

GENDER SHIFT IN MALE-DOMINATED FIELD OF STUDY: A CHANGED POSITION OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN EDUCATION AND LABOR MARKET

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to find empirical evidence of a gender shift in Thailand. This research consisted of two studies: a quantitative study and a qualitative study. The quantitative study was documentary research studying the proportion of male and female students at the undergraduate level in the top 3 male-dominated fields of education (computing, engineering, and architecture) in Bangkok and its periphery for the academic years 2001-2011. The qualitative study was a field study which consisted of in-depth interviews with 30 people who are labor producers, labor consumers, and female workers in the top 3 male-dominated fields about the change, the causes of this phenomenon, and the effects as well as the planning to deal with this change.

The findings mean that female students and female workers are increasing significantly in the Thai labor market and the trend of female workers making demands also is increasing in male-dominated fields, but no one is prepared nor planning to handle this change. In the next decade, the earnings and household heads must suddenly change to be “in-hand” of females. The Government should prepare a plan to deal with this change. This phenomenon needs to be studied more to find further effects on both the negative and positive sides.

KEY WORDS: GENDER SHIFT/ FEMALE WORKERS/ EDUCATION/ LABOR MARKET

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