



**THE EFFECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON IN-
MIGRATION AT DISTRICT LEVEL IN LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

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

2001

ISBN 974-04-0550-9

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2001

4338115 PRRH / M: MAJOR: POPULATION REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH; M.A. (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

KEY WORDS : SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IN-MIGRATION RATE, AT DISTRICT LEVEL IN LAO P.D.R.

KABMANIVANH PHOUXAY: THE EFFECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON IN-MIGRATION AT DISTRICT LEVEL IN LAO P.D.R.-82 p, ISBN: 974-04-0550-9

The purpose of this study is to investigate whether the socioeconomic development indicators have influence on the in-migration rate in Lao P.D.R. This study uses data from Lao Population Census 1995, and some statistical data from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health. One hundred and thirty three districts were sampled. The socioeconomic indicators were measured by literacy rate, classroom ratio, hospital bed ratio, health and social work rate, manufacturing labors rate and unemployment rate. The statistical methods employed for analysis were descriptive statistics, simple linear regression and multiple regression analysis.

The results show that the mean of in-migration rate in each district was about 3.2%, while the literacy rate was 53%. Classroom ratio was 3.1 per 1000 population (aged >11 and <26), and hospital bed ratio was 0.9 per 1000 population. Health and social work rate was 0.4%, whereas manufacturing labor rate was 0.05% and unemployment rate at 2%. The results of Pearson Correlation Matrix show that the socioeconomic development indicators have statistically significant effect on in-migration rate at 0.05 level. In addition, the results of simple linear regression also show that each socioeconomic development indicator has statistically significant effect on in-migration rate. Besides, the multiple regression analysis shows that there are only two indicators that have statistically significant effect on in-migration rate at 0.05. They are classroom ratio and manufacturing labor rate.

In general, the districts which have high socioeconomic development, will have high in-migration rate. However, in Laos, the in-migration rate is high when the districts have high classroom ratio and high manufacturing labor rate. This means that the districts, which have high development of schools and industrial factories, will have high in-migration rate. This could explain the unequal socioeconomic development of districts in Laos. Migration patterns in Laos follow traditional patterns from rural to urban areas. One observation is that, the greater educational and industrial development (where there are schools, colleges, University and factories at the district level), the higher the number of in-migration increases.

The finding of this study indicate that the socioeconomic development indicators are the pull factors that could manage the distribution of population at district level. Accordingly, to develop the district to be desirable for in-migration, the government should develop more secondary schools, colleges or Universities and industrial factories in the district level.