

**CHILD AND
FAMILY CARE
IN MAE SOT**

MAE SOT_MYAWADDY FRIENDSHIP GATE



1. WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THEY FACE, AND HOW ARE THEY COPING?



DIFFICULTIES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN WORKERS

- **Women migrant workers are often forced to leave their factory when they become pregnant.**
- **They have to choose to resign from work. In some factories, employers force pregnant women to do the same work as other workers so that they will ask to leave.**
- **They can come to work after having their child, but need to start at the beginning as a new worker. They lose their former position despite their work experience and skills.**
- **Managers often do not allow these workers to take leave many times each month. Workers often must resign from work in order to take care of their children.**

DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO CHILDCARE

- **Garment and other types of factories in Mae Sot do not have CHILDCARE centers in the factory compounds.**
- **The employers do not have a childcare policy in the factory. They say this is because they do not have sufficient resources to implement a childcare system.**
- **The employers often force workers to resign when they take many days of leave to care for their children.**
- **Women migrant workers' parents or other relatives need to take care of their children.**
- **Some workers hire nannies to take care of their children; it is mostly older women who take care of them (however, most mothers do not trust other people enough to do this).**
- **Migrant Learning Centers and Thai schools accept children older than 3 years old. Most parents send their children to school when they are old enough.**

2. WHAT ARE SOME SUPPORTS THAT THEY NEED?

Issues of Legal Documents

- **Workers need to possess their own legal documents.**
- **To access healthcare, workers need to have their original document rather than a copy of their document.**
- **They need to show these documents when the police stop them.**
- **By law, migrant workers have the right to hold their personal IDs and passports, but in practice employers give reasons for needing to keep their documents, such as workers not having paid all document-related costs or needing their documents to update their visa every month.**

NEED SUPPORT

Policies & Laws

- ❖ Up-to-date and timely information available to workers.
- ❖ Registration processes and types of documents change frequently.
- ❖ Reinforce Day-Off policy and rules; migrant workers are often forced to work overtime and also on Sundays (no holidays).

Occupational safety and health (OSH)

- Employers do not have clear policies on working environments or knowledge about OSH.
- Employers need to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers. There is often not enough first aid resources or these are not provided at all.
- There is no regular checking of machines, including fans, plugs, etc.
- There are no clean sources of water; there is a lack of proper filters for drinking water (it smells when it is not cold).
- Old electrical wires and plugs are often used.
- Factory owners rent cheap buildings to run their business. There is often bad ventilation, too many pieces of clothing, and dust.

3. HOW DO YOU THINK THE PROMOTION OF SECTION 64 (BORDER PASS) WILL AFFECT HOW THEY WOULD COPE WITH CARE RESPONSIBILITIES?

Section 64 Border Pass

- 1. Section 64 (border pass) is used by employers to hire migrant workers (foreign workers) to work in the SEZ area. The employer's main reason for using this system is to control migrant workers in the area.**
- 2. The cost of the Section 64 document is high. Monthly visa stamps cost more with transportation expenses, and brokers or agents can take advantage of gaps in the system. This document is available to workers with household registration in Myawaddy.**

3. HOW DO YOU THINK THE PROMOTION OF SECTION 64 (BORDER PASS) WILL AFFECT HOW THEY WOULD COPE WITH CARE RESPONSIBILITIES?

3. In theory, Section 64 is meant for people living in Myanmar's border areas to come to Thailand's border areas to work as seasonal workers. But, in reality, the Thai government allows an unlimited number of workers to enter by registering for Section 64 documents to work in the SEZ area along Thai-Myanmar border.

4. Workers do not have the chance to hold their Section 64 document. Because of monthly payments needed to be made to update their visa, their employer pays in advance and deducts money from workers' wages.

5. There is no social security fund available to workers who hold a Section 64 document. They do not have access to compensation funds.

6. They have difficulties to bring their children to Mae Sot for temporary work. In Thailand, they are not allowed children to follow with their parents. They need to leave their children back to Myanmar. This happen the same as MOU workers.