were a total 100 of female respondents and the average age of women at the time of the survey was around 35-year-old, about 50 percent of women were married (see Figure 5-2 below).

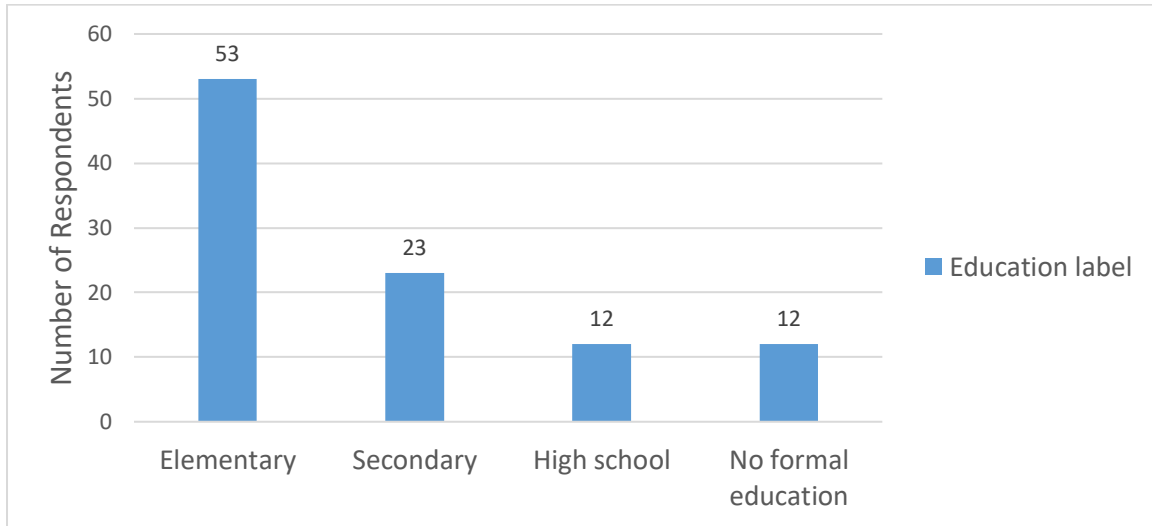
Figure 5-2: Distribution of Respondents by Age Groups in the Study Areas



Source: Community Survey

Figure (5-3) presents the label of women’s education from the selected areas. From this statistic data, only a few respondents graduated, 53 percent of respondents are elementary level, 23 percent of respondents are secondary level, and 12 percent were no formal education.

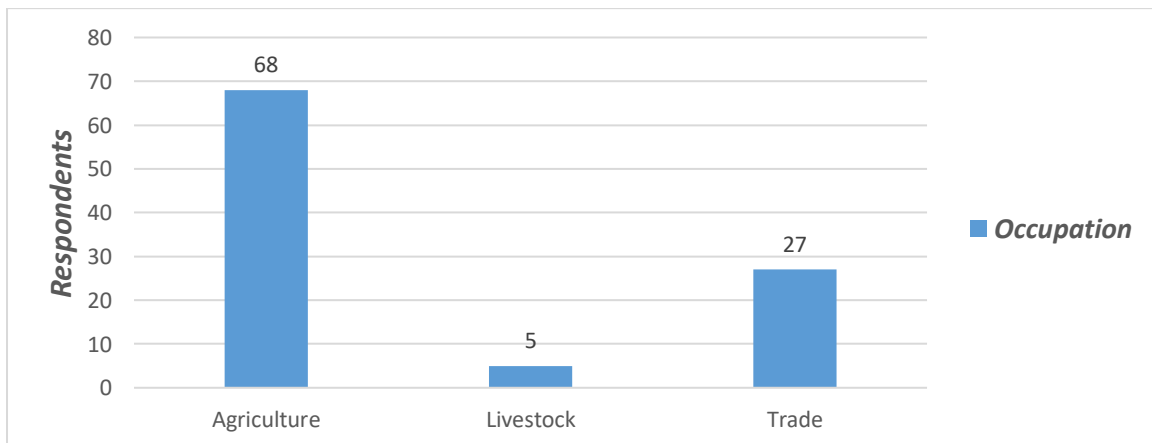
Figure 5-3: Education Level of Respondents



Source: Community Survey

At the time of the survey, most of the respondents were working in the agriculture sector. In 68 percent of their occupation was in agriculture. Therefore, the main income of respondents was depending on agriculture. Only a few respondents were work in the livestock sector 5 percent, and 27 percent of trade (see Figure 5-4 below).

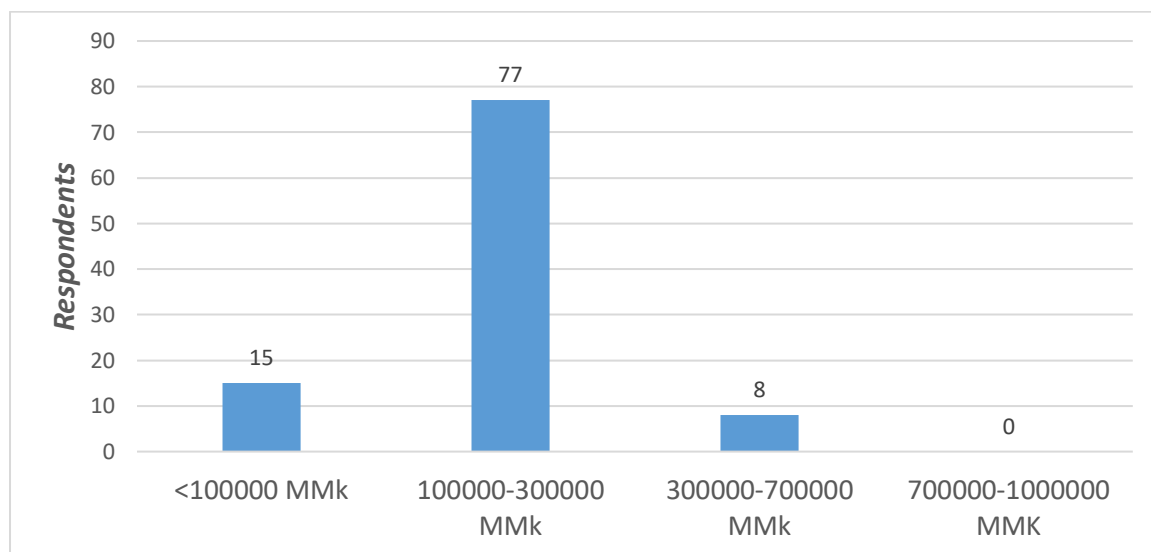
Figure 5-4: Respondents Income Sources



Source: Community Survey

The following Figure (5-5) shows that the average monthly income of the respondents. 77 percent of respondents have monthly income of between 100000 MMK and 300000 and 15 percent of respondents have a monthly income below 100000MMK.

Figure 5-5: Respondents Monthly Income



Source: Community Survey

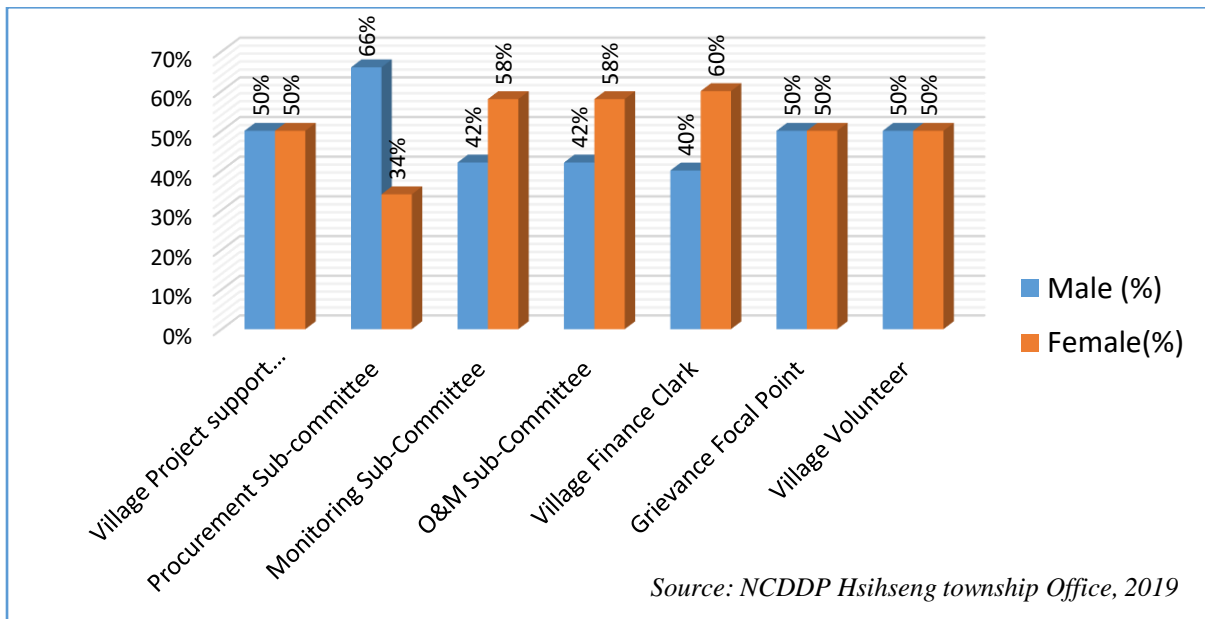
5.4 Women’s Participation in NCDD

At first, attempt to analyze the impact of NCDDP on women’s participation rate in communities, the percentage of the female participation rate in development committees were utilized. Because CDD interventions are based on the principle that community involvement in identifying development requirements and priorities, decision-making on implementation projects, manage project funds to distribute in sub-projects and monitoring and evaluating the projects.

According to the data of female involvement in the project committee (see Figure 5-6 below), the percentage of females in VPSC was 50 percent, the Procurement sub-committee was 66 percent, monitoring and O&M committees was 42 percent and village finance Clark was 40

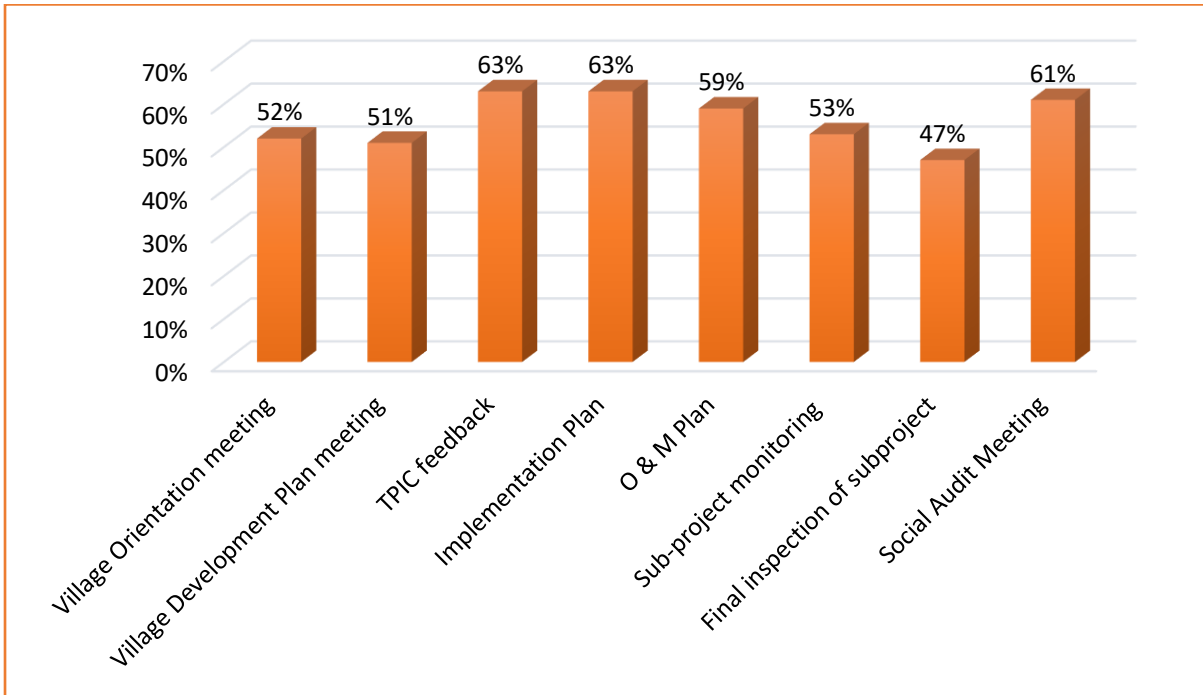
percent. The result shows that overall, there have 50 about 50 percent of female involvement in all committees of NCDDP. This indicates that the NCDDP had equal involvement of women and men in the committees to identify priorities, decision-making on implementation projects, manage project funds to distribute in sub-projects, and Monitoring and Evaluating the projects.

Figure 5-6: Percentage of Female Involvement in Committees at Study Areas



The result of Figure 5-7, shows female participation in the project activities. Overall, approximately 50 percent of females participated in the project implementation process activities, therefore the project had a positive impact on women by increasing their abilities to access service of social involvement and participation in the project activities for their decision-making. From the results of female involvement in committees and female participation rates in the project activities were the answer to research question No. (1) that is what are the processes of implementation CDD projects and how many women have participated in those processes. The processes of implementation CDD projects also explained in the chapter (4). And it can also see in Figure 5-7 below.

Figure 5-7: Female Participation Rate in Project Activities



Source: NCDDP Hsihseng Township Office, DRD 2019

When undertaking the individual survey, we asked: “did you participate in the NCDDP projects village meeting”. Totally 100 percent of the respondents indicated “yes” (see table below). Therefore, the respondents who responded to the individual survey have familiar with the NCDDP project.

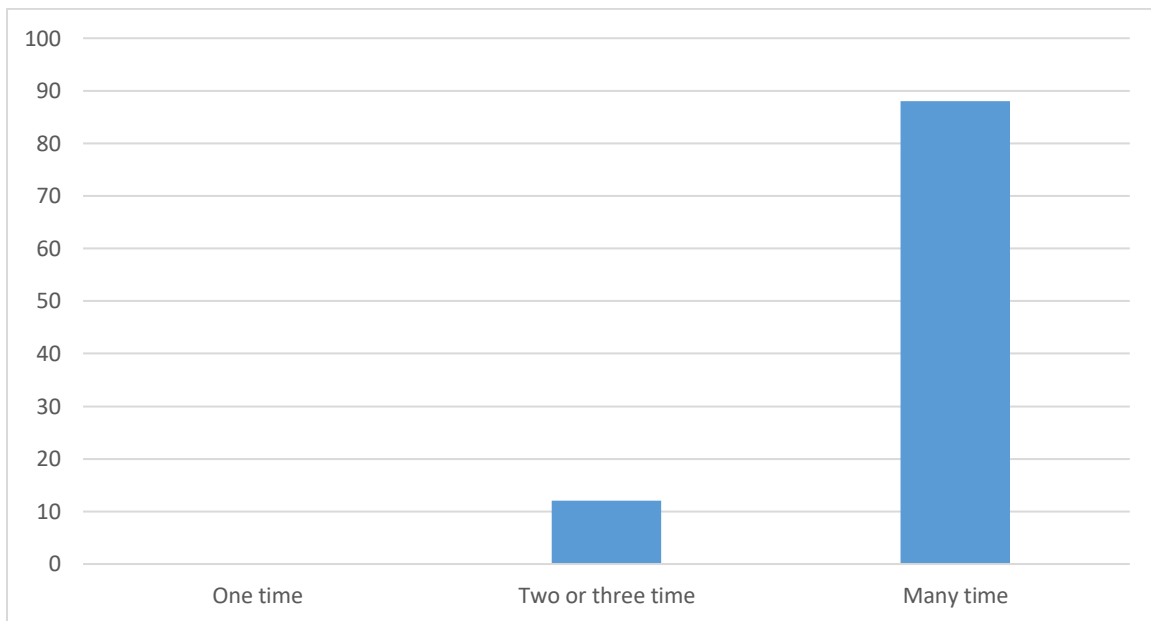
Table 5-4: Question 1 of Part B “Did you have participated in the NCDDP meeting?”

Respondents	Attended the meeting	
	Yes	No
100	100	-

Source: Community Survey

Figure (5-8) below shows the frequency of women attended in the project meetings that hold in their villages. Village meetings are the most common. All women are eligible to participate in the meeting, there was approximately 88 percent of respondents participate in the NCDDP meeting many times and only a few 12 percents of respondents two or three times attended the meeting.

Figure 5-8: Frequency of respondents attended in NCDDP meeting



Source: Community Survey

5.5 Women’s Empowerment in Political Domain

From previous results mentioned above, there was above 50 percent of women participation in village committees and in the project implementation activities. This was one of the statistically significant that CDD projects increase women’s participation in decision-making at the local level. But this is inadequate and insufficient to measure the impact on the political sphere. Therefore, the indicator (1) was utilized to examine the NCDDP intervention had on women’s political empowerment.

Indicator 1 - *Indicator (1) included a percentage of Women’s participation in the project meeting who actively speak and vote.*

To measure the engagement of women’s political empowerment in CDD is not only depend on the number of women attending the meeting but also depends on the number of women who actively participate in meetings. Actively participation means, women who attended the meeting expressed their opinions or having a voice of discussion in meeting so as to influence a group’s decision.

Table (5-5) represents the percentage of women actively participating in the meeting. The result shows that 100 percent of NCDDP women gave their opinions on the village’s needs and also expressed their opinions by speaking and voting at the village meeting.

*Table 5-5: (Question 1 of Part C)
Female Participation Rate in Project Activities*

	Women (%)
Discuss in front of the group	35
Speaking and not voting	-
Not speaking but voting	65
Neither speak nor vote	-

Source: Community Survey

To measure the degree of women participation in the meeting, the indicator (2) utilized. This indicator can know how much women’s successes in achieving their desired outcomes from the decision-making in priorities meeting.

Indicator 2 - *Indicator 2 consisted of women proposed sub-project for their village and implementation of sub-project that proposed by women.*

Table (5-6) shows the number of sub-projects proposed by sex, in which (13) number of sub-projects included that were proposed by women, 12 sub-projects proposed by men, and 21 sub-projects proposed by both. As illustration data, 52 percent of the number of sub-projects proposed by women and 48 percent proposed by men. The percentage of women was higher than men (i.e., successful women participation in the decision-making at the meeting). However, the implementation of sub-projects proposed by women is an important issue to consider whether or how women's decisions reflected women's influence at the meeting. As shown in Table (5-6), all of the sub-projects implemented in the study areas are proposed by both men and women. In that event, in all of the CDD villages, both men and women are discussed together in which sub-projects should be receive before conversion into implemented sub-projects. Therefore, there is no clear to track the degree of women's influence on the meeting.

Table 5-6: Sub-projects Proposed by Sex and Implemented of Sub-projects

Village Name	Number of Sub-projects proposed by sex			Implemented sub-project
	By Men	By Women	Both	Both
Kawng War Taung	4	3	3	1
Kun Long (Shan)	2	2	5	1
Nawng Bo	1	2	4	1
Hti Ta Hkaw	1	4	7	1
Haw (North)	4	2	3	1
Total	12	13	21	5

Source: NCDDP Office, Hsihseng Township, 2019

Another indicator 3 utilized to examine the degree of women's decisive influence on the meeting.

Indicator 3 - *Indicator 3 organized with percentage of women who have decision-making in any other group, meeting, or projects, except NCDDP projects.*

In other words, this indicator showed how much the degree of women got decision-making awareness levels from the NCDDP projects and how they advance this awareness in their social environment (other projects, group, meeting, except NCDDP).

From Table (5-7) below, among all the women interviewed approximately 23 percent of women advance their decision-making processes outside of the project. Therefore, women enhanced their participation skills experienced from the NCDDP projects and they applied these skills in public decision making. Most of the respondents answer that their decision-making skills applied to the Mya Sein Yong project, women group, and village meeting (not NCDDP) (see Table 3 in appendix **B**).

Table 5-7: (Question 5 of Part C)

Women who have Decision-making in any other Group or Meeting (Expect NCDDP)

	Answer	
	Yes	No
Do you have decision making in any other group outside of the project?	45	55

Source: Community Survey

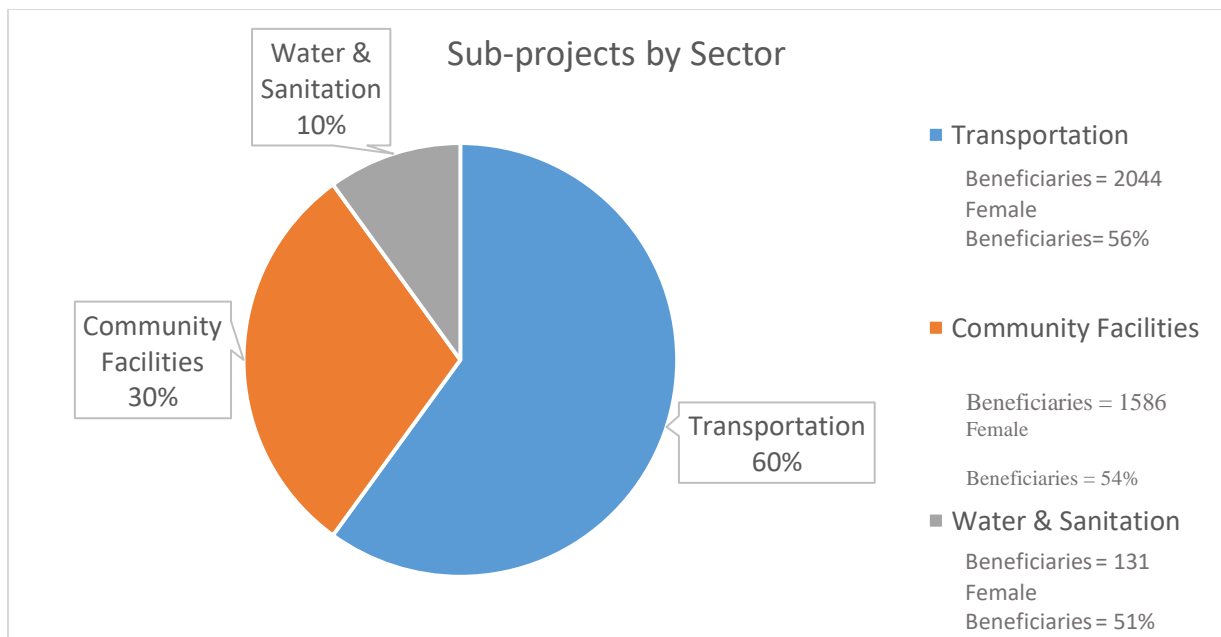
5.6 Women’s Empowerment in Economic Domain

To examine the impact of NCCDP on women’s empowerment in the economic domain, another indicator 4 was utilized.

Indicator 4 - *assessing the effect of NCDDP subprojects on women’s income change, time spending on their daily household tests, household cost living change, and affected their business operation*

To assess women’s economic indicator 4, the type of sub-projects implemented in the study areas were utilized. Table (11) in appendix C shows details sectors of sub-projects implemented in the representative cycles. There were 10 sub-projects implemented started from cycle 1 to cycle 3. Almost 60 percent of sub-projects investment in the transportation sector, 30 percent in community facilities, and 10 percent in water & sanitation (see Figure 5-9 below). The number of beneficiaries in the transportation sector was 2044 in which the female beneficiary was 56 percent. All of the sub-projects in the community facility sector was constructed as a community hall and there was 1586 number of the community are benefit from that sector with 54 percent was female beneficiaries. In the water & sensation sector 51 percent of female benefit among 131 beneficiaries.

Figure 5-9: Sub-projects by Sector in Study Areas



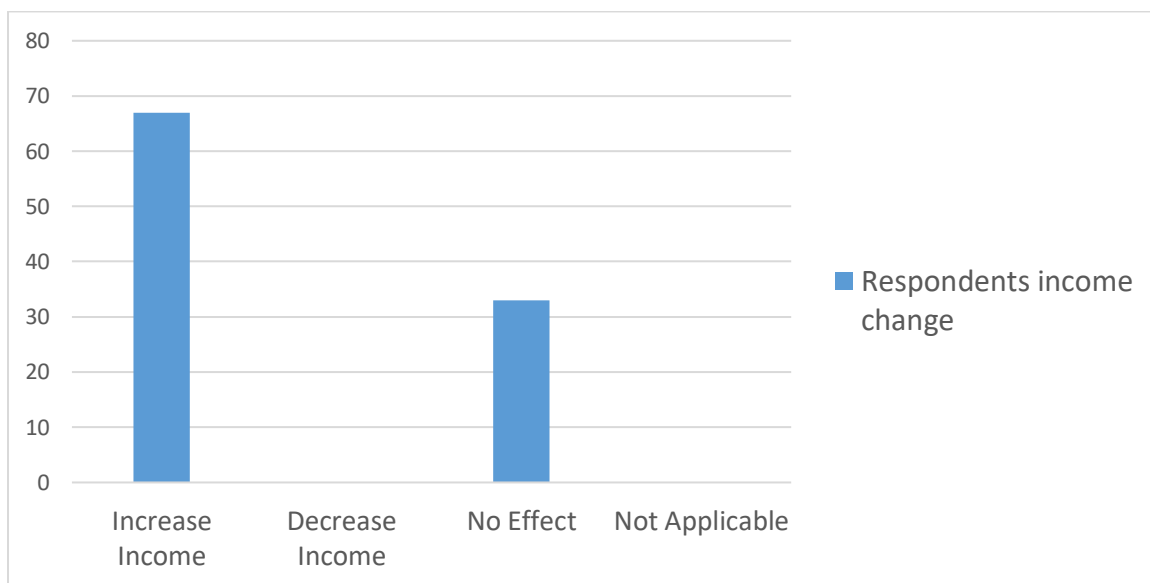
Source: NCDDP, MIS Website, 2019

All respondents were asked whether their family had accessed the above sub-projects in their villages. As results, all respondents accessed those sub-projects (it can see in appendix B Table 3). Therefore, the next step women were asked whether that NCDDP sub-project had affected

their income, household cost living, time spending on their daily household tests, and affected their businesses.

The result shows in Figure (5-10) below that 67 percent of females changed their income including non-monetary after implemented the sub-projects. Around 33 percent of females replied the sub-project was no impact on their income yet. However, in the transportation sector, the sub-project has an effect on their income who have business activities or trade (Case Study 1). But it was no clear to measure the evidence of the amount of increased money including non-monetary.

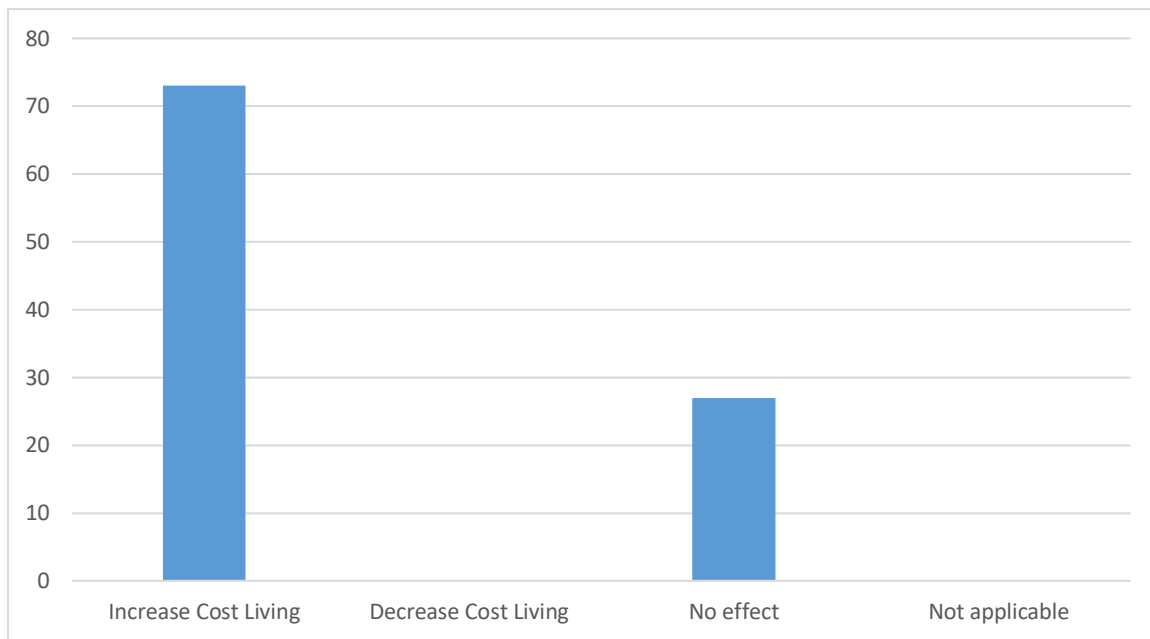
Figure 5-10: Question 3 of Part D Respondents Income Changed after Implemented Sub-projects



Source: Community Survey

The results display in Figure (5-11) below shows that the sub-project affected their household cost living. In 73 percent of respondents decreased their living cost after implementation of the sub-project while 27 percent of respondents remain the same. Because in developed economies, with high standards of living, therefore increased cost living.

Figure 5-11: Question 4 of Part D “changed of household cost living of respondents after implemented sub-project”

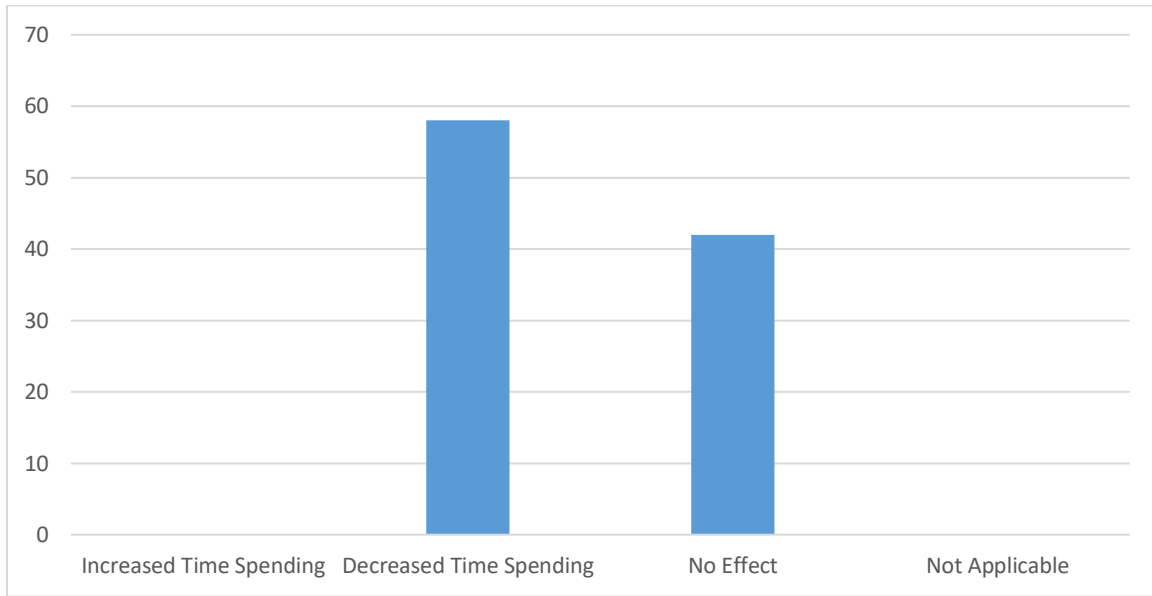


Source: Community Survey

When measuring the NCDDP’s impact on women’s opportunities in economic spheres, there must be considered by measuring of time spending on their daily household test. Because of their daily household test can be restricted to get an education, access to jobs, and opportunities to increase their income. Therefore, to measure the impact on economic, measuring of time spending on their household tests and measuring of effect on their economy were undertake.

The following Figure (5-12) shows that the respondents changed their time spending on their daily household tests after implemented of sub-projects. 58 percent of respondents decreased their time spending on their daily household tests. To understand this condition, significant evidence was given in Case Study 3 and 4. That is after implemented water supply projects in their village, women accessed easily water in their houses and not required to fetch water distance from the village.

Figure 5-12: Question 5 of Part D "Respondents changed their time spending on daily household tests"



Source: Community Survey

The impact of NCDDP’s sub-project on female business was important for understanding the economic empowerment for the women. Table (5-8) below shows that the number of respondents who operated the regular business in their villages. There were 52 respondents have regular business operation, therefore to analyze the impact of NCDDP on their economic activities was significant to track.

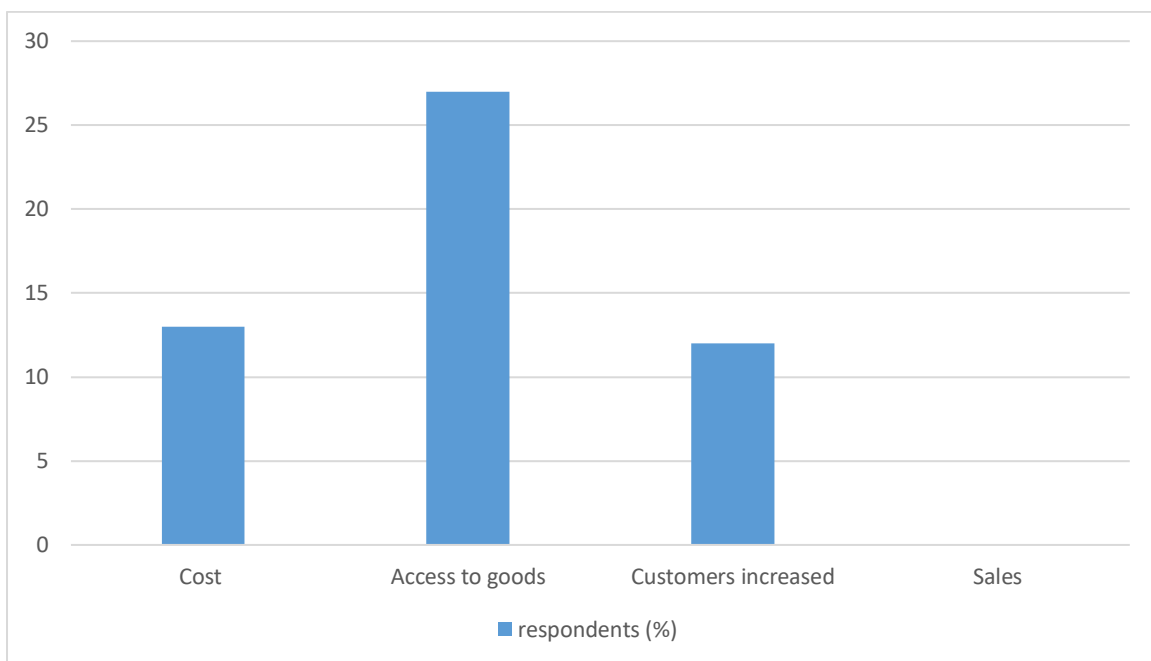
Table 5-8: Question 6 of Part D " number of respondents who have regular business"

	Number of Respondents
Regular operation business	52
Not have regular operation business	48

Source: Community Survey

Data collected from the community who have regular business operations show that there was positive NCDDP’s impact on their business. As an illustration data below Figure (5-13), all respondents agreed that their costs for the goods (e.g. rice, oil, groceries. etc.) that they sold had decreased because the transportation costs decreased and access to goods had increased. As a result, the number of customers had increased in their business.

Figure 5-13: Question 8 Part D: Sub-projects Affected on Respondents’ Business Operation

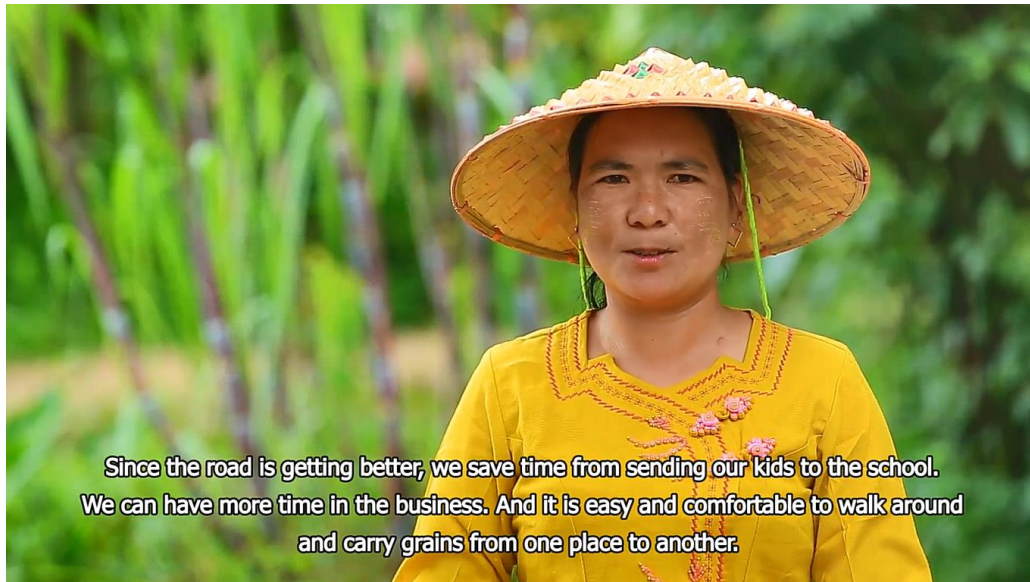


Source: Community Survey

Especially sub-projects in the transportation sector have more affected women's economic condition or income significantly because of easy access to the market. Access to the market is important to see women’s economic empowerment. Most of the respondents are inhabit in remote rural areas in which transportation was difficult to connect the trade market. And average at least half an hour took a time to reach the trade market. After the implementation of the sub-project, the time and cost of transportation were reduced than before and the constructed road was enhanced business opportunities for women in the village.

In Case Study 1, it can be seen women saved their time spending on sending off kids to school, on the other hand, women increased the opportunity to more spending their time on business.

Case Study 1: Ma Nan Pe



Daw Ma Nan Ber she was living in the Hpai Kwan Village, Hsihseng Township, she was one of the beneficiaries of CDD project. She voted road project to construct in her village. Since the road is getting better, she saves time from sending her kids to the school, so therefore she can more spending on her business operations. And it is easy and comfortable to walk around and carry grains from one place to another.

In Case Study 2 shows below that women get equal pay in the labor force and get equal opportunity participation as men in the project. The Cases Study also shows that women increased the opportunity to operate in another business cause of the sub-project reduced time spending on their transportation time and also save the costs.

Case Study 2: Daw Ar Soon Thar



Daw Ar Soon Thar who stay in Taung Tha Village, Hsihseng Township. She was transporting the corn from her village to the market. She told that when the road was under construction, the project ensures for women to get equal opportunity to participate as a labor force and get the same amount of paid with men. Those were extra income for her family. And transportation become more easier and the consuming cost of petrol was decrease. Before road construct, there was half an hour took a time to reach the market. Nowadays, she saves a time from her transportation has more change to do another enterprise.

5.7 Women’s Empowerment in Social Domain

Improvements in the access to and use of services, especially in health, education, and water & sanitation are clear to examine social empowerment. Therefore, to measure women’s social empowerment the indicator 5 was utilized.

Indicator 5 - *indicator 5 organized with how was the sub-project help to access health and education*

The results displayed in Table 5-9 below show that 92 percent of women answered that the sub-project made it easier to get help when they have health problems because of the sub-project facilitated in transportation to access health services. Water supply projects made reducing diarrhea cases in their villages and female and children improved their personal hygiene cause of easy access to clean water.

Table 5-9: Question 4 of Part E - how has the sub-project changed your ability to get help when you have health problems?

How has this sub-project changed your ability to get help when you have health problems?	Women (%)
Easier to get help	92
More difficult to get help	-
Not different	8

Source: Community Survey

When measuring the impact on the education sphere, the last question was utilized. In the study areas, only in the Kawng War Taung village and Nawng Bo village have a primary school. All of the children from Kun Long (Shan), Hti Ta Hkaw, and Haw (North) villages have to go to another near the village to attend the school. Therefore, all of the respondents (included women who don’t have child) replied the same “yes”, the sub-projects made easier for the children to

go to their schools. As the road is good, the child was able to ride the bicycle (see in Table 5-10 below).

Table 5-10: Question 8 of Part E, "How has this sub-project made easier for children to go to school?"

How has this sub-project made easier for children in the village to go to school?	respondents
Easier to go to school	100
More different to go to school	-
Not different	
Not applicable	-

Source: Community Survey

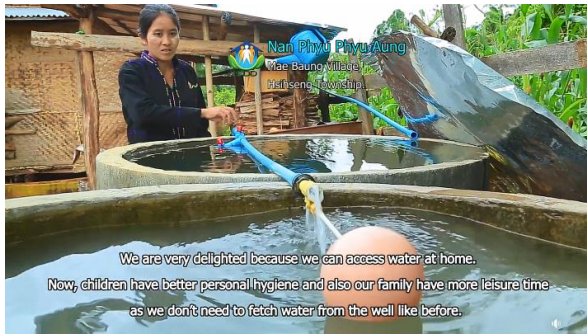
However, in the study areas, there were 10 sub-projects in which 6 are in the transportation sector, 3 are in community facilities (community hall), and 1 is in water & sanitation. Therefore, those sub-projects of the transportation sector and community facilities sector are not affected directly to the health and education domains. But there were some improvements in health outcomes and education outcomes. In Case Study 3, children often got diarrhea because safe drinking water was not available in their village. When they need water, they have to fetch at least 3 furlongs far from their village. After established water supply projects in their village, women increased access to safe drinking water and alleviate diarrhea cases for the children.

Case Study 3: Poe Myar

Daw PoeMyar she was living in the Daw Ti Poet Village, Hsihseng Township, she was one of the beneficiaries of CDD project. She voted water supply project to established in her village. Because of she needed to fetch water about 3 furlongs distance from her village. They didn't receive safe drinking water so children got diarrhea very often. Since her village has received safe drinking water, she doesn't hear diarrhea cases in her village nowadays.

In Case Study 4, after the implementation of water supply projects in their village, women increased access to water at their homes, as a result, personal hygiene was improved than before. And also, time reduced for fetch water from well. It can see below.

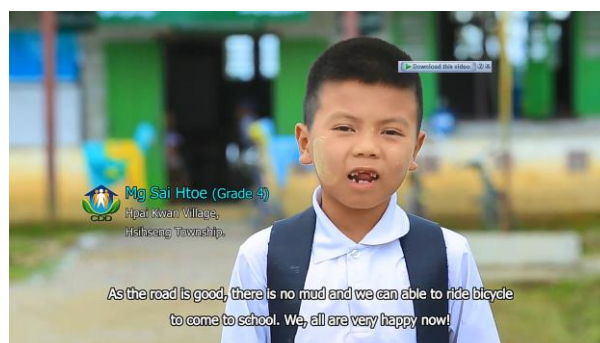
Case Study 4: Nang Phyu Phyu Aung



Nang Phyu Phyu Aung who study in a Mae Baung Village, Hsihseng Township, she was proposed water supply project in her village because of she faced difficulties to access water. Before she gets water, she has to worry specially to do personal hygiene. After implemented the water supply project in her village, she was delighted cause of she can access water at her house. Now, children have better personal hygiene and also her family have more leisure time as she doesn't need to fetch water from the well like before.

The impact of NCDDP on the education sphere was not clear to measure, the evidence was not insufficient to prove that women enhance social gains. However, in Case Study 5, the students were got easy to go to school than before the construction of roads. Therefore, the sub-projects have indirectly affected students for their education.

Case Study 5: Mg Sai Htoe (Grade 4)



Mg Sai toe is a student study in primary school of Hpai Kwan Village, after constructed the road in their village, he can go to school easier than before. As the road is good, there is no mud and he can able to ride the bicycle to go to school in an exact time.

5.8 Conclusion

As a conclusion, there was no significant direct impact on education because of no investment in the education sector. However, in the NCDDP in order to measure outcomes of social gain that require long-term investments in health and education sectors such as health status or a learning achievement. It was difficult to indicate the projects gain in social welfare within a four-year project phase. One of the probable reasons for no impact on social was long-term measurement.

Chapter 6

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

This research presents the women's empowerment features of CDD projects, in which some impact of women's empowerment in the economic, social, and political included. Some recommendations for the NCDDP summarized as follows.

6.1 Summary

The study examined the level of empowerment in three dimensions: economic, political, and social exposed to CDD programs and grew up a situation of women's empowerment in these three dimensions. In the economic domain, the NCDDP has a clear impact on economic outcomes. Investment in small-scale infrastructure affected women's economic conditions by increasing services and access to the markets. Impact on a political domain and social domain there has a more indirect positive impact by increasing women's participation, decision making and control of resources. These more likely to be part of spillover the political and social domains, increasing women's access to control their decision that affects their lives and their children. Therefore, as a conclusion, the CDD projects have significant positive impacts on women's empowerment at Hsihseng township.

The results suggest that the NCDDP had a positive and statistically significant impact on political empowerment. Women enhance their decision-making levels in the local by increasing their abilities to access services of social involvement and participation. The results showed that women advance their decision-making levels and able applied outside of the project because they got decision-making awareness skills and experiences from the NCDDP project.

Impact on women's economic empowerment; the results show that women increased access to market and economic opportunity. See in appendix C results impact on economic

empowerment in terms of change in earning, consumption, saving time, and productivity measured.

Mixed evidence exists regarding impacts on social empowerment. In some case accessing health and education supports cannot be measured directly to point out that significant impact on women's social spheres. However, women in Hsihseng township were enhancing political, economic, and social by the NCDDP project during implementation.

6.2 Inadequate Statistical Power

The NCDDP project started in 2016, so through 2019, the data provide limited evidence for women's empowerment. In this study, the overall result outcomes provide positive and statistically significant. However, the analysis does not have adequate statistical power to detect a true effect. It means a large sample size and research time are required to detect the realized impact of empowerment achievements. For example, in social spheres, when measuring social welfare, it required long-term research to measure achievements.

Despite the weakness of statistical power, the NCDDP points out that the project has positive impacts on women's empowerment on economic, social, and political in the Hsihseng township. And there has a list of some recommendations for further empowering women through NCDDP.

6.3 Recommendations

- 1.** Allow separate meetings for the women and men to ensure create the space for women to speak their preferences and opinions.
- 2.** Separate women's proposals and men's proposals need to be organized, especially in identifying needs and priorities, and selection for the sub-projects.

3. Ensure poor women more participate in the project cycle and provide more capacity building, so as to achieve better result outcomes in empowering poor women.
4. Outside of the CDD project, special groups or supplements programs should be provided for poor women to improve their skills to participate in decision-making beyond the CDD project.

6.4 Conclusion

NCDDP project makes one of the most important instruments, the government has to actively remove some of the barriers to gender equality. While the program has helped increase women's participation in the NCDDP's projects and processes since 2016 in Hsihseng township, women's involvement outside the program appears limited (leadership). Through 2016 the data provide limited evidence that women have increased their participation in political, economic, and social empowering roles. The results on the measuring of empowerment are only positive and statistically significant when all outcome variables are combined into a single result. However, the analysis still required to detect a true effect. Therefore, more research is needed to better evaluate the NCDDP project in Hsihseng township and to understand the different gender aspects of men and women's participation in the Hsihseng township both with regards to the NCDDP and society in general.

In the NCDDP project, there was a mandate female involvement in decision-making processes at the community level, especially in social characterized by gender discrimination. It is an effective demonstration of female participation therefore, that can induce change in the attitudes of all towards women and their role in their community life. While the immediate goals of the NCDDP of greater women empowerment have not been realized, the program can still and should enforce its initiative and seek to employ new ways to empower women.

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Appendix A.

Questionnaires (Local Language- Myanmar)

Questionnaire, English Version

Women's Empowerment in CDD Project

Individual Questionnaire

Identification	
Region/State	
District	
Village Tract	
Village Name	
Date of interview	
Name of Respondent	
Interview's name	

I am researcher who study on how CDD project effect on women's empowerment in local community. This study will allow future projects like NCDDP measure the effect of their project on women and their families. I will ask you questions which may be personal, but your answer and name will not be public.

Do I have your permission to continue?

{ } Yes

{ } No

A Respondent's information (Profile) Part (A)			
No	Question	Alternative Answer	Answer Code
1.	Are you male or female?	1 = Male 2 = Female If male , go to the next respondent.	
2	What is your stated in your household?	1 = Head of household 2 = Spouse 3 = Parent/parent in law 4 = Daughter 5 = Daughter in law 6 = Sister 7 = Sister in law 8 = Other relatives 9 = Non relative	
3	How many family members in your household?	Total number of persons	
4	Are you married?	1= married 2 = Single 3 = Divorced / separated 4 = Widowed	
5	If married, how many children you have?	Number of children	
6	What is your ethnic group? (လူမျိုး)	Name of ethnic group	
7	What is your main income source?	1 = Agriculture, crops 2 = livestock 3 = hill-side cultivation 4 = Fishing 5 = industry/ handicraft 6 = Trade 7= Construction (H = Government employee F = other specific	

B	Part B Participation in CDD project (မေးခွန်းပုံစံ B)		
No	Question	Alternative Answer	Answer
1	Did you have participated in any NCDDP meeting?	1= yes 2 = No If “No”, go to the next respondent.	
2	How many times have you attended in NCDDP meeting?	1 = One time 2 = Two or three Times 3 = Many Times	
3	Have you ever been a member of village committees related to NCDDP projects?	1 = Yes 2 = No If “No” end of this format. Go to another format.	
4	What were your responsibilities in NCDDP committees?		
	Going to political empowerment		
C	Part C Political empowerment (မေးခွန်းပုံစံ C)		
No	Question	Alternative Answer	Answer
1	When you attend the meeting, how you participate?	1 = Discuss in front of group 2 = Discuss but not vote 3 = Only voting 4= Only joined meeting without discussing or voting	
2	What kinds of sub-projects that women suggest prioritization?	1= Remember project suggested 2 = No, don't know/ don't remember If “No” go to question 4.	
3	Please enter the type of sub-project that is suggested by the respondent.	1= Roads 2 = water Supply 3 = Electricity 4 = basic infrastructure	
4	Would you like interested in representing the village in the next CDD project meeting?	1= Yes 2 = No 3= Don't know/unsure	

5	Expect NCDDP project, do you have a decision making in any other project or group or meeting for your village?	1 = Yes 2 = No If “No” ended. Go to another format.	
6	In which group or project that you make a decision?	1 = Mya Sein Young project 2 = village meeting 3 = women group discussion 4 = other, specify	
	Go to Economic Empowerment		
D	Part D Economic Empowerment		
No	Question	Alternative answer	Answer
1	Subproject number 1= road 2 = water supply 3 = electricity 4 = Education 5 = health center 6 = community hall 7= other specific	For Subproject No.....	
2	Are your family use/access of this subproject?	1= Yes 2 = No	
3	After the implementation of subprojects, does your income (include non-monetary income) increase?	1= increased income 2 = Decreased income 3 = No effect 4 = Not applicable	
4	After implemented of subprojects, does have change to your household cost living?	1 = increased cost living 2= Decreased cost living 3 = No effect 4 = Not applicable	
5	After the implementation of subprojects, has the subproject changed the time you spend on daily household tasks? Example: fetching water, collecting firewood, cooking	1 = increased time spent 2 = decreased cost of living 3 = No effect 4 = Not applicable	
6	Do you have a business on a regular operate? (Not including sales of own grown crops)	1 = Yes 2 = No Enter the type of business	

		If “No” go to end	
7	After the implementation of subprojects, has subprojects affected your business operations?	1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = applicable If 2 or 3 go to end	
8	How was affected your business?	1 = costs 2 = Access to goods 3 = Number of customers 4 = Sales	
9	How much your average monthly income?	1 = < 100000 kyat 2 = 100000-300000 kyat 3 = 300000-700000 kyat 4 = 700000-1000000kyat 5 = < 1000000 kyat	
E	Part E Social Empowerment		
No	Question	Alternative Answer	Answer
1	Who decides when you want to sell your own assets to anyone? Example: sell your own crop	1 = Decide by myself 2 = Ask husband 3 = Ask other family member 4 = Another person, specify	
2	Do you ask permission to other persons before you use your collected money?	1 = Decide by myself 2 = Ask husband 3 = Ask other family member 4 = Another person, specify	
3	Is there any available health center in your village?	1= nurse 2 = clinic 3 = health center 4 = other, specify	
4	How has this sub-project changed your ability to get help when you have health problems?	1 = Easier to get help 2 = More difficult to get help 3 = Not difference	
5	Is there any primary school in your village?	1 = Yes 2 = No	
6	If you have a child, did they attend the school?	1= Yes 2 = No If “yes” go to Q-19.	

7	Why they did not attend the school?	1 = Too expensive 2= No interest 3 = Need to work 4 = School too far away 5 = No teacher/supplies 6 = Illness 7 = Language 8 = Other specify	
8	How has this sub-project made easier for children to go to school?	1 = Easier go to school 2 = More difficult to go to school 3 = Not difference	

Appendix B. Results

Table 1: Analysis of the Respondents

Gender	Male	Female	Other	-	-
Frequency	-	100	0		
Age Group	<18	18-50	>50		
Frequency	15	62	23		
Married Status	Married	Single	Divorced	Widowed	
Frequency	50	33	12	5	
Education	Primary	Secondary	High	No Edu.	
Frequency	53	23	12	12	
Monthly Income	<100000K	100000-300000K	300000-700000K	700000-1000000K	>1000000K
Frequency	15	77	8		
Main Income source	Agriculture	Livestock	Handicraft	Trade	Gov. Employee
Frequency	68	5		27	

Table 2: Participation in CDD Project Part B

Did you Participate in the NCDDP Project meeting?	Yes	No	-
Frequency	100		
Number of times participated in the NCDDP meeting?	One Time	Two or three	Many times,
Frequency		12	88
Are you a Member of Committees?	Yes	No	
Frequency	16	84	

Table 3: Results on Political Empowerment (Part C)

How you Participate in the meeting, that you already attended?	Discuss in front of group	Only Discuss not vote	Only Vote on sub-project, not discuss	Only joined no vote & discuss -
Frequency	35		65	
What sub-projects that you vote in the meeting?	Roads	Water	Community facilities	Other
Frequency	100	20	60	
Do you have decision making in any other group outside of the project?	Yes	No		
Frequency	45	55		
In which group that you make a decision?	Mya Sein Yong	Other meeting	Women group	Other
Frequency	9	5	3	7

Table 4: Results on Economic Empowerment (Part D)

Are your family using this sub-project?	Yes	No		
Frequency	100			
Does it change your income after the implemented sub-project?	Increase income	Decrease income	No effect	Not applicable
Frequency	67		33	
Does it affect your household cost living?	Increase cost living	Decrease cost living	No effect	Not applicable
Frequency	73		27	
Does it change to your time spending on household test?	Increase time to spend	Decrease time spend	No effect	Not applicable
Frequency		58	42	
Does it affect your business?	Yes	No		Not applicable
Frequency	52	48		
How has affected your business affected	Cost	Access to goods	Number of customers	Sales
Frequency	13	27	12	

Table 5: Results on Social Empowerment

Who decides when you want to sell your own assets to anyone?	Myself	Husband	Other family	Other
Frequency	84		16	
Do you ask permission to other persons before you use your collected money?	Myself	Husband	Other family	Other
Frequency	63	25	12	
Is there an available health center in your village?	Nurse	Clinic	Health center	Other
Frequency				100
How has this sub-project changed your ability to get help when you have health problems?	Easier to get help	More difficult	Not applicable	-
Frequency	92		8	
Is there any primary school in your village?	Yes	No		-
Frequency	40	60		
Did your children attend school?	Yes	No	-	-
Frequency	100			
How has this sub-project made easier for children to go to school?	Easier to go to school	More difficult to go to school	Not different	Not applicable
Frequency	100			

Appendix C. Additional Information

Table 6: Information of Loi Put Village

Village Tract Name	Loi Put		
Village Name, Gender Village Leader	Kawng War Taung, Male		
Population	Male	Female	Total
	523	686	1209
Population Ethnicity	Male	Female	Total
	Pa-O (523)	Pa-O (686)	1209
Head of Households: Male (Number)	148		
Head of Households: female (Number)	34		
Total Head of Households	182		

Source: NCDDP, Village Development Plan, Hsihseng Township, 2019

Table 7: Information of Haw (North) Village

Village Tract Name	Nawng Kyaw		
Village Name, Gender Village Leader	Haw (North), Male		
Population	Male	Female	Total
	100	116	216
Population Ethnicity	Pa-O (205), Barmar (10) and Kayin (1)		
Head of Households: Male (Number)	38		
Head of Households: female (Number)	9		
Total Head of Households	47		

Source: NCDDP, Village Development Plan, Hsihseng Township, 2019

Table 8: Information of Hti Ta Hkaw Village

Village Tract Name	Taung Shae		
Village Name, Gender Village Leader	Hti Ta Hkaw, Male		
Population	Male	Female	Total
	134	141	275
Population Ethnicity	Pa-O		
Head of Households: Male (Number)	33		
Head of Households: female (Number)	14		
Total Head of Households	47		

Source: NCDDP, Village Development Plan, Hsihseng Township, 2019

Table 9: Information of Kun Long (Shan) Village

Village Tract Name	Ban Yin		
Village Name, Gender Village Leader	Kun Long (Shan), Male		
Population	Male	Female	Total
	54	55	109
Population Ethnicity	Shan		
Head of Households: Male (Number)	21		
Head of Households: female (Number)	8		
Total Head of Households	29		

Source: NCDDP, Village Development Plan, Hsihseng Township, 2019

Table 10: Information of Nawng Bo Village

Village Tract Name	Par Law Par Kei		
Village Name, Gender Village Leader	Nawng Bo, Male		
Population	Male	Female	Total
	65	71	136
Population Ethnicity	Pa-O		
Head of Households: Male (Number)	27		
Head of Households: female (Number)	2		
Total Head of Households	29		

Source: NCDDP, Village Development Plan, Hsihseng Township, 2019

Table 11: Information of Sub-projects Implemented by Sector

Village Name	Implemented Year	Sector	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries Female (%)
Kawng War Taung	Cycle 1 FY 16-17	Transportation	1088	61.95%
	Cycle 2 FY 17-18	-	-	-
	Cycle 3 FY 18-19	Community Building	1209	56.74%
Haw (North)	Cycle 1 FY 16-17	-	-	-
	Cycle 2 FY 17-18	Transportation	216	53.7%
	Cycle 3 FY 18-19	Transportation	220	56.02%
Hti Ta Hkaw	Cycle 1 FY 16-17	Community Building	274	51.09%
	Cycle 2 FY 17-18	-	-	-
	Cycle 3 FY 18-19	Transportation	275	51.27%
Kun Long (Shan)	Cycle 1 FY 16-17	Community Building	103	51.46%
	Cycle 2 FY 17-18	-	-	-
	Cycle 3 FY 18-19	Transportation	109	50.46%
Nawng Bo	Cycle 1 FY 16-17	Water and Sanitation	131	51.15%
	Cycle 2 FY 17-18	-	-	-
	Cycle 3 FY 18-19	Transportation	136	52.2%

Source: NCDDP Office, Hsihseng Township, 2019

Table 12: Details Sectors of Sub-projects Implemented in the Representative Cycles

Implemented Cycle	Sub-projects		Total Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries Female (%)
	Number	Sector		
Cycle 1	1	Transportation	1088	61.95%
	2	Community Building	377	51.28%
	1	Water and Sanitation	131	51.15%
Cycle 2	1	Transportation	216	53.7%
Cycle 3	4	Transportation	740	52.49%
	1	Community Building	1209	56.74%

Source: NCDDP Office, Hsihseng Township, 2019