

**LABOR MIGRATION, LEFT BEHIND ELDERLY LIVING
ARRANGEMENTS AND INTRA-HOUSEHOLD ELDERLY CARE
IN KANCHANABURI DSS, THAILAND**



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THAILAND**

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Ph.D. (DEMOGRAPHY)

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally, the elderly have relied on their children for personal care and financial support in Thailand. However, the level of internal migration in Thailand has risen dramatically since 1985, when a period of sustained economic development began. Existing studies mainly focus on the impact of migration on migrants themselves. Less attention has been paid to the effects of migration on the family members 'left behind' by migrants. This paper explores how labor migration effects familial care of the elderly who have been left behind. The analysis is based on panel data of the Kanchanaburi Demographic Surveillance System (KDSS) in Thailand. The study tests two models: a Cox hazard model that focuses on labor migration and change in elderly living arrangements and a logistic regression model that focuses on labor migration and intra-household elderly care. The study found that labor migration triggers transitions in elderly living arrangements from co-residence to living alone, even after controlling for elderly demographic, socio-economic, kinship resources and geographic factors. Secondly, labor migration has several negative effects on intra-household elderly care, i.e. elderly exposed to labor migration are less like to receive intra-household elderly care of being taken to the hospital compared to those without exposure. This paper raises the concern of the social impact of migration on the elderly in Thai society.

KEY WORDS: MIGRATION / ELDERLY / CARE

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