



The Social Network of Thai Women Migrant Labourers in Norway

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Abstract

Labour migration is one of the major issues of this century. Nowadays more than 190 million people work outside their country of birth, about three percent of the world's population. This rapidly increasing phenomenon is examined in a large number of studies on migration. In this study, we provide insight into the background and relationship in the social network of specific Thai women migrant labourer in Norway. We aim to contribute to the understanding of the social network composition of Thai women migrant labourers in Norway and to analyze relationships within this network. Data were collected via in-depth interviews as well as by participatory and non-participatory observations with 22 key informants as Thai women migrant labourers in three cities of Norway including Oslo, Bergen, and Tromsø. Researchers collect data themselves at Norway and through online channels. Data analysis was contents analysis by the program of ATLAS.ti and social network analysis by the program of Ucinet and Netdraw. The results of the study indicated that social network of Thai women migrant labourer was informal. The process of social network construction started with personal relationships and common experiences. The characteristics of the relationship in network as multi-relations on common goal, based on benefit exchange, cooperation and competition relation, and the duration of relationship was based on personal relations.

Keywords: Thai women, social network, migrant labour network