

ABSTRACT

This thesis is an attempt to understand the cross-border transformation of Shan women as “transnational laborers” through a gender perspective. In incorporating the gender perspective into the study, different positions of women in regard to their ethnicity, class, and age are revealed. This is partly because these different positions determine varied experiences of these Shan women.

The findings reveal that the transformation following the cross-border migration into “transnational labor” of Shan women happen on complex social relations especially gender relations. These gender relations of women are varied in regard to their positions as daughters, wives and mothers. These different positions and experiences of women reflect the unequal power relations which women are encountering within their community, within and between classes, and under the capitalist economy.



All in all, these experiences of Shan women are the basis of their interpretations of social experiences under the context of transformation into “transnational labor” in Thailand. Moreover, these social experiences which are highly related to different positions of women are important evidences suggesting that we need to understand complexity of existing social context of Shan women that affect the interpretation and acknowledgement of individual identity.

