

Community Building and Online Connection Among Burmese People in China

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Abstract

In the early 1990s, China began to implement a strategy of opening up along its borders and has made relentless efforts to promote regional economic integration. Against this backdrop, many Burmese people came to work and live in Chinese border cities. Some of these Burmese used the border as a "springboard", Through commercial intermediaries and spontaneous immigrant social networks entry. China's inland areas, becoming a dispersed group spread across various parts of China. Long-term field research has revealed that some distinct Burmese communities have formed in China's border areas, which maintain close contact with Burmese people scattered throughout China's inland regions via new social media platforms. The development of new social media technology has profoundly changed the living conditions of Burmese people in China. For the Burmese in China, the creation of their immigrant communities and online connections embody the spirit and connotations of social solidarity and reciprocity, reflecting the survival strategies and agency displayed by grassroots groups in the process of global mobility.