

Chapter 6

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Summary

China has been and continues to be one of the great sources of international migration. From the report of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the number of overseas Chinese has reached 35 million in 2007. The globalization of the world economy is the main reason of immigration.

The relationship between China and Thailand has been greatly influenced by geographical, social and historical factors. There is a large number of ethnic Chinese in Thailand. They engage in every profession and push the improvement of relationship between Thailand and China. Especially in the economic development, China has made Thailand is the second biggest trading partner.

Economic adversity of one kind or another has been the principal reason for emigration. The simple desire for quick gains, for enlargement of business experience, for education, or for adventure has played a role. Besides these, political reason is another factor of emigration.

In traditional mind of Chinese people, no Chinese leaves his home with the intention of never to return. His hope is always to come back rich, to die and be buried where his ancestors are buried. After accumulating a certain amount of wealth, the wanderer eagerly look forward to come back to homeland. They focus on the

utility beyond income or wealth. But some of naturalized Chinese may have less intention to come back. They have stable settlements and social relations and consider themselves native Thai people.

Many Chinese arrived in the Kingdom with skills or crafts that they could immediately utilize or with commercial experience that gave a sound basis for active participation in the business life of the Chinese community. Thai Chinese are well-represented in all levels of Thai society and play a leading role in business.

6.2 Goals of this Study

The goals of this research is to contribute quantitatively to the understanding of the capabilities, income and social capital of Chinese households in Chiang Mai; and according to the comparing of the Chinese households in Chiang Mai with native Thai households. At last, identify the factors that influence the income, life satisfaction and happiness of sample in Chiang Mai. And explore the improvement of welfare of sample in Chiang Mai.

6.3 Methods

For knowing the overall comparative income, capabilities and social capital of Chinese and Thai households in Chiang Mai, both subjective and objective measurements of well being are used to investigate basic family information, income, capabilities, social capital, life satisfaction and happiness by the designed survey.

On one hand, the *horizontal* data (in the Chinese or Thai group) is focused on the analysis of the factor that impact on income, capability, social capital or

happiness. The relationship among main indicators is also researched. On the other hand, the *vertical* data (between Chinese and Thai group) explains the difference in indicators between Chinese and Thai households.

This research applies a sort of analysis: 1. the Gini and Theil estimations of relative income distribution; 2. tests for significant differences of means; 3. correlation matrices with tests of significance; 4. regression analysis. The application of these methods has explored the relative income and inequality, capabilities and social capital on one hand, and the subjective life satisfaction and happiness on the other hand. The analyzed data comes from the Chinese and Thai households' basic information (such as religion, health, education, socio-demography, motivation of immigration and the length of stay in Chiang Mai), income, capabilities, social capital, life satisfaction and happiness.

6.4 Results of Hypotheses Testing on Comparative Capabilities, Income and Social Capital of Chinese and Thai Households

The results of testing the comparative capabilities, income and social capital of Chinese and Thai households confirmed that most Thai and Chinese people living in Chiang Mai for occupation in 1990 and 2008 respectively. There's no significant difference in income, average capabilities score, social capital per capita, life satisfaction and happiness between Thai and Chinese households in Chiang Mai. The same result occurs when comes to highest and average education, pressure resistance capability, political power, wealth, sufficiency and the need of improving security.

The inequality (as measured by the Gini coefficient and Theil index) is higher in Chinese households. And the bridging capital and missing living with ethnicity score in Chinese households are significantly higher than in Thai households. Thai households have significantly higher education of household head, health, employment, opportunities, leisure and the contact with hometown compared with Chinese households.

6.5 Results of Hypotheses Testing on Factors of Income, Life Satisfaction and

Happiness

In terms of factor analysis of income, life satisfaction and happiness, this research found that the income per capita is not a significant factor of happiness and life satisfaction (except for joint-sample). On the contrary, capability is significant for happiness, income per capita (only for Thai households) and life satisfaction. The social capital is only significant for income per capita and life satisfaction in Thai households.

The male-headed households have more income per capita and life satisfaction than female-headed households for joint-sample. And the longer they stay in Chiang Mai the more happiness and life satisfaction they have. The impact of sufficiency on happiness for three groups and life satisfaction for joint-sample is significant and positive. The business alliance and Chinese are not significant factors of income per capita, life satisfaction and happiness in joint-sample, Chinese and Thai households.

The impact of education is greater than capability and social capital on income per capita for joint-sample, Chinese and Thai households. And the life satisfaction and happiness are affected by capability or social capital more than by income for three groups.

Beside the constant, education is the biggest factor of income per capita in three groups. The biggest factor of life satisfaction regressions in joint-sample, Chinese households and Thai households is capability (except constant in regression of Thai households). For happiness in joint-sample, Chinese and Thai households, the capability and sufficiency are the big factors of happiness in three groups.

The change of variables by length of stay in Chiang Mai is also researched in this study. The results reflect that the need of improving of income, capability, social capital, leisure, health and security (during the daytime) in Chinese households, and the political empowerment in both ethnic groups is significantly more and more with the extension of residence time in Chiang Mai.

6.6 Conclusion

6.6.1 Implications of the Study for Government

The capabilities, income and social capital of households affect the consumption, motivation and development of migrants. The Thai government committed to improving the relationship with other countries and attracting foreign investment. As the backer of Chinese people, Chinese government is concerned about his people including those living abroad. It also tries to avoid the loss of

resources (labor, economy and intelligence) and encourage more input by creating a harmonious society.

In order to achieve these targets, Thai and Chinese governments could practice more policy and provide a better investment environment to promote consumption, create employment and job opportunities, and estimate health care system in Chiang Mai. The inequality in Chinese households should be improved. The governments could know the basic information of Chinese households and Thai households (not native Chiang Mai people) in Chiang Mai from this research. And the difference between Thai and Chinese households in Chiang Mai will help Thai government compare Chinese in Thailand with native Thai people not only from the role of income but also capabilities, happiness and social capital. Considering the big impact of capabilities and sufficiency on life satisfaction and happiness, governments could pay more attention to the development of capabilities and social capital of Thai and Chinese households.

6.6.2 Implications of the Study for Civil Society

The advantage of income, capabilities and social capital for Chinese households in Chiang Mai are not significant in this study. For the civil society, especially the business communities, the research also has importance. After a period of economic accumulation, they should know the economic status they are staying is not better than the other ethnic group, and people do not live better. They should spend more time and energy on improving their capabilities, social capital and

sufficiency. Because this could make them earn more money and get more life satisfaction and happiness.

6.6.3 Implications of the Study for Potential and Current Migrants

There is no difference in capabilities, income, social capital and happiness between Thai and Chinese households in Chiang Mai in this study. And Thai households have higher education of household head, health, employment, opportunities, leisure and the contact with hometown compared with Chinese households. The income, capability, social capital, leisure, health and security (during the daytime) in Chinese households and the political empowerment in both ethnic groups significantly decrease with the extension of residence time in Chiang Mai. Thus the current migrants should improve their living standards through migration by this scientific evidence. This will help migrants to make the choice of immigration - would it be to go to Chiang Mai, or to migrate to another country, or to return to China.

6.6.4 Implications of the Study for Capabilities, Social Capital and

Happiness Study

The application of Gini coefficient, capability, social capital and happiness theory is practiced on 200 households (100 Thai households and 100 Chinese households) in Chiang Mai. The impact of education is greater than capability and social capital on income per capita for joint-sample, Chinese and Thai households. And the life satisfaction and happiness are affected by capability and sufficiency

more than by income for three groups.

The education, capability and sufficiency are the big factors of income per capita, life satisfaction and happiness in joint-sample, Chinese and Thai households. The capability and sufficiency have become more important than ever. This will help the researchers make further study in this field.

6.7 Limitation of the Study

Due to the limited information of migrants' households, this research resorts survey to get data. Despite selecting the questions from past theory, the questionnaire could not measure perfect questions for every domain of objects.

The sample is another limitation of this research. There are 100 Thai households and 100 Chinese households in the sample. This make the study could not collect all data necessary for the perfect comparison between Thai and Chinese households in Chiang Mai.

Furthermore, due to the time constraint, the study could not collect all subjective data. The study of capability, social capital and happiness takes a long time to interview and understand the thought and emotion of households. The researcher only met for one or one-and-a-half hour with each household.

6.8 Suggestions for the Further Research

This study has contributed a useful theoretical framework and measuring methods of objective and subjective well being of Thai and Chinese households in Chiang Mai. Further study should be conducted in this field by applying the methods.

The research should focus on the characters, comparison and change of capabilities, income and social capital in Thai and Chinese households. The baseline data should be developed to help improve more precise and specific indicators which can then be applied in a more sophisticated migrants' well-being or Chinese households' well-being in the future.

The further research could analyze the model on different variables, such as figure the Lorenz Curve of happiness. Much more work on analysis of data could be extended to econometrics as a further research. Beside SPSS, the other software should be used to measure the data. For example, operate Eviews to complete the time serious analysis of panel data.