

14 - 16 August 2026

Berlin , Germany

Human Capital Utilization among Left-behind Households of International Labour Migrants in Modern Rural Thailand

**Dr. Nattawat Auraipai , Dusadee Ayuwat , Rukchanok Chumnanmak , Nattapon Meekaew ,
Supee Samorna , Adirek Rengmanawong , Pattarnaporn Yamsamruan**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Burapha University, Thailand

Abstract

International labour migration has reshaped not only migrants' lives but also the livelihood strategies of households left behind in modern rural society. This study aimed to examine human capital utilization among left-behind households of international labour migrants. An Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods Design was employed. The qualitative phase consisted of in-depth interviews with 23 left-behind households, key community informants, observations, and content analysis. The findings were subsequently used to develop a structured questionnaire administered to 500 left-behind households, and the quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The qualitative findings revealed that households enhanced their human capital through experiential learning from migration, intergenerational knowledge transfer, occupational skill development, financial management, role adjustment among household members, and the use of digital communication technologies for collective decision-making. These processes strengthened household adaptability to changing socioeconomic conditions. The quantitative findings indicated that most households demonstrated a high level of human capital utilization, emphasizing continuous learning, skill enhancement, livelihood planning, and the productive use of remittances to improve household capacity rather than supporting short-term consumption. Overall, human capital functions as a strategic livelihood asset that strengthens household resilience, adaptive capacity, and sustainable rural development among left-behind households in modern rural society.

Keywords: Human Capital; Left-Behind Households; International Labour Migration; Livelihood; Modern Rural Society