

Abstract

Migration to Southern Thailand : An Analysis of Lee's Theory

Waralya Lublerslop

Yothin Sawangdee

Uraiwan Kanungsukkasem

Amara Soonthorndhada

Duanpen Theerawanviwat

In southern region of Thailand, labor forces migrated there are the least in number when compared to other regions. This trend, however, has reversed and more people are now migrating in. This may be caused by an abundance of resources in the south which brings more money to the country from commodities such as rubber, marine-resources, fruits and tourism. Yet, there have been investments in 6 provinces in the south as provided for by the government's promotion plan. Meanwhile, laborers working in the south and people who live there tend to migrate out of the southern region. This is so even when there is enough work for them. As a result, this study examined the patterns of migration into the southern area, and to investigate what are the factors effecting migration into the southern region .

The methodology in this study is designed to determine correlations among multi-level factors (Multi-Level Approach). Besides the 1997 Survey of Migration, secondary sources used are from the Provincial Statistics Reports, Labor Force Statistics Reports, Public Health Statistics Reports, Pawnshop Statistics Reports, household residence registration data , road distances and maps of Thailand.

The unit of analysis is people age between 13 to 60 years old who moved and did not move across provincial borders from other regions to the southern area between 1995 and 1997. Samples covered 16,936 cases. There are 528 migrants who moved to the south; 8,421 migrants who moved to other regions. And there are 8,287 persons who were non-migrants.

Lee's concept states the volume of migration within a region varies with the degree of diversity of areas. This indicates that migrants who have different

individual characteristics will have different migration characteristics. Sex, however, does not affect the migration.

Factors effecting in-migration were intervening obstacles related to social networks. Push factor was ratios of safety of life and property. Pull factors were income, relative humidity, quantity of rainfall, educational ratio, and ratio of safety. These effected in-migration with a statistical significance at the .05 level.