

Covid-19, Myanmar Migrant Workers and Health Volunteers

Nithis Thammaseangadipa

Abstract

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thai government has proceeded with the protectionist policy responses to cope with the diffusion of the pandemic. Especially after the outbreak among migrant communities in Singapore, the Thai government has set the sight on migrant workers in the country.

Samut Sakhon and Ranong provinces are also known as “Little Myanmar” in Thailand, where there is a large number of migrant workers from Myanmar living together in concentrated areas. With tremendous effort, these provinces have been able to keep zero infection amongst Myanmar migrant worker communities. Arguably one of the critical success factors in preventing and controlling the spread was due to Migrant Health Volunteers (MHVs).

This paper aims to shed light on the roles of MHVs in preventing the COVID-19 diffusion among Myanmar migrant worker communities, and also in enhancing migrants’ access to health care.