

Kamonwan Saenthaweesook 2010: Way of Life and Health Impacts of Migrant Children in Thai Society: A Case Study of Samut Sakhon Province. Master of Arts (Social Development), Major Field: Social Development, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Mr. Decharut Sukkumnoed, Ph.D. 186 pages.

The study aims to study the way of life, health problems and the effects on health of migrant children and to propose mitigation measures for migrant children. By using purposive sampling technique, the specified 13 migrant children, between the ages of 12-18 years old living in the Talad Kung community and the Koh Samut community were divided in to two groups: 8 children who worked and 5 children who were in school. The research tools included in-depth interview, participate and non-participate observation, and focus group discussion.

Most Migrant children are affected by the physical health risk factors from a life of working conditions. unsanitary living conditions. Conditions and the behavior of the habit of neglecting the health problem has not occurred. Including recreational activities and medical care. The impact of mental health. Social and spiritual factors of risk from the life work conditions. Recreational activities. Interaction and integration that determines the health conditions of children overseas.

The research found that the positive impacts on health were migrant children with employment ate food with good nutrition. The participation in group sport/exercise. The health promotion and healthcare services were provided by government and private sectors. The negative impacts on health were migrant children suffered from respiratory diseases, diseases affecting gastrointestinal system, skin diseases, muscle and joint diseases, and accidents from work equipment and the workplace environment. Unsanitary living conditions. Unhealthy eating habits. The positive impacts on mental health were the working children were proud of their job and income while the children in school were proud to study with Thai children. The happiness from living with family. Life happiness. recreation activities. The negative impacts on mental health were the working children were subjected to verbal abuses a fear about the safety of life and property. The positive impacts on social health were migrant children received assistance from migrant working group when encountered problems. social interaction with Thai people and laborers in the community. Group participation to make merits on the important Buddhist days. The negative impacts were migrant children needed to make a living and focused more on putting food on the table than fulfilling psychological needs. The positive effects on spiritual health were migrant children were able to express gratitude to their parents, as such, the children were proud of their work. Living in Thailand, they had more freedom, convenience and better living conditions than in Burma.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature