

Report on Participation in Field Trip in Thailand

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I decided to participate in Field Trip in Thailand because I was sure participants in this project will have a chance to make a presentation on our recent studies. I like the approach this project takes to my research and I enjoy academic debate, so I think I'd be able to contribute a lot to class discussions.

I shared my recent study in Chiang Mai University, titled "Do migration and remittances reduce poverty? Evidence from Myanmar", based on detailed surveys in Northern Myanmar in 2014–2016. I felt that my presentation in CMU did properly prepare me for the coming conference, and I wanted to be better prepared.

My presentation in CMU focuses on migration and migrants in Myanmar. Since there are many international students in the Faculty of Economics, CMU are from Myanmar. I was considering fruitful comments and feedback from them. Fortunately, I got some useful advice from professors of CMU.

My study shows there is no evidence that poor households are more likely to migrate and remit and confirmed that even within the same income level, migrants of poor households remit less to their families than those of less poor households.

At the household level, we find that economic support from parents (e.g., travel expenses) and level of migrants' expectations of dowry in the future significantly determine the level of remittances (including the amount of remittances and proportion of remittances to income); certainly, parents' economic support and dowry for daughters depend entirely on the household income level. Moreover, remittances from other household members tend to positively affect the level of remittances of migrant workers. In addition, we find that parents in poor families rarely require high levels of remittances.

At the individual level, the results show that the frequency of home visits of migrants from poor families is less than that from less poor families, which eliminates the information asymmetry and contributes to their relatively close relationships with their families. Meanwhile, compared with less poor families, migrants from poor families commonly pursue relatively high level of consumption of room rent, food, and entertainment. By contrast, migrants from less poor families spend more on personal savings in addition to remittances.

Nevertheless, this study only focuses on poor households. I find that bottom-poor households benefit less from migration through remittances, compared with less poor households. However, another important issue is whether the middle- and top-level income households benefit from migration; whether there are any other characteristics of remittance behavior of migrants of middle- and top-level income households has not been determined yet because of the data limitation. We cannot clarify the effectiveness of remittances at the household level unless we resolve the above-mentioned issue. This will be done in our future work.

This field trip course also creates another good opportunity, which gives me the time and opportunity to develop new interests and meet new people. For the other participants, especially if it's their first time to another country, and the rural area of a developing country, meanwhile, they will become more independent and self-reliant.