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PATTANA BUNAM : ADAPTATION TO URBAN WAY OF LIFE AMONG RURAL MIGRANTS IN BANGKOK METROPOLIS : A CASE STUDY OF FEMALE FLOWER, VENDORS AT PAK KLONG TALAT MARKET PLACE. THESIS ADVISOR : ASST. PROF. THIRAVET PRAMUANRATKARN, Ph.D. 129 pp. ISBN 974-584-914-6

The present thesis is aimed at investigating 1) a pattern of adaptation among female flower vendors to urban economy; 2) the way in which the informal sector of economic transaction operate in the city; and 3) problems and constraints of these female vendors while working outside their homes to earn supplemental income.

Findings from this research show the following conclusions. 1) The informal economy still serves the influx of rural migrants whose educational background and capital are limited to survive as proto-proletariat in the city. 2) Accommodation between formal and informal economies persists as found through the existing role of the middle man in proving loans and credits with high interest rates, yet with a long term condition of repayment. 3) Cooperation among household members of these female flower vendors is quite positive, reflecting a favorable condition for sustainable development of the informal economy in parallel with the capitalist one in Bangkok. 4) Chances of achieving an entrepreneurial status among these female flower vendors are found, thus making them establish their economic position as creditors and financiers for the new comers involving in the bazaar-type economy at Pak Klong Talat.

These findings seem to run counter a currently conventional impression that the rapidly growing economy of Bangkok should be somehow simultaneously eliminating such petty traders who lack of capital to invest, or those already fallen back into the so-called labor-intensive service sector. Therefore a further enquiry, why a recently developed industrial production since the past decade in Bangkok has not shown a viable effect of absorbing these peasants in the city, needs an immediate investigation.