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Environmental Nuisance Control in Bangkok

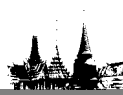


Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand, has been urbanized rapidly over the past few decades, making it the most important city of the nation. With this economic and industrial growth, consumption and demand for production has expanded. The industrial sector has shown the biggest growth, and between 1960 and 1994 rose by 27 percent. In 1999, there were 128,350 factories throughout Thailand with 16.49 percent located in Bangkok and the remainder located in the regions. Statistics compiled by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) showed that the total number of businesses detrimental to health in Bangkok in 2000 as defined in the Public Health Act, B.E.2535 (1992) stood at 42,347. This rapid growth has caused environmental degradation, resulting in health hazards to community surrounding those factories and businesses.

To minimize the risks and to safeguard the health of the population, the Public Health, Act B.E 2535(1992) was revised and amended from the previous one which was in use since B.E.2484(1941). These amendments placed the major sources of public annoyance into the following five categories;

- (1) Water resource, gutter, shower room, latrine, dung or ash pit or any other place which is unsuitably situated, dirty or accumulated or piled up with any waste and may:
 - cause foul odour or toxic particle.
 - become or likely to become a breeding place for carriers of disease.
 - cause impairment or be harmful to health.
- (2) The raising of animals in a place or by any method or in an excessive number causing impairment or maybe harmful to health.
- (3) Any building which is a dwelling of human or animals, factory or business establishment without air ventilation, water drainage, sewage disposal or toxic substance control to prevent foul odour or toxic substance, thereby causing impairment or likely being harmful to health.
- (4) Any action causing odour, light, ray, noise, heat, toxic matter, vibration, dust, powder, soot, ash or any other to the extent that causes impairment or harm to health.
- (5) Any other sources prescribed by the Public Health Minister and published in the Royal Government Gazette.

8.1 The Current Situation in Bangkok



During the period of 1997-2000, the Environmental Health Division, Health Department, BMA, together with 50 district offices collected data throughout Bangkok. The total number of complaints concerning environmental health nuisance are as follows:

The major causes of nuisance include noise, air pollution, offensive odour, dust and particulate, wastewater, animal raising, latrines, solid waste, breeding place and vibration.

Table 8.1 The total Number of Complaints Concerning Environmental Health Nuisance 1997-2000

Year	Complaints
1997	3,501
1998	2,993
1999	3,498
2000	3,967

Source: Environmental Health Division, Health Department, BMA, 2000



Table 8.2 shows the percentage of environmental health complaints causing nuisance. Noise was the most common cause of complaint accounting for between 31.6 and 39.7 percent of the total complaints during 1997-2000 followed by odour, particulate, wastewater, animal raising, respectively. The proportion of nuisance is categorized by causes in 2000 are illustrated in Figure 8.2

It was found that the operation of certain kinds of business detrimental to health prescribed under the Public Health Act pose an adverse effect on health of people living nearby those enterprises. Those responsible for the largest proportion of environmental nuisances include:

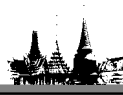
- Entertainment venue such as karaoke, pub
- Manufacture of utensils and appliances from metal
- Garage and automotive repair shop
- Animal raising especially pet raising
- Printing by machines
- Manufacture of plastic, celluloid, bakelite or similar material
- Melting and moulding of metal

Table 8.2 Percentage of Environmental Health Complaints Causing Nuisance

Year	Complaints (%)									
	Noise	Odour	Animal Raising	Particulate	Wastewater	Latrine	Solid Waste	Breeding	Vibration	Miscellaneous
2000	39.7	29.9	8.4	5.9	4.8	1.8	1.4	0.7	0.7	6.3
1999	35.3	30.3	5	6.3	6.1	1.7	2	2.1	0.8	9.9
1998	31.6	30.9	3.4	9.7	8.6	1.2	2.1	4.9	0.2	7.2
1997	33.7	31.6	3.8	12.1	9.3	1.3	2.3	2.1	0.3	7.1

Source: Environmental Health Division, Health Department, BMA, 2000

8.2 BMAs Strategies and Implementation



BMA, via Environment and Sanitation Section of District Offices and Environmental Health Division of Health Department, has carried out various measures aimed at reducing and mitigating environmental nuisances caused by the operation of business detrimental to health. These measures are as follows:

- Giving suggestion and recommendation
- Ordering entrepreneur to make improvement or correction
- Penalty or fine
- Temporary shutdown of operating units/premises

8.3 Recommendations

Nuisance problems in Bangkok are increasingly becoming more prevalent and complicated requiring collaborative effort from all government units concerned. There is a need both from the central and local government to study and set up nuisance standards and guidelines for businesses detrimental to health and their health effects to improve and control such nuisance. Knowledge and experience of the past and existing practices in both developed and developing countries is important to develop local appropriate strategies to deal with these nuisances. Community participation should also be encouraged for better control of environmental nuisance.

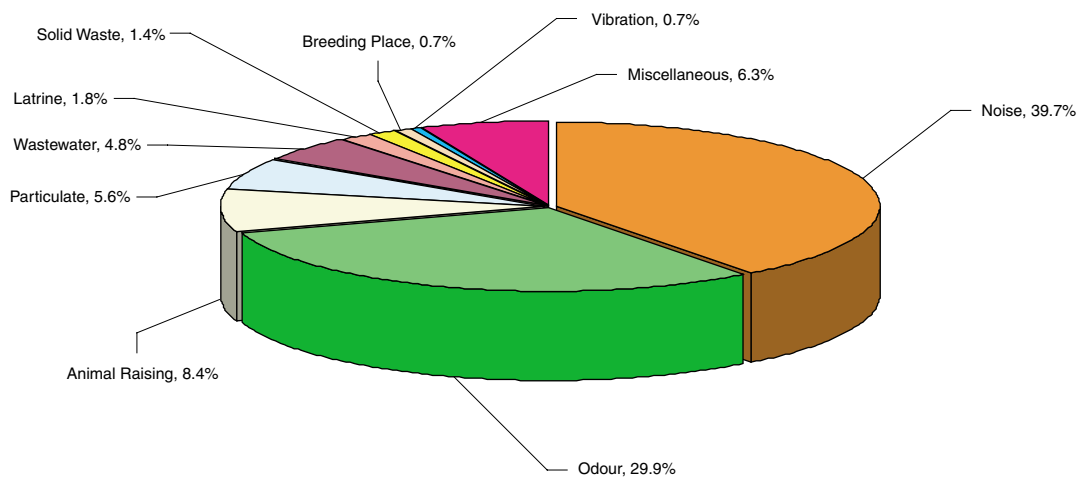


Figure 8.1 Proportion of Nuisance Categorized by Causes in 2000
Source: Environmental Health Division, Health Department, BMA, 2000

