



Conduct Innovative Research to Alleviate Poverty and Promote Healthy Aging

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



RESEARCH/ FUNDING

Converting lottery money into pensions for Thai informal workforce

During 2023, the research activities of faculty members and students at NIDA focused on reducing inequalities. One outstanding research activities impacting social protection for the majority of the labor force in Thailand's informal sector in 2024 goes to the project titled "Policy and Measure in Pension Construction for an Aging Society in Thailand" (National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)). The study proposes a voluntary savings program called the "Government Savings Lottery Fund for Retirement," allowing lottery money bought by informal workers to be converted into retirement benefits. Redirecting their expenditures from lottery tickets to long-term savings leads to increased lifetime monthly income, ensuring lasting financial stability without burdening the government. While substantial contributors receive sufficient pensions, those with minimal contributions can seek membership in the Government Pension Fund or the Social Security Fund (Section 40) for a decent post-retirement life. The proposed policy and measures were successfully endorsed by the Ministry of Finance and approved by the Cabinet on July 16, 2024. The National Savings Fund is responsible for the policy implementation.



Vora-Sittha, P. & Klingthong, P. (2024). A Study on Converting Lottery Money into Pensions for Thai Informal Workforce. NIDA Development Journal, 64(1), 116–153. Retrieved from <https://so04.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/NDJ/article/view/267349>

RESEARCH/ FUNDING

Poverty, household vulnerability and inequality reduction measures by public sector

In providing knowledge on the unequal distribution of public budgeting, the Center for Research on Economic Growth and Inequality published a book on poverty, household vulnerability and measures to reduce inequality by the public sector, based on the research project entitled "Poverty, Household Vulnerability, and Government Policies to Reduce Inequalities" (Research and Innovation Grant No. N32A660139, National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)).

For the first time, the research classified the vulnerability of Thai households into five types: financial vulnerability, occupational risk, health and disability, high dependence on remittance income or public transfer income, and children and youth educational risk. The classification was base on areas, the socio-economic status, and the Gini coefficients. The study also determined factors associated with inequalities and offered the main recommendation, i.e., decentralization of public administration.



Direk Pathamasiriwat et al. 2024. Poverty, Household Vulnerability, and Inequality Reduction Measures by Public Sector. Bangkok. August 2024. ISBN 978-616-616-484-8.

RESEARCH

Promoting active aging in southeast asia

The longitudinal study on aging in Thailand under the Center for Aging Society Research (CASR), Health, Aging, and Retirement in Thailand (HART), is now in its 12th year and is currently conducting the Wave 5 survey and study. Since October 2023, the PI and Co-I from HART have been participating in workshops in Singapore, Paris, and Jakarta to develop a working life table for estimating working life expectancies (WLE) as part of a joint research project under OECD-ERIA on promoting active aging for older people in ASEAN. Longitudinal data on aging from each member country, including the 4-wave data from HART, have been utilized to estimate WLE at age 60. The project aims to promote the participation of older persons in the labor force in ASEAN countries by providing evidence-based information on the expected years a person at 60 can work in their lifetime.

With the life tables constructed from each country, the WLE projections were utilized to calculate economic gains and losses associated with increasing working life years. The final report of this WLE project is in progress. Constructing a working life table and estimating multi-state WLE at age 60 with longitudinal data for Thailand should benefit policy formulation on extending retirement or eligible pension age, which will increase work opportunities for older Thais in the labor market. This initial WLE estimation will enable further research on healthy working life expectancy, WLE by occupation, region and more.



There are other studies carried out by graduate students from the Graduate School of Social Development and Management Strategy on enhancing equality for other groups of people.

Gender equality in the family: Poomim, P., Singhakowinta, J., & Wanichayanon, C.. (2023). Factors and Obstacles in Promoting Gender Equality in the Family and Advancing the Promotion of Gender Equality in Family. A research project supported by Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

2. Urban poor:

Limsuwan, W. & Masae, A.. (2023). Adaptation for livelihood security in COVID-19 crisis among the urban poor in Bangkok, Thailand. Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences. 44 (4), 1167 – 1174. Retrieved from <https://so04.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/kjss/article/view/268994>