



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Migrant workers have to cope with a lot of problems in the country they move to whether that movement is voluntary or involuntary. Their problems are sometimes not much of a concern for the host government unless it has an impact on the country. The number of migrant workers to Thailand have been rising in recent years, particularly those from Myanmar. The Thai government has tried to find ways to manage the situation by controlling their number, occupation and locations.

This study will focus on the problem of low accessibility of migrant factory workers from Myanmar at the outskirts of Mae Sod district to basic health services. Security concerns and socio-cultural barriers especially the language barrier when using health services are the main causes of their lack of accessibility. Most of the health care services available for migrants from Myanmar are concentrated in centre of Mae Sod town. This thesis proposes an intervention to provide basic health services that could be more accessible to most targeted migrant workers.

In the second chapter, migration is analyzed in terms of the reasons and routes of their migration, and causes affecting their quality of life in Thailand. The analysis leads to identification of strategies to address the problem of migrants to improve their quality of life.

The third chapter is part of a needs assessment conducted to gain input for planning interventions to solve problems of concern to migrant workers. The objective of this assessment was to identify and prioritize the problems which migrant factory workers at the outskirts of Mae Sod would like to see changed.

The fourth chapter presents a project proposal to address the problem on accessibility to basic health care services. The project adopts strategies to provide accessible basic health services in the Mae Sod outskirts. Its design is based on migrant social support group to coordinate with local NGOs, District Health Office, and migrant networking groups to establish, maintain, and supervise the services.

The fifth chapter contains a presentation addressing the key elements of the thesis. It includes a synopsis of the essay, an overview of the data exercise and the proposal. The sixth chapter summarizes an annotated bibliography on the literature that was used for developing this thesis.