THE CHARACTERISTICS AND FACTORS OF MYANMAR RETURN MIGRANTS IN PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN PROVINCE, THAILAND

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Abstract— The aim of this research is to study the directions of Myanmar workers return migration, characteristics of return migrants and the demographic, social and economic factors influencing return migration. The data were drawn from Prachuap Khiri Khan Provincial Employment Office by conducting a random sampling of 400 people aged between 15-59 who migrated from Myanmar and requested for a work permit at Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. The total numbers of representative sample include 79% of Myanmar migrant workers want to return to their home country and 21% non-return to their home country. Descriptive and multivariate statistics were employed to analyze factors influencing return migration to home country. The finding characteristics reveal that the proportion of male to female return migrants is females more than males. Most of return migrants were aged between 44 and 59 years old and had primary education level. More than half of the sample work in agriculture and had a lot of land properties in their birthplace. The factors relating to such decision can be concluded that the scale of the decision of return migration has a positive relationship with a statistical significance at 0.05 are a conformity with friends, a relationship with family, possession of land in hometown and educational level. From the Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis, the results have shown that the conformity with friends and educational level factors are influential to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrant workers in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province.

Keywords— Characteristics, Factors of Return Migration, Myanma Return Migrants, and Prachuap Khiri Khan Province.

INTRODUCTION

The return migration situation is a situation considered significant in all regions of the world and considered a policy of several countries [1]. Such situation leads to the economic, social, cultural and political changes which have never happened in the world before.

It is certain that Thailand cannot avoid this situation either. The important factors behind the migration into Thailand are the number of working-age population and that the qualification of Thai workers do not correspond with the need of a domestic labor market, especially when Thai workers lack required skills. Workers who have registered in a job application at the Department of Employment do not want to work as housemaids, laborers, agricultural, manufacturing and fishery workers and other jobs in the fishery industry [2]. As they are low-paid, labor-intensive and socially-unaccepted jobs. The lack of domestic unskilled workers becomes an opportunity for migrant workers to replace unskilled Thai workers in the labor market. From the statistics, the number of Myanmar, Cambodian and Lao migrant workers, who have proved their nationalities and been permitted to work in the kingdom in 2013, totaled 717,167, 95,472 and 34,491 persons respectively [3]. Such numbers signify that most migrant workers who migrated into Thailand are from Myanmar and they have become an important unskilled group of labors that propels Thai economy. In the meantime, the current political, economic and social situation in Myanmar is rapidly changing. The United States of America, Japan, India, European Union and its members, leaders from The United Nations and other international organizations have offered help to Myanmar in forms of science and money to support the reform process of the country as well as suspend sanctions against Myanmar, causing the investment flow from other countries to Myanmar, as reference [4] stated that Myanmar may attract as much as 100 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment over the next two decades and Myanmar may “seize the opportunity” through the process of AEC integration within 2015 [5]. It has been forecast that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Myanmar will expand 8% per year, the economic numbers will quadruple to more than 200 billion US dollars. Within 2030, a right investment direction will create more than 10 million jobs other than agricultural jobs; 6 million of which will be jobs in the industry sector.

From the prediction, it is shown that the future Myanmar migrant workers will have more job choices in their country and if the economic development in Myanmar is carried out as expected, the behaviors and patterns of migration of Myanmar workers into Thailand will change which will heavily affect various economic activities in Thailand. From the reference [6] indicated that mostly migrant revealed that they are just work in Thailand for a period and back to long live in their hometown. Therefore, welfare even public and private sectors have to prepare to support workforce labor. Even though this migration process has occurred for over 20 years, there has not been any studies that pay attention to the behaviors and factors behind the decision of return migration of workers aged 15-59, which will become an important substitution of unskilled group of workers under a labor shortage crisis that is intensifying every day. Therefore,

researchers wish to conduct a study to collect an information from evidence-based assessment, concerning personal behaviors and factors relating to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrant workers by using Prachuap Khiri Khan Province as a case study in order to generate research results to seek ways and offer policy suggestions to relevant agencies to slow down the situation or seek solutions and long-term prevention.

II. DETAILS EXPERIMENTAL

2.1 Scope of study

The study focuses on conducting a primary data survey on a sample, concerning characteristics and factors relating to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province by doing an structured in-depth interview with a sample group through a questionnaire created by the researchers. The questionnaire consists of three sections of questions

- Demographic
- Economic and Social
- Assessment on social psychology

The secondary data is collected from documents, books and journals from relevant government and private sector. The obtained data will be stored in a database and analyzed both descriptively and inferentially.

The study focuses on conducting a primary data survey, concerning personal behaviors and factors relating to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in all 8 districts of Prachuap Khiri Khan Province - Hua Hin, Pranburi, Sam Roi Yot, Kui Buri, Muang, Thap Sakae, Bang Saphan and Bang Saphan Noi which has 21 sub districts and and 48 villages bordering Myanmar. There are 35 border passes; 34 natural passes and 1 checkpoint which is Singkhorn Pass. Prachuap Khiri Khan occupies an area of 6,367.62 sq. km.

The study focuses on conducting a primary data survey through interviews, concerning personal behaviors and factors relating to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province in the period of 6 months (October 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015) The secondary data is about the registration result of Myanmar migrants who requested a work permit from Prachuap Khiri Khan Provincial Employment Office from 2013 to 2014.

1) Variable Used in the study regard that demographic, economic and social, and family attachment factor are related to Myanmar return migration as follows:

- Gender
- Age
- Education
- Relationship with family (marital status)
- Conformity with friend
- Possession of land in hometown

2) Variables and Levels of Measures of Variables that are used to study factors affecting return migration consist of

- Dependent variable: status of migrants (categorical variable) is classified under two categories: return migrants and not return migrants
- Independent variables:

TABLE I
VARIABLES AND LEVELS OF MEASURES OF VARIABLES

Variable	*Level of measurement*
Gender	Nominal
	- Male
	- Female
Age	Interval
	- numbers of years
Education	Interval
	- numbers of academic
Relationship with	years
family (marital status)	Nominal
	- Single
	- married
	Interval
Conformity	- scores
	Interval
Possession	- numbers of land
	properties

2.2. Methodology and Data Analysis

This research focuses on describing the situation and explaining the occurrence of the situation by conducting a quantitative research and qualitative research as well as the process of finding an independent variable, expected to relate to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. The methodology can be divided into four sections as follows:

This research has a unit of analysis as an individual which is 21,285 Myanmar migrants who requested for a work permit at Prachuap Khiri Khan Provincial Employment Office from 2013 to 2014.

As the population that this research is conducted on is a big population, it is impossible to study all of them so only some people will be studied on. Therefore, the researchers have selected 400 people as a sample by doing a calculation in accordance with a Yamane formula [7] as follows:

$$n = N/1+(e)\,2 \qquad (1)$$

when n = the number of sample
N = number of studied population
E = error of random sampling (0.05)
Substitute n = 21285/1+21285(0.05) 2
= 392.64 persons

This research uses the Multi-Stage Sampling. The first step, stratified sampling, is to set all 8 districts

divided by administrative district as a spatial framework. The second step, simple sampling, is to draw 5 sub districts from all 8 districts, totaling 40 sub districts, and conduct an interview on 10 Myanmar migrants in each sub district in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, totaling 400 persons.

In this research, the researchers have conducted a new data by dividing an analysis method into two methods as follows:

1) Analyzing data to answer the first objective, using descriptive statistic

2) Analyzing data to answer the second objective, using Pearson-Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Regression Analysis

2.1) The study of factors relating the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province by turning data into a statistical unit which will be used in the calculation of a relationship of variables used in the study to find if it is positive, negative or nonexistent relationship

2.2) Multiple Regression Analysis used for analyzing the factors relating the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province by setting the number of Myanmar migrants with an decision of return migration as dependent variable and other factors as independent variable

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the study of characteristic of Myanmar migrant workers in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province.

The decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, 79% of migrants have the decision of return migration. Only a quarter of migrants or 21% do not have the decision of return migration. Among the sample that wants to return to their home country, 40% thinks they will return to their home country within 1-5 years; 21%, 6-10 years and 18%, over 10 years as shown in details in Table 2;

TABLE II
THE DECISION OF RETURN MIGRATION OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

Years	*Numbers*	*Percentage*
Return migrants	316	79
- between 1-5	160	40
- between 6-10	84	21
- more than 10	72	18
Non–return migrants	84	21
Total	400	100

1.1 Gender

Myanmar migrant workers, used as a sample for this research, are considering gender in Table3, it is found that the percentage of male return migrants (27%) and the percentage of female return migrant (52%). As a result, male migrants return to hometown less than female migrants. Female migrants have more social ties with their family because in Myanmar society, females have a role to look after the family. Therefore, gender difference affects return migration that defined by [8]

TABLE III
THE GENDER OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

Gender	*Numbers*	*Percentage*
Return migrants	316	79
- Male	108	27
- Female	208	52
Non–return migrants	84	21
- Male	56	14
- Female	28	7
Total	400	100

1.2 Age

Myanmar migrant workers, used as a sample for this research, are considering age in Table4, it is found that most return migrant are those aged between 15 and 29 years old(18%), 25 percent of return migrants aged between 30 and 44 years old, 36 percent of return migrants aged between 45 and 59 years old. As a result, migrant with young age have freedom and do not have permanent jobs. They can adapt themselves to a new environment better than older migrants. Older age migrants may have their family and job at their hometown and they have lower job opportunity. There is a chance for them to return to their country more than young migrants.

TABLE IV
THE AGE OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

Age	*Numbers*	*Percentage*
Return migrants	316	79
- between 15-29	72	18
- between 30-44	100	25
- between 45-59	144	36
Non–return migrants	84	21
- between 15-29	32	8
- between 30-44	40	10
- between 45-59	12	3
Total	400	100

1.3 Education

Myanmar migrant workers, used as a sample for this research, are considering education in Table5, it is found that most return migrants have primary school education (40%). Low education may be related to migrants type of job that they do and may affect their failure in their adaptation to the destination [9], 25 percent of return migrants are those who have secondary school education.14 percent of return migrants are those who have higher education than secondary school. As a result, education gives migrants an opportunity to get a job, especially migration for the purpose of seeking a job. Migrants with high education have more opportunity to seek or have a better job. Those with low education may have difficulties in seeking a job or get a low-paid job. It is similar to [10]. Therefore, education may affect a decision making to migrate back to the origin.

TABLE V
THE EDUCATION OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

Education	*Numbers*	*Percentage*
Return migrants	316	79
- primary school	160	40
- secondary school	100	25
- higher than	56	14
Non–return migrants	84	21
- primary school	16	4
- secondary school	32	8
- higher than	36	9
Total	400	100

1.4 Relationship with Family (Marital Status)

Myanmar migrant workers, used as a sample for this research, are considering marital status in Table6, it was found that most return migrants were married(58%). Single migrants were 21 percent. As a result, marital status reveals that the proportion of married return migrants was the highest because migrants have their family at their hometown. They have relationship and responsibilities to their family. They have to return back to their origin more than other groups.

TABLE VI
THE MARITAL STATUS OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

Marital status	*Numbers*	*Percentage*
Return migrants	316	79
- Single	84	21
- Married	232	58
Non–return migrants	84	21
- Single	56	14
- Married	28	7
Total	400	100

1.5 Conformity

Myanmar migrant workers, used as a sample for this research, are considering conformity in Table7, it is found that analysis' score of conformity with neighbors, the highest score is 23 points and the lowest is 9 points. In other words, 39% of return migrants have a medium-level conformity with neighbors and relatives in hometown, 30% have a high-level conformity with neighbors and relatives in hometown and 10% have a low-level conformity with neighbors and relatives in hometown. As a result, conformity with friends is an interpersonal ties that link migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants in origin and destination areas through the bonds of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin which is the bonds of internal society, household, kinship, friendship, community and fellow countrymen at the destination areas that have interpersonal ties between destination areas and origin of migrants or between former migrants from origin to destination areas of migrants who have experiences with migration, decision making in terms of economy, society and personal factors

TABLE VII
THE CONFORMITY OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

The score	*Numbers*	*Percentage*
Return migrants	316	79
- High score	120	30
- Medium score	156	39
- low score	40	10
Non–return migrants	84	21
Total	400	100

1.6 Possession

Myanmar migrant workers, used as a sample for this research, are considering possession in Table8, it was found that most return migrants have land properties more than 10 Rai(33%), 20 percent of return migrants have land properties between 6 and 10 Rai, 16 percent of return migrants have land properties between 1 and 5 Rai. Less return migrants who do not have any land properties (10%), As a result, before their migration to destination, most migrants who have land properties did agricultural work during the growing and harvesting reasons. During other periods, farmers do not have any work to do [11].They have to migrate temporarily to seek other jobs to have more incomes and wait for the time to return to do agricultural in their land. Otherwise, migrants who do not have any land properties, most of them become laborers or technicians in the production system in destination and do not return migration to hometown.[12]

TABLE VIII
THE OCCUPATION OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

Land properties	*Numbers*	*Percentage*
Return migrants	316	79
- Non	40	10
- between 1-5	64	16
- between 6-10	80	20
- more than 10	132	33
Non–return migrants	84	21
- Non	40	10
- between 1-5	24	6
- between 6-10	12	3
- more than 10	8	2
Total	400	100

2. Results of research and analysis of factors relating to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrant workers in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province

2.1 Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient :r)

The researchers have analyzed all variables to find the correlation coefficient by Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, using PSPP software. The results show that the scale of the decision of return migration has a positive relationship with a statistical significance at 0.05 with a conformity with friends and relatives (r=0.886), a relationship with family and community (r=0.782), possession of land in hometown (r=0.756) and

educational level (r=0.699). However, the factor of property possession in Prachuap Khiri Khan is the only factor with a high negative relationship (r=0.-537).

2.2 In the multiple regression analysis, the researchers have used the stepwise regression to select the variables. The results show that the conformity with friends and relatives and educational level factors are two factors that can be used in the regression equation and have the coefficient of multiple correlation or R, which equals to 0.948 or R^2, which equals to 0.899. It is found that the conformity with friends and relatives and educational level factors are able to explain the changes and fluctuation of the scale of the decision of return migration at 86.60% of all variations of factors. The remaining 14.40% is influenced by other variables not considered in the research.
After the adjustment of R^2, R^2_{adj} (Adjusted R Square) will equal 0.866, showing that after the adjustment, the conformity with friends and relatives and educational level factors remain highly influential to the decision of return migration, as shown in details in Table 6;

TABLE VI
MODEL SUMMARY IN MULTIPLE REGRESSION

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.886[a]	.785	.755	3.09294
2	.948[b]	.899	.866	2.28949

a. Predictors: (Constant), comformity

b. Predictors: (Constant), comformity, education

TABLE VII
COEFFICIENT IN MULTIPLE REGRESSION

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	9.665	2.891		3.344	.012
	comformity	1.482	.293	.886	5.061	.001
2	(Constant)	6.744	2.416		2.791	.032
	comformity	1.198	.243	.717	4.940	.003
	education	.647	.249	.378	2.603	.041

a. Dependent Variable: return

Table 7 shows regression coefficient: B of an equation and gets a constant (b0) of 6.744 and a regression coefficient of variable conformity (b1) of 1.198 and variable education (b2) of 0.647. Therefore, a regression equation is
Y= 6.744+1.198 conformity + 0.647 education

CONCLUSIONS

From the results of the study of characteristic as well as the analysis of factors relating to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Regression Coefficient, it is shown that 40% of Myanmar migrant workers want to return to their home country within the next 1-5 years, 21%, in 6-10 years and the rest, in over 10 years. The conformity with friends and relative in their hometown and educational level factors are influential to the decision of return migration of Myanmar migrants which corresponds with the concept of "Migration networks" defined by [13] in 1998 as sets of interpersonal ties that link migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants in origin and destination areas through the bonds of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin which is the bonds of internal society, household, kinship, friendship, community and fellow countrymen at the destination areas that have interpersonal ties between destination areas and origin of migrants or between former migrants from origin to destination areas of migrants who have experiences with migration, decision making in terms of economy, society and personal factors. The decision to migrate depends on such bonds as well as an individual educational level factor reflected through working skills. The educational level defines the level of jobs and skills development allowing workers to be more proficient in jobs, able to learn, adapt, absorb the way of thinking and working, memorize, imitate the technology of career and others better than those with lower educational level and allowing them to be leaders with new ideas and skills and share them with the community they return to as well as being able to economically adjust [14].

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