

Abstract

Urban Poverty Related to Women and Children

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The article attempts to point out the problem of urban poverty, or in other words, the problem of the lower-income group who settles in congested areas in Thailand, particularly the degree of the problem that mostly affects the most vulnerable groups such as women and children. Firstly, the article deals with the profile or the general situation of urban poor, followed by the most pressing problem for slum dwellers: eviction problem. Thereafter, the most chronic problem of slum dwellers is elaborated. The lack of public utilities and basic services or the necessary basic infrastructure is also still there. Characteristics of urban poor households are also described. The situation of urban poor women, youth and children is described and analyzed in various aspects as follows: education, employment and income generation, family and health (including prenatal care, place of delivery, tetanus toxoid injections, family planning, illness and mental well-being and AIDS). The problems of the urban poor youth are focused on unemployment and illegal drug business/drug addict problem, and early pregnancy. As for the group of children, the focus is on child survival and child development. At the end of the article, the roles of government agencies, private business sector as well as non-governmental organizations in solving urban poverty problem are touched upon. Lastly, suggestions for programme improvements and for the solving of urban poverty problem are discussed and addressed, as from the author's perspectives and approach.