

Thesis Title	Pattern of economic readjustment, pertaining to working migrants who living in Bangkok's slums
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ABSTRACT

This research explores the pattern of economic readjustment with regards to labor migrants in the Bangkok Metropolis. A large portion of these migrants resides in the scattered Bangkok slums and constitutes a major component of unskilled laborers working in Bangkok's growing industries. The study attempts to elucidate the principle determinants attributed to the prospect of economic readjustment vis-a-vis their obstacle and dilemmas along the course of getting readjusted to the working conditions and economic pressures in the Mega-city. Three facets toward the pattern of readjustment are examined: career mobility, economic prosperity, and housing condition.

A sampling survey of 324 households via structured interview was conducted in Bangkok during the month of August, 1996. Data were compiled and analyzed utilizing SPSS for Windows statistical package to obtain results on descriptive statistics and Chi square testing.

The study found that, firstly, the ability of each migrant in getting readjusted economically to the living conditions in slums depends largely upon the individual's working proficiency itself. A large portion of migrants are still adhered to their employment as unskilled laborers and are unable to move

up the career ladder. It is perhaps a resultant of their low education attainment. Nonetheless, the majority are able to survive financially despite of their minimal income. However, occasional financial crisis is also found common among the slum households. Yet most migrants can get through it by means of the informal financial institution, such as loan from relatives or close friends.

Secondly, social determinants attributed to the sense of housing security is mutual help among members of the slum community, especially among next door neighbors and relative circles. Most tenants are more independent, a large portion of which claimed never accept any assistance from relatives. Those who live with relatives and friends are more likely to receive supports from their hosts.

Finally, comparing to their provinces of origin most migrants expressed a relatively higher level of satisfactions toward income, types of job, means of transportation, medical services, and accessibility to goods and services. In terms of neighbor relations, most dwellers asserted that there is no difference from those of their rural communities. With regards to housing quality in Bangkok, the majority maintained that they are equal or even better than their former rural shacks. Cost of living was rated the most critical problem while living in Bangkok. In other words, their higher income could hardly compensate the high cost of living in Bangkok. Working additional jobs for income supplements is one of the survival strategy found in the study area.