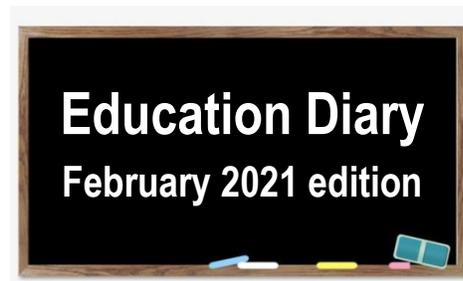
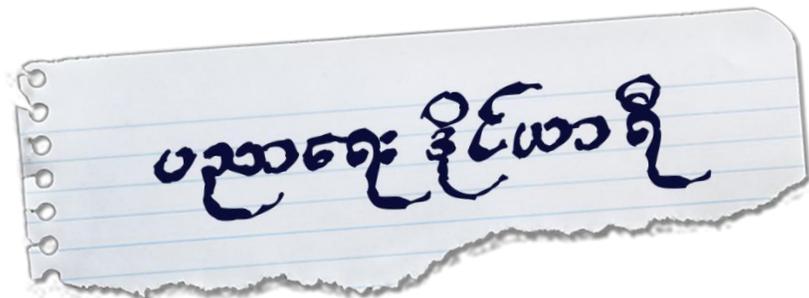




Burmese Migrant Workers' Education Committee

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Contents

I.	<u>HOME-BASED LEARNING UPDATE</u>	3
	• <u>Follow up from previous edition</u>	3
	• <u>MLCs survey</u>	3
II.	<u>ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FURTHER UPDATE</u>	6





“

February of 2021 will be remembered as one of the black spots in our country's history. The coup in Myanmar happened so suddenly and out of nowhere that caught everyone off-guarded. The news of it shocked the migrant communities of Burmese diasporas across the world.

It seemed like history had repeated once more.

We offer our thoughts and prayers to those who were facing oppression and losing their loved ones in Myanmar, and we will be supporting the people's resistance to tyranny in Myanmar.

”

- BMWEC Team.

“

၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့နိုင်ငံအတွက် အမည်းစက်တစ်ခုအနေနှင့် ကျန်ရစ်နေခဲ့မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ လျှပ်တပြက် ခဏအတွင်းမှာ မထင်မှတ်ထားပဲ ဤဖြစ်စဉ်ကြောင့် အားလုံးလဲ အံ့အားသင့်သွားရပြီး အာဏာသိမ်းမှု သတင်းကြီးသည် ပြည်ပရောက် မြန်မာလူမျိုး အသိုင်းအဝိုင်းတိုင်းကို တုန်လှုပ်သွားစေခဲ့ပါသည်။ သမိုင်းတပတ်ပြန်လည်သလို ခံစားရသည်။

မြန်မာပြည်တွင်းရှိ ဖိနှိပ်ခံပြည်သူများနှင့် ချစ်ရသူများကို ဆုံးရှုံးနေရသူများအတွက် ဆုတောင်းပေးလျက်ရှိပါကြောင်း။ အာဏာရှင်ဆန်ကျင်မှု လှုပ်ရှားနေသူပြည်သူများကိုလဲ အားပေးထောက်ခံလျက်ရှိပါကြောင်း။

”

- BMWEC Team.

HOME-BASED LEARNING UPDATE

Follow up from previous edition

As we stated in January, there are 20 Migrant Learning Centers (MLC) that are undertaking Home-Based Learning (HBL) for migrant children and 1 MLC that is undertaking in online-based learning, under BMWEC's management, with the total of 198 teachers, 12 staff and 2640 students. The current quarter is the final quarter of this HBL process. Since the whole process is coming to its conclusion, BMWEC and other education organizations in Mae Sot, Tak region, have worked together to draft a HBL board exam for each grade level in order to review the overall HBL experience, to assess the quality and effectiveness, and to find ways to support and encourage the students and their families. The exam will cover only 65% of the official curriculum. The main subjects on it will be Myanmar, English and Mathematics. It will be given to students in late March.



Right now, BMWEC has to manage all education employees, teachers and staff within its organization between two great pressures: health and politics. The COVID – 19 pandemic has already made life hard for teachers, especially those who have families across the border in Myanmar, given the border restrictions by Thai authorities. Now, the recent coup d'état in Myanmar has further complicated matters for the teachers and their families. BMWEC has been handing out dry rations to struggling families of students and teachers as much as it can, but there are still many families who have yet to receive their dry ration donations.

MLC survey

During the last week of February as HBL activities were coming to an end, associated education organizations including BMWEC, TeacherFocus, BMTA, HWF, and MECC, conducted a survey of all MLCs in the Mae Sot, Tak region in order to review and document the overall effectiveness and challenges experienced with HBL. Teachers gave their thoughts and advice on HBL which will undoubtedly be very helpful in the coming school years.

Many uncertainties were evident. In certain places people have been hesitant to participate in HBL as current the number of COVID – 19 infected people surges across the country, and a discovery of an infected person in a MLC, could jeopardize the future of MLCs on the Thai-Myanmar border. In addition, the military government situation in Myanmar means that all the agreements made between the previous government and the education organizations in the migrant area, such as allowing migrant children to take Grade 4, Grade 8 and Matriculation exams in Myanmar, are up in the air.



Teachers also noted that children have been losing their focus in studying as they have been more carefree during HBL, instead spending more time playing games or helping out their parents in their workplaces. Of course, they cannot be blamed for asking their children to help too much as families' livelihoods may depend on it, and everyone is struggling.

Unrelated to the survey, there are financial problems as well. If the situation does not improve, then starting in April of this year, 84 teachers from 14 MLCs under BMWEC are going to face financial difficulties. 4 MLCs will have to settle their land rent issue starting from March. They were struggling to pay their land

rent, and this difficulty is an existential threat to their schools and their students. On behalf of the diligent hard-working teachers of those MLCs, BMWEC would like to implore others to join hands with us in resolving this crisis.

Summary of Migrant Special Needs Children Survey Results in Mae Sot

Last month in collaboration with Right To Play, BMWEC also conducted a survey in 22 MLCs and other related programs along the Thai-Myanmar border (in the Mae Sot area) to document the number of special needs students, their ages, their situations and so on. The findings of the survey are shown in the figures below

Figure.1

Migrant Schools/Communities Locations	# of participants
Mae Sot 1. Star Flower 2. Havelly Home 3. Ah Yone Oo 4. Ah Yone Thit 5. Kwe Ka Baung 6. Su Kha Hong Sar 7. New Society 8. Parimi 9. Pyo Khin 10. Muditar 11. Sunset (Night) 12. Naung Bo Deng 13. SAW 14. Morning Glory 1 15. New Blood 16. New Wave 17. Stepping Stone Project	17
Mae Ra Mat 1. Nya Li AH Hta 2. Hta Lor	2
Phophra 1. Su Kho Thai 2. White 3. Home	3
TOTAL	22

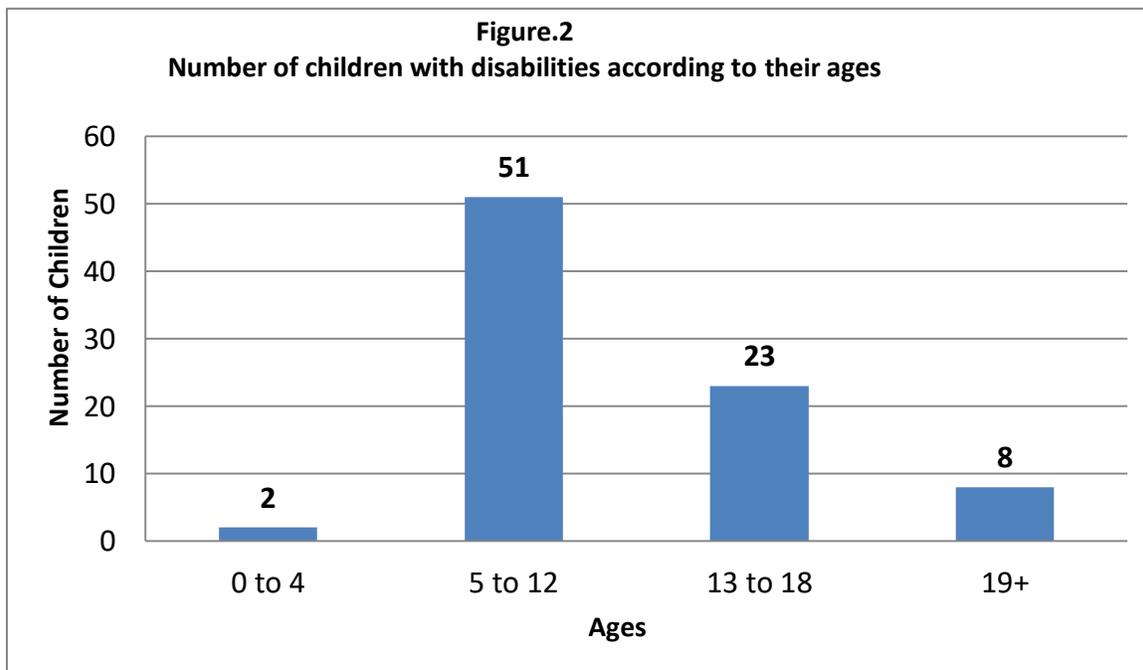


Figure.3 - Types of migrant children with disabilities

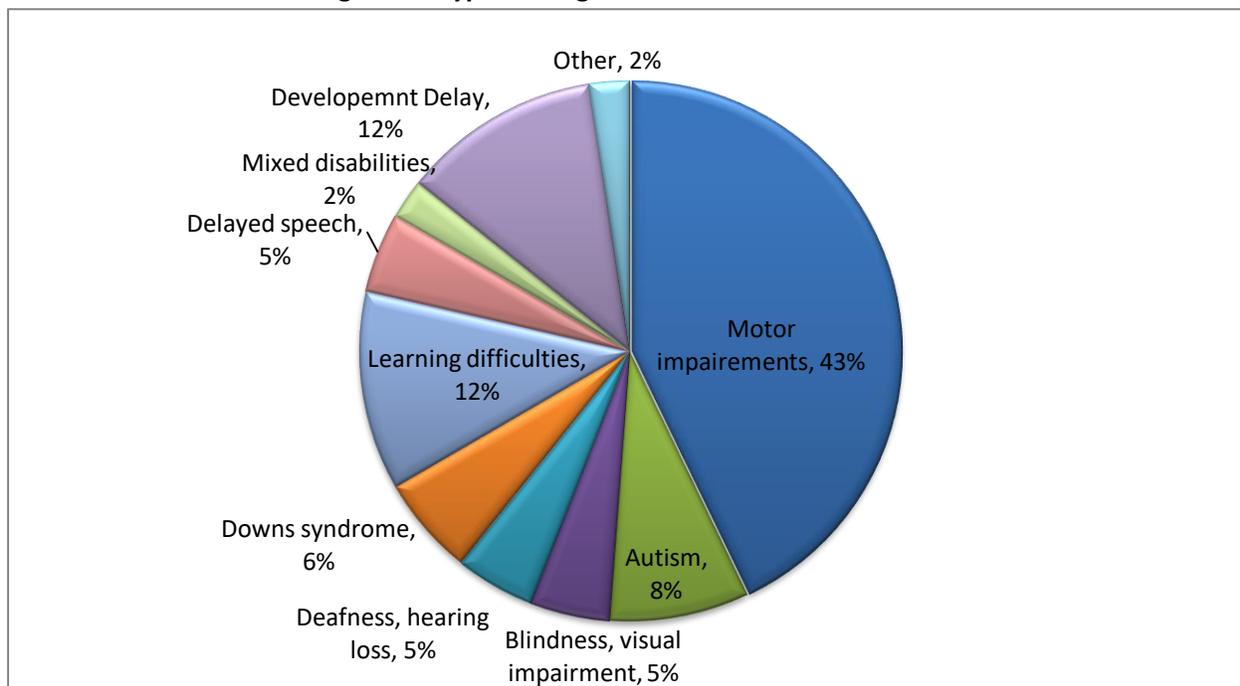
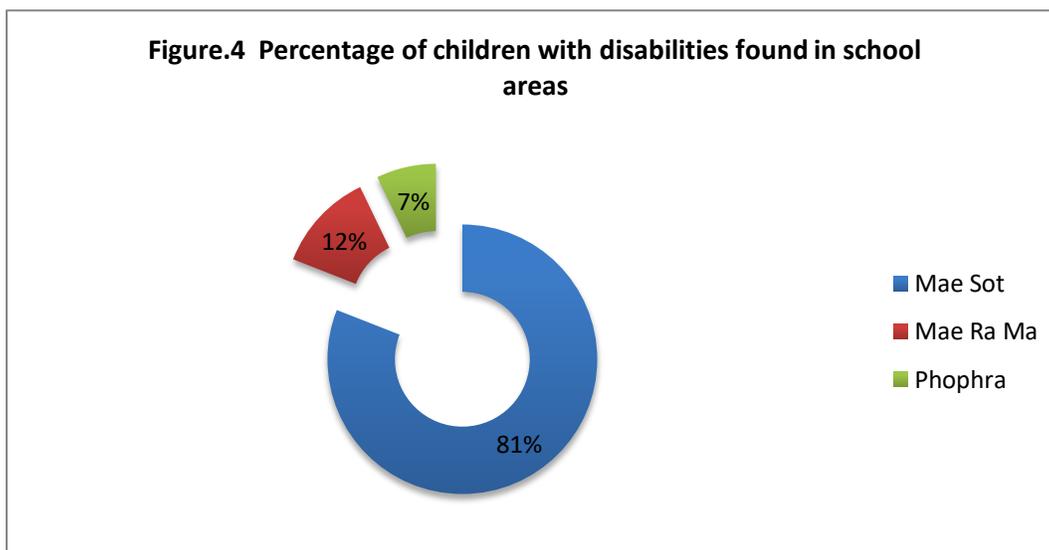


Figure.4 Percentage of children with disabilities found in school areas



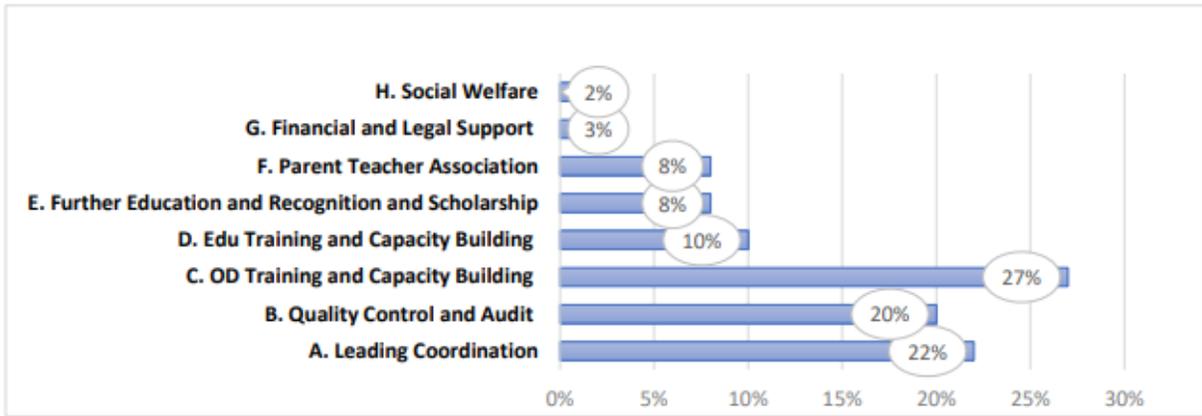
Based on the main findings of the survey, we have learned that every community surveyed has children with special needs, and at the same time, most people in migrant communities do not know how to take care of them. Migrant teachers are interested in acquiring knowledge about children with special needs and in particular about how to assist them so that they can learn.

The recommendations based on the findings of the survey are (1) that educational organizations should consider holding special needs education awareness activities for migrant teachers and community and (2) that migrant and local government educational institutions should be more welcoming toward children with disabilities.

FURTHER UPDATE ON ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

In the previous edition of Education Diary, we talked about BMWEC’s work on organizational development (OD). BMWEC has now accomplished its task of electing the members for its Board of Trustees (BoT). They are 7 local residents in the migrant area who are acquainted with migrant education affairs. Currently, the transition from BMWEC’s structure of being led by the Executive Committee (EC) to a new structure in which it will be led by the BoT is underway. In the meantime, we have already hired an Implementation Team Director, and she will begin carrying out her duties in March, in accordance with BMWEC’s strategy.

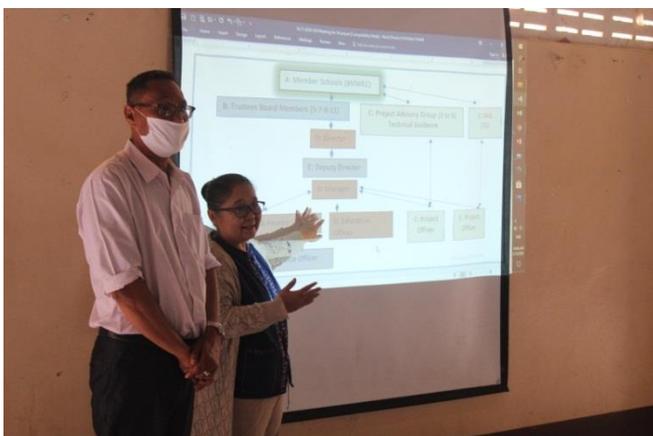
- အဖွဲ့အစည်း၏ အရေးကြီးသောတန်ဖိုးထားသည့်အရာများ (Organizational Value)**
1. Diversity မတူကွဲပြားမှု။
 2. Collaboration ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု။
 3. Inclusion လူတိုင်းပါဝင်မှု။
 4. Recognition အသိအမှတ်ပြုမှု။
 5. Transparency ပွင့်လင်းမြင်သာမှု။
 6. Quality အရည်အသွေး။
 7. Accountability တာဝန်ခံမှု။
 8. Education ပညာရေး။
 9. Future Opportunity အနာဂတ်အခွင့်အလမ်း။
 10. Friendship ခင်မင်ရင်းနှီးမှု။





Carrying out OD processes smoothly in January gave BMWEC leadership confidence that our grand strategy of putting migrant education on par with standard ASEAN educational levels will be a success. However, the political situation in Myanmar during February hindered the progress of the OD process. The agreements and arrangements BMWEC had with domestic educational institutions in Myanmar were rendered void, and BMWEC has been working on solutions to overcome this obstacle.

Regardless, to ensure that education of high school students in migrant learning centres meets international educational standards, BMWEC will continue working to develop higher education programs such as the GED. For academically challenged students, BMWEC will promote vocational education options. In order to secure the education of migrant students, to raise the quality of education and to make sure that students are able to finish their secondary education and have options for their futures, we ask for helping hands to support migrant education, both with financial assistance and educational expertise.



ထုတ်ပြန်ကြေညာချက် (Mission Statement)
 ထိုင်း - မြန်မာနယ်စပ်တွင်အသင်းဝင်အဖွဲ့အစည်း
 တစ်ခုအဖြစ်စတင်တည်ထောင်ခဲ့ပြီး အဖွဲ့ဝင်ကျောင်းများ၊
 မိဘဆရာအသင်းများနှင့် အခြားပါဝင်ပတ်သက်သောအဖွဲ့
 လူပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များ က လုံခြုံစိတ်ချရသောပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တွင်
 အရည်အသွေးပြည့်ဝသော ရွှေ့ပြောင်းပညာရေးစနစ်
 တည်ဆောက်နိုင်ရန်
 အတွက်ညှိနှိုင်းလုပ်ဆောင်မှုများကိုမြှင့်တင်ရန်တည်ထောင်ခဲ့သည်။

“ *The BMWEC was established as a participatory organization along the Thai-Myanmar border. Its mission is to create and promote collaboration and activities for a quality migrant education system in a safe and secure environment with member schools, parent-teacher associations and other related organizations and people.* ”