

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER : Economic Status of the Returned Thai Emigrants
Labours : A Comparative Study on Experiences
of Destination Countries

BY : Miss Ganokporn Manorattana

DEGREE : Master of Arts (Social Development)

MAJOR : Social Development Management

ACADEMIC YEAR : 1997

The survey was one for the following three purposes:

1. To find out in economic status of Thai labourers and their families after returning from abroad.
2. To compare the Thai labour group in Taiwan and those in other countries.
3. To make some recommendation for the practical national policy.

A questionnaire was employed to collect the data from 120 labourers who returned to Thailand and lived in Tambon Khamthalaysor, Amphoe Khamthalaysor, Changwad Nakornratchasima. The subjects were purposively selected from different areas.

The following were found :

1. Reasons for deciding to work overseas. Most Thai labourers went to work in Taiwan and in other countries because they could not earn enough money for their living, and because the oversea wage was higher than that in Thailand.

2. Comparison of their economic status before and after returning from abroad, it was found that there was no significant difference in economic status between both groups before they went abroad. They had a lot of debts and had little saving. That is, they had fewer debts and could have more savings. When the income and the expenditure of both groups were considered, no significant difference was found.

3. Household economic status before and after returning from abroad. Before the Thai labourers went abroad, about 75.8 percent was in debt, but when they returned home, only 47.8 percent still remained in debt. At the same time, before this they had no saving but now they did. No significant was found between the group that went to Taiwan and other group that went to other countries.

4. Application of acquired skills in daily life. It was found that both groups applied only a little knowledge and skills acquired overseas to develop themselves and their families. This was also the case for the development of their communities. Nevertheless, the Thai labourers who worked in other countries could apply their knowledge and skills to their work more than those who worked in Taiwan.

Recommendations :

Many Thai labourers go to work overseas, which helped increase the country's revenue and reduce the social problems. The government, therefore, should promote them to work legally there. Labour protection measures should be set to help overseas Thai labourers so that they can get the right jobs and can apply the knowledge and skills acquired from abroad to develop themselves, their families and the country in the future.