

Abstract

The study of migrant worker lives in Thai rural community: The case study of migrant workers from Myanmar in Khokkham Sub-district, Muaeng District, Samut Sakhon Province have objectives to study how the migrant worker lives in Thai community and how Thai people in Khokkham Sub-district have participations or relations with the migrant workers who work and live in the community. The methodology of the study is a qualitative research and under the human right ideology, labor right principles and marginal people concepts.

The results of the study found that the migrant workers in Khokkham Sub-district community came from Myanmar whose race is Mon. Mostly are non skilled workers and working in fishing industry. The community has both illegal migrant workers (not registered for work permit) and legal migrant workers (registered). At present, the number of illegal migrant workers has been increasing. It is a result of the entrepreneur's demanding of man power which is growing continuously. On the contrary way, since 2005, Thai government has tried to limit the number of migrant workers by allow only legal migrant workers who has been registered can renew their work permit yearly and no more registration for a new migrant workers. However the illegal immigration of migrant workers still crosses the border constantly hence the new illegal immigrants became illegal migrant workers implicitly.

The migrant workers have faced multi-dimension problems. For instance, the low wage or unfair employment, discriminated treats or inequality of social welfare comparing to Thai labor according to Thai labor law. Even among migrant workers themselves, the illegal migrant workers were paid less than the legal ones. In security of life and property aspect, the migrant workers were robbed in their residence and during traveling. Female migrant workers have experienced in sexual harassment by using eyesight, inveighing and the hardest case is rapping. The migrant workers who were victims would try to solve the problems among themselves and be more cautious to prolong their lives. Even

though they were abused but very few of them contact the law enforcement for help. They frightened of police and had doubtfulness in assistance because they are both illegal immigrants and illegal migrant workers.

The research also found that most of Thai people had no interaction and relation with migrant workers. Thai's attitude toward migrant workers was negative but they kept it inside with no overt action against them. They realized that the migrant workers are needed to fulfill the man power requirement and to continue their business that Thai workers would not do. Majority Thai in the community though that the migrant workers brought negative impact not only economics, social, culture, environment but also the safe and security of life and property in the society.

The main factor which caused problems to migrant workers has been the social prejudice. They treated migrant workers as marginal people. In fact, not only Thais considered migrant workers as marginal people but also themselves. This reason brought about the ill-treatment on their human and labor rights. However, the migrant workers have tried to reduce the gap of what the marginal people are. They adapted themselves in order to be accepted by society in many ways such as learning Thai, participating in temple activities, cooperating with social functions and avoiding of misbehave for not disturb Thais.

The recommendations of this research are to suggest that Thai government and people should open their mind and accepted that the migrant workers have assisted Thai's economy and Khokkham community might support its in term of man power. To solve the problem, the government agencies must pay attention not only the one who gains benefit from migrant workers but also who lost and made a suitable policy and process which are satisfied by people who have been effected both negative and positive consequences by the migrant workers. All related government agencies and societies are to change attitude toward migrant workers and to comprehend them hence they could present the policy which can control the migrant workers suitably according to

Thai law and security framework. The regulations must be applied to business enterprises which employ migrant workers in order to make an explicit requirement of knowing and understanding in human rights and treating the migrant workers legally according to Thai labor law.



สำนักหอสมุด