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Abstract

Migration and Occupational Segregation in Bangkok

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The aims of the study are to examine trends of gender differentials in migration to Bangkok and the sex segregation in Bangkok occupational structure. The study used Thailand Population and Housing Censuses, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 and data from the Project entitled “Demographic Responses to a Changing Environment in Nang Rong, Thailand.”

There is an obvious female predominance in the migration flow to Bangkok. The export-led economic orientation has been a crucial influence on female migration to the capital city and then to its five peripheral provinces. The new urban economy has stimulated the demand for labours in manufacturing and service sectors which favours female labourers and has subsequently affected the occupational sex segregation in Bangkok. For example, considering the sex ratio during 1970-2000, there was a predominance of women in service work, while work in administration, transportation, and production was dominated by males. This apparently reflects the phenomena of “men’s work” and “women’s work.” Furthermore, it was found that the occupations that Nang Rong migrants in Bangkok engaged in revealed the labour demand of the new urban economy and the impact of the 1997-2000 economic crises.