

Chapter 5

Conclusion and discussion

This thesis has focused on using statistical methods to model non-participation rates with application to youth aged 15-17 year who were 'not at work' and 'not at study' using the 2000 Population and Housing Census data. The non-participation rates were classified by gender, religion and location in Pattani and Songkla provinces.

The first section of this chapter summarizes the overall finding and discusses the implications of the study in the second section. In addition, limitations and suggestions are given in the last section.

5.1 Overall findings

We found from preliminary data analysis that the youth non-participation rate in Pattani was at a higher rate than that in Songkhla. The higher rates found in Pattani might be because Pattani is more rural and has less economic development than does Songkhla. There is less of a concentration of factory, transportation and business activity in Pattani Province than in Songkhla Province. Besides this, the social unrest in Pattani may be related to the higher youth non-participation and need to be further investigated. For Muslims some occupation such as singing, acting or some employments in entertainment places or restaurants did not permitted by their religion and convenient for religious practice (Lanui et al 1997). This might be related to high non-participation rate in Pattani, where the majority of population are Muslim.

Our preliminary results revealed that the percentage of “not at work and not at study” (the “at risk” group) was 23.5 percent in Pattani and 13.5 percent in Songkhla. The “at risk” rate for Muslim males was higher than for the “other religion” category. This appears to be a consequence of both their gender and their religion. Males were found to be more likely than females to be “at risk”, because they had higher rates of being neither at work nor at school (in Pattani Muslim males 28.4 percent: females 23.3 percent; “other”(non-Muslim) males 12.0 percent: females 10.5 percent and in Songkhla Muslim males 21.1 percent: females 16.0 percent; non-Muslim males 13.8 percent: females 9.7 percent). Muslims were found to be more likely than non-Muslims to be “at risk” (of being neither at work nor at school), and therefore at risk of the consequence of limited life chances such as not acquiring a good education, employment, income, and health. It is of concern that their life chances in terms of achieving adequate income, status and health are limited. The situation of children being uneducated results in further social problems such as crime (Buonanno and Montolio, 2008), illicit drugs, HIV infection, and other social problems (United Nations, 2000).

The non-participation (“at risk”) rates for Muslim youths were particularly high, with only one region 28 (Mai Kaen) having a rate lower than 20 percent, whereas non-Muslims had non-participation rates of less than 20 percent in the majority of regions. For almost all of the super-tambons shown, both Muslim males and females had higher rates of being in the “at risk” category than did non-Muslims. The impact of religion on being “not at work and not at school” is not only considerable but also very widespread across Pattani province and some area in Songkhla.

Since both gender and religious group differences were found, it is possible that the general level of inequality in a region might itself influence the outcome, i.e. the proportion of non-participating youth. Therefore the multiplicative models were fitted to the data, and disparity indexes were used as measures of inequality. The disparity index was constructed using the average (scaled) set of percentages for the four religion-gender groups and enabled the use of a model that placed locations (regions) on a scatter graph. This index displayed and compared the situation of 15-17 year olds being in the “non-participation” group, both for specific locations, as well as comparisons of demographic inequality between locations. In Pattani a high disparity index occurred in Napradu (9), Thung Phala (11), Tuyoung+Bang Tawa (15), Panare City (19), North Panare (23), South Yarang (32) and Maelan+Mung Tia (33) with Muslims having a higher than average non-participation, negative disparity. In Phalo (10) there is no evidence that the disparity index is higher than average non-participation. In contrast, Muslims in the MaiKaen (28) region have higher than average participation, and positive disparity (they did better than non-Muslims in this respect). Most of areas in MaiKean are sandy soil and close to the sea. People in the area are living by agriculture, coastal fishery, farming, and trading. Apart from that, Royal Initiative Project has encouraged and supported people to make handy crafts for their livings and because it is fairly close to Saiburi district and Narathiwat province, in which there are several locally famous public schools and private religious schools, youth in this area and nearby have a better choice than most of areas in three southern most provinces. While Songkhla province in seven regions (Phawong+Koyo (4), North SatingPa+Krasasin (5), Paching (8), ThaMoSai (11), Ranot (28), North SinghaNakorn (49) and HuaKhao (51)) Muslims had higher than average non-

participation and disparity disadvantage. In three regions (BanNot (25), North Bangklam (47) and HuaKhao (51)) Muslims had higher than average non-participation but no evidence of disparity. Muslims in the Sakom (22) region had average non-participation and a high negative disparity index.

5.2 Implication of the results

The study highlights the high rates of youth non-participation rate in Pattani and Songkla Provinces and also identify “super-tambons” with are high levels of inequality.

The use of super-tambon categories enables a more detailed examination of any link between residential area and rates of 15-17 year olds being “not at work and not at school” and can be applied in further research.

The application of a logistic model and the map, with a disparity index of levels of demographic differences, can be very useful to help for finding locations where social inequality is relatively high. There is potential value in using this plotting technique to identify locations, districts or provinces in need of urgent action to improve social justice, not just by focusing on where there are high levels of “unemployment” but also where there are high level of social inequality. Avranov (2002) suggested that perception of relative disadvantage rather than an “absolute” deprivation, causes dissatisfaction and that depends in part on the extent to which others in the same location experience the disadvantage. Therefore there might be a link between levels of social unrest and the distribution of social disparity, and this is an area of interest for future research.

5.3 Limitation of the study

This study used population and housing census data in 2000, and so returning to collect more information is difficult. Ideally, for maximum benefit in bringing about social change, information should be recent.

It was not possible to evaluate other factors known to be associated with youth non-participation rate such as parent's education and occupation status, economic status, social unrest, availability of industries and others.

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