

MIGRANT WORKERS: OPPORTUNITIES OR CRISIS

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ABSTRACT

Every human being ~~born~~ has their own potential, whether they are Thai people or migrant workers. They have different lifestyle goals which depends on the individual components. The true goal of every human being may not be different, that is, the desire for life to be fulfilled in what one desires and to live a happy life. Migrant workers refer to natural persons who do not have Thai nationality. Migrant workers are mentioned in this academic article. Refers to migrant workers of 3 nationalities: Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. The entry of migrant workers creates opportunities for Thailand in many ways, including 1) creating opportunities to help and support each other among neighboring countries and ASEAN countries. 2) Preparing to accommodate the changing population structure 3) Compensating for the declining labor age and entering an aging society 4) Supporting the economy and building Thailand's competitiveness 5) Moving towards achieving the goals of Sustainable development (SDGs) of Thailand and ASEAN countries and 6) Support the mechanism driving Thailand's global health strategy if considering the critical situation of migrant workers coming to work in Thailand. It was found that there were impacts including 1) the careers of Thai people, 2) the security, and 3) Health, which is considered as a whole, it can be seen that migrant workers coming to work in Thailand are a crisis opportunity just a tool to help create opportunities for achieving goals that have been set together, opportunities that arise "It is both a worldly and a religious opportunity" under the principles of humanity. Human rights principles security principles of sustainable development principles of social protection and the principles of participation of all sectors: "Leave no one behind" according to the goals of the 20-year national strategic plan (2018 - 2037).

Keywords: Migrant workers; opportunity; crisis; SDGs

Introduction

Every human being is born on this planet, regardless of race, religion, or location in the world that are many demands for everyone to fulfill their desires and live happily. We refer to the classic theory of human needs proposed by Abraham Maslow in 1943, it describes human needs in 5 areas: 1) physical needs Physical Needs 2) Safety Needs 3) Belonging and love needs 4) Esteem needs, and 5) Completeness needs: Self - Actualization needs, which the need for completeness of life is the highest human need, Maslow said: "What a man can be, He must be."

However, In the reality of life, basic needs must be completely satisfied first. Important ones include physical needs. and security needs It covers personal safety, finances, health, well-being, and an insurance assistance system that is in line with the core concept of human security (Human Security) by being safe from fear. safe from scarcity and be able to live in society with dignity (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019.) Migrant Workers, if considered according to the Foreign Workers Act 2008, refers to natural persons who do not have Thai nationality. In this article, the author refers to migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia, which is often perceived to refer to labor that uses physical strength. They have a relatively low socio-economic status. There is both legal and illegal travel to work in Thailand. In addition, the views of most Thai people still have views in the form of "racial bias," especially hostility. connection between Thailand and Burma in the past

If we consider the issue of racial bias before looking deeply into the issue of opportunities or crises, fundamental truths in the past may affect the analytical thinking or perspective of each person if studying history. We can see that in ancient times the division of territory was done roughly by assuming that the territory that was under the rule of a country or kingdom would be covered by the territory of the country or kingdom that was the ruler. Under that rule, it was not clearly stated where the boundary lines were. For example, in the past, the territory of the Sukhothai Kingdom, and the Ayutthaya Kingdom could not say that there were boundary lines with other countries or kingdoms. Where did the idea of demarcating boundaries begin when Europeans sailed to seek colonies on different continents in order to rule them as their own? Thailand began to have a clear demarcation of boundaries during the reign of King Rama IV, continuing until Rattanakosin, making Thailand in the past a large area. However, because some of the territory was divided up for Europeans to rule, it resulted in Thai people who used to live together. same lineage has a relationship Must be separated because there is a clear division of land, which tells the story of the origins of the Thai people from the past to the present. It can be seen that neighboring countries surrounding Thailand Especially neighboring countries whose borders border Thailand, 4

countries, namely Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In the past, we were in the same land, and studying stories about the residences of the Thai people will give us an objective perspective in making decisions. More because Thailand and all surrounding countries were once a group of people of the same ethnicity. (Thai Encyclopedia for Youth)

If considering the issue of migrant workers coming to work in Thailand as an opportunity or a crisis, the author would like to present a perspective for considering the opportunity or crisis. In this article, the author would like to use the term migrant workers instead of foreign workers to demonstrate the normality of populations being able to move across to each other in the era of a borderless world. Although the current outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has made the borderless world more limited, borderlessness has decreased.

Content

Regarding the issue of Migrant Workers (Opportunities), the author would like to present the following issues:

First: the opportunity to help and support each other among neighboring countries and ASEAN.

In today's world, it is an era where news is spread widely throughout the world. No matter where the world community is, they can quickly know and be affected by the news along with the development of information technology. Make different countries come closer together. The flow of international migration in the world today is likely to increase according to a report from the United Nations. In 2017, there were 258 million international migrants or approximately every 1 in 30 people in the world's population will be migrants. Internationally Thailand is still ranked among the TOP 20 migration destination countries, important reasons for migration include both pull and push factors. The key reasons for migration come from economic and social factors instability and political conflicts. It can be seen that in the latter period, countries Many countries in the world are turning to give serious importance to international migration management because it helps to solve the problem of unemployment in the ASEAN region. Thailand is the number one destination for migrant workers with over half a hundred, or 54 percent, of the movement, with the largest group of labor movements in the ASEAN region coming from Myanmar. Followed by Laos and Cambodia, respectively (Saowanee Chantaphong et al., 2019)

Although the current situation is the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) across the world, measures have been put in place to limit the movement of migrant workers. Many academics have analyzed the future of globalization. The challenges from the COVID-19

situation may result in reducing dependency on the outside world. Each country is self-reliant. The spread of COVID-19 disease does not occur at the same time. In each area, which may cause the world in the borderless era to decline, investment will return to their own country to become more self-reliant. The changes that occur are considered to be an inevitable challenge to the economic system. However, the author sees that the COVID-19 infectious disease situation, although it is an important variable for the economic system when the disease situation calms down. Globalization will come back to drive again. Communication channels will increase and communication will be faster.

Thailand was a country with experienced in international migration. Immigration has been around for a long time and is a country with a net number of migrants entering the country. The rate of increase in migrant workers tends to increase every year, resulting in Thailand's level of dependency on migrant workers rising. Currently, Thailand has a large number of migrant workers living both legally and illegally. Data from the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Ministry of Labor report that the number of foreign workers with permission to work remaining throughout the Kingdom from 2006 - 2019 tends to increase.

Second, having the opportunity to prepare to accommodate the changing population structure.

National Economic and Social Development Office It has estimated the population of Thailand for the years 2010 - 2040 (Population Projections for Thailand), excluding people who are not of Thai nationality and whose names are not in the house registration.

The population forecast of the National Economic and Social Development Council shows that the population trend in the next 20 years will be less than the current population. (Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, 2013) which when compared with data from population estimates from the United Nations, which in 2019 estimated the population of various countries until the end of the 21st century, is another Over the next 80 years, it is found that Thailand's population will decrease by more than one-third, making it the country with the largest population decline in the world after Japan (United Nations, 2019). If referring to the population figures of the United Nations, Thailand at the end of the century 21 will have approximately 44 million of population and from qualitative studies, it has been found that in Thai society having children is much more difficult nowadays. However, the United Nations estimates that the world population at the end of the 21st century will increase. Approximately 11,000 million people, therefore, the movement of a large amount of the world's population into Thailand in one way or another. Therefore, it is inevitable (Apichat Chamrasrithirong, 2020) from the aforementioned issue. Institute for Population and Social Research Mahidol University is of the opinion that there must be a good migration

management plan. Thailand's Replacement Migration policy must set clear goals about how to appropriately plan to replace the declining population. We should be more selective. It will be left to others to choose. Allowing the movement in and out without planning, it may make controlling the population difficult. The quality of the population to replace it may not be appropriate. The author is of the opinion that even in the current situation, migrant workers have begun to be embedded in Thailand and there is a tendency to increase in some areas, permanently replacing the population. Therefore, if you look at the opportunity, you will see that it is a good opportunity for migrant workers from neighboring countries to replace the population. Thai workers come to do work that Thai people would not do. Although during the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), there have been measures to further slowdown international travel, it is only temporary. When the situation begins to improve, international travel will begin as usual in the era of a borderless world. An era of communication where nothing can block it.

Alvin Toffler, in his book *The Third Wave*, has made the most reliable predictions for the 21st-century world, including technology, which he predicts will one day be widely communicated by the power of digital, expanding the world and the changes it brings. Mentioned that “The future always comes too soon. They always come in the same order as they should.” He predicted that the family would be small, consisting of father, mother, and children, and there would be a need to move people from one place to another. The changes that would occur Nowadays it is a clearly evident truth. Therefore, having the opportunity to prepare to accommodate the changing population structure and plan the movement of the population in and out in a systematic way will help Thailand manage its national development in a more directional and systematic way.

Third, replace the labor age from Stepping into an aging society

The situation of global social trends, entering the world's aging society affects the global economy and lifestyles. The United Nations has assessed the situation that the years 2001 - 2100 (2001 - 2100) will be the century of the elderly due to an increase in the elderly population, while the working age will continue to decrease, with developed countries will be entered an aging society and most have a long time to prepare. For example, France takes 115 years, Sweden 85 years, and America 69 years, while developing countries take a very short time. Thailand has entered an aging society relatively quickly, approximately 16 years, entering the world's aging society may also pose a threat to Thailand as well. This is due to the reduction of the working age, which may cause competition for the working-age population, especially those with high potential. (Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, 2017) However, the demand for labor in the economy tends to increase. As the aging

society increases and the working age in Thailand decreases. Therefore, the arrival of migrant workers to help is part of the labor force that helps drive the Thai economy, replacing the 3 main types of labor that most Thai people do not do. What we often call 3-D work includes dirty work, difficult work, and dangerous work. Therefore, migrant workers will help to close this gap, reducing the burden of having to encroach on the working age and having to use the elderly to replace it. This makes it possible to step into the elderly with sustainable quality.

Thailand from the analysis and forecast of the elderly population according to the criteria of the World Health Organization. Which is analyzed from the population aged 65 years and over, which defines 3 levels of elderly society. Level 1 Aged Society, when the proportion of the population is 65 years of age and over, is 7%. Level 2, Completed Aged Society, when the proportion of the population is 64 years of age and over, 100. 14 each and level 3 Supper Aged Society, when the proportion of the elderly population is 20 % or more. It was found that Thailand has entered the elderly society since 2005. It is predicted that we will enter a complete aging society in 2021 and will enter a Supper Aged Society in 2031, which is a short period of time. Therefore, the arrival of migrant workers Compensating for the decreasing labor age as society becomes more aging is necessary both now and in the future.

Fourth, support the economy and build Thailand's competitiveness.

Information on migrant workers who are permitted to work throughout the Kingdom as of September 2020, totaling 2,424,490 people. Migrant workers of 4 nationalities (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam), numbering 2,156,379 people, account for 88.94 % of all migrant workers. (Office of Foreign Workers Administration, 2020) which is the trend of such a movement, has implications for the competitiveness and economic development of Thailand, the movement of unskilled or semi-skilled workers. This is an option or an opportunity to maintain the country's competitiveness. When classified by type of business, migrant workers of 3 nationalities (Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia) are in the industrial sector the most. The proportion is 37.37 %, followed by the construction sector at 17.27 % and the trade sector at 14.51 % (Apayuk Amnuaykanchanasin, 2019.) It can be seen that Thailand has relied on migrant workers to drive the country's economy, build the country's competitiveness

Fifth, it will advance towards achieving the sustainable development goals of Thailand and ASEAN countries.

If considering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015 - 2030 as the development agenda after 2015, which is a goal set by the United Nations and the international community agreed to provide a framework. In carrying out development work, there are 17 goals as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015 - 2030



Source: National Economic and Social Development Office, 2015.

The first priority of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to eliminate hunger and all forms of poverty by 2030 because “poverty anywhere is an obstacle to development. “ Migrant workers are linked to many goals, including poverty eradication eliminating hunger health and well-being, reducing inequality, and most importantly, cooperation for sustainable development

Sixth, the mechanism driving Thailand's global health strategy

The Ministry of Public Health has created the Thailand Global Health Strategy Framework 2016-2020 with the broad vision of the Ministry of Public Health in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. and related agencies that have committed to promoting Thailand's health security is the Ministry of Public Health's generosity and creative responsibility. The Ministry of Public Health has set clear goals. “Thailand has health security and safety from health threats in order to drive and promote the sustainable economic and social development of Thailand, including playing a role in setting global health policy and having creative responsibility that is accepted by the community. world” by specifying strategic issues in 5 areas: 1) promoting health security 2) strengthening the health system to be strong, fair, and equitable 3) promoting the leading role and responsibility of Thai people in the international community 4) Strengthening the consistency of health policies within the country and between countries and 5) strengthening the capacity of organizational personnel and developing global and important health information under the aforementioned strategic issues. Standing on international principles, including human rights principles, human security

principles, social protection principles, and sustainable development principles. and the principles of participation of all sectors (Ministry of Public Health, 2016)

Migrant workers are an important target group according to Thailand's global health strategy plan. These groups of people cannot be left behind because of the changes that have occurred with migrant workers in the country. Being in the Thailand area has an impact on achieving the goal of leading to Thailand. Total health security, Therefore, drives the care of every life living in Thailand. That includes migrant workers. Therefore, it is an opportunity to make Thailand have true health stability.

The perspective of migrant workers entering Thailand is a perspective in crisis (According to the Royal Institute Dictionary, it means a condition that is in a precarious and dangerous stage) which may cause problems and affect Thailand in a negative way. The author would like to present important points in each area as follows:

First, the impact on Thai people's careers.

Information that the Department of Employment has driven the policy to monitor and tighten the work of migrant workers who enter the trade, which is work that foreigners are prohibited from doing in order to prevent Thai people from suffering in the fiscal year 2019. During the period 1 October 2018 - 7 May 2019, the Department of Employment inspected the work of a total of 1,229 migrant workers, 701 of whom worked as peddlers, 501 people worked in front of the store and other jobs including security guards, motorcycle shops, massage and Thai and beauty salons, 27 people, and 378 people have been prosecuted for Burmese labor, the largest number being Myanmar nationals. 126 people, followed by Vietnam, 98 people, Laos, 63 people, Cambodia, 51 people, India, 34 people, China, 2 people, and others, 4 people. Pushing workers back to their country, 211 people, representing a total fine of 1,055,000 people, which the Department of Employment He himself emphasized that migrant workers working in Thailand must have a work permit. and do work that is exactly as specified in the work permit the work must not be work that foreigners are prohibited from doing or work other than what they have the right to do. If done, there will be a fine of 5,000 - 50,000 baht (Department of Employment, 2019.) The Ministry of Labor has issued a Ministry of Labor regulations regarding work that migrant workers are prohibited from doing. Which was announced in the Royal Gazette on April 21, 2020, specifying 4 jobs that migrant workers are prohibited from doing as follows:

List 1: 27 jobs that foreigners are strictly prohibited from doing include wood carving, motor vehicle driving, auction sales, diamond/gemstone cutting, beauty work, hand weaving, mat weaving, and making mulberry paper. hand, making lacquerware Making Thai musical instruments, making nielloware, making gold/silver/otter jewelry, making stoneware, making

Thai dolls, making alms bowls, making silk by hand, making Buddha statues, making umbrellas, broker/agent work, Thai massage work, Cigarette rolling work, tour guide work, product sales work, letter arrangement work, silk threading work, secretarial work and legal services.

List 2: Work that foreigners are prohibited from doing with conditions allowing foreigners to work according to international agreements or obligations that Thailand is bound by under the provisions of law (MRAs), 3 jobs which must be foreigners from countries that have restrictions only those who have agreed with Thailand will be able to do these 3 professions, including the accounting profession, the engineering profession, and the architecture profession.

List 3: jobs that foreigners are prohibited from doing with conditions allowing foreigners to do skilled or semi-skilled work, but only work with an employer, totaling 8 jobs, including agricultural work, mattress-making work, shoe-making work, clothing-making work, other construction work, knife making work, cutting work and pottery work.

List 4: Work that foreigners are prohibited from doing with conditions that allow foreigners to do that work is only work that has an employer and is allowed to enter the Kingdom in accordance with immigration law under a memorandum of understanding or record. Note the understanding that the Thai government has made with foreign governments for 2 jobs: labor and storefront sales, which are the only workers whom Thailand has an MOU with. Currently, Thailand has MOUs with 4 countries, namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (Department of Employment, 2020) which have been clearly defined. However, a labor shortage situation and the lack of understanding of migrant workers, may affect employment discrepancies. (Ministry of Labor, 2020)

If analyzing the work problems that foreigners are prohibited from doing because they do not want to cause competition for work with Thai people, from studying the information and opinions of people involved and having a stake, it can be seen that part of it may come from communication problems that cannot be clearly communicated in terms of providing information about prohibited work and the amount of labor demand in each occupation, how much is there in order to plan employment that is consistent with their needs. Even though Thai people still have rights. There is an opportunity to choose a job, but employers want to choose to hire foreign workers because they don't mind the cheaper wages. However, overall, this is not too much of a concern because at present Thailand still has a labor shortage. Fixing the problem directly can solve these problems. In addition, the relevant agencies have clearly enacted laws for supervision. If the relevant agencies strictly adhere to them, they will be able to solve the said problem. However, Thailand's economic situation still needs to be driven in order to become more stable.

Second, security implications.

If we consider the issue of migrant labor affecting security, which may mean that the security of people in the country is linked to the security of the country, the concept of human security clearly began around the 1970s and has been It has been on the agenda of the United Nations since the early 1990s until the present. The United Nations and states all over the world recognize the importance of human security. Human security gives importance to the well-being of "humans" so that they can live their lives based on freedom and freedom from fear. afraid of Freedom and freedom from desire including the dignity of humanity (Manasvi Arjunaka)

Therefore, the entry of migrant workers to work in Thailand both legally and most importantly, many illegal, illegal immigration problems Scattered in various areas All over Thailand Especially in the metropolitan provinces, where migrant workers come to work in a higher proportion than in other regions of Thailand, where the movement of labor from neighboring countries, especially Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia coming in increasing quantities every year.

The statistics of foreign prisoners being arrested for entering the country illegally or being arrested in various cases are increasing every year. The number of migrant workers who come to work in Thailand is about 2.5 million people who come legally. 1.5 million people and more than 1 million people illegally come to work (Department of Employment, 2017). This group of people are both women and children who are at risk of human trafficking while managing migrant workers. The nation and the enforcement of related laws are not as effective as they should be, which inevitably affects Thailand, crimes that occur will also affect security.

Third, public health problems

If we analyze migrant workers and the Thai public health system, the public health problems of illegal migrant workers have increased, these are groups that do not have any health insurance and have also introduced new diseases into the country. Health examinations and/or health insurance have the main goal of providing disease control and prevention, medical treatment, and systematic health promotion. Migrant workers who come to work legally will receive health examinations and search for diseases from the Public Health Department of the Provincial Public Health Office found the results of the examination also found that some of the migrant workers were infected with important infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, lymphatic filariasis, dengue fever, leprosy, meningococcal disease, AIDS and Important diseases that tend to increase include: Syphilis, for which illegal migrant workers are continuously screened and treated, as well as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID -19), which is currently spreading widely around the world, and non-communicable diseases that

Important factors include diabetes and high blood pressure, etc. Migrant workers who enter the country illegally are a public health problem in Thailand. Because it can cause the spread of disease. which illness will affect public health expenditures This is because these migrant workers do not have any insurance.

Conclusion

News about mass accidents, deaths, and injuries occurring among migrant workers. Whether traffic accidents construction accidents, building collapses, etc., these occur frequently among migrant workers. “Vulnerable groups” coming to work in Thailand is a loss that related agencies or individuals may overlook or give less importance to than other issues in society. This article uses the title “Migrant Workers: Opportunity or Crisis, with the aim for all relevant sectors to consider with universal impartiality from the information presented above because if you judge that it is an opportunity, your perspective and practice will be one form. If you decide that it is a crisis, then the perspective and practice will be in a different form. “Because in this world nothing is 100 % ” “In the darkness there is light. In the light there is darkness.” The author is of the opinion that migrant workers coming to work in Thailand is an opportunity, an opportunity to help and support each other in neighboring countries and ASEAN. which have a long relationship since the past, an opportunity to prepare to support the changing population structure, an opportunity to replace the declining labor age from entering the aging society of the world and Thailand, an opportunity to support the economy and strengthen Thailand and ASEAN, opportunities to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) of Thailand and ASEAN countries together and opportunities to drive Thailand's global health strategy.

Suggestion

Suggestions regarding opportunities or crises, crises that occur whether in terms of impacts on Thai people's careers, security, and health impacts are only “Tools to create opportunities "It is a mechanism to help those involved analyze GAP to find opportunities for development so that all lives living on the land of Thailand can live together happily, "not leaving anyone behind." The author views it as “Both worldly and religious opportunities” are not limited to Thailand only. All countries should help and support each other under international principles that all countries jointly set and aim to achieve the same goals in the present world and the future world because we also want to see Thai people who work abroad protected and taken care of it the same way. All sectors will carry out their assigned roles with serious responsibility under humanitarian principles, human rights principles, security

principles, and social protection principles, The principle of cooperation and opportunity will belong to all people.

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