

The Resilience of Chin Migrants Who Migrated to Bangkok after the 2021 Coup in Burma

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Abstract

The 2021 military coup has severely affected the livelihoods of many communities and people in Burma, many of whom had migrated to other countries for their survival and livelihood security. The Chin people who are students, civil servants, private sector staff, and religious and revolutionary personnel also migrated to neighboring countries, including India and Bangkok, Thailand, both legally and illegally. Because of the precarious status and conditions, these Chin migrants face numerous adversities such as livelihood challenges, language barriers, undocumented status, insecurity, and an uncertain future. To address these challenges and to explore the resilience of Chin migrants amidst political disaster entangled with the precarity of migration, this paper investigates the case of Chin migrants in Bangkok to comprehend how they cope with, adapt to, and transform the adversities they experience in a new, unfamiliar environment with limited opportunities. This paper employs the concept of resilience to offer new perspectives and discussions on individual, social, and community resilience, to understand migrants' coping strategies, adaptation, and transformability. This qualitative research collected information through the social, community, and religious networks of diverse groups of Chin migrants in Bangkok, for over 3 months in 2024 and 2025. The key findings show that to cope with and adapt to the challenges, some Chin migrants learn Thai through classes, online resources, or daily interactions to reduce language barriers. Family and relatives play a vital role in providing financial, emotional, and practical assistance for Chin migrants. They also support each other with job searching or financial needs. The legal status makes Chin migrants secure and have a better living in Bangkok. Church, belief, social, and community factors play a crucial role in the resilience of Chin migrants as they adapt to and cope with adversity.