

Supplementary Information File

Supplementary Information for “Poison if You Don’t Know How to Use it: Facebook, Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar”
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Demographic Information for Respondents

Out of 46 respondents, 24 identified as male and 20 identified as female and 2 identified as non-binary. They came from diverse ethnic backgrounds, including Bamar, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Kachin and Rohingya. A majority (28) were Buddhists, but 14 identified as Christians and 4 identified as Muslims. There is also a wide range of educational backgrounds among these respondents. Twenty were college educated, 19 passed high school, and seven did not have a high school education. The level of involvement in politics also varied and included activists, retired government employees, housewives, NGO staff, unemployed, daily wagers, teachers, and traders. Because we suspect that the views of people from the majority ethnic group (Bamar) and religious group (Buddhist) might differ from those from minority ethnic groups or religions, we do report the ethnic and sometimes the religious identities of our respondents in addition to their gender. The research was approved by University of Massachusetts Lowell Institutional Review Board.

Table A1: Respondents Demographic Information

Age	Education	Gender	Ethnicity	Religion	Location	News Check	Primary Source
71 or older	College Degree	Male	Bamar	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
31-40	College Degree	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Irregular	Online
31-40	College Degree	Male	Bamar	Buddhist	Moulmein, Mon	Daily+	Online
51-60	High School Degree	Male	Bamar	Buddhist	Moulmein, Mon	Daily+	Online
31-40	College Degree	Female	Chin	Christian	Sittwe, Rakhine	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Female	Mon	Buddhist	Mawlamyine, Mon	Daily+	Online
31-40	Religious School Degree	Male	Myanmar Chinese-	Buddhist	Mandalay, Mandalay,	Daily+	Online
31-40	College Degree	Male	Bamar	Muslim	Mandalay, Mandalay,	Daily+	Online
51-60	High School Degree	Male	Bamar	Buddhist	Mandalay	Daily	Online

41-50	College Degree	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Mandalay, Mandalay	Daily+	Online
61-70	College Degree	Male	Bamar	Buddhist	Mandalay, Mandalay	Daily+	Online
21-30	High School Degree	Female	Shan-Kachin	Buddhist & RC	Myitkyinar, Kachin	Daily+	Online
41-50	Religious School Degree	Male	Bamar	Buddhist	Sagaing, Sagaing	Daily	Online
61-70	College Degree	Male	Chinese-Bamar	Christian	Mandalay, Mandalay	Daily+	Online
21-30	High School Degree	Male	Kachin-Bamar	Buddhist	Mandalay	Daily	Online
41-50	College Degree	Male	Kachin	Christian	Myitkyinar, Kachin	Daily+	Online
21-30	No High School	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Bagan, Mandalay	Never	Conversation
41-50	No High School	Female	Rakhie	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily	Conversation
61-70	College Degree	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily	Television and Conversation
41-50	College Degree	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Sagaing, Sagaing	Daily+	Television
21-30	College Degree	Female	Rohingya Myanmar-	Muslim	Michigan, US	Daily+	Online
31-40	College Degree	Male	Indian	Muslim	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	No High School	Male	Kayin	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily	neighbors
31-40	No High School	Male	Kayin	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily	neighbors
41-50	No High School	Male	Kayin	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily	neighbors
41-50	No High School	Male	Kayin	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily	neighbors
21-30	College Degree	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	College Degree	Female	Mon	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	College Degree	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	College Degree	Other gender	Lesu	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
31-40	College Degree	Male	Chin	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online

31-40	College Degree	Female	Naga	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	College Degree	Female	Kayin-Bamar	Buddhist	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
31-40	Some College	Male	Chin	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Male	Kachin	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
31-40	Some College	Female	Lesu	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Male	Chin	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Male	Kachin	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Female	Kachin	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
31-40	Some College	Female	Shan	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
31-40	Some College	Male	Maro	Christian	Yangon, Yangon	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Male	Kayin	Buddhist	Mandalay,	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Other gender	Bamar	Muslim	Mandalay,	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Female	Bamar	Buddhist	Mandalay,	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Female	Shan-Bamar	Buddhist	Mandalay,	Daily+	Online
21-30	Some College	Male	Bamar	Buddhist	Mandalay	Daily+	Online

Interview Questions:

General News Questions

1. What issues are most important to you? (within this month? Year?)
2. Where do you get information/How do learn about the issues you just mentioned?
3. Have you been sharing news you care about with relatives, friends or other people? If so, how are you sharing information?
4. Is there any current information that you see and totally disagree with? What is that information and why do you disagree with it?
5. How do you express your agreement or disagreement?

Questions about Facebook

1. Do you use Facebook?
2. Would you say that radio, TV and print papers are not so important anymore now that you have Facebook? (From your perspective, which source of news is more important? TV, radio, Facebook, etc)
 - a. How so?
 - b. Does Facebook deliver information that's missing from radio, TV and print papers? (or vice versa)
 - c. If so, can you give some examples of how Facebook or the information found on Facebook is different? (or vice versa)

Sources on Facebook

1. What are your favorite sources on Facebook?
2. OR: What are your favorite news/information sources on Facebook, and why?
3. What are your favorite Facebook groups?
 - a. Are you in a lot of Facebook groups?
 - i. Are Facebook groups important to you? Why? Why not?
 - b. Are these open or closed (public or private) groups?
4. Do you follow particular people (e.g famous people in politics, entertainments, media, on Facebook who have many followers)? Why?

Kind and amount of Facebook News

1. To what extent do you rely on Facebook for domestic/international news and information?

- a. Is Facebook better for either one of those (local or national news?)
 - b. Why? How come?
2. In what way you would compare the news/information provided by printed media and the news/information you access through facebook? (Particularly for the news/information about conflicts)
3. What is the most important political event that you learned about from Facebook?
 - a. Do you remember who posted that event (e.g a person you know or a news organization ... what was the source of that event?)
4. Does the information on Facebook confirms how you view the world or do you feel the perspectives you encounter on Facebook make you reconsider your view of the world?
5. Have you ever read something on Facebook that made you upset or angry?
6. Do you have any instance/case or experience that you want to share with me to learn more about how incidences getting intense and have negative effects and consequences, due to spreading hate speech/anti-group sentiments on facebook.
7. (If response shared a case) What would you assess possibility of similar incidence in the future?
8. Do you see any preventive efforts from either (national/local) authority or other groups (CSOs)? (if so, what are they)?
9. What would be your recommendations for preventing such incidences from happening again in the future?

Big Picture Questions

10. What would you say are the main advantages and drawbacks (if any) of Facebook?
11. If Facebook were to disappear tomorrow, what would you miss the most?
 - a. How would that affect your life?
 - b. How would it affect politics in Myanmar?
12. Do you feel hopeful or worried about Myanmar's future? Which areas do you worry about most and why?
13. Do you think Facebook is good for Myanmar's future?
 - a. Do you feel Facebook has brought your country together or has it divided you more?
 - b. In which areas do you feel it has brought the country together or divided it more?
14. In sum, would you say that Myanmar is better off with or without Facebook? Why or why not?

General Background Information

1. Age
 - a. (21-30) (31-40) (41-50) (51-60) (61-70) (71 or older)
2. Education

3. Gender
4. Race or Ethnicity
5. Religion
6. Location
 - a. rural or urban.
7. How often do you look for news?
 - a. Several times a day, daily, weekly, every other week?
8. Where do you go to get the majority of your news?
 - a. Online (traditional media or social media), print, radio, tv?
9. Do you read a print newspaper regularly? If so, which one?
10. Do you watch TV regularly? If so what's your favorite station?
11. Do you listen to the radio regularly? If so, what is your preferred station?