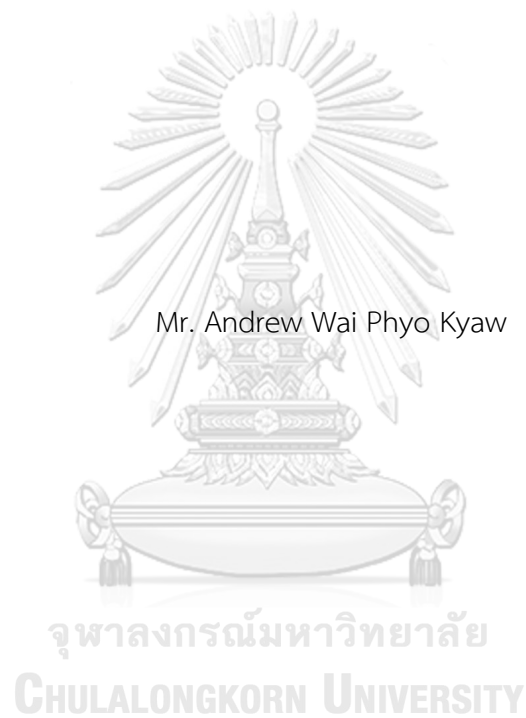


SOCIAL CAPITAL AND MYANMAR URBAN MIGRANT WORKERS' JOB SEEKING IN
THAILAND DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science in Urban Strategies
Department of Urban and Regional Planning
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
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ทุนทางสังคมและการหางานของแรงงานต่างชาติในพื้นที่เมืองในประเทศไทยในช่วงการแพร่ระบาดของ
ของโรคติดเชื้อไวรัสโคโรนา 2019



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แอนดรูว์ ไว พโย คยอร์ว : ทูทางสังคมและการหางานของแรงงานต่างชาติในพื้นที่เมืองในประเทศไทยในช่วงการแพร่ระบาดของโรคติดเชื้อไวรัสโคโรนา 2019. (SOCIAL CAPITAL AND MYANMAR URBAN MIGRANT WORKERS' JOB SEEKING IN THAILAND DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC) อ.ที่ปรึกษาหลัก : สุธี อนันต์สุขสมศรี

ในช่วงการระบาดของโรคติดเชื้อไวรัสโคโรนา 2019 (COVID-19) ภาคส่วนการผลิตหลายแห่งในประเทศไทย ต่างประสบกับปัญหาด้านเศรษฐกิจ ผลกระทบของโรคระบาดนี้ ยังส่งผลกระทบต่อทุกคนในระบบเศรษฐกิจซึ่งรวมถึงแรงงานต่างชาติด้วย โดยเฉพาะแรงงานต่างชาติที่ทำงานในพื้นที่เมืองที่อาจจะได้รับผลกระทบจากโรคระบาดมากที่สุด พวกเขาพบกับปัญหาทางด้านความมั่นคงในชีวิตที่เกิดจากการถูกเลิกจ้างงาน การสูญเสียรายได้ และความยากลำบากในการหางานใหม่ โดยชาวเมียนมาร์ เป็นแรงงานที่มีจำนวนสูงที่สุดของจำนวนกำลังแรงงานต่างชาติในประเทศไทย แรงงานต่างชาติ

งานวิจัยหลายงานแสดงให้เห็นว่า ทูทางสังคมเป็นทรัพยากรในการสนับสนุนที่มีคุณค่าและสำคัญอย่างยิ่ง ในด้านความเป็นอยู่ โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งในช่วงเวลาที่ยากลำบากและช่วงที่มีการเปลี่ยนแปลงด้านเศรษฐกิจและสังคม ดังนั้นแรงงานต่างชาติที่ทำงานในพื้นที่เมือง จึงมักใช้เครือข่ายทางสังคมหรือความสัมพันธ์กับผู้อื่นในการลดความเสี่ยง การเข้าถึงบริการ และการเข้าถึงข้อมูลด้วยค่าใช้จ่ายที่ต่ำ

งานวิจัยนี้จึงศึกษาการใช้ทุนทางสังคมของแรงงานต่างชาติชาวเมียนมาร์ที่ทำงานในพื้นที่เมือง ในการทำงานและการพัฒนาคุณภาพชีวิต ในประเทศไทย โดยระเบียบวิธีวิจัยที่ใช้ในงานวิจัยนี้ เป็นวิธีการแบบผสมในเชิงปริมาณและเชิงคุณภาพโดยใช้ข้อมูลจากการสำรวจภาคสนามภายในระยะเวลาสองเดือน โดยประกอบไปด้วยตัวแปร 24 ตัว การออกแบบการสำรวจถูกพัฒนาและดัดแปลงจากทบทวนทฤษฎีและการศึกษางานวิจัย รวมถึงเครื่องมือการประเมินทุนทางสังคมของธนาคารโลก

ผลการศึกษาแสดงให้เห็นว่า ผลลัพธ์ของทุนทางสังคมเป็นปัจจัยที่สำคัญอย่างยิ่ง สำหรับแรงงานต่างชาติชาวเมียนมาร์ที่ทำงานในพื้นที่เมือง ระหว่างทุนทางสังคมทั้ง 3 แบบ (แบบเชื่อมโยง แบบยึดเหนี่ยว และแบบเชื่อมโยง) ทุนทางสังคมแบบแบบเชื่อมโยง มีส่วนสำคัญและมีบทบาทมากที่สุดในการหางานของแรงงานต่างชาติชาวเมียนมาร์ ที่ทำงานในพื้นที่เมือง นอกจากนี้ทุนทางสังคมยังทำหน้าที่สำคัญเป็นตัวกลาง ในการเพิ่มการเข้าถึงทรัพยากร บริการ และการให้ความช่วยเหลือ รวมถึงการส่งเสริมโอกาสในการหางานและความช่วยเหลือทางการเงิน

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, many production sectors in Thailand encountered economic difficulties. The economic impacts of the pandemic have affected all people in the economy, including migrant workers. Especially urban migrant workers might have been the most affected by the pandemic. They have faced insecure livelihoods caused by losing jobs, loss of income, and difficulties in finding new jobs. Myanmar workers are the largest population among migrant labor forces in Thailand.

Various literature shows that social capital has always been supportive as a valuable and critical resource contributing to well-being, especially during times of crisis and socio-economic change. So, urban migrant workers utilize social networks or connections to reduce risks, access services, and acquire information to lower transaction costs.

Hence, the study explores the utilization of social capital by Myanmar urban migrant workers searching for jobs and improving livelihood security in Thailand. The methodology used in this study is a mixed quantitative and qualitative approach using data from a field survey conducted within two months consisting of 22 variables. The survey design is developed and adopted from theoretical and empirical reviews and World Bank's Social Capital Assessment Tools.

The results of this study reveal that social capital outcomes are critical factors for Myanmar urban migrant workers. Among three dimensions of social capital (bonding, bridging, and linking), the bonding social capital is the most contributed and has the highest involvement in Myanmar migrant workers' jobs seeking in Thailand. Social capital is also relatively vital as one of the centralities that increases accessibility to resources, services, and assistance as well as promotes livelihood opportunities in search of jobs and assistance with financial needs.

Field of Study: Urban Strategies

Student's Signature

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Advisor's Signature

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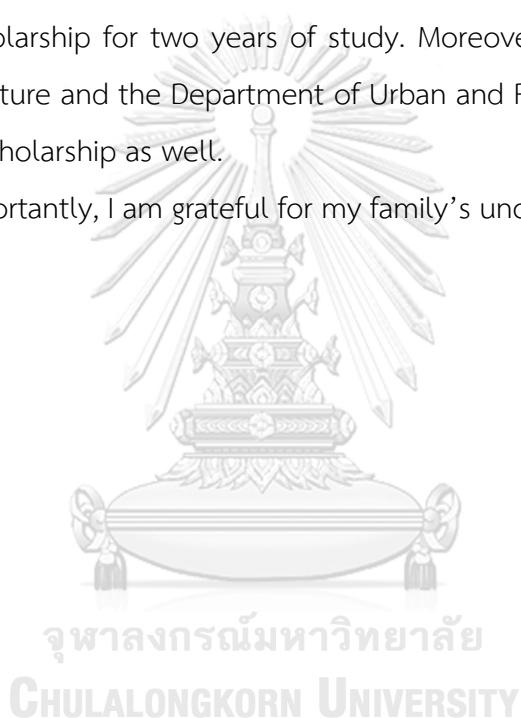


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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Economic contributions of migrant workers in Thailand

Thailand has been a crossroads for migration within South–East Asian countries for centuries and a country of origin, transit, and destination for large numbers of migrants from across the region. “In 2019, there were nearly 4 million registered migrant workers in Thailand, plus an additional unknown number of undocumented migrant workers, mostly from neighboring countries: Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos PDR”, and construction, manufacturing, domestic work, hospitality and services, agriculture and fishing are seven primary occupations for migrant workers in Thailand (International Organization for Migration, 2021a).



Figure 1 Population of International migrants in Thailand (Source: IOM)

The economy of Thailand is relatively associated with international migrant workers and it has been contributed significantly by the migrant workers. The migrant workers fill the need of the workforce and labor market gaps in Thailand. And the majority of migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos PDR take positions in lower-skilled jobs/occupations in Thailand.

However migrant workers from neighboring countries and across the region contributed “up to 6.6 percent of Thailand’s (GDP) and make up over 10 percent of the labor force” (International Organization for Migration, 2021, p.2–3). Moreover, migrant workers in Thailand also make important contributions to their home countries (Myanmar and Cambodia). Sending remittances to the home countries, families, and households in particular help to generate economic flow and activities. According to IOM (2021), “Cambodian migrant workers sent home 1.6 billion United States dollars (USD) in remittances,” and according to the World Bank, “Myanmar migrant workers sent home 3 billion USD”. Additionally, the number of remittances must be higher than this since there are also unofficial means of transfers being observed.

1.2 COVID – 19 disruptions on migrant workers in urban areas

1.2.1 COVID – 19 Impacts in urban areas

With the increasing world population living in urban areas, it is critical to truly understand the risks that cities are facing as a result of the pandemic. According to the United Nations (2020), the majority of all reported Covid–19 cases and infections such as 90 percent estimation are recorded and observed in the urban areas that have become the epicenter of the pandemic. The huge size of populations and connectivity across regions and continents have been also the underlying factors for the virus spreading in a very fast period (United Nations, 2020). Those critical elements of massive urban populations and interconnectivity have been the vulnerable drawbacks to the virus infections in urban areas.

The Covid–19 pandemic has accelerated the impact of the present global crisis that combining of health, economic and social crises as multi–dimensional crises (Joshi–Ghani, 2020). Besides, the Covid–19 global health crisis has expanded to the various implications among urban elements including “accessibility, finance, equity, safety, joblessness, public services, infrastructure, and transport, all of which are disproportionately affecting” (United Nations, 2020). Especially, the urban poor has been hit the hardest by the economic impact of the pandemic and the most (Boza–Kiss et al., 2021; Sethi & Creutzig, 2021).

Furthermore, the pandemic has triggered a reverse migration back to rural areas with economic shutdowns, job losses, and a lack of livelihoods for urban migrant workers (Joshi–Ghani, 2020). Despite the Covid–19 infection interventions for the good of health perspectives by the authorities such as social distancing, economic shutdowns, and travel

restrictions, the workforces were one of the first groups being laid off and faced pay cut. As a consequence, a lot of repatriations ‘returning to the origin of the country’ has been observed across the regions and continents. As Joshi–Ghani (2020) claims that economic shutdowns, job losses, and lack of livelihoods have left not many choices for urban migrant workers to remain living in the host countries with a lack or less income that has brought much more vulnerabilities.

1.2.2 COVID – 19 Impacts on urban migrant workers in Thailand

Recently, the economic disruptions caused by COVID–19 have had a huge impact on the economy of the country as tourism and merchandise exports. Those sectors in Thailand have been severely affected by the pandemic (International Labor Organization, 2020a) since the authorities have attempted to measure and slow down the infections and viruses spreading across Thailand through national lockdowns and economic shutdowns. On the other side, the measurement has resulted in the loss of jobs, less income, food security, and livelihood vulnerabilities (World Bank, 2021).

According to ILO (2020), migrant workers were among the first to lose their jobs as employers downsized their workforces. In Thailand, as many as 700,000 migrant workers mostly in tourism, service sectors, and construction industries have lost their jobs since the lockdown started in late March 2020. Moreover, irregular or undocumented migrant workers face precarious employment conditions in many instances. Many do not have social security

rights to healthcare and paid sick leave, particularly if they work in the informal sector and, if they are undocumented (International Organization for Migration, 2021a), including migrant workers who are in temporary formal employment (Oxford Policy Management, 2020).

Furthermore, migrant workers who lost their jobs affected by the pandemic in Thailand have little or no means of income at all. They only have 30 days to find new employment. In addition to that, only regular migrant workers in formal employment are eligible to access the Royal Thai Government (RTG) social protection measure (International Organization for Migration, 2021a). Especially, migrant workers who do not have access or little access to the government aid since they are irregular, undocumented, or informal workers, and they also find it very challenging to get new jobs within 30 days in Thailand. Those workers are in a very grim situation in many instances, including very limited option to go back home through facilitated repatriation between two authorities of the host and the origin of the country (International Labor Organization, 2020a).

Lately, loss of income has resulted in people resorting to cheaper and more accessible food, reducing their use of nutrition-related services and supplies among lower-income households including migrant workers' families in Thailand to purchase health-related facilities (Oxford Policy Management, 2020). Therefore, Civil Society Organizations like the Migrant Working Group report that they have received many requests for help in terms of providing face masks, hand sanitizers, and dried food from as many as 200,000 migrant workers (International Labor Organization, 2020a).

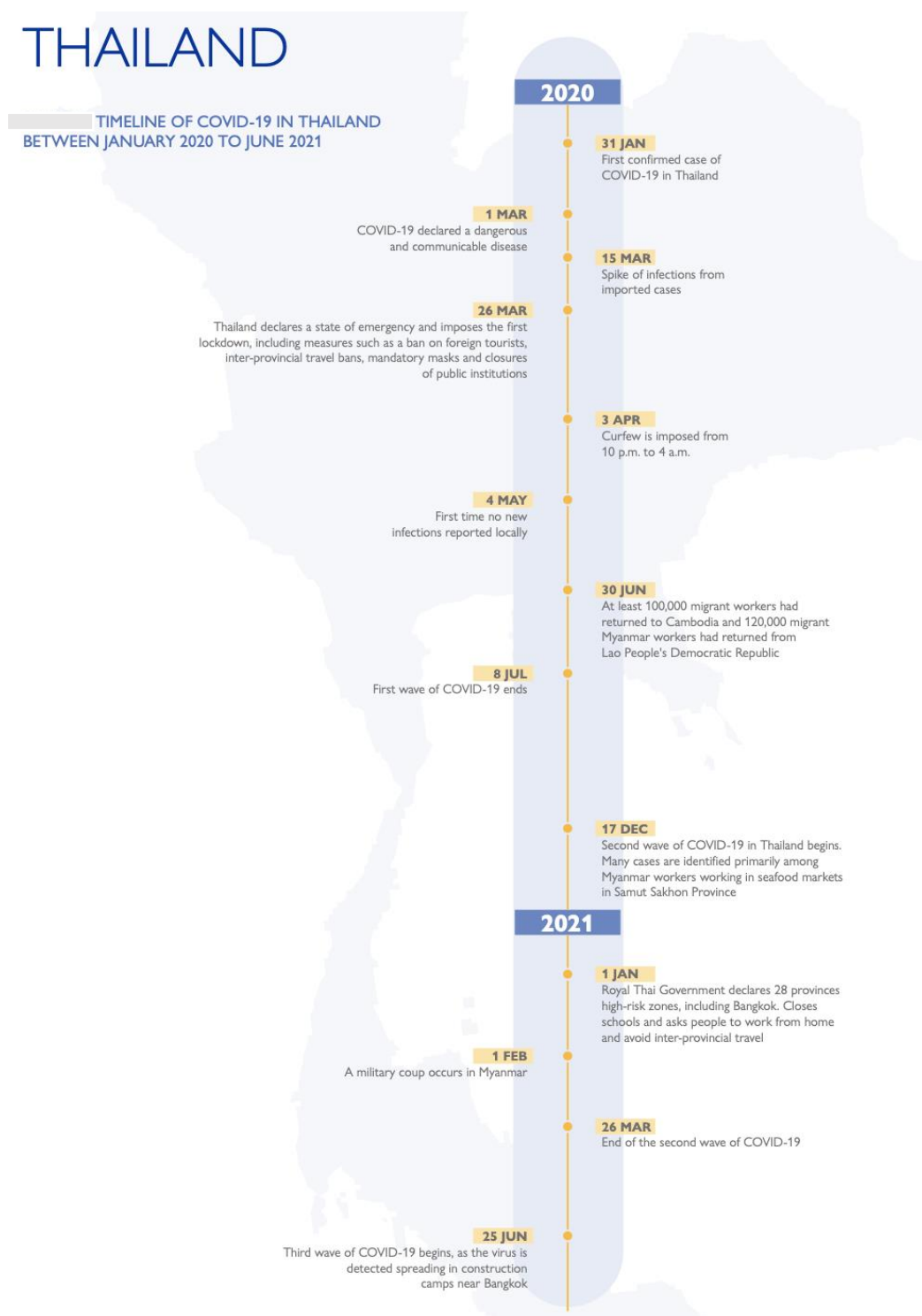


Figure 2 Timeline of Covid-19 in Thailand (Source: IOM)

To sum up, due to the Covid-19 outbreak in Thailand, there have been government restrictions and measures, for instance, national lockdowns, travel restrictions, and economic shutdowns to slower the infections across Thailand. Consequently, it had negative impacts on the country's economy and many workers including formal and informal sectors. Urban poor and workers in particular whose works are daily survival and rely on physical intensive work have been hit very hard and the most (Pongutta et al., 2021). Among other vulnerable groups, urban migrant workers are in a bleak situation due to the loss of jobs and the difficulty to find new jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic in Thailand.

1.2.3 COVID – 19 impacts on Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand

As of ILO's Quarterly Briefing Note 2020, Myanmar nationality is the biggest population among migrant workforces in Thailand. There are 518,321 Myanmar migrant workers (52% out of 1,005,848 MOU migrants) in Thailand. There are also 1,276,413 Myanmar migrant workers (74% out of 1,716,477 registered migrants completing nationality verification) in Thailand. In addition, there are 26,095 (40% out of 65,991 migrants under border employment) in Thailand. All listed numbers of Myanmar migrant workers are documented in Thailand (International Labor Organization, 2020b). On the other hand, there are also additional undocumented migrant workers from neighboring countries in Thailand.

Table 1 Documented Myanmar migrant workers' populations in Thailand (Source: ILO 2020)

MOU migrants (1,005,848)	Registered migrants completing nationality verification (1,716,477)	Migrants under border employment (65,991)
518,321 (Myanmar migrants 52%)	1,276,413 (Myanmar migrants 74%)	26,095 (Myanmar migrants 40%)

Since the first wave of the Covid-19 in 2020, working conditions and livelihoods of migrant workers are being dramatically affected in Thailand including Myanmar migrants. Due to job losses and income deductions have caused increasing vulnerabilities and risks to make a living abroad as migrant families. Despite continuing work during the lockdown, the working conditions are more precarious and destabilized in the specific working sectors of entertainment, sex work, hospitality, and restaurant jobs that have also impacted income levels (International Organization for Migration, 2021b). As a consequence, reducing the income levels of individuals and families has resulted in more debt and resorting to cheaper and less healthy food consumption (International Organization for Migration, 2021b; Oxford Policy Management, 2020).

According to Shrestha (2021), the Covid-19 has brought more economic and financial burdens on migrants' households. For instance, the closure of the garment factory in Mae Sot, Tak Province has resulted in many households and individuals becoming

unemployed (Shrestha, 2021). Eventually, those increasing burdens and stress such as no means of income or reducing income levels have also affected food insecurity and health concerns that influenced Myanmar migrant workers more vulnerable and remain unemployed and have no choice (International Organization for Migration, 2021b; Oxford Policy Management, 2020; Shrestha, 2021), but to return country of origin (International Labor Organization, 2020a; International Organization for Migration, 2021b).

1.3 Myanmar migrant workers and job seeking in Thailand

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the employment of Myanmar migrant workers was facilitated under a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The MoU is the memorandum of understanding between the government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the government of the Union of Myanmar regarding the cooperation of employment workers. In other words, it can be described as a regulated and legitimate channel for Myanmar migrant workers to enter Thailand.

With the support of authorized agencies, they coordinate with the immigration and other authorities concerned to ensure that applicants, have been selected by employers and duly permitted. As of 2020, 518,321 Myanmar migrant workers are with the MoU in Thailand (International Labor Organization, 2020b). During the process of the MoU, some mediators have connections with the respective agencies that attempted to assist the applicants.

Despite continuous practice in the MoU agreement in terms of employment of workers from Myanmar, ways of informal and irregulated channels for employment remain growing. Nevertheless, stories of entering Thailand through informal channels are not well documented, many reports like tragic stories of forced labor, trafficking, and any other abusive working conditions are well reported (VERITE, 2019). In addition, many International Organizations, media, and migrant working groups very often report and promote awareness of that Myanmar migrant workers who have entered Thailand through informal platforms like border crossing or smuggling encountered human trafficking, forced labor, and risky working conditions in Thailand.

However, there is a study by Rebecca & Carden (2014) in Thailand finds that Myanmar migrant workers entered Thailand through the informal channel, and it was smuggling with the assistance of brokers and guide who brought a group of Myanmar people into Thailand by crossing the forest and mountain. Interestingly, some of the people who came through this way have relative members in Thailand. Once they had arrived in Thailand safely, they were also able to get employed with the help of their relatives who have been already working and living in Thailand. The social relationships of those smugglers were invaluable not only in supporting for coming but also in preparation for employment in Thailand (Rebecca & Carden, 2014).

Recently, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, job seeking and employment have been more challenging for Myanmar migrant workers who are already in Thailand and those who

want to come to Thailand. Border closure and national lockdown including garment factories, construction sites, and other working sectors such as entertainment, hospitality, and restaurant jobs, have increased difficulties among Myanmar migrant workers. As a result of workplaces closures across Thailand, migrant workers including in Myanmar have been more vulnerable in search of jobs and in terms of securing jobs for those who already have.

Since there are only a few empirical studies of Myanmar migrant workers and utilization of their social capital for employment in Thailand before the Covid-19 outbreak, and there is no such study during the Covid-19 outbreak, this particular research will attempt to explore and fulfill the literature need in examining the relationship between social capital and livelihoods of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.4 Research Objectives, Research Question, and Hypothesis

1.4.1 Research Objectives

- To identify roles and contributions of social capital on job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- To provide urban strategies that intervene to promote livelihood opportunities for urban migrant workers in Thailand.

1.4.2 Research Question

How does the social capital of Myanmar urban migrant workers contribute to job seeking in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic?

- Is there any dimension of social capital that has the highest involvement in job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic?
- Is there any dimension of social capital that is the most important source of information about job markets for Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic?
- Is there any dimension of social capital that is the most reliable for the assistance of job seeking for Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic?
- What are the contributions of social capital towards job seeking and improving livelihoods of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic?

1.4.3 Hypotheses

H1: It is assumed that one of three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital has the most involvement in Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking in Thailand.

H2: It is assumed that one of three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital is the most important source of information about job markets for Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

H3: It is assumed that Myanmar urban migrant workers rely on one of three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital the most for the assistance of job seeking in Thailand.

H4: It is expected that social capital including Bridging, Bonding, and Linking has important contributions in different ways towards job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers job seeking in Thailand.

1.5 Conceptual Framework of the study

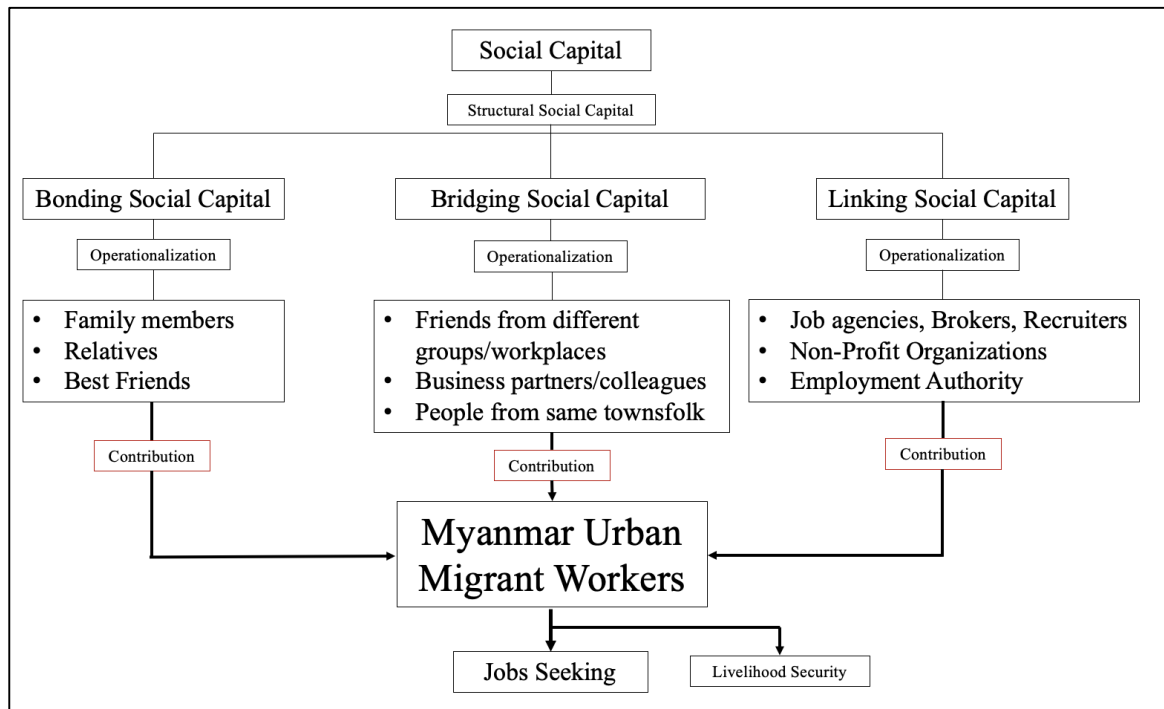


Figure 3 Conceptual Framework of the study

Social capital is the theoretical foundation of the present study, and the study attempted to examine its roles and contributions towards the concept of livelihood security, job seeking in particular. The present study mainly focused on structural social capital by conceptualizing three dimensions of social capital including bonding, bridging, and linking. In the meantime, the study emphasized job seeking aspect despite many components in livelihood security.

With these backgrounds of concepts: Social Capital and Livelihood Security, the study explored the utilization of social capital: three dimensions in particular by Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand in search of jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, the

study attempted to examine the contributions of social capital to the other livelihood assets including human, physical, natural, and financial assets. In other words, the study has tried to answer the associations of social capital with the improvement of livelihood security of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

1.6 Significance of the study

There is much research on Myanmar migrant workers that focus on migrant workers' working and living conditions, social life, economic mobility, remittances, migration and social networks, host language proficiency, and health issues including well-being and mental health-related research in Thailand. On the one hand, there is no research investigating Myanmar migrant workers, more precisely Myanmar urban migrant workers' jobs seeking through the utilization of their social networks, connections, and relationship. In addition, there is almost no study examining the association between Myanmar urban migrant workers' social capital and livelihoods. The study is therefore one of the very first studies about the utilization of social capital by Myanmar urban migrant workers for jobs seeking in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The findings of this study have contributed to the literature need for the utilization of social capital by Myanmar urban migrant workers to seek jobs with the support of social connections and relationships. Thus, the study is also evidence that social capital has also contributed to improving other components of livelihood security such as financial help, and

health issues in the time of crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, the study has provided urban strategies that are expected to address migration-related issues and promote livelihood opportunities for migrant workers.

Since internal or international migration, cross-border migration, and forced migration including displacements are observed in the contemporary world, the findings and strategy suggestions of this present study would be beneficial to policymakers, social workers, and researchers. Understanding, assessing, and examining conditions of urban migrant workers particularly those beneficiaries will be able to make equitable policies to promote socio-economic prosperity through formulating policies and regulations, offering essential and emergency services, and conducting further research.

1.7 Organizations of the study

The study includes six chapters.

Chapter (1): introduction consists of the rationale of the study, research objectives, research question, hypothesis, the conceptual framework of the study, the significance of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter (2) is comprised of theoretical and empirical reviews. In this chapter, the concept of social capital, the concept of Livelihood security, and the relationship between livelihood security and social capital are conceptualized as the theoretical background. Thus, different

studies in various countries about urban migrant workers and livelihood security are also reviewed in this chapter.

Chapter (3) explains the detailed methodologies of the research including research approaches, analytical methods, data collection guide, survey design, and ethical statements.

Chapter (4) presents data collection methods and data including the socio-demographic background of Myanmar urban migrant workers conducted by questionnaire survey.

Chapter (5) focuses on the result. The presenting result is divided into two parts. Firstly, quantitative analytical analysis mainly answers the roles of social capital of Myanmar urban migrant workers in job seeking. Secondly, the qualitative analytical analysis to identify the contributions of social capital of Myanmar urban migrant workers towards job seeking.

Chapter (6) is the summary of the findings, discussions, conclusion, and strategy suggestions.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Concept of Social Capital

Cognitive and structural social capitals are dimensions of social capital. The cognitive social capital refers to 'What people feel, thus could be described as 'social cohesion' meanwhile the structural social capital is labeled 'What people do' and as a term 'network' (Lewis et al., 2014). More specifically, the structural element creates opportunities to understand the social structure and its productive ends. Cognitive includes shared norms, values, attitudes, and beliefs toward mutually beneficial collective action (Claridge, 2017).

On the mention of 'Social Capital', Pierre Bourdieu cannot be forgotten. He portrays "Social capital is the aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition" (Bourdieu, 1986, p.21). In other words, the collection of resources or potential resources is possessed to a strong network of relationship connections that are shared and connected to others mutually with acquaintance and recognition. Therefore, the social capital is bridging – connections among people, groups, or entities who share information and resources for mutual benefits through possession of the networks like structural relations.

Thus, Coleman (1988) writes that "social capital is defined by its function. It is not a single entity, but a variety of different entities, having two characteristics in common: they

all consist of some aspect of a social structure, and they facilitate certain actions of individuals who are within the structure” (Coleman, 1988, p.98). Besides, social capital is a feature of social associations, including ties of friendship, mutual solidarity, society norms, and trusts for mutual benefit (Putnam, 1993). In addition, “Whereas physical capital refers to physical objects and human capital refers to the properties of individuals, social capital refers to connections among individuals – social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them (Putnam, 2000, p.19). Therefore, defined as a bonding social capital – within a group of people as entity or entities including family, friends, neighbors or same ethnicity, who have strong norms, mores, and trust, thus characteristics of social relationships between individuals and common include trust and trustworthiness.

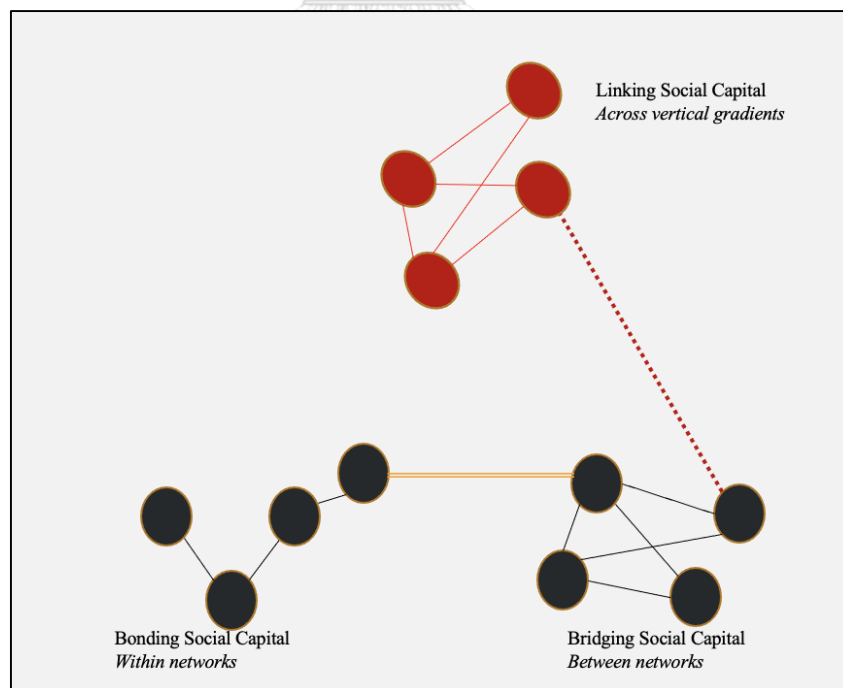


Figure 4 Bonding, bridging, and linking social capital (Adapted from Aldrich, 2012)

Lately, the literature has stressed that another dimension or form of social capital has a vertical dimension – linking social capital. It has the “capacity to leverage resources, ideas, and information from formal institutions beyond the community or entity” (Woolcock, 2001, p.11). Coleman (1988) also argues that social capital includes “vertical” associations such as hierarchical stages. Power or resources are accessed through relationships between individuals, groups, or across different societal levels, formal, institutionalized authority (Woolcock, 2001).

2.1.2 Importance of Social Capital

“Individuals with a large and diverse network of contacts are thought to have more social capital than individuals with small, less diverse networks” (Valenzuela et al., 2009, p.877). “Social capital refers to the norms and networks that enable people to act collectively” (Woolcock & Narayan, 2000, p.226). “The social capital: the network of relationships is the product of investment strategies, individual or collective, consciously or unconsciously aimed at establishing or reproducing social relationships that are directly usable in the short or long term” (Bourdieu, 1986, p.22). Furthermore, Coleman (1988) urges that close ties through family, community, and religious affiliation provide necessary insurance to facilitate the transactions. Besides, Putnam (1993) also portrays, that the key to collective action is social capital, including networks, ties of friendship, norms of civic engagement, and mutual solidarity. So, social capital is a feature that provides advantages

to individuals or groups of people, such as networks, families, and organizations, as well as a particular group of identities, such as religion, ethnicity or nationality, for utilization of the advantages and creates more potential resources in the short or long term, therefore social capital has been “as a resource for individuals” (Coleman, 1988, p102.).

Moreover, social capital is an important playmaker that “the potential for information that inheres in social relations” (Coleman, 1993, p.104) since it can generate valuable information and ideas shared through possession in social relations or belong to the connections. Bourdieu (1986) also claims, that having membership in a group can grow profits. Thus, “social capital provides information that facilitates action” (Putnam, 1993, p.104). In other words, social capital is a channel to acquire information for decision making, and it could also bring benefits. Significantly, the social capital, therefore, is a source of actual or potential information that benefits whoever belongs to the connections and social networks.

2.1.3 Concept of Livelihood Security

“A livelihood comprises people, the capabilities, their means of living, including food, income, and assets (materials and socials)” (Chambers & Conway, 1992, p.6). “Livelihood is defined as adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs. Security refers to secure ownership of, or access to resources and incoming-earning activities including reserves and offset risk, ease shocks and meet contingencies” (WCED, 1987). Household livelihood security is also defined as “adequate and sustainable access to income and resources to meet basic needs” (Frankenberger & McCaston, 1996, p.31). “In its simplest form, livelihood security is the ability of a household to meet its basic needs (or realize its basic rights)” (Frankenberger et al., 2000, p.4). Furthermore, Care International UK (1999) defines ‘Household livelihood security’ explicitly as follows;

- Households refer to two or more people who ‘share the same pot’ or may be members of the same family, related or unrelated individuals. Those may be both the family members, related and unrelated, who share living quarters.
- Basic needs are required to ‘secure the physical development of the individual’. Basic needs include food, health, water, shelter, education, and participation in community life.
- Resources include food, water, shelter, education, health services, and social and cultural life required to meet basic needs.

- Access is the process by which households secure resources to meet their needs (Care International UK, 1999).

Frankenberger and McCaston (1996) suggest that livelihood security has a variety of essential components with a broader perspective on food security to access basic needs and secure livelihoods. In addition, some of the components are defined by the international organizations as follows;

Economic Security: According to ICRC, “the ability of individuals, households or communities to cover their essential needs sustainably and with dignity” (International Committee of the Red Cross, 2015). Thus, ILO defines it as “access to basic needs infrastructure of health, education, dwelling, information, and social protection, as well as work-related security”, which includes seven components – income, representation, job, work, labor market, employment and skill reproduction (International Labor Organization, 2004).

Nutritional Security: FAO suggests that nutritional security consists of three determinants – access to adequate food – care and feeding practices – sanitation and health (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2012). *Food Security:* FAO defines it as “food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2006).

Health Security: WHO defines it as “the activities required, both proactive and reactive, to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger people’s health”(World Health Organization, n.d.).

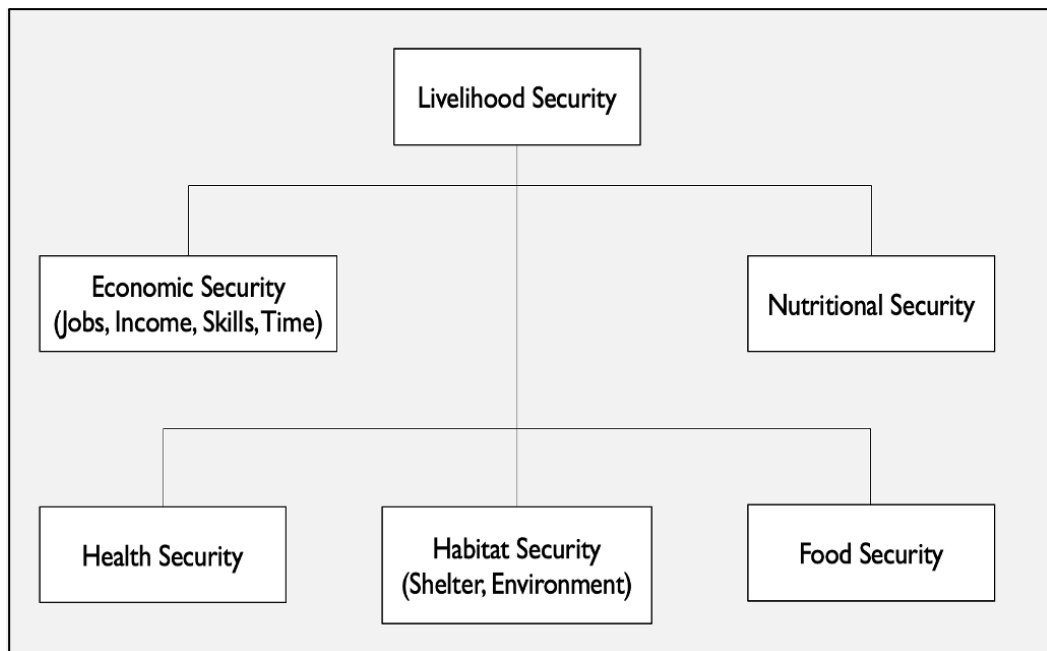


Figure 5 Components of Livelihood Security (Adapted from Frankenberger and McCaston, 1996)

2.1.4 Social Capital towards Livelihood Security

Sustainable livelihood consists of generating activities, capabilities, and assets (materials and social) (Meikle et al., 2001), “A livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation” (Chambers & Conway, 1992, p.6).

There are five types of livelihood assets or capitals that are central to a sustainable livelihood. These are required to make a living, and these assets are inter-related and have direct or indirect impacts, among others, as described in the following: (DFID, 1999)

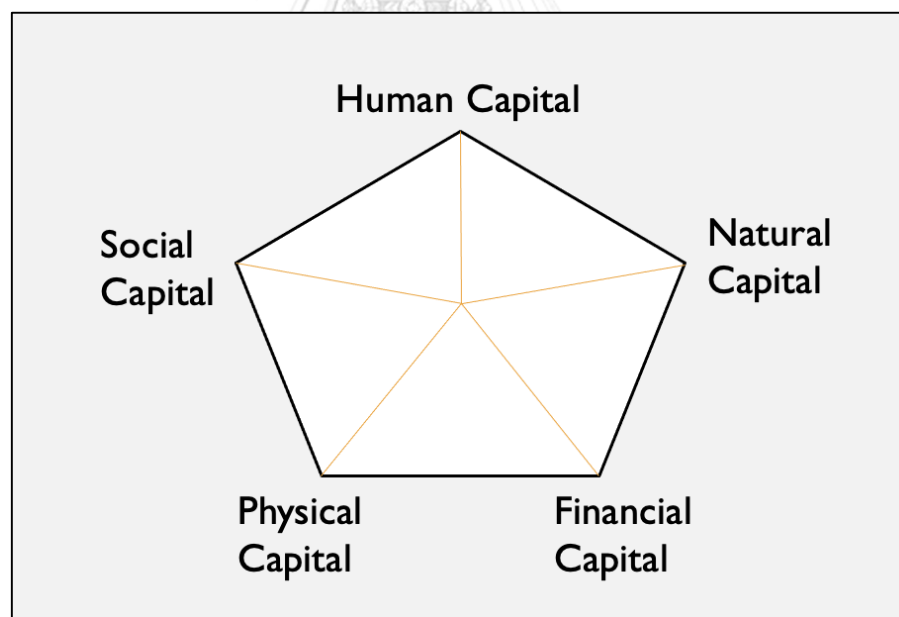


Figure 6 Livelihood Assets (Capitals) (Adapted from DFID, 1999)

- Human Capital – the skills, knowledge, ability to work, and good health essential to pursue livelihoods.
- Social Capital – social resources (e.g., networks, memberships in groups, and social relations) that people access and utilize to pursue livelihoods.
- Natural Capital – the natural resource and stocks that people use for livelihoods (e.g., land, water, wildlife, and environmental resources).
- Financial Capital – the financial resources and services (e.g., savings and credit).
- Physical Capital – the basic infrastructures such as transport, shelter, water systems, and other means of productive equipment that enable people to pursue their livelihoods.

Social capital is one of the capitals (social, human, financial, natural resource, and physical) of the sustainable livelihood framework. More specifically, a person or people have assets that allow them to meet their needs – social capital as social resources such as networks, membership in groups, and social relations. “The identification of social capital as a valuable and critical resource which contributes to the well-being of the poor, especially during times of crisis and socio-economic change” (Meikle et al., 2001, p.5). “People use these networks to reduce risks, access services, protect themselves from deprivation, and acquire information to lower transaction costs” (Frankenberger et al., 2000, p8).

Thus, social networks as key aspects – access to information about opportunities and problems – one important area is information about labor markets, recruitments, and

other opportunities (Meikle et al., 2001). Therefore, social capital is one of the key elements that increase accessibility to resources, which helps reduce potential risks and problems through networks or connections, and promotes potential livelihood opportunities with having increased those accessible resources.



2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Studies in different countries

The present empirical review is based on past studies in various countries. More specifically, studies in different countries with a large population of both international and domestic migrants are chosen for the present study, such as the United States, China, Australia, India, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Ghana, Thailand, and Myanmar. The present empirical review mainly describes the aim (s) and ways of conducting the studies related to social capital and urban migrant workers' livelihoods in Table to identify the association between social capital and urban migrant workers' livelihoods. In addition, the present empirical review also explored different methodologies in studies of social capital and its measurement.

Table 2 A Summary of Empirical Review

Author (s), Year & Country	Aim (s)	Study Design/Data
Posas (1999) in the USA	Examines the income maximization strategies of Mexican migrant households in a labour camp in southern Illinois.	Ethnographic field research includes observation and in-depth interviews.
Fernandes & Paul (2011) in India	Traces social networks among migrant construction workers' information flow regarding; entry of labour market allocation of work at the sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social Network Analysis – Field survey includes a questionnaire and interview

Author (s), Year & Country	Aim (s)	Study Design/Data
	<p>workers' relations</p> <p>the flow of credit to the financial requirement</p>	
de Menezes, da Silva, & Cover (2012) in Brazil	Understands how sugarcane companies use the kinship and neighborhood networks to ensure a worker profile that meets their interests in maximizing profits.	Analysis on a system of labour recruitment conducted survey data in two states of Brazil
Lewis, Digiacomo, Currow, & Davidson (2014) in Australia	Explores the nature of social capital in a socioeconomically disadvantaged group of palliative care patients and carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilizing qualitative methods (semi-structured interviews) - Use of Social Capital Questionnaire derived from the World Bank Social Capital Assessment Tool, the Adapted Social Capital Assessment Tool, the Household Income and Labour Dynamics Australia (HILDA) survey and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) General Social Survey - Data Analysis: The Framework approach with five stages

Author (s), Year & Country	Aim (s)	Study Design/Data
Myint (2014) in Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies the cause of migration in Rakhine State, Myanmar - Examines reasons for migrations to an urban area and subsequent migration process - Analyses migrants' working and living conditions in an urban area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mixed quantitative and qualitative approaches include; questionnaires, key-informant interviews, focus group discussion, observation. - SPSS analyses survey data.
Rebecca, & Carden (2014) in Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determines roles of social networks, agents and facilitators in the process of female Myanmar migrants smuggling from Myanmar to Thailand - Explores human smuggling situation among female migrant workers in Thailand regarding recruitment, transit and networks. - Assesses influencing factors of smuggled migrants' vulnerable situations than regularised migrants in Thailand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documentary research: literature review - Field research includes mixed quantitative and qualitative methods
Agyeman, (2015) in Japan	Reconstructs how African migrants developed and used different social networks and capital forms for economic integration and mobility.	A field study using snowball sampling in the Tokyo Metropolitan area
Lecerof, Stafström, Westerling, &	- Analyses associations between financial difficulties, housing problems, the experience of	- Survey data conducted by postal questionnaire

Author (s), Year & Country	Aim (s)	Study Design/Data
Östergren (2016) in Sweden	discrimination and poor mental health of Iraqi migrants – Detects possible effect modification by social capital among recently settled Iraqi migrants in Sweden	comprised of 12 items about General Health – Data analysis using IBM SPSS version 20.0 – Cross-sectional design
Awumbila, Teye, & Yaro, (2017) in Ghana	Examines role and effects of networks of social capital on migration processes and livelihood strategies of migrants in construction and domestic work sectors in Accra, Ghana	A combination of qualitative methods for data collection in two regions of Ghana
du Plooy, Lyons, & Kashima (2020) in Australia	Tests relationships of generalized trust (cognitive social capital) and network resources (structural social capital) with well-being in Australia's culturally mixed population of migrants.	– National Online Survey – A set of univariate and multivariate linear regressions
Tong, Zhang, MacLachlan, & Li (2020) in China	– Analyses the determinants of migrant housing choices and migrant housing needs – Emphasizes the important role of social capital in migrant decision-making	– A survey include questionnaires or structured interviews conducted in two urban villages with a large migrant population in China. – Use the migrant location quotient (LQ) based on data from the Sixth National Census in 2010, land use

Author (s), Year & Country	Aim (s)	Study Design/Data
		data from the Construction Census of Shenzhen in 2008, the Second National Land Survey in 2010, and Shenzhen Rent Guide 2012 – Comparative regression model

2.2.1.1 Studies in the USA by Posas (1999)

Ethnographic field research by Posas (1999) shows that migrant workers in a labour camp in southern Illinois, the migrant workers live as a unit of household who has collective goals in the camp. It also helps them maintain and control the household budget with an income management plan and extra income generated activities within the networks. Moreover, monetary transactions among individuals in need of resources (financial capital) to assist in mobility and settlement; thus, social capital constitutes an essential source for incoming migrant workers since members of the extended social network play an important role in communicating information leading to jobs and securing an apartment in the migrant worker's camp (Posas, 1999).

2.2.1.2 Studies in India by Fernandes & Paul (2011)

Fernandes & Paul (2011) uses social network analysis and field survey and summarize that contractor are key nodes of providing information about the labor market and bringing migrant workers to construction sites. On the one hand, some migrant workers themselves are/have become sources of information to others, such as helping other migrants to enter the labor market. However, when it comes to financial issues and vulnerable situations, the migrant workers mainly rely on the contractors since their wage is almost subsistent (Fernandes & Paul, 2011).

2.2.1.3 Studies in Brazil by de Menezes, da Silva, & Cover (2012)

The study of recruitment and selection of migrant workers in sugarcane companies by de Menezes, da Silva, & Cover (2012) in Brazil analyses the system of labor recruitment conducted through survey data in two states of Brazil. The findings show that a network of agents mainly carries out the recruitment and selection of migrant workers. The involvement of contractors is minimal, but mills are the predominant employers using recruiters increasingly. Recruiters from the mills have informants who are their family members, friends, or someone who has good relationships. Those social networks of the recruiters enable them to help and seek potential workers. Meanwhile, potential workers who also

have connections or relationships with informants or recruiters are approached to get employed (de Menezes et al., 2012).

2.2.1.4 Studies in Australia by Lewis, Digiacomo, Currow, & Davidson (2014)

The study of social capital, its impacts and contributions to socioeconomically disadvantaged groups such as people who are patients and who need care is being explored using the qualitative method. The semi-structured questions in the social capital questionnaire are derived from the World Bank Social Capital Assessment Tool, the Adapted Social Capital Assessment Tool, the Household Income and Labour Dynamics Australia (HILDA) survey, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) General Social Survey.

The study developed social capital questionnaire domains to indicate different dimensions of social capital including bonding, bridging, and linking, and those domains are used in the questionnaire to represent bonding, bridging, and linking social capitals. Then, the framework approach is applied for data analysis with five stages.

The results show that different kinds of social support are observed from bonded people like family members, and relatives. And also bridged people like neighbors, community members, and informal caregivers who provide care and support. In addition, linked social capital including government agencies and macro-level institutions engage with financial benefits and housing benefits (Lewis et al., 2014).

2.2.1.5 Studies in Myanmar by Myint (2014)

Utilization of mixed qualitative and quantitative methods, analyzed with the SPSS program by Myint (2014), finds that almost all sample population (Rakhine ethnicity) came to Yangon (urban area) via social networks such as relatives, friends, and family members without any help from brokers or recruiters.

The study finds that searching for better employment opportunities (87%) and joining a family already in Yangon were the main reasons for migrations. Moreover, the networks migrants have been reliable enough to find job offers, accommodations, or living with close ones already in Yangon. In addition, social networks like religious associations also play a crucial role in the migration process, particularly in providing accommodations for newcomers who do not have such a connection or network in Yangon (Myint, 2014).

2.2.1.6 Studies in Thailand by Rebecca & Carden (2014)

The study of female Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand by Rebecca & Carden (2014) employs both documentary research and field research and includes mixed qualitative and quantitative methods to determine the roles of social networks, agents, and facilitators in the process of female Myanmar migrants smuggling from Myanmar to Thailand.

The study summarizes that economic conditions like insufficient income and financial hardship are prominent primary reasons for migration. In addition, joining a family that is

already in Thailand is the second reason for migration. The majority of the study population did not find employment challenges, able to find work within six months of arrival, mainly due to assistance from friends and relatives already in Thailand. Thus, the roles of social networks act as an important character to assist in financial problems such as borrowing money and providing money to pay for migration costs (Rebecca & Carden, 2014).

2.2.1.7 Studies in Japan by Agyeman (2015)

Agyeman (2015) shows how African migrants developed and used different social networks and capital forms for economic integration and mobility in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, using field survey and snowball method for sampling and data collection. The study summarizes that African migrants in Japan depend on intimate relationships, including family, friendship, and ethnic ties, during migration and settlement. Besides, irregular African migrants in Japan are also assisted by church members in providing accommodations within the community. Although the irregular migrants are out of legal status and social security, they are still offered low-paying jobs within the African community. Moreover, most African entrepreneurs depend on bridging social capital such as husband or wife and friends in Japan to start and improve business (Agyeman, 2015).

2.2.1.8 Studies in Sweden by Lecerof, Stafström, Westerling, & Östergren (2016)

Lecerof et al. (2016) present the associations between financial difficulties, housing problems, the experience of discrimination, and poor mental health of Iraqi migrants in Sweden, using a survey form comprised of 12 items about General Health. They employ cross-section analysis using the SPSS program.

The study finds that simultaneous experience of financial difficulties and a low level of trust in others gave a higher risk of poor mental health among Iraqi migrants. On the other hand, the experience of housing problems and low social participation render the highest risk for poor mental health among Iraqi migrants (Lecerof et al., 2016). Thus, social capital: social participation and trust seem to have protective effects against poor mental health, whether exposure to financial difficulties, housing problems or experience of discrimination.



2.2.1.9 Studies in Ghana by Awumbila, Teye, & Yaro (2017)

Awumbila, Teye, & Yaro (2017) indicates the role and effects of social capital networks on migration processes and livelihood strategies of migrants in construction and domestic work sectors in Accra, Ghana. The study utilizes a combination of qualitative methods for data collection in two regions of Ghana. Then, the findings show that the bonding social capital of migrant workers derived from networks such as friends and family members

provide information and pay for travel costs and initial accommodation. The migrant workers usually receive information about the destination and financial support for migration and settlement through their social networks.

Family members, church members, friends, and neighbors of both the potential domestic workers and the employer play a significant role in recruitment. In almost all cases, finding jobs in the construction sector depended on the 'connections' a migrant has. Moreover, newly arrived migrants in the construction sector also depend on their social capital for free accommodation, food, basic service, and health care service such as psychological support (Awumbila et al., 2017).

2.2.1.10 Studies in Australia by du Plooy, Lyons & Kashima (2020)

The study of culturally mixed migrants' well-being in Australia by du Plooy, Lyons, & Kashima (2020) used a national online survey. The research was analyzed with a set of univariate and multivariate linear regressions to test relationships between generalized trust (cognitive social capital) and network resources (structural social capital). The findings show that higher generalized trust was linked to lower distress in all migrant groups for psychological distress. Higher network resources were linked to lower distress in Anglo, Indian and Chinese groups of migrants. Then, generalized trust and network resources were

positively linked to well-being, operationalized in Australia's flourishing and distress (du Plooy et al., 2020).

2.2.1.11 Studies in China by Tong, Zhang, MacLachlan, & Li (2020)

Tong et al. (2020) analyze the determinants of migrants' housing choices and needs as well as the important role of social capital in migrants' decision-making in two urban villages with a large migrant population in China. The study employs a survey including questionnaires or structured interviews, analyzed by a comparative regression model with the migrant location quotient (LQ) based on data from the Sixth National Census in 2010 with land use data from the Construction Census of Shenzhen in 2008, the Second National Land Survey in 2010, and Shenzhen Rent Guide 2012 to measure the relative concentration of migrant housing at the subdistrict scale.

The findings reveal that housing choice among migrants is prominently decided by cheap, convenient work, and easiness to set up business reasons. However, the roles of social networks are still influential considerations in decision making, although it is not the key reason. Thus, almost newly arrived migrants live with relatives or rented accommodation recommended by friends or fellow townfolk while few decided to live in factory dormitories. There is 53.3% of the 962 migrants with formal employment obtained current jobs through family members, fellow townfolk, or friends. Most migrants (87.1%) had fellow townfolk

living in the same urban villages, and 54.5% of them had received assistance such as job guidance, recruitment, lending money, providing temporary shelter, and help to move and to babysit. In addition, 40.4% of migrants had been assisted in finding work, and 35.7% had received financial help from fellow townsfolk (Tong et al., 2020).

2.2.2 Summary of the empirical review

The key findings on associations between social capital and urban migrant workers' livelihoods in various countries by the empirical literature review of past studies can be summarized that social capital is a crucial factor in securing migrant workers' livelihoods during the migration process, mobility, settlement, finding jobs, providing accommodations, helping with financial problems, and supports of health outcomes.

As a measurement of social capital, the structural dimension has been widely used over the cognitive dimension among different studies to identify impacts on migrant workers' livelihoods. In other words, networks, relationships, or connections among the migrant workers are mainly an instrument of resources to access, support, and assist in securing livelihoods one way or another. Meanwhile, the cognitive dimension referring to 'trust' among the migrant workers enhances health outcomes. For instance, two of the studies claim that migrant workers who have a high level of trust, among others, are lower despite facing financial difficulties, housing problems, and other experiences of discrimination (du Plooy et al., 2020; Lecerof et al., 2016).

Various variables in the structural dimension are captured in the present study to measure social capital and its contributions to migrant workers' livelihood in Table 3. Furthermore, the present empirical review is also evidence that the study of social capital with a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods is growing and being measured with the qualitative method, quantitative methods or mixed qualitative and quantitative methods such as survey type includes a questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion. In particular, the World Bank's Social Assessment Tool, the Adapted Social Capital Assessment Tool, the Household Income and Labour Dynamics Australia (HILDA) survey, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) General Social Survey have also been used for the study of social capital (Lewis et al., 2014). Moreover, analytical methods include cross-sectional design, social network analysis, framework approach, a set of univariate and multivariate linear regressions, the migrant location quotient (LQ), and a comparative regression model are being in this empirical review.

Table 3 Captured variables from the Empirical Review

Variables	Sources
Family members and relatives living in host countries	Agyeman, 2015; Awumbila et al., 2017; de Menezes et al., 2012; Fernandes & Paul, 2011; Myint, 2014; Rebecca & Carden, 2014
Friends living in host countries	de Menezes et al., 2012; Fernandes & Paul, 2011
People from the same village, town/city in the origin of the country who are already in host countries	Agyeman, 2015; Awumbila et al., 2017; de Menezes et al., 2012; du Plooy et al., 2020; Fernandes & Paul, 2011; Myint, 2014; Posas, 1999; Rebecca & Carden, 2014; Tong et al., 2020
Living in the same nationality migrant workers' neighborhood	Agyeman, 2015; Myint, 2014; Posas, 1999; Rebecca & Carden, 2014; Tong et al., 2020
Living in the same nationality migrant workers' community	Agyeman, 2015; Myint, 2014; Posas, 1999; Rebecca & Carden, 2014; Tong et al., 2020
Connections to recruiters, brokers or job agencies	de Menezes et al., 2012; Fernandes & Paul, 2011
Connections to a religious association or ethnic association	Agyeman, 2015; Myint, 2014
Social Participation and Engagement	Lecerof et al., 2016

2.2.3 Empirical Review Conclusion

The empirical study has tried to provide the associations between social capital and livelihood security through the empirical evidence by reviewing studies in different countries concerning social capital and urban migrant workers' livelihood security. As the forms of social capital, bonding, bridging, and linking social capitals enable urban migrant workers to acquire information regarding the migration process, mobility, job opportunities, and recruitment. Thus, forwarding important information about legal documentation and social security within or among groups and networks has been the source for persons, as Coleman (1988) portrays in literature.

Moreover, social capital also helps to seek financial assistance and better employment opportunities that improve the livelihood opportunities and health outcomes for urban migrant workers. Although the different levels of outcomes from the social capital the urban migrant workers belong it has been a critical asset for securing livelihoods differently. Therefore, it is evident that regardless of solid or weak ties and high or low trust among urban migrant workers, the social capital acts differently for various outcomes.

2.3 Theoretical and Empirical Review Conclusion

Social capital has been defined in two ways ‘Structural’ and ‘Cognitive’ social capital along with three dimensions: bonding, bridging, and linking. As structural social capital refers to the understanding of relations and connections among or within the individuals and groups, cognitive social capital explains feeling regarding trust and solidarity among individuals and groups. Within the structural and cognitive social capitals, three dimensions of bonding, bridging, and linking social capital can be referred to study of how individuals relate to or how individuals feel to one another.

Regarding the study of social capital and its contributions, the empirical review in this particular study has shown that ‘structural social capital is widely used to measure the impacts of social capital rather than ‘cognitive social capital. The structural social capital can be indicated with different dimensions, and it is more concrete and comprehensive to measure the social capital. Meanwhile, the study of ‘cognitive social capital is more likely to be abstract when it refers to feeling. However, it is also an essential element to prove trust and solidarity among individuals and connections.

Furthermore, the present empirical review has explained how social capital has been studied in various ways and different research. A qualitative study of social capital attempts to understand context and implications, and the qualitative method will help to investigate the deep grounded situation and process. On one hand, a quantitative method helps to measure the level and change in impacts (Dudwick et al., 2006). Moreover, Grootaert &

Bastelaer (2002) suggests that either the qualitative method or quantitative method is unable to quantify the concept of social capital comprehensively, but “a combination of both methods can be successful” (Grootaert & Bastelaer, 2002, p.9). Moreover, the World Bank Social Assessment Tool used by Lewis, Digiacomo, Currow, & Davidson (2014) has shown that studying social capital focusing on structural dimensions can measure impacts qualitatively.

More importantly, this present empirical review proves that the social capital of urban migrant workers has massive contributions toward living and livelihoods (Agyeman, 2015; Awumbila et al., 2017; de Menezes et al., 2012; du Plooy et al., 2020; Fernandes & Paul, 2011; Lecerof et al., 2016; Lewis et al., 2014; Myint, 2014; Posas, 1999; Rebecca & Carden, 2014; Tong et al., 2020). Job seeking and employment have been one of the aspects that are also being assisted by social relationships and connections among migrant workers. Besides, there are few studies in this empirical review show that urban migrant workers can get employed with the support of their connections, and they are notified about jobs information from their migrant workers’ relationships and connections (Agyeman, 2015; Awumbila et al., 2017; de Menezes et al., 2012; Fernandes & Paul, 2011; Myint, 2014; Rebecca & Carden, 2014; Tong et al., 2020). In conclusion, social capital has been an important factor for urban migrant workers’ livelihood security and job seeking in particular.

Therefore, this particular study will emphasize structural social capital along with bonding, bridging, and linking social capitals. The World Bank’s Social Capital Assessment

Tools will be used to frame interview questions in terms of studying social capital's contributions on urban migrant workers' job seeking. The captured variables from different studies of social capital will also be utilized to design a questionnaire at identifying socio-demographics and measuring the roles of social capital's involvement level.



CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Methods

The study employed mixed quantitative and qualitative approaches, using questionnaires along with in-depth interview questions that are derived from Work Bank's Social Capital – Integrated Questionnaire (SO-IQ) (Grootaert et al., 2004), the Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT) (Grootaert & Bastelaer, 2002), and A guide to using qualitative methods and data by World Bank (Dudwick et al., 2006) with combinations of a specific concept of social capital and captured variables from empirical review to examine roles of social capital and identify its contributions towards jobs seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.

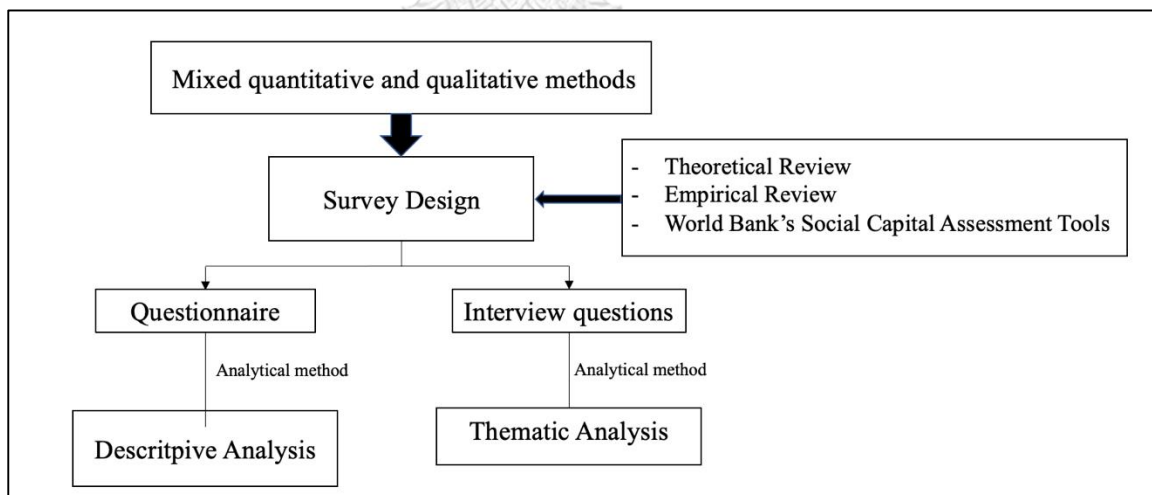


Figure 7 Methodological Framework

Assessments tools including the World Bank's Social Capital – Integrated Questionnaire (SC-IQ), the Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT), and A guide to using qualitative methods and data by World Bank are selected because there are specific questions for different dynamics of social capital such as groups & networks, communication & information, trust & solidarity and so on at the different level of individual, community and national in the assessment tools. In addition to that, the World Bank's assessment tools have both qualitative and quantitative approaches to studying social capital. In this regard, interview questions in this study design are derived from the World Bank's assessment tools and questionnaires are developed using captured variables in the empirical review of this particular study.

Moreover, the indicators are specified to represent three dimensions of social capital (particularly structural social capital) in Table 4, in terms of usage in survey design. So, these indicators are selected to prepare questions for the measurement of social capital (bonding, bridging, and linking) instead of asking direct questions.

Table 4 Indicators for three dimensions of social capital

Structural Social Capital	
Dimensions of Social Capital	Indicators
Bonding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family members and Relatives - Friends and Neighbors
Bridging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friends of Friends - Groups or Associations of Myanmar migrant workers - Business partners or colleagues
Linking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Job agencies, brokers or recruiters - Employment Department - Non-profit organizations

3.2 Procedures of Research Method

The research was applied in accordance with the following procedures;

- Firstly, the notion of social capital and its importance was conceptualized. Then, concepts of livelihood security and its relationship with social capital were also reviewed by utilization of classic academic articles and literature as theoretical background of the study.
- Besides, the empirical review was started to review different studies in various countries with a large population of both or either international and internal migrant workers to identify roles and contributions of social capital towards urban migrant

workers' livelihood security, and also to capture the methodology of different studies in social capital.

- The research area is the cities of Thailand to conduct field research to gather primary data through questionnaires and in-depth interviews. About 60 Myanmar urban migrant workers were recruited to participate voluntarily in data collection. Those participants were reached out through social media (Facebook) and the snowball sampling methods within the chain of their networks.
- Data Analysis: The survey data was analyzed as descriptive statistics and interview transcripts were analyzed by the thematic analysis.

3.3 Data Collection and Data Collection Guide

3.3.1 Study Location

Thailand was chosen for the study area of the research since Thailand has been the country that received millions of international migrants annually. Thailand is also the country where many Myanmar people migrate for economic opportunities and other reasons. Myanmar migrant workers are the biggest population among other nationalities in workplaces across Thailand. In addition to that, Myanmar urban migrant workers are one of the vulnerable groups affected by the Covid-19 outbreak in different working sectors including the construction industry, factories, and service providers in Thailand.

3.3.2 Sampling Design

For the data collection, its primary sources and methods were questionnaires and in-depth interviews. In terms of sample size, there is no precise data on the Myanmar migrant workers' population in Thailand and also there is a large number of populations in Thailand. However, the study attempted to calculate the sample size based on the population size of 518,312 Myanmar migrants who have come to Thailand by MoU agreement according to ILO 2020. It was the calculation with a Confidence level of 95% and a Margin error of 5%.

As a result, a sample size of 384 or more surveys is needed to have a Confidence level of 95%. On one hand, financial needs and time limitations to gathering a large sample size were one of the restrictions for this study. Then, the study projected to collect a minimum sample size of 30 as a normal distribution of the Central Limit Theorem. However, the study increased the sample size up to 60 in search of gender balance in the study. Eventually, the study was able to gather the sample size of 60 Myanmar urban migrant workers from diverse categories of work sectors in Thailand within October and November 2021.

3.3.3 Unit of Analysis

Myanmar urban migrant workers in the cities of Thailand have been considered as the unit of analysis in the study. The study generally recruited Myanmar urban migrant workers who are currently working in Thailand while they are looking for better employment opportunities during the covid-19 outbreak since the pandemic has impacted their current job in many ways such as wage deduction, fewer working days, and workplace closure for a certain period.

3.3.4 Data Collection Methods

Open Call for recruitment via Facebook (Social media)

The post about the recruitment for participation is posted and shared among Myanmar migrant workers' groups and pages on Facebook. It helped to reach out to Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand who use Facebook (social media). Within the post, it explains the objectives and ethical issues of the survey written in the Burmese language. In addition, means of communication for a participant are also explained such as online google form, phone calls, and audio call via Messenger (social media).

In terms of posting on Facebook, there are a few weaknesses in this particular data collection method. The post may not be reached out to those who are not in the groups where the post is shared, and those who do not use Facebook at all. However, the method

is one of the best options during the Covid-19 situation, and the study itself is only projected to have a sample size: of 60 Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

Online Survey Form (Google Survey Form)

The survey questions are designed in the online google survey template. Especially in the time of the Covid-19, participants can fill up the form online themselves without any physical contact, sharing any profile such as email account, mobile number, and any personal information. Meanwhile, the online google form could be a barrier for participants regarding low ability to use tech and fill the form online, including difficulty to understand the questions and can't read or write perhaps.

Snowball Sampling จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

Since the study was unable to go fieldwork and conduct the survey physically, the study used an open call for participation via Facebook and an online google survey form. However, they had their limitations. Therefore, snowball sampling helped to include Myanmar urban migrant workers who are not in the groups where the post is shared, and those who do not use Facebook at all. For instance; it was able to reach a few people who did not see the post and do not use Facebook at all with the connections of prior participants. Despite the prior participants' connections being limited, the study was able to include a few

samples in this study who are not in the groups where the post is shared and those who do not use Facebook at all.

3.3.5 Data Collection Guide

Regarding the survey design, there were three parts. The survey consisted of 22 items. Part 1: Socio-Demographic Background helped to find out profiles and general information of Myanmar migrant workers using a questionnaire type. Part 2: Three dimensions of social capital on job seeking which investigated to examine roles of social capital in Job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers by questionnaire type, specifically the Likert scale to measure the level of three dimensions of social capital in the aspect of job seeking. Part 3: Contributions of social capital towards jobs seeking and livelihood security which identified contributions of social capital on job seeking and other livelihood security of Myanmar urban migrant workers during the Covid-19 pandemic by in-depth interview questions.

Table 5 Data Collection Guide

Part	Description	Objectives	Data Collection Methods
1	Socio–Demographic Background	To find out profiles and general information	Questionnaire
2	Three dimensions of social capital on job seeking.	To examine the roles of social capital on job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers during the Covid–19 pandemic.	Questionnaire
3	Contributions of social capital towards job seeking and livelihood security	To identify contributions of social capital on Jobs seeking and livelihood security of Myanmar urban migrant workers during the Covid–19 pandemic.	In–depth interview

3.3.6 Background of questionnaire and interview questions in the survey design

In this session, each question used in the survey was clarified with its purpose and contribution to the research question of the study. As discussed in the Data collection and Data collection guide, there were three parts to the survey design. In general, the first two parts of the survey were formed as questionnaire types. To be more specific, there are eight questions in the first part of the survey collected through the questionnaire. The purpose of the first part was to gather demographic and social backgrounds related to the study of the social capital of the participants. For example, it asked about gender, job type, stay of city,

and more importantly their social relationships including family members, relatives, and friends, and connections to recruiters, brokers, agencies, or organizations in the host country. Those variables in the questions were adapted from the literature of this particular study.

In the second part of the survey, eleven questions were designed to measure different levels of social capital utilized by Myanmar urban migrant workers in search of jobs in Thailand. Nine out of eleven questions were formed on the Likert scale, and the rest of them were multiple choices. Within the Likert scale, each question had four scales of very important, important, neutral, and not at all that helped to distinguish the different levels of importance among three dimensions of social capital (Bonding, Bridging, and Linking) of Myanmar urban migrant workers' jobs seeking in Thailand. Moreover, two multiple-choice questions were aimed to answer two main variables: the most important source of information about the jobs market and the most reliable for the assistance of job-seeking among three dimensions of social capital.

In terms of social capital indicators in the second part of the survey, the specified indicators in Table 4 were used to represent and measure the different levels of three dimensions of social capital among Myanmar urban migrant workers' jobs seeking in Thailand. But, the two variables of questions number eighteen and nineteen were adapted from the World Bank's Social Capital Assessment Tools. Those two questions helped to capture one of the three dimensions of social capital's importance on job information and assistance of job seeking among Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

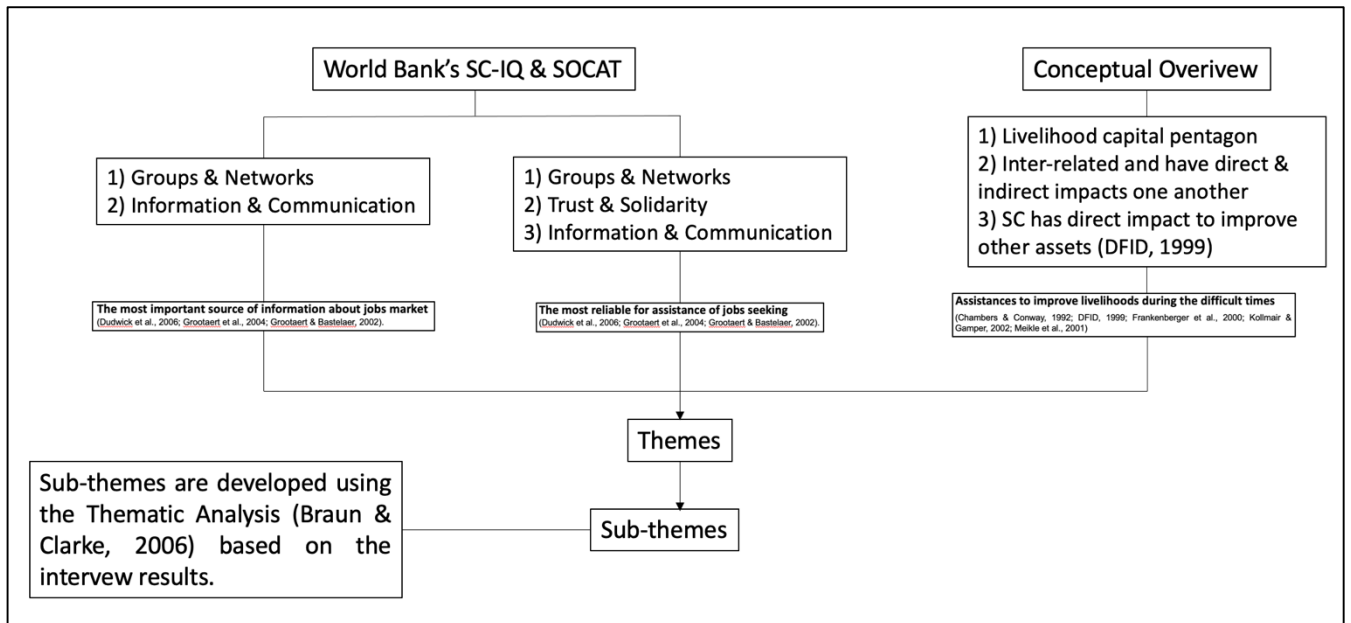


Figure 8 Background of interview questions in the survey design

There are only three interview questions in the third part of the survey. The first two questions of the third part were adapted from the World Bank's Social Capital Assessment Tools. Those two questions aimed to explore the contributions of social capital to Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking in Thailand. More specifically, those questions helped to identify various means of contributions by social capital when Myanmar urban migrant workers attempted to acquire job information and ask for assistance in search of jobs.

The last question in the third part of the survey was adapted from the conceptual review of livelihood security in the literature. That question was aimed to raise the livelihood and living concerns of Myanmar urban migrant workers during the Covid-19 outbreak. It also helped to figure out the utilization of social capital to address adversities and concerns in terms of securing livelihood in Thailand. In addition to that, the question contributed to

Yes..... No.....

8. Do you have any connections to recruiters, brokers, job agencies or non-profit organization in Thailand?

Yes..... No.....

Part 2: Roles of social capital on Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking.

Bridging Social Capital				
Indicators	4. Very Important	3. Important	2. Neutral	1. Not at all
9. Role of people from the same townfolk towards your job seeking.				
10. Role of your friends from different places/workplaces towards your job seeking.				
11. Role of your business partners/colleagues towards your job seeking.				
Bonding Social Capital				
12. Role of your family members towards your job seeking.				

13. Role of your relatives towards your job seeking.				
14. Role of your best friends towards your job seeking.				
Linking Social Capital				
15. Role of job agencies towards your job seeking.				
16. Role of employment authority towards your job seeking.				
17. Role of non-profit organizations towards your job seeking.				

18. What is the most important source of information about job market?

..... 1. Family members and Relatives (Bonding SC)

..... 1. Friends and Neighbors (Bonding SC)

..... 2. Groups or Associations of Myanmar migrant workers (Bridging SC)

..... 2. Business partners or colleagues (Bridging SC)

..... 3. Brokers, Job Agencies, Non-profit organizations (Linking SC)

..... 3. Employment Authority, Departments (Linking SC)

19. On whom do you rely the most for the assistance of job seeking?

..... 1. Family members and Relatives (Bonding SC)

..... 1. Friends and Neighbors (Bonding SC)

..... 2. Groups or Associations of Myanmar migrant workers (Bridging SC)

..... 2. Business partners or colleagues (Bridging SC)

..... 3. Brokers, Job Agencies, Non-profit organizations (Linking SC)

..... 3. Employment Authority, Departments (Linking SC)

Part 3: Contributions of social capital toward Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking

20. Why are the answers from Q18 the most important sources of information about the job market? How do they help your job seeking?

21. Why are the answers from Q19 the most reliable for the assistance of job seeking? How do they help toward your job seeking?

22. Who has helped you to improve other components of your livelihood security such as financial, housing, health and food when you are in trouble? How?

3.4 Analytical Methods

3.4.1 Quantitative Approach

The study has tried to identify different levels among three dimensions of social capital, and its roles in job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. To this degree, quantitative methods are relatively suitable (Dudwick et al., 2006). The study applied descriptive statistical analysis to three hypotheses as followings;

H1: It is assumed that one of three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital has the most involvement in Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking in Thailand.

H2: It is assumed that one of three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital is the most important source of information about job markets for Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

H3: It is assumed that Myanmar urban migrant workers rely on one of three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital the most for the assistance of job seeking in Thailand.

In addition to that, the study has attempted to examine relationships among captured characteristics of Myanmar urban migrant workers in a sense of social capital and its roles in job seeking in Thailand. It has been examined by the cross-tabulation analysis between many variables.

3.4.2 Qualitative Approach

The study attempted to understand the context and implications of Myanmar urban migrant workers regarding job seeking during the Covid-19 pandemic, a qualitative method helped to investigate the deep grounded situation and expressions from the participants regarding the research problem. For this reason, “quantitative techniques are, in general, less effective in understanding *context* and *process*. Qualitative methods are particularly effective in delving deeper into issues of process” (Dudwick et al., 2006).

Moreover, “qualitative approaches to measuring elements of social capital are particularly fruitful in the way that they can examine the contexts in which social capital operates” (Baum & Ziersch, 2003). Therefore, the study used the qualitative approach (in-depth interview) which helped the study to better understand the context and situations of Myanmar urban migrant workers regarding livelihood-related issues in Thailand.

Thus, the data collected through the in-depth interview with about 60 Myanmar urban migrant workers are analyzed by the thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The thematic analysis is widely utilized for qualitative research and analysis. According to Braun & Clarke (2006), there are six steps in the thematic analysis as follows;

1. **Familiarization with the data:** At this phase, reading repeatedly the data helps to become intimately familiar with the content of the data.
2. **Coding:** This phase includes generating codes from the familiarized data to find out the significant ideas that may be able to answer the research question. Then, do

the same process – generating codes, after that gather all codes of significant ideas, and those will be examined in the next stage.

3. **Generating initial themes:** This stage consists of gathering and examining all codes of significant ideas to identify patterns of the meaning from the codes as potential themes. Besides, sorting the codes out into each relevant potential theme. Since this research focuses on a deductive way of analysis, coding development is derived from the used concepts in the study.
4. **Reviewing themes:** This phase involves checking themes whether work in relation from the start until the data set as groups of ideas towards themes. Then generate a thematic ‘map’ of analysis connecting codes of ideas and themes.
5. **Defining and naming themes:** Within this phase, a detailed analysis of each theme is developed, and work on how the stories of each theme answer the research question. After then, define the names of the themes which is informative and include the main ideas of each dataset.
6. **Writing up:** Finalizing themes and ensuring all datasets are rightfully set up into relevant themes that all answer the research question.

To conclude, these six steps of the thematic analysis have been applied for the In-depth interview transcript analysis in this study.

3.5 Scope and Limitations of the study

The study was limited to recruiting about 60 Myanmar urban migrant workers who work and live in cities of Thailand with a gender balance. The study aimed to emphasize more on three dimensions of social capital: bonding, bridging, and linking social capitals, and understanding the roles and contributions of these three dimensions of social capital to Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Due to the small number of selected studies for the empirical review in Chapter 2, the conclusions of the results may not be quite comprehensive to draw the associations between social capital and livelihood security of urban migrant workers. On the one hand, it is evident from the present review that all studies clearly define and summarize the effects and roles of social capital directly impact one or more aspects of livelihood security among urban migrant workers.

Although the empirical review has tried to answer the associations between social capital and urban migrant workers' livelihood security in general through existing studies in different countries, the question may have remained with more questions concerning social capital and various aspects of urban migrant workers' livelihood security. It is expected that the observations from the present study will have implications for the direction of future research considering relationships between social capital and particular aspect of livelihood security.

Regarding the methodology of the present study, it has used the field research approach with mixed quantitative and qualitative methods. In the meantime, the study conducted the survey completely online through Facebook (social media) and phone calls since the Covid-19 and its restrictions remain serious in the Bangkok Metropolitan area and other provinces, especially Myanmar urban migrant workers may feel concerned and uncomfortable talking with a stranger in person. For that reason, utilizing remote tools to gather data in this study such as using Facebook could have selection bias in data collection. Using Facebook (social media) for data collection could only be reachable to Myanmar urban migrant workers who have access to the internet and use Facebook. In general, the majority of migrant workers nowadays use social media like Facebook.

Moreover, applying a snowball sampling method to gather data in the aspect of studying social capital seemed limited. As the snowball sampling method could only refer to the informant's (prior participant) connections, the results regarding the social capital of the referred participants could remain in the network of the informant. Nevertheless, the study had those drawbacks in terms of data collection methods, it did not highly affect the study's findings because the study utilized mixed qualitative and quantitative analytical approaches to identify roles and contributions of social capital rather than merely examining the level and thickness of social capital in the study.

3.6 Ethical Statements

The questions in the survey about “Social–Demographic background and some questions regarding the social capital measurement of Myanmar urban migrant workers” might pose a few ethical issues about age, gender, city of stay, types of job, social connections, and networks among migrants. However, this study doesn’t ask questions such as religious status, legal status, or precise location of stay that may harm the feelings of participants to answer willingly. Nevertheless, those questions are not listed, and the participants have the right to refuse to answer some particular questions in the survey. Before and during surveying with the participants, these some steps were also followed;

- First and foremost, the background of the study, objectives, and instructions was introduced to the participants.
- Ensured that the researcher tells the participants regarding the study is solely for educational purposes and information is highly confidential.
- During the survey, the participants had the right to refuse to answer questions that may harm /her feelings and security.
- During the survey, the participants had the right to stop questioning if he/she were uncomfortable with the researcher or the questions.

CHAPTER 4: DATA

In this chapter, two main parts are discussed such as data collection and data. For the data collection, data collection methods are explained. Besides, the principal findings (data) of the research are presented. In other words, the data represents the socio-demographic background of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand who voluntarily participated in data collection for this study.

4.1 Data Collection Methods

The study conducted the survey completely online since the Covid-19 outbreak and restrictions were one of the constraints to reaching out to the participants in person meanwhile the participants may not be comfortable participating in person and having contact with the stranger. In addition to that, the study aimed to collect data from Myanmar urban migrant workers in different cities of Thailand. Therefore, collecting data through phone calling and call-in messenger (social media platform) was one of the best options during this difficult time in the pandemic.

To reach out to Myanmar urban migrant workers across Thailand, there were two means. One of them was voluntary recruitment via the poster on Facebook (social media) explaining the background of the research, objectives, and instructions to participate in the survey that was posted on Myanmar migrant worker groups on Facebook. More importantly,

the poster explained that the survey was solely purposed for educational use. Eventually, Myanmar urban migrant workers who were interested to participate commented on the post or texted via messenger. Then, the available time of Myanmar urban migrant workers for the phone call or voice call on the messenger was negotiated and set up to conduct the survey. The duration of the survey only took 10 to 15 minutes per person. Besides, a few participants did do an online survey form with a google form, and they were reached out for the interview.

Another means of reaching out to Myanmar migrant workers was snowball sampling. With this method, there were also two ways of applying snowball sampling. First, the researcher himself has direct connections with Myanmar migrant workers and indirect connections. The direct connections mean the researcher has an acquaintance who is Myanmar urban migrant worker in Thailand. In order words, the researcher conducted the survey with Myanmar urban migrant workers within his connections. The indirect connections refer to the researcher surveying Myanmar urban migrant workers through their connections.

Secondly, Myanmar urban migrant workers who voluntarily participated in the survey referred to other Myanmar urban migrant workers whom they know and they would also be interested to participate in the survey. Through the referral of the participants, the researcher was able to reach out to other Myanmar urban migrant workers across Thailand who haven't seen the poster for calling on Facebook.

4.2 Socio-Demographic Background

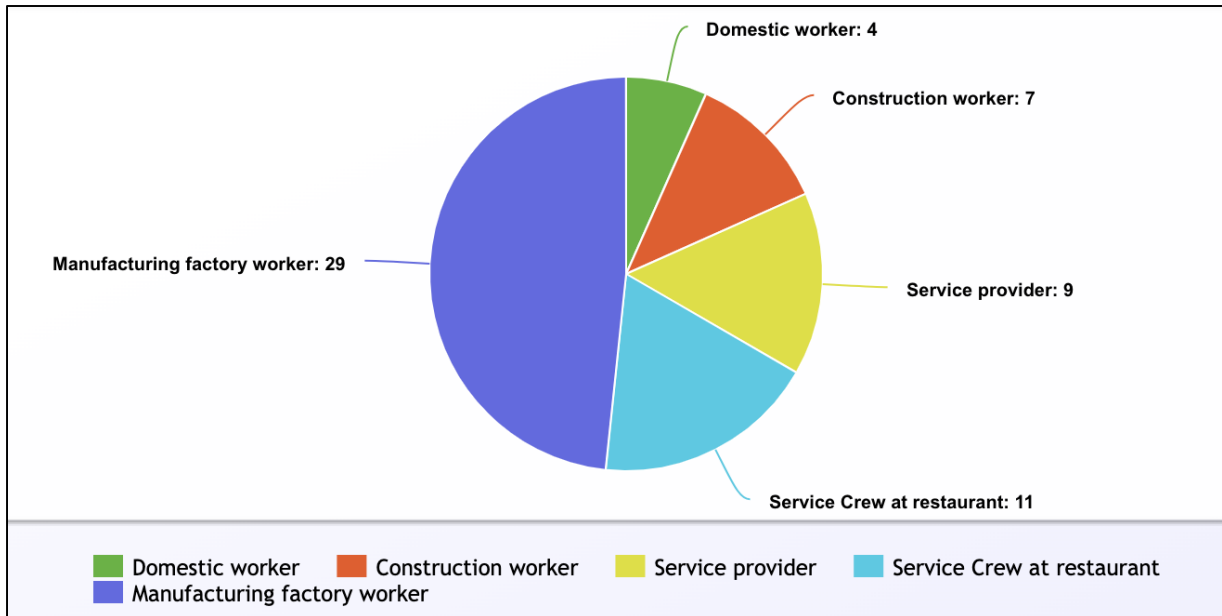


Figure 9 Participants' Job types (Data: Survey)

The majority of respondents in the study were male: 34 participants (57%) and female: 26 participants (43%). Among 60 Myanmar urban migrant workers who participated in the survey, the study covered different categories of jobs in Thailand. There were generally 5 types of job including Manufacturing factory worker: 29 persons (48%), Service Crew at restaurant 11 persons (18%), Service provider: 9 persons (15%), Construction worker: 7 persons (12%) and Domestic worker 4 persons (7%) (See Figure 9).

Subsequently, about 60 Myanmar urban migrant workers in the survey were from 11 different cities in Thailand. The majority of participants were from Bangkok: 18 persons and the second majority were from Chon Buri: 11 persons. The third-largest participants were from Samut Sakhon: 9 persons and Samut Prakan: 9 persons. The rest were from Chiang Mai: 5 persons, 2 persons each from Lopburi and Mae Sot, and 1 person each from Pathum Thani, Prachin Buri, Ranong, and Suphan Buri (See Figure 10).

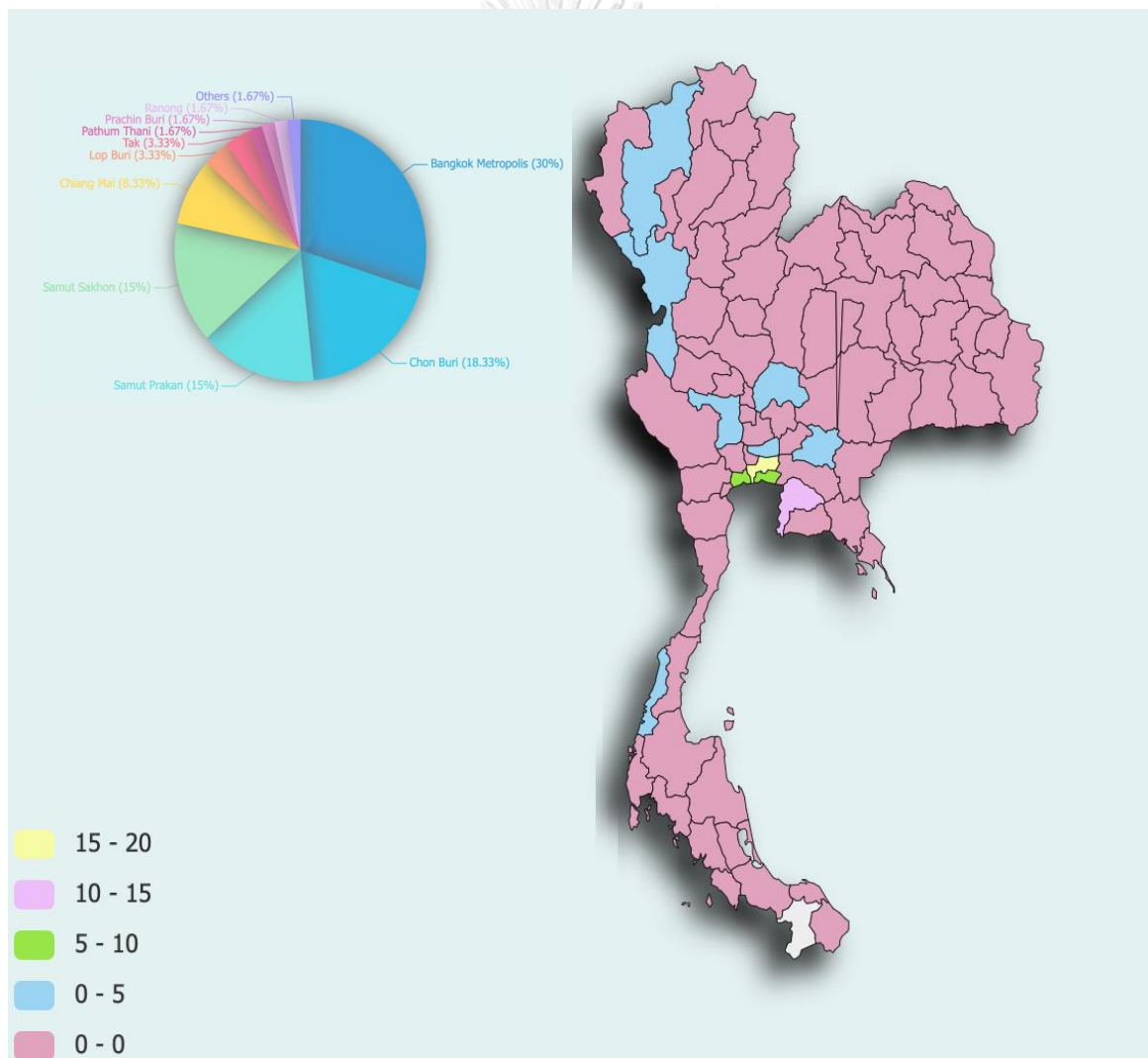


Figure 10 Participants' locations across Thailand (Data: Survey & Map: paintmaps)

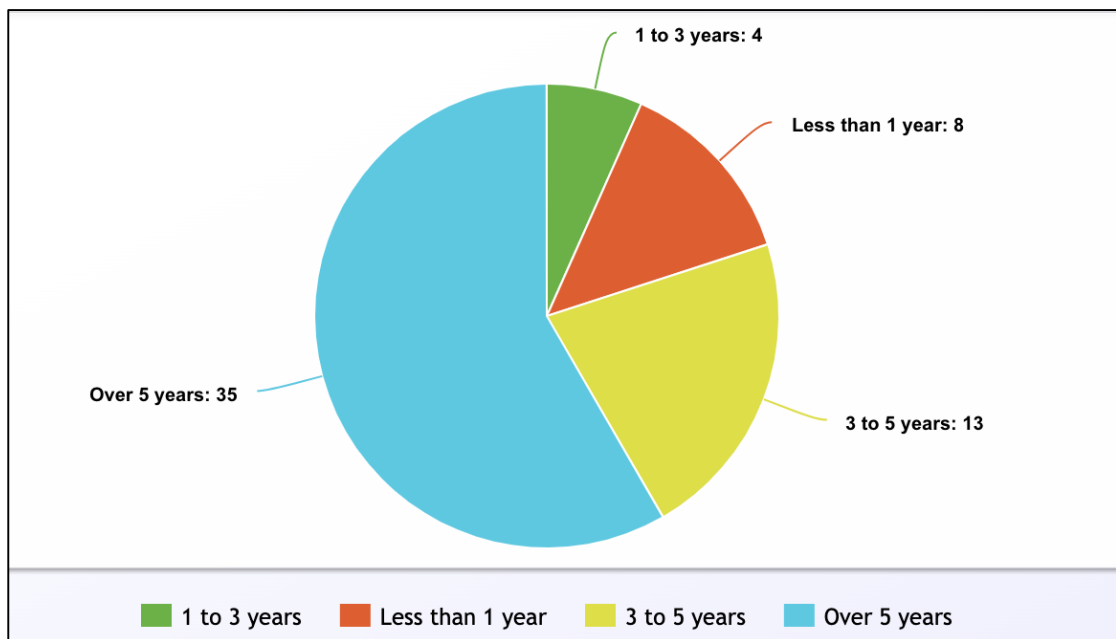


Figure 11 Participants' Length of stay in Thailand (Data: Survey)

In terms of length of stay, the majority of respondents who have been staying and working for over 5 years in Thailand were 58% (35 participants). Within 3 to 5 years, there were 22% (13 participants), within 1 to 3 years were 7% (4 participants) and respondents who have been staying and working less than one year were 13% (8 participants) in Thailand (See Figure 11).

Likewise, the majority of respondents in this study have been staying and working for over 5 years in Thailand, and most of them have family and family members in Thailand as well. According to the survey's findings, there were 72% (43 participants) have family members living in Thailand. Meanwhile, there were only 28% (17 participants) who do not have family members living in Thailand (See Figure 12).

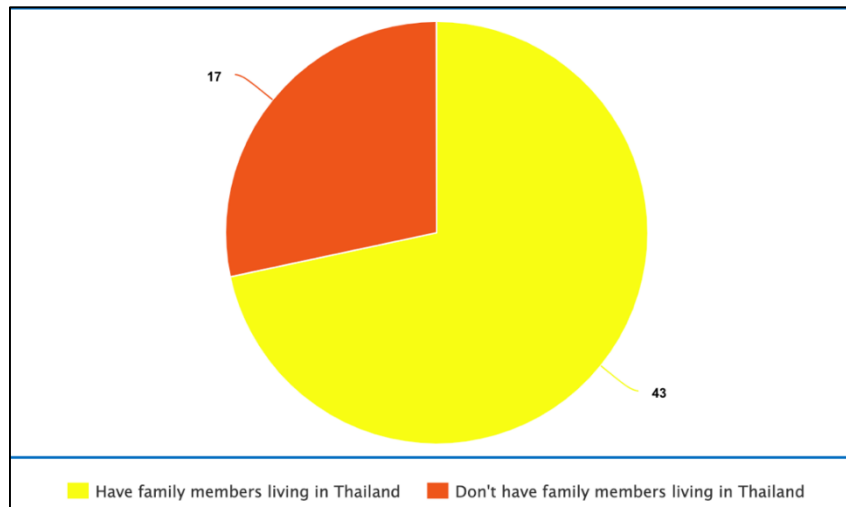


Figure 12 Participants' family members living in Thailand (Data: Survey)

In addition to that, the study also found that most participants have friends who are living in Thailand. According to the data of the survey, 88% (53 participants) of respondents have friends living in Thailand, and 12% (7 participants) don't have friends living in Thailand (See Figure, 13).

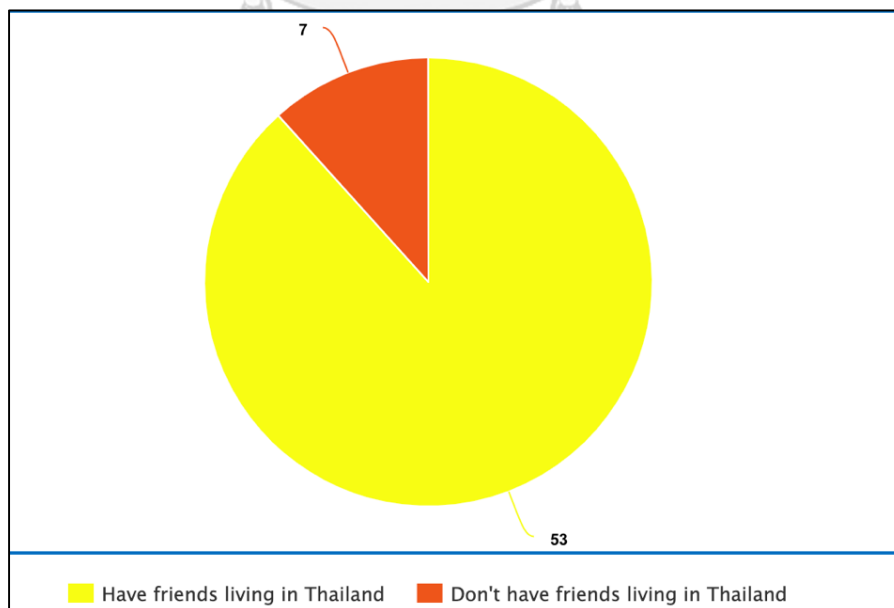


Figure 13 Participants' friends living in Thailand (Data: Survey)

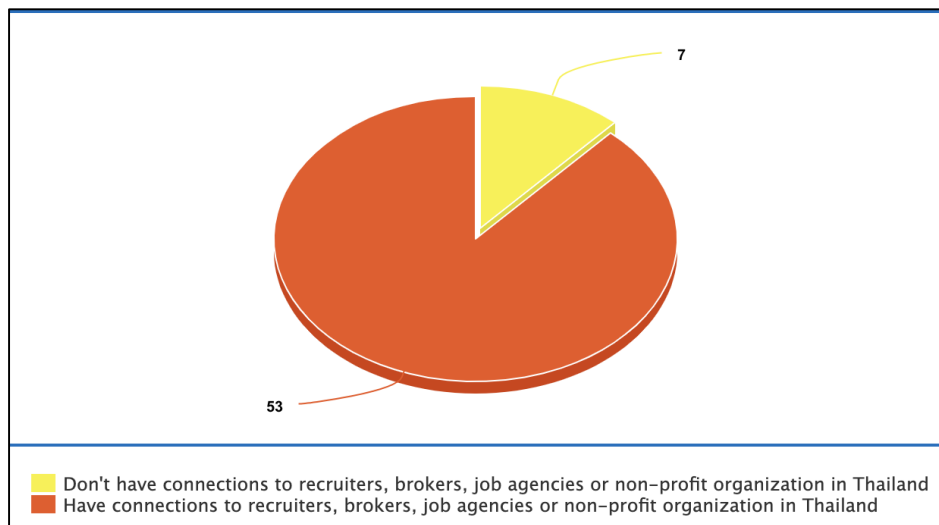


Figure 14 Participants' connections in Thailand (Data: Survey)

Aside from family members and friends who live in Thailand, the study found that Myanmar urban migrant workers also have connections to recruiters, brokers, job agencies, or non-profit organizations. There were 53 respondents (88%) the participants have connections to recruiters, brokers, job agencies, or non-profit organizations in Thailand. On the other hand, there were 7 respondents (12%) of the participants who do not have connections to recruiters, brokers, job agencies, or non-profit organizations in Thailand (See Figure 14).

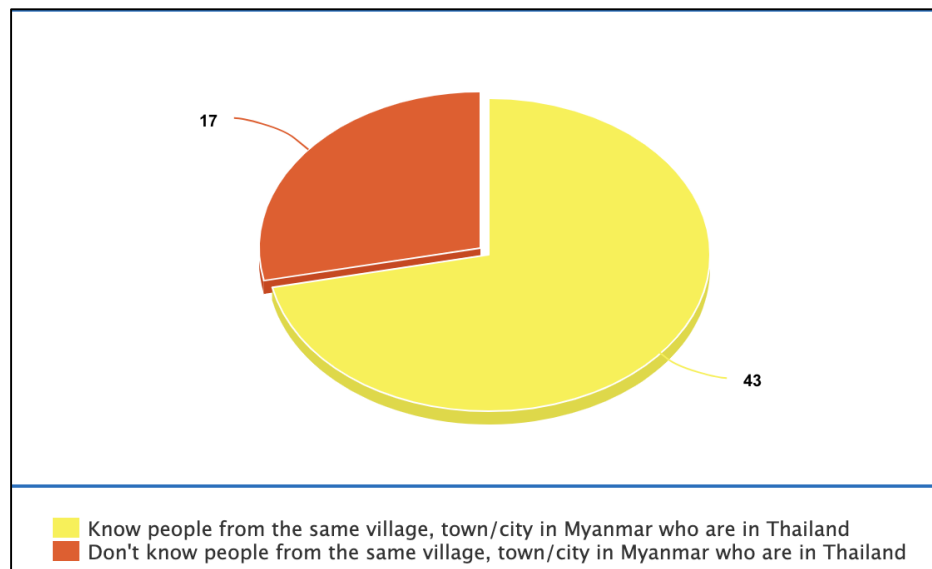


Figure 15 Participants' fellows in Thailand (Data: Survey)

Regarding Myanmar urban migrant workers' fellows, more than half (72%) of the respondents have those fellows such as people from the same village, city/town in Myanmar who are currently in Thailand, and the rest (28%) of the respondents do not know any people from the same village, city/town in Myanmar who are currently in Thailand (See Figure 15).

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Overall, collected data from the survey regarding the socio-demographic background of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand are presented in Table 6. The collected data with specified variables including gender, job type, city of stay, duration of stay, other variables measuring social capital of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand are being presented by number and percentage from the survey's result. Additionally, the next chapter (4) will discuss and present the findings using this collected data with descriptive analysis and cross-tabulation analysis.

Table 6 Socio-Demographic Characteristics (Data: Survey)

Variables in detail	Category	Number	Percentage
Gender	<i>Male</i>	34	57%
	<i>Female</i>	26	43%
Types of job	<i>Manufacturing factor worker</i>	29	48%
	<i>Service Crew at restaurant</i>	11	18%
	<i>Service provider</i>	9	15%
	<i>Construction worker</i>	7	12%
	<i>Domestic worker</i>	4	7%
City of stay	<i>Bangkok</i>	18	30%
	<i>Chon Buri</i>	11	18%
	<i>Samut Sakhon</i>	9	15%
	<i>Samut Prakan</i>	9	15%
	<i>Chiang Mai</i>	5	8%
	<i>Lopburi</i>	2	3%
	<i>Mae Sot</i>	2	3%
	<i>Pathum Thani</i>	1	2%
	<i>Prachin Buri</i>	1	2%
	<i>Ranong</i>	1	2%
<i>Suphan Buri</i>	1	2%	

Length of stay in Thailand	<i>Less than 1 year</i>	8	13%
	<i>1 to 3 years</i>	4	7%
	<i>3 to 5 years</i>	13	22%
	<i>Over 5 years</i>	35	58%
Family members living in Thailand	Yes	43	72%
	No	17	28%
Friends living in Thailand	Yes	53	88%
	No	7	12%
Connections to recruiters, brokers, job agencies or non-organizations in Thailand	<i>Have</i>	53	88%
	<i>Do not have</i>	7	12%
Know people from the same village, city/town in Myanmar who are in Thailand	Yes	43	72%
	No	17	28%

CHAPTER 5: RESULT

5.1 QUANTITATIVE DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS:

5.1.1 ROLES OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN MYANMAR URBAN MIGRANT WORKERS' JOB SEEKING

5.1.1.1 Result 1

Descriptive statistics on survey data have examined the different levels of importance among three dimensions of social capital in the job search of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

Table 7 shows the contributions of each indicator that represents bonding social capital (family members, relatives, and best friends). Within the bonding, family members have the highest role in contributing to job seeking. As a whole of bonding social capital, it has a 'mean = 2.567'.

Table 7 Role of bonding social capital towards job seeking

Role of Bonding Social Capital towards job seeking (Mean = 2.567)			
	Family members	Relatives	Best friends
Valid	60	60	60
Missing	0	0	0
Mean	2.883	2.400	2.417
Std. Deviation	1.223	1.210	1.225

Table 8 Role of bridging social capital towards job seeking

Role of Bridging Social Capital towards job seeking (Mean = 1.984)			
	friends of your friends	Friends from different places/workplaces	Business partners/colleagues
Valid	60	60	60
Missing	0	0	0
Mean	2.017	1.867	2.067
Std. Deviation	1.172	1.081	1.177

Table 8 presents the contributions of each indicator that represents bridging social capital (friends of your friends, friends from different places/workplaces, and business partners/colleagues). Within the bridging, business partners/colleagues have the highest role in contributing to job seeking. As a whole of bridging social capital, it has 'mean = 1.984'.

Table 9 also displays the contributions of each indicator that represents linking social capital (job agencies, employment authorization, and non-profit organizations). Within the linking, job agencies have the highest role in contributing to job seeking. As a whole of linking social capital, it has a 'mean = 1.744'.

Table 9 Role of linking social capital towards job seeking

Role of Linking Social Capital towards job seeking (Mean = 1.744)			
	Job agencies	Employment authority	Non-profit organizations
Valid	60	60	60
Missing	0	0	0
Mean	2.150	1.550	1.533
Std. Deviation	1.300	0.999	1.033

As Table 10 suggests bonding social capital has the highest (mean=2.567) important role in Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking in Thailand, meanwhile bridging social capital has the second-highest (mean=1.984), and linking social capital has the last (mean=1.744). In other words, it explains three dimensions that have different levels of an important contribution to Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking in Thailand. Hence, it is the result that proves that Hypothesis (1) Three dimensions of (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) social capital towards Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking in Thailand have different levels of importance among each other during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 10 Different level importance of bonding, bridging and linking social capitals

	Bonding Social Capital	Bridging Social Capital	Linking Social Capital
Valid	60	60	60
Missing	0	0	0
Mean	2.567	1.984	1.744

5.1.1.2 Result 2

Figure 16 shows that the most important sources of information about the job market for Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand are Bonding Social Capital 78.3% (47 participants), Bridging Social Capital 20% (12 participants), and Linking Social Capital 1.7% (1 participant).

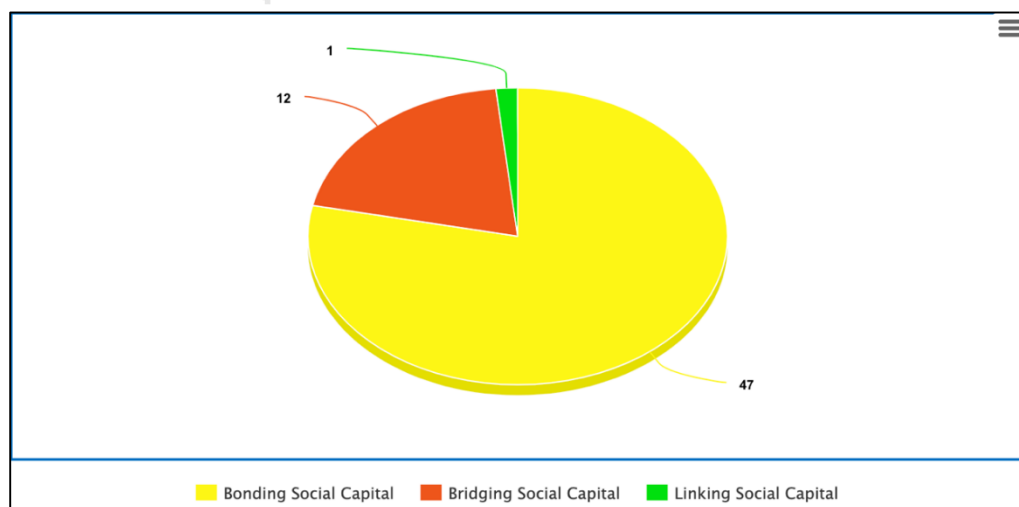


Figure 16 The most important sources of information about job markets

Bonding social capital is the most important source of information about the job market for Myanmar urban migrant workers when it comes to job seeking. Therefore, it is evidence that the result proves Hypothesis (2) One of the three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital which is bonding social capital is the most important source of information about job markets for Myanmar urban migrant workers towards job seeking in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.

5.1.1.3 Result 3

Figure 17 displays that the most reliable assistance for job seeking for Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand is Bonding Social Capital 75% (45 participants), Bridging Social Capital 23.3% (14 participants) and Linking Social Capital 1.7% (1 participant). In this regard, it is clear that Myanmar urban migrant workers mostly rely on their bonding social capital in terms of assistance for job seeking rather than bridging and linking social capitals. Therefore, it is evidence that the result proves Hypothesis (3) Myanmar urban migrant workers rely on one of the three dimensions (Bridging, Bonding, and Linking) of social capital the most which is bonding social capital bonding for the assistance of job seeking in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.

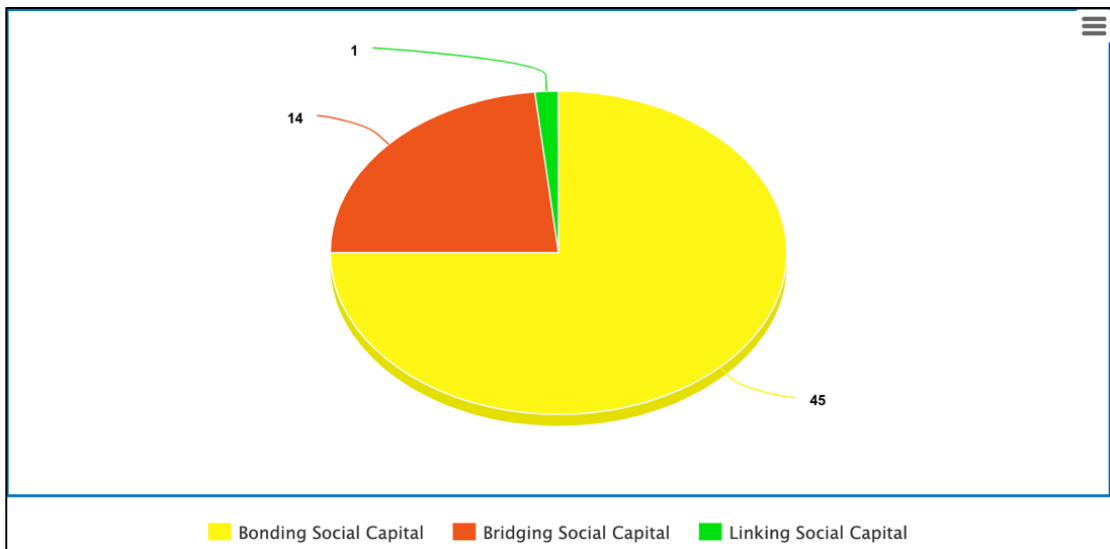


Figure 17 The most reliable for the assistance of job seeking

5.1.1.4 Findings from Cross-Tabulation Analysis

Examining the relationship between gender perspectives and utilization of social capital by Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand in search of job information and reliable assistance for job seeking in Thailand, Table 11 indicates that both Male and Female Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand utilize *Bonding social capital* the most. Comparatively, Female Myanmar urban migrant workers utilize *Bonding social capital* more than Male Myanmar urban migrant workers in both senses of job information and reliable assistance in job seeking in Thailand.

Table 11 Utilization of social capital concerning the gender of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand

Gender	Sample size (n=60)	The most important source of information about job market			The most reliable for assistance of job seeking		
		Bonding	Bridging	Linking	Bonding	Bridging	Linking
Male	57%	76%	21%	3%	68%	29%	3%
Female	43%	81%	19%	–	85%	15%	–

Table 12, displays that regardless of the short or long stay of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand, '*Bonding Social Capital*' has been the most contributed asset towards job seeking during the Covid-19 outbreak in the aspects of source of information and reliable assistance of job seeking. Moreover, utilization of *Bonding Social Capital* by Myanmar urban migrant workers towards their job seeking in Thailand has been slightly increased by year of stay. In order words, Myanmar urban migrant workers who stay longer in Thailand, use *Bonding social capital* for their job seeking.

Table 12 Utilization of social capital concerning the length of stay in Thailand

Length of stay	Sample size (n=60)	The most important source of information about job market			The most reliable for assistance of job seeking		
		Bonding	Bridging	Linking	Bonding	Bridging	Linking
Less than 1 year	13%	100%	-	-	75%	25%	-
1 to 3 years	7%	75%	-	25%	50%	25%	25%
3 to 5 years	22%	69%	31%	-	69%	31%	-
Over 5 years	58%	77%	23%	-	80%	20%	-

The following Table 13, Table 14, and Table 15 present the level of Myanmar urban migrant workers' social capital in Thailand respectively to variables of gender, length of stay, and city of stay. Each table shows the level of three dimensions and each dimension of social capital is presented accordingly. Basically, the result of each dimension is being emphasized on the respective variable (table) answering how many percent of respective participants in each particular variable that are not counted 100% in a total of three dimensions. Each dimension of social capital in the Tables has 100%, and only the percentage of participants who have respective dimensions are presented.

Regarding the level of Myanmar urban migrant workers' social capital in Thailand, Table 13 suggests that 85% of Male Myanmar urban migrant workers have *Bonding social capital* while only 54% of Female Myanmar urban migrant workers have *Bonding social capital*. Surprisingly, 88% of Male and Female Myanmar urban migrant workers have *Bridging social capital*. Moreover, just 56% of Male Myanmar urban migrant workers have *Linking social capital*. In contrast, 73% of Female Myanmar urban migrant workers have *Linking social capital*.

Table 13 Level of social capital concerning the gender of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Sample size (n=60)</i>	<i>Bonding Social Capital</i>	<i>Bridging Social Capital</i>	<i>Linking Social Capital</i>
<i>Male</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>85%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>56%</i>
<i>Female</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>73%</i>

Table 14 Level of social capital concerning the length of stay in Thailand

<i>Length of stay</i>	<i>Sample size (n=60)</i>	<i>Bonding Social Capital</i>	<i>Bridging Social Capital</i>	<i>Linking Social Capital</i>
<i>Less than 1 year</i>	13%	50%	25%	25%
<i>1 to 3 years</i>	7%	100%	100%	75%
<i>3 to 5 years</i>	22%	69%	77%	46%
<i>Over 5 years</i>	58%	74%	97%	77%

Table 14, examines the relationships between length of stay in Thailand and the level of social capital in Thailand. So, Table 14 shows that the longer stay of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand (host country) builds bigger social capital in dimensions of bonding, bridging, and linking. According to this study's findings, Myanmar urban migrant workers who have been living in Thailand for over 5 years (a longer stay) have the highest level of *Bridging social capital*. *Linking social capital* is the second highest, and *Bonding social capital* is the least. In contrast, Myanmar urban migrant workers who have been living in Thailand for less than 1 year (a shorter stay) have the highest level of *Bonding social capital*, and *Bridging and Linking social capital* is the least.

The majority of the sample size in the study lives in Bangkok Metropolitan Region such as Bangkok, Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, and Pathum Thani, the rest are from different cities in Thailand. Examining the highest level of social capital in different cities in Thailand, Table 15 shows that other cities in BMR including Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, and Pathum Thani have the highest *Bonding social capital* among other cities in Thailand. Cities like Chiang Mai and Bangkok have the highest *Bridging social capital*, and Chon Buri has the highest *Linking social capital* of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

Table 15 Level of social capital concerning city/region of stay in Thailand

<i>City of Stay</i>	<i>Sample size (n=60)</i>	<i>Bonding Social Capital</i>	<i>Bridging Social Capital</i>	<i>Linking Social Capital</i>
<i>Bangkok</i>	30%	56%	94%	67%
<i>Chon Buri</i>	18%	73%	91%	100%
<i>Other cities in BMR</i>	32%	95%	84%	53%
<i>Chiang Mai</i>	8%	60%	100%	20%
<i>Other small cities</i>	12%	57%	71%	57%

5.1.2 SUMMARY OF QUANTITATIVE DESCRIPTIVE ANALYTICAL RESULT

The quantitative descriptive analysis including cross-tabulation analysis has attempted to measure different levels of involvement of social capital in job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic and examined relationships among different characteristics of Myanmar urban migrant workers regarding the level of social capital.

The present study has emphasized the three domains of measurement of social capital. In other words, three hypotheses have been mainly tested to measure the roles of social capital. To be more specific, different level of importance of three dimensions of social capital was quantified as the first hypothesis of the study. Moreover, evaluating the roles of social capital as the most important source of information and the most reliable for the assistance of job-seeking among three dimensions was also calculated with the descriptive analysis. In addition to that, the cross-tabulation analysis has pointed out relationships among different variables in a sense of studying social capital and its level.

As a result of testing hypotheses, Myanmar urban migrant workers approach their bonding social relationships the most including family members, relatives, and close friends in Thailand to acquire information about employment and job opportunities as the main source of job seeking. Bonding social capital is the most reliable source assistance of job seeking in Thailand. According to the present study's findings, bonding social capital among

the other dimensions has the highest benchmark of involvement in the job-seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the cross-tabulation analysis also suggests that bonding social capital is utilized by Female Myanmar urban migrant workers the most for jobs information and seeking reliable assistance in jobs search in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic. Regarding the level of social capital among male and female Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand, male Myanmar urban migrant workers have higher bonding social capital, both male and female Myanmar urban migrant workers have the same ratio of bridging social capital, and female Myanmar urban migrant workers have higher Linking social capital in Thailand as well.

In a sense of utilizing social capital by Myanmar urban migrant workers towards jobs seeking in Thailand, bonding social capital is the highest regardless of a short or long stay in Thailand. However, when it comes to the level of social capital by year of stay in Thailand, Myanmar urban migrant workers who've been living in Thailand for more than 5 years have the highest bridging social capital, in contrast, Myanmar urban migrant workers who have a shorter stay in Thailand such as less than 1 year have the highest bonding social capital. Eventually, the city of stay Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand the level of social capital has different levels respectively, and it is connected to where Myanmar urban migrant workers are living in Thailand.

5.2 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

5.2.1 CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOCIAL CAPITAL OF MYANMAR URBAN MIGRANT WORKERS TOWARD JOB SEEKING

5.2.1.1 Theme 1: The most important source of information about the job market ***Acquirement from intimate ones and acquaintances***

Typically, the news and information are used to collect, gather and share within and among a group of people who are close and reliable to one another. Thus, having a source of relationship with an individual or the group of people who have been employed in certain workplaces is affirmative for getting potential jobs among migrant workers. Likewise, Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand attempt to consult with their family members or relatives who are already in Thailand and working in some parts of Thailand about whether there are available jobs at their workplaces. In addition to that, the acquaintances could provide further detailed implications of a job application.

“I ask my family members and relatives who are also working in Thailand about job information, and they are from different workplaces and some are from different cities. I acquire them whether there are potential jobs in their workplaces.” (Participant 26)

Participant 8, 21, 22, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, and 55 responded that information related jobs, workplaces and requirements are collected from family members and relatives in Thailand.

Aside from family members or relatives, Myanmar urban migrant workers also reach out to their close friends who are working across Thailand and inquire about job availability in their workplaces. Besides, they request their friends to share if they see any job announcements in their cities or if they hear anything about jobs from their networks, connections, or social media.

“Since my friends are working in Thailand, I ask them to tell me if there are any jobs at their places. In addition, I ask them to share with me if they find any job callings.” (Participant 20)

Participant 4, 12, 13, 15, 19, 29, & 33 provided that friends are also sharing jobs related information, and calling to come and work with them.

Those relationships with family, relatives, and friends have been the crucial source of information about the jobs market for Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand. Moreover, they assist in connectivity towards jobs search, implication, and application relatively. Especially, they introduce to recruiters or brokers whom they have known for job seeking in Thailand. The recruiters or brokers are trustful and reliable which is important. Therefore, those recruiters or brokers are essential entry points at particular workplaces in Thailand.

“When I ask my family members, relatives, or friends about job availability in their sites and workplaces, they introduce me to brokers or

recruiters of the workplaces. At their workplaces, applicants must go through the brokers or recruiters' assistance in search of jobs.” (Participant 35)

Participant 8, 22, 26, 27, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, & 5 replied that social relationships like family members, relatives, and including friends know recruiters of their workplaces, then they bring to their work, introduce to the recruiter and inquire about job availability and apply with their help.

Receiving jobs information from acquaintances

Having family, family members, and relatives who are staying and working in Thailand is helpful and supportive. The family members and relatives often forward job information. The majority of the forwarded jobs are called from their workplaces or in the same city. According to the present research findings, most of Myanmar's urban migrant workers have family members and relatives in Thailand, and the locations of their jobs are across Thailand. However, once there are jobs available at their places, they share and forward them to family members and relatives who must be the most suitable and appropriate for the jobs.

“My acquaintances who know me very well regarding what I am capable of such as ability, skills, and competency. They would tell me about the jobs which are suitable to me, and I could do it.” (Participant 14)

“Since family members and relatives know what jobs are available and suitable to me at their workplaces or others, they also share with me, help to apply.” (Participant 16)

Thus, friends from different cities and workplaces in Thailand welcome and ask to come and work at their workplaces together. So, they explain job types and job conditions.

“Especially, friends of mine ask me to come and work with them. They always share jobs’ information and availability in their workplaces.” (Participant 39)

Participants 40, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59, & 60 responded that they share jobs related information including maximum income, things to do, and working conditions.

Furthermore, few Myanmar urban migrant workers who have job information including the job type, location, and monthly wage from the acquaintances, directly go to the job place to apply for it.

“My acquaintances forwarded the job information. Then, I went to the job place and applied for it.” (Participant 40)

“A friend of mine shared the job in a restaurant with me, so that I was able to apply and get the job there.” (Participant 51)

Gathering job information through Facebook groups

Facebook (social media) has been one of the important platforms among Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. Facebook is widely used by people of Myanmar including migrant workers, unlike Thai people who mostly use LINE APP, and well-known as Green App among Myanmar migrant workers. In addition to that, Myanmar migrant workers utilize Facebook for various reasons including reading news, entertainment, communication purpose with families and friends, and most importantly in search of job opportunities.

There are private and public group pages and chats on Facebook established for Myanmar migrant workers across Thailand. Within those group pages and chats, news about Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, information about updated migration regulations and policies, and employment and job calling information are widely shared and posted. Then, Myanmar migrant workers who would like to search for jobs through Facebook, join the group pages and chats, and inquire about available jobs and its implication. Therefore, Facebook has been an important element to search for job information and connect with people for job implications.

“Aside from contacting family members, relatives or friends who are working in Thailand, I also use Facebook for job searching.” (Participant 9)

“I use Facebook as job searching too as well, but only for information gathering.” (Participant 17)

“On Facebook, there are job callings directly from the boss, then I comment and talk to the boss. Meanwhile, there are also job callings by brokers, but I ignore and skip them that they cannot be trusted as I always see news regarding brokers leaving migrant workers somewhere and, have tricked migrant workers for money.” (Participant 18)

On one hand, the brokers have been the most important source of information for job seeking for Myanmar urban migrant workers. This is common on Facebook group pages where there are brokers both who are reliable and trustful, and who are not. However, few Myanmar urban migrant workers in the present study can reach out to the brokers whom they met through Facebook groups for job-seeking services. The brokers have been meant to them and helpful for the preparation and application for jobs in Thailand.

“I met a broker through the job-seeking groups on Facebook who posted about jobs, then I talked to him/her about the jobs that I wanted to apply for it. Lately, I have got that job with his/her service. So, the broker

has been the important node for me to get employed with his/her recommendations.” (Participant 6)

“The broker I’ve known from Facebook explained about jobs-related facts. Since I am a domestic worker, I have to know about the family where I will be working for, then the broker was very helpful and informative.” (Participant 7)

5.2.1.2 Theme 2: The most reliable for the assistance of job seeking

Crucial support from intimate ones (Family members, relatives, and close friends)

Ways of job seeking and applying for jobs in Thailand comprised of various support from the family members, relatives, and close friends who are also working in Thailand. Their involvements were indeed a crucial and active role in getting jobs. Their involvements were as essential as the brokers or recruiters at some places. Myanmar urban migrant workers’ either family members, relatives, or close friends who are working, they bring to their workplaces to apply for jobs there. They talk to the labor leaders of their workplaces or sites regarding jobs application. Eventually, Myanmar urban migrant workers are employed at those workplaces where their acquaintances have assisted to apply for it.

“My family members, relatives, or close friends brought me to their factory or sites where they work. They introduced me to the labor leaders

of their workplaces and talked about job availability and application for me.

And then, I got the jobs there.” (Participant 1)

Participant 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 22, 23, 26, 27, 43, 47, 48, 49, 57, and 58 responded that social relationships such as family members, relatives, or close friends are important nodes to connect with brokers/recruiters, and gathering information regarding job markets and inquires.

Only getting employed for Myanmar urban migrant workers is not done yet, the legal documentation and paperwork are quite important to them as well. Having permission to stay and work in a particular province of the workplace has to be applied and extended. Otherwise, problems of staying and working illegally could be issued and fined. However, acquaintances of Myanmar urban migrant workers who stay and work in a particular province, are aware of how to prepare paperwork, documents, and application since they are used to the procedures of documentation. Therefore, they have been supportive relatively not only of job searching but also of the preparation of legal documentation for Myanmar urban migrant workers.

“Information and guidance from acquaintances are helpful to prepare documents and apply for a work permit in the particular workplace.” (Participant 30)

“Acquaintances help to apply for the work permit and documentation. Since they know how to do it, they have been very supportive.” (Participant 59)

Participant 31, and 60 also replied that not only jobs related information, but also legal documentation such as work permits and visas are important. However, it has been an invaluable asset of having social relationships with those who know how to prepare documents and applications.

Nevertheless, financial needs have always been a case to apply both for jobs and legal permissions, acquaintances such as family members, relatives, and close friends of Myanmar urban migrant workers try to help at some points, and they pay back the borrowed money from their monthly income. Therefore, financial assistance from acquaintances at the stage of job searching and application is relatively needed for Myanmar urban migrant workers.

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“During job seeking, money is essential, like if I need to pay someone who has assisted to me such as brokers. More importantly, costs for applying for a work permit and other legal documentation must be paid. So, I had to borrow some money from acquaintances including family members, relatives, and friends who have been doing well during this difficult time.” (Participant 55)

Participants 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 35, 59, and 60 responded that money is still an important part of job searching and application to use for documents, work permits, visas, and travel expenses. Hence, financial help from acquaintances including family members, relatives, and friends is indeed helpful.

Brokers and recruiters are nodes to enter job markets

Some of the workplaces and sites are associated with either brokers or recruiters to get through job applications and documentation. Myanmar urban migrant workers who would like to get employed contact either brokers or recruiters of the workplaces. Myanmar urban migrant workers have known the brokers or recruiters with the support of family members, relatives, or friends. Once Myanmar urban migrant workers are connected with the brokers or recruiters, they bring them to the workplace along with important documents. The brokers or recruiters then talk to either the boss or labor leaders of the workplaces. In one sentence, the brokers or recruiters assist Myanmar urban migrant workers until they get employed, and Myanmar urban migrant workers just have to follow along with legal documents.

“My family members and relatives in Thailand who have known the broker for years introduced me to me. Then, the broker brought me to the workplaces where they are associated. I’ve seen they talked to labor

leaders that I knew who they are lately. They asked me to bring legal documents, and copies and follow them. After all, I got the job at that work with the assistance of the broker.” (Participant 3)

“My family members connected me to the recruiter who helped me to get employed.” (Participant 37)

“The broker I know who has brought me to the factory and talked to labor leader, assisted me to get a job and legal documents while working there.” (Participant 53)

Participant 6, 8, 9, 24, 36, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 52, 54, and 56 responded that some of them have known brokers or recruiters with their family members and relatives’ help. Consequently, with the support of those brokers or recruiters, they can get employed and receive legal documents such as visas and work permits.

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Self-support direct entry into job markets

For a few Myanmar urban migrant workers who do not have very close acquaintances or who have acquaintances, but they do not know much about the job market in Thailand, they rely on themselves towards getting employed in Thailand. However, those Myanmar urban migrant workers who can read and speak the Thai language explore Facebook groups in search of job callings by the factory or the boss. Once they find jobs on

Facebook, they directly contact the boss who has posted the jobs to inquire about job types, conditions, and monthly wage.

“I have seen the post of job calling on the Facebook group, and it is a direct call from the boss. Then, I texted to inquire about job types, conditions, and monthly wages since I can read, write and speak Thai. Afterward, I get employed by the boss.” (Participant 15)

“I saw the job post on Facebook called by the restaurant owner. I expressed my interest, and then called for inquiry regarding working hours, wage and conditions.” (Participant 18)

On the other hand, few Myanmar urban migrant workers directly go to construction sites. Wherever they have seen the construction sites, they attempt to inquire about whether there is job availability on the site.

“I go to many construction sites across the city where I live. When I find the construction site, I ask someone from the site to talk with the site leader to inquire about job availability, and I express my interest that I would like to work there. If there is not, I continue searching for the jobs.” (Participant 5)

“I go to construction sites and ask if there is some space that I can work. If so, I work as a daily worker with minimum wage.” (Participant 13)

5.2.1.3 Theme 3: Assistance to improve livelihoods during the difficult times

Urgent financial help from trustful and reliable acquaintances

Having good relationships with friends who are trustworthy and reliable to one another while staying and working in another country is relatively important. Whenever Myanmar urban migrant workers encounter running out of cash before payroll or before the time when they receive a wage, they have their financial arrangement with the help of friends who trust to lend some money without interest fees or extra charges. It is likely to be a short-term loan without the interest fee or extra charges.

“I always ask my friends when I am running out of cash before receiving a wage. I am reliable and trustful, so my friends feel comfortable lending me some money. I return as soon as I receive my monthly wage it is like within a week.” (Participant 3)

“Anytime, I need urgent financial help, I ask my reliable friend. He has been very good to me. I always return money to him as I have promised the time that makes our relationship trustful.” (Participant 5)

This kind of financial arrangement to address financial issues have been observed not only among friends but also among Myanmar urban migrant workers’ family and relatives in Thailand. It also makes Myanmar urban migrant workers feel less worried when there are acquaintances to help one another in Thailand.

“Since my family members and relatives are working in Thailand, I feel more comfortable and they are always helpful too. Especially, financial issues are always the case I have to ask for help from my family members and relatives.” (Participant 14)

“When it comes to money and borrowing, I always ask family members first and relatives second. Most of the time, they could help me with it.” (Participant 43)

Participant 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 44, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, and 60 replied that needs of financial assistance have been occurred at some points such as visa extension and work permit extension. For those reasons and other times, family members and relatives have always been supportive either they help with some money or they approach others to get some money.

Financial support to secure housing

Likewise, financial help from trustful and reliable acquaintances is likely to be urgent and short-term loans, Myanmar urban migrant workers sometimes need a certain amount of money to pay for the rent. When they move out to another apartment or room, they need to pay for the rent including the deposit which is equivalent to two to three months' rental fees. However, having acquaintances like family members and relatives who are doing well could help to address it.

“I ask family members or relatives to lend some certain amount of money for a while to pay the rent. If they are doing well, they spare some money. Otherwise, I ask from my friends.” (Participant 1)

“I had to ask some money from family members in Thailand to pay the rent due to the insufficient wage caused by covid-19 and pay cut.” (Participant 6)

“Since I got Covid infection, I can't go to work and have less income. I didn't have the full amount to pay for the rent. Thereby, I had to borrow some money from my friend not only for the rent but also to buy some dry food.” (Participant 16)

Nevertheless, although some Myanmar migrant workers have jobs and income, they still encounter financial problems. Some particular workplaces and construction sites are shut

down due to the Covid-19 restrictions and measurement, then the workforce including Myanmar urban migrant workers have faced pay cuts which have led them to resort to healthy and regular food consumption, and more importantly less usage of health hygiene facilities due to the less income. Especially, they don't have enough amount to pay the rent since they have to proportionally spend for the entire month. Therefore, financial supports from family and friends remain important to them.

"I have to use money very carefully since I have pay cut due to the workplace shut down caused by the Covid-19. Sometimes, I have to borrow some money from either family or relatives or friends to pay my rent since I don't have enough money at the end of the month."

(Participant 5)

Participant 9, 11, 45, 46, 51, 53, 56, 57, 58, and 60 responded that pay cuts and less income are really hard to manage consumption. At the end of the month, the financial problem to pay the rent remains repeatedly. However, helping one another among family and relatives has been crucial to securing the housing at the least.

Space sharing with friends

Having friends or friends who are staying single in different places is helpful to Myanmar urban migrant workers who are single as well. As Myanmar urban migrant workers who confront financial problems during the pandemic such as difficulty paying rent at all costs, they discuss with their friends to share the living roof and pay partially which helps them to minimize the living cost and maximize the essential expenditures for food and health facilities.

“Since I have less income, I can’t effort to pay the entire rental fee. Then, I talk to my friends who are staying single to share the room and pay together.” (Participant 3)

“Sharing room and paying partially with a good friend have been very helpful to manage the income and expense. Otherwise, it is really difficult to pay for the full amount of rent by myself.” (Participant 12)

In addition to that, Myanmar urban migrant worker who has encountered a bleak situation such as being unable to pay anything for the rent due to the loss of a job had to move out of the apartment eventually. Despite the struggles, a good friend of hers has been indeed a supportive asset.

“It was very difficult for me. Fortunately, a good friend of mine shared her apartment with me paying nothing until I have got a new job.”

(Participant 24)

Exchange and Food Supply Distribution

Living in the neighborhoods of Myanmar urban migrant workers is an advantage over one another. Aside from job-seeking such as sharing job information, food, and curry exchange among the neighbors remain the loving environment that is used to be in Myanmar. Although the curry may not be the best dish, sharing represents caring among the neighborhoods of Myanmar urban migrant workers. Moreover, it also helps neighbors who are struggling at this time.

“Sometimes I share curry with my neighbors, especially when I cook Burmese food. In the meantime, the neighbors share with me. Thus, we help one another by exchanging dry food and other supplies.”

(Participant 14)

“I am aware that my neighbors got sick or their work isn’t doing well, thereby I share curry, food supplies with them as a sample of caring.”

(Participant 21)

“This period is really difficult. Some of my neighbors aren’t doing well with their jobs, it may be pay cut. So, I just distribute few food supplies to them.” (Participant 52)

Pay cuts or loss of jobs have also led Myanmar urban migrant workers to cheaper food consumption, and even worse such as shortage of food supply. However, the existence of social assets including family members and relatives where they live is valuable for survival during difficult times such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The Covid-19 is frustration. Pay cuts, less income, or loss of job have brought many struggles, including food expenses and consumption. At least, having family members and relatives in the same city is very helpful. They spare their food supply.” (Participant 1)

Participant 8, 16, 53, and 54 responded that family, relatives, and neighbors have been very kind and helpful during this difficult time as they provide some food supplies. They spare and support to who are struggling, especially with financial problems.

Accompaniment as interpreters and assistants

The ability to speak the host country's language is an advantage for Myanmar urban migrant workers in both job seeking, and communicating with the employers and local people. Besides, having social assets who speak the host country's language is also a good asset to Myanmar's urban migrant workers. Likewise, the accompaniment of family members, relatives, and friends as interpreters to visit either clinic or hospital for medical concerns.

“My best friend who speaks fluent Thai always accompanies me to go to the clinic. He helps me for interpretation.” (Participant 22)

“When I either get sick or need to buy some medicines, I always ask one of my family members, relatives, or friends who can speak Thai fluently to go with me to the clinic and drug store as an interpreter.” (Participant 46)

Participant 1, 38, 42, and 45 replied that visiting clinic/hospital mostly needs help for interpretation. So, they usually ask their family members, relatives, or friends who speak decent Thai to go with them and help with interpretation.

Legal documentation including work permits and working visas are very important to migrant workers not only in Thailand, but across the globe. In particular, newcomers or those who have a language barrier in Thailand find it difficult to go through the applications

and procedures. On one hand, some Myanmar urban migrant workers who've been in Thailand for long time are experienced and knowledgeable regarding the process and implications. Therefore, Myanmar urban migrant workers ask for assistance from those who are trustful, experienced, and knowledgeable within the networks to accompany and assist with application.

“Assistances from those who are experienced with application and process are needed. Then, I ask experienced acquaintances with the application and process to accompany and help me out.” (Participant 33)

“Relatives and friends of mine assisted me to get work permit and visa that is the most important. They are used to be doing those process, then they can help me well.” (Participant 59)

Participant 24, 50, and 51 responded that friends assisted in applying for legal documents such as work permits and visas through agencies that they have known for a year.

General supports from employers or the boss

Maintaining good relationships with the employers or the boss is crucial in workplaces. Commitment and being trustful by the employers or the boss at the workplace are as important as gold during difficult times.

“When I need some money to make remittance urgently or use in medical needs, I request to the boss for advance money. Since I am hardworking and committed to the work, I have good relationships with the boss.” (Participant 10)

“My boss is very kind. When I request for a wage in advance in needs of remittance and other reasons, my boss provides it.” (Participant 12)

“My boss has arranged the housing when I share my problems with housing.” (Participant 18)

“My employer helped me to register for the covid vaccine.” (Participant 32)

Therefore, the employers are indeed an important part of Myanmar urban migrant workers’ livelihoods and living. The employers take some roles to help them in the aspects of accommodation, financial needs, health concerns and especially getting the covid-19 vaccine in this particular period.

5.2.2 SUMMARY OF QUALITATIVE ANALYTICAL RESULT

The present study with a qualitative approach using the thematic analysis has identified the contributions of social capital to Myanmar urban migrant workers in search of jobs and improvement of livelihoods in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the three interview questions adapted from the World Bank's Assessment Tools and conceptual overall of livelihood assets, each question itself is the main theme, and sub-themes are also developed through analysis of interview scripts. Comprehensively, 1) the most important source of information about the job market, 2) the most reliable for the assistance of job seeking, and 3) assistance to improve livelihoods during the difficult times are the main themes of the present study in terms of social capital's contributions towards Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

As a result, there are three sub-themes under the theme (1) the most important source of information about the job market in Thailand. Conceptually, the information about the job market in Thailand has been shared, forwarded, and distributed among close relationships such as family members, relatives, or friends. Figure 16 explains that bonding social capital is the most important source of information for Myanmar urban migrant workers. Within the social relationships that are reliable and trustful, the information about jobs and opportunities is acquired or received by Myanmar urban migrant workers.

Lately, the Facebook app (social media) has been well-known and useful among Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand. The Facebook app (social media) is being

used for multi-purposes including entertainment and looking for information. For this particular reason, the Facebook app (social media) has been helpful to Myanmar urban migrant workers in search of jobs and other essential information such as visas, work permits, social security cards, and so on. Although the Facebook app is not the main platform for job seeking among Myanmar urban migrant workers, it has been an information channel to gather and inquire jobs related information.

Regarding theme (2) the most reliable assistance of job seeking, figure 17 displays that bonding social capital is the most reliable among Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand. The bonding social capital including family members, relatives, and close friends who are living and working in Thailand has been very crucial in terms of supporting financial requirements and other needs in search of jobs. Meanwhile, brokers and recruiters are important characters in some particular workplaces in Thailand. Despite knowing detailed information and requirements, Myanmar urban migrant workers must go through the brokers or recruiters for application at the workplace. In some places, few Myanmar urban migrant workers also go directly to the workplaces such as construction sites and restaurants for jobs inquiry and applications.

Furthermore, the theme (3) assistance to improve livelihoods during the difficult times has also presented that there were various and many means of support and assistance from the social asset of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 outbreak. One of the biggest and essential assistances was financial help to Myanmar urban

migrant workers. The financial needs were almost everything to secure rent, daily food, and expense during the Covid-19 crisis. Since lack of income has been the problem for Myanmar, urban migrant workers, to pay the rent, a few had to move out of the apartment and requested friends to share the room by paying half or a few doesn't need to pay at all.

For some Myanmar urban migrant workers living in the neighborhood of the Myanmar community in Thailand, sharing and exchanging food has been a culture and support among one another. Sometimes Myanmar urban migrant workers especially those who speak the Thai language accompany neighbors for the reasons of the clinic and hospital visits.

In addition, Myanmar urban migrant workers who have good relationships with their bosses have been taken care of in some ways such as payment of monthly wages in advance if needed, providing free accommodation, and even assistance with vaccine registration. The social capital Myanmar urban migrant workers have or belong that has therefore been indeed a critical resource during the difficult times like the Covid-19 outbreak.

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND STRATEGY SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Overall findings

In a sense of employment and job-seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been much more struggling than the normal situation that they have encountered. Tricks and frauds by brokers in Thailand have been one of the main concerns of Myanmar urban migrant workers that they are worried about. In addition to that, the trust issue has been the trigger point to rely on someone who could provide jobs seeking services in Thailand, but relatively important. Lately, social relationships and connections among Myanmar urban migrant workers have become the essential node for entry into job markets in Thailand.

Social asset so-called, 'Social capital' is widely utilized by Myanmar urban migrant workers in search of job information and assistance for job seeking, moreover, the involvement of social capital is varied. In this study, three dimensions in structural social capital have been emphasized as bonding social capital referring close ties and strong relationships of Myanmar urban migrant workers including family members, relatives, and close friends in Thailand. Bridging social capital explains connections among Myanmar urban migrant workers such as friends from workplaces, colleagues, and work partners. And linking social capital means connections to people who have institutional authority and power in decisions making such as recruiters from companies, employment departments, and non-profit organizations.

6.1.1 Role of social capital toward job seeking

In this present study's findings, bonding social capital has the most important role and most contributed dimension among the others. In terms of the most important source of information about the job market among Myanmar urban migrant workers, Bonding Social Capital has 78.3% out of 60 sample population which is the most and the highest involvement, Bridging Social Capital has 20%, and Linking Social Capital has 1.7%.

For the most reliable assistance for job seeking in Thailand among Myanmar urban migrant workers, Bonding Social Capital is the most utilized as 75% out of 60 sample population, Bridging Social Capital has 23.3%, and Linking Social Capital has 1.7%. Overall, Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand have utilized Bonding social capital the most in search of job information and reliable assistance for job seeking.

6.1.2 Contributions of social capital toward job seeking

Myanmar urban migrant workers have been engaged by their social relationships and connections in many ways for a job search in Thailand. Hence, contributions of social capital towards Myanmar urban migrant workers' job seeking and improving livelihood security can be categorized as follows;

Social capital is *a communication channel* where information is shared and exchanged among Myanmar urban migrant workers. Mainly, social capital is a source of information that people access to use or share. So, Myanmar urban migrant workers utilize

the channel to find jobs, accommodations, and other services. Thus, assistance among the workers and expanding networks are done with the channel.

Social capital is ***an entrance ticket*** for accessing, participating, and contributing to social events and activities in Myanmar urban migrant workers' community. Newly arrival migrants who already have relations in the community could be resourceful in joining, participating, and benefiting from the community. As discussed in the literature, African migrants encounter difficulties entering the labor market in Japan through immigration. However, the relationships the African migrants have in Japan could assist and benefit them to enter Japan smoothly (Agyeman, 2015).

Social capital as ***an actual or potential source of financial aid*** among Myanmar urban migrant workers. Since the financial assistance occurs during the migration process until the settlement in the designated location by social capital supports, mostly social relationships who have strong ties and trust such as family members, relatives, or friends. In a few cases, contractors or recruiters are sources of solutions, but less.

Moreover, social capital is ***a social service*** among Myanmar urban migrant workers. Myanmar urban migrant workers feel connected by living with families, relatives, or friends and migrants' communities. Thus, in Myanmar, urban migrant workers, offering assistance as interpreters and accompanying for applying legal documents, visiting clinics or

hospitals have been a thereby invaluable support and interactively engaged within the social relationships.

6.2 Discussions

6.2.1 Social capital, Communication, and Information towards Job Seeking

According to the present study's findings, Myanmar urban migrant workers have communication networks and information flow charts among themselves. Despite informality and unsystematic functioning, they seem to be important and effective to Myanmar urban migrant workers in search of job opportunities, and other essential information and services in Thailand. Some Myanmar urban migrant workers have success story utilization of those communication networks and flow charts towards jobs seeking and gathering important information for application of legal documentation. Meanwhile, some have tragic experiences with these things such as being tricked for money by recruiters, brokers, or agencies.

Facebook (social media) is kind of daily used platform among Myanmar urban migrant workers to have entertainment, upgrade knowledge such as learning the language of the host country as well as a networking tool. Having the chance to join either public or private groups in which job calling, job location, and other important information are being posted and shared creates a potential social platform to extend the connections among group members on Facebook. As a sequence, Facebook has been the part of processing when Myanmar urban migrant workers attempt to seek jobs in Thailand. Nevertheless, jobs sought

through Facebook are not reliable and trustful yet to the majority of Myanmar urban migrant workers.

In the meantime, Myanmar urban migrant workers who can speak the Thai language very well have much more benefits from using Facebook (social media). There are few Facebook groups composed of the employers and bosses from Thailand who directly post the jobs to hire workers in their firms, restaurants, and workplaces. Moreover, either being together or having known other Myanmar urban migrant workers who can speak the Thai language very well is a crucial asset in search of jobs, important information as well as communicating with Thai speakers like officers, employers and etc. in Thailand. Therefore, having knowledge about the Thai language in order word human asset also increases the likelihood of getting employment and more opportunities for job seeking.

6.2.2 Social capital and Trust towards Job Seeking

‘Social capital’ as ‘Social assets’ are the most reliable among Myanmar urban migrant workers. Especially those who have stronger ties and mutual relationships including family members, relatives, and close friends are the key people to them. In search of jobs, they communicate with those social assets mostly. In search of information regarding applying for legal documentation such as work permit, working visa and etc., they communicate with those social assets again. These social assets with trust among Myanmar urban migrant workers are important to support and assist one another.

‘Trust’ is also a crucial element for Myanmar urban migrant workers receiving job information and getting a job. The social assets should trust the person who has asked for job information and recommended to get a job in their workplace. Otherwise, the social assets would not have shared the information and brought the person to their workplaces for having talked with either site leaders, labor leaders, or recruiters to let the person works together in their workplaces. So, ‘trust’ has been mutual and should have been between the person who requests and the person who assists.

Furthermore, the Covid-19 outbreak is indeed frustrating and creates indefinite problems for the marginalized and vulnerable groups in society including urban migrant workers. Likewise, Myanmar urban migrant workers either have lost their jobs or have been confronted with payment deductions that have directed them in the situation of financial needs to make a living in Thailand. However, their social capital has been a valuable asset to address the financial problems in times of pandemics. However, trust among one another is very essential to help with money. Therefore, trust among Myanmar urban migrant workers could be vital to solving the problems as same as social capital has also promoted financial capital to sustain livelihood and living in Thailand.

6.2.3 Social capital, Neighborhood, and Solidarity

Social capital has been a very important asset to Myanmar's urban migrant workers during times of socio-economic crisis like the present Covid-19 outbreak in Thailand. Helping and assisting one another in many ways are well-noticed and observed among Myanmar urban migrant workers whether they are in the same neighborhood, same city, or different cities.

In this present study, the majority of Myanmar urban migrant workers have faced financial problems that are the most occurring during the Covid-19 outbreak. In other words, 'financial asset' has been the weakest and lowest to sustain livelihood and living in Thailand. Subsequently, many other issues have followed afterwards the financial problems among Myanmar urban migrant workers. Social assets have been critical to promoting financial assets in a way of circulation of resources among networks and connections who are trustees of one another.

For instance, sharing and supporting food supply within the networks of people who have stronger ties and connections such as family members and relatives even the place of existence in Thailand is either the same or varies. In addition, neighborhoods' supports represent care and solidarity in fighting against the pandemic. Exchanging resources that might be small, but means a lot to the others who are in need.

6.2.4 Building social capital and utilization

Social capital is structural relations among people, groups, or associations (Bourdieu, 1986), a resource of the person (Coleman, 1988), features of social associations within the structure (Putnam, 1993), and the capacity to link beyond community or entity (Woolcock, 2001). Social capital has been defined in many dimensions by various authors in the literature. However, social capital can be defined as resources and social relationships of a person within a group of people, connections among groups of people, or connecting to associations. In addition, belonging to a group of people benefit mutually from resources (Putnam, 1993). More importantly, building social capital like practices ‘The Law of the Greeting’ overtime helped communities to rebuild social capital (Putnam, 1993), the present study’s findings also show that building social capital of Myanmar urban migrant workers is relatively connected to the duration of stay in the host country: Thailand.

One of the findings from the present study is that a longer stay in the host country builds bridging social capital stronger as a shorter stay has stronger bonding social capital. In contrast, bonding social capital is utilized as a source of information and reliable assistance during difficult times such as the Covid-19 outbreak by Myanmar urban migrant workers regardless of a short and long stay and having stronger bridging social capital. It explains that Myanmar urban migrant workers have stronger bridging social capital in Thailand, however, they just utilize bonding social capital the most for the source of information and assistance in difficult situations.

Generally, there could be many reasons for utilization either bonding or bridging social capital in a particular situation such as job seeking in Thailand. Since many Myanmar migrants have been victims of various fake agencies, recruiters, or brokers across Thailand, the most reliable and trustful social relationships like bonding social capital, therefore, could be the highest contributed dimension towards their job-seeking in Thailand. Hence, according to the present study's findings, social capital increases over years, bridging social capital in particular while bonding social capital is the most contributed and important asset when it comes to the crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.2.5 Research methodology for studying social capital

Various research studies social capital in many ways and approaches. The empirical review in Chapter-2 of this study also shows that there are many methods to study social capital. Precisely, studying social capital concerning urban migrant workers' livelihoods has been observed that either qualitative study or quantitative study can be examined based on the objectives of the research. However, some of the studies in the present empirical review conduct mixed qualitative and quantitative methods to study social capital. Nevertheless, there are different sets of methods, identifying the appropriate methodology for studying social capital merely depends on the research's direction and question.

The present research could be one of the empirical studies in terms of studying social capital with mixed qualitative and quantitative methods. Utilizing qualitative methods such

as an in-depth interview with Myanmar urban migrant workers gives a deep understanding of the context related to answering the research question of the study. Since the study intended to explore the contributions of social capital in different aspects, the qualitative method only could extend the implications and relevancy of the research question such as attempting to reveal diverse perspectives in the findings.

Moreover, the research attempting to address Myanmar urban migrant workers' livelihood concerns and opportunities in the aspect of social capital's involvement and role, a quantitative approach could be one of the potential approaches. Since the data and results regarding the level of social capital and involvement of social capital, they can be transformed into information and knowledge that could perform as potential strategies and policies to address Myanmar urban migrant workers' livelihood concerns and opportunities.

However, mixed qualitative and quantitative methods studying social capital could be a better combination to explore and examine comprehensive findings. And this research is evidence that it shows the comprehensive outcomes of the research question using mixed qualitative and quantitative methods. As the quantitative approach helped to examine social capital's involvement and role in Myanmar urban migrant workers' job-seeking meanwhile the qualitative approach attempted to identify various contributions of social capital towards job seeking.

6.3 Conclusion

The Covid-19 multidimensional crisis including social, economic, and health issues has a huge impact in the urban setting where millions of urban populations rely on living and livelihoods. Despite the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak having spread out to different societal levels in the urban areas, urban poor, formal and informal workers whose livelihoods depend on daily income have been the most vulnerable groups in the city. Among themselves, migrant workers are one of the populations who have been affected socially, economically, and in health perspectives.

Thailand is one of the countries where international migrants including migrant workers from neighboring countries such as Cambodia, Laos PDR, and Myanmar are annually accepted in need of workforces for the industrial production, construction, fishery, and agriculture sectors across Thailand. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, urban migrant workers in Thailand were also relatively affected by their living and livelihoods such as loss of jobs, pay cuts, and difficulty in finding new jobs during this period. Myanmar migrant workers are the biggest group among migrant workers' nationalities in Thailand. According to reports and news, some Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand were also affected by the Covid-19, and also many Myanmar migrant workers have returned to Myanmar.

Although the Covid-19 has been a frustration to Myanmar's urban migrant workers in search of jobs and improved livelihoods in Thailand, a social asset in order word 'social capital' of them has been a relatively supportive and valuable asset. The social asset has

been widely utilized to seek jobs, and acquire assistance and services for securing livelihood in Thailand. According to the present study's findings, bonding social capital among the other dimensions (bridging and linking social capitals) is the most important source for Myanmar urban migrant workers in terms of acquiring job information and opportunities. In addition to that, it is also the most reliable source of assistance for job-seeking that is affiliated with trust among relationships and connections of Myanmar urban migrant workers.

The social asset is beyond networks and communication for job search among Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand. It seems deeper and more important than that. Physical assets (e.g., space sharing) and financial assets (e.g., financial load and supports) have also been promoted at the same time. Moreover, information and knowledge sharing in terms of job seeking and legal documentation are also directed toward the improvement of human assets. Despite natural assets not being much affected at some point, the qualitative analytical result is the evidence that the social capital has been a critical asset towards job seeking and the other elements of livelihood security of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

Regardless of solid or weak ties and high or low trust among Myanmar urban migrant workers, the social capital acts differently for various outcomes. As the forms of social capital, bonding, bridging and bridging social capitals enable Myanmar urban migrant workers to acquire information regarding job opportunities, recruitment, and support. Thus, forwarding important information about legal documentation and social security within or among groups

and networks has been the source for persons, as Coleman (1988) portrays. Moreover, social capital also helps to seek financial assistance and better employment opportunities that improve the livelihood opportunities and health outcomes for urban migrant workers. Nevertheless, the different levels of involvement of the social capital and various outcomes Myanmar urban migrant workers have attained in the particular study, the social capital has been a critical asset for job seeking and improving livelihoods differently among Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand during the Covid-19 pandemic

6.4 Delimitations of the study

As the theoretical literature portrays, there is cognitive and structural social capital with three dimensions bonding, bridging, and linking. Moreover, the empirical review in this study also suggests that ‘cognitive social capital’ helps to study a person’s health and mental well-being about feelings and trust. Meanwhile, ‘structural social capital’ suits to study of a person’s improving livelihoods and opportunities in terms of support and contributions from individuals’ social relationships and connections. Since the focus of this particular study is to explore and identify contributions towards livelihoods, thereby the study pays much more attention to ‘structural social capital’ along with dimensions of bonding, bridging, and linking social capital. In addition to that, indicators to represent each dimension in Table 4, are also defined based on the captured variables from the empirical review of the study.

Regarding data collection methods, the study has been designed to use Google Forms, Facebook (social media), and snowball sampling. Among those, Myanmar urban migrant workers find it difficult to use the google survey form and don't understand the questions very well to answer on their own. Then, conducting a survey was needed to switch to phone calls and Facebook (social media) so that each question was well explained and clear to the participants with the phone calls about 15 minutes per participant.

In addition, the study seems to have a selection bias on data collection through Facebook (social media) that only Facebook users could be reachable to participate in the survey of the study. Snowball sampling has also helped to reach out few participants who don't use Facebook (social media). With the help of participants who have seen the recruitments referred to others who could be the potential participants. Hence, few participants in this study are not Facebook users. In other words, the study was also able to involve a few participants who are not Facebook users.

6.5 Strategy Suggestions

The study suggests 'Urban Strategy' to reflect Myanmar urban migrant workers' concerns in jobs seeking and livelihood related issues based on the present study's findings and related to urban development strategies from America and European Commission (EU) to create a better living and more opportunities for urban migrant workers in Thailand. It comprises one strategy and four initiatives to prepare Myanmar urban migrant workers in strengthening of jobs seeking mechanisms, enhance livelihood opportunities, and social and economic integration in harmony.

The strategy with four initiatives appears to be the principal findings of quantitative analysis. It has resulted that Bonding social capital is the most contributed and has the highest involvement towards job seeking of Myanmar urban migrant workers. Hence, applying the 'Migrant integration approach' in search of more and better employment opportunities, well-being, and inclusion of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand are discussed in strategy one. Besides, it foresees immediate responses to address the concerns of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand. This strategy is also based on America's placed-based approaches for an innovative economy that helps to promote the administrative sector, and it is very important to Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand.

The urban strategies must be effective interventions to promote the well-being and satisfaction of Myanmar urban migrant workers, especially job search with trust and reliable

platform. Moreover, it brings the opportunities closer to Myanmar's urban migrant workers in long run. It also promotes a sense of belonging in the neighborhood and community among Myanmar urban migrant workers and with host communities in harmony and cohesion.

6.5.1 Promote place-based planning

Place-based planning involves community members engaging and working together to make a better living place (Munro, 2015). Promoting place-based planning among Myanmar urban migrant's neighborhoods, and between Thai and Myanmar urban migrants could strengthen the community more connected. It encourages migrant's integration into Thai communities in a sense of enhancing harmony in society. The migrant workers' remarkable contributions to the Thai economy are the fact that the place-based planning also creates more adaptable opportunities and identifies the needs of the migrants to upgrade and improve their productivity (Andes, 2019).

Likewise in America, where Place-based policies have been promoted to boost the country's innovation economy across states, cities, towns, and villages. Focusing on the needs of the area where the expansion of the economic development administration office up to the communities, could help people and communities to engage and exchange local led economic activities and income generated activities with the support of the economic development administration office with financial assistance, capacity building and empowerment. Especially, creating an office of place-based with resources where authority

could work more and effectively to better distribute resources and address the needs (Andes, 2019).

Initiative 1: Creating employers' joint platform to help Myanmar urban migrant workers and Thai communities

In general, local people and migrant workers commute to the place where jobs are located and the places are attractive to workforces. For that matter, there are “two problems: 1) it’s hard to get people to move and 2) out-migrating does not help those left behind.” (Bartik, 2020, p.112). Thereby, promoting job opportunities based on the place where there is potential to develop local labor growth. Simultaneously, it helps to grow the local economy led by the community as well. Moreover, place-based working encourages people to collaborate and work together as it helps to promote the well-being of people and the community (Munro, 2015).

Hence, the leadership of government authorities is an essential intervention to work with private sectors in terms of bringing opportunities rather than moving people to the opportunities. More importantly, bringing private sectors to promote opportunities in the place or communities doesn’t mean kicking out people from the place where land use and economic activities will be developed.

As European Commission launched ‘Employers together for integration’ on 23 May 2017. The initiative welcomed various private sectors to join and support actions toward

migrants' integration, in other words, promoting employment opportunities in host countries. For instance, working together with private companies to raise awareness and partnership to promote migrants' integration and empowerment regarding increasing accessibility to labor markets. Therefore, considering a place-based approach where Thai communities and migrant workers work together and are supported by government agencies and various private sectors to promote community development through enhancing skills and increasing employment opportunities on the ground.

Initiative 2: Expanding offices and services

Less accessibility to important information in terms of legal documents among Myanmar urban migrant workers has been a very common and challenging situation. Highly limited resources are the main trigger point for making less accessibility by Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand. For instance, there are only two Consulate Generals of Myanmar in Thailand, one is the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok and the other is in Chiang Mai. The offices offer visa processing, passport making, passport renewal, and legal documentation which services are provided not only to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand but also to Myanmar citizens with other purposes and including non-Myanmar passport holders for visa cases. Hence, limited offices and services could make Myanmar urban migrant workers' lives worse during and beyond the Covid-19 in terms of accessibility.

Furthermore, there are travel preventive measures due to the Covid-19 outbreak in Thailand. Particularly migrant workers are not allowed to travel during this period unless there is a need and required situation such as passport renewal, visa extension, and work permit extension. However, the migrant workers still have to provide recommendation letters from the company, factory, or industry where they work. In other words, the migrant workers who lost their jobs and do not have any jobs currently, but must travel to extend either passport or visa. For that reason, they are unable to travel since they don't have recommendation letters or some travel like smuggling into another province, but it is risky for their lives.

Thereby, expanding services provided by Consulate Generals of Myanmar as a mobile service provider to major provinces of most migrant workers stay and work in Thailand such as Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Rayong, Chon Buri, and Ranong could be effective interventions to address Myanmar urban migrant workers' concerns and potential risks in Thailand. At the same time, it could increase the accessibility to important information and announcements by the Royal Thai government and Myanmar government in terms of legal documentation. As a consequence, Myanmar urban migrant workers could be aware of the necessities for working and living in abroad.

Initiative 3: Focusing on active hotline numbers

Continuously, highly limited accessibility for Myanmar urban migrant workers to services and information has also resulted in a lack of proper preparation among Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand in terms of gathering information to do passport renewal and request legal documents for extensions of work permit or visa. Since traveling during the Covid-19 is not straightforward for migrant workers in Thailand and traveling for information only is not worthy to risk some migrant worker's lives either. There are provided phone numbers from the Consulate Generals of Myanmar, however, they are not active and responsive most of the time.

For that reason, initiating hotline numbers facilitated by Consulate Generals of Myanmar in bilingual services in both Burmese (Myanmar) and Thai languages. Having this initiation would fulfill the needs of Myanmar urban migrant workers in terms of inquiry and gathering information in preparation for passport renewal and request for legal documents. In the meantime, Thai language speakers from companies, factories, or any workplaces who would like to inquire about passport renewal or legal documents related matters for their employees who are Myanmar migrants, could be relatively convenient and constructive interventions.

Initiative 4: Developing a simple and user-friendly job search application

The majority of Myanmar urban migrant workers in Thailand use a smartphone in general despite there being no official record. Facebook and Viber are well-known and most used social media platforms among Myanmar people both in Myanmar and Thailand. Myanmar urban migrant workers in particular utilize Facebook (social media) for multi-purposes including reading news, learning, entertainment, and also job search.

Job search on Facebook is common among Myanmar urban migrant workers, however, information about jobs and those posts are not reliable. Since Myanmar urban migrant workers are unable to know the true identity of the person who posts about the jobs, it is hard to trust and rely on this information. Albeit, there are many tragic stories over news and posts on Facebook that Myanmar urban migrant workers have been tricked by fake Facebook users or brokers met on Facebook. In the meantime, Myanmar urban migrant workers aren't able to either travel or reach out to every single workplace just for inquiry about jobs and requirements. Therefore, Facebook has been one of the job search platforms among Myanmar urban migrant workers despite fake information and fake users on Facebook.

Accordingly, creating a simple and user-friendly job search application initiated by the trusted migrant working group in Thailand could break down the uncountable barriers to Myanmar urban migrant workers when they attempt to seek jobs and apply. To be more specific, the trusted migrant working group would bridge between employers including

different sectors of workplaces in Thailand, and potential employees who are Myanmar urban migrant workers. Within the Jobs Search application, it could provide employment agreements, essential information, and work-related regulations translated into Burmese for the application used to be aware of the updates in Thailand. On the other hand, the users could explore and apply with trust the application. Moreover, it could give the chances for Myanmar urban migrant workers to migrate to another part of the country in Thailand.

6.6 Recommendations for future research

Firstly, this present study emphasizes structural social capital and its contributions to job seeking. Job seeking or employment is one of the aspects of livelihood security. For recommendation, exploring the contributions of social capital to another aspect of livelihood security can be further examined.

Secondly, this present study has introduced and integrated livelihood assets such as social assets, human assets, physical assets, financial assets, and natural assets. In order words, the study has used the social asset as social capital. For further direction, one livelihood asset can be focused on and studied on the livelihoods of urban migrants.

Within the livelihood assets and livelihood security, further research can explore the significant relationships between one another and relate to the aspect of livelihood security. For instance, how the social asset contributes to financial assets in terms of securing housing among urban migrant workers.

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