

## **COVID-19, Health Risks and Migrant Worker's Movements at the Borderland**

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### **Abstract**

COVID – 19 pandemic in Thailand raises a number of concerns among Non-Governmental organizations (NGO), activists, and scholars about the economic suffering of Shan migrant workers and questions the government stigmatizes them as a group of disease spreader. As such, migrant workers are viewed as a victim of inequality and discrimination. Instead, this paper shades lights on the risks of lives and the emerging of the social movement of migrant workers in Chiang Rai borderland. On one hand, Myanmar migrant workers face 3 kinds of risks: work; health, and cross-border. On the other hand, they are very active in participating with NGOs and academics in aid providing and access to the right of health and workers.

This paper argues that the function of the border during the COVID-19 outbreak has been changed. For considering the Borderland as a destination and transit place for migrant workers, the COVID-19 illustrates the complicated problems of migration, border, disease pandemic, and power relationships in the area. Although the migrant workers are affected by the COVID-19 outbreaks in terms of economic, access to health, and socio-culture discriminations, they are not passive as most people used to understand. They are instead very active in participating in voluntary works during the COVID outbreak and expanding the scope of work from the charity to social movement.