

# Extended essay cover

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Examination session (May or November)	Year	2012
Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered (For an extended essay in the area of languages, state the language ar		
Title of the extended essay: <u>INVESTIGATION OF</u> THAILAND	mi GRA	tion in
Candidate's declaration		
This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a grade m	ay not be issu	ied.
The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guine Baccalaureate).	dance allowe	ed by the International
I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of anot visual.	her person, v	vhether written, oral or
I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4000 words a to read beyond this limit.	nd that exam	niners are not required
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#### Supervisor's report and declaration

The supervisor must complete this report, sign the declaration and then give the final version of the extended essay, with this cover attached, to the Diploma Programme coordinator.

Name of supervisor (CAPITAL letters) \_

Please comment, as appropriate, on the candidate's performance, the context in which the candidate undertook the research for the extended essay, any difficulties encountered and how these were overcome (see page 13 of the extended essay guide). The concluding interview (viva voce) may provide useful information. These comments can help the examiner award a level for criterion K (holistic judgment). Do not comment on any adverse personal circumstances that may have affected the candidate. If the amount of time spent with the candidate was zero, you must explain this, in particular how it was then possible to authenticate the essay as the candidate's own work. You may attach an additional sheet if there is insufficient space here.

is very interested in development issues and in particular the more social aspects connected to development.

initial idea was to look into sex-tourism and the implications for the Thai women involved in the industry. Very early in the EE process Charlotte realised that obtaining data within this field is difficult (impossible) therefore she twisted the topic into a matter of migration. She was advised to leave the approach to the sex-industry but decided to make a link between the two.

has made a great effort to use different graphic illustration as a mean of presenting the data in the best possible way.

This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

I spent

hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

Supervisor's signature:

Date: 07.03. 2012

### Assessment form (for examiner use only)

Candidate session number

		Acr	nevement I	evel	
Criteria	Examiner 1	maximum	Examiner 2	maximum	Examiner 3
A research question $(2^{RQS})$	1	2	1	2	
B introduction		2	1	2	
C investigation	3	4	3	4	
D knowledge and understanding	21	4	2	4	
E reasoned argument	21	4	2	4	
F analysis and evaluation	3	4	3	4	
G use of subject language	3	4	3	4	
H conclusion	1	2	1	2	
I formal presentation	2	4	2	4	
J abstract	1	2	I	2	
K holistic judgment	3	4	3	4	
Total out of 36	22/		22/		
e of examiner 1: PITAL letters) e of examiner 2: PITAL letters)			Exam	iner number: iner number:	
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# Extended Essay in Geography Investigation of Migration in Thailand

Research Question: What are the triggering effects of internal migration in Thailand on a regional level and which initiatives must be taken to reduce the influx of girls and boys going into the sex industry?

Date: October 4, 2011

Exam Session May 2012

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Word Count: 3,909

### Abstract

The sex tourism industry of Thailand is a large pull factor for tourists travelling to Thailand, and in 2003, 6% of Thailand's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was from international tourism<sup>1</sup>, and a considerably large amount of this can be assumed came due to the attractive and easy sex industry. The sex workers are mainly in the major cities of Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket, which attracts a large amount of migrants who come to seek work. This essay was created to answer the research question of: What are the triggering effects of internal migration in Thailand on a regional level and which initiatives must be taken to reduce the influx of girls and boys going into the sex industry? Thailand is located in Southeast Asia, and has migration trends that fall closely to Gunnar Myrdal's Theory of population and economy: people move to the core, and the periphery becomes weaker economically in a downward spiral. A map showing the migration flows makes clear that this is true, as well as the reasons of migration for the regions containing these major cities. The population spread, shown through a Lorenz Curve, is more densely populated in the regions of these urban areas, and education is lower in the rural areas. another reason of immigration to the urban regions. The women involved in the sex industry are only being helped with education and other factors to improve their quality of life, however no actions are being taken to prevent the women and men from entering the sex industry. Therefore the government needs to take action in improving education throughout Thailand as well as creating more jobs, that are secure too. This would result in a minimization of the downward spiral.

Word Count: 286

<sup>1</sup> Prospect Magazine, 2005 http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/2005/05/learningthethaisextrade/

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# **Table of Contents**

- Introduction
- Geographical Context
- Theoretical Approach
- Data Presentation & Analysis
  - → Map Displaying Regional Migration
  - → Reasons of Migration
    - Bangkok Metropolis Region
    - ➢ Central Region
    - > Northern Region
    - ➢ Southern Region
    - ➢ Northeastern Region
  - → Lorenz Curve
- Education
- Sex Industry
- Minimization of Downward Spiral
- Profile of Migrants
- Main Sex-Worker Cities
- Evaluation
- Conclusion
- Bibliography

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### Introduction

The aim of this extended essay is to answer: What are the triggering effects of internal migration in Thailand on a regional level and which initiatives must be taken to



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the sex industry?

Throughout the past 30 years, the migration trends of Thailand have changed drastically<sup>1</sup>. This essay will be researching how these migration trends have been influenced by the infamous sex industry of Thailand. To approach this subject, data from Thailand's National Statistics homepage will be analyzed to detect potential trends. With the use of several spreadsheets indicating these reasons, graphs will be produced to make the information more prominent. A Lorenz Curve to show the population distribution over the land of the regions will be produced as well, displaying the spread of the population. These graphs will then be analyzed and see if they possibly match the

population theory of Gunnar Myrdal. From analyzing these different internal migration trends at a regional level, it is assumed that it will lead towards the conclusion that the sex industry

not an introdul. Br <sup>1</sup> Harvard University Report on Migration in Thailand, 2011

Extended Essay- Geography Due: October 4, 2011 in the Central Region and Northeastern Region is what attracts migrants to those areas, to seek work within the sex industry.

### **Geographical Context**

Thailand is located in the center of the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia. Formerly known as Siam, the Kingdom of Thailand, is 511,700 sq km and has a population of 66,720, 153 people. *See Figure* 1. Thailand has a literacy rate of 92.6% and a life expectancy rate of 73.6 years, as well as a sex ratio is 0.98 male(s)/female<sup>2</sup>, which is an unusual figure for male to female ratio. The main cities known for their thriving sex industry are Bangkok (in the Central Region), Pattaya (in the Bangkok Metropolis Region), and Phuket (in the Southern Region), which is trying to minimize this famous sex industry and become more family friendly, to dispose of this 'bad reputation'.

### **Theoretical Approach**

Gunnar Myrdal's theory was made to explain regional differences, due to reverse flow of selective migration from rural areas to urban areas causing greater regional inequalities.

Definitions<sup>3</sup> of key terms:

-<u>Core:</u> part of a country with most economic activity and development and therefore is the most prosperous.

-<u>Periphery:</u> area of low or declining economic activity and development and therefore is the least prosperous. Some refer to all areas outside the core as the periphery.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> CIA- The World Factbook 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Slide Share: Core – Periphery, 2009

Myrdal's theory said that disparities were created as a result of areas with natural advantages - for example warm climates, coastal locations, flat land, and more combined, these result in economically successful growing areas. When these areas arise, they attract a more intense economic concentration and higher level of economic activity called 'backwash' or 'polarization'. Cores can use economies of scale and better technology, which are growing advantages over the periphery. However, this can result in an upward spiral or downward spiral due to the multiplier effect causing the core to spread to the periphery, as the demand for resources increases, causing the land prices of the core to rise forcing some companies to relocate to the periphery where prices are lower. The gap between the periphery and the core will therefore increase; if the backwash is most dominant or, decrease; if the spread is most dominant.

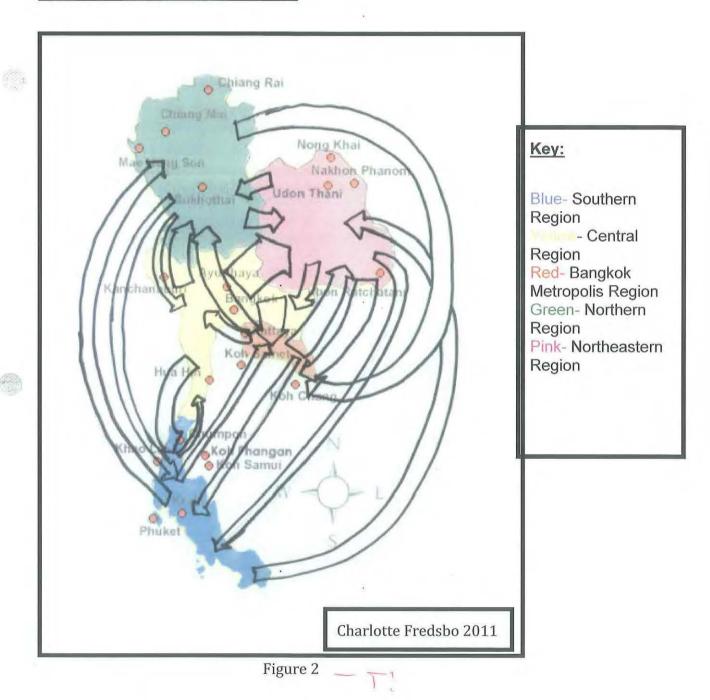
-IB Geography Course Companion, Slide Share Core-Periphery Relationship

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# **Data Presentation**

This section will be presenting the relevant data used to produce graphs to detect trends and possible explanation of the migration patterns.

Map Displaying Regional Migrants



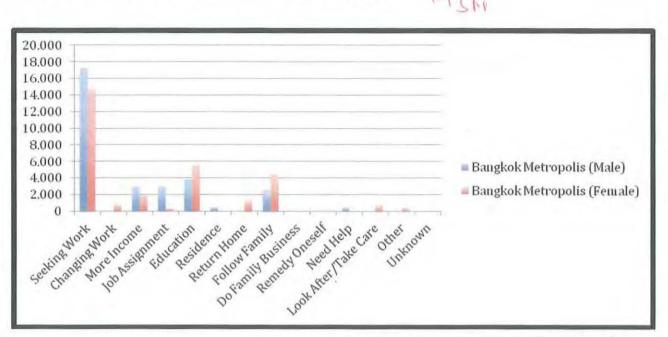
The map above shows how the internal flow of migrations on a regional level, No scale with the thickness of the arrows indicating how large the group of migrants is, from data retrieved by the Thailand National Statistics office in 2007. The map shows that the majority of the migrants are going to the Northeastern region, the Central region and the Bangkok Metropolis region. The migration flow to the Northern region and Southern region are not as notable.

### **Reasons of Migration**

The following diagrams display the Reasons of Migration for the emigrants of each region, split into female and male for the 5 regions. These graphs will display that the majority emigrate to seek work, as this would follow the given thesis or migration trends. The graphs were produced from the following options, from Table 9 of Thailand's National Statistic migration surveys:



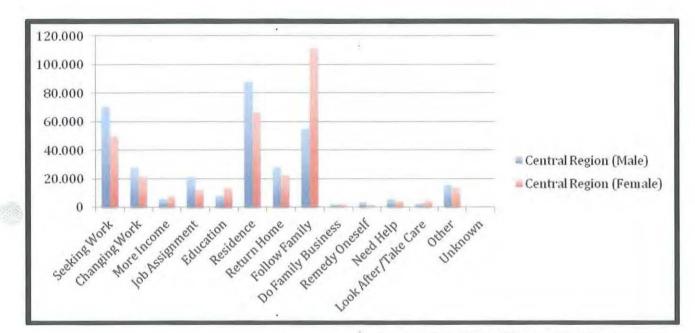
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#### Bangkok Metropolis - Reasons of Migration (2007)

Data from Thailand National Statistics Office- Migration Survey

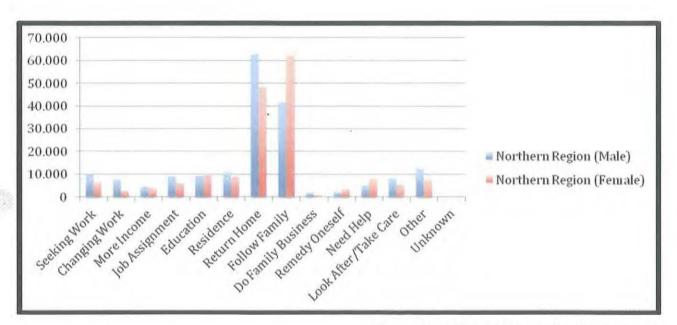
From the graph above, it is evident that the majority of people which migrated to the region of Bangkok Metropolis in 2007 did so to seek work. Pattaya, a major pull factor, is a highly visited tourist and sex-tourist capital of Thailand is located in Bangkok, and supplies plenty of job opportunities. These range from 'normal' jobs such as in a food store, to bargirls in the sex industry. When a sex-worker becomes practiced and 'good' at both the services they provide as well as learn to take advantage of their customers to exploit as much money and other items of value out of them as possible, they can earn very large sums.



#### Central Region- Reasons of Migration (2007)

Data from Thailand National Statistics Office- Migration Survey

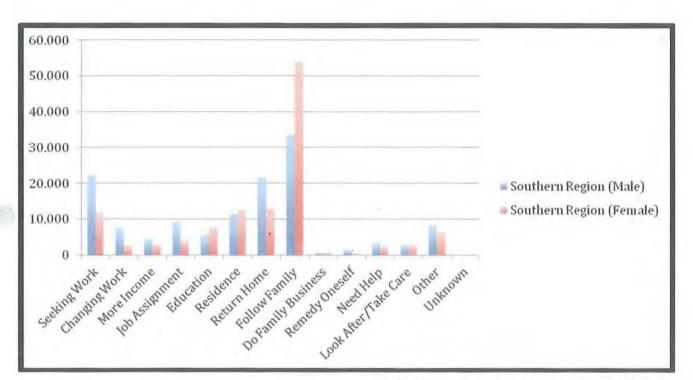
From the graph above, it is shown that the majority of people migrating to Central Region are coming to seek better residence than they had in their previous region, or to follow their families. However there is also a notable amount of people leaving to seek work. Bangkok is located in the Central region, and like Pattaya, it is a major city when it comes to tourism and sex tourism, with the advantage of the pull factor of job opportunities.



### Northern Region- Reasons of Migration (2007)

Data from Thailand National Statistics Office- Migration Survey

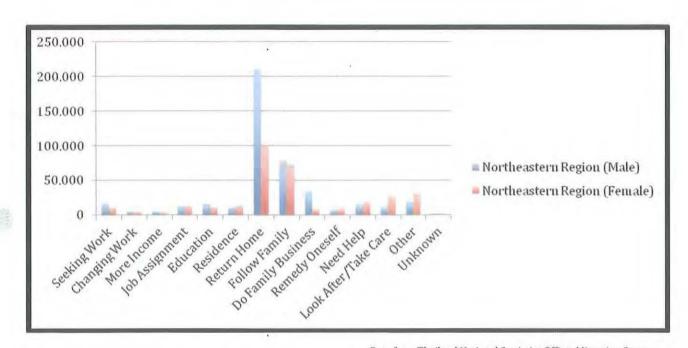
This graph shows that the majority of people migration to the Northern Region are either returning home or following family, so this is not relevant to the thesis of migrants leaving to seek work, generally in the sex industry.



#### Southern Region- Reasons of Migration

Data from Thailand National Statistics Office- Migration Survey

In this graph, one can see that the majority of people migrating to the Southern Region are following their families or returning home. Yet also a notable amount migrates here to seek work, which follows the given thesis. This is due to the third major tourism and sex tourism city of Thailand, Phuket, located in the Southern region. Phuket has for several years been known for their sex tourism and go-go-bars, and popular cross-dressing *kathoey* (also known as lady-boy). This is a strong pull-factor, as job opportunities will always be attractive to the work force and essential to survival.



### Northeastern Region- Reasons of Migration (2007)

Data from Thailand National Statistics Office- Migration Survey

From the graph above, it is evident that the majority of people migrating to the Northeastern Region are leaving to return home or follow family. Therefore this map produced from the data of the reasons of migration does not follow the thesis.

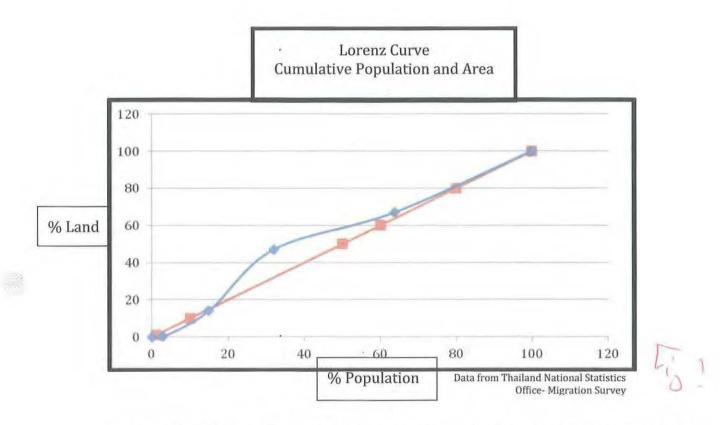
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### Lorenz Curve

This Lorenz curve was produced to display the spread of the population (of migrants) over the different regions, and how it follows the line of equality for the ratio of land to population. The spreadsheet below was produced from data taken from Thailand's National Statistics website, from Table 1 of the migration spreadsheets for the population, and the land data from Thailand In Brief. The data was then calculated into percentage and arranged cumulatively in smallest to biggest to produce the Lorenz Curve.

		Fish 1
Region	Population migration (2007)	% Of Population migration
Northeastern Region	762,912	36.42
Central Region	662,642	31.63
Northern Region	357,024	17.04
Southern Region	· 251,496	12.01
Bangkok Metropolis	60,363	2.88
Total	2,094,237	100%
Region	Land (km2)	% of Total Land
Northeastern Region	168,854	31.96
Central Region	102,001	19.93
Northern Region	169,600	33.14
Southern Region	70,715	13.82
Bangkok Metropolis	560	0.11
	511,700km2	100%

Cumulativ (Smallest-	
	2.88
-	14.89
	31.93
	63.56
	99.99
	100%
Cumulativ (Smallest-	e % ∋ Biggest)
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The first 2.88% of the population represented by the second blue dot on the Lorenz curve filled 0.11% of the land and represents the Bangkok Metropolitan region. Staying relatively close to the line of equality, represented by the red line and dots, this means it is close to an ideal population to area ratio. The red dots represent where the blue dots should be if there was an equal spread of the population of the given area for each region.

The third blue dot is the population to area ratio of the Southern region, and also falls very close to the line of equality, 12.01% of the population and 13.82 % of the land.

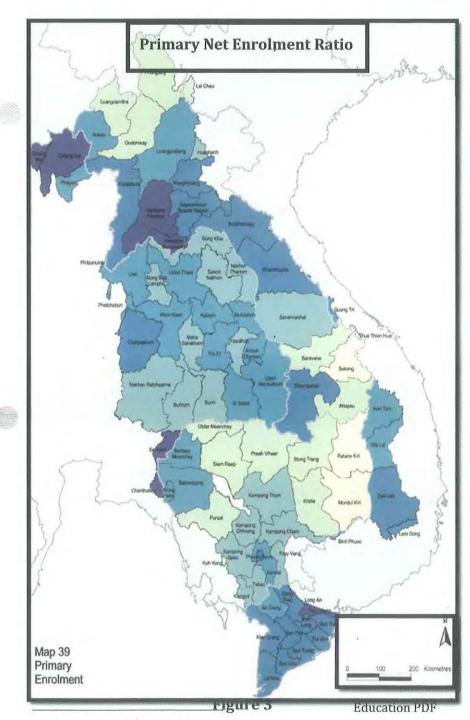
The fourth blue dot is an outlier of the other regional population to land ratios, with 17.04% of the population and 33.14% of the land. This dot represents the Northern region, which is a more rural area with a large agricultural focus, filled with small villages rather than densely populated cities.

In the central region of Thailand, represented by the fifth blue dot, 31.63% of the population filled 19.93% of the land in 2007, falling very close the having an equal population to land ratio.

The last blue dot represents the Northeastern region, displaying that the final 36.42% of the Thailand's population lived in 31.96% of the land in 2007.

# **Education in the Northeastern Region**

There is no available information of literacy rates, enrolment rates and unemployment rates on a regional level, however, the maps below show the Primary Net



<sup>4</sup> Education PDF File, 2011

Enrolment Ratio, Primary Attainment, and Lower Secondary Attainment for the Northeastern Region of Thailand.

Figure 3: 'Children of primary school age in primary school as a percentage of entire age group'.<sup>4</sup>

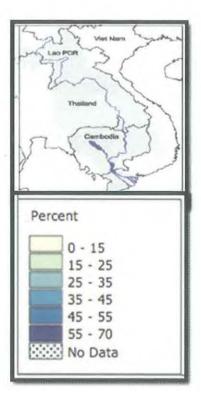
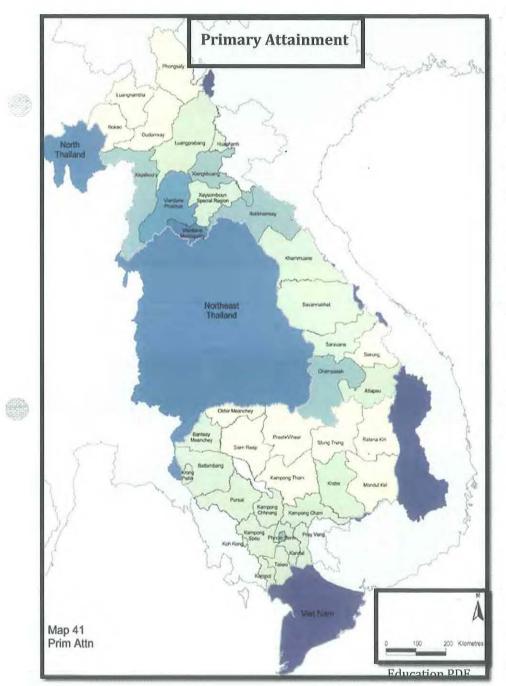
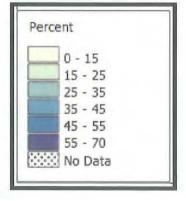


Figure 3 above shows the Northeastern Region, clarified in the map indicator on the right on page 18, and the percentage of primary aged students enrolled in primary school as a percentage, displaying that between 60-80% of the Northeastern population of Thailand is enrolled in primary school, out of all of the children of primary school age. This is a



worrying low figure, which could explain why families, for example, would not want to raise their children here, as well as why some young mothers <u>could</u> be lead into prostitution to ensure their children a good education.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of population who have completed



Extended Essay- Geography Due: October 4, 2011 primary school in percentage for the Northeastern Region of Thailand. A mere 45-55% of the population have completed primary school, which is no where near an ideal figure for any world region. This low figure is also a plausible reason for the high migration from the Northeastern region.

Figure 5 below presents the proportion of population who have completed lower secondary school. For Thailand's Northeastern Region, only approximately 28.4% of the regional population has completed lower secondary school. This figure, like the primary school

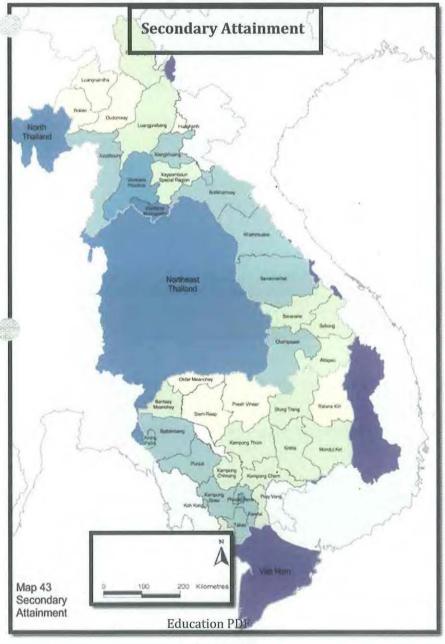


Figure 5

completion percentage, is very low, and almost certainly a result of the low attainment of primary school. These low education completion rates, though only at primary and lower secondary education level, are worrying low and tend to result in poor income jobs due to their lack of qualification, so to seek higher income some males and females leave to seek work in major cities such as Bangkok, Phuket and Pattaya.

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	7.5 - 10	
1	10 - 20	
-	20 - 30	
	30 - 40	
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Page 19 of 32

### Sex Industry

"Note that prostitution is, in theory, illegal. HIV/AIDS awareness is better than it used to be, but infection statistics among entertainment industry workers remain very high. One prohibition that is strictly enforced is the ban on child prostitution, and dancers and freelancers are uniformly over 18. <sup>#5</sup> –Odyssei Travel

Though prostitution was illegalized in 1960, due to pressure from the United Nations, the law is not heavily enforced, as the quote above expresses. However, underage prostitution is taken very seriously, and strictly prohibited. The company *Empower*, which



stands for Education Means Protection of Women Engaged in Recreation, is a nonprofit organization with centers in Bangkok's red light district and Phuket's Puatong Beach. It *"provides women involved in Thailand's illegal sex trade with free English classes and advice on health, law, education and* 

counseling. It also lobbies the government to extend employment rights and benefits to sex workers and to legalize prostitution.<sup>6</sup>

This organization is highly beneficial to Thailand, and is have the positive effects of increased health care of the nation, better economy due stronger work force, more taxes to fix the infrastructure, and decreased spread of HIV/AIDs to name a few benefits. However, unless this process is prevented, it will just continue in a downward spiral. Therefore, it would

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Odyssei Travels Communications, 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> CNN- 25 Years in Bangkok's Sex Industry, 2010

Extended Essay- Geography

Due: October 4, 2011

be just as beneficial, if not more beneficial to Thailand, to have organizations which help prevents young women and men from being 'forced' into the sex industry. However, the help of one organization will not fix this. Therefore, it is up to the government to take action on this matter.

#### Common Sex Industry Occupations

These jobs can be in the sex industry, which can include job titles known as 'bar girls', which are girls who are employed in a beer bar to bring money to the bar by making a 'Farang' (foreigner) buys drinks, food, and other products, and possibly also please the farangs sexual needs. The 'benefits' of this type of prostitution compared to street-walkers, is that they can choose who they want to perform their sexual services on, are guaranteed a steady income as they work normal shifts. It also benefits the bar, as they get a set amount for when a customer wants to buy the bar-girls services, and whatever else she gets paid is negotiated with the customer. These bar-girls are not frowned upon by Thai society, because in Thailand sex-workers are considered normal workers, as they give a service and get money in return. Also, bar-girls tend to be supporting up to 6-7 family members from their home towns, usually distant villages. They send back money monthly to support the family with food, shelter, and other essentials, but those who make a lot of money can also help the family acquire western considered essentials such a televisions, refrigerators, and so on. Figure 6 is an example of 3 bar-girls, and a common query is their age. They tend to range from the ages of 14-45, but due to their Asian youthful appearance, it can be hard to tell their real ages.

Enden

Another common type of prostitute in Thailand is the *Kathoey/lakka phet*<sup>7</sup> prostitutes, which are men cross-dressed as women, who can look very feminine, and are easily mistaken for women. They are referred to as women who 'missed their true role in life'. Many feminine men are led to become *kathoey* due to the 'easy' work, and higher chance of earning an ideal salary than getting an education and desk-job.

### Minimization of Downward Spiral

The downward spiral of migration in Thailand is largely affected by the strong pull-factor of work in the sex industry. Though there are currently organizations such as the previously mentioned Empower, this is not enough to stop the downward spiral. It is therefore necessary for the government to take action by increasing their educational systems and accessibility to decrease the primary and secondary school attainment rates displayed in figures 4 & 5, as well as increase the completion of higher education's, leading to more (namely government employed) jobs to benefit the economy and increase the amount of tax payers.

Another method of preventing the sex industry to continue to thrive as it is now, would be to advertise to the tourists travelling about the poor health conditions some of the sex-workers have, the low age of some which can be very hard to tell, and other factors which could in a sense scare the tourists from buying there service. This would lower the demand for the sex-workers, as well as make the other attractions of Thailand more appealing to tourists.

<sup>7</sup> CPA Media- The Asia Experts, 2002

Sociology

The police force and government could begin to enforce the punishments/illegality of buying a prostitute and selling oneself, however this could also have the negative factor of the sex-industry becoming underground and leading to more cheating and unfair circumstances for the prostitutes, as well as a higher chance of being trafficked into the business. Another negative factor that could trigger is the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), as the sex-workers might not go to health care services in fear of being caught as a prostitute and imprisoned or fined.

The potentially negative outcome from reducing/eventually stopping the sex industry is that it is presumably a large part of the income for Thailand, which is why the government should then provide better education and create more jobs - also in the periphery.

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# The Main Sex-Worker Cities

#### Phuket

Below is a select set of statistics from Phuket Land<sup>8</sup> websites Tourist Information. These figures represent the amount of tourists visiting Phuket in 2004 and 2005, as well as how much money they on average used during their stay.

	2004	2005
Total Visitors to Phuket	4,793,252	2,510,276
-Thai	1,295,653	1,188,621
-Foreign	3,497,599	1,321,655
Average daily expenditure	3,669.17	3,277.51
-Thai	2,758.09	2,519.73
-Foreign	4,006.68	3,827.13

In a big city like Phuket, it is plausible that people would migrate there in hopes of finding an occupation and source of income/higher income. As Myrdal's theory states, the core is most prosperous and has most economic activity. When more money is generated in the core, it creates more job opportunities for the people. This could have an impact on the reasons of many of the migrants coming to the Southern region.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Phuket Land- Tourist Information, 2008

The number of tourist visiting Phuket in 2005 compared to 2004 decreased greatly, and it should be noted that this is most likely due to the large Tsunami which occurred December 26, 2004. The map<sup>9</sup> below displays the main areas of Thailand that were affected, where this disaster directly affected Phuket.



#### Pattaya

Pattaya was the original tourist city of Thailand, and is located in the Bangkok Metropolitan region (*See Figure* 2). Pattaya is notorious for its 4 km long half-moon shaped beach<sup>10</sup>, and well-known resorts along it. With many restaurants, bars, casinos and other service along the beach, there are plenty of job opportunities as pull factors to migrate here.

#### Bangkok

Serving as the center of development and modernity in industry, commerce, economy and transport of Thailand, Bangkok is located in the Central region (*See Figure* 1). The tourist attractions consist of exquisite architecture, unique culture, archeological sites, interesting food and ways of living to name a few. Bangkok was voted Asia's Best City for

<sup>9</sup> World Health Organization, 2005
<sup>10</sup> Pattaya City, 2010

sightseeing from the Travel & Leisure Magazine.<sup>11</sup> With an honorable title like there comes the need for good service in every aspect, which is a strong pull factor for Bangkok.

# **Profile of Migrants**

From the graphs produced from statistics of reasons of migration, combined with the map displaying where the migrants go to and from and how many, the following profile can be assumed as a generalization of a majority of the migrants:

 The migrants are leaving for the 3 main reasons of; following family, returning home, and seeking work. The trend is that those following family and returning home go to the more rural areas, whereas those seeking work come to the urban cities, looking for jobs in the major cities of Phuket, Bangkok and Pattaya.

On a regional level, the following can be assumed for the individual regions:

- Northern Region: the majority migrating here are returning home or following their families.
- Northeastern Region: the majority of these migrants follow their families here or (mainly the men) return home.
- Central Region: most of these migrant have followed their family or seeked better residential circumstances here, as well as came to seek work, mainly in Bangkok.
- Bangkok Metropolis Region: the people who migrated here came mainly searching for work in the major city of Pattaya.

Repeat

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Bangkok Smiles, 2011

• Southern Region: the immigrants of the Southern region came seeking work in Phuket as well as follow their family and return home.

From Figure 3, 4, and 5 it is safe to assume that migrants leaving the northeastern region left

due to the push factor of the low education enrolment and attainment rate.

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### Conclusion

The results of the research and data analysis performed in the process of this extended essay were not entirely as expected. From the map displaying how many migrants came to each region in 2007, it was clear the majority came to the following three regions; Central Region, Northeastern Region, and Bangkok Metropolis. In two of these three regions are located some of Thailand's major cities; Bangkok and Pattaya. It became clear through the Reasons of Migration graphs that the main reasons were; to follow family, return home, and seek work. The Lorenz curve displayed the population migration spread over the land on a regional level, and made clear the Northern Region was sparsely populated compared to its land mass. Figure 3, 4 and 5 provided a visual of how low the education enrolment and completion of the Northeastern region is, and how educational levels like these lead women into the sex industry. A profile of the migrants can be summed up into: *The migrants are leaving for the 3 main reasons of; following family, returning home, and seeking work. The trend is that those following family and returning home go to the more rural areas, whereas those seeking work come to the urban cities, looking for jobs in the major cities of Phuket, Bangkok and Pattaya.* 

Empower helps women who are already in the industry, but to see a reverse of this downward spiral the government will have to take action by improving the education, as well as enforcing the law against prostitution stronger. Data found for the tourism in Phuket helped explain the reason people migrate to the Southern region to seek work, as well as all of the work opportunities in Pattaya and Bangkok. The theoretical approach of Myrdals theory was relevant to the multiplier effects and downwards spiral of the sex industry on the migration trends.

# **Evaluation**

When looking back on the extended essay, there are certain aspects that could have been approached differently. If more time had been provided it might have been possible to interview people with hands-on experience: Either having been a sex worker themselves or having some sort of connection to the sex industry of Thailand.

A subject to research with more available, precise, updated and more professional data and statistics would have made the creation of this essay much easier, as there was no regional statistics, the quality of the survey's were poor, and the statistical information was at a minimal, not detailed, and not updated.

This was however a very interesting topic to research, and was very insightful and a knowledgeable experience. The information was interesting to read about and was definitely a challenge to interpret correctly, and took several trial and errors.

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