

THE STUDY ON THAI ELDERLY WORKERS

Chardsumon Prutipinyo
and Wathinee Boonchalaksi

ABSTRACT

The main objectives of the study were 1) to identify the structure and pattern of the elderly workers in Thailand during 1994, 1998 and 2001, 2) to examine changing in the occupation patterns of the elderly both male and female in urban and rural areas, and 3) to study careers and factors effecting on the economic of well-being of the elderly. The data from the Labor Force Survey in 1994, 1998 and 2001, conducted by the National Statistics Office of Thailand, and in-depth interview were used in the study. The results of the study indicated that the elderly males and females were mostly self- employed and unpaid family workers. In general, the elderly workers were involved in agricultural sector, retail trade, craftsmen and services. Changing in the occupation patterns between elderly males and females were not found during 1994 to 2001. In urban areas the elderly males and females were mostly self-employed and in rural areas were agricultural. The results from the in-depth interview which provided data on the careers of the elderly demonstrated that the problems the elderly faced were marketing competition, basic knowledge on advanced technology and production. A major policy implication on a specific commercial center for exchange goods and services should be urgently done for the elderly to tone down the problems.