

THE EFFECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ON IN-MIGRATION RATE AT DISTRICT LEVEL:  
AN ANALYSIS OF DISTRICT LEVEL IN CAMBODIA



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A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS  
(POPULATION AND SOCIAL RESEARCH)  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

2000

ISBN 974-664-650-8

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4238541 PRRH/ M : MAJOR POPULATION REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH  
RESEARCH; MA

(POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

KEY WORDS : SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IN-MIGRATION, DISTRICT  
LEVEL, CAMBODIA

VIRAK PRUM: EFFECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ON INMIGRATION RATE AT DISTRICT LEVEL: AN ANALYSIS OF DISTRICT  
LEVEL IN CAMBODIA - 60 p, ISBN: 974-664-650-8

The purpose of this study is to determine whether there is any association between socioeconomic development and in-migration rate and if an increase in socioeconomic development such as literacy rate, employment rate would also increase in-migration rate at the district level or not. This study uses data from the General Cambodia Population Census 1998. The samples are 175 districts. The socioeconomic indicators are measured by literacy rate, dependency ratio, electricity use rate, and employment rate. The statistical methods employed for the analyses are descriptive statistics and multiple regressions.

The result showed that the average of in-migration in each district is 32 %, dependency ratio is 88 per 100 people age 15 to 64 years, the employment rate is 41 %, literacy rate is 15%, and the electricity use rate is 13%. The Pearson Correlation Matrix Results showed that the socioeconomic development indicators have statistically significant effect on in-migration rate at 0.05 levels. The Multiple Regression Analysis showed that the employment rate does not have a statistically significant effect on in-migration rate but the literacy rate, electricity use rate and dependency ratio is significant to in-migration at 0.05 level. The finding also indicated that there is a relationship between social and economic development index and in-migration rate.

Generally, the districts, which have high socioeconomic development, will have high in-migration rates. However, in Cambodian context, the in-migration rate is high when the districts have low dependency ratio, low employment rate, low literacy rate, and high electricity use rate. This means that the districts which have low development of education level, low dependency ratio, and low employment rate, but high proportion of people with modern life style will have a high in-migration rate. One observation that could explain this point is that most districts in Cambodia are still rural. Thus, migration patterns in Cambodian context are similar to the rural to rural migration. In contrast, the greater the modernization development at district level, the higher the number of in-migration increases. This could be seen when looking at the effect of electricity use rate on in-migration rate. This research would like to suggest that, to develop the district to be attractive for in-migration, the government has to develop the electricity use rate in order to improve modernization. In addition, the government needs to decrease dependency ratio by promoting and encouraging access to the birth spacing program. Furthermore, the government need to develop the literacy rate by distributing schools and encouraging access to education which, in turn, will increase employment opportunities.