

Improvement of data collection on economic and social statistics

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Introduction

Economic and social statistics are very important for a country. The economic statistics indicate the real economic condition of a country and social statistics (or) indicators are showings how much economic growth can be reflected on people of the country. The economists and statisticians today, accept the concepts that economic growth can not be shown the real development of all the people of the country.

Method of the collection

The CSO Myanmar is using two ways in data collections.

- (1) Sending requested letters and table format to agencies
- (2) Conducting economic and social surveys

CSO sends requested letters and table format to government and cooperative agencies. The register statistics are recorded in their registration books and all the agencies reply to CSO. But the junior and senior statisticians need to visit, adjust, and discuss for the improvement of data collection. To get reliable, accuracy and timely data the most responsible duties of CSO and agencies collect most primary data. At the present, there are 31 ministries and 101 agencies which CSO deals with closely. Presently CSO publishes so many statistical publications in book forms as well as in CD-ROM on a regular basis.

The ownership of private sector is the biggest in Myanma economy. There are no other agencies to collect data from the private sector. Therefore more private surveys are needed to conduct in accordance with the current economic system. CSO has been conducted various kind of surveys such as Population survey, Household survey, Agriculture survey, Health and Social survey, Vital statistics survey, Livestock survey, Labour force survey, Transport survey are Private Sector Industrial Survey.

Surveys Conducts by the CSO

The first and foremost sample survey conducted by the CSO (former name CSED) is the Population and Housing Census in 1953. The second survey conducted by CSO is the Annual Survey of Manufacturers in 1955-56 to 1963-64 and 1971-72 to 1983-84. Packaging Survey was conducted at 45 townships in 1993. The Nationwide Private sector Industrial Survey (PSIS) has been conducted in 2003 and the process of 2006 Private Sector Industrial Survey are being conducted in the whole country. Myanmar has been striving for development of industrial sector based on natural resources of the country and already land down objectives of promoting industry sector. For this purpose, 24

Industry zones have been established across the country. According to (PSIS-2003) results, it is needed to implement new industrial zones, such as Fishery zone, Wood-based industry zone, Rubber based industrial zones, Bamboo and cane industry zones, Fruit and Vegetable producing zone and a special zone for electrical instruments. After (PSIS-2003) survey period Kalay industrial zone and a special zone for Fish and Prawns have been opened at Hlaingtheyar township in 2004.

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is a major survey of CSO because the survey results are used the weight for calculation of the C.P.I and then calculate for inflation rates. And the ratio of percentage on food and non-food is an important index for the living standard of the people. So, there are (39) numbers of HIES out of (83) surveys conducted by the CSO.

Statistical Publications by the CSO

(a) Statistical Yearbook

This book is the national data book providing ten-year time series data CSO has published this book is book form as well as in CD-ROM on a regular basis.

(b) Selected Monthly Economic Indicators (SMEI)

The SMEI provides monthly data on economic and social statistics.

(c) Foreign Trade Statistics of Myanmar

This publication provides detailed statistics on import and export, normal and border, on an annual basis.

(d) Agriculture Statistics of Myanmar

This book is published in collaboration with the department of Agricultural Planning and CSO and responding to the agency of the need for time-series data on agriculture to the support the realization basis agricultural objectives of the country.

(e) Vital Statistics Report

The report provides vital statistics relating to live births, still births, late foetal deaths, infant mortality, maternal mortality causes of death as well as life expectancy on male and female for urban and rural areas.

(f) Statistical Profile of Children and Women

The profile provides statistical information with special reference to education, health, nutrition, and welfare status of children and women as well as their participation in the labour force.

(g) Household Income and Expenditure Survey Report (HIES)

The nation-wide Household Income and Expenditure Surveys have been conducted in two times (1997 and 2001). HIES (1997) have been published and HIES(2001) is not yet published.

Some Problems and Issues

In view of highly decentralized nature of statistical system, capacity to produce quality statistics depends as much as on the capacity of line ministries and agencies as on the capacity of central statistical organization. To respond effectively to the data demands of the government and growing private sector activities the organization set-up of CSO is need to extend and IT capacity to process the data in a timely manner have to built up. At present statistical capacity building had been made mostly by own domestic resources.

Some statistics in areas, poverty, gender equality and women improvement, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environment, youth employment, essential drugs and ICT need to be developed. But the other data are largely available.

Statistical and Computer training courses are urgently needed not only for CSO staffs but the staffs from other agencies also.

Public awareness and knowledge distribution is too much essential. People should have knowledge how will be keep regarding data and know how much important is the economic and social statistics for the country. There are some attempts by CSO for public awareness in such fields, radio plays, radio talks, newspaper articles and brochures. CSO should strive more widely in those areas but it depends on budget.