

Assessing the impact of the military coup on families in Sagaing Region: A case study of house burnings in Myanmar

Analisis dampak kudeta militer terhadap keluarga di Divisi Sagaing: Studi kasus pemusnahan rumah pada kudeta militer di Myanmar

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Abstract

The military coup in Myanmar triggered a notorious uprising and subsequent armed conflict, resulting in military forces killing and imprisoning protesters, as well as setting fire to houses. This study employs a qualitative approach and uses James Scott's survival mechanism theory to analyze the hardships experienced by families in fire-damaged villages in the Sagaing region. Our findings reveal that military forces carried out targeted attacks and burned down houses, particularly in villages that supported the People's Defense Forces, leading to significant suffering among the local population. Families who were victims of this arson faced a host of challenges, including the loss of their homes and possessions, leaving them to seek shelter in the forest or makeshift tents, as well as food insecurity and a lack of access to medical care. Furthermore, many became unemployed as farming production costs were unaffordable and their children were unable to attend school. We highlight the urgent need for international humanitarian aid to address the dire situation faced by families whose homes were burned down by the military in Sagaing Region, Myanmar.

Keywords: military coup impact; survival mechanisms; family conditions

Abstrak

Kudeta militer di Myanmar memicu pemberontakan rakyat dan menimbulkan konflik bersenjata. Pasukan militer membunuh, memenjarakan para pengunjuk rasa dan melakukan pembakaran rumah. Studi ini menganalisis kesulitan yang dialami oleh keluarga di desa-desa yang hancur akibat kebakaran di wilayah Sagaing. Metode yang digunakan dalam studi ini adalah kualitatif dengan menggunakan teori mekanisme survival James Scott. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan bahwa pasukan militer melakukan penyerangan dan pembakaran rumah terutama pada kampung-kampung pendukung Pasukan Pertahanan Rakyat. Penduduk setempat sangat menderita setelah kudeta militer. Keluarga yang menjadi korban pembakaran ini mengalami berbagai kesulitan. Mereka kehilangan rumah dan semua barang mereka dihancurkan, sehingga harus tinggal di hutan, di tenda-tenda, dan mengalami kekurangan pangan serta ketidakamanan. Sebagian besar keluarga tidak mampu membayar perawatan medis dan kekurangan uang. Sebagian besar masyarakat menjadi pengangguran karena tidak memiliki biaya produksi untuk bertani dan anak-anak tidak dapat bersekolah. Studi ini menekankan perlunya bantuan kemanusiaan internasional untuk mengatasi penderitaan keluarga yang rumahnya dibakar oleh militer di Wilayah Sagaing, Myanmar.

Kata kunci: dampak kudeta; mekanisme bertahan hidup; kondisi keluarga

Introduction

On February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) took control of the country in a coup d'état. There have been three military coups in Myanmar: the first in 1962, the second in 1988, and the third in 2021 (Tenenbaum 2005). Massive protests occurred across the country in the weeks following the coup. Thousands of people, including doctors, bankers, and teachers, joined what began as a peaceful civil disobedience action by refusing to work until the elected government was restored (Maizland 2022). The military administration not only imprisoned political opponents and dissenters but rapidly went on to wage war on the people of Myanmar as a whole, using excessive force against demonstrations,

arbitrary arrests of city officials and other civilians, and indiscriminate attacks on entire towns across the country (Coup AMSM 2022). The protests that began after the coup have now led to civil war and a humanitarian crisis across Myanmar (Maizland 2022).

After 2021, the army destroyed all villages believed to be against them and massacred civilians and opposition fighters. At least 1,500 people have been killed by the military, which is likely an undercount, according to the Thailand-based non-profit Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma). The junta has arrested more than eight thousand people, including journalists, medical workers, and NLD politicians (Maizland 2022). Over one-fifth of all organized political violence reported countrywide since the coup has originated in the Sagaing region. Throughout the year, ACLED registers approximately 6,000 anti-coup demonstrations. Myanmar was the world's deadliest country for protestors in 2021, according to ACLED data (ACLED nd). Sagaing, which borders India in northwest Myanmar, has been an epicenter of the civilian resistance to the military junta that seized power in February 2021. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project, some 40 percent of the 12,000 deaths that have occurred since the coup has taken place in Sagaing, a previously peaceful region (Strangio 2022).

After the military coup, Sagaing Division was one of the regions where homes were burned the most. Nationwide, more than 3,800 buildings were destroyed by fire. In Sagaing Division, 70 percent of national arson incidents occur. At least 38,568 homes and buildings (including religious buildings) were burned down during the armed conflict and fighting from the military coup until October 31 of this year (ISP-Myanmar nd). According to the Data for Myanmar (@data4myanmar), as of November 30, 2022, 27,496 civilian residences had been burned down by the military and its allied factions in the Sagaing Region. 32 of the 37 townships in the Sagaing Region have reported incidences of burning civilian residences (Data For Myanmar nd).

Military takeovers are common, especially in developing countries where political institutions may be less established or still developing (Osman et al. 2021). Marshall's dataset stated that there are four categories of coup occurrences: successful coups, attempted or failed coups, coup plots, and purported coup plots. Successful coups, in particular, can create uncertainty regarding the course of the new government's economic policy, particularly its monetary, fiscal, exchange rate, and capital control policies (Balima 2020).

Previous studies also stated that the people in Myanmar struggle to live amid economic and political turmoil under the military junta regime. In Myanmar, the rapid depreciation of the dollar and kyat following the military coup has led to higher commodity prices, rising global oil prices that have driven up domestic fuel prices and transportation costs, sharply increased operating costs for diesel generators, and regular power outages, making it harder for people struggling to survive. As a result of widespread participation by health workers in civil disobedience campaigns, healthcare infrastructures have now almost completely collapsed. Following the coup, the supply of drugs and healthcare-related items surged three- to four-fold (Chen et al. 2023). The next studies also stated that oxygen and other medical equipment became increasingly expensive and in short supply after the military coup. The medical staff organized a civil disobedience movement against the coup, and they were arrested and charged with high treason (Simpson 2021).

According to previous research, cases of the Myanmar military coup have had negative effects on the public, such as human rights violations, violence against civilians, and a negative impact on people's health. One of the earlier studies claimed that regardless of race, sex, language, or religion, everyone's fundamental rights and freedoms are violated by the Myanmar military. People's protests against the coup are exercising their right to free speech, and the military's violent actions against those protests are a violation of the Freedom of Speech Act (Gunawan et al. 2021). There is also previous research showing that internet shutdowns during coups worsened violence against women. Internet restrictions will have a negative impact on people's health, hinder efforts to contain the COVID-19 epidemic, increase the risks of GBV and IPV for women, hinder their access to frequently life-saving therapies, and also obstruct the avenues of communication (Sharma et al. 2021).

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Not only did the Myanmar coup result in many human rights violations, halted communications, internet breakouts, and fatalities, but many coups around the world carried out by the military also took many victims, one of which was the coup carried out by the Sudanese military. Following the coup on October 25, 2021, Sudan witnessed a military-ordered nationwide blackout that cut out all networks, communications, and internet access statewide. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing public protests, along with the numerous political movements and political unrest, put the healthcare system in danger of failing (Osman et al. 2021). The next one is in the civil war that broke out in Rwanda between 1990 and 2000, where previously land-rich, income-poor households have fared badly over the decade spanning the conflict. This, in turn, has had a considerable impact on the dynamics of household poverty in Rwanda throughout the same time period. This conflict has affected not only the economic well-being of the surviving household members but also the rural economy, which has been struck by extreme land scarcity, the absence of technological innovation in agriculture, and a lack of capital (Justino & Verwimp 2013).

Several previous studies have explained the negative effects of the Myanmar military coup, such as economic and political turmoil under the military junta regime, human rights violations, violence against civilians, and a negative impact on people's health. However, no one explained in detail that the people were left homeless and faced difficulties due to the military's actions. This research aims to unravel the difficult lives and the current situation of families whose homes were burned, especially during the military coup, where instances of homeless families have increased. The military coup led to many internal armed conflicts and the burning of many villages by the military. In this study, we want to try to discuss how families in the affected villages lived and ate after their homes were burned. The difficulties faced by families whose homes were burned are an interesting topic for the author to conduct research on.

Research Method

This study used qualitative research methods and a phenomenological research approach. In this study, 6 (six) informants were interviewed from burned villages. Regarding the age of the informants, there were 4 (four) women and 2 (two) men, ranging in age from 26 to 69 years old. This study has sought to describe the difficulties faced by families from burned villages in the Sagaing Division during the military coup. The research method used was phenomenology. The type of study chosen was phenomenology, which intends to provide an overview of the phenomena and life experiences of families from burned villages.

The education level of the male informants indicated that 2 (two) people were in primary school. Meanwhile, 2 (two) female informants were in middle school, and 2 (two) were in primary school. This shows that the level of education of the informants in this study varied, covering everything from primary school to middle school. The informants are from two villages in the Kan Taw village and Kyauk Taing village within the Sagaing Division.

This study used primary and secondary data sources. First, primary data was obtained through in-depth interviews with an online meeting. The outcomes from the primary data obtained include the current survival of families from burned homes, the main reason the homes were burned, and the impact of the coup on the public. Second, secondary data were obtained to complement the primary data. This study gathered secondary data such as relevant journals, news, and websites. The survival mechanisms theory developed by James C. Scott was used as the basis for the research analysis. James Scott's book entitled *The Moral Economy of Peasants* states that a survival mechanism is a form of subsistence ethics carried out by workers in the informal sector, especially the lower middle class, to meet all the necessities of life, so this survival mechanism is also called one of the efforts made by the group of poor people to survive.

This study used Creswell's data analysis technique. According to Creswell, the qualitative data analysis process entails organizing and preparing data, reading or looking at the entire data set, coding the data, analyzing it, and interpreting it (Creswell & Creswell 2017). In this study, organizing the data involves categorizing and organizing different types of data based on data sources obtained from an online meeting and in-depth interviews. The reading of the entire dataset is used to construct the general concepts that exist in the explanation of the research subject by writing down special notes from the data obtained

and thinking about the overall meaning. Coding is the multi-step process of collecting written or visual data collected during the data collection process and categorizing the sentences. After processing and categorizing the data, the data was then analyzed and interpreted. The researchers also observed the difficulties faced by the families whose homes were burned and the consequences of the military coup on the residents of the Sagaing Division.

Results and Discussion

The main cause of the houses was burned down in the Sagaing Region

Based on the field information obtained from informants where houses were burnt down, there are several reasons behind the occurrence of house fires. LAE explained that one of the reasons the houses were set on fire was because of the people who give information to the military about how many Civil Defense Forces whose are revolutionist people there were in the village. "There are people who give information to the army. We call them Dalan. When Dalan reported to the army how many People's Defense Forces there were in the village, the army was set on fire in that village." (Informant LAE).

According to some news, when the conflict between the military and the PDFs increased, junta troops launched an arson campaign against rural areas, murdering civilians and destroying hundreds of homes, displacing thousands. According to RFA news, villagers who spoke to RFA said the fires were part of the junta's strategy to crush opposition forces (RFA Burmese 2022). According to the Irrawaddy news, the army does not consider the burning of the villages to be their fault, but some villagers see that the army is burning the villages because the villages support the People's Defense Forces, which is a cruel act (Irrawaddy 2022). Based on the data from informants' information and news media reports, the army is deliberately burning down villages of the People's Defense Forces and villages that support the People's Defense Forces. It is a tactic of the army to prevent the villagers from continuing the revolution by burning down villages and preventing them from continuing to support the revolutionary People's Defense Forces.

Not much different from LAE, AYE revealed that the soldiers burned the villages due to the people who provided information to the soldiers. The soldiers burned the villages and lost everything, money, seeds, and even she escaped with her life because she was able to run.

"The soldiers burned my village. There are also those involved who provided information (dalan) to the soldiers. The soldiers burned my village, saying that our village was supporting the People's Defense Forces. The whole house was burned down. The money also burned in the fire, and the seeds for planting also burned in the fire. Everything burned in the fire. Only a few people remain. I was left because even I can run away. If I can't run away, the army can kill me. It was burned, and nothing was left. I have nothing but ashes. The army is setting fire everywhere. whether there is a People's Defence Force or not, if they want to set on fire, they will do it." (Informant AYE).

After the military coup in Myanmar, the military has been committing many human rights violations against the people. The army is acting anarchically against the people, such as by torching people's homes and possessions, and elderly people who are unable to flee have died while burning the houses. LAE stated that the army could kill villagers who could not escape while they were burning the village. She also stated that the army was mainly burning down villages that were supporting the People's Defense Forces, who were fighting against them, and that her village was burned down due to the informers (Dalan) who gave the information to the army. Based on the data, it is known that there are many people who are against the military dictator in Sagaing Division, and there are also villagers of the military who are giving information to the military.

Unlike other informants, DMA said that the soldiers set fire to the villages because they wanted the people to be poor and suffer. "It was the soldiers who set fire to my village. To make the people poor and to cause trouble by setting fire to villages." (Informant DMA). The 69-year-old DMA stated that the army burned houses because they wanted people to suffer. She is an old woman who may not understand political tricks and military strategies, and it seems that she accepts the badness of the military in her mind.

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Based on the results of the research, it was found that the burning of villages occurred in most of the villages that rebelled against the military regime. The research also shows that there were villages where armed revolutions were started by the villagers themselves, and the villages supporting the People's Defense Forces, which are fighting armed revolutions, were burned. According to the results, the villages that supported the People's Defense Forces were burned because there were some villager leaks of information in these villages that accepted the military dictator. It can be concluded that one of the biggest factors contributing to villagers experiencing cases of their villages being burned is the army wanting to prevent the villages from supporting the revolutionary People's Defense Forces.

The difficulties faced by families when houses were burned by the army after the military coup

Kan Taw village has about 800 houses, 600 of which were burned down by the army on April 29. Informant LAE, who is a villager of Kan Taw village, said the difficulties she faced when Kan Taw village was burned down. Informant LAE explained that the village was frequently attacked by the army, and when the army burned the village down, she faced so many difficulties, like having to sleep in a plowed field in the forest, and due to her age, she frequently fell down when fleeing into the forest. Informant LAE from Kan Taw village said that she was traumatized by the fact that six villagers lost their lives because the army burned down their village; three of them died because they could not run from disease, and three of them died of starvation while running into the forest.

"Before setting fire to the village, the army came to the village at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. At 5 o'clock in the evening, they started shooting. At that time, all the villagers had to flee into the forest. The army followed and shot from behind us. Around 7 p.m., the army set fire to the village. It is very difficult. When my village was caught in that fire, I often fell down while running into the forest. The bullets fired by the army seemed to be passing over our heads. Because I was old, I couldn't take anything in the forest when I ran from my house. I had to leave everything at home. I had to sleep in a plowed field in the forest. I dare not go back to the village. We had to share and eat food from those who brought it from the village. My house was on the outskirts of the village, so it didn't catch fire. It is not safe to live in the village, so now I am staying at my daughter's house. People whose houses were set on fire were crying, so I was also sad and couldn't eat anything in that day. When the village caught fire, there were 2 people who were paralyzed and 1 person who was sick because they couldn't run and got into the fire. I am saddened because my acquaintances from my village were caught in the fire. When they reached the forest from the village while the village was on fire, three villagers died of thirst. All of the villagers ran and made a noise because the army had been set on fire, but no one heard them saying that they wanted to drink water, and they died. I have experienced such hurtful and sad events." (Informant LAE).

Previous studies mentioned the many effects of the military coup. The coup results in the unconstitutional replacement of current government officials or constitutional arrangements and may significantly change the state's core social and economic policies (Barka & Ncube 2012). Coup d'état and other irregular political changes cause a tremendous deal of market uncertainty, which slows or even stops economic progress (Feng 1997). Both successful and unsuccessful coups can have very brutal and oppressive aftermaths.

Informant AYE from the next village, Kyauk Tai, stated that her village was frequently attacked by the army after the military coup, and every time the military attacked, the villagers had to flee to another village. She also stated that on the day the village was burned down, she was able to eat due to the generosity of others and that the elderly people faced difficulties because they were unable to run. There are people who died when the day of the village burned, and these events affected her emotionally.

"Every time the army come into my village, we fled to other villages. The villagers do not dare stay in the village. On the first day when the village was destroyed by fire, I had to cook with rice and oil given to me by others. But the food is not enough. pregnant women and elderly people are difficult because they can't run. On the day my village was burned down, a paralyzed man died because he couldn't run, and a woman was shot dead while fleeing on a motorcycle, and these incidents affected my mind." (Informant AYE).

Any internal armed conflict or war has negative effects. War and armed conflict have long-term effects on children's physical, social, and psychological functioning and development, as well as the social fabric, networks, and services that support well-being (Denov & C. Shevell 2019). There are many effects of the armed conflict on women and children, including physical and sexual violence in an armed group, as well as verbal and physical abuse from extended family members and intimate partner violence (McKay 1998, Annan & Brier 2010).

Informant UBA from the Kyauk Tai village, stated that he had to run to escape for his life when the houses were set on fire. Kyauk Tai village is often attacked by the army and when the army comes to the village, the villagers have to run away. He also answered that there were villagers who lost their lives because they couldn't run on the day Kyauk Tai village was burned down.

"I can't do anything. First, I ran away from the village. We always get the information before the army comes. The day the village was set on fire, we also had to run to be released. On the day the village caught fire, a 60-year-old paraplegic man was caught in the fire. He can't go anywhere because he is a paraplegic." (Informant UBA).

According to the answer from informant UBA, it was found that in Myanmar, the army not only burned houses but also killed people after the military coup. In Egypt coup have been mass killings, Torture in prisons, political opponents killed, imprisoned, and tortured (Hamzawy 2017).

Regarding the burning of Kyauk Tai village, the last informant WMA said that he was so afraid that day that he could not eat anything. He also said that he reached Shwebo town while fleeing the village on the day the village was burned down. WMA from Kyauk Tai village stated that there were sad incidents on the day his village was burned down: a paralyzed person and a gunshot victim died, and before the village was set on fire, a boy was beaten by the army and his ribs were broken.

"First, I had to run. That day, while running, I reached Shwebo city from my village. On the first day, I couldn't eat anything because I was so hot and scared. After the army had gone back, my home and all of the items were burned and we had to clean up all the burnt rice and beans. On the day the village caught fire, a 60-year-old paraplegic man was caught in the fire. He can't go anywhere because he is a paraplegic. A girl was shot and killed by the army while running on a motorcycle. When the army first came before the village was set on fire, a boy who was hiding in a house was beaten by the army and broke a rib. There are many sad incidents like that." (Informant WMA).

According to the informant WMA, there are burned homes, villagers have been beaten, and villagers have been killed by the military in Kyauk Tai village after the military coup. Many previous studies have shown that such conditions have existed for the past 60 years. Myanmar has ended democratic institutions and civil liberties since 1962 (Charney 2021). The military has maintained a strict authoritarian system since 1962, suppressing protests, detaining political opponents, and harshly repressing ethnic armed groups. In 1988, the anger with Ne Win's government erupted into a massive demonstration seeking a multiparty system, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of protesters (Saxena 2021). On August 25, 2017, thousands of Rohingya men, women, and children were murdered, raped, and brutally tortured by the military, and also a large number of villages were attacked and destroyed (Mennecke & Stensrud 2021, Simpson 2021).

The current hardships and survival faced by many families in Sagaing Division due to the military coup

After the military coup, she experienced various forms of difficulties, such as the army frequently attacking the village of Kan Taw, burning down 600 houses out of 800, forcing the villagers not to live in the village, and cutting off the internet. As explained by an informant who faced difficulties after the military coup.

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"Before, the business was normal because I am a farmer. Now that all the farms have been abandoned, the livelihood is not good. We can't cultivate any crops. The army told us that we have to leave our houses and farms, and we can go and live wherever we want, but don't stay here. And the army followed us into the forests, where we fled and set fire to our small rain shelters. My husband and I currently live at my daughter's house in Sagaing city (urban area) because we dare not live in my village. We had to give up all the agricultural work for a living, so we have to stick to my daughter's house and eat because we don't have any work. My husband and I just eat what they feed us. In my village has also been cut off the internet. Sometimes, not only is the internet cut off but there are times when you can't even talk on the phone. I don't know for what purpose the internet cut off in the Sagaing region." (Informant LAE).

LAE explained that the army not only burned houses in the village but also set fire to huts in the forest where the villagers had fled. She also explained that after the army burned down her home, they were forced to leave the village, so she had to give up their farms and migrate to her daughter's town. This is safer than her village, and the difficulties may be less severe than in her village (or) the forest. According to Scott, the poor can survive by migrating to find better job opportunities (Rahayu et al. 2018). Civilians must adopt radical response methods to political violence (our first pillar), typically by relocating temporarily or permanently to a safer location since political violence and warfare constitute a life-threatening threat to civilians (Korf 2004).

According to the results, the burning of houses happened in most of the villages where the revolutionaries were, and Kan Taw village was also a village that was burned by the army because there were revolutionaries. It is a way for the army to make the people afraid of the military dictator by burning down the revolutionary villages to make them not dare to revolt again. The Rohingya suffered mass brutality, deaths, and attacks; property damage; arbitrary detentions; disappearances; denial of emergency medical care and humanitarian supplies; locking individuals in their homes to be burned; and fencing off entire villages before opening fire on the population (Equal & Trust 2012, US Department of State 2018). Cutting off the internet by the military is a backward system (anachronism) by stopping the flow of information and preventing people from communicating with each other. Government actors typically shut down the Internet during particular events including protests, security risks, counterterrorism operations, and military operations (Satriawan et al. 2023).

HLA is a woman who recently got married and is from Kyauk Tai village, Wetlet Township. HLA also mentioned, like other informants, that the situation is difficult for livelihoods because the houses have been burned. She stated that her family situation did not require her to be concerned before the village was set on fire, but everything changed after her house was burned. She stated that her family is in debt because all of their savings money and other belongings were destroyed by fire.

"My financial situation was normal before my village was set on fire. I recently got married. All the gifts I received from my wedding have gone into the fire. I don't have any food or clothes. We have to run, and my grandmother's health is not good, so I worry about her too. My family is living in a tent built in the previous house place that was destroyed by fire. Because we don't have any place to live. For my family's sustenance, we eat whatever my relatives give me. "To treat my grandmother's heart disease, I have to find and do all the work I can." In the past, I have never done other people's work. I can live independently with my family's business. I am very tired because I am looking for my family's livelihood and for my grandmother's medicine. We are having a very difficult livelihood situation. It is difficult because I have to borrow from others to pay for medical treatment. All the money I had collected went into the fire. It is not convenient to worry about the medical expenses for the grandmother and the debts." (Informant HLA).

According to the results, many villagers from Kyauk Tai village face difficulties and they need help from others. They only get from near villagers and relatives, so they didn't get enough supplies. Civil strife and interstate war are just two of the most visible manifestations of political violence; other sorts of conflict can also represent serious hazards to human security. In countries where chronic food poverty is more frequent, most forms of political violence are more common. Collier stated that political unrest and food insecurity are related, in part because both are signs of low development (Brinkman & Hendrix 2011).

DMA a 69-year-old woman from Kyauk Tai village said that her family's economy is completely destroyed due to the army. She lost her home after the military coup, which made it difficult for her to live, wear, and eat, and even had no money to spend on her health. Most of the villagers are facing so many difficulties due to their homes burning that they don't have any clothes to wear, food to eat, or a place to sleep.

“On June 2, my village was set on fire. The economy is completely destroyed. My home is valued at 200,000,000 MMK (95,284.90 USD). The house is on fire, money is in the fire, and all materials are included. Now I don't have anything. I face so many difficulties after the burning of the village. I don't have any clothes to wear, any food to eat, or any place to sleep. Currently, my daughter's house did not burn down, so I am staying at her house. I'm eating food that was given to me by others and wearing clothing that was given to me by others. There is nothing more difficult than this. There are not enough food or medical supplies. No one came to donate. Our village community helps each other.” “Children's education is very affected. Children can't go to school due to the political situation. I am not knowledgeable, but I want my children to be educated. I am really sad because the children can't attend school. As for health, I can't go to the clinic even if I have knee pain because I don't have money. It's quite different. In the past, my family's economic situation was very good. Now I don't have anything. Even if we try again for another 4 or 5 years, we will not be able to return to the same situation as before.” (Informant DMA).

DMA was a rich woman but now she facing very difficulties due to her home burned after the military coup. Most of the villagers and she are eating food that was given to them by others and wearing clothing that was given to them by others. Some villagers from Kyauk Tai village stay with their relatives other areas, and some villagers live in their previous homes with tents after burning their houses. The informant DMA expressed that the military coup had a negative impact on children's education as well as on public health and livelihood situations.

Previous studies have suggested that civilian autocracies may often develop into more repressive regimes than their military counterparts after successfully ousting the previous government (Bjørnskov & Pfaff 2021). A military coup or coup d'état is the term used to describe the violent takeover of an existing government by those in positions of authority, frequently in an unconstitutional or undemocratic manner (Ali 2020). When leaders are removed from office and replaced by representatives who take office without regard for elections, laws, or institutions, democracies break down. Poe, Tale, and Harff stated that democratic breakdowns are more likely to result in violations of human rights, including sometimes mass state executions (Brinkman & Hendrix 2011). According to the data, the military coup in Myanmar has many negative consequences for the general public, including death, burned homes, homeless people, insufficient food, less healthcare, and a negative impact on child education.

Informant WMA is a villager from Kyaut Tai village. Kyauk Tai village burned homes of about 100. WMA stated that the army not only destroyed the house but also the rice, beans, motorcycle, and all of the items in his home and also in his village. WMA is facing difficulties not only with food but also with no money to spend on health as everything was burned during the military coup.

“There are many difficulties. No matter where we looked, the whole village was black because it was burned. About 200 rice baskets in my house caught fire, and about 100 bean baskets also caught fire. The two motorcycles left at home were also burned. Everything in the house was burned. The army also set fire to the trucks outside the house. The army also took the battery pots and trays from the house. There was nothing left. Currently, there is no place to go, so I am staying at the place where the house was burned down. The current situation is that we have to eat only if someone gives it to us. There are days when I don't eat. Everything is difficult. Now there is no place to keep the cows, and there is nothing to feed them, so most of the villagers have to be sold their cows. Even the pillow to sleep on is given to me by others; that's why I can sleep. The military cut off the internet in our areas. I think the army cut the internet because they are afraid that people in other areas will know about their actions. There is no doctor in the village since the military coup, and health is difficult. We have to go to Mandalay if we have a health problem. My daughter is suffering from hemorrhoids because we have no money after the house burned down, so the doctor from Mandalay clinic treated her without charging for surgery.” (Informant WMA).

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According to the data, most of the villagers have to sell their cows because they can't feed them in Kyauk Tai village. This can affect not only the villagers but also the whole country. Cattle are the mainstay of farming in rural areas. If there are no cows, it may be difficult to farm, so it may affect the food supply of the whole country. WMA stated that there were no doctors in the village following the military coup, making it difficult to care for one's health. Villagers in Kyauk Tai village face days when they don't eat because they have to eat only if someone gives it to them. The situation of the villages in the Sagaing Division is very bad, and they can experience food shortages and even death due to a lack of healthcare. Therefore, the military coup of Myanmar has a lot of negative effects on the people of Burma, especially on the villages of the Sagaing division.

Other previous studies has found negative consequences following coups in places such as Mali and Sudan. Political insecurity following a coup in Bamako in March 2012 forced large numbers of rural residents to flee their homes in northern Mali, increasing food insecurity and hampering the delivery of emergency aid to the region (Moseley 2013). During the Sudan coup, the military engaged in violent clashes and used tear gas bombs against civil protesters, resulting in a nationwide blackout and the shutdown of communications, networks, and the internet throughout the country. The effects the Sudanese coup might inflict on the healthcare system in Sudan include a leadership vacuum, interrupted health funding, suspended service delivery, diminished human resources for health, and a disrupted medical supply chain (Osman et al. 2021).

After the military coup in Myanmar, there are many battles in Sagaing, and houses are being burned every day. The army has carried out attacks and arson of homes in most villages where many local revolutionaries, the so-called People's Defense Forces, and the villagers who support them live. They are in a subsistence crisis, these families must employ a variety of strategies to meet their daily needs. The survival mechanism popularized by James Scott holds that there are three ways for people to survive. The first way is reducing food expenditures by eating just once per day and eating lower-quality food (Rahayu et al. 2018). This strategy is considered one of the most effective strategies because, basically, the problem of food is a basic need that is needed by humans and takes place continuously every day. But Most of the families facing burning homes and attacks on their villages are forced to abandon their jobs, have no personal income, and rely on other forms of assistance to survive, so they cannot resort to strategies such as eating low-quality food and reducing the quantity of food. They don't have a chance to choose the food and they have to eat giving from others.

The second way is using other methods such as opening shops, working as a handyman or freelancer, and migrating to seek better job possibilities. This strategy is considered to be one of the most effective and should be used, especially by poor families. It is not easy for families from armed conflict areas to open a shop and work as a freelancer, but we assumed that moving to work with relatives and friends from other places will ease the difficulties a little. In the third strategy, James Scott explains that asking for help from related social networks, such as relatives, friends, or village neighbors, and utilizing relationships with protectors such as patrons' capital (Rahayu et al. 2018). According the data, most of the families whose homes were burned got the help from their relatives, friends, and near the villages when they faced so many difficulties. Based on this data, the strategy of asking for help from social networks such as relatives, friends, or village neighbors, is considered to be one of the most effective strategies. This strategy is actually a suitable method to use for families who are facing many difficulties such as food in the midst of armed conflict.

Conclusion

Families whose houses were burned in Sagaing Region are facing many problems, such as food, shelter, and clothing, and they have to eat and live with the support of others. From the presentation of the results of this study, it can be concluded that it is in line with James C. Scott's strategy of asking for help from social networks. This study is in line with James C. Scott's thinking, where the results of the study show

that some families have relatives in nearby villages, and they went to live with their relatives due to the burning of their houses, while the families without relatives had to stay alive with the help and support of their friends.

In this case, due to the burning down of homes by the army after the military coup, there are so many depredations on the locals: first, they lost their homes; all their belongings were burnt; second, most of the families are unable to pay for medical treatment when there are other medical problems in the villages and also in the forest due to a lack of money; third, most of the families do not have money to do agriculture after burning their homes, so they become unemployed; and fourth, the children are not able to go to school, which affects their education. The Myanmar military coup not only damaged the country's economy, health, and livelihood but also led to armed conflict. As armed conflict erupts, it can lead to deaths, injuries, war refugees, homeless, and malnutrition. There needs to be an international contribution so that the violence and human right violation committed by the military against the people in Myanmar can be stopped. If the violence continues, the number of victims may rise. In order to overthrow the military dictatorship in Myanmar and for the democratic system to function properly, all the people of Myanmar must unite and support a lot of international aid.

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