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SOMJAI CHUTTHAI: QUALITY OF LIFE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

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This study aims to assess the quality of life of construction workers and factors associated with their quality of life (QOL). The subjects included 225 workers who had moved to work in Nonthaburi for at least 3 months. The research tools included a questionnaire that was developed by the researcher and checked for quality assurance by an expert, to collect workers' information about socio-economic conditions and quality of life; and focus group discussions so as to obtain more information. Data analysis methods for frequency, percentage, means, standard deviation, and multi-stage regression analysis were used.

The study found that, overall, construction workers' quality of life was moderate. In general, their QOL was good in the aspects of health, residence, environmental conditions, and family relationships. The aspects that should be improved included annual physical examinations and mental health. A good QOL was also found in such working conditions as wages, welfare, job security and equality, working hours, and job satisfaction. However, improvements were requirted for work safety measures since most business operators did not follow safety laws or regulations. There were no proper personal protection devices, no inspection of dangerous working conditions, and no work-related danger protection systems. Most workers were not aware of any law related to work safety and had to work on weekends. An analysis of factors related to workers' OOL revealed that the size of the business operation, time period in the workplace area and income were significantly associated with their QOL (p <0.05). It is thus recommended that construction workers' QOL should be improved. The government sector should look into the workers' working conditions, enhancing law enforcement actions related to employment, wages, welfare services, work safety, raise educational levels and skills as well as occupational development. In addition, the operators should follow the labour law, paying attention to labour skills and QOL development.