

Summary

Children on the move in Mae Sot

The field study reveals that there are number of children on the move in various types, include the children on the move who came to Mae Sot for education purpose, children on the move who enter Mae Sot following their parents, and children on the move who have been neglected and are in need of help, however, the database of children on the move at the moment is still not accurate. Only children who enroll in the education system appear on the quantitative database, however, there is still a gap, for example, children who left school before the completion of their academic years or children who unexpectedly quit schools during the year and children from the learning center.

As a result, groups of children who follow their parents and children who have been neglected are missing from our data collection and database— given that they are lack of an ability to coordinate systematically and come up with a protection mechanism. There is a limitation at work and also in child protection area regarding the coordination among non-governmental organization versus a coordination between governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. These limitations consist of lack of knowledge and understanding of mechanism in the community. The finding shows that these children entered their work field through various methods; assist their parents due to economic situation, voluntarily entered the work field on their own, among those jobs--there are some jobs that are considered risky and lead to health problems, yet children receive income that are lower than the minimum rate. Moreover, these jobs are difficult in terms of data collection owing to the fact they were not registered, for example, working in agriculture field, doing house chores in households, carrying stuff-- all are paid in a temporary basis.

There are still limitations and challenges for the rights of children on the move in many areas; registration of their birth certificates, an ability to access their own status. We found that the crucial part is an understanding the process of reporting when there is a new-born baby and how to

differentiate between a paper that is used to certify the birth versus a birth certificate, particularly children who are neglected and orphans. The findings reveal there is still an issue in birth registration of new-born baby. Regarding rights to education, there are still children who are not enrolled in schools or unexpectedly quitted schools because of economic condition and obligation to their own families, also some children have no rights to make decisions about their study and occupations. Regarding jobs, children on the move primarily focus on developing their language skills in order to be able to select their own jobs. Majority of these children on the move wanted to remain in Thailand, things that can convince them to register into the system and prove their identification is enrolling into Thai's governmental school and receive a permission to travel and move. Owing to the fact that enrolling in school will lead to an opportunity to have an ID card (a card that begins with '0'), and help them to be more confident in case they want to travel because they can present the card to police officers that they might happen to meet along the way. In regard of medical services for children on the move, it is compulsory that these children who follow with their parents have to buy a health insurance that is considered high for their economic condition. For child protection concerns, a number of these children experience physical abuse and they still cannot access a protection mechanism—domestic violence is one of the main issue.

The alteration of migrant workers law is related to children on the move, we found that this changes only stick to the restriction of hiring migrant workers. They have been focused as a production factor but failed to be seen through social context. As a result, children on the move are neglected because they are relied on the migrant worker's management system that has an affect on children who; came here for education, who follow their parents, who have to rely on the child protection mechanism, all these types of children are vulnerable because they lack of life secure, protection, education and development that is age-appropriate.

Recommendation

1. Support curriculum development and develop the quality of study in student centers. The findings from field study shows that children from government schools can communicate well in Thai whereas children from student centers cannot. Building children capacity will benefit in terms of Thai's labor market in the future and these children will become an important link between Thailand and Myanmar both in economic and social aspects. As a result, a support on developing the quality of student centers will be a crucial variable and Thai's government should give attention to this area.
2. Develop the database, data collection for this types of children. Owing to the fact that presently our data collection is aligned with another systems, such as, education and the needs to follow their parents who work as migrant workers so we cannot see a clear picture of children on the move, also cannot connect them with child protection system, therefore, the collection system should be developed in order to be more systematic.
3. Build an awareness in family and community levels is important especially to prevent domestic violence in could happen, which includes how to access the child's fundamental rights and basic service, how to cross the border safely. Children's job should have no harm or cause any risks , yet it should not affected the child development.
4. Build the community mechanism for child protection in the areas where children on the move are residing. Nowadays, people in the community do not realize how important child protection is. Parents should be encouraged to participate and know how to report. Building the community mechanism need to be in line with promoting the awareness and knowledge about child rights in the community, so children can access the protection mechanism.
5. Social contexts and other elements that are relevant to migrant workers should be considered when there is an alteration of migrant workers law—they are not as production factor but

human being that relate to other mechanism in the society, particularly the fact that children on the move essentially depend on migrant workers who need to relocate to work in many area.