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**FACTORS INFLUENCING MIGRATION OF RURAL  
LABOUR IN THE NORTHEASTERN  
REGION OF THAILAND**

**By**

**Suthashom Soonthornchareornont**

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Population and Development )**

**School of Applied Statistics**

**National Institute of Development Administration**

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The Examining Committee Approved This Dissertation Submitted in  
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## ABSTRACT

**Title of Dissertation** : Factors Influencing Migration of Rural Labour in the Northeastern Region of Thailand  
**Author** : Suthashom Soonthornchareornont  
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Labour migration in Thailand has a long history. For many decades, the Thai government has tried to solve the problem by slowing down migration, especially from the northeastern region. The objective of this study is to examine the "intention to migrate" of rural labour in the northeastern region of Thailand. The following provinces are used for the study: Ubon Ratchathani, Si Sa Ket, Buri Ram, Nong Khai and Udon Thani. The sample group of labour in medium sized industrial factories is classified into two categories. The first category is the factories under the Rural Industrial Development Project. The second category is factories outside of the Rural Industrial Development Project. A total of 523 labour were selected at random. The dependent variable in the study is migration and the independent variables include population, social and economic. There are thirteen independent variables in all, which are analyzed by the Multiple Logistic Regression Method. From the study, it can be seen that there are two main factors that influence northeastern labour migration, namely push factors at the place of origin and pull factors at the place of destination. The results also reveal that independent variables related to sex, age, education, number of dependents, migration experience, conditions of life when working near home, intended length of working, form of labour payment and bonus, all have significant statistical implications on different labour migration patterns and opportunities. Furthermore, it is found that both groups of labor have insufficient income. Most of the labour force is in debt and most labour has migrated before. Many, who have previously migrated, returned during the economic crisis and they

may be waiting to migrate once more. However, the reasons for migration are due mostly to inequalities in the level of development between urban and rural areas. This has created two levels of labour market, i.e. urban and rural. They are completely different in demand and supply, with differences in systems of employment and unfair distributions of income. In attempting to solve the labour migration problem, the Thai government should take more action to reduce the disparity of development in each region. The huge stream of migration in Thailand results from this disparity.

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Finally, I wish to dedicate whatever and benefit that may result from this work to my father (Mr.Paiboon) and my nephew (Mr.Pansa) who did not have a chance to admire my achievement.

Suthashom Soonthornchareornont

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