

Abstract

Migration Adjustment in Thailand : Problem of Adjustment During the First Month

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Migration can be defined not only as a change of living place but also as a change of socio-economic environments. It is thus necessary for the migrants to adjust themselves to fit very well in a new environment. The first month of migration is especially the most crucial period of adjustment. Any migrant who could do very well in adjusting oneself would have a good chance to stay on in a place of destination and could achieve the aim of his migration. This research report examined two research questions during the first month of migration as "What are the most important problem faced by migrants in Thailand?" and "Which factors do affect these problems?"

It was found that during the first month two-thirds of the migrants had no problems at all while one-third reported that they had income problem, living place problem, employment problem, and other problems. The results by multinomial logistic regression analysis regarding factors affecting adjustment problems reveal that married migrants and those moving together with a large number of relatives were more likely to face income problems than the single migrants and moving alone or moving together with a fewer relatives. In addition, it was found that male migrants, first-time migrants and those unemployed during the first month were more likely to have employment problems than the migrants who were females, with migrating experiences and got the job during the first month. Lastly, living place problem was reported to be the most important one for those having no relatives or friends at the destination.

Policy implications of this study include: (1) government should establish 'Public Information Center for Migrants' so that migrants-to-be would be well-informed in advance for their decision and as preventive measure; and (2) government should establish a "Counseling Center for Migrants" to assist and advise the migrants facing

some migration-related problems; especially in the areas where a large number of migration is taking place, such as Bangkok and large cities.