

## CHAPTER 5

### ANTECEDENTS OF JUVENILE VIOLENT CRIMES

The findings from analysis of structural equations suggest that juvenile delinquencies are affected by many factors. According to quantitative study, we can learn relations between variables which can lead to violent crimes. It was found that path diagram of variables which lead to juvenile violent act consists of two paths as follows:

#### 5.1 Antecedents Offences Obtained from Quantitative Study

Antecedents involved with juvenile violent crimes come from various factors. Findings from structural equations are as follows:

**First finding:** offence type is related to family status and relations, social environment and risk factor, basic personal factor, and economic factor, having social environment and risk factor the most influential factor.

**Second finding:** offence severity is influenced by family status and relations, type of offences, and economic factor, having type of offence as the most influential factor.

According to the findings based on structural equations, it can be concluded that basic factor of juvenile violent crimes occurs from all factors, starting from basic personal factor, and economic factor, to family status and relations. If family problems are not correctly solved, juveniles in such family can easily be lured to bad social environment with high risks. For instance, they might have bad friends, carry weapons, drink alcohol, or take drugs. These are all influential factors leading to particular juvenile offences. For example, they commit offences because of having bad friends, commit offences to be accepted by the group, or commit offences with necessity. Such behaviors will lead to vary types of offences. In addition, type of offence can, with the highest statistical significance, influence offence severity when

compared to other factors. However, offence severity is not subject to social environment and risk factor, and basic personal factor.

## **5.2 Antecedents Offences Obtained from Qualitative Study**

In addition to quantitative data analysis, this research also aims to focus on qualitative study through the use of in-depth interviews with Juvenile and Family Court judges and probation officials regarding juveniles' use of violence for committing violent crimes, as well as types of offences.

Following is remark given by one of the Juvenile and Family Court administrative judges:

Juveniles' primary goal is for property, followed by revenge on their enemies. These behaviors are caused by the lack of education and occupation, party-loving habit, and the lack of self-control. Moreover, another factor is having friends with bad behaviors. They always lead others to commit illegal acts and get together as a gang to fight with others.

An operative probation official has given opinions as follows: "Having family and children at young age can lead to many other problems as they are still young and not ready to raise a child. So, the newborn will lack a chance to be raised appropriately."

An operative Juvenile and Family Court judge said that: "Imitating behaviors from media is a major factor. Also, there are many entertainment places where juveniles can spend stolen money."

An operative Juvenile and Family Court judge remarked that: "Being in the environment surrounded by group of friends and enticement is an important factor leading juveniles to commit illegal acts."

An operative probation official said that: "Broken family, being abandoned to live with old people, being abandoned to live alone in society full of problems, and poverty, are factors causing juveniles to struggle for survival and commit legal acts."

An administrative probation official left his remark that:

The causes of problem are broken family, lack of care from parents, bad habitation environment, society full of criminals, drugs, and vices, emotional condition, personal behaviors which depend on how they were raised, imitating friend's behaviors, and bad examples.

An operative probation officer said that:

Educational failure is caused by an aim to complete basic education without caring about quality of education. In addition, school regulations cannot keep juveniles under control, so schools become gathering places of both good and bad juveniles.

An operative probation official gives a remark that:

After receiving punishment and being released, juveniles will have to stay in the same environment. In addition, due to poverty, they are likely to recommit illegal acts. Their parents cannot take a good care of them as they also have to work.

An operative Juvenile and Family Court judge said:

There are not enough places to support those juveniles who have been convicted. Also, concerned people do not really want to help solve problems. For example, they send juvenile to do public services at temples, but do not give good operation. So it's hard to prevent juveniles from recommitting illegal acts.

An operative probation official said that:

Light penalties cause juveniles to not respect law. So they don't want to become good citizens. Meanwhile, parents do not recognize the importance of solving these problems. Instead, they abandon their children. Then, recommitting illegal acts is very possible since children might think that their acts are not guilt and society will always forgive them.

Thus, it can be concluded that juvenile delinquencies and their acts to recommit delinquencies are caused by many related factors. The most important factor is social environment and risk factor, especially among friends who always persuade one another to commit illegal acts. In addition, after they are released and have to stay in the same environment, it is very easy for juvenile to commit delinquencies. The second major problem is unloving family and family violence, which directly have an impact on juveniles as they have no one to rely on. Finally, it will lead to broken family.