

## **Cultural and Social Norms: Narratives of Domestic Violence Against Women of Mandalay in Myanmar**

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### **Abstract**

Domestic violence is one of the most serious social problem in many families in all types of societies. Though Myanmar is reforming to develop a culture of human rights and gender equality, some social norms accept the role of women as to do domestic works and child rearing. The purpose of this study is to explore cultural and social norms that are shaping domestic violence behaviors in Myanmar. In particular, it mainly focuses on to a greater understanding of Myanmar women's definitions of domestic violence that may shaped by what cultural and social norms. Narrative approach will carry out in order to understand how Myanmar women tell their life stories that organize their values and beliefs that they accept as true. This method will also be contributed to identify the influence of cultural and social norms on perception and definition of domestic violence. These narratives will provide the national data that what kinds of violence is frequently used in Myanmar society. Moreover, this study will also be found that gender stereotype that Myanmar typically differentiate between men and women is the main cause of domestic violence. Additionally, male is dominant role in Myanmar culture. Therefore, social isolation of women will also occur due to their partners dominate and restrict their movement and advancement and contact with others. This study will be helpful to better understand the discriminatory cultural attitudes that endorse domestic violence in Myanmar society. The results will also suggest explicit interventions for changing a national law on violence against women and empowering women's role that can help reduce and prevent violence behavior between intimate partners.