THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THAI LABOUR IN SINGAPORE

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ABSTRACT

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The objectives of this research were to study the level of quality of life of migrant labour in Singapore, study personal factors, factors for migration, and work environment of the migrant workers which related to their quality of life corresponding to the satisfaction with quality of life in each aspect, and study directions and the level of relations between influential factors with quality of life of Thai labour in Singapore. The research used both quantitative and qualitative horizontal data. The study was conducted by in-depth interviews and field observations of four hundreds labourers in Singapore by applying the WHOQOL-BREF-THAI questionnaire to collect data and analyzing by using statistical techniques. The analysis of components of labour’s quality of life were conducted in four domains, namely, physical health, psychological health, social relationship, and environment as classified in the WHOQOL-BREF-THAI questionnaire. Statistical technique used in the analysis was confirmatory factor analysis in order to study factors of quality of life of World Health Organization to see its adjustability when used to measure Thai labour’s quality of life. And stepwise multiple regression analysis was used to analyse factors influencing the labour’s quality of life. The results are as follows:

The research has found that all Thai labour working in construction industry in Singapore was males due to legal restrictions with average age of 30.80 years. Most of them finished their education at grade six of secondary school, were married, and had an average monthly income of 15,898.75 baht. The assessment of the overall
physical quality of life was at moderate level, overall psychological quality of life was at moderate level, overall environmental quality of life was at moderate level, and overall quality of life in social relationship was at moderate level as well. The analysis result shows that many factors had collaborative influences on each domain and overall labour's quality of life at statistical significance of 0.05. These factors are as follows. Marital status; the labour's single status had positive influence on overall quality of life, as well as on physical and psychological quality of life, while the married labour's separate living had positive influence on psychological and social relationship quality of life. Factor about work duration had negative influence on overall quality of life, as well as on psychological and environment quality of life. Income factor had positive influence on physical and environment quality of life. While migration members had positive influence on overall quality of life, as well as on psychological and environmental quality of life. Labour's debt had negative influence on both overall quality of life and quality of life in social relationship domain. The last influential factor was satisfaction with work which had positive influence on overall as well as on every domain of quality of life. Meanwhile some factors had influences on certain domains, that is, age had negative influence only on physical quality of life, or education attainment had negative influence on psychological quality of life. If the analysis were conducted specifically on factors influencing overall quality of life, these two factors would not have had statistically significant influence. Similarly for marital status, apparently, separate living and income did not have statistically significant influence on labour's quality of life.

Besides, the confirmatory factor analysis was used to find factor loading pattern of variables used to build the instrument of the WHOQOL-BREF-THAI questionnaire, it was found that, in general, the questionnaire has the factor loading of each component of quality of life which is applicable to measure labour's quality of life, especially in the matters of environmental and social relationships domain, in which it was efficiently used to measure the level of quality of life of Thai labour in construction industry in Singapore.
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