Impacts and Resiliencies of Food workers for Human Security in COVID Crisis

Abstract: Food system workers are a large group of low-income workers facing the same risk of pandemic crisis as healthcare workers. However, they are invisible and excluded from crisis management policy measures. As a result, food workers are unprotected and become one of the most vulnerable groups without human security in the past Covid-19 crisis. The research project 'Impacts and Resiliencies of Food workers for Human Security in COVID Crisis' aims to find solutions for food workers to cope with future crises. The mixed method is applied with a combination of documentary, quantitative and qualitative researches. The documentation review compares policy measures in the United States, Singapore and Thailand. The quantitative research collects primary data using questionnaires from a total of 398 food system workers. The qualitative part consists of 25 face-to-face in-depth interviews, 2 group discussions, 1 brainstorming session and 2 stakeholders' meetings. The main findings indicate that the most vulnerable food workers are self-employed workers and workers in micro businesses, who in Covid crisis have faced with the most income insecurity and employment instability. Because of the lack of economic and income security, their capability to resilience could affect the recovery of the food industry and the service sector in urban areas in the future. Moreover, as Thailand's Covid-19 response policy focused on low-income household assistances, the implementation of job retention scheme was ineffective especially in the small and medium-sized businesses. These led to the development of a crisis response manuals with food workers participation. The policy recommendation put an emphasis on vulnerable food workers and small and medium-sized food related businesses to establish their income, employment and job security.