

ABSTRACT

The study of ethnic Mons migrant workers' life adaptation : The case study of workers in rubber tree farming in Surathani province. has two main purposes.

- 1) To learn about migration process into the Kingdom of Thailand to work in rubber tree farming in Surathani province.
- 2) To find out how their ways of life have changed as to cultural, economic, and social aspects.

The framework used in the study is based on Lees' idea of migration and the concept of immigrants' life adjustment.

As for research methodology and data collection, the researcher used a method based on a qualitative methodology by deep interviews and participation observation. The place where the study was conducted was Moo 2 Tambol Sawied Ampur Tachang Surathani province.

The study has concluded that the campaign against ethnic minorities by Burmese government along with poor economic conditions is an push factor that forces the ethnic Mons out of the country. As for pull factors, better economic conditions in Thailand and individual attempts to overcome difficulties i.e. hunger are major keys to emigration.

To work in rubber tree farm, Mon people have to adjust their lives in several ways including cultures, social lives, and economy to the different degrees. On economic front, Mon people have done very well in their occupation. They learn new skills very quick. They are also very thrifty, which can be seen by continuous remittance for their families in Burma. For social lives, Mon people have problems the least because

of huge Mon community. Also, Mon people have a very tight relation among them mostly in occupation, thus implying a few contacts with Thais.

Culturally, Mon people have troubles the most communicating in Thai language. Meanwhile, they experience less difficulties in other cultural aspects as to food and clothing.