

## HEALTH ASPECTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS: EVIDENCE FROM THAILAND

**Wassana Loonsamrong<sup>1\*</sup>, Sukanda Pudpadee<sup>2</sup>, Panita Charoensuk<sup>3</sup>,**

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Health Impact Assessment Division, Department of Health, Nonthaburi, 11000

<sup>1</sup>[Loonsamrong.blue@gmail.com](mailto:Loonsamrong.blue@gmail.com) <sup>2</sup>sukanda1212@yahoo.com, <sup>3</sup>n\_atom90@hotmail.com ,

### Abstract

**Background:** Health Impact Assessment integrated in the Environmental Impact Assessment System had launched in 2009, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued a notification describing the procedures, methods and guidelines for preparation of EHIA report for 12 types and sizes of projects. This paper critically reviews EHIA reports and provided recommendations.

**Methods:** In this paper we review all EHIA reports that were conducted during 2011–2016. Electronic files of 25 reports collected from Independent Commission on Environment and Health website. Content analysis was used to explore and make recommendations.

**Results:** Health aspects in the EHIA reports shown in the current situation. Public health profile, all of them are numbers of health facilities, health personnel, hospital inpatients or out patients admission in district or sub-district and provincial level that specifying the location links with the proposed project. For the assessment of health impact, all shown in separated section in the report. Quantitative health risk assessment and qualitative health risk matrix were mainly used for methodological assessment. It also noticed that the aspects of occupational health were strongly addressed in prevention and mitigation measures. Overall of the monitoring measures totally emphasized on environmental surveillance and health status of employees by medical checking up as primary sources in contrast with community's health which is proposed to collect data from secondary sources of health care system in surrounding areas. However some of them are included community health survey and annual health examination of community people.

**Discussions:** Health impact assessment should be applied under wider variety of methodologies, particularly health indicators associated with projects proposal should be developed for health surveillance in monitoring measures. This paper is a preliminary analyzed EHIA reports. Further qualitative analysis should be conducted for monitoring report to provide a comparison for assessing environmental and health impacts.

**Key words:** Health Impact Assessment, Health in EIA