



COVID-19 Pandemic-Driven (Im)mobilities: The Impact of 'Bubble-and-Seal' Measure on Myanmar Workers in Thailand

Steve K.L. Chan¹

Abstract

The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic not only deteriorated public health but also exacerbated labor (im)mobility. Labor-intensive factory settings became particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious diseases. Samut Sakhon Province in Thailand, a hub for the garment and seafood processing industries, relies heavily on Myanmar migrant workers. During COVID-19 outbreaks in 2020 and 2021, the Thai government implemented a 'bubble-and-seal' measure to maintain production lines. Many of these factories participate in the globalized division of labor, utilizing cheap labor in developing countries to produce goods exported to wealthier nations. Thailand's aging population further increases its dependence on migrant workers from Myanmar and Cambodia. However, these measures restricting movement and enforcing quarantine partially resulted in mobility inequality, jeopardizing laborers' health to sustain production. This research employs qualitative interview methods, interviewing migrant worker representatives and labor NGO activists in Samut Sakhon. The study examines the sealed factory measures and their impacts on workers' health and mobility during the later stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19 Pandemic, Migrant Worker, Bubble-and-Seal, Myanmar, Thailand

¹ Department of Sociology, Keimyung University, South Korea,
1095 Dalgubeol-daero, Daegu 42601, Republic of Korea, KOREA.
E-mail: stevec@kmu.ac.kr



The Expectation of Local to the Operation of Ramkhamhaeng University Surin Campus in Honor of His Majesty the King

Jutharath Voraprateep¹

Abstract

The research objectives are to study the expectation of the stakeholders to the operation of Ramkhamhaeng University Surin campus in honor of his majesty the king and to study the suggestion for the academic services to local. This research is quantitative research using 500 samples from various stakeholders in Surin province and neighboring provinces, for example, senior high school students, vocational certificate and high vocational certificate students, Ramkhamhaeng University alumni, and entrepreneur/business owner etc. For the data analysis, the descriptive statistics are presented by frequency, percentages, average and standard deviation. The research results were summarized as follows: (1) most respondents are senior high school and vocational certificate students that equals to 30 percentages (2) the expectations of local to the operation of Ramkhamhaeng University Surin campus are to give an educational opportunity from early childhood education until doctor's degree for Thai people development in the 21st century and to take social participation and (3) the suggestion to Ramkhamhaeng University Surin campus is local or community services, for example, a community library, community education plan and community activities etc.

Keywords: Expectation, Local, Ramkhamhaeng University Surin Campus in Honor of His Majesty the King

¹ Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University,
286 Ramkhamhaeng Road, Huamark, Bangkok, 10240, THAILAND.
E-mail: jutharath@ru.ac.th



Genki-Campus Initiative: Redesigning Health and Well-being for a Sustainable Academic Community at AIT

Faiz Shah¹, Tanawan Samleerat Carraway², Saw Theint Theint³

Abstract

Since 2011 the Yunus Center at the Asian Institute of Technology (YCA) has explored affordable approaches for optimizing grassroots access to primary health and personal wellbeing, leveraging ubiquitous technologies. Building on the Portable Health Clinic (PHC) collaboration with Kyushu University and Grameen Communications, YCA has innovated a need-responsive health and wellbeing program for AIT campus residents. "Genki," the Japanese term for wholistic spiritual and physical balance, embodies YCA's program's goal. The "Genki-Campus" program (GCP) is designed using profiles generated from two rounds of randomized stratified sampling of the campus population, three years apart. Residents enrolled in GCP undergo two health-checks using 14 parameters from the PHC menu and receive personal "GenkiMaps" representing their well-being status in a single colour-coded graphic. A perfect circle in green depicts a desirable Genki status. Notches in the circle identify areas of concern, with increasing severity represented in yellow, orange or red. GenkiMaps help the clinic triage members towards appropriate lifestyle advice or clinical referrals. They inform Management decisions on prioritizing investments in wellbeing options on campus and utilizing budgets more responsively. A GenkiMap directly impacts individual health status, and institutional spending at the same time. GCP is a Social Business that recovers costs using a subscription model, matched with institutional co-payments drawn from budget savings. GenkiMaps form a powerful institutional database for evidence-based health and well-being initiatives that help reduce the burden of disease by cost-effective preventive health investments, improved tracking and triage of high-risk individuals, and budget savings generated

¹ Yunus Center AIT, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT),
P.O. Box 4, 58 Moo 9, Km. 42, Paholyothin Highway, Klong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120, THAILAND.
E-mail: tanawan@ait.asia

² Yunus Center AIT, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT),
P.O. Box 4, 58 Moo 9, Km. 42, Paholyothin Highway, Klong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120, THAILAND.
E-mail: -

³ Yunus Center AIT, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT),
P.O. Box 4, 58 Moo 9, Km. 42, Paholyothin Highway, Klong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120, THAILAND.
E-mail: -



by an enterprise-led solution. GCP cross-links individual health status with campus wellbeing services, nutrition and sports options, and demand for positive behaviours that further increase and sustain participation.

Keywords: Sustainable Transformation, Human Resource Development,
Preventive Healthcare, Campus Well-Being, Telemedicine Innovation

NIC-NIDA Conference, 2024