

Factors effecting migrant adjustment in urban area

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ABSTRACT

Migration does not only mean the change of place of residence but also include the change to another society and new environment. Therefore, migrants need to adjust themselves to the new situations. This process of adjustment may take place over a long or a short periods depending upon each individual's experience and characteristics. This study aims at observing and studying the adjustment of migrants in Bangkok and other municipal areas in three items. They are occupation, possession of household appliances, and housing and land ownership. Duration of residence in the place of destination are divided into three groups : under 5 years, 5-14 years, and 15 years and over. It is hypothesised that those with longer duration of residence are in a better position than more recent migrants. It is also expected that migrants from urban areas adjust better than those from rural areas. The results of the study are varied. As far as the occupation is concerned, the long-term migrants do not adjust better than the short-term ones. This might be a result of migration selectivity among the latter group, that is, the population of better qualities i.e. higher education, higher ranked occupation and good experience, and the grouping of this variable may have been too broad. Nevertheless, the data show that most urban migrants adjusted better than thier rural counterparts. The second item yields a satisfactory result. The long-term migrants adjusted much better than those of shorter periods. The same result applies to those from the urban areas. The exception is only among those of higher ranked occupation and higher income because they have better purchasing power. Thus, rural migrants with these characteristics adjusted as well as those moving from urban areas. The result of the last item shows that long-term migrants adjusted better than migrants of shorter duration of residence. However, the study shows that urban migrants do not always adjusted better than rural ones. It is found that in other municipal areas, rural migrants of high ranked occupation or of better education adjusted better than the urban migrants. This may be due to difference in the value on home and land ownerships between the two areas. Rural residents are more likely than their urban counterparts to own house and land, and are likely not to prefer living in compound apartments or renting houses. Thus, there is a higher proportion of rural than urban migrants owning the properties. In addition, it is interesting to note that migrants in Bangkok face greater difficulties in adjusting themselves whereas the problems for those in other municipal areas are relatively fewer. The reason could be because Bangkok is much more developed and the environment in Bangkok differs markedly from their home-towns. Another

reason could be that some of the migrants in other municipal areas might have moved because of job assignment ; and many already have some experience in migration.

Key words : Migration, Urban.

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