

## Abstract

This dissertation is the study on " Social Networks and Adjustment of Women – Street Vendors : a case study of North – East women street vendors living in Nang Leuang community " . The objectives of this study are 1) To study ways of living of women – street vendors. 2) To examine women – street vendor's ability to adjust to new circumstances 3) To study social networks of women – street vendors which enable them to enter and remain in street vending business.

This study employs qualitative research method. Many ways of data collecting are selected such as documentary research , semi – structure interview , life history study , participant observation and " social mapping " .

Women – street vendors migrated to Bangkok at young ages (11 – 17 years old). With the support of their social networks , they got jobs at textile factories and some become house servants. Women's lives had changed as they got married. They have been facing role conflicts - - as mothers , wives and wage earners. However , they were able to adjust their ways of living. Most of women send the babies back to rural villages and had their mothers took care of them. Women were looking for alternative ways to earn their income. They were searching for jobs that did not require high education , working times were flexible or they were able to work at home. Street vending then was their choice.

Necessary condition which enable women to enter the street vending business is their social networks. Friends and relatives introduced them to this type of business and gave them advises. In order to remain in business , women are not only have to adjust their ways of living to physical and social life in bid city like Bangkok , they also need to produce their food to meet the taste of their clients.

Social networks play important roles in women – street vendors's lives. These networks include : kin and fictive kin network , street vendor network and loan and gambling network. All 3 networks are interrelated. Kin and fictive kin network helped women during their early migration period by finding jobs and searching for rental rooms

or houses. Street vendor network is composed of kin , friends and neighbor. This network is not only help introducing street vending business to women but also support women in many ways to keep them in the business. The third network is loan and gambling network. The network provides emergency loan for women with no or low interest rates.