

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Minority Group and Methamphetamine :
A Case Study of Hmong
Student's Name : Butree Udomsithiphan
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Advisory Committee :

1. Asst. Prof. Phimol Phupiphidh Chairperson
2. Prof. Sirot Bharksuwan
3. Assoc. Prof. Pornchai Teppanya

The objectives of this research are (1) To study push factors to the immigration of Hmong tribesmen to Thailand, and (2) to study the effects of Hmong tribesmen 's drug trafficking.

The results of the study reveal reasons for political asylum from battles, which can be divided into two phases as follows:

Phase 1: The refuge from battles in China to countries in Indochina Peninsula i.e. Vietnam, Loa and Thailand in approximately 2400 B.E.

Phase 2: The political refuge from Communism Loa in 2518 B.E.

During the initial phase, the immigration to Thailand has created the following problem:

1. Internal problems i.e. deforestation, ecological contamination, low quality of life, poverty, and lack of education.

2. Problems among Southeast Asian Nations.

3. It has an impact on the image of Thailand, indicating that it has become a major drug- traffic country in the world. In addition, the widespread of Communism through propaganda messages to tribesmen in difficult areas causing troubles and national insecurity.

Currently, the huge number of tribesmen and minority groups in Thailand have further led to the following additional problems:

1. Internal problems e.g. violation of law, illegal immigration, liberal locomotion and most importantly, involvement in drug trafficking as middlemen.

2. External problems e.g. anti-government movement in Lao which affects Thai-Lao relationship, and national insecurity resulting from tribesmen's and minority groups' contacts with drug traffickers around the Thai-Burmese Border.

The findings of the research also reveal that the Government's policy of developing and assisting the tribesmen has affected their ways of life, which have been influenced by values and cultures of non-tribe people. Their desire to improve their quality of life and to be granted Thai citizenship lead them to drug trafficking and other ensuing social problems. To resolve those problems, the Thai government has tried to formulate measures and policies with efficiency.