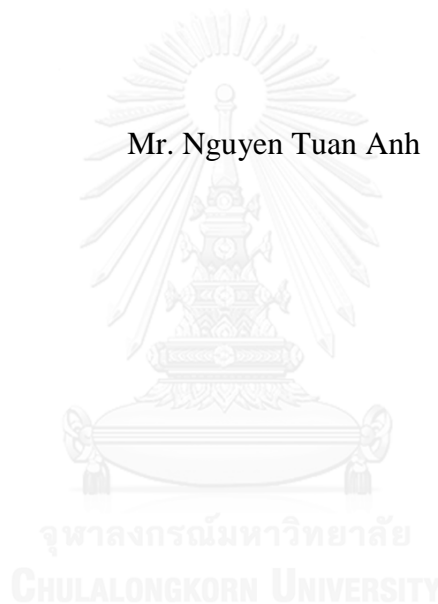


AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF
VIETNAMESE MIGRANT WORKERS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

Mr. Nguyen Tuan Anh



บทคัดย่อและแฟ้มข้อมูลฉบับเต็มของวิทยานิพนธ์ตั้งแต่ปีการศึกษา 2554 ที่ให้บริการในคลังปัญญาจุฬาฯ (CUIR)
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การวิเคราะห์สภาพทางสังคมและเศรษฐกิจของแรงงานข้ามถิ่น
ชาวเวียดนามในกรุงเทพมหานคร ประเทศไทย



วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาอักษรศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต
สาขาวิชาไทยศึกษา
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เหียงน ต่วน แอน : การวิเคราะห์สภาพทางสังคมและเศรษฐกิจของแรงงานข้ามถิ่นชาวเวียดนามใน กรุงเทพมหานคร ประเทศไทย (AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANT WORKERS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND) อ.ที่ปรึกษา วิทยานิพนธ์หลัก: รศ. แล คิลกวิทย์รัตน์, หน้า.

ตั้งแต่ปี พ.ศ. 2523 – 2532 การเติบโตด้านอุตสาหกรรมและความเป็นเมืองของประเทศไทยที่เพิ่มขึ้นอย่างรวดเร็วทำให้ประเทศไทยกลายเป็นจุดหมายหลักของแรงงานข้ามถิ่นจากประเทศในเอเชียตะวันออกเฉียงใต้ มีการศึกษารูปแบบของแรงงานข้ามถิ่นซึ่งมาจากประเทศเพื่อนบ้านไม่ว่าจะเป็น เมียนมาร์ กัมพูชา และลาว อย่างกว้างขวาง ในขณะที่การศึกษาปรากฏการณ์ของแรงงานข้ามถิ่นชาวเวียดนามที่เข้ามาทำงานในประเทศไทยที่กำลังเพิ่มขึ้นในช่วงที่ผ่านมากลับมีอยู่น้อย วิทยานิพนธ์ฉบับนี้มุ่งสืบหาปัจจัยที่ผลักดันและดึงดูดให้แรงงานข้ามถิ่นชาวเวียดนามตัดสินใจเดินทางมาทำงานที่กรุงเทพมหานคร ประเทศไทย และยังมุ่งตรวจสอบการจ้างงาน การทำงาน รวมถึงสภาพความเป็นอยู่ของแรงงานเหล่านี้ด้วยเช่นกัน

เพื่อสำรวจว่าเพราะเหตุใดแรงงานข้ามถิ่นชาวเวียดนามจึงเลือก และตัดสินใจย้ายถิ่นเข้ามาใน กรุงเทพมหานคร และเครือข่ายสังคมมีบทบาทสำคัญอย่างไรที่ช่วยอำนวยความสะดวกให้แก่พวกเขา ผู้วิจัยจึงทำการวิจัยภาคสนาม และการสัมภาษณ์เชิงลึกกับแรงงานข้ามถิ่นชาวเวียดนามจำนวน 50 คน ที่อยู่ในสาขาอาชีพต่างๆ และตามสถานที่ต่างๆ ในกรุงเทพมหานคร เป็นระยะเวลา 2 เดือนครึ่ง โดยใช้ข้อมูลทุติยภูมิที่ได้จากหนังสือพิมพ์ออนไลน์และเครือข่ายสังคมอย่างเฟซบุ๊ก

ผลการวิจัยเบื้องต้นชี้ให้เห็นว่าเครือข่ายแรงงานข้ามถิ่นที่ก่อตั้งโดยแรงงานข้ามถิ่นทั้งที่เคยทำงานและกำลังทำงานอยู่ในประเทศไทยมีบทบาทอย่างมากต่อการเคลื่อนไหวของแรงงานในช่วงหลายปีที่ผ่านมา ยิ่งกว่านั้นเหตุผลด้านเศรษฐกิจยังเป็นปัจจัยที่สำคัญที่สุดที่กระตุ้นให้แรงงานข้ามถิ่นชาวเวียดนามเดินทางมายัง กรุงเทพมหานคร แรงงานข้ามชาติชาวเวียดนามที่อยู่ในกรุงเทพฯ นั้นเป็นทั้งลูกจ้างและเป็นนายตัวเอง ในส่วนที่เป็นลูกจ้างนั้นส่วนใหญ่จะทำงานที่ร้านตัดเย็บเสื้อผ้า (ธุรกิจสิ่งทอ) เป็นบริกรชาย หญิง ในร้านอาหารและซุ้มอาหารข้างทาง และเป็นลูกจ้างในตลาด หรือทำงานตามบ้านเรือน ในขณะที่เป็นนายตัวเองคือเป็นเจ้าของร้านหาบเร่แผงลอย

เนื่องจากสถานภาพทางกฎหมายของแรงงานเหล่านี้ยังคงเป็นคำถามอยู่ ทำให้แรงงานจำนวนมากต้องเผชิญกับสถานการณ์การจ้างงานที่ไม่แน่นอน และด้วยปัญหาด้านสังคมการเมืองรวมถึงมาตรการเกี่ยวกับแรงงานผิดกฎหมายของประเทศไทย ยิ่งทำให้สถานะแรงงานผิดกฎหมาย สภาพการทำงานและความเป็นอยู่ของแรงงานข้ามถิ่นชาวเวียดนามยังไม่แน่นอนมากขึ้น

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KEYWORDS: VIETNAMESE MIGRANT WORKERS / INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION / ILLEGAL WORKERS / BANGKOK THAILAND / MIGRATION NETWORKS

NGUYEN TUAN ANH: AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANT WORKERS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND. ADVISOR: ASSOC. PROF. LAE DILOKVIDHYARAT, pp.

Since the 1980s, Thailand's rapid industrialization and urbanization have made it one of the main destinations for migrant workers from Southeast Asian countries. Within the region, the patterns of migrant workers who come from neighboring countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos have been comprehensively studied, whereas little is known about the recently increasing phenomenon of Vietnamese migrants working in Thailand. This thesis investigates the push and pull factors determining the migration of Vietnamese workers to Bangkok Thailand. It also examines their employment, working and living conditions.

To explore how Vietnamese migrant workers made decisions to migrate and why they decide to choose to move to Bangkok, and how social networks play an important role in facilitating them, field research was carried out over a period of two and a half months. Surveys and in-depth interviews were conducted with 50 Vietnamese migrant workers from different occupations and locations in Bangkok, with supporting secondary data from online newspapers and social media (Facebook).

Preliminary results indicate that migration networks established by former and current Vietnamese migrants working in Thailand play a decisive role in facilitating labor movements over the years. Moreover, economic reasons were found to be the most important factor in motivating the Vietnamese migrant workers to come to Bangkok. Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok work as employees or self-employed migrants. For the employees, they work mainly at tailor shops (garment work), restaurants, food stalls (waiters/waitress), and markets (shop helpers), or as domestic workers. Meanwhile, the self-employed migrants are street vendors.

Because their legal status in the country is often questionable, many migrants face a situation of precarious employment. Given Thailand's current socio-political troubles and its crackdown on all illegal workers, the illegal status of Vietnamese migrants means their working and living conditions are even more uncertain.

Field of Study: Thai Studies

Academic Year: 2015

Student's Signature

Advisor's Signature

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale and Significance of the study

International migration has been always an important and compound issue by virtue of it closely relates to various facets from political, social and economic development for regions and countries.

In the recent context, international migration has experienced unprecedented changing patterns from the European migration crisis. The number of asylum seekers is estimated about one million in 2015, a historical high, which certainly impacts on European countries in short-, medium- and long term.¹ Public spending and labor market can be immediately impacted in the short run since European governments have approved registration of asylum migrants.² Consequently, the changing pattern in migration flows has caused a significant impact on European countries, resulting in the current deep divide between the governments in addressing the issue. Such consequences imply that migration flows management needs to catch up with new situations and patterns in the early period in order to offer comprehensive policies, avoiding related-risks and costs.

In ASEAN, the region's economies have achieved significant and impressive growth over the last decades, becoming one of the most dynamic economic performance regions in the world as well as has become more widely integrated into the regional and global economics. The rapid growth process has transformed fundamentally economic structure of many Southeast Asian countries with the greater

¹ Source: Simon Nixon, Politics Hold Sway in Economic Impact of Europe's Refugee Crisis, The Wall Street Journal, 2015. Access online at: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/politics-hold-sway-in-economic-impact-of-europes-refugee-crisis-1443034512>

² In the OECD's report, International Migration Outlook 2015, the public spending, which is provided for refugees, can be considered a demand stimulus and could contribute to aggregate demand about 0.1-0.2% of GDP. However, the estimation would not be a positive impact since the European governments has projected higher rate of GDP (at least 5% of GDP) of the spending in 2016 and 2017. Meanwhile, the rate of the entries in the European Economic Area (EEA) labor force will account for 0.4%. For Germany, the rate might reach 1% of their total labor force in 2016. See more: OECD, Migration Policy Debates, No.8, 2015.

contribution of industrial and service sectors instead of solely based on the agriculture sector over many centuries. Moreover, the recent cooperation in ASEAN, which is reflected in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) plan with focusing on economic cooperation and infrastructure improvements, has facilitated to boost trade and people to people connection in the region.³ Besides, it should be noted that many Southeast Asian countries have experienced the changing patterns in terms of information communications technology (ICT) and demography. These elements, in fact, have encouraged not only regular migration flows but also irregular migration flows. It is noteworthy that the dominant pattern of migration flows in ASEAN continues to be irregular, particularly movements in cross border between region's countries (Xing et al. 2014). The attributes of migration flows, thus, has become a more complicated, diverse and unforeseeable issue (Supang Chantavanich, Ito, and Middleton 2013). Indeed, international migration management has been always defined as one of the fundamental features in ASEAN's development transition (Supang Chantavanich, Ito, and Middleton 2013). Both Thailand and Vietnam, as the members of ASEAN, would certainly take into account the changing contexts in order to maximize benefits from international migration.

It is, however, argued that there has still remained a limitation in establishing formal mechanisms on labor cooperation between Vietnam and other countries in the region, particularly the Greater Mekong Sub-region's countries (Dung and Loi 2012). The restriction, as a consequence, has contributed to a dramatic increasing trend of irregular population mobility from Vietnam to Thailand. According to the Department of Labor – Invalid and Social Affairs in Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam, the number of Ha Tinh inhabitants who migrated to Thailand might reach 10,000, notably there are communes where almost all of the working-age people have been working in Thailand. My Loc commune in Can Loc district, Ha Tinh province, is a stark

³ The formal establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on December 31, 2015 has marked a critical milestone on cooperation and development in ASEAN. With the population of over 622 million people, ASEAN as a region has become the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh in the global. Moreover, ASEAN market itself is the largest for ASEAN trade, accounting for more than 24% on the intra-ASEAN market in 2014. Flow of goods, services, and people will be freer in the framework that is expected to transform the region into a single market and production base. Source: ASEAN Secretariat (2015), A Blueprint for Growth: ASEAN Economic Community 2015: Progress and Key Achievements, Jakarta.

example, where more than 1,000 inhabitants have been working in Thailand among its total population of 7,800.⁴ Similar situations can also be found in other Northern Central region of Vietnam such as Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, and Quang Tri provinces which are very close to the border line with Lao PDR. These recent trends, therefore, require fuller understandings the pattern of Vietnamese migrants in Thailand, especially since both countries have signed a MOU on labor cooperation in July 2015.⁵ The study is expected to provide useful empirical evidences for Thailand authorities in neighboring countries' migrants management since the pattern of Vietnamese migrants has still received little attention over the years.

1.2 Research aim and Objective

The ultimate aim of the study is to gain more insight on Vietnamese migrant workers in Bangkok, Thailand.

The objective of the study is to:

- To investigate factors determining the migration of Vietnamese workers in Bangkok Thailand, focusing on their background and reasons to migrate to work in Bangkok as well as to explore their means of entry into Thailand.
- To examine their employment, working and living conditions in Bangkok Thailand.

1.3 Theoretical framework and Literature review

1.3.1 Migration theories

In explaining reasons people migration, various theories have been given such as neo-classical economic theory, the new economics of migration theory, and the network theory, etc. From the different viewpoints, each theory focus on different

⁴ There are nearly 100% of the working age people in Nhat Tan ward, a ward in Can Loc commune of Ha Tinh province who have been working in Thailand. Source: Tran Long (2015), Lao dong chui tren dat Thai – Con sot chua ha nhiet (Working illegally in Thailand – The fever has not been cooled down). Ha Tinh online. January 15, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://baohatinh.vn/news/lao-dong-viec-lam/lao-dong-chui-tren-dat-thai-con-sot-chua-ha-nhiet/91432>.

⁵ At the third meeting of the join Thai-Vietnamese Cabinet retreat on July 23 2015, a memorandum of understanding on labor cooperation along with the other four agreements will be signed under the witness of the two Prime Ministers Nguyen Tan Dung and Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha. Source:http://thainews.prd.go.th/CenterWeb/NewsEN/NewsDetail?NT01_NewsID=WNPOL5807160010017 accessed on July 16 2015.

aspects of migration issue, which results in its both advantages and limitations of each theory. Generally, it can be divided into two main approaches including individualistic and structuralist approach.

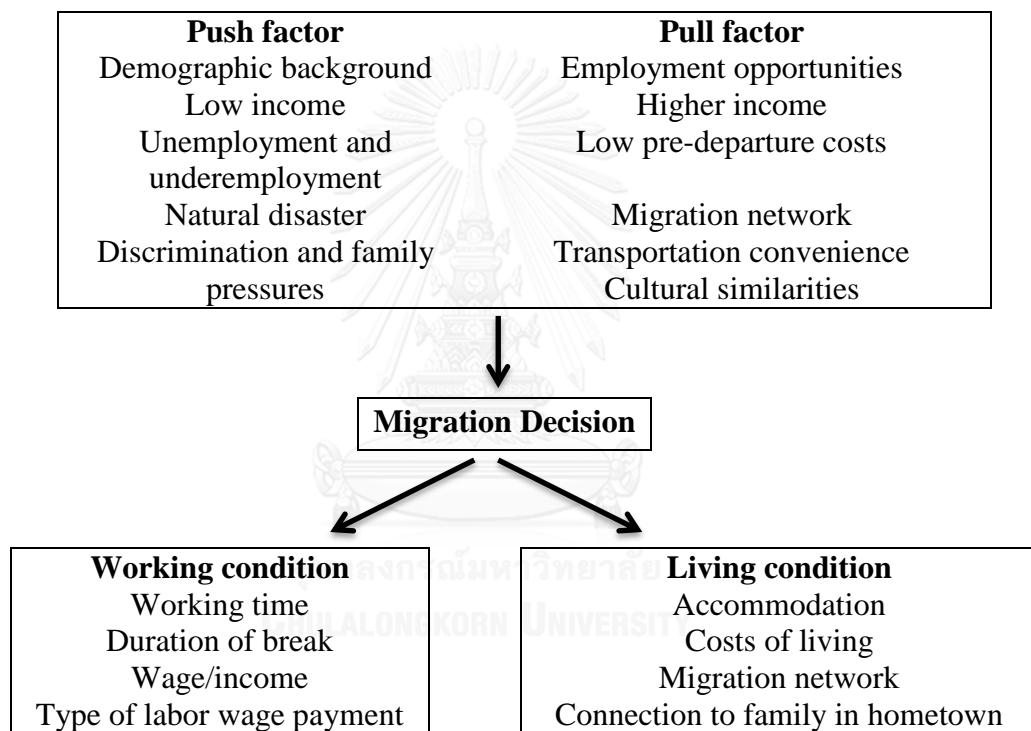
From the individualistic approach, it can be seen in the neo-classical economic theory, argued that wage level and employment opportunities differences between the origin and destination countries influence individual's migration decision. Accordingly, migration is considered a strategy to maximize individual utilities (Borjas 1989). However, the approach has not covered cultural influences such as family pressures, migration network, etc.

To deal with the gap, the structuralist approach claims that individual decisions play a minor role in the movement, and have sometimes been ignored in analyzing the causes for migration. A representative for the approach is the new economics of migration theory that argued migration decision as an adaptive strategy of households or family in not only looking for better income and opportunities but also minimizing risks (Stark and E. Bloom 1985). Accordingly, family labor resources would be allocated variably by sending one or some family members to work in other countries (Massey et al. 1993). Network theory, in addition, is also usually used as an important explanation for international migration. According to the theory, people movements between the destination and origin countries can be also facilitated securely and economically by former migrants and migrants through the interpersonal ties of kinship, friendship and shared community origin (Massey et al. 1993).

Since no single approach or theory can fully explain reasons for international migration, the study made use these above mentioned migration theories that incorporate the push and pull model. The model offers an explanation relying on socio-economic disparities by exploring push factors to migrants at the origin country and pull factors attracting migrants to the destinations (Lee 1966). The model is generally considered to be a typical analytical framework for international migration study (Supang Chantavanich, Ito, and Middleton 2013).

In this study, the push factors were analyzed through economic determinants (income level and employment opportunities), social determinants (discrimination and violence from family and community, or environmental stresses such as natural disasters) and migrants' demographic background. Meanwhile, the pull factors include major economic determinants such as better employment and wage opportunities in Bangkok and low pre-departure costs, or other determinants such as social network migration in Thailand, cultural similarities between Thailand and Vietnam, and transportation convenience.

Conceptual model



1.3.2 Literature review

From the historical perspective, the first presence of Vietnamese people in Thailand (or Siam before 1939) can be traced back from the 13th century since the establishment of Sukhothai state (Thin 2003). Later period, at the reign period of King Narai (1656-1658), there were evidences that Vietnamese working at public works at the outskirts of Ayutthaya (ibid.). However, until to the mid-17 century in the reign period of King Phutthayotfa or Rama I (1737-1809), the presence of Vietnamese was recorded more clearly. Accordingly, under the Tay Son brothers' uprising, Nguyen

Phuc Anh or Nguyen Anh, a nephew of the last Nguyen Lord who ruled over southern Vietnam, fled the country to seek protection from the King Rama I. He went along with 1,000 followers to Siam in the 1780s. Initially, they were allowed to stay at Ban Ton Samrong and Tambon Khok Krabuu, but later they were moved to Ban Yuan Samsen and Bangpho in Bangkok (Sripana Thanyathip 2013). They can be considered the first group of Vietnamese refugees in Thailand. Presently, the descendants of them live in the districts of Sapharn Khao and Nang Lerng (Varophas 1966b, Sripana Thanyathip 2013).

In the early 19-century, there were Vietnamese Catholics who fled the country with the guidance of a French bishop due to the anti-Catholic movement policies of Emperor Ming Mang (1791-1841).⁶ They came to settle in Thailand in 1827 and the descendants of the group can be found in Ban Yuan Samsen and Wat Kalawa in Bangkok (Varophas 1966b). However, due to the difference of religion, most of them still follow their religion belief and has become teachers at a Catholic school, namely St. Gabriel's College that run by French priests (ibid.). There were also another group of Vietnamese Catholics who followed the French to come to Chanthaburee province in the 1894 as a part of French campaign to force Thailand to cede Lao territories to France. But, the Vietnamese did not go back Vietnam after the French returned the province to Thailand later (ibid.).

The next wave of Vietnamese flows into Thailand occurred trickling from the early 20 century to the Second World War. The movements stemmed from failures of rebellions against the colonial of the French in Vietnam. Siam at that time was also considered anti-colonial base for generations of Vietnamese, particularly Phan Dinh Phung, Phan Boi Chau and then Ho Chi Minh (Sripana Thanyathip 2013). Meanwhile, many Vietnamese left their hometown in Central Region in Vietnam, crossed through Lao borders and settled in Thailand provinces along the Mekong River, mainly in Nakhon Phanom. All the Vietnamese migrated into Thailand before

⁶ Emperor Ming Mang or Nguyen Phuc Dam, the second Emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty was well known by his adoration of Confucian values. Thus, he restricted the French involvement in Vietnam and isolated Catholic priests at that time.

1937 had been acquired Thai citizenship automatically because of the absence of the immigration law at that time (Varophas 1966b).

After the Second World War, an influx of less than fifty thousand Vietnamese came to Thailand (Poole 1967). The Vietnamese refugees decided to leave the country by various reasons, including both political and economic motivation (Varophas 1966b). In 1950, Thai government adopted stricter measures that control the Vietnamese in Thailand. Accordingly, roughly 35,000 Vietnamese refugees were repatriated between 1960 and 1964. Besides, the remaining Vietnamese refugees were allowed to stay in specific Northeastern provinces.⁷ Many of the Vietnamese refugees resumed their previous occupations such as retail traders, shopkeepers and skilled work- men, such as carpenters, masons, mechanics, tailors, and electricians (Varophas 1966b, Poole 1967). It is also noted that all the Vietnamese earned a much better living in Northeast Thailand than they could at their hometown (Poole 1967).

Along with the increasing trend in labor flow from Vietnam to Thailand, the current recent patterns of Vietnamese migrants in Thailand have been also studied. In terms of scale, there has been no formal statistic existence on the number of Vietnamese migrants in Thailand. However, some recent estimations have also revealed a significant number of Vietnamese migrant workers in Thailand. In particular, according to the estimation of (Lewis et al. 2010). The number of Vietnamese migrants working in Thailand is about 28,000 people. Meanwhile, an estimation that the Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Tat Thanh cited from the Royal Thai Police in an interview was roughly 50,000 Vietnamese migrant workers for the period of 2012-2014.⁸ Regarding sectors of employment, it is estimated that a large number of Vietnamese migrant workers in Bangkok working in

⁷ Initially, the Ministry of Interior allowed the Vietnamese refugees to remain in only 12 provinces, including Nongkhai, Udon Thani, Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanom, Roi Et, Maha Sarakham, Kalasin, Khon Kaen, Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, Surin, and Prachinburee. Then, the number of provinces was only five: Nakhon Phanom, Ubon Ratchathani, Nongkhai, Sakon Nakhon, and Prachinburee. See: (Varophas 1966a)

⁸The interview with Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Tat Thanh can be founded at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1dLK8fvkWM> .

the tailor shops, accounting for around 66 per cent of the total, followed by food and restaurant sector and housekeeping services, 30 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.⁹

In terms of migration reasons, (Walsh 2011) argued that the main motivation for Vietnamese migrant workers in Thailand is to get a higher income and a better life by reviewing secondary sources from newspapers. Meanwhile, economy, population growth, and family problems are defined as main factors contributing to the movements (Srikham Watcharee 2012). The author interviewed Vietnamese migrant workers in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand and Savanakheth, Lao PDR (50 interviewees in each city). Concerning the cultural aspect, the author pointed out that Vietnamese migrant workers in Thailand had to alter their ‘Vietnamese identity’ or to hide it due to they are irregular migrants. Meanwhile, the identity is still freely maintained in Savanakheth such as the ability to speak Vietnamese in public areas, wear local Vietnamese clothes, and follow the Vietnamese cultural style, etc. From these analyses, Srikham also illustrates that Vietnamese migrant workers in Thailand seem to be able to integrate quickly into local environment (ibid.).

From the gender approach, (Yen 2008) explains the influence of Vietnamese woman migrant workers in Bangkok on their migration decision-making, their ways of life in a new culture. The maintaining of cultural practices in daily life and festivals of Vietnamese, woman migrant workers in Bangkok have manifested their role as “the glue” or ethno markers in preserving their identity and community (Yen, Troung, and Resurreccion 2008).

In conclusion, it can be said that the migration phenomenon from Vietnam to Thailand is not new, but have been occurred for a long time ago. However, most of previous studies emphasized mainly on Vietnamese community in Thailand who came to Thailand before the Second World War. The migration reason of the Vietnamese was mainly political issues. Meanwhile, very little is known about the

⁹ See: Gia Minh (2010), *Những điều chưa biết về lao động Việt ở Thái (Unknown stories of Vietnamese workers in Thailand)*, access at <http://www.rfa.org/vietnamese/vietnam/xa-hoi/Viet-illegal-laborers-in-bangkok-thailand-part-2-GMinh-09032010221730.html>

current pattern of the new movements from Vietnam to Thailand. The fact is that there are very few empirical studies on the current patterns of Vietnamese migrant workers in Thailand, particularly in Bangkok. The fact might be explained by a variety of reasons, especially difficulties in approaching Vietnamese migrant workers, language differential issues, etc. The lack of understanding about the patterns of Vietnamese migrants in Thailand, as a consequence, could be a challenge for both governments in migration management. Therefore, the study is expected to fill in the gap by providing more insight on migration reasons, sectors of employment, and living conditions of Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok, Thailand.

1.4 Hypothesis/Main arguments

There are push and pull factors that motivate Vietnamese workers to come to work in Bangkok, Thailand. Concerning push factors, factors at their place of origin such as underemployment, low income, family issues, or environmental stresses such as natural disasters might “push” them to look for a better outside. Concerning pull factors, meanwhile, attracted factors in Bangkok, Thailand such as better employment and wage opportunities, and social networks, cultural similarities and cross-border infrastructure improvements might be considered motivations for them to enter Thailand to work in Bangkok. Among these factors, the economic reason is believed to be play the most important role in making migratory decisions to Bangkok, Thailand for Vietnamese migrant workers.

Under the current irregular status, working and living conditions of Vietnamese migrant workers are believed to be very difficult. They usually are involved in informal employment at garment works, waiters/waitress at restaurants, domestic work, or street vendors, etc. In order to ensure adequate financial source for them and their families at the hometowns, they are believed to work hard and sometimes can be exploited. Meanwhile, it is difficult for them to access public services, particularly health care under their illegal status.

1.5 Research methodology

The study uses both quantitative and qualitative methods. The research procedure includes the following steps.

- **Desk Research**

At the first step, secondary data and information was gathered from related studies, government organizations (General Statistic Office, National Statistic Office, etc.), international organizations (IOM, ILO, etc.)

- **Fieldwork**

The step was conducted in Bangkok Thailand in order to collect primary data for the study. The purposive and snowball sampling techniques was applied to choose the surveys. The size of the sample is 50 workers. The primary data collection was collected based on face-to-face discussions and structured interviews.

Table 1: Sample matrix

Sample category		Male	Female	Total
Employed migrants	Garment worker	8	4	12
	Waiter/Waitress	6	7	13
	Domestic helper	0	1	1
	Salespersons	3	1	4
	IT staff	1	0	1
Self-employed migrants	Street vendors	12	7	19
Total		30	20	50

Besides, in-depth interviews were also conducted of 9 key interviewees from the fieldwork (Table 2). Moreover, in order to understand living conditions of Vietnamese migrants, some participatory observations were conducted at the migrants' living places.

Table 2: Lists of key interviewees

Interviewees	Age	City/Province	Kind of employment
Ms. Thi	37	Vung Tau	Waitress
Ms. Son	46	HCMC	Domestic helper
Mr. Nghia	26	Ha Tinh	Salespersons
Mr. Quyet	33	Ha Tinh	Street vendor
Ms. Tam	34	Ha Tinh	Street vendor
Ms. Mai	37	Ha Tinh	Street vendor
Mr. Thom	51	Ha Tinh	Street vendor
Mr. Binh	35	Ha Tinh	Garment worker
Mr. Thu	26	Hanoi	Garment worker

The fieldwork was conducted from 8th December 2015 to 26th January 2016. Many interviews were undertaken either on Sunday or evenings when the migrants finished their work. Interviews with some garment workers were conducted as they were working because they did not have time for interviewing outside the work place. Similarly, the interviews with street vendors were usually conducted at their selling places. For some mobile vendors, the author went along with the vendors in order to observe selling methods and experience their difficulties, etc.

The surveys and interviews were undertaken in Vietnamese because it is used as mother tongue of the researcher and the respondents. The advantage helped the researcher to get better information and save time. However, it is noted that some elderly migrants who come from rural area in Ha Tinh province speak Vietnamese with their local dialect so that it took time for the researcher to ask again to make sure the exact of information.

1.6 Organization of the study

Apart from appendixes and list of references, the thesis includes 4 main chapters.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Political and economic reforms and policy framework on international migration in Vietnam and Thailand.

Chapter 3: Research Findings

Chapter 4: Conclusion, Discussion and Recommendation



CHAPTER 2: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN VIETNAM AND THAILAND

2.1 Political and economic transformation and migration in Vietnam

2.1.1 Political and Economic reforms in Vietnam: Performance and Challenges

Vietnam has achieved an impressive performance in social and economic development since the launch of Doi Moi in 1986.¹⁰ In terms of economic growth, from being one of the poorest countries in the world with a GDP in 1990 of only 6,471 US\$ million, Vietnam's GDP in 2014 was over 186,204 US\$ million, nearly 30 times higher than that in 1990 with an average GDP growth of over 6 per cent (Table 3). After 30 years, Vietnam's GDP per capita has also increased more than 3 times, from 300 US\$ to more than 1000 US\$, resulting in making Vietnam become one of the fastest per capita GDP growths in the world (The World Bank and the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam 2016, 2).

It is obvious that its economic structure has also fundamentally changed from an outdated agricultural economy into a market-driven one with an increasingly contribution of manufacturing and service sectors. As a result, the share of GDP contributed by sectors has become rational. Accordingly, the current share contribution of agricultural, industrial and service sectors total GDP are 18.1, 38.5, and 43.4 per cent, respectively.

The transition from a central planning to market –driven economy and open policies, moreover, have led to a strong increasingly flows of FDI over the years. The net inflows of FDI in 2014, for instance, were over 50 times higher than that in 1990 (Table 3). Such economic growth achievements have also contributed to production

¹⁰ Doi Moi or Renovation policy has been launched since 1986 with the aim of shifting Vietnam economy from a centrally planned to a market driven economy.

and employment expansion. Besides, labor distribution has also experienced a major change with a gradual increasingly transition to industrial and service sectors. The share of labor in agricultural sector has dramatically decreased from 80 per cent in the initial years of Doi Moi to 44.3 per cent in 2015 (UNDP 2015).

Table 3: Vietnam's Major economic indicators

	1990	2007	2014
Population (million people)	66	84.2	90.7
Population growth (annual %)	1.9	1.1	1.1
GDP at market prices (US\$ million)	6,471.7	77,414.4	186,204.6
GDP growth (annual %)	5.1	7.1	6.0
GDP per capita (constant 2005 US\$)	301.3	784.3	1,077.9
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	42.1	9.6	3.7
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	38.7	18.7	18.1
Industry, value added (% of GDP)	22.7	38.5	38.5
Services, etc., value added (% of GDP)	38.6	42.8	43.4
Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, US\$ million)	180	6,700	9,200

Source: Compiled from World Development Indicators

From social perspective, Vietnam has experienced an outstanding performance, especially in terms of poverty reduction. More than half of the population was lifted out of poverty between 1993 and 2008,¹¹ leading to a dramatic decrease in poverty rate from 58.1 per cent in 1990 down to 20.7 per cent in 2010 (WB, World Development Indicator). Currently, Vietnam has become the lower middle-income country with an increasing expansion of the middle class. It is said that opportunities for people to access social welfares such as education and health care have been also improved dramatically over the years.

¹¹ According to the World Bank, it is estimated that about 43 million people were lifted out of poverty in the period of 1993-2008. See more: World Bank, Vietnam poverty assessment, 2012, p.16.

In general, it is undeniable that such important reform has made a great contribution to the socio-economic development in Vietnam over 30 years. It is, nevertheless, a fact that the Vietnam's rapid development has remained not without its limitation and challenges. With regard to economic growth, Vietnam's GDP growth has been experiencing a downward trend in recent periods. Accordingly, the average rate of GDP growth has declined from 6.72 % in 1986-2005 to 6.05% in the last period 2006-2014 (UNDP, 2016). Economic uncertainties, particularly high inflation have been manifested more frequently since 2007, resulting in an increasingly tension for the costs of agricultural inputs and others basic commodities. Consequently, household's income has been hit strongly in both urban and rural areas. Besides, recently employment in the agricultural sector has been significantly affected by natural disasters such as droughts and floods, which causes output productivity and income damages.

In addition, Vietnam economy has also come under the impact of the global financial crisis in 2008-09. Among the economic forces, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were the most vulnerable to the global crisis. Many SMEs had been bankrupted and temporarily closed. The remaining SMEs have experienced troubles in production scale narrow.¹² As a consequence, the rates of unemployment and underemployment were relatively high (Table 4). Notably, a majority of the unemployment are youth, female and migrants.¹³

¹² According to GSO, there was an estimate of about 70 per cent of unprofitable SMEs after the global crisis. Whereas, more than 67,000 SMEs had been dissolved or bankrupted in among 500,000 existing SMEs in 2014.

¹³ The unemployment rate of migrants is 5 times higher than that of labor over 15 years old. See more: GSO, 2014 Labor and Employment Report.

Table 4: Main labor and employment indicators, 2011-2014

Main indicators	2011	2012	2013	2014
Underemployment (thousands of people)	1,428	1,338	1,374	1,206
Rate of underemployment (%)	2.96	2.74	2.75	2.40
Unemployment (thousands of people)	1,045	926	1,038	1,003
Rate of unemployment (%)	2.22	1.96	2.18	2.10
Rate of youth unemployment (%)	5.17	5.48	6.17	6.26

Source: Compiled from GSO's 2014 Labor and Employment Report

It is also noted that the rapid urban growth in cities, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities in particular, has attracted a large number of migrants from rural areas. However, inadequate infrastructure and planning and management weaknesses in urban areas have caused significant pressures on cities in terms of employment, environment and other social issues. Meanwhile, an unbalanced development between urban and rural areas has also widened, which results in rising rates of unemployment in urban areas and rate of underemployment in rural areas (GSO 2014).

In terms of poverty and inequality, as mentioned above, although Vietnam enjoyed a good performance in poverty reduction, the poverty rate among regions has been extended (Table 5). The poor in mountainous areas and coastal provinces has been left far behind.

Table 5: Poverty rates by regions, 2010

	Poverty rate (%)
All Vietnam	20.7
Red River Delta (Hanoi)	11.4
East Northern Mountains	37.3
West Northern Mountains	60.1
North Central Coast	28.4
South Central Coast	18.1

Central Highlands	32.8
Southeast (HCMC)	8.6
Mekong Delta	18.7

Source: Compiled from GSO

It can be said that such above mentioned issues are closely related to the recent patterns of migration in Vietnam. Limited growth, employment and social welfare have motivated Vietnamese migrants to look to other countries for better opportunities.

2.1.2 Labor exporting policies and recent patterns in migration in Vietnam

For Vietnam, the population movements have been always manifested since it had experienced various foreign wars and conflicts in history. As mentioned above, however, the recent patterns of population mobility has also derived mainly from economic reasons. Migration, thus, has been always gone along with the Vietnam's regional settlement and development, becoming one of the most important features in its development (Dang 2001).

It is apparent that the current dominant pattern of population flows are labor movements. Since "Doi Moi" reform was introduced in 1986, international migration with the focus on labor exporting has been encouraged and enhanced. Thus, the export of labor has always been mainstreamed into the national development strategies in Vietnam. As a result, there are a large number of Vietnamese workers currently working in various regions and countries, especially in East and Southeast Asia labor markets such as Taiwan, South Korea, China, Japan, and Malaysia.¹⁴ Apart from these traditional labor markets, Vietnamese workers can be also found in other new labor markets, including Middle East and Gulf countries (MOFA 2012).

¹⁴ There are about 500,000 Vietnamese nationals in more than 40 countries and territories. Each year, around 80,000 workers are sent to work abroad. See more: (MOFA 2012: 15)

Table 6: Major labor exporting markets, 2000-2010

	Total	Taiwan	Japan	Korea	Malaysia	Africa- Middle East	Others
2000	31,500	8,099	1,497	7,316	239	34	14,315
2001	36,168	7,782	3,249	3,910	23	1,094	20,110
2002	46,122	13,191	2,202	1,190	19,965	408	9,166
2003	75,000	29,069	2,256	4,336	38,227	750	362
2004	67,447	37,144	2,752	4,779	14,567	938	7,267
2005	70,594	22,784	2,955	12,102	24,605	1,276	6,872
2006	78,855	14,127	5,360	10,577	37,941	5,246	5,604
2007	85,020	23,640	5,517	12,187	26,704	6,184	10,788
2008	86,990	31,631	6,142	18,141	7,810	11,113	12,153
2009	73,028	21,677	5,456	7,578	2,792	16,083	19,442
2010	85,546	28,499	4,913	8,628	11,741	10,888	20,877
Total	736,270	237,643	42,299	90,744	184,614	54,014	126,956

Source: MOFA, Review of Vietnamese Migration Abroad, 2012

The recent Vietnamese labor exporting situation has been also impacted by uncertainties and weakness from the global economy. Economic obstacles in traditional markets such as Taiwan and Malaysia, for instance, have caused difficulties for Vietnamese workers in terms of wage and employment reduction. Such recent occurrences, therefore, would certainly effects on the pattern of Vietnamese migrants abroad in the coming years.

2.2 Thailand economic development and rapid urbanization in Bangkok: The most preferred destination for migrants in Southeast Asia

2.2.1 Economic development and urbanization in Bangkok

Thailand has been one of the most impressive economic growth stories in Southeast Asia. From an agricultural export oriented economy in the 1960s, Thailand has transformed into one of the biggest manufacturing bases in Southeast Asia in the 1980s. Thailand became an upper middle-income country since 2011.

Thanks to the favorable economic policies which were based on manufacturing export orientation strategy as well as changes in the world market, particularly when Japan was forced to revalue the Yen, Thailand's export sector had experienced a "golden age" with an outstanding economic growth at 8-9 per cent during the late 1980s. Moreover, at that time Thailand became the most preferred cheaper destination in the eyes of foreign investors, especially Japanese. As a result, a "flood" of FDI poured into Thailand from 1987 (Pasuk Phongpaichit and Baker 1998).

Table 7: Thailand's major economic indicators

	1990	2007	2014
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	5.8	2.5	1.0
Unemployment rate (%)	-	1.2	0.9
GDP per capita (constant 2005 US\$)	1,669.7	3,157.7	3,768.8

Source: Compiled from data of World Development Indicators.

Historically, Bangkok or *Krung Thep Maha Nakhon* (or simply *Krung Thep*)¹⁵ has been become the capital city of Thailand (or *Siam* before 1939) since 1782. With its geographic advantage, Bangkok has been become a central of political power, economic activities and education for Thailand. Especially, since the introduction of the Bowring Treaty which opened the Thai economy to global trade in 1855, the increasingly need in export and import activities through Bangkok port put Bangkok into the heart of Siam's modernization at that time. Until the 1970s, the urbanization rate in Bangkok has rapidly accelerated. Bangkok and its vicinities have been chosen to set up manufacturing bases such as garment, textiles, electronic and automobile parts that changed Bangkok from "a rather courtly city, famed for its palaces, temples, canals, and dominated by its population of government officials to a city of business" (Pasuk Phongpaichit and Baker 1998). It can be seen from the rapid expansion of transportation including roads, artificial canals along the sides of the Chao Phraya River and corridors that connect Bangkok to regional cities since the late 1960s (Jones and Douglass 2008, 71-3). The rapid urbanization rate, moreover, has also helped Bangkok to benefit the most from economic growth performance among urban areas, whereas the South and Northeast areas left far behind (Table 8).



¹⁵ *Krung Thep* or "City of Angels" is located at a strategic area which is in the Chao Phraya River in the Thailand's Central Plains and connects to the north and the Southeast and the South. Previously, Sukhothai was the city or the Kingdom of the Sukhothai, an early kingdom in the North Thailand.

Table 8: Main socio-economic indicators by regions

Regions	Growth rate		Production Income Structure ²		Gross Regional Production per capita ³ (Baht)	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Northeastern Region	7.7	3.0	10.5	10.9	68,514	74,532
Northern Region	7.8	1.5	8.7	8.8	93,067	98,268
Southern Region	1.8	1.2	9.2	8.7	126,178	123,270
Eastern Region	9.1	1.7	18.3	18.0	423,537	430,584
Western Region	2.2	-0.6	3.6	3.5	125,833	127,294
Central Region	6.4	2.9	5.8	5.8	228,548	239,078
Bangkok and Vicinity ¹	8.3	4.1	43.9	44.3	361,639	376,463
Whole Kingdom	7.3	2.8	100.0	100.0	185,807	193,394

¹Vicinity includes Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani and Samut Prakan.

² Production Income structure is the proportion of the gross regional production to GDP

³ Gross Regional Production (GRP) per capita is calculated by the value of total GRP divide the number of people in the area.

Source: Compiled data from Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board.

In addition, the dramatic increase in manufacturing expansion in Bangkok and vicinity has also attracted a large number of migrants not only from rural areas but also from neighboring countries. Apart from generating high employment and income opportunities, Bangkok as the socio-political and cultural center of Thailand also provides a convenient infrastructure system, better social welfare services and safety that motivate tourist's visits and labor movements.

“The cultural benefits generated in Bangkok may not be quantifiable, but the opportunities and facilities available for leisure and entertainment in Bangkok must be an indication of high state of well-being and quality of life”. (Krongkaew 1996)

In turns, benefits from the large numbers of tourists and migrants have contributed to Bangkok’s economic development, particularly the service sectors such as restaurants, hotels, etc.

In conclusion, Thailand’s miracle growth in the 1980s has transformed Bangkok into the most developed urban center in the country. With an adequate capacity in generating employments, especially in labor-intensive manufacturing sectors, accompanied by social and cultural benefits, Bangkok has been become the main destination for migrants from neighboring countries.

2.2.2 Foreign migrant workers in Thailand and policy framework towards them

The patterns of foreign migrant workers in Thailand can be classified into two main types: regular and irregular migrant worker.

Regular migrant workers are foreigners who satisfy both two conditions: 1, Entering Thailand temporarily and legally under the Immigration Law and 2, Holding a work permit under the Alien Employment Act (AEA) 2008. Accordingly, (Paitoonpong and Chalamwong 2011) divided regular migrant workers into the 7 following types: Temporary permit migrant (under Section 7 of AEA 2008), Permanent resident, National verification permit migrant (for CLM countries), Migrant workers (under the MOU between Thailand and CLM countries), Migrant worker under Section 12 or BOI, Migrant worker at border areas (under Section 14 of AEA 2008), and diplomatic privilege groups. Statistically, the number of regular migrant worker in Thailand was 1,174,900 in 2013, accounting for 2.8 per cent of the labor force (Huguet 2014).

Irregular migrant workers, on the other hand, are those who either stay or work illegally in Thailand. It is a fact that about 2.7 million migrants from her neighboring countries, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia are illegal migrant workers, making up more than 83 per cent of foreign migrant workers in Thailand (ibid.). Of which, Myanmar migrants is the largest group among other countries' migrants. It is, therefore, explained why irregular migration in general and Myanmar migration in particular have received the most attention over the years.

Many studies have illustrated that neighboring migrant workers have played an important role for Thailand's growth and development, especially in terms of economic development contribution (Yongyuth Chalamwong and Prugsamatz 2009, Martin 2007, Utis Sanglaoid, Sumalee Santipolvut, and Laemthai Phuwanich 2014). Moreover, given that studies upon remittances from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar workers in Thailand, it has also shown that positive impacts in improving the quality of life for their families at home and are potential tool to support and stabilize economic development for the country of origin (Dilen and Pracha Vasuprasat 2010, Aree Ampaklay and Sirinan Kittisuksathi 2009). Nevertheless, the issue of illegal migration has also caused negative impacts for both Thailand and the countries of origin. Accordingly, there are studies which prove that human trafficking and forced labor issues occur among foreign migrant workers in Thailand (Pearson et al. 2006, Huguet and Aphichat Chamrathirong 2011).

Regarding international migration policies towards neighboring migrants, the Thai government has made efforts in managing migrant workers in response to a dramatic increasing trend of illegal migration since the early 2000s. In particular, Thai authorities regularized irregular migrants from Myanmar, Lao, and Cambodia by

signing MOUs on labor cooperation as well as by introducing regularization system with these governments.¹⁶

Recently, it can be seen that Thai and Vietnamese governments have put more efforts in enhancing labor cooperation. Although the issue has been discussed since 2008, achievements are just able to reach in the late 2014 through Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha's official visit to Vietnam.¹⁷ Accordingly, in July 2015, the Thai government also signed an MOU on labor cooperation with the Vietnamese government which is believed to pave the way for enhancing regular migration flows and economic benefits for both sides. Most recently, Thai government has also issued work permits for Vietnamese migrant workers who work in restaurants, construction and fishing industries and domestic services on December 2015.¹⁸ Currently, the Thailand's Ministry of Labor and the Vietnam's Ministry of Labor, Invalid and Social Affairs have continually and closely worked together to implement the MOU and the Agreement on the Employment of Workers.¹⁹ Detail policy discussion will be mentioned in the Discussion part.



¹⁶ The Royal Thai government has already signed MOUs with its neighboring countries' government include Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar in 2002 and 2003, respectively. Although MOU has just been an informal mechanism that governments use as an executive agreement, it has still ensured the rights of migrant workers as well as the needs of labor shortage.

¹⁷ See: Vietnam Online Television, Interview with the Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Tat Thanh, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1dLK8fvkWM>

¹⁸ Thailand's Ministry of Labor approved a resolution allowing Vietnamese migrants to register with authorities for the period of 1-30 December. According to the resolution, the Vietnamese migrants who had previously entered legally to Thailand before August 10, 2015 are allowed to work in the four sectors for one year in Thailand. Source: Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the Kingdom of Thailand Portal, <http://www.vietnambassy-thailand.org/vi/nr070521165843/nr070725012202/ns151130174127>

¹⁹ Source: Remarks by Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Tat Thanh at the international seminar "Enhancing ASEAN sub-regional labor cooperation to realize the SDGs", Conrad Hotel, Bangkok, 28 March 2016.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH FINDINGS

Chapter 3 presents the result and analysis of the main findings from the surveyed migrants. Information from in-depth interviews and secondary data are also analyzed in order to illustrate the necessary issues. It covers the following main information:

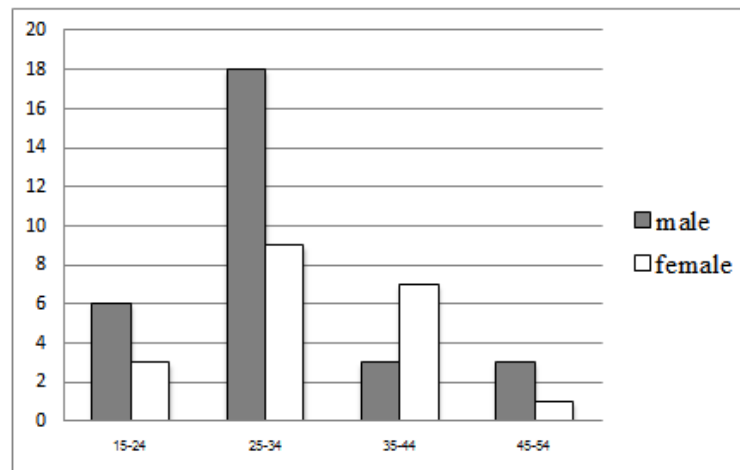
- The demographic and background of the surveyed migrants
- Push and pull factors influencing migration to Bangkok, Thailand
- Employments and working conditions in Bangkok, Thailand
- Living conditions in Bangkok, Thailand

3.1 Demographic and background of surveyed migrants

3.1.1 Age groups and gender

The age of the surveyed migrants ranges from 21 to 51 years old. As shown in Figure 1, more than half of the migrants (54%) were in the 25-34 age group, followed by the 34-44 group, the 15-24 group and the oldest age group (45-54 years old), respectively. Apart from the 34-44 age group, there were more male than female migrants in almost every other age groups.

Figure 1: Age categories of surveyed migrants by gender



3.1.2 Places of origin

As Figure 2 shows, the surveyed migrants come from various provinces and cities of Vietnam. However, the majority of them came from rural regions in Northern Central Coast provinces, namely Ha Tinh and Thanh Hoa, accounting for 84 per cent of the sample. Notably, some 10 per cent came from periphery areas of big cities of Vietnam, including Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Vung Tau that its economic development also based mainly on the agricultural sector.

Figure 2: Map of hometown of surveyed migrants



3.1.3 Family status

70 per cent of surveyed migrants reported that they were married. Of which, many young couple migrants are working either the same job or different job in Bangkok. Interestingly, in the garment sector, several young couple reportedly got married since

they met and worked with each other at the same place in Phuket or Bangkok. The single group is from 15 to 24 years old making up 18 per cent. The remaining 12 per cent of the surveyed migrants were divorced.

Table 9: Marital status of surveyed migrants

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Single	9	18.0
Married	35	70.0
Divorced	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Among the respondents, 70 per cent had at least one child. Notably, the shares of migrants who have three children also make up 10 per cent. This proves that most of the migrants have a number of dependent persons.

Table 10: Number of children of surveyed

Number of children	Frequency	Percent
0	15	30.0
1	13	26.0
2	17	34.0
3	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

3.1.4 Education level

Among the 50 surveyed migrants, there were 64 per cent of them at the lower levels of education attainment (none, primary and lower secondary education), followed by upper secondary and university education attainment, 34 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively. Mr. Thanh, 28 years old, from Quang Tri province work as an IT staff at a Thai computer company is the only respondent holding a university degree. He graduated from Rajabhat Udonthani University in Udon Thani province.

After graduation, with his Thai language skills fluency, he has been recruited at a Thai computer company.

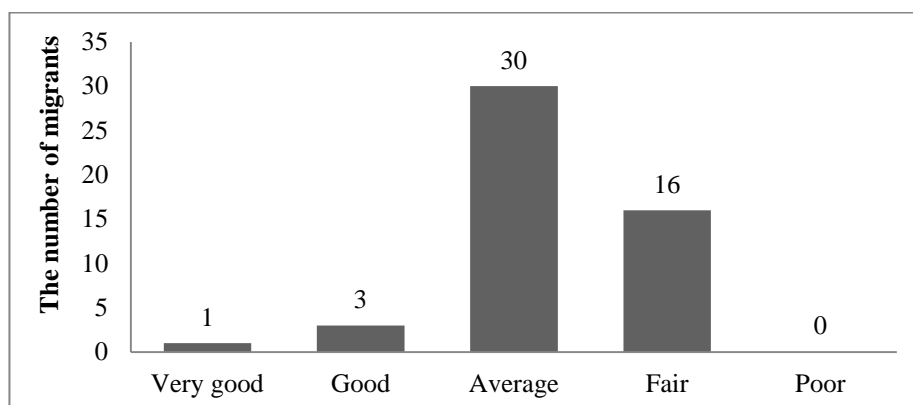
Table 11: Educational level of surveyed migrants

Education level	Frequency	Percent
None	2	4.0
Primary	7	14.0
Lower secondary	23	46.0
Upper secondary	17	34.0
University degree	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

3.1.5 Documentation status and ability using Thai language

Among the respondents, a majority of them have entered and stayed legally in Thailand (90 per cent). Some 8 per cent are currently staying illegally due to overstaying. The remaining 2 per cent of respondents reports that they lost their passports during working here. However, it is a fact that the probability of arrest among was the same since they do not have a working permit. Those who either overstay or do not have any documentation will face more risks than the others. Such risks will be discussed in the discussion part.

In terms of ability of using Thai language, apart from the case of Mr. Thanh above, a number of the respondents (66 per cent) are able to communicate basically with Thai people, but cannot write or read in Thai. The remaining respondents (32 per cent) just are able to communicate limited words that enough for their jobs. Generally, from my observation, those working as either street vendors or garment workers own better Thai language skills, whereas ability using Thai language of waiters/waitress are usually limited because these employments are supposed to be more preferred for new comer migrants.

Figure 3: Ability using Thai language

3.1.6 Lengths of stay in Thailand

Roughly 66 per cent of the surveyed migrants reported that they have been in Thailand for 1-5 years. Also, 22 per cent of the respondents have been here for more than 5 years. The earliest arrival migrant in the sample is Mr. Anh, a garment worker in the Sukhumvit area who has been in Thailand for 15 years.

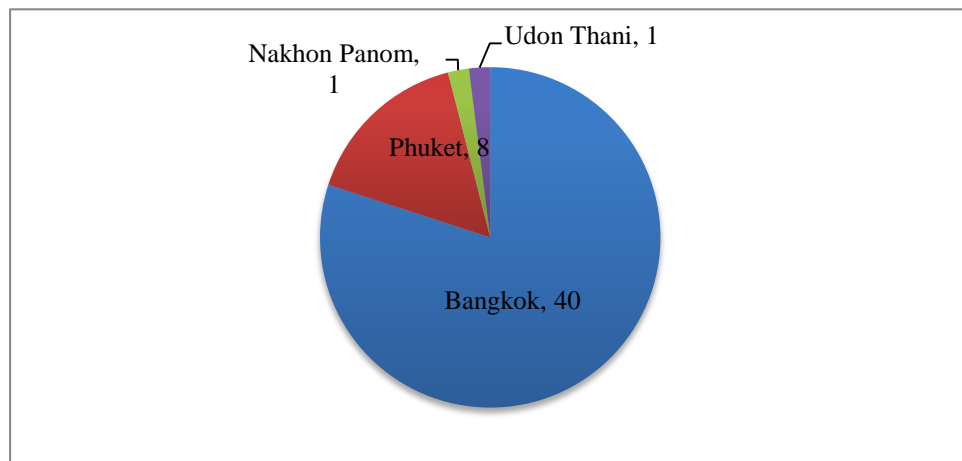
Table 12: Lengths of stay in Thailand

Occupation	The number of year working in Thailand					Total
	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3 - 5 years	5 -7 years	More than 7 years	
Garment	1	2	6	1	2	12
Waiter/Waitress	2	6	3	1	1	13
Domestic worker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Street vendors	3	6	6	3	1	19
Salespersons	0	3	0	0	1	4
Other	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	6	17	16	5	6	50

3.1.7 First working place in Thailand

Among the surveyed migrants, 72 per cent of them reported that Bangkok is the first working place, focusing on those who are street vendors, waiters/waitress, or salespersons. Notably, a majority of surveyed garment workers indicated that Phuket was the first working place because the province was supposed to attract orders from foreigners. On the case of Mr. Thanh, he started his translation job in Udon Thani prior to moving Bangkok. The other case is started from Nakhon Phanom.

Figure 4: First work places in Thailand of surveyed migrants



3.2 Push and pull factors influencing migration to Bangkok, Thailand

This section is to investigate push and pull factors influencing migration decision of surveyed migrants.

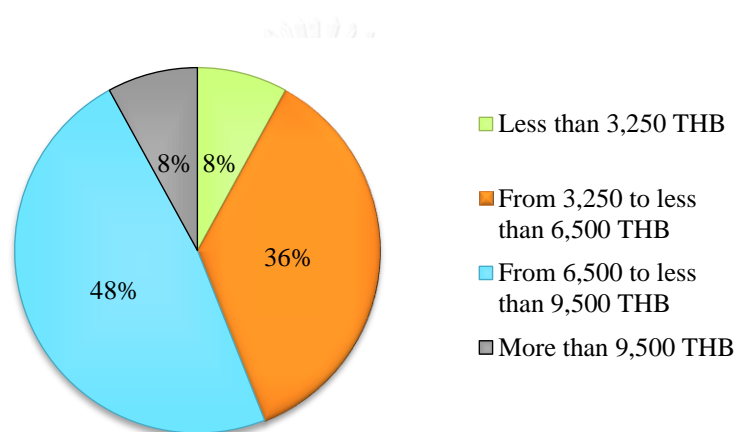
3.2.1 Push factors

- ***Low income***

Of the 50 surveyed migrants, 86 per cent indicated that low income has significant impact on their migration decision. Concerning the average monthly income in Vietnam, nearly 48 per cent of the respondents received an income of 4 – 6 million

VND (approximately 6,500 - 9,500 THB) per month, 36 per cent of them earned 2 – 4 million VND (around 3,000 – 6,500 THB) per month. Totally, roughly 50 per cent of the surveyed migrants earned less than 6,500 THB per month, whereas only 8 per cent received more than 9,500 THB per month (Figure 5). It reflects quite well the average monthly income in Vietnam.²⁰ It is noteworthy that the Vietnam's GDP per capita is three times less than that of Thailand, 1,077.9 US\$ and 3,768.8 US\$ in 2014 (calculated in constant 2005 US\$) respectively.²¹

Figure 5: Average income in Vietnam of the surveyed migrants



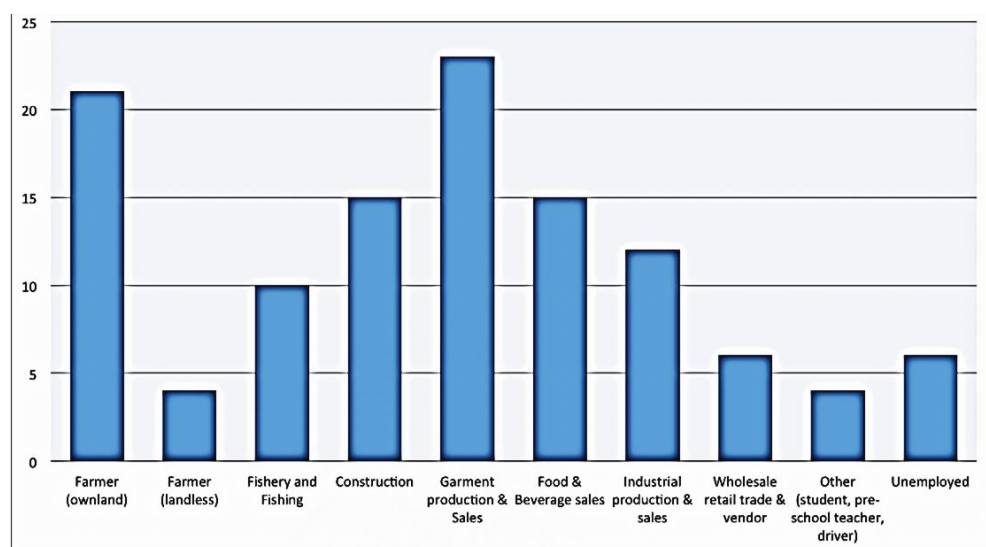
- **Underemployment**

With regard to underemployment, 92 per cent of the respondents indicated that their migration decision has been also influenced by the issue, but mostly rated impact level as “slightly influential”. This can be explained by looking at previous occupation of surveyed migrants in Vietnam. Accordingly, the respondents used to engage in various kinds of employments in Vietnam (Figure 6). Of which, a major portion of them was accustomed to work in agricultural sector, garment and textile industries, and construction. There are also some migrants who are either unemployed or migrated to Thailand after upper secondary school completion.

²⁰ The average monthly income of Vietnam was 2,640 million VND in 2014. Source: GSO.

²¹ Source: Compiled data from the World Bank, World Development Indicators.

Figure 6: Previous occupation in Vietnam



- *Less savings*

According to the surveys, roughly 34 per cent of the respondents also reported that less savings has significant impact on their migratory decision. It can be manifested by their low income and many kinds of expenditures. According to the GSO, the monthly average expenditure in 2014 was 1.8 million VND. Thus, the monthly average savings in Vietnam is around 752 thousand VND (approximately 1,200 THB per month).

Mr. Quyet, 33 years old, is from Ha Tinh province. Prior to migrating to Bangkok, he had moved to Binh Duong province, Vietnam working as a construction worker. He is now a street vendor selling coconut ice-cream and water at Hua Lam Phong temple.

“I had earned around 2.6 million VND (around 4,000 THB) per month when I worked in Binh Duong. Comparing with those works at restaurants or garment factories, my income was still better than them. But, I could not save

any money during that time. Apart from the basic expenditures, namely accommodation fees and meals, there were also many kinds of expenses such as wedding gift giving, one-month old baby gifts, and other spending. Sometimes, I had to participate in two to three wedding parties per month and used to drink a lot on such events, so that I could not work after the events. But, it is our custom and it would be quite embarrassing to be absent from such events because they are also my relatives and close friends. Very few migrants working in Southern cities could save money in order to send their family in hometown.”

In Vietnam, life cycle rituals such as weddings, house constructions, and funerals appear to be the most important events for a Vietnamese people’s life. The non-commercial transactions reflect “the strength and important that the interpersonal relations and networks have on the social fabric of modern Vietnam” (Pannier 2015).²²

- ***Difficulties in looking for jobs***

From the surveys, 64 per cent of the surveyed migrants also disclosed that they had been struggling in looking for jobs in Vietnam that also contributes to their migration decision. This can be seen by the migration history of migrants. Accordingly, 70 per cent of the respondents had migrated to work in other cities and provinces in Vietnam, focusing mainly on big cities such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Vung Tau and Binh Duong. Of which, 20 per cent of them had been working abroad, including Russia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Cambodia. It is, however, noted that those who had migrated internally argued that finding a job is not too difficult, but more importantly they concerned mainly on income.

²² The value of transfers depends on both practical consideration (estimated costs of a banquet meal for a person) and sentiments (the level of closeness between the giver and the recipient). See: (Pannier 2015).

- **Family issues**

Of the surveyed migrants, 12 per cent of them indicated that their migration decision had significantly influenced by their family problems such as family breakdowns or big family.

Ms. Son, 46 years old, from Ho Chi Minh City. She first came to Bangkok in 2000 and is currently working as a domestic worker for a Thai family in the Sukhumvit area.

“I got married when I was 18 years old, but then divorced at 22. So, I returned to live at my mother’s house and opened a food stall to earn an income. Due to nearby residential areas, I was able to earn about 300-400 thousand VND (500-600 THB) per day. It was not very difficult. But, I always quarreled with my mother. So, I decided to stay far from her to avoid unwanted conflicts. At the same time, a friend of mine asked whether I wanted to work for a Thai family in Bangkok, I was accepted and still am working here so far”.

Ms. Thi, 37 years old, from Vung Tau. She is currently working for a Thai restaurant at Chitlom area.

“My husband drank every day. My children and I were often beaten as he got drunk. We are separated from him for 6 years. He now got a new wife while I have to take care my two children. Due to the family’s difficulties, I had to look for a higher income job. In 2009, some friends and I intended to work in Russia, but after being cheated by a broker I could not go to Russia. Then, I first came Bangkok to work for a food stall under my friend’s recommendation. I have made acquaintance with a Thai man. He wants to get

married with me and we are preparing for our wedding party. I plan to bring my children to come to study here”.

Among the respondents, there are also some who come from a big family that could not have enough money to take care of them. So they had to take care of themselves since they were children. The case of Ms. Mai, 37 years old, from Ha Tinh province is a stark example. The main livelihood of her family was mainly on agricultural activities, including paddy and crops plants. Her parents have a total of 7 children and she is the second child among them. She and her brothers and sisters could not go to school due to their family’s financial difficulty. Then, she became a beggar since she was 12 years old. She had been in Hanoi and HCMC and experienced many jobs such as lottery ticket seller and even construction before migrating to Bangkok.

- ***Natural disasters***

According to the survey, 90 per cent of the surveyed migrants reported that frequent floods and droughts have an increasing impact to their livelihoods and income that push them to look for employment in other places. It should be noted that geographically Vietnam is defined as one of the prone to natural disasters, particularly in storm, typhoons and drought.²³ In the study, 84 per cent of the respondents came from Northern Central Coast provinces and 67 per cent of them indicated that such natural disasters have significant impact to their migration decision. It is a fact that Northern Central Coast provinces of Vietnam are always defined as one of the prone to natural disasters, particularly in flood, flash floods, and drought due to it attributes of geographic and sloping topography.²⁴ Apart from natural disasters, extreme disaster events have recently been observed in the region. Accordingly, the number of hot days increased in most observation stations and the highest temperature might reach 43 degree Celsius, which caused severe and longer drought across and within

²³ According to World Bank, around 71% of the population and 59% of the land area in Vietnam are vulnerable to natural disasters, resulting in a loss 1-1.5% GDP annually.

²⁴ See more: IFRC-UNDP Series on Legal Frameworks to support Disaster Risk Reduction, Vietnam: Country case study report, 2014.

the region.²⁵ Meanwhile, the magnitude and frequency of typhoons and flood have also increased and the saline water intrusion has been observed in some areas of the region.²⁶ As a consequence, such natural and extreme disasters have negative impacts on natural resources, agricultural production activities, and livelihoods of local people in the region in recent years.

3.2.2 Pull factors

As above mentioned, Thailand's economic growth rate has achieved an impressive performance over the last decades, becoming the largest economy in the GMS and the leading economies in ASEAN. The country has been also considered a main destination for migrant workers among Southeast Asian countries, especially from her neighboring countries. It is apparent that better economic opportunities in Thailand are defined as the main pull factor that attracts a large number of migrant workers (Huguet and Punpuing 2005). Besides, improved transportation infrastructure and social networks can be also seen pull factors that facilitates the flows of migrant workers to Thailand (Huguet and Punpuing 2005, Chalamwong 2012). Apart from the determinants, this part will also explore how other determinants including initial costs and Thai people and culture can contribute to migration flows from Vietnam to Thailand.

- *Higher income*

Disparities in economic development and wage levels between Thailand and Vietnam are believed to be the main motivation for the migration flow from Vietnam to Thailand. The GDP per capita of Thailand is more three times higher than that of Vietnam (Table 3 and Table 7). It is also noted that the GDP per capita in Bangkok

²⁵ Drought events have recently lasted for 4-5 months (from March to August) rather than 2 months as before. Source: Ha Tinh Online Newspaper, <http://baohatinh.vn/xa-hoi/bien-doi-khi-hau-nhieu-thach-thuc/98072.htm>

²⁶ Source: Ha Tinh Online Newspaper, cited.

and its vicinity is nearly two times higher than that of the whole Kingdom (Table 8). As a result, migrant workers from neighboring countries are usually concentrated in Bangkok and vicinity (Paitoonpong and Chalamwong 2011).²⁷

According to the surveys, all the migrant workers said that higher income was the main motivation for them to migrate to work in Bangkok (of which, 86 per cent of them rated impact level as “very influential” and “extremely influential”). Accordingly, the migrants’ average monthly income in Bangkok is around 15,000 THB, three times higher than that in Vietnam.

- *Employment opportunities*

As pointed out above, since the 1980s Bangkok has been transformed into a hub of Southeast Asia which generates a number of jobs for migrant workers, becoming the main destination for them in labor-intensive manufacturing sectors. Meanwhile, labor shortage are defined as one of the most concern for Thai economy. According to the Thailand Labor Ministry, Thailand would need about 300,000-600,000 workers to fill in the jobs in industrial sector in the short term.²⁸ Moreover, demographic factors such as lower growth rate of the population and the population of prime labor force age are contributing to the labor shortage in Thailand, which facilitate and encourage labor movements from neighboring countries (Huguet and Punpuing 2005).

The surveys indicated that 64 per cent of the Vietnamese migrant workers expected better employment opportunities in Bangkok. A majority of them are those who were farmers and had never worked outside their hometown. The remaining of the respondents (36 per cent) said that their migration decision to Bangkok has been impacted somewhat by the factor.

Table 13: Pull factors

²⁷ Approximately 43% of registered migrant workers from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar working in Bangkok and vicinity, followed by the southern region (25%), and the central region (17%). See: (Paitoonpong and Chalamwong 2011)

²⁸ Source: http://thainews.prd.go.th/website_en/news/news_detail/WNPOL5804280010015

	Not at all influential	Slightly influential	Somewhat influential	Very influential	Extremely influential	Total
Higher income		2%	12%	28%	58%	100%
Employment opportunities	4%	6%	26%	52%	12%	100%
Low initial costs			4%	14%	82%	100%
Social networks	4%	2%	2%	10%	82%	100%
Transportation convenience			2%	26%	72%	100%
Thai culture	6%	26%	36%	28%	4%	100%

- ***Low initial costs***

As shown in the Table 13, a majority of the respondents (96 per cent of them) revealed that low initial costs were the important factor influencing their migration decision to Bangkok. According to the surveys, the average cost for the first trip was roughly 3,024 THB (Table 14). The initial costs include travelling costs, costs for finding a job and accommodation. Notably, the costs depend on the kind of contact used during the travelling. In particular, those whom their relatives or friends have already worked in Thailand would be able to pay only for travelling costs. Meanwhile, those who do not have any contact in Thailand had to pay for a broker service assist to them during the trip, entering into Thailand, finding accommodation and a job in Bangkok. These brokers (facilitators or “*người dẫn đường*”) are generally those who have been residing and working in Thailand for a long time. The respondents said that the total fees paid for broker service was around 6,000 – 8,000 THB 10 years ago. The fees have been dramatically reduced since the visa exemption for Southeast Asian tourists came into effect in 2007 which has helped Vietnamese migrants to easily enter into Thailand.

The cost for the first trip, moreover, also depends on the kind of transportation used to come to Thailand. According to the surveys, most of the surveyed migrants (about 83.3 per cent) used a bus service for entering into Thailand, and the remaining respondents (16.7 per cent) went to Thailand by airplane. Generally, those using

airplane had to pay higher costs than that of using bus. However, it can be argued that the initial costs for working in Thailand still much lower than that of other countries. For instance, the pre-departure cost to Malaysia was approximately 15-20 million VND (around 23,000-31,000 THB) (Thanyathip Sripana 2012).

Table 14: Cost for the first trip

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Cost of the first trip (THB)	50	1500	6000	3024.00

Mr. Quynh, 33 years old, from Quang Binh province, Vietnam. Prior to migrating to Bangkok, he had been working in Kulalampur, Malaysia during 2002-07 and in Singapore in 2009.

“In order to be able to work in Malaysia, I had to pay a broker a big amount of money. It was around 16 million VND (approximately 25,000 THB) and I also had to complete various complicated procedures before departure to Kuala Lumpur. I had been also working in Singapore in 2009. The cost paid for broker was roughly 120 million VND (around 190,000 THB). But, Singapore police strictly controlled such kinds of migrants like us, and then I had to go back Vietnam one year later. Meanwhile, the cost of my first trip to Bangkok was only 2,500 THB. The cost for getting to work in Bangkok was similar to that of Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh cities in Vietnam”

According to the surveys, a majority of the respondents (84 per cent) answered that they did not borrow money for the first trip to Thailand.

- **Social networks**

As can be seen in the figure 7, more than 80 per cent of surveyed migrants reported that they decided to choose Thailand by following their relatives or friends. There were only 5 per cent of the surveyed migrants who came to Thailand through a broker and 12 per cent on their own.

Relatives: 41 per cent of the surveyed migrants were informed employment information by their relatives. Some respondents said that their relatives have been in Thailand for over 15 years. As in the case of Mr. Thai, 20 years old, from Thach That District, Hanoi. His parents have already worked in Nakhon Phanom province, Thailand for 15 years. After completing the undergraduate degree, he wanted to follow his parents to work in Thailand. His father went back Vietnam to help him prepare for the first trip.

Another case of Ms. Thu, 26 years old, from Quang Oai town, Ba Vi District, Hanoi. She and her husband are currently working at a tailor made shop in Phetchaburi Soi 10.

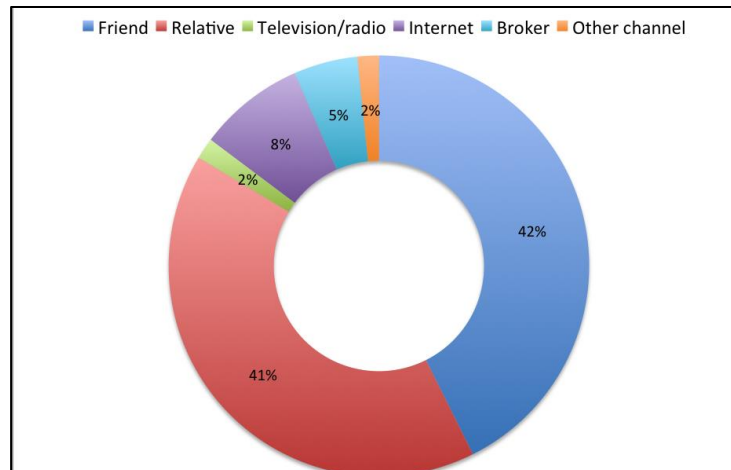
“Prior to coming to Thailand, my mother, brother and sisters had been working in Phuket for 5 years. Then I followed them to work as a garment worker in Pa Tong, Phuket. Now, my relatives have returned Vietnam. I have met my husband when we worked together in Phuket. Then, we have moved to Bangkok last year.”

It can be said that such kind of kinship network has played an important role in motivating the migrants to migrate to Thailand. It not only ensures their safety when they first come to Thailand but also minimizes their initial costs such as travelling costs, settlements, other set-up costs, etc.

Friends: 42 per cent of the respondents indicated that they accessed employment information through their friendship network. Friends are generally those who are neighbors in their village or community.

Among the respondents, many garment workers came from Cam Xuyen village, Ha Tinh. They all know each other and their migratory decisions were significantly influenced by the former migrants.

Figure 7: How did you get to know employment information in Thailand?



Broker: The respondents indicated that brokers also engaged in facilitating migrants from Vietnam to Thailand. Brokers are usually Vietnamese who have been in Thailand for a long time. They offer various services from assisting migrants to entry into Thailand, finding a job and settlement, assisting migrants who either overstay or lost their passports to go back Vietnam, and also helping to transform remittances. Their customers are migrants who have either little connection or do not have any friends or relatives in Bangkok.

In general, migration networks, particularly networks of former Vietnamese migrants who have been working in Thailand for a long time has been considered the decisive factor influencing the non-migrants' migration decision to Bangkok. Since there are rather differences between Thailand and Vietnam, especially in communication language, the role of these migration networks can be clearly manifested in informing the job opportunities, assisting preparing for the first trip and entry to Thailand, as well as helping upon arrivals for newly Vietnamese migrants. The assistance upon arrival of former Vietnamese migrants will be discussed in the next section.

- **Transportation convenience**

As mentioned above, a majority of the surveyed migrants (83.3 per cent) used bus as the main transportation to come to Bangkok. The remaining respondents (17.3 per cent) who came from Northern or Southern of Vietnam usually came to Bangkok by airplane. The respondents indicated that travel to Bangkok can be used the following routes:

Route 1: Ha Tinh, Thanh Hoa – Cau Treo Border Gate – Thakhek (Lao PDR) – Nakhon Phanom – Bangkok

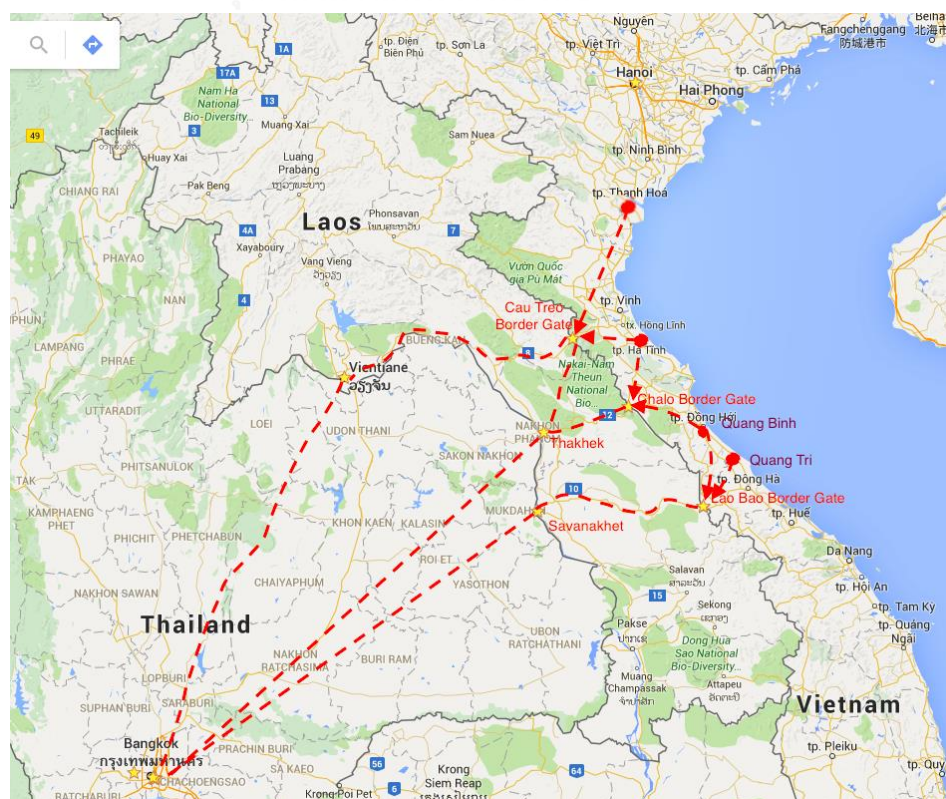
Route 2: Ha Tinh – Cha Lo Border Gate – Khammouane (Lao PDR) – Nakhon Phanom – Bangkok

Route 3: Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh – Cau Treo Border Gate – Vientiane – Nong Khai – Bangkok

Route 4: Quang Binh - Lao Bao Border Gate - Savanaket - Mukdahan – Bangkok

These routes can be described in the Figure 8 as follow:

Figure 8: Main routes for Vietnamese migrants entry to Thailand



The surveyed migrants said that the duration of the trip take around 1 day. Thus, it is very convenient for them to travel back and forth between the two countries.

- ***Thai people and culture***

Apart from the above factors, the surveyed migrants also said that Thai culture has many similarities to Vietnamese culture which help them to adapt quicker compare with other labor markets in the region. With the exception of language, many similar attributes of cultural aspects and daily life can be manifested due to the close proximity in terms of geography as well as both are the continental countries in Southeast Asia. Food, for instance, is believed to be quite the same which based on the same ingredients such as rice, meat (pork, chicken, etc.), but slightly different taste (Thai food is relatively spicier than Vietnamese food).

Besides, it is noted that positive attitudes of Vietnamese migrants toward Thai employer and people has also been revealed from the surveys.

Ms. Son said

“Thai people are very friendly, nice and treat others with kindness. They also respect law and order. For example, I hardly hear a vehicle horn on the street even when the number of vehicles in Bangkok is much higher than that in Ho Chi Minh City. Another example is queue culture that we can see easily in various places. I do not feel stressed when staying here”

Mr. Hung, 30 years old, from Ha Tinh province. He has been working as a garment worker at a tailor made shop in Phetchaburi area for more than 4 years.

“I have worked for only my employer since I came here. He treats me equally compared with other Thai workers and provides me with a good accommodation. Last time when I got an accident during sewing patterns of the suit, he brought me to a clinic for treatment and paid the fees for me. He also gave me a half of fee for renewing monthly visa. Many my friends who work for other Thai employers are also treated kindly and equally”

There are also some the respondents said that good weather in Bangkok influence their migration decision.

Ms. Mai said

“The weather in Bangkok is better than that of Hanoi. I rarely got a flu, sore throat, or headache since I came here. Moreover, because the weather is quite hot, I am able to sell my products to many customers”

3.3 Employment and working conditions of Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok, Thailand

3.3.1 Kind of employments of surveyed migrants

- ***Employed migrant workers***

Garment workers: The respondents usually work at small-scale establishments such as tailor shops with 1-10 persons. In this study, the garment workers were interviewed at Sukhumvit and Phetchaburi areas that are considered highly concentrated of tailor shops in Bangkok.

The tailor shops focus mainly on lounge suits. The surveyed garment workers indicated that they usually responsible for a body part of a suit, whereas the other parts such as collar and sleeve are made by Thai workers. According to them, collar and sleeve are the most difficult part of a suit which requires higher skills from workers.

In order to be able to work in the employment, the respondents said that it would take at least two months for training. Thus, a majority of the garment workers in the sample have been trained previously in Vietnam before working here. Moreover, they had to be equipped with their own personal tools such as scissors, ruler, and iron. Sewing machines are equipped by their employers. The employment, thus, requires initial costs and skills from workers.



Photo 1: Vietnamese migrants working at a tailor shop in Phetchaburi Soi 13

Photo 2: Another tailor shop at Phetchaburi Soi 13



Photo 3: A tailor shop in the Sukhumvit area



Photo 4: Body of suit made by a Vietnamese worker

Waiters/waitresses: The surveyed waiters and waitresses reported that they usually do different tasks from taking orders (food and beverage), bringing out food and other extra items requested by guests, clearing all plates at end of meal, cleaning the tables and washing dishes and plates. Their work places are food stalls, restaurants or canteen.

IT staff: As mentioned above, Mr. Thanh was the only case of someone holding a university degree. He has been recruited with a IT staff position in a small private Thai company. He is responsible for marketing and selling computer products, mobile phones and other technological accessories. Besides, he also provides consultant services to customers. According to Mr. Thanh, his company's customers are not only Thais but also foreigners who are either working here or traveling for a short time, including Vietnamese customers.

Domestic worker: The study interviewed only domestic helper. Ms. Son are currently working within a Thai family's household near Sukhumvit area. She performs a variety of tasks, including taking care of elderly people, shopping for food, preparing and cooking three meals per days, and cleaning and household

maintenance, etc. Usually, only women who are over 30 years old do this job, according to Ms. Son.

Salespersons: The surveyed salespersons migrants in the study are currently working mainly at Samyan market. The respondents reported that their duties are to serve customers by helping them select products as well as providing information on products and payments.

- *Self-employed migrants*

Among 50 Vietnamese migrants, 19 of them are the self- employed migrants who are street vendors. They came mainly from Ha Tinh, Thanh Hoa and Quang Binh provinces in Vietnam. More than half of the respondents were between 25 to 34 years old. The two male oldest were between 45-54 years old.

Type of selling location

Their selling location can be divided into two main types:

- People assemble places such as tourist places (Wat Pho, Wat Traimit, Wat Hua Lam Phong), universities (Chulalongkorn university area), shopping malls (Big C, Central World), market (Pratunam)
- Residential areas: vendors sell in communities and alleys (Silom area)

Table 15: Selling place of self-employed migrants

	Frequency
Silom area	10
Pratunam market area	4
Chulalongkorn University area*	2
Wat Pho area	2
Wat Traimit	1
Total	19

*MBK, Siam, Samyan market, U-center

Types of drink and fruit sold

The surveyed Vietnamese street vendors in Bangkok sell the major following drink and fruit:

- Coconut Ice-cream and water
- Fruit juice: lemon, orange, pomegranate
- Jackfruit

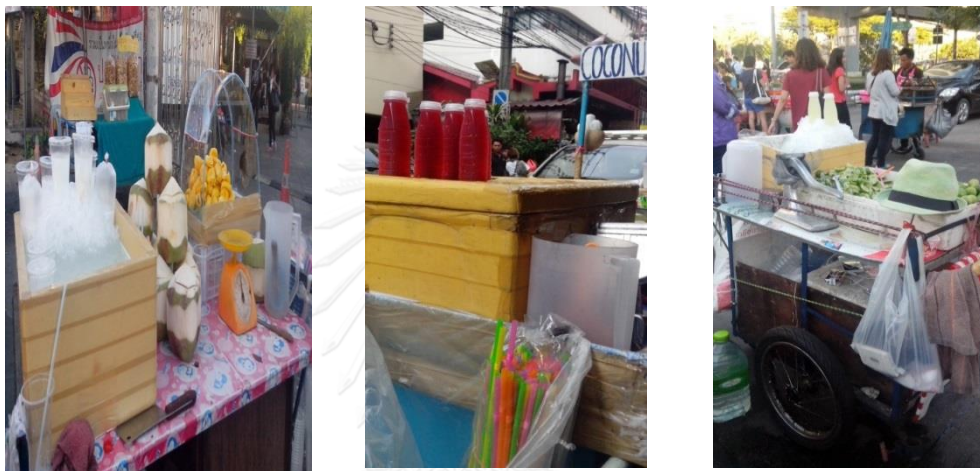


Photo 5: Types of drink and fruit

Types of street vending

According to the surveys, there are two main types of street vending:

- Fixed vending units: The selling locations are fixed. The advantage of the type is stable which vendor do not have to move a long distance, which might lengthen their selling duration. More than half (13) of the 19 surveyed vendors belong to this type. The surveyed fixed vending units sell to people in assembly places which can easily access to their customers. It is, however, noted that vendors normally are required to pay a monthly fee to their selling plots.

- Mobile vending units: This type requires vendors always to be moving from one location to another, which consumes a large amount of energy of vendor on the part of the vendor. However, the surveyed mobile vendors reported that selling in communities and alleys give them more accessibility to customers, resulting in better business efficiency. Among the surveyed vendors, 6 of them belong to this type and all are male.



Photo 6: Types of street vending

3.3.2 Working conditions of surveyed migrants

Before comparing the working conditions of self-employed and employed migrants, it should be noted that there are several cases of Vietnamese migrants who work two jobs in the same day. The above mentioned case of Mr. Quynh can be seen as a stark example. He usually get up at 2.30 am to prepare materials for his breakfast business including sticky rice with grilled pork on a skewer. He then sells his breakfast at an alley near BTS Saladeng until 12am. Then, he works as a waiter for a restaurant from 1.30 pm-9 pm. In total, his working time is roughly 17 to 18 hours per day. The case of Mr. Quynh might not be able to reflect the main characteristics of the Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok, but it shows how hard they work and their strong

determination and intention for working in Bangkok, Thailand are mainly due to economic reasons.

The next section will examine the general working conditions of the Vietnamese surveyed migrants.

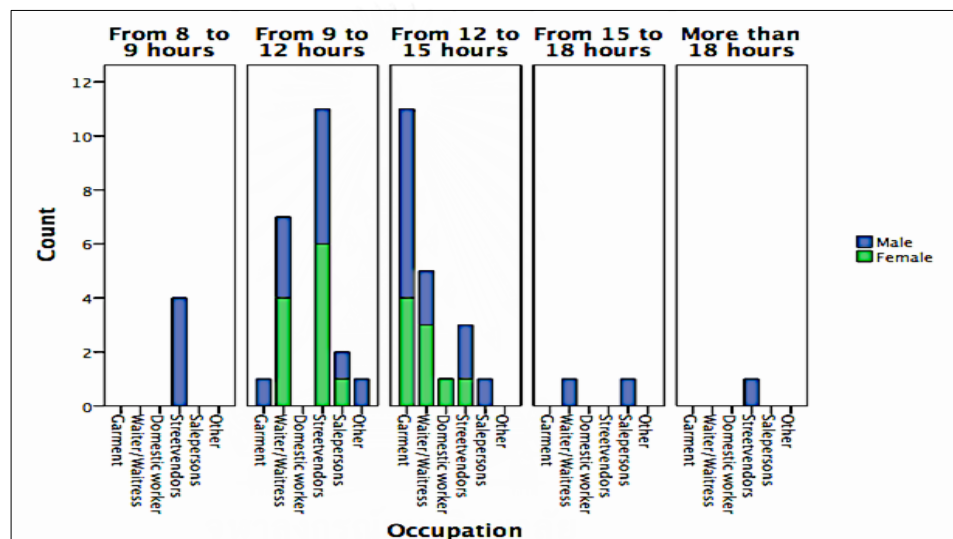
- *Working time*

For the surveyed self-employed migrants, their working time is usually more flexible. However, the respondents indicated that there are two main steps in the vending work, including preparation and vending steps.

- The first step can be implemented either from a night before or early morning (8-10 am). For the vendors who sell ice-cream they usually order ice-cream close to the selling time in order to reduce preservation costs. Meanwhile, the remaining materials such as coconut, lemon, pomegranate, orange and jackfruit can be bought 2- 4 times per week depending on the business operation.
- The vending step normally occurred from 10-11 am onwards. The length of selling depends on both type of street vending and location. The surveyed vendors in Wat Pho and Wat Traimit areas reported that their length of selling were from 11 am to 5 pm because there were very few tourists after 5 pm. The mobile vending units' length of selling usually end before 7 pm. Meanwhile, the fixed vending units can lengthen their selling time until midnight. According the surveys, the vendors at Silom area, particularly in Soi Convent, they can sell over midnight until 2 am next morning because there were still many foreign tourists in the area at that time.

Among the surveyed employed migrants, the garment workers usually have the longest working time. The surveyed garment workers reported that their starting working time was from 8.30 to 9 am and their finish working time was at 11 pm. It is, however, noted that working time of garment workers was more flexible than that of other employments since their salary does not depend on a time rate system. For the remaining employments, the respondents reported that their working time was usually from 5 am to 6 pm.

Figure 9: Average working time of surveyed migrants by occupation and gender



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- *Duration of break*

As mentioned above, street vendors and garment workers are able to proactively arrange their working and break time. Meanwhile, for the remaining employments, the surveyed migrant workers reported that they do not have any fixed break time in a working day. They might take a short rest as there were no customers.

- *Type of labor wages payments*

According to the surveys, there are three main types of labor wages payments, including daily, biweekly and monthly payments.

Daily payments: This type of payment is often applied for employments such as waiter/waitress at food stalls and salespersons in markets. Migrants will be paid in cash by employers at the end of a working day.

Biweekly payments: According to the surveys, a majority of the garment workers received their salary on the 1st and 16th days of each month. Their payment on piece of works are made at the end of working day.

Monthly payments: The remaining employments, domestic worker and IT staff are paid under the payment type.

- ***Wages and Earnings***

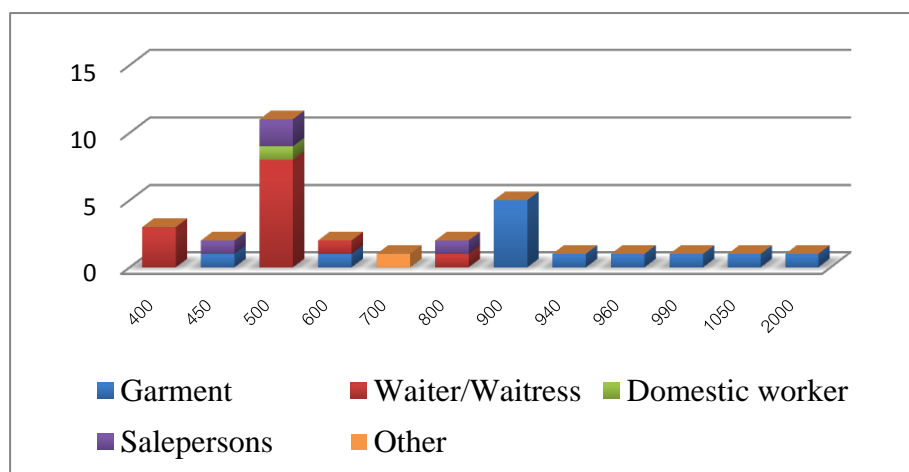
Garment workers: Among the employed workers, only garment workers are paid wages base on piece work system. Each piece of goods is offered with different prices from 200-500 THB, depending on its complexity and urgency level. The surveyed garment workers who have more than 10 years of experience can be paid about 400-500 THB per piece and as such the workers could make up to 4 pieces per day. In the sample, the only case of Mr. Anh who has worked as a garment worker in Thailand for 13 years can earn up to 2,000 THB per day. Meanwhile, a majority of the garment workers reported that they can get 900 THB per day on average.

Waiters/Waitress and Salespersons: Their wages were from 400 to 500 THB. Their employers sometimes give them extra-money if there have been many customers for that day. From the sample, several waiters and male salespersons also work two jobs.

Domestic helper: Ms. Son got 500 THB per day from her employer. Sometimes, the employer also gave her some extra money for buying clothes.

IT staff: Mr. Thanh's monthly salary is 21,000 THB. If he works on weekends, his overtime rate is 50 THB per hour.

Figure 10: Amount of payment of surveyed migrants



- **Self-employed migrants**

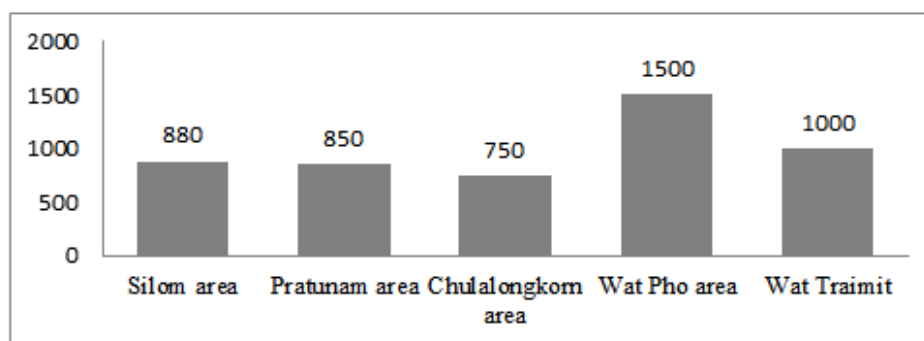
According to the surveys, the net profits of the surveyed vendors were from 600 to 1,500 THB per day. The vendors at Wat Pho get the highest net profit among other vendors. This is due to their accessibility to a large number of customers. Moreover, they also offer the same goods, but higher prices than other vendors because of its advantage of location

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Table 16: Price comparison on several goods between Wat Pho and other locations (Unit: Thai Baht)

	Average price	Price at Wat Pho
Coconut ice-cream	25-30	40
Coconut water	20	30
Pomegranate juice	25-30	40

**Figure 11: Net profit per day of surveyed migrants
by selling location (Unit: THB)**



- ***Difficulties and risks during working***

According to the surveys, the employed migrants usually face risks and difficulties including overload, bad working location, and communication with employer, lack of employment and being arrested by police.

Mr. Binh, 35 years old, a garment worker at Sukhumvit area.

“Our employment depends on the number of orders from customers, especially foreigners. Normally, the peak season occurs on the last months of the year (from October to January). But, we usually have fewer orders in the period from April to August. So, we had to try to do as much as possible in peak season. Working until 1-2 am is normal for us in such moments.”

Among the employed migrants, the garment workers and domestic helper were less likely to be arrested because they worked and stayed within the employer’s house.

Meanwhile, the surveyed waiters/waitress reported that they usually have difficulties in communicating with employers during working because they were able to speak only few Thai words. However, there are no reported abuse cases from

employer in the study. Meanwhile, in order to avoid being arrested, they usually get up early to go to work place (5-6 am).

Table 17: Risks or difficulties of employed migrants during working

	Responses	
	N	Percent
Overload	17	32.7%
Bad working conditions	4	7.7%
Communicate with employer/customers	15	28.8%
Underemployment	12	23.1%
Being arrested	4	7.7%
Total*	52	100.0%

*Respondents can choose more than one option.

For the vendors, they always face risks from their business operation. The respondents said that their business operation depends on various factors such as weather, competitors, and selling area, etc.

Ms. Mai, 34 years old, a vendor selling coconut ice-cream and water. She has been working as a vendor for 4 years in Bangkok.

“The hotter it is, the more buyers come. I can withstand the heat on the street. But I am afraid of rain because I would not able to have customers. Moreover, finding a good selling place is not easy because there are also Thai and vendors of other nationalities. I usually sell at Silom area. Each month I have to pay 1,000 THB for that selling area. At the weekends, I usually move to sell at the Hua Lam Phong temple because there are more people coming to that area to visit the temple. But, I have also pay 500 THB per day for the services of a security guard.”

Besides, communicating with buyers is also an important factor for ensuring their successful business operations. Some respondents who have limited Thai speaking skills reported that they usually learn by heart some Thai phrases for communicating with buyers from the fellow vendors. But for some customers who are foreigners, they were just able to communicate with these customers by body language.

Risks of being arrested: The vendors indicated that they are more likely to be arrested even when they had to pay “unofficial fees” for local police and building security guards.

3.4 Living conditions in Bangkok, Thailand

3.4.1 Accommodation

Among the surveyed migrants, garment and domestic workers are usually provided accommodation by employers. They just have to pay a small amount of money for electricity and water fees. The cost of the remaining migrants is between 500 – 2,000 THB per month per person. For the case of 2 migrants selling coconut ice-cream at Wat Pho, their accommodation fee is 6,000 THB per month per person.

A majority of the respondents reported that they stay with their relatives or friends (88 per cent), the remaining of the sample stay either with other workers who came from other provinces in Vietnam or stay along. Those who are not married and came from the same village in Vietnam are more likely to gather to hire a room in order to save money. Such is the case of migrants near Samyan market where there are 7 to 8 migrants per room.

Table 18: Who is your roommate?

	Frequency	Percent
--	-----------	---------

Relatives	22	44.0
Friends	22	44.0
Other workers	2	4.0
Alone	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0

According to the surveys, the respondents' room size is almost less than 15 square meters. Generally, they choose apartments that have been built for a long time. Consequently, their living places are unclean, in dilapidated condition and cramped. Regarding room facilities, a majority of the respondents have a small fan; only 12.1 per cent of them having a bed. Other facilities such as toilet or bathrooms are shared among the apartments' households.

Ms. Mai, a street vendor selling coconut ice-cream and orange juice at Si Lom area. She stays with her husband near Hua Lam Phong temple.

“My room is just 8 square meters. It is dark, cramped and unventilated, and is separated with other rooms by wood planks. We have to share 2 toilets and bathrooms with other 20 rooms. It looks like a pigsty! Sometimes, it would be also dangerous because a part of the roof which is made of wood is damaged by termites. Last time, my husband would have lost his life if a piece of wood fell into him when we were sleeping. Luckily, it dropped right next to him. Despite all that, we still have to stay here due to its cheapest price that I know. It costs 1,500 THB per month. Moreover, we spend much time for working outside. So, it is okay for us”

Poor and inadequate housing conditions of Vietnamese migrants can be seen in the Photos 7 and 8 which were observed directly by the author's visits to the migrants.



Photo 7: Accommodation of the Vietnamese migrant workers at Samyan market area

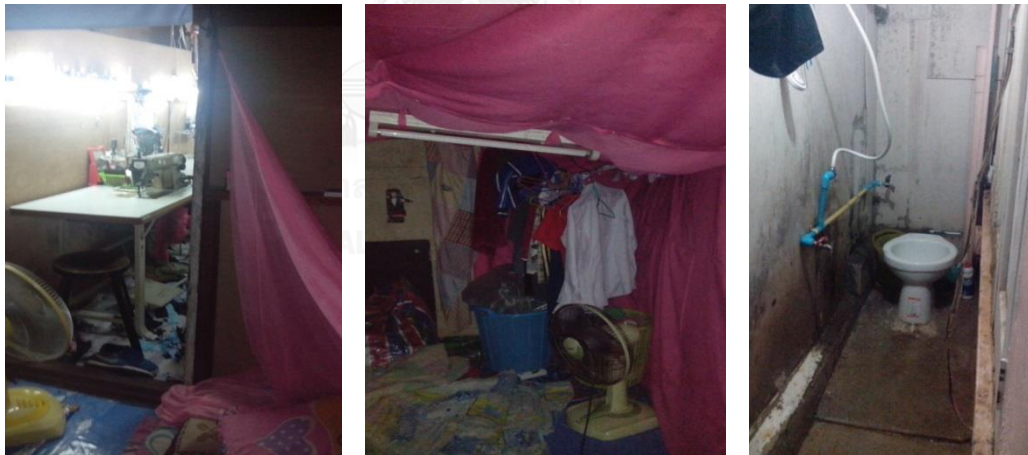


Photo 8: Accommodation of three Vietnamese garment workers at Sukhumvit area

3.4.2 Costs of living

- *Meals*

The migrants, waiters/waitress, salesperson and domestic worker are provided meals by their employers. On their days-off, they would pay for meals. Other

migrants spend around 100-300 THB per day, depending on the kind of employment and age group. Normally, garment workers' expense for meals is higher than other jobs because it requires much energy. Many of the respondents also reported that sometimes they prepare meals by themselves when they have free time or special occasions such as New Year.

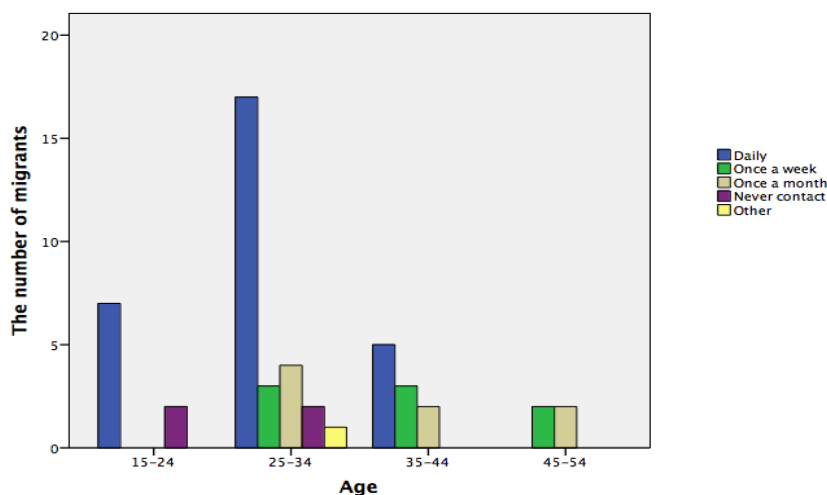


Photo 9: Preparation for the New Year's dinner

- *Internet and call charges*

Since they live far away from their family, mobile phone is the important mean for them to keep in touch with their relatives in the hometown. Many of the young respondents (56 per cent) own a smartphone that connects to internet, whereas the older migrants (34 per cent) who own a simpler phone without connecting Wi-Fi contact with their family by making international phone calls. The average monthly cost of internet and phone between 50 – 500 THB per person. It also should be noted that contact frequency of the younger migrants is much higher than that of the older migrants (Figure 12). It can be explained by different cost between means of contact. The younger respondents reported that they usually a monthly Wi-Fi package so that they can be in contact daily with their family. Meanwhile, making an international phone call usually cost much higher than other means. Thus, the contact frequency of the older migrants is mainly once to twice per month.

Figure 12: Contact frequency of surveyed migrants by age group



- **Visa extension**

Since Vietnamese migrants enter into Thailand as a tourist, they are required to leave the country after 30 days.²⁹ According to the surveys, there is a Thai company offering visa extension services (“tò” visa) for migrants. Instead returning to Vietnam, they just need to leave the country at Cambodia or Laos border gates and then make a reentry in order to continue to stay legally in Thailand. The costs for the service depend on frequencies of entries into Thailand. For those who have had the first passport stamp known as “new passport”, they just have to pay around 700-1,000 THB. The cost will be 2-3 times higher than the first time for those who has more than two stamps in their passport known as “old passport”. Normally, it usually takes them about 1-2 days before going back Bangkok.

A majority of the surveyed migrants reported that they do not want to stay illegally because they would be faced with many risks such as being arrested by

²⁹ Under the tourist visa exemption scheme, Vietnamese nationals are allowed visit to Thailand without a visa with stay for a period of up to 30 days. Source: Department of Consular Affairs, <http://www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/doc/services.pdf>

police, etc. Some of the surveyed employed migrants had been given either fully or partially the cost covered by their employers.

- *Personal expenses*

Personal expenses of the surveyed migrants include groceries, clothing, toiletries (shampoo, soap, etc). According to the surveys, the average monthly cost for personal expenses is around 300 THB. Of which, those who are young and single are more likely to spend much higher than others.

The study also revealed that street vendors have to pay “unofficial fees” collected by local police or building security safeguards to ensure their right to sell at particular areas. The fees paid depend on their selling space from 500 to 5,000 THB per month. However, the surveyed vendors said that they still can be arrested by immigration office (To Mo) or city police by anytime.

Monthly income and expenses of the surveyed migrants are synthesized in the following table.

Table 19: Monthly income and expenses of the surveyed

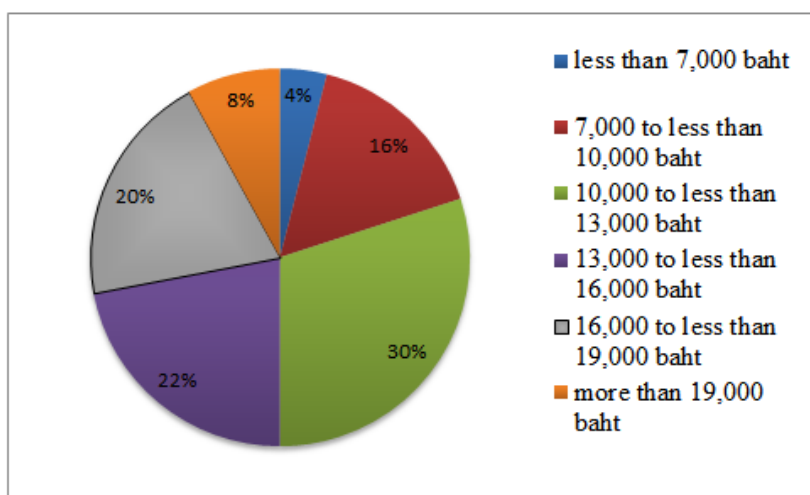
	Income	Expenses
Minimum	10,000	1,050
Maximum	50,000	27,200
On average	19,620	8,325

3.4.3 Savings

In terms of savings, only 20 per cent save less than 10,000 THB per month. They were either waiter/waitress or salespersons. 30 per cent of the surveyed migrants reported that they save 10,000-13,000 THB per month, the figure followed by 22 per cent of migrants save 13,000-16,000 THB and 20 per cent of them save 16,000-19,000 THB. The remaining 8 per cent of the respondents reported that they can save

more than 19,000 THB per month. Those who can save more than 16,000 THB per month were either garment workers or street vendors.

Figure 13: Savings of surveyed migrants



3.4.3 Travelling back to Vietnam

Of the surveyed migrants, a majority (76 per cent) of them travel back to Vietnam 1-2 times a year. There were 10 per cent of respondents who go back Vietnam from 3-5 times. These migrants reported that no matter how busy they are, they would still go back with family and friends to celebrate the Lunar New Year (traditional or “Tết” new year) and death anniversaries of their family members. Meanwhile, the remaining (14 per cent) of the migrants said that they did not travel back. Of which, either they had already overstayed in Thailand or they do not want to go back due to their family issues.

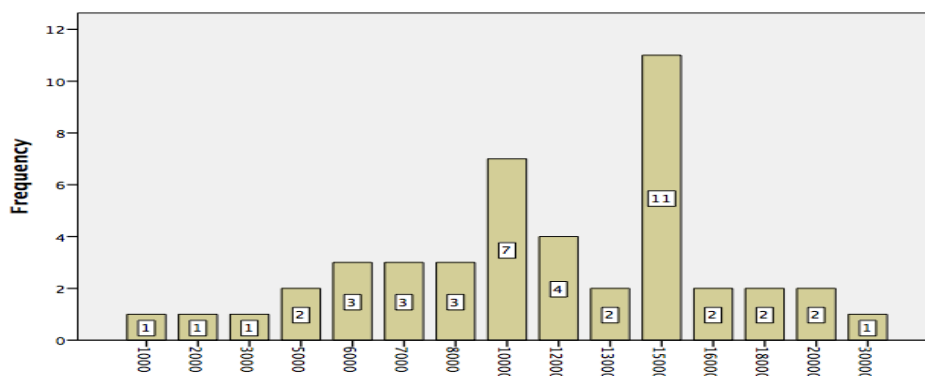
Table 20: Frequency of travelling back by type of document

Type of document	Frequency of travelling back Vietnam per year						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Passport with tourist visa	4	18	18	2	2	1	45
Passport with expired tourist visa	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
No document	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	6	21	18	2	2	1	50

3.4.5 Remittances

Of 50 the migrants, 45 migrants reported that they send back remittances to Vietnam. Of which, the average amount of remittances is around 11,688 THB per month. The surveyed garment workers and street vendors who are married and have children are more likely to send a larger amount of remittance to their families.

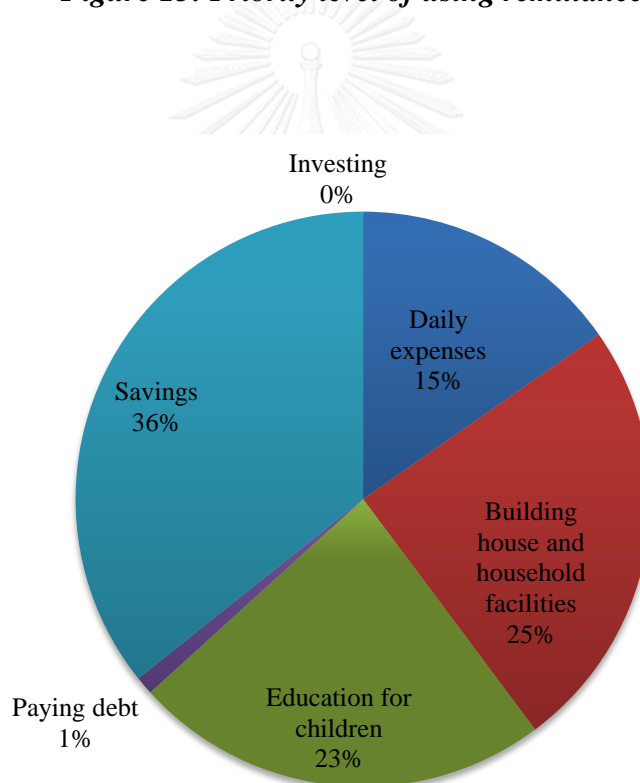
Figure 14: The average amount of remittances



According to the surveys, purposes of remitting include daily expenses, house and facilities renovation, education for their children, debt payment, and savings for future, of which, purpose for savings received the most priority from the respondents, followed by purposes of building houses and children's education. Thus, it is argued that the purpose of remittances is not likely to spend daily consumption, but is more likely to cultivate for their fortune such as savings and improve the conditions and social status at hometown by building house, investing education for their children. A

case study of Mr. Thom, a male street vendor, father of two children can be a stark example. He has two children. His first daughter graduated from the Banking Academy - the top finance university in Vietnam last year. She is now working as an intern for a bank in Hanoi city. She also plan to study higher education at her university. His second son is now the first year student of National Academy of Public Administration - one of the top of university in public administration in Vietnam. He said that now he don't have to worried about his daughter because she has a salary so that she can take care of herself. The most important thing now for him is to earn money for his son's accommodation and education fees.

Figure 15: Priority level of using remittances





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CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Conclusion of research findings

The flow of Vietnamese people to Thailand is not a new phenomenon, but has been occurring for centuries partly due to the geographic closeness between Vietnam and Thailand (or Siam before 1939). It is said that the previous movements primarily stemmed from various factors, including internal political unrests, religion suppression, and even economic reasons such as famine and poverty in Vietnam. The current pattern of the migration flows, however, has shown the differences compared with the previous migration waves.

The result of the surveys indicated that a majority of the Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok came from poor rural provinces in Vietnam, especially from Northern Central Coast provinces, namely Ha Tinh and Thanh Hoa. Their age ranges from 21 to 51 years old. Of which, more than half of them are from 25 to 34 years old. A majority of the surveyed migrants are married and have at least one child. The single migrants are mainly males who are from 21 to 24 years old. The remaining divorced migrants are female over 35 years old. Regarding education background, more than half of the surveyed migrants had received a lower educational level attainment (no education, primary and lower secondary level).

Prior to moving to Bangkok, the surveyed Vietnamese migrants engaged in various sectors from agricultural to manufacturing sectors such as garment and textile and construction. Many of them had been migrated to other cities and provinces in Vietnam such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Vung Tau and Binh Duong. Also, some of the migrants had been working in other countries, especially Russia and Laos. Their

average monthly income ranged from 2-6 VND million (approximately 3,000-9,500 THB).

With regard to migration decision, the study indicates that the migration decision of the surveyed migrants movements were not based on a single factor, but combining various factors at both their origin and the destination. At the origin, there were push factors that motivate them to look for other places. These factors include low income, lack of employment, low savings, family pressures, and natural disasters' impacts. Among the factors, economic reasons were defined as the most important factor in pushing the surveyed migrants to migrate to other places. Meanwhile, higher income and employment opportunities and low pre-departure costs in Bangkok, Thailand were considered significant influential factors for moving to Bangkok. Apart from the economic reasons, transportation conveniences and cultural similarities between two continental countries in Southeast Asia also motivated them to enter Thailand to work in Bangkok. Last but not least, migration networks, particularly kinship and community networks have had an important role in facilitating Vietnamese movements to Bangkok, Thailand.

The surveyed Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok, Thailand can be divided into employed and self-employed migrants. For the employed migrants, their main employment is garment work at tailor shops, waiters/waitress at restaurant, food stalls, or canteen, or salespersons at markets. Besides, a domestic worker and IT staff are also included in the study. Meanwhile, according to the surveys, all the self-employed migrants are street vendors who sell drink and fruits.

Working condition of the surveyed migrants varied among occupations. Concerning income, the surveyed vendors and garment workers generally earned more than the other migrants. However, it is noted that these migrants also face more risks and difficulties. The garment workers usually work about 12-15 hours per day, while the street vendors always face to being arrested even when they have to pay fees for their business operation. For the remaining migrants, their average working

time is 12 hours per day. Although they were able to get lower salary, but their work is relatively stable. Notably, the study has not found any exploitation or abuses from the surveyed employed migrants' employers.

In order to minimize the costs of living, the Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok choose to stay in low quality rooms that might affect to their safety and health. The connection between the migrants and their family has been manifested through remittances and travelling back in traditional and customs events. Interestingly, the priorities of sending remittances is more likely to cultivate for their fortune such as savings and improve the conditions and social status at hometown by building house, investing education for their children.

4.2 Discussion

The current pattern of Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok, Thailand reflects differentials among other patterns of migrants from neighboring countries. Firstly, the Vietnamese migrant workers are more likely to work in wholesale and retails (street vendors of non-food products, salespersons in wholesale/retail establishments), service sectors (food and beverage services and domestic helpers), or light industries (garment worker), while the neighboring migrants are involved mainly on agricultural, fishery or construction sectors. The surveyed migrants reported that they do not know anyone who works in such sectors. Instead, they said that there are also a number of Vietnamese migrants working in other services such as janitor works at schools, food courts; massage therapists, etc. Secondly, apart from employed migrants, the pattern of Vietnamese migrants also includes self-employed migrants. In the study, all the 19 self-employed migrants are street vendors. However, the surveyed migrants indicated that there are also other types of self-employed migrants such as those who involve cargo services, food or non-food production, etc. Thirdly, the pattern of Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok also includes skilled workers. The case of Mr. Thanh, an IT staff at a Thai computer company can be a stark example. Besides, he also said that many his friends who are also involved translation services such as translators for Vietnamese patients at hospitals in Bangkok, tour guide, or

education and business cooperation between Thailand and Vietnamese companies, etc.

It is argued that social networks have played a critical role in ensuring successful migration from Vietnam to Bangkok, Thailand. The role can be clearly manifested in facilitating Vietnamese migrants for the first trip as well as helping them to cope with new working environment and risks during working in Bangkok. It is believed that with limited education background and Thai language skills, newly Vietnamese migrants would find it difficult to adapt to a new lifestyle of Bangkok people as well as cope with challenges and risks under their illegal status without the guidance and assistance of the formal migrants. At this point, it can be partly explained why the majority of the Vietnamese migration workers came from the Central region such as Thanh Hoa and Ha Tinh. It is apparent that the Central region in Vietnam is defined one of the prone to natural disasters, particularly in flood, flash floods, and drought due to its attributes of geographic and sloping topography. The disadvantages affect the livelihoods of local people, which motivated them to migrate to other regions in Vietnam over the time. Historically, a majority of the Vietnamese refugees in Thailand since the early 20 century came from the Central region (Varophas 1966b). It is implied that the current formation of the Vietnamese migrant workers in Thailand reflects partly the continuity of the pattern of the former Vietnamese migrants in Thailand. The preliminary results indicated that the mutual assistance can be seen in different forms including lending money, providing support in accommodation and job search, guiding them to learn Thai language, culture and customs as well as guiding them how to cope with arrest risks, etc. The study revealed two major networks including personal and community networks. Personal networks which is based on personal relationship such as kinship and friendship. As mentioned above, a majority of the surveyed migrants has been encouraged and facilitated by the type of network. The advantage of the network can be seen by its safety, economical and confidential characteristics. That explains why no surveyed migrants were victims of human trafficking or cheats.

Ms. Mai, 37 years old, a vendor at Soi Convent, Silom area says

“I was arrested many times since I have been selling things here. But I was not deported to Vietnam thanks to my brother in law. He got married with my fourth younger sister. He has been living in Bangkok for more than 20 years and has made acquaintance with local police. We just gave 5,000 THB for them in order to be released. So each time when I was arrested, I just called him to come to pay the ransom. For the others, they would get more trouble. They have to ask a Thai an advance payment of 50,000 THB for ransom, called “bale”. Otherwise, they would be detained for 48 days before being trial at court. Then, they would be deported to Vietnam.”

Meanwhile, community network includes networks of compatriots who came from the same village or provinces. According to the surveys, some migrants were facilitated to migrate to Thailand by brokers. These brokers are those who had ever been a migrant for a long time in Thailand. Not only do they get to know Thai local culture, customs and language but also their relationship with local polices and people also are close. Those migrants who do not have any personal network in Thailand had to pay fees for these brokers in order to get assistances in migration process, employment search, or dealing with risks during working in Bangkok. As in the cases of the surveyed vendors, a monthly fee 3,000-4,000 THB per person will be collected and submitted to Ms. Mai’s brother in law. He is responsible for working with local police, getting small stamps provided by them as a sign for ensuring their rights for selling, and distributing these stamps to vendors. Besides, the surveyed vendors also said that their ice-cream material is also imported from his own ice-cream establishment. In addition, the role of community network has been manifested by social media, especially Facebook that provide a convenience channel for migrants in referencing employment, sharing their homesickness, or even learning Thai language, etc. (Photo 10).

More importantly, apart from the official website, Facebook has also been used as an useful and efficient channel for introducing and guiding up-to-date information and policies from Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

The community networks can be also seen by informal endowments which are established by community networks among the Vietnamese migrant workers. The endowments were to support those who get into an accident or death.



Photo 10: Ms. Thi shared a Thai lesson on her Facebook
Source: Collected from Ms Thi Facebook page



Photo 11: A grateful expression of thanks of the victim's brother to the migrant community

*Source: Collected from a Facebook page, namely
Vietnamese community group in Thailand*

Photo 11 shows a post of a Vietnamese migrant, namely Nguyen Dinh Trong, on the Facebook page of Vietnamese community group in Thailand: “I am younger brother of Ms. Nhung. From the bottom of my heart, we would like to express our grateful thank everyone for concerning and helping us. Thank you. Pray for her soul”

Under the illegal status, the working and living conditions of Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok have also been affected by the changing socio-political contexts in Thailand. As the political economic center of Thailand, Bangkok is supposed to be the main destination for protests. The 2010 Thai political protests, for instance, was one of the most obvious examples.³⁰ Bangkok’s economic activities had been strongly influenced by the protests during that time. Tourism sector as one of the most important sector in Thai economy slowed down since the fears were shadowed among foreign tourists. As a consequence, there was a significant decrease from roughly 80 per cent to 20 per cent in terms of hotel occupancy rate. Moreover, business operations were also forced to shut since the protests occupied at the Rachaprasong – the biggest shopping district in Bangkok, resulting in a huge damage for shops and department stores at that time.³¹ Therefore, many Vietnamese migrant workers in Bangkok, particularly those who are street vendors, waiters/waitress, or garment workers could not work for that period, many even lost their jobs. Their living conditions were also very uncertain since they could be arrested anytime under the situation at that time.³²

³⁰ The protests were conducted by the National United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship, or “Red Shirts” in Bangkok, Thailand from 12 March – 19 May 2010 against the Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva’s government.

³¹ According to Mr. Thanapol Tangkananan, the President of the Thai Retailers’ Association, the economic lost were about 1 billion baht per day. See more: Shanaz Musafar, Thai protests: the economic impact, online access at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/10119415>

³² See more: http://www.rfa.org/vietnamese/in_depth/How-political-chaos-impact-viets-in-bangkok-ThQuang-04142010225922.html

More importantly, after the 2014 military coup, which replaced Yingluck Shinawatra's government with a military government, a large number of Vietnamese migrants in Bangkok have returned to Vietnam due to the strict control within Bangkok.

Mr. Nghia, 26 years old, a shop helper at Samyan market. He had been working in Bangkok for 3 months prior to the coup.

“The situation was very bad. Many migrant workers were arrested and deported to their country. We were really afraid of being arrested so that we had to return Vietnam. At that time, we could not find any bus to go to Nakhon Phanom. So we had to go by Tuk Tuk! There were a large number of Vietnamese and Lao migrants at Nakhon Phanom border gates awaiting for cross the border. In order to cross to Thakhet border gate in Laos, we had to pay 100 THB per person to the Thai police. They provided a 29 seater bus for us, but there were around 60 people in the car. It was terrible!”

The bombing incident which taken place in Bangkok in August 2015 also impacted on irregular migrants, including Vietnamese migrant workers.³³ After the incident, the Thai military government imposed strict control on illegal cross borders movements, which results in difficulties in renewing their visa and the costs raised as well.

Ms. Son said:

“Prior to the incident, I used to extend visa at Ban Laem border gate. The total cost was just 700 THB per month. But after the bombing, the Ban Laem border gate was closed. We had to renew our visas at Nong Khai or Mukdahan border gates

³³ On 17 August 2015, a bomb exploded inside the Erawan Shrine at the Ratchaprasong intersection in Pathum Wan District, Bangkok which took 20 lives and 125 injuries. The suspect who first flight to Vietnam from Turkey, before proceeding to Laos and Cambodia paid 18,000 baht to Sa Kaeo immigration officials in order to go through immigration procedure without using his passport. See: Terry Fredrickson, “Main suspect” were arrested on Cambodian border, Bangkok Post, 1 September 2015.

much far away from Bangkok. So, it usually take around 2-3 days for the process and the costs for extending visa also increased up to 3,000 THB per month.

Potential risks from human trafficking and abuses

There are no surveyed migrants reported that they are victim of such issues. However, it should be noted that since a majority of Vietnamese migrants who are currently illegal worker cannot be protected by legal, then they easily become victims of crimes such as human trafficking, sex abuses, or blackmail, etc.

Mr. Thom said

“The culprits of the crimes were mainly either Vietnamese people who escaped their crimes in Vietnam or migrants who were lured by gambling problems. Normally, victims were usually tracked for a certain time such as their working time, room, working place, etc. so that the offenders were be able to steal passports and assets of victims. Victims were mainly young female. Once having lost everything, especially passport, they would completely put in danger by the offenders since they do not know whom or where to complaint under their illegal status. They might be victims of sex abuse and human trafficking”.

Such problems need to be studied in future research.

Policy discussion on labor cooperation between two governments

From a policy perspective, it can be seen clearly that recent cooperation between the Thai and Vietnamese governments have reached certain results, particularly when the two governments signed an MOU on labor cooperation in July 2015. It is, however, argued that the implementation process of labor cooperation has still remained barriers mainly due to different views and benefits between the two governments as well as migrants. This might be seen from the result of the registration process for Vietnamese workers last December. Accordingly, the total number of Vietnamese workers registered to Thai authorities was just around 1,500³⁴, which is believed to be very small compared to the actual number of Vietnamese migrants in Thailand. Notably, most working permits were granted to workers in restaurants, followed by domestic helpers and construction workers. Meanwhile, no Vietnamese migrants in the fishery or fishing sector were registered for the last period.³⁵ The unexpected result of the last registration can be partly explained by technical reasons, particularly short registration duration, many processes and complicated procedure. The announcement of registration process was just informed to Vietnamese workers one day (November 11, 2015) before entering the enforcement (December 1, 2015). Meanwhile, the resolution just set for the registration period for 1 month (December 1-30, 2015). Moreover, in order to be granted a working permit, Vietnamese workers have to follow various processes: submitting the Application for a work permit (Form WP.2), Certificate from medical practitioner under the law on medical treatment to Thai authorities, paying the application fees and insurance fee, etc. Of which, some forms such as Employment Contract form is just written in Thai or English.³⁶ Meanwhile, a majority of Vietnamese workers are unskilled workers who cannot understand the content of such forms. Such long and complicated processes contributed to the efficiency of the resolution.

³⁴ Remarks by Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Tat Thanh at the international seminar “Enhancing ASEAN sub-regional labor cooperation to realize the SDGs”, Conrad Hotel, Bangkok, 28 March 2016.

³⁵ See more: Penchan Charoensuthipan, “Thousands of Illegal and Unregistered Labourers are still to report: Deadline hangs over Vietnamese workers”, Bangkok Post, 27 December 2015.

³⁶ See more the registration process for Vietnamese workers: Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the Kingdom of Thailand Portal, <http://www.vietnamembassy-thailand.org/vi/nr070521165843/nr070725012202/ns151130174127>

Importantly, the result has also reflected mismatch in benefits among the stakeholders. Firstly, the scope of the resolution is limited to Vietnamese workers who had previously entries legally to Thailand before August 10, 2015 and stay illegally in Thailand since the first day of registration period, December 1, 2015. Under the scope, legal staying Vietnamese workers who have to renew their visa monthly could not covered. It, thus, can be said that the resolution aimed to control the illegal staying Vietnamese migrants. Meanwhile, all the surveyed migrants who are currently staying legally in Bangkok indicated that they hope to get a work permit in order to work safely and save money and time for the renewal of their monthly visa. Thus, the scope of the resolution limited a significant number of Vietnamese workers currently working in Thailand.

Secondly, it is possible that many Vietnamese migrants who are eligible for the registration are afraid of being arrested, charged and repatriated them to Vietnam under the “resolution trap”.³⁷

Thirdly, the mismatch in the views and benefits between two governments can also be seen not only in the resolution but also in the MOU and the Agreement on the Employment of Workers. While Thai government hope to address the labor shortage in formal sectors, especially in fishing and construction sectors, Vietnamese governments would like to enhance labor cooperation with Thailand in all sectors, including informal sectors in order to ease the high unemployment and underemployment pressures.

4.3 Recommendation

Based on the above findings and discussion, the section is to propose some recommendation for governments, stakeholders and migrants and potential migrants. Besides, future considerations will be also given.

³⁷ See: Penchan Charoensuthipan, cited.

- The Vietnamese and Thai governments need to collaborate in reducing illegal migration issue, and preventing human trafficking, children trafficking and abuses, etc. by enhancing labor cooperation through official channels. Since awareness on Vietnamese migrant workers issue still differs among governments, international organizations, non-government organizations, businesses and migrants, it requires more and more discussion, sharing experiences from stakeholders in order to reach at a common consensus with the aim of promoting mutually benefits for two countries. It would be more important and urgent since labor has also been the most prominent issue in the relations between Thailand and Vietnam, especially since it was highlighted as one of the most successful fields of cooperation in the 2014-2018 Plan of Action to Implement the Strategic Partnership between two countries. On September 2015, under Thailand's initiatives the first Ministerial Conference on Labor Cooperation among Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar hosted with the emphasize on skills development cooperation. The second Ministerial conference will be held in Hanoi next year. Such efforts need to be continued and enhanced in the coming years.

- For both the existing and potential Vietnamese migrant workers, they should be informed up-to-date labor cooperation policies, immigration regulations and whom to contact should they have any problems. Besides, understanding local laws and culture would be also an important condition ensuring regular migration, avoiding exploitation and human trafficking and abuses, etc.

- There should be closer cooperation among the stakeholders in establishing a data system for both legal and illegal Vietnamese migrant workers in Thailand that contributes to better migrant workers management between governments.

Future consideration

There are a number of important issues that should be taken into consideration for further researches.

- There should more research on remittances and transfer channels.
- Human trafficking and sex migrants.



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Appendix A

Questionnaire for Vietnamese migrants (in Vietnamese)

Tên đề tài nghiên cứu

Phân tích điều kiện kinh tế - xã hội của lao động Việt Nam ở Bangkok, Thái Lan

BẢNG CÂU HỎI PHỎNG VẤN LAO ĐỘNG VIỆT NAM

Mã số bảng hỏi:..... Người trả lời:Nam/nữ

Địa điểm khảo sát:..... Lao động: 1. Làm thuê 2. Tự do

Ngày giờ phỏng vấn: Công việc:

Nghề may

Phục vụ quán ăn, nhà hàng

Giúp việc tại gia

Bán rong

Khác.....

Xin vui lòng đánh dấu (✓) để trả lời các câu hỏi dưới đây

A. Thông tin chung

1. Tuổi:.....

2. Quê quán:.....

3. Tình trạng hôn nhân



1. Độc thân

3. Ly hôn

2. Đã lập gia đình

4. Khác,.....

4. Số con của anh/chị có?.....

5. Số năm đi học:.....năm

6. Anh/Chị có thể sử dụng được tiếng Thái không?

1. Rất tốt

3. Bình thường

2. Tốt

4. Một chút

5. Không

7. Các loại giấy tờ nào anh/chị có?

1. Hộ chiếu phổ thông còn giá trị để được phép ở Thái Lan
2. Hộ chiếu phổ thông, nhưng hết thời hạn được ở Thái Lan
3. Không có giấy tờ
4. Khác,.....

8. Thời gian anh/chị làm việc ở Thái Lan?.....

9. Khi lần đầu tiên sang Thái Lan làm việc anh/chị bao nhiêu tuổi?.....tuổi

10. Nơi đến làm việc đầu tiên ở Thái Lan của anh/chị?.....

B. Trước khi di cư để làm việc tại Thái Lan

1. A/c đã từng làm những công việc gì ở Việt Nam trước khi sang Thái Lan?

1. Nghề nông (có đất canh tác)
2. Nông nghiệp (làm thuê)
3. Nghề cá
4. Xây dựng
5. May mặc
6. Hàng ăn/đồ uống
7. Sản xuất CN
8. Bán buôn bán lẻ
9. Khác,.....
10. Thất nghiệp

2. Mức thu nhập trung bình hàng tháng của a/c khi làm ở Việt Nam?

1. Dưới 2 triệu VND
2. Từ 2-4 triệu VND
3. Từ 4-6 triệu VND
4. Cao hơn 6 triệu VND

3. A/c đã từng làm việc ở ngoài địa phương của mình ở Việt Nam chưa?

1. Đã từng, Tỉnh/Thành phố.....
2. Chưa

4. A/c đã từng làm việc ở nước ngoài bao giờ chưa (không tính Thái Lan)?

1. Đã từng, Tỉnh/Thành phố.....
2. Chưa

5. A/c vui lòng cho biết ý kiến về mức độ ảnh hưởng của các nhân tố sau vào quyết định xuất cư (Xin vui lòng đánh giá theo mức độ từ "1"= Không ảnh hưởng đến "5"=ảnh hưởng lớn")

	Mức độ ảnh hưởng Yếu tố thúc đẩy	1	2	3	4	5
		Không ảnh hưởng	Ảnh hưởng thấp	Ảnh hưởng	Khá Ảnh hưởng	Ảnh hưởng lớn
1	Thiếu việc làm					
2	Lương thấp					
3	Khó xin việc. (kỳ thi, phân biệt vùng miền...)					
4	Các vấn đề gia đình					
5	Tác động từ thiên tai, điều kiện thời tiết xấu (nắng nóng, hạn hán, lũ lụt...)					
6	Khác.....					



6. A/c vui lòng cho biết ý kiến về mức độ ảnh hưởng của các nhân tố sau vào quyết định di cư sang Thái Lan để làm việc tại Bangkok (Xin vui lòng đánh giá theo mức độ từ "1"= Không ảnh hưởng đến "5"=ảnh hưởng lớn")

	Mức độ ảnh hưởng Yếu tố	1	2	3	4	5
		Không ảnh hưởng	Ảnh hưởng thấp	Ảnh hưởng	Khá Ảnh hưởng	Ảnh hưởng lớn
1	Thu nhập cao hơn					
2	Nhiều cơ hội công việc					
3	Chi phí sang làm việc thấp					
4	Nhờ có những người quen đã và đang làm việc ở Bangkok					
5	Sự thuận lợi về giao thông giữa hai nước					
6	Không có nhiều khác biệt trong văn hoá					

7	Khác.....					
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7. A/c biết thông tin về công việc ở Thái Lan qua các hình thức nào? (Có thể chọn nhiều p/a)

1. Bạn bè
 2. Họ hàng trong gia đình
 3. Các phương tiện truyền thông và mạng xã hội
 4. Người môi giới
 5. Khác

8. A/c đi cùng với ai trong hành trình tới Thái Lan lần đầu tiên?

1. Bạn bè/người thân
 2. Một mình
 3. Người môi giới
 4. Khác

9. A/c đã dùng phương tiện nào để tới Thái Lan? (Có thể chọn nhiều phương án)

1. Máy bay
 2. Xe ô tô khách
 3. Khác

10. A/c đã nhập cảnh vào Thái Lan qua các cửa khẩu nào (có thể chọn nhiều p/a)?

1. Nongkhai
 2. Nakhon Panom
 3. Mukdahan
 4. Khác,.....

11. A/c có thể cho biết chi phí đi lại đến Thái Lan?

12. A/c có phải vay tiền để trang trải chi phí đi lại sang Thái Lan không?

1. Có
 2. Không



C. Quá trình làm việc ở Thái Lan và công việc hiện tại

1. Trước công việc này, a/c có làm công việc khác không? 1. Có 2. Không

Nếu chọn 2, chuyển tới câu 4

2. Nếu có, anh/chị đã làm những việc gì trước khi chuyển sang công việc hiện nay? (Có thể chọn nhiều phương án)

1. Nông nghiệp
 2. Nghề cá
 3. Xây dựng
 4. Giúp việc nhà
 5. May mặc
 6. Phục vụ quán ăn
 7. Chế tạo
 8. Bán hàng rong
 9. Khác.....

3. Tại sao a/c bỏ công việc cũ?

1. Thu nhập thấp
 2. Số giờ làm việc nhiều
 3. Chủ đối xử không tốt
 4. Dễ bị cảnh sát bắt
 5. Khác,.....

4. A/c thường bắt đầu và kết thúc công việc hiện tại vào lúc mấy giờ?
 Thời gian bắt đầu
 Thời gian kết thúc.....
5. A/c làm bao nhiêu ngày/tuần?.....ngày/tuần
6. A/c có phải đầu tư chi phí ban đầu nào để làm việc không? 1. Có 2. Không
7. Nếu có, a/c phải mất loại chi phí nào?
 1. Chi phí học nghề 2. Chi phí dụng cụ làm việc 3. Khác,.....
8. A/c cho biết chi phí ban đầu hết khoảng bao nhiêu tiền?

Câu hỏi từ 9 đến 19 dành cho lao động làm thuê

9. Chủ lao động của a/c là người nước nào?
 1. Người Thái 2. Người Việt kiều 3. Khác,.....
10. Có sự phân biệt nào giữa lao động Việt Nam với lao động nước khác trong quá trình làm việc không? 1. Có 2. Không
11. A/c được nghỉ giải lao trong khi làm việc?
12. A/c có được nghỉ trong những ngày nghỉ lễ theo quy định không?
 1. Có 2. Không
13. A/c có được trả lương cho ngày nghỉ đó không? 1. Có 2. Không
14. Bao nhiêu lâu thì a/c được trả lương một lần?
 1. Một ngày/lần 3. Một tháng/lần
 2. Nửa tháng/lần 4. Khác,.....
15. A/c được trả công như thế nào?
 1. Tính theo thời gian 2. Theo sản phẩm 3. Khác,.....



16. Nếu chọn 1, a/c được trả bao nhiêu/ngày?.....
17. Nếu chọn 2, a/c được trả bao nhiêu/sản phẩm?.....
18. A/c làm được trung bình bao nhiêu sản phẩm/ngày?.....
19. A/c gặp những rủi ro, khó khăn nào trong quá trình làm việc? (Có thể chọn nhiều p/a)
 1. Công việc quá tải 4. Ít việc
 2. Điều kiện làm việc khắc nghiệt 5. Khác,.....
 3. Giao tiếp với chủ lao động

Câu hỏi từ 20 đến 24 dành cho lao động tự do

20. A/c thường đi bán ở khu vực nào?
21. A/c bán ở chỗ cố định hay đi bán rong?
22. A/c có mất chi phí nào để có thể được phép bán không? 1. Có 2. Không
23. A/c gặp những rủi ro và khó khăn nào trong quá trình đi bán? (có thể chọn nhiều phương án)
24. A/c có thể thu được trung bình bao nhiêu tiền/ngày sau khi trừ đi chi phí?

D. Điều kiện sống

1. Anh/chị hiện nay đang ở chung phòng với ai?
1. Người trong gia đình 3. Người lao động khác
2. Bạn bè 4. Một mình
2. Số người/phòng?
3. Diện tích phòng khoảng bao nhiêu m²?.....
4. Phòng ở của a/c có những tiện nghi sau không?
- Nước sạch 4. Quạt điện
2. Phòng tắm/vệ sinh 5. Giường
3. Tivi, đài radio 6. Khác,.....
5. A/c đã bao giờ phải tới bệnh viện hoặc phòng khám y tế chưa? 1. Có 2. Chưa
6. Nếu có, a/c đánh giá mức độ khó khăn trong việc tiếp cận dịch vụ y tế?
1. Rất khó khăn 3. Bình thường
2. Khó khăn 4. Đơn giản
5. Rất đơn giản



7. A/c cho biết chi tiêu trung bình hàng tháng ở Bangkok?

Chi phí	Số tiền (Bạt/tháng)	Ghi chú
Thuê phòng		
Ăn uống		
Điện nước sinh hoạt		
Liên lạc (Điện thoại,...)		
Giá hạn visa		
Tiêu dùng cá nhân		
Khác,.....		

8. Sau khi chi tiêu, a/c có thể tiết kiệm được bao nhiêu tiền/tháng?

- < 7000 baht 4. 13000-<16000 baht
2. 7000-<10000 baht 5. 16000-<19000 baht
3. 10000-<13000 baht 6. >19000 baht

9. Anh/chị thường làm gì vào những ngày được nghỉ/cuối tuần?

1. Nghỉ ngơi ở phòng 4. Đi gặp bạn bè
2. Đi lễ/nhà thờ/chùa 5. Về thăm gia đình ở Việt Nam
3. Đi mua sắm 6. Khác,.....

10. Anh/chị có thường xuyên liên lạc với gia đình ở Việt Nam không?

1. Hàng ngày
 2. 1 tuần/lần
 3. 1 tháng/lần
 4. Không liên lạc
 5. Khác,.....

11. Anh/chị liên lạc với gia đình ở Việt Nam bằng phương tiện nào?

- Gọi điện thoại
 1. Gọi điện thoại
 2. Thư
 3. Mạng xã hội (Facebook, Line, Skype,...)
 4. Khác,.....

12. Anh/chị về Việt Nam bao nhiêu lần/năm?

13. Anh/chị về Việt Nam để làm gì?

1. Gia hạn hộ chiếu
 2. Thăm gia đình
 3. Đón các dịp lễ tết truyền thống
 4. Khác,.....



E. Kiếu hời

1. A/c có thường xuyên gửi tiền về cho gia đình ở Việt Nam không?

1. Hàng tháng
 2. 2-3 tháng/lần
 3. 1-2 lần/năm
 4. Hiếm khi
 5. Không gửi tiền về
 6. Không biết

2. A/c gửi về trung bình bao nhiêu tiền/tháng?

3. Anh/chị muốn gửi tiền về cho gia đình để làm gì? (Xếp theo thứ tự ưu tiên bằng cách cho điểm từ 1: Ít ưu tiên nhất đến 5: Ưu tiên nhất)

Chi tiêu hàng ngày	
Xây nhà và các thiết bị gia đình	
Chi tiêu vào giáo dục cho con cái	
Trả nợ	
Tiết kiệm	
Đầu tư	
Khác	

Appendix B

Questionnaire for Vietnamese migrants (in English)

Questionnaire number

Name of interviewee Male/Female

Location of interview.....

Date of interview.....

Kind of migrant: Employed migrant Self-employed migrant

Current working as:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Garment worker | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Servant |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Waiters/Waitress | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Street Vendors |
| | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Others |



Please tick (✓) and answer the questions below:

A. General information of respondents

- Age
- Place of origin:.....
- Marital status
 - Single
 - Married
 - Divorced
 - Other
- Do you have any children? 1. No 2. Yes, Number
- Education
 - Did not attend school
 - Primary school
 - Secondary school
 - High school
 - Others:

6. Can you speak Thai language?

1. Very good
 2. Good
 3. Adequate
 4. A little bit
 5. No

7. What kind of document do you have?

1. A passport to legal stay
 2. A passport, but already expired
 3. No document
 4. Other.....

8. How long have you been working in Thailand?

9. At what age did you first come to Thailand?

10. Where was your first working place in Thailand?

B. The patterns of migrants before migrate to Bangkok

1. What did you do in Vietnam?

1. Farmer (ownland)
 2. Farmer (landless)
 3. Fishery/Fishing
 4. Construction
 5. Garment worker
 6. Waiter/Waitress
 7. Industrial production
 8. Wholesales retail trade
 9. Other.....
 10. Unemployed

2. How much did you earn per month?

1. Lower 2 million VND
 2. 2 - 4 million VND
 3. 4 -6 million VND
 4. Higher 6 million VND

3. Had you ever worked outside your hometown in Vietnam?

1. No
 2. Yes, please specify provinces/cities.....

4. Had you ever worked in other countries (not including Thailand)?

1. No
 2. Yes, please specify countries.....

5. What are your reasons for leaving your hometown? Please rank your reasons in order of importance (with "1"=Not at all influential, "2"=Slightly influential, "3"=Somewhat influential, "4"=Very influential, and "5"=Extremely influential)

Underemployment	
Low wage	
Difficulties in looking for jobs (discrimination,....)	
Family issues	
Natural disasters (floods, droughts, etc.)	
Other, please specify.....	

6. What are the reasons for entering Thailand to work in Bangkok? Please rank your reasons in order of importance (with "1"=Not at all influential, "2"=Slightly influential, "3"=Somewhat influential, "4"=Very influential, and "5"=Extremely influential)

Higher wage	
Employment opportunities	
Low cost	
Friends/Relatives in Thailand	
Transportation convenience	
Cultural similarities	
Other, please specify.....	

7. How did you receive information about working in Thailand? (Multiple answers)

1. Friends 3. Mass Media and Social media
 2. Relatives 4. Broker
 5. Others, specify.....

8. Who do you go along with during the trip?

1. Friends/Relatives 3. Broker
 2. Alone 4. Others, specify.....

9. Which mode of transport did you use to come to Thailand? (Multiple choice allowed)

1. Airplane 3. Others, specify.....
 2. Bus

10. Which border gate in Thailand did you entry into?

1. Nongkhai 3. Mukdahan
 2. Nakhon Phanom 4. Others, specify.....

11. How much did you pay for your transportation?.....

12. Did you borrow money to pay for the cost?

C. Employment and working conditions in Thailand

1. Is it your first job in Thailand? 1. Yes (Skip to 4) 2. No
 2. What were your previous jobs in Thailand? (Multiple answer)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic helper	7. <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Fishery/Fishing	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Garment work	8. <input type="checkbox"/> Street vendors
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Construction	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Waiters/Waitress	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Others.....
 3. Why did you leave the jobs?

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Low income	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Being arrested
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Long working hours	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Others.....
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Bad treatment from employer	
 4. What time do you start and finish working in each day?

Start time

Finish time
 5. How many days do you work per week?
 6. Were there any initial costs? 1. Yes 2. No (Skip to 9)
 7. What kind of costs?
 8. How much did you pay for the costs?
- Question 9 to 19 for employed migrants*
9. Is your employer Thai or oversea Vietnamese? 1. Yes 2. No
 10. Is there any discrimination between Vietnamese workers and other migrant workers during working? 1. Yes 2. No
 11. Do you have rest time during working day? 1. Yes 2. No
 12. Do you have days off during national holidays and festivals?

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	2. <input type="checkbox"/> No
---------------------------------	--------------------------------
 13. Do you get paid for days off? 1. Yes 2. No
 14. How often do you get paid?

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Daily	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Every month
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Every half month	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify.....)
 15. Type of wage paid system?

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Time rate system	2. <input type="checkbox"/> Piece work system (skip to 17)	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Others
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16. How much do you get per day?
17. How much do you get per piece?
18. How many piece do you finish per day?
19. Which difficulties did you experience during working?
1. Overload 4. Underemployed
2. Hazardous working conditions 5. Other,.....
3. Communicat with employer

Question 20 to 24 for self-employed migrants

20. Where do you usually sell?
21. Do you sell at the fixed or mobiled location?
22. Do you have to pay any costs for selling?
23. Which difficulties did you experience during working?
24. After paying your expenses, how much are you able to earn per day?

D. Living conditions

1. Currently, who do you stay with?
1. Relatives 3. Other workers
2. Friends 4. Alone
2. How many roomate per room?
3. Size of your room?
4. Do your room have the following facilities?
1. Clean water 4. Electric Fan
2. Bath room/Toilet 5. Bed
3. TV, Radio,... 6. Other

12. How often do you go back home?

13. For what purposes?

1. Renew passport 3. New Year/family events
 2. Visit family 4. Others

E. Remittances

1. How often do you send remittances back home?

1. Every month 4. Rarely
 2. Every 2-3 months 5. None
 3. Once to twice per year 6. Don't know

2. How much money do you remitt?

3. Please rate the level of priority of your remittances (with "1"=Not priority, "2"= low priority, "3"=Neutral, "4"=High priority, and "5"= Essential priority)

Daily expenses	
Building house and househod facilities	
Education for children	
Paying debt	
Savings	
Investings	
Other	

VITA

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