

The Comparing of Promoting Factor for Co-existence between Thais and Migrant Workers: A Case Study Pathum Thani Province, Thailand

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Abstract

This research aimed at finding the comparing of promoting factors for co-existence between Thais and migrant worker in Pathum Thani Province Thailand. Data was collected from a group of Thais and migrant worker who living in Pathum Thani Province 400 people in each group. The research instrument was a rating-scale questionnaire. For data analysis, descriptive statistics included frequency, mean, percentage and standard deviation were applied for hypothesis testing, t-test statistic and one-way ANOVA also applied for this research. The findings revealed that most Thais monthly income not exceeding 15,000 bath (455 US\$) and living in Pathum Thani more than twenty years. Migrant workers came from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos mostly was Myanmar. Most of migrant worker monthly income not exceeding 9,000 bath (273 US\$) and most of them living in Pathum Thani not over 4 years. Most of both groups are female. There were ten promoting factors for co-existence between Thai and Migrant worker which all of them was at the high level. The first three factors which had highest scores from Thais were 1) Religious factor 2) Behavioral and Adaptive factors 3) Social and Cultural dependence factors, and from Migrant worker were 1) language and communication factors 2) law and security factors 3) religion factors. From the hypothesis testing, it was found that there were statistically significance at 0.05 level between samples with respect to nationality, age, income, occupation and duration of residing in Pathum Thani on the opinions regarding promoting factors for co-existence between Thais and Migrant worker.

Keywords: Coexistence, Thais, Migrant worker, Pathum Thani

Background and significance of the problem

Thailand has many migrant workers come to work and live in. That causes many problems, although Thai people in the community can benefit, such as rent or purchase goods and services from the Thai shop as well as learning and interacting, but it is just a superficial interaction. In addition, in communities or residences of Thais with migrants who live in nearby areas, Thais will have a fear or unsafe life and property. (Asian Institute of Technology Research Institute for Thailand Development, 2003), in line with the concept and reproduction a paranoid image of migrant workers within Thai society which think migrant workers are dangerous while migrants themselves have to hide and be afraid of being arrested. These conditions were created as an illusion that pushed the Thai society to paranoid migrant workers (Mongkolmongkol, 2007). Fear and paranoidness among Thais or migrant worker cause both of them to be afraid to interact with each other. The important question is how can one maintain a status of friendship and peace when they are paranoid without mutual

trust? In addition, the researcher considers that cultural misunderstanding, Thai laws and regulations and the inability to communicate with each other cause panic and unmutual trust leads to stress and pressure on both parties. From this situation, the risk of violence is always at risk especially in communities with large numbers of migrant workers in Thailand.

Pathum Thani is a Province near by Bangkok in the north side, there is fast-growing economy Province. As a rural society, it has become a city and changes its production from agriculture to industrial production. In 2014, it has a total of 3,104 factories (Office of Pathum Thani Provincial, 2013) and the large wholesale markets for agricultural products in the country and region. With these conditions, the economic drive mechanism of Pathum Thani province need to rely on migrant workers. It is found that Pathum Thani province has 125,626 registered migrant workers, the third largest in the country (Office of Migrant Workers Administration, The Ministry of Labor: 2015) while there are Thai population 1,074,058 people. (Pathum Thani Provincial Statistical Office: 2015). Therefore, it can be said that Pathum Thani has more than 10% of migrant workers in the province however that not including latent population and illegal migrant workers. With so many migrant workers, that's make both Thai and migrant workers have to interact with each other inevitably (Thatsanai, 2017). Therefore, learning to coexistence to each other is essential for Thais and migrant worker who living in Pathum Thani.

From the above, the researcher is interested to study. Factors of promoting for co-existence between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani Province. To build mutual understanding and to prevent problems that may arise from coexistence, which is likely to be a major problem in the future. Also, it provides guidelines for public and private sectors to set policies or programs regarding migrant workers in Thailand.

Research Objectives: 1) To study the interactions and opinions for coexistence between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani Thailand. 2) To study the factors that promote coexistence between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani Thailand Classifieds by demographic characteristics.

Hypothesis of Research: Thais and Migrant workers in Pathum Thani with different demographic characteristics have different opinions on factors that promote coexistence.

Literature Review

Keohane and Nye (1998) discuss the concept of dependence that it refers to reciprocity sensitivity at least in a certain way, and the word "dependence" is also dependent on each other. Due to the necessity of the situation from inside and outside the country make each party need to seek mutual cooperation and assistance. Chinnawano (2014: 203) has added that interdependence becomes more complex, which leads to cooperation in many areas consisting of law and security, economics, social factors which are consistent with three pillars of ASEAN Community Collaboration known as, as a support for learning on ASEAN diversity (ASEAN Department, 2015). Neuliep (2006: 4) considered the concept of communication with multicultural people that communicating with people of different cultures is essential to building relationships with others that lead to different interests including a good society, internationalization and increasing trade volume, and reduction of the conflict by making everyone love each other in the better coexistence. Many academics proposed promoting factor for coexistence. Samovar (2001) and Kim (2001) focus on attitude and attitude and language and communication factors. Charles (2003) has proposed activities and interaction that are important for adaptation to living. Philp (1995) and Kim (2001) proposed behavior and socialization. Wiwatananukul (2005) presented the mass communication and religious factors that Both factor are important in the context of Thai society. This research aims to study the factors mentioned above. However, the above factors depend on the demographic characteristics and experience of the population in the study area.

Chalamwong (2005) studied the appropriate patterns of coexistence among Thais and their families of migrant workers in Samut Sakhon, Thailand and found that migrant migrants with different demographic characteristics in age, educational level, profession, and experiences with Thai have different opinions on Thais.

Research Methodology

Population and sample: There are 2 groups of population in this research. Thais population in Pathum Thani is 1,074,058 Thais. The sample size were 400 samples categorized according to proportion of all districts of Thais population in Pathum thani province. The Migrant worker population in this study is 125,626 migrant workers in total who live in Pathum Thani. The sample size were 400 samples and used accidental sampling in data collection for both groups.

Tools used in Research: This study is quantitative research. The tools used in the study were questionnaires in Burmese language (for Myanmar migrant), Cambodian language and Thai language for Thais and Laos (Mostly of Laos can use Thai language) for samples group. The questionnaire is divided into four parts as follows: Part 1 questions about demographic factors, part 2 the interactions and opinions on coexistence, part 3 the promoting factors for coexistence between Thais and migrant workers (5 rating scale) and part 4 open-ended suggestion

Data analysis: Frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used for descriptive statistics while T-test and analysis of variance were used for testing the hypothesis. In case of comparing difference mean.

Research Results

The results can be described as follows:

1. On demographic factors of Thai group. 51.3 percent of them were female with 43 percent of their education were high school or Vocational certificate. 42 percent of the respondents were between 31-45 years of age. There were 43.5 percent in general job and freelance, On income per month, 55.80 percent of the respondent earned not over 15,000 baht/month(455 US\$). In terms of length of stay, it was found that 32 percent live in Pathum Thani 20 years upper. (Table 1), On demographic factors of migrant worker group. the result was found that over half of the respondents were female (53.8 percent) with 56.5 percent of them were Myanmar, 28.8 percent were Cambodian and 14.8 percent were Lao. 67 percent of the respondents were not over 30 years of age. On income per month, 50.75 percent of the respondent earned not over 9,000 baht/month (273 US\$). In terms of length of stay, it was found that 67.75 percent live in Pathum Thani during 0 to over 4 years. (Table 2)
2. The interactions and opinions for coexistence, 51.5 percent Thais and 71.8 percent migrant workers of respondent had known or intimated with migrant workers or Thais, 68.3 percent Thais and 66 percent migrant worker thought that they should interact to each other to create learning and reduce their paranoid. Regarding on the interaction to each other, 51.5 percent Thais and 48.5 percent migrant workers rarely interactions to each other. 58.3 percent Thais and 54.5 percent migrant workers perceived that language of communication was a major problem and barrier to interactions between both groups. More than half of respondents agree that activities that promote good interactions between migrant workers and Thais were religious activities and charitable activities (Thais 29% and 22%, migrant worker 37.5% and 19%, respectively). 41 percent and 35.8 percent of migrant worker used Thai language and body language as a method of communication and interaction to each other while Thais were 45.5 percent for both methods. On learning Thai language, 84.3 percent of migrant workers were interested respectively (Table 3).

Table 1 number and percentage of Thais in Pathum Thani by demographic factors: gender, education, age, occupation, income, duration of residence in Pathum Thani

Demographic Factors of Respondent in Pathum Thani Province	Number	Percent
Female	205	51.3
High school or Vocational certificate	172	43
Age between 31-45 years	168	42
general job and freelance	174	43.5
Monthly income not exceeding 15,000 bath (455 \$)	223	55.8
Duration of residence in Pathum Thani: 20 years up	128	32

Table 2 number and percentage of migrant workers in Pathum Thani by demographic factors: gender, nationality, age, income, duration of residence in Pathum Thani

Demographic Factors of Respondent in Pathum Thani Province	Number	Percent
Female	215	53.8
Myanmar nationality	226	56.5
Age not over 30 years	268	67
Monthly income not exceeding 9,000 baht (230 €)	203	50.75
Duration of residence in Pathum Thani: 0-4 years	251	62.75

Table 3 number and percentage of interactions and opinions on the coexistence

Interactions and Opinions on the coexistence	Percent of Thais	Percent of Migrant workers
-There are Thai people known or intimate	-	71.8
-No known or intimate migrant workers.	71.8	-
-Interaction to each other should be encouraged to create learning and reduce paranoidness	68.3	66.0
-Rarely interaction form both side	51.5	48.5
-Language in communication is a barrier and a problem in the interaction between both side.	58.3	54.5
-Participation in religious/charitable activities are a good interaction in promoting coexistence.	29/22	37.5/19
-Thai language /body language as a method of communication and interaction to each other.	45.5/45.5	41/35.8
-They are interested in learning Thai at the level of interest and interest together.	-	84.3

3. There were high level of opinions of Thais and migrant worker on promoting factors of coexistence. 3.63 total mean score for Thais opinions and 3.71 to total mean score for migrant worker opinions. The five highest mean score factors of Thais were 1) religious factor at 3.75 2) Behavioral and Adaptive factors at 3.74 3) Social and Cultural dependence factors at 3.70 4) Legal and Security dependence Factors at 3.69 5) ASEAN Community factor and Attitude factor are same at 3.68, Form migrant worker were language and communication factor at 3.84, legal and security interdependence factor at 3.78, religious factor at 3.74, economic interdependence factor at 3.73 and ASEAN Community at 3.70 (Table 4)

Table 4 Mean and Standard Deviation of factors promoting the co-existence between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani Thailand

The promoting factors for co-existence between Thais and Migrant workers in Pathum Thani Thailand	Thais		Migrant worker		Meaning
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Language and Communication factors.	3.57	0.95	3.84	0.89	Very agree
Legal and Security dependence factors.	3.69	0.90	3.78	0.92	Very agree
Religious factor.	3.75	0.91	3.74	1.02	Very agree
Economic dependence factor.	3.56	0.92	3.73	0.97	Very agree
ASEAN Community factor.	3.68	0.85	3.7	0.95	Very agree
Activities and interaction factor.	3.41	0.97	3.68	1	Very agree
Behavioral and Adaptive factors.	3.74	1.15	3.67	0.92	Very agree
Social and Cultural dependence factors.	3.70	0.86	3.67	0.96	Very agree
Mass Communication factors.	3.54	0.88	3.66	0.99	Very agree
Attitude factor.	3.68	0.86	3.65	0.99	Very agree
Total	3.63	0.92	3.71	0.96	Very agree

4. There were different opinions in mean between demographic factor of Thais and coexistence factor as follows: 1) Education and Activities and Interaction factors ($p = 0.031$) 2) Age and Social and Cultural dependence factors ($p = 0.02$) 3) Occupation and Social and Cultural dependence factors, Religious factor ($p = 0.017, 0.019$) 4) Income and Language and Communication factors, Activities and Interaction factors ($p = 0.002, 0.009$) and 5) Duration of living in Pathum Thani and Language and Communication factors ($p = 0.01$) (Table 4)

Table 4 Results of the Hypothesis Testing between Demographic Factors of Thais and Promoting Factors for co-existence between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani (Based on P-Value)

The promoting factors for coexistence between Thai and Migrant Workers in Pathum Thani Thailand	t-test	F-test				
	Gender	Education	Age	Occupation	Income	Duration of Residence in Pathum Thani
Language and Communication factors.	0.12	0.17	0.90	0.051	0.002*	0.001*
Activities and Interaction factors.	0.47	0.031*	0.59	0.06	0.009*	0.665
Attitude factor.	0.30	0.23	0.64	0.09	0.056	0.693
Behavioral and Adaptive factors.	0.86	0.15	0.68	0.359	0.49	0.945
Social and Cultural dependence factors.	0.43	0.06	0.02*	0.017*	0.27	0.051
ASEAN Community factor.	0.39	0.54	0.12	0.51	0.63	0.99
Mass Communication factor.	0.88	0.67	0.12	0.61	0.54	0.64
Religious factor.	0.76	0.26	0.83	0.019*	0.32	0.51

Note: * There was statistical significance at the 0.05 level.

5. There were different opinions in mean between demographic factor and coexistence factor as follows: 1) Nationality and attitude, social-cultural interdependence, Mass communication factor and religious factor ($p = 0.02, 0.005, 0.007, 0.002$, respectively) 2) Age and language and communication factors ($p = 0.002$) 3) Income and Attitude factor, ASEAN Community

factor ($p = 0.047, 0.016$, respectively) and 4) Duration of living in Pathum Thani and activities and Interactions factors, religious factor ($p = 0.031, 0.009$) (Table 5)

Table 5 Results of the Hypothesis Testing between Demographic Factors of Migrant Workers and Promoting Factors for co-existence between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani (Based on P-Value)

The promoting factors for coexistence between Thai and Migrant Workers in Pathum Thani Thailand	t-test	F-test			
	Gender	Nationality	Age	Income	Duration of Residence in Pathum Thani
Language and Communication factors.	0.877	0.78	0.002*	0.051	0.063
Activities and Interaction factors.	0.287	0.59	0.091	0.107	0.031*
Attitude factor.	0.191	0.002*	0.063	0.047*	0.533
Behavioral and Adaptive factors.	0.721	N/A	0.080	0.314	0.223
Social and Cultural dependence factors.	0.602	0.005*	0.602	0.136	0.824
ASEAN Community factor.	0.746	0.075	0.122	0.016*	0.541
Mass Communication factor.	0.558	0.007*	0.489	0.051	0.179
Religious factor.	0.490	0.002*	0.279	0.416	0.009*

Note: * There was statistical significance at the 0.05 level, N / A variance was not equal.

Discussions and Conclusion

The study found that migrant workers in Pathum Thani Province had known Thais or intimate to them more than Thais known and intimate with migrant workers, moreover the both of them had interactions and communication infrequent. Migrant workers focus using Thai language in communication rather than using body language such as smile or hand language while Thais use it equally. The both groups see language as a major obstacle in their interaction. However, most Thais and migrant workers agree that they should Interpersonal interaction to create learning and reduce paranoia between each other. Religious activities such as going to temple together, merit making and public activities, such as jointly cleaning the painted community, were activities that promote good interaction between migrant workers and Thais. In addition, most migrant workers were interested in learning Thai language.

For factors that promote the coexistence between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani, all factors were at a high level. It was found that migrant workers pay more attention to linguistic and communication factors. This was consistent with the results of the questionnaire that language was a major barrier to interaction with Thais. That why migrant workers are interested to learning Thai language. The next key factor was legal and security factors. The third factor that promotes coexistence with the Thais was the religious factor. While Thais focus to Religious factor first then was behavioral and adaptive factors and third was Social and Cultural dependence factors. However it was found three factors form first five factors of the same opinions of both group, that were Religious factor, legal and security factors and factor form ASEAN community. On the Religious factor, it was found most of Thais and migrant workers were Buddhist. Migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia have high Buddhist beliefs, especially Myanmar migrant workers, which were the largest worker group. Religion was an important tool for reducing differences and increasing opportunities for the interactions. On the legal and security factors can be said that the regulations governing the oversight of migrant workers, as well as those of Thailand, were inadequate for economic growth and labor demand, moreover many of migrant workers lack of knowledge and understanding about Thai laws and regulations. The last is ASEAN

Community factor, At present, the member of ASEAN Community Promote and educate people in learning to live together on cultural differences. As can be seen from the slogan of ASEAN, one vision one identity one community, That corresponds to a study of John W. Berry and Young Yun Kim, cited in Wiwatananukul (2005), found that in order to encourage the coexistence of the common good in society, different culture communication was an important starting point, and Neulip (2006) who said that communicating with people of different cultures was essential to building relationships with others that lead to different interests and reduce the conflict by making everyone love each other.

The hypothesis testing was found that Thais who have different education, age, income, occupation, and duration of residence in Pathum Thani, had different opinions on factors that promote coexistence, and it was found migrant workers who have different nationality, age, income, and length of residence in Pathum Thani, had different opinions on factors that promote coexistence between Thais and migrant workers.

Suggestion

Suggestions to use research results. Government agencies in related provinces especially local organizations with large numbers of migrant workers in Pathum Thani Province should be the main responsible for activities, as Livianna (2009) studied urban management in Canada and managed migration from around the world which was found that urban management organizations should adopt the appropriate basic rules to accommodate the differences by making diverse form of local management that can accommodate cultural differences. In addition, it is important to understand government officials who are involved with migrant workers.

Relevant government agencies, as well as higher education institutions in Pathum Thani Province, should promote Thai language learning and communication to migrant workers. At the same time, it should encourage Thai youth, state authorities and Thais in Pathum Thani to learn the language of migrant workers. However, migrant workers nationality, level of Thais education and age of Thais and migrant workers, who participate in the activity with monthly income and the duration of living should be taken into account. Brett (2006) discusses the acceptance of cultural diversity that adaptation of the different cultures, acceptance of open space, indirect communication and beaming will help in managing the diversity of people when they come to work or live nearby.

Frequency of interaction between Thais and migrant workers in Pathum Thani was low. The researcher suggests that the frequency of interaction should be increased by organizing activities that are consistent with the findings, and more often, to achieve greater mutual recognition. Kim (2001) wrote that even the differences in language and culture exist, but if there are frequent communication, it will be more understanding.

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