

The Dual Pillars of Resilience: How Religious and Political Social Capital Sustain Post-Coup Myanmar Muslim Youth Fleeing Conscription in Chiang Mai and Mae Sot

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Abstract

This research addressed the survival and resilience strategies of Myanmar Muslim Youths fleeing to Chiang Mai and Mae Sot after the 2021 military coup and the following forced conscription law that came into force in February 2024. By analyzing how these youths mobilize different forms of Social Capital, this research mainly answers the question of how the intertwining and intersection of social capital shape the survival strategies of Myanmar Muslim youths. This research was conducted in a qualitative approach through in-depth interviews and Key Informant Interviews to explore the patterns of how the Myanmar Muslim Youths mobilize these social capitals in the diaspora context to claim their sense of belonging and political agency even in the diaspora context. The main argument of this research is that while Political Social Capital and Religious Social Capital ensures the survival of Myanmar Muslim migrant youths in Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, access to such social capital is unequal and thus creating social stratification in the diaspora context. This research aims to fill the current gap of literature on youth migration of a marginalized and oppressed social group of Myanmar, explaining the linkage between different forms of Social Capital and survival strategies given the intersectionality, specifically at the crossroad of Myanmar's ongoing crisis and political unrest.