

Cross-border migrant children and their accesses to education and health insurance in Thailand



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Objectives

To explore and examine factors associated with accesses to education and health insurance among children (0-14) born to cross-border migrants from Myanmar in Thailand.

Methods

A quantitative field survey in Mae Sot District, Tak province, Thailand, in 2018-19 with purposively selected 402 migrant families covering totally 803 migrant children (0-14).

Results

Of the total migrant children, 3/4 were born in Thailand of which around 73.7 percent was registered the birth

After age 15, about 71.5 percent was planned by the family to be living or working in Thailand.

School enrollment (n=803)

School enrollment	Migrant children (0-14)			
	0-5 years	6-11 years	12-14 years	Total
Not in school	72.7%	4.0%	9.8%	30.3%
Schooling (NGO's learning center)	11.6%	53.2%	48.8%	37.1%
Schooling (Thai formal/informal school)	15.7%	42.8%	41.5%	32.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

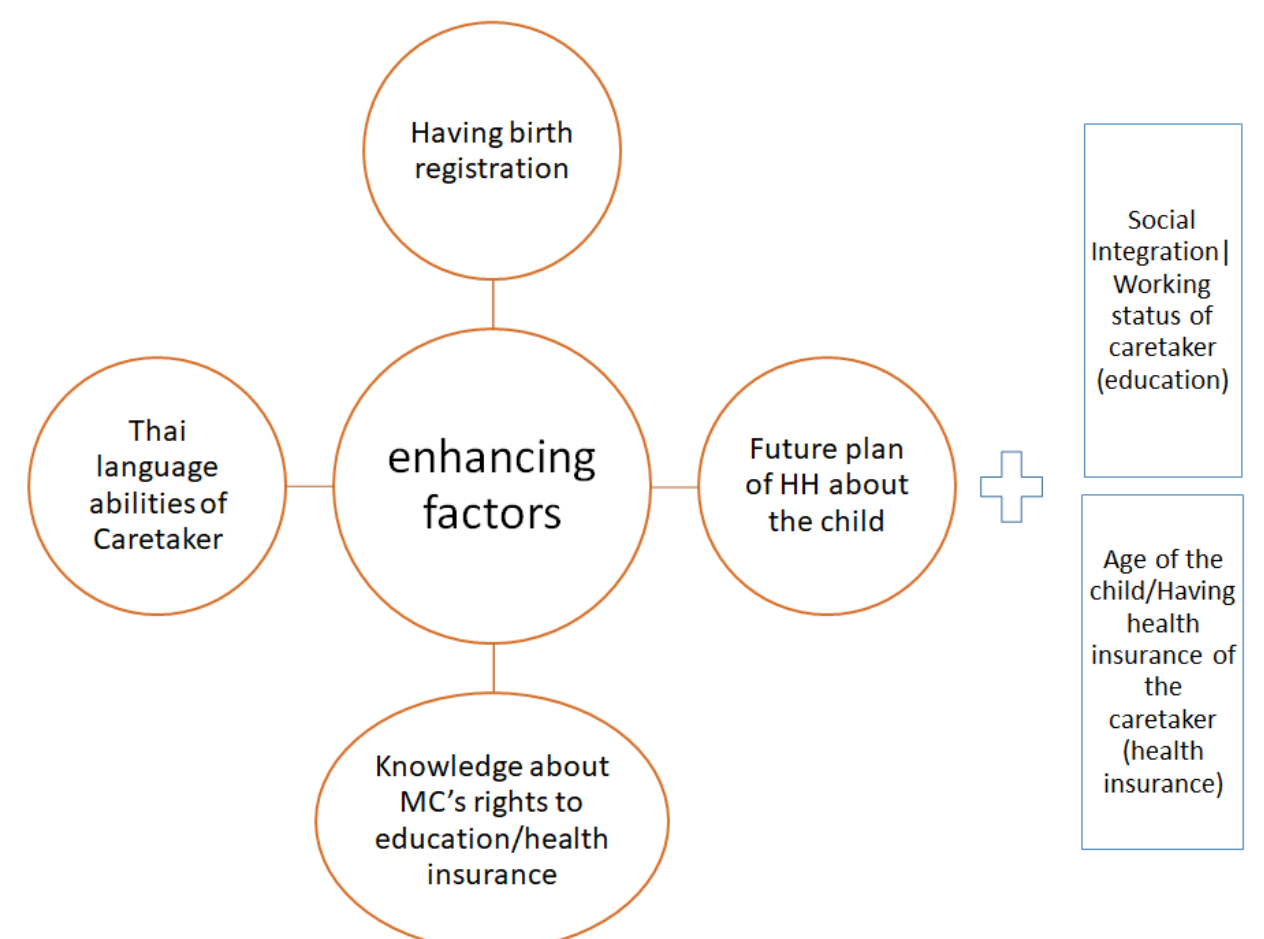
Health insurance (n=803)

Having health insurance	Migrant children (0-14)			
	0-5 years	6-11 years	12-14 years	Total
MOPH - Health Card (<7฿)	7.8%	2.3%	0.0%	3.8%
MOPH - Health Card (>7฿)	0%	1.7%	2.4%	1.3%
Others (M-Fund, private HI)	6.5%	11.8%	20.7%	11.7%
No/ N.A.	85.7%	84.1%	76.8%	83.2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Education: younger children at the present appeared better accessing to education than the elder ones. Proportion of the younger children studying in Thai schools as compared to studying in the NGO's learning centers was also found larger.

Health insurance: a large number of migrant children was not covered by any.

Multivariate statistical analysis on the factors associated with
Access to Thai formal education/Health insurance



4 factors significantly associated with access to Thai formal education and health insurance

- (1) having birth registration
- (2) future plan of the family for the child (whether to be in Thailand after age 15)
- (3) perception of the caretaker about child's rights to education and health insurance, and
- (4) Thai language ability of the caretaker.

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Policy recommendations

- emphasize the importance of access to birth registration
- provide knowledge about child's rights (to education and health) to migrant families
- mitigate language barriers, and prioritize multiculturalism skills training in education curriculum
- build awareness of migrant families about the importance of education and health insurance of migrant children.