**Anti-Microbials in Society (AMIS): A Global Interdisciplinary Research Hub** **– MOPH Thailand Study**

**STUDY SUMMARY**

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| Title | **Antimicrobials in Society (AMIS) Project MOPH Thailand: Understanding the role of antimicrobials in daily life in Thai Society** |
| Description | The AMIS Project MOPH (ministry of public health) Thailand was an anthropological research project aimed at better understanding the role of antimicrobials in daily life in Thai society in diverse contexts and with different actors, including health care providers, farmers, day wage urban workers, scientists and policy-makers. The research focused on the ways in which antimicrobials enable particular ways of life, livelihoods and institutional practices, and explored the context and the wider motivations for antimicrobial use in Thailand. |
| Study design | The AMIS Thailand project consisted of five sub-studies. each sub-study drew on different anthropological literature and had a different entry point (antimicrobial/AMR activity and/or group). Each of the sub-studies included the following phases:   1. *Documentary analysis* of relevant literature, policy documents and public health and lay public media content and materials, to contextualise ethnographic findings. 2. *In-depth ethnographic fieldwork* involved in depth interviews and participant observation, to understand how antibiotics are intertwined in people’s lives, with a focus on why, and how, people rely on them. |
| Study sites | 1. *Antimicrobial/AMR policy and implementation*: Thai Ministry of Public health, District Public Health Administrative Office, a Local health centre; national healthcare system, committee meetings and conferences 2. Pig farming: Pig farms of varying sizes, university departments, relevant ministries 3. *Mandarin/citrus production:* Specific orange orchard(s); fruit markets, employees’ communities, plant scientists, agricultural ministers 4. *Migrants and TB care:* Health clinics, communities and NGOs around the Thai-Myanmar border areas, Thai Public Health Offices and relevant Ministry for provision of TB control and care, residential communities where TB cases are found 5. *Following methodology*: areas of work of AMIS Thailand anthropologist, mostly focused on interviews at their desk, but also some following where and how they (researchers/anthropologists) followed their object of study |
| Primary objective | To understand the role of antimicrobials in everyday life in Thailand. |
| Secondary objectives | * To understand the ways in which people rely on antimicrobials. * To understand the context for people's use of, and reliance on, antimicrobials. * To stimulate and observe action in response to data and research on AMR via participatory research. |
| Methodology | Over the course of the project nine anthropologists worked in the research team, two of whom were from and based predominantly in London and focused on supporting guiding fieldwork, analysis and writing up. The majority of ethnographic fieldwork was conducted by the Thai anthropologists, two of whom also transcribed and translated the majority of the data collected.  **Ethnographic fieldwork:** Ethnographic methods were used in order to gain in depth understandings in each setting. This involved 35 weeks of participant observation (including participant observation, observation and informal interviews) and 53 in depth interviews implemented over a period of 24 months.  **Documentary analysis:** Literature on the science and history of antimicrobials and AMR in relation to agricultural, health policy and programmes. Policy documents, guidelines, plans, campaigns and reports. Publicly available media material, including newspaper articles, social media, and other sources of media were identified and consulted |
| Target population | Within each of the study ‘sites’ entry points for fieldwork focused on a different population. In each site (1), (2) and (3), we observed approximately 78 people and conducted 53 in depth interviews. The (4) study is ongoing and not included in this archive. The (5) ‘site’ involved the Thai anthropologists and any data collected was used for research team’s own reflection and writing up of publications, rather than publication or direct research outputs.   1. *Antimicrobial/AMR policy and implementation:* Thai Ministry of Public health, District Public Health Administrative Office and Local Health Centre; national healthcare system, committee meetings and conferences, nurse’s prescription in clinics 2. Pig farming; Owners of pig farms, workers on farms, relevant scientists working universities or companies, policymakers on agriculture and antibiotics in Thai goverment 3. *Orange production and consumption*: People engage in orange orchards, including owners, labourers, agrochemical sellers and agricultural officers, as well as other relevant workers and residents in the area. 4. *Migrants and TB care:* Migrant labourers, TB health care professionals and policy makers in Thai/Myanmar border regions, as well as poor urban communities 5. *Following methodology: This focused on our Thai researcher team.* |
| Project period | Approximately 3 years from 2018 to 2021 |