Background
This study was done by U Myo Thant and Daw Myint Myint Swe through several field visits.
Daw Taw Ku village was established in 1920 by Kayah people. Currently, there are 50 households in this village. A new village, Bufar was established later by obtaining land areas from Daw Taw Ku village in 1960-61.

Livelihoods, land and natural resources
Farmers traditionally practiced shifting cultivation in the uplands where we find 200 acres of shifting cultivation (with 3-4 years fallow period) and 50 acres of permanent plantations in the village. Sorghum is an economically important crop. Rice, corn and groundnut are the basis of subsistence. At the lowland area, only rain-fed rice is cultivated. Farmers started to plant Teak, Tha Pyay Gyi and Let-Pan local species for timber and firewood. Because of population increase, the land has become scarce. There is not enough land for all families and some families have migrated.

Customary practices
Village boundaries are shown to younger villagers by village elders every 2-3 years. At annual religious festivals, not only village elders but also a “spirit-controller” makes the village landmarks to show the young people. The village head is selected by village elders in front of representatives from 9 villages by voting. Women also participate. Migrants from other villages are allowed to live in the village but are required to follow the village rules and regulations. If someone breaks these, he/she will have to pay fine. However, it never needed to apply such fines.

There are village own forests for firewood production. There are religious lands, where teak and tamarind trees are grown. These trees can be used for religious and public purpose only.

Land sales started around 1992. The village must be informed for every transaction of land sales. Land rentals were also observed as early as 2000s when the owners could not afford the farm inputs. Lands were rented by the individual owners to some people from neighboring villages. The rent could be paid in kind or by supplying labor. Farmland plots are owned individually, and some having obtained Land Use Certificates (Form 7).

Key findings
There is some landlessness and inequitable distribution of land in the village. Some families own up to 20 acres of permanent plantations, while others have none. Even cultivated land is becoming scarce.

After 2011, a problem arose with the construction of a cement factory near Bufar village where mountains bear a lot of limestone. Villagers from Daw Taw Ku are protesting against the construction of cement factory there. However, 20 households out of 60 from Bufar were in favor of the factory as they received some bribes from the founder. The remaining villagers of Bufar and everyone from Daw Taw Ku are still refusing the construction of cement factory. This problem is yet to be solved.