

July 30,2021

# EMERGING ONLINE EDUCATION PLATFORMS AND STUDENTS' OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES/CHANGES WITHIN THE COUP

Inya  
Economics



➤➤ Written by Htain Linn

@InyaEconomics

# CONTENTS

- 01** An Introduction to the Current Education Landscape of Myanmar
- 02** Online Learning during Pandemic before the Coup
- 03** Organizations trying to fill the education gaps for students after the Coup
- 04** Post Coup University students' endeavour in Education
- 05** Difficulties in applying for a scholarship to study abroad
- 06** Appraisal on the current education conditions of the university students

## An Introduction to the Current Education Landscape of Myanmar

In Myanmar, since the 24th of March in 2020, it had already been a year and a half, that formal education had hit the wall (including temporary ceasing of Universities nationwide) due to the Corona Pandemic. Since then, many students try to pave the way toward Informal Online learning, Considerable number of Youth organizations took a lead to encourage the public about online education, and continue to assist technologically. With that being said, the quota of students who have difficult access to either resources or technology is also unignorable. Though Primary Education had never been familiar with online education, when the coup started, altogether with Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), several organizations endeavour to create one that is equipped with it.



### Online Learning during Pandemic before the Coup

Youths started to depend on Online Education way before the coup started during the Pandemic. In this regard, students in Vocational Universities have difficulties honing their skills in practical circumstances. On the other hand, many students can develop themselves in various ways- peer learning, taking a part in students and Youths Organization and interning in Civil Society Organizations for job experience. Even tho many left halfway either because of the language barrier or unfamiliarity with a new form of learning method, students also try to pursue education through online based teaching platforms, primarily- Edx, Future Learn, Coursera. Rather than such websites, it seems they tend to participate in workshops and short courses offered by other Youth organizations In 2020, despite the Government trying to fabricate an online education, it was incompetent practically due to obstacles such as high cost for the cellular network and internet blockage at the western part of the country, Rakhine. To top of these problems, a post-election coup d'état distanced and ruptured students' hopes for education.

## Organizations trying to fill the education gaps for students after the Coup

Among many other groups that had emerged after the coup, those that are aiming to provide educational assistance are also included. Amidst, Virtual Federal University, Spring University Myanmar, Youth Career Institute are well-known among the youths. Currently, the Centre for College Preparation, Law School, School of Federalism and Peace Studies, Stem School, School of Arts and Social Sciences, The Movement Institute, and School of economics are cooperating with Spring university; they're offering courses starting from one month to longer depending on the subjects. But since the fees are ranged from 20k to 50k in kyats, not every student is accessible to them.

Though Virtual Federal University (VFU) can't offer various courses like Spring University, they had already launched a website with an introduction to their lessons, altogether with two free classes.

Another interesting organization is the Youth Career Institute, which is renamed from Youth Career organization. Applying the method of the Low-cost Education System, they create a monthly subscription service with fees of 3k to 5k in kyats monthly. Through this service, students can attend two to three months of classes about Japan, Digital Marketing, Korea, English, Chinese, Digital Arts and Photography.

LECTURE  
PROGRAM  
SCHOOL  
UNIVERSITY  
INTELLIGENT BO  
EDUCATION  
UN

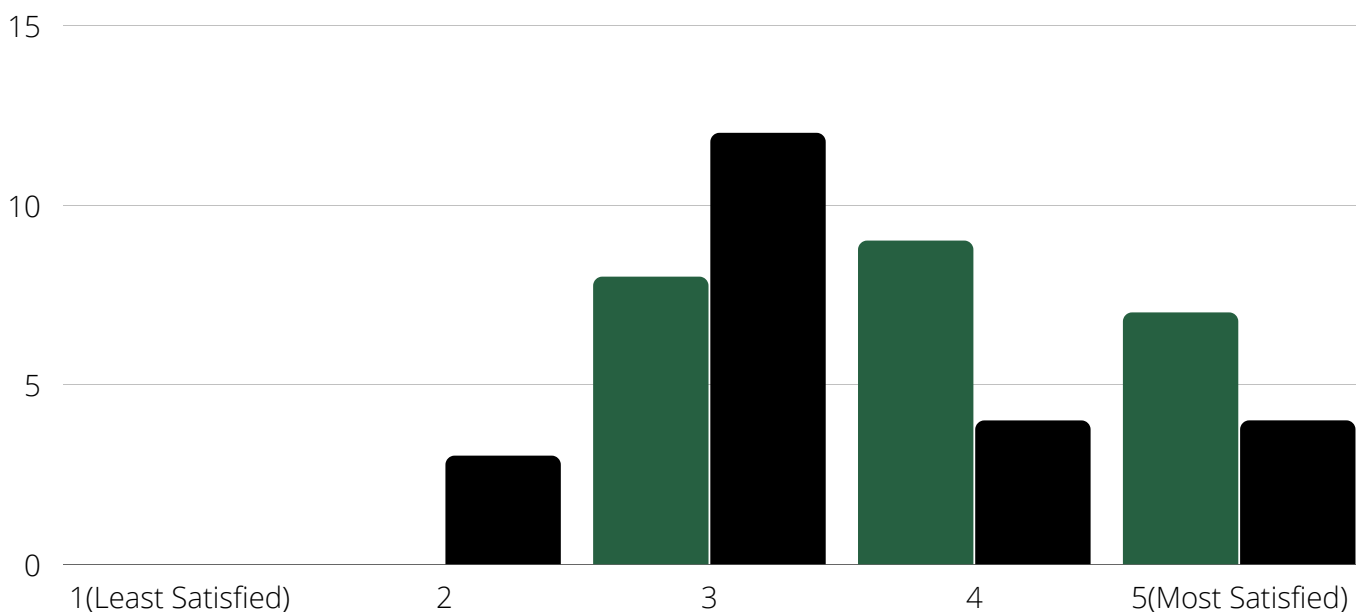


## Post Coup University students' endeavour in Education

Since the first of February, due to the blockage of cellular mobile data- with the exception of the fibre network- and Junta's night-time internet curfew (from 1 AM to 9 AM), the entire education system (either online or in-person) has come to a halt. At the same time, students and youths started to participate in actions and movements to resist the Coup. Consequently, on account of various difficulties and situations, educational organizations gaining momentum during the pandemic were discontinued abruptly.

The bar chart mentioned below illustrates the outcomes of the survey respondents, who are students studying online during the Covid-19 pandemic and this bar chart also indicates the circumstances of their satisfaction upon online studies before and after the military coup d'état.

### Rating on their online studies before and after coup

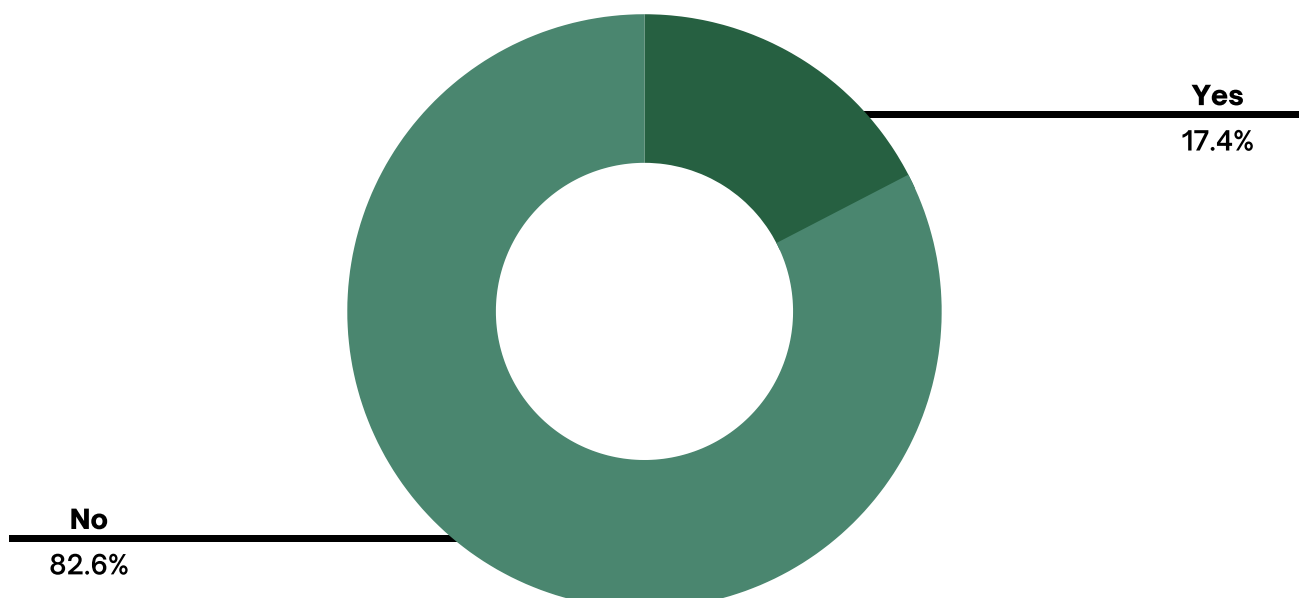


After examining, due to the current political unrest and the effects of the pandemic, students face strict internet curfews and loss of rights and liberty in education sector. This results lack of concentration and psychological disorder. Owing to psychological problems, students experience absence of interest in learning, and financial and economic difficulties make young people of Myanmar difficult to learn online after the coup.

## Difficulties in applying for a scholarship to study abroad

To study abroad, most of the local students cannot afford financially and plus, still have to struggle in order to apply for a scholarship. Language barrier, feeling guilty, not being financially strong if not receiving fully-funded scholarship, imperfection of required documents become the main difficulties in applying scholarship. Due to the shortage of extracurricular activities because of the political situation after the coup, probability of receiving the scholarship become lower. These facts are the main barriers in applying for a scholarship. The following pie chart is based upon information whether students can afford to apply for a scholarship after the military staged the coup d'état.

### Whether the students can afford to apply for a scholarship within military coup



## Appraisal on the current education conditions of the university students

Although universities were opened by the State Administration Council of the Junta for last year students including last year honours students and master degree students, it did not succeed because of the Civil Disobedience Movement by students. Students get a lot of barrier in gaining degree cause of political crisis and CDM strikes. On the other hand, On the other hand, the National Unity Government's (NUG) implementation of higher education has been slow, and the legitimacy of the NUG's accreditation remains questionable due to the lack of international recognition to NUG. As conclusion, Student path of education was deteriorating more than before the coup.

