

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : The Employment and Working Conditions of Homeworkers:
A Case Study of Women Homeworkers in Artificial Flower
Making in Bangrajan District, Singburi Province

Student' s Name : Mrs. Worama Nopparat

Degree Sought : Master of Economics

Academic Year : 1999

Advisory committee :

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ruangthong Chaiprasop Chairperson
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poonsin Ingavata
3. Assoc. Prof. Sunee Shatragom

The objectives of this thesis are to study the various aspects of hiring system, employment and working conditions, the impact of take home work towards labourers, their families and communities including acclaiming assistance from the government and private sectors and to estimate income equations for the female homeworkers.

The target population for this study are female homeworkers who took home artificial flowers to work at their homes in Bangrajan district, Singburi province. And 148 female homeworkers are chosen as samples for this study.

Most hiring are done without written contracts. Payments are made on a piece-by-piece basis, bringing in and collecting by agents or factory representatives. Major problems facing homeworkers are irregular work assignments, low wages and delayed payments, Most homeworkers comply to the conditions set by employers although they are taken advantage of, by using their house areas and spaces in front of their houses for doing their work. Average working hours are 8.02 hours but working period

for the whole year is low due to uncontinuous work assignments. The annual idle period is 2.4 months on average. The negative impact upon most homeworkers is that they often experienced sickness and work injuries such as backache, headache, eyestrain and allergy of chemical substances. They have to pay for the medicine by themselves and have to pause working 2.84 days on average without getting any compensation.

Since homeworkers have no bargaining power, they were taken advantage of by the employers. What they need from the employers are a raised payment, on-time payment and regular work with some welfare benefits. What they need from the government are granting their profession protection according to labour law.

Moreover, the take home work makes them more affordable to buy more household facilities, gives them more time to spend with their families and can participates more in their community's activities and raises their standard of living which all have positive impacts on labourers. As for the result of the study of the determinant factors of female homeworkers' income are experience, working hours and level of education of the homeworkers, all have positive influence upon their income.