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Opinion

Demographics of Thailand

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The population density, ethnicity, health and education, economic well-being, culture and religion of the Thai-population are the following: Initially population in Thailand is relatively homogenous. Recently, this unique ethnicity has been changing due to immigration and assimilation with other international culture. The population of Thailand is about 70 million or 7 crores. Majority of the people or 75% or about 50 million or 5 crores are of Thai-Ethnic groups, Chinese 14%, and various other groups 11%. A significant number of registered

foreigners are from Asia, Europe and North America. Among foreigners, several hundred thousands are illegal immigrants. Migrants from the neighboring countries including Burma, Laos and Cambodia are also increasing. The increased migrants also includes Nepalese, Indian, Japanese and immigrants from Western countries.

Foreign migrants were estimated to be 2 million or 20 lac in 2008. Most of the people have been living in the rural areas who mainly cultivate rice. About 31% people are urban

and 69% rural. Rural-to-urban migration especially to Bangkok city has been steadily increasing. The family planning programme in Thailand is very successful. Population growth rate was 3.1% in 1960, which has recently decreased to only 0.4% due to successful family planning programme. The public health policy in Thailand is also very successful.

Twelve years of free education exist in Thailand but that does not cover universally. However, the budget of education is good enough that accounts for 19% of total government expenditure.

More than 85% people in Thailand are Buddhist, 10% Muslims and 5% are other religion. Working population in Thailand lies between 15 to 64 years which is a 74% of total population. Male-female ratio is 0.97%.

It means that for every man there is a 0.97 female. Number of females are exceptionally more than males.

Therefore, we can see a lot of women working in the market, shopping center and in the service center including hospital and educational institution etc. The recent population growth rate is as good as like the Western country, which are 0.61% in 2009 and 0.56% in 2011.

Health situations in Thailand is relatively good. Infant mortality rate is only 1.82% or 18.23

per 1000 live birth (2006). Due to the relatively good health care sector, life expectancy in Thailand is better than all South Asian countries. For example, life expectancy in Thailand for male is 71.24 years and female 76.08 years (2011). Thai is their national language. Though English is the secondary language, they seem to be relatively weak in English. Because, they start their learning English lesson after junior high school.

However, their literacy rate is very good. The people of age 15 and over can read and write. Of total population 92.6% are literate, which is comparable to even any or many Western countries. Male Thai's are relatively more literate than the woman. About 94.9% males are literate compared to 90.5% women literacy.