

# Use of Health Line Consultations among Myanmar Migrants, Thailand: A Descriptive Study <sup>1/</sup>

Khaing Khaing Gyi, Win Sint Sint Aung and Paulina Mu Pauline

Faculty of Nursing Science, Assumption University  
Bangkok, Thailand

E-mail: <khaingkhainggyi@au.edu; winsintsintaung@au.edu; tooline@gmail.com>

## Abstract

*This study was conducted to examine uses of health line consultations among Myanmar migrants in Thailand. Data were collected by phone interviews with semi-structured data compilation forms from 15:00 to 22:00 hours daily during the period from July 2009 to May 2010. Age, sex, address, date and time of call, sources of information, health concern, health advice, and missed calls were recorded. Descriptive statistics and content analysis were applied. It was found that 208 Myanmar migrants would have liked to consult the health line, but only 132 Myanmar migrants were able to use it. Twenty-eight cases consulted it for family planning and reproductive health, ten cases were with musculoskeletal issues, four cases with dental problems, seven cases each for upper respiratory and urinary tract infections, sixteen cases with gastrointestinal issues, six cases with skin issues, nineteen cases with infectious diseases, four cases with cardiovascular conditions, ten cases with general debility, four cases with surgical conditions, and one case related to an eye problem. It was concluded that effective health line advertisements coinciding with health line consultations should be carried out to increase awareness and usage of said consultations.*

**Keywords:** Phone interview, reproductive health, general debility, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal condition, upper respiratory and urinary tract infections.

## 1. Background

In recent years, the movement of people across national boundaries has increased sharply. Thailand's geographic location in Southeast Asia, much higher income level, higher economic growth rate, and more favorable social and political climate attracted people from Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia, to cross the border looking for job.

It is estimated that more than two million migrant workers are working and contributing to Thailand's economy (United Nations Country Team in Thailand 2005; Revenga 2006).

<sup>1/</sup> Paper presented at the First International Conference on Qualitative Research in Nursing and Health on the theme "Situating and Stipulating Qualitative Health Research in Today's Practices", Wiang Inn Hotel, Chiang Rai, Thailand, 1-3 December 2010.

In Thailand, where majority of Myanmar migrants are residing, about 75% of registered migrants are from Myanmar (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2005; PHAMIT 2011). They are hired in numerous industries and households. Registered migrants are concentrated in agriculture, construction, fishing and fish processing, and domestic work (Jinsong 2007).

In 2007, the Myanmar Ministry of Labor confirmed that the Myanmar workers who were illegally working in Thailand numbered about 500,000 working in the agriculture sector, factories, and industrial sectors (Jinsong 2007). About 91,000 workers were in Bangkok; about 144,000 in the middle areas of Thailand; 25,000 in the Eastern area; about 39,000 in the Western areas; 109,000 in Northern areas; about 41,000 in the Army District; about 42,000 in Chiang Mai; and about 12,000 in Chiang Rai (Kaekprayoon 2003; Jinsong 2007; Ministry of Public Health 2007).