

3737019 SHPE/M : MAJOR: POPULATION EDUCATION; M.Ed.

(POPULATION EDUCATION)

KEY WORDS : LIFE STYLE / HEALTH STATUS / IMMIGRANT / TAXI DRIVERS

PERANUCH THANOMPON : LIFE STYLE AND HEALTH STATUS OF
IMMIGRANT TAXI DRIVERS IN BANGKOK. THESIS ADVISORS : PRAPHAPHAN
UN-OB., Ed.D, NAWARAT PHLAINOI, Ed.D., SAOWAPA PORNSIRIPONGSE, M.A.
229 p. ISBN 974-663-661-8

The objective of this study is to understand and explain the life styles and health status of immigrant taxi drivers in Bangkok. The study is in the context of immigrants in new surroundings and in consideration of life styles related to health status. The method of study is qualitative research, collecting data by observation, in-depth interview, and informal interview. The population is drawn from taxi drivers living at Rong Maung Soi 4 Community, Prathumwan, BKK. Data is analyzed using analytic inductive, typological analysis and constant comparison.

The results of the study show a taxi-driver's life style is related harmoniously to career, new society and former society. Their new life styles are formed by shift-work, eating and sleeping irregularly, drinking and smoking habitually, using drugs occasionally, having freedom, being brought into the career by a social network, driving 9-11 hrs. per turn, earning B 9,000 per month, being in touch with many kinds of people both Thais and foreigners, risking unsuitable sexual intercourse, as to highly adjustment undergo working and timing, using their own dialects, having traditional meals, and thinking a taxi-driver is the best career for immigrants.

They assumed that being able to drive, having no disease, little illness, which had no effect on their working, meant being healthy. When they were sick it was caused by work and life styles relating to immigration. They normally took care of themselves by food, exercising, resting and making themselves happy. When they were sick, they bought medicine from the drug stores, or went to the clinic and hospitals in treatment included cure by traditional treatments.

This research indicated changing taxi-driver's life style in the context of immigration to a new society resulted in a mixing between urban and traditional life styles. Their life style was related to their health status. Physical and mental problems had occurred and persisted to the future. To solve these problems they need knowledge on health, and emphasis on the importance of a suitable life style. These would help adjust their risk taking health behavior and development of a proper standard of health.