CHAPTER VIII

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Finally, chapter VIII, contains the summary of findings and the conclusions of the study. Weaknesses in this work and suggestions for further studies are included in this final chapter of the thesis.

The pattern of migration in Thailand was found to be predominantly short distance moves; mainly the moves were within a single region rather than between regions. The proportion of migrants who moved within the same region was found to be highest for the Northeast and lowest for the Bangkok Metropolis. As regards inter-regional migration, the Bangkok Metropolis and the Central region are the most important centers of migration activities. Heavy streams of migration for the Bangkok Metropolis and the Central Region came from and go to every other region.

Migration plays an important role in the process of urbanization in Thailand. While the population growth of the Bangkok Metropolis rapidly increased in the last decade, more than half of its growth has been from migration. However, rural to urban migration in Thailand constituted only 15 percent of all migration in 1985 – 1990 period, whereas the most important type of migration is rural to rural, constituting about 68 percent of all migration in 1985 – 1990.
The result of the 1985 Survey of Migration into the Bangkok Metropolis found that about 84,060 persons, or 1.4 percent, and 1990 about 240,748 persons 8.4 percent of the civilian non-institutional population of the Bangkok Metropolis were estimated to have migrated to the Bangkok Metropolis during the period from June 1985 to May 1990.

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon and a basic natural human right. Migration can be of different types viz. Rural - Rural migration, Urban - Rural migration, Urban - urban migration, and Rural - Urban migration. It can be classified as internal migration i.e. within a country and international migration between countries. With in a country and that to in a developing country like Thailand the Rural-urban migration is an important phenomenon. A variety of factors are responsible for such migration. These migrations affect the places of origin of migrants and also places of destination in many waves in both ways desirable and undesirable.

The purpose of this study is to find out why people move from rural to urban areas and whether it is true that Rural-urban immigration corresponds to the labour transfer from traditional sector to the modern sector, to find out the characteristics of immigrants such as place of origin, labour force participation, un-employment rate, education of employed migrants etc. to compare the immigrants and non-migrants inside the Bangkok metropolis, such as
employment rate, housing and living conditions, presence of drug addiction and environment in crime, and to know whether actually the migration causes the social problems.

To add it, the possible solutions of social problems of Bangkok metropolis with a recommendation for increased intra-regional migration which could lead to renewed economic growth in the event that Thailand has reached a period of economic stagnation. The study period 1985 - 1990 total five years, the data has been obtained from survey of Migration in Bangkok Metropolis and the various issues of Labour Force Survey, conducted by the National Statistical Office, Office of the Prime Minister. The other sources and census of population, surveys, Registration, Environmental data, criminal statistics etc.

Bangkok metropolis has been the most prosperous area of the country. Continuous migration increases its population. Competition favours more able in migrants. The in-migrants who fall may return to their home town or village or move somewhere else. But prosperity in Bangkok metropolis, generates demographic conditions favourable to continued prosperity and economic growth while other parts of Thailand can not compete with it at all.
After the discussion in my introduction chapter, I have discussed the methodology of research in my third chapter and I have taken the review of literature in my second chapter. I have discussed the concept and definition used in migration studies in my chapter four and I have also discussed the trends of migration in my fifth chapter and characteristics of the respondents in my sixth chapter in which I have found that in Thailand majority people migrate at younger age as the sample shows that 83.2% respondents migrated at the age group of 15 - 25 years similarly as elsewhere more number of males migrate than the females.

The education level of the respondents was not high. They had taken the education at the primary and secondary school level. Therefore my hypothesis that 'educated migrate more than literates' has been disproved.

The occupation of the majority respondents was agriculture but when they migrated to Bangkok, they had to accept new occupations such as motorcycle driver, driver of the four wheeler vehicles, labour work, house keeper, pan shop owner etc. But all the migrant respondents had earned good income after migrating to Bangkok Metropolis. The total family income also increased. Therefore, their economic status improved and they were able to live comfortably. Majority of the migrants belonged to
Buddhist religion, majority of the respondents had no drinking habits, but others had miscellaneous drinking habit such as fruit juice, ovaltine coffee etc.

Most striking feature of the sample is that no one was addicted to drugs. Some respondents were addicted to alcohol and cigarette. Some of the respondents go back to their place of origin during cultivation season.

As I have found that majority respondents have migrated at a younger age, therefore my hypothesis no. 4 that 'People of younger age group migrate more' has been proved. Similarly my hypothesis no. 3 that 'in rural urban migration males migrate more than females' has also been proved as the sex distribution table shows that more number of males have migrated than females.

In my seventh chapter I have discussed about the causes of migration, impact of rural-urban migration and social problems caused by migration.

Regarding the causes of migration I have found that majority respondents migrated to Bangkok Metropolis due to economic reasons. New opportunities and better jobs attracted the rural people. This finding from table No. 7.1 has proved my hypothesis that 'majority rural urban migration takes place due to attractions of new opportunities'. No respondent has quoted either family reason or educational reason.
The push factors causing migration of rural people are unproductive land, no work at rural area and no income to support family responsible. Regarding the motivation to migrate I have found that majority respondents have taken self decision to migrate.

Regarding the impact of rural-urban migration I have found that the migration of rural people to urban areas has definitely an impact at both the places i.e. place of origin and the place of destination. The place of origin suffers from the loss of labour force, decline in rural population, decline in agricultural product and a major fact is the loss of productive age group population.

The impact on the place of destination is that rural people learn to adjust to new urban environment, get more knowledge and experience, increase in urban population, competition with urban workers as the new migrants accept jobs at lower wages. Such a migration also have bad effects on the migrant themselves as they are exposed to unsuitable biogenic conditions they develop unsuitable morals and beliefs a bring cultural conflict, and living in slum areas due to lack of housing facilities.

Rural-urban migration also brings many social problems such as emergence of slums, unemployment, problems of the social peace and tranquility, health
problems, the deterioration of the environment, problems of lifestyle, spiritual, values and the problem of cultural readjustment. These problems strongly support my hypothesis no.2 that 'migrants social problems are due to maladjustment in the area of destination' has been proved.

Since 76% of Thailand's population are low income farmers, levels of income and employment are dependent upon changing ratio of population engaged in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. It is found that migration and re-settlement can play an important role in effecting this change. The patterns of migration in Thailand are found to be predominantly short distance moves, mainly within single region. Heavy streams of migration for the Bangkok metropolis and central region came from every region. Migration plays an important role in the process of urbanization in Thailand. While the population growth of the Bangkok metropolis rapidly increased in preceding decades, more than half of its growth has been from migration.

In our study as regards the reasons for migration, economic seems to be the most important factor for migration. Most of our study migrants migrated in search of jobs to earn livelihood. It also acts as a push factor from rural areas, almost 45% of the study group migrants migrated for lives.
The impact of migration and resettlement on the migrants themselves is clearly shown by the emergence of slum areas, poor sanitation, unemployment, high rate of the problems the date points to, is housing shortage and ultimately creation of slums. To say majority of migrants from rural areas live in the slums of the metropolis, because in the process of migration is considered to be the migrants themselves. Actually slum is the result of heavy inflay of rural immigrants, high cost of land, unplanned and un-controlled city expansion, over crowded area etc. The estimated figures show that the housing shortage is 166,763 units in 1986. Our data shows that percentage of unemployed is negligible but maximum are in labourers and wage earners, sellers and non-manual workers showing low average income or comparatively low. By the government, the slum clearance office was established in 1960 in order to improve the slum areas in the metropolis, it was for slum clearance and housing projects to relocate the slum dwellers. However, the programmes were not implemented since there was a lack of serious support from the Government and non-coordination among units concerned. The National Housing Authority was established in 1972 with main objective was the solving of the housing problem within 10 years i.e. from 1972 to 1982. About 170,000 dwelling units were constructed. It also worked for slum
improvement etc. There are three levels of the slum improvement projects, namely permanent improvement, temporary improvement, and clearance.

Several resettlement programmes are there in Thailand carried out by various government agencies. These programmes relate to improvements of the farmer's income and standard of living. The self-help land settlement programme, the agricultural land reform programme, land co-operatives, the forest community development villages etc. The self-help land settlement programme gives a permanent settlement for landless, homeless or farmers holding insufficient land. The agricultural land reform programme allocates to landless farmers public land or land purchased or expropriated from land-owners who do not cultivate the land themselves, land co-operative allocate land to farmers so that they can derive sufficient income.

The programme of forest community development villages has as its main objective to protect the national research forest from illegal squatters.

Other methods can be envolved to resettle the problem of imbalanced economic structure, income differentials of population growth and distribution. These canbe said as acceleration of agricultural out-put. Increase rural employment decentralisation of industries
from the Bangkok metropolis area to other regions, to derive and implement programmes of production diversification, income generation etc. on regional basis, accelerate decentralization of economic activities and social services to reach more people in the rural and remote areas and last but not least control of population growth. This is definitely going to influence migration pattern in a better way in Thailand. The effect will also be on re-distribution of the population. We can add one another strategy, i.e. of promotion of growth centres which will improve the regional distribution of productivity, income and population. So in total to solve the problem of slums and other associated problems, migration rates to Bangkok must be reduced, sufficient measures must be adopted to stimulate and support migration out of Bangkok to adjacent areas and principal urban centres in each region must be supported.

Regarding education, in order to try to achieve a decrease in socioeconomic gaps between Bangkok and the rest of the country, regional and rural development must be started. In fact, his policy has already been started in Thailand, to quote some examples, higher educational institutions have been established in each geographical region. This would not only help the regions educational development and to keep potential young migrants at that
region but also contribute to the economic development and impacts both type of migrants i.e. migration for educational purpose as well as to some extent for economic purpose. The rural areas must be technologically developed to say technological development in agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry which should help to raise the quantity and quality of crops, and act the same time increasing opportunities in agriculture and raising rural level of living. In fact, this has been introduced in Thailand. Moreover, it must be kept in mind that the process of migration, is a complex process which would obviously require time to be balanced.

The other countries, which tried to control rural-urban migration, it could be noted that punishment, propaganda with the help of man media, policy of encouragement was fruitful to control migration. Instead of these direct economic policy would be the solution for this problems or at least minimize this problem in long run. Agricultural self sufficiency is the best solution along with other measures. It is not sufficient that we know all the factors for migration but it would only be possible to come at a perfect solution when we arrange all the factors in proper manner and implement such derived plan successfully and efficiently. There must be authentic data regarding geographical information, demographic
information, special information regarding land qualities, weather and climate, at first place. The kind of land and suitable agriculture, irrigation facilities, water table, non-agriculture activities i.e. mixed farming, occupation during slack seasons, rate and amount of facilities which government has provided for the various regions here North-eastern and the Central regions worth to mention.

It is essential then to know rural needs, population growth credit needs etc.

The maniesty of solving migration problem will be upon control of population explosions, conservation of the agricultural land and forest, provision of irrigation, power facilities in rural areas, right credit for investment in agriculture, encouragement to rural industries, creation of health facilities at rural level, sanitation and road construction to join villages to the centre of services. Use of latest technology for construction and utilization of surplus labour tactically at local level, insurance facilities at agricultural level etc. Education facilities at rural or at least at regional city level, training of illiterates and unskilled workers, would land them in productive activities at village level. Provision of right information to the rural people regarding economic, social and cultural
difficulties in an urban setting would also be helpful. Self respect with regard to their traditional culture must be reviewed.

The efforts can also be taken at urban level like redistribute the existing or to be planned in furture social services and facilities equally to other regional cities also. Give impetus to urban investors to invest their capital on agricultural and rural activities along with government initiative and intensives. It is a matter of counselling the investors and giving the guarantee of their profit. If would be feasible to start a scheme which will transfer urban labours migrants who are wandering in cities to the productive activities in rural section in a planned manner.

Though rural push and urban pull factors are responsible for migration, rural push are most intellectual one and modifiable also. Hence, it is ineluctable to neutralize the rural push factors in other words the rural difficulties and we have to improve the rural standard of living and environment.

Although migrants to the Bangkok Metropolis are a diverse group of individuals, it is interesting to draw a profile of a typical migrant. The results of this study suggest the description of a typical migrant as a young, unmarried male or female, usually from an agricultural
village in the Northeast and the North regions, who moves to the Bangkok Metropolis without any other family members to seek employment as a labour or service worker. It is apparent that women migrate to the Bangkok Metropolis more than men, although migrants in anyone year constitute only a small proportion of the Bangkok Metropolis's total population. The Bangkok Metropolis's economy has shown an ability to absorb these migrants into labour force, but in most cases both the job and the life style of migrant constitute a significant departure from their way of life before coming to the Bangkok Metropolis.

**SUGGESTIONS : WEARNESS, AND FURTHER STUDY**

With regard to the other countries experiences to control rural-urban migration, it is pointed out that neither punishment policy nor propaganda and encouragement policy is useful, but proper economic policy should be the remedy. Any policy to control rural-urban migration will be defeated except changes in economic structure and cutting the bands of relationship to others and reaching to the agricultural self sufficiency.

We have examined the various aspects of the relationship between seasonal migration and rural poverty. The Methodology used in this study relics heavily on evidence collected during field surveys. Although we put considerable effort in the selection of sites and samples,
time and resource constraints have limited the number of places I could go to and the number of people we could talk to. Nevertheless, we feel that the number of cases presented in this study is large enough to render its results useful. Despite all the care and attention, we recognize that these are problems in generalization the results of this thesis. We, therefore, propose that only a very broad picture with some policy relevance is presented below.

After changing the economic structure and bringing agricultural self-sufficiency to draw any plan for limitation of migration, study over the causes of this kind of migration is necessary. But, we should remember that knowing all causes alone is not sufficient. We should arrange all those factors in order.

(1) The Macro picture:

The general picture emerging out of the study is that employment opportunities during the slack agricultural period have been quite limited. Demand for seasonal labour appears to be adequately met both in rural and urban areas. As expected, the largest source of labour supply for seasonal employment is the Northeastern region where about 6 million poor people live. A large proportion of Northeastern people who migrate to other
regions for temporary employment come from households engaged in rainfed agriculture, particularly rice.

Seasonal job opportunities in Bangkok are even more limited compared to those in the rural areas, particularly the Central region, but the seasonal labour market in Bangkok is systematic, though still informal. For those who are outside the organized labour market, the risk of moving to Bangkok is certainly large. Very few poor rural people can afford the cost of moving to Bangkok without securing jobs in advance. On the other hand, it is quite clear that Bangkok can attract whatever number of migrants is required to satisfy its demand for temporary employment. The existence of numerous Bangkok slums certainly supports the idea that there is ample supply of labour even in the city itself. Seasonal migrants have to compete with a large number of people already looking for jobs in the city.

The result of the field surveys also high-lights the importance of social factors in the decision-making process related to inter-regional seasonal migration and also rural-urban migration. Migration certainly involves a psychic cost. It is clear that some of the villagers prefer to stay home even when they have nothing to do. Change in this attitude is likely to take not only
time but also provision of immediate financial benefits to the villagers. There are numerous cases where employers are required to give payments to the employees in advance. There are also many cases of seasonal migrants moving back to their villages before the contract period expires.

One significant finding of the study is that seasonal migration alone, in most cases has not pushed people to the level above the poverty line. Admittedly, the income and consumption of the migrants increased compared to the levels attainable without seasonal migration. Evidence strongly suggests, however, that the increased income and consumption have not resulted in significant increase in productive capacity in the home villages. Net income received by individual migrants ranges widely depending on time, type and place of employment. Some seasonal migrants also change their status over time to permanent migrants while a large number stop migrating after a few years of seasonal migration.

(2) **Economic and Social Factors:**

In Economic terms, it is reasonable to say that the labour market has been operating fairly efficiently and wages have been influenced by the supply of and demand for seasonal labour. As long as there exists a large pool of
supply of labour in poor rural areas, one cannot expect real wages to increase across the board. There are, however, cases such as the sugarcane cutting where wages are linked directly to productivity. Such productivity-based wage rates however, are found usually in medium to large scale business operations where time is a serious containt:

Beyond the wage and labour market aspects of short term migration is the impact of seasonal migration on rural poverty. Social factors in the form of individual preference, adjustment ability, attitudes, age, sex and marital status of the migrants are the basic determinants of the total impact of seasonal migration. While it is difficult to generalize, in certain areas we visited we felt that people preferred to stay home once their living standard were somewhat above the minimum substance level. The benefits derived from seasonal migration impose a significant psychic cost in the form of separation of family members, insecurity, etc. Only the relatively poor would find this cost worth fighting for, particularly when compared to the prospect of having to suffer from hunger at home.
(3) **Policy Implications:**

The first policy implication that can be drawn from our study relates to our findings that economic benefits from seasonal migration have only weak linkages to productive capacity in the home village. What this conclusion means is that high growth in certain agricultural areas can continue without reasonable growth in productivity in many poor villages. Admittedly, the trickle down effect through seasonal employment has somewhat mitigated the plight of the rural poor during the past two decades. But the fact that low productivity still exists in a large number of poor rural villages supports our conclusion that large scale seasonal migration does not have a significant impact on productivity at the village level, and thus does not directly solve the rural poverty problem at its root cause.

We would also like to further argue that one of the important policy objectives related to seasonal migration should be to minimize social cost's suffered by migrants and their families. This can be done by reducing the distance between place of seasonal jobs and the migrants' village. The Government's Rural Job Creation Project appears of to be an attempt in this direction. What is
required is, perhaps, to strengthen the productivity components of the Rural Job Creation Project. There are many ways to achieve this. We would, however, like to suggest a closer link between the Rural Job Creation Project and normal activities of Government Departments which possess technical capabilities for the enhancement of agricultural activities in rural development.

Our study believes that by directly increasing productivity in poor rural areas, there is a better chance of reducing the number of people who are classified as waiting for agriculture and hence provide better opportunities for increasing real wages throughout the economy. Our argument is that the real wage rate is difficult to increase unless surplus labour in the rural areas is sharply reduced. We also believe that the development approach suggested above cannot succeed without a strong anti-rural poverty programme covering the extensive areas where poverty is concentrated. In other words, seasonal migration or projects such as the Rural Job Creation in itself appear to provide only temporary relief and many have no sustainable impact.

A final point we would like to make concerns the operation of the labour market. We fully agree with most economists that the Thai rural labour market, albeit informal, appears to be working satisfactorily. We cannot
find ways to dramatically improve the operation of the labour market. It appears to us that information related to seasonal job opportunities has been sufficiently widespread particularly when we talk to villagers and migrationers. There is very little room for the Government to invest in this aspect. Furthermore, the private sector which has direct interest in fulfilling their demand for workers have already done so in a fairly efficient manner. The role of the Government appears to be more justified in assisting seasonal migrants to receive minimum welfare and accommodation, an important factor in ensuring the steady supply of labour required for growth in labour-short agricultural areas, as well as in urban industry. However, for the entire surplus labour to be absorbed and real wages to rise it would be necessary to generate more employment through rural industry and other off-farm activities.

_Weakness of the study:_

One major weakness of this work is the limitation of data on migration into the Bangkok Metropolis. This study has been based on the available migration data only five years, from 1985 - 1990, obtained from _The Survey of Migration in Bangkok Metropolis._
Another weakness is the unavailability of data on labour turnover in Bangkok Metropolitan Area in the years 1984 and 1985. Then, the data on labour turnover in 1984 and 1985 in this study were extrapolated from the data in 1986 and 1987.

The results of the study maybe more useful if more data was available. However, the results based on the obtained data might be adequate to roughly explain migration into Bangkok Metropolis, social problems and its impact on employment.

Further Study:

This study covered only migration into the Bangkok Metropolis and its impact on employment. "Rural urban Migration" in the study was defined as the migration from the areas outside the Bangkok Metropolis to the Thailand's Metropolis. It may also be interesting to consider the other urban areas beside the Bangkok Metropolis. The urban areas may be defined as the municipal areas, and the rural areas may be defined as the non-municipal areas of the country.

Further study on migration into the Bangkok Metropolitan Area should be in the composition of the migrating population according to age, sex, social group and especially the level of education. Knowledge of the
number and qualitative composition of migrants released from agricultural production gives information of the supply of labour in the Bangkok Metropolis. The collection and analysis of data on the needs of different branches for workers with a given skill level and occupation in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area presents information of the demand. A study concerning this demand and supply of labour in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area when data are available will be help in decreasing unemployment problems which cause many other social and economic problems in the Metropolitan Area.

To decrease these problems in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area as well as to develop other parts of the country, a study in applying growth centre policy to other regions of the country as an extension of the policy implications in this study is interestingly. To build social and economic bases in these new growth centres is very important. More earnings and good infrastructure of the new areas attract migrants economically. A social basis to complement the economic attraction includes the construction of educational and cultural facilities in the growth centres themselves.