

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Introduction

In this chapter, research findings will be presented in the form of conclusion derived from research conducted both quantitatively and qualitatively. This mixed study is found to be very useful as researcher can obtain findings by analyzing quantitative data. In addition, such findings can be used to compare with qualitative study obtained from interviews with Juvenile and Family Court judges and probation officials, both from administrative and operative level.

Quantitative and qualitative data have been compared. After proving hypothesis by using such data based on literature review, researcher have confident that research findings are correct. Most importantly, they can be used as reference and presented to many related organizations to be adopted in the future. Conclusion of findings, discussion and suggestions are as follows:

7.2 Research Conclusion

7.2.1 Objective 1: Antecedents of Juvenile Violent Crimes

The findings based on structural equations suggest that juvenile offences are caused by many following factors:

The most influential factor causing juveniles to commit violent crimes is type of offence since different offences lead to different offence severity. For example, planned murder uses different severity of violence from murder by force. The second most influential factor is economic factor and family status and relations.

Meanwhile, factor causing juveniles to commit particular type of offences is social environment and risk factor, having basic personal factor, economic factor and family status and relations as related variables respectively.

In conclusion, overall, the most influential factor causing violent crimes among juveniles is bad social environment and risk factor. Meanwhile important related variables include drinking alcohol/taking drugs, having bad friends, network/gang, owning weapons, purchasing alcohol, taking drugs/ partying

7.2.2 Objective 2: Outcome of Juvenile Violent Crimes and Remedial Measures

Impact: Researcher found that offence caused by juveniles affect many groups of people both directly and indirectly. In this research, impact is classified into two types - direct impact on juveniles such as being imprisoned for a long time and indirect impact such as lack of educational chance and inconsistent education. After being released, most of the juveniles do not further their education, which will lead to the lack of chance to get good career in the future

In addition, criminal record can become a stigma to juveniles. They might face problems when applying for jobs since most private and public companies or organizations always check criminal record of applicants. Consequently, having criminal record can affect juveniles' future careers as they will not easily be accepted by any workplace. However, even if they can get a job, they might not be trusted or accepted by their colleagues.

Juveniles' imprisonments also affect their own families. According to the findings, direct impacts include family's loss of family member who will become a source of income in the future.

The last one is impacts on others. It was found that some of imprisoned juveniles used violence when committing offences. Such use of violence can cause danger to others. According to the finding, juveniles are imprisoned from committing offences of assets, life and body, and sexuality the most (94.90%) All the above mentioned offences committed by juveniles can cause others difficulties, danger to life and body, sexuality and assets. The finding shows that only 36.67% of juvenile offences were without the use of violence while violence was concerned for the rest of juvenile offences. In some cases, the victims lose their lives.

Thus, it can be concluded that violent crimes committed by juveniles are dangerous to the society since they can cause others injuries or deaths.

Residual measure: To handle juvenile violent crime problems, all factors need to be considered. Measures can be classified as follows:

Measure 1 Social environment and risk factor problem solving: According to both quantitative and qualitative studies, it was found that social environment and risk factor is the most influential factor causing violent crimes among juveniles. Thus, the most correct and fastest way to solve problems is by improving juveniles' undesirable social environment. Moreover, risk factors need to be got rid of or reduced. According to quantitative study, it was found that there are 5 manifest variables involving social environment and risk factor of studied juveniles namely network/gang, owning weapons, purchase of alcohol/drugs/obscene materials, drinking alcohol, and playing sports/participating in social activities. It was found that manifest variable "drinking alcohol/taking drugs" is the most influential factor affecting social environment and risk factor, followed by owning weapons, network/gang, drinking alcohol, and playing sports/participating in social activities.

Therefore, the best measure is cooperation from all concerned parties, starting from family. Parents or guardians need to monitor their children and prevent them from drinking alcohol/taking drugs. Moreover, they need to teach their children not to make friends with bad people, get involved with weapons and teach their children to follow social norms.

Measure 2 Solving problems using family as center: Members in the family needs to monitor their children and teach their children not to commit illegal acts. Moreover, government organizations should provide support and counseling to communities. Children behaviors must be closely monitored, with participation from people in the community. Meanwhile, the government needs to give serious and consistent supports such as increasing budget for handling offence recommitted juveniles appropriately.

Moreover, parents/guardian of juveniles should always ask their children about their friends to see how they behave and where they live. Family also needs to teach their children to make friends with good people who love studying, join social activities and create no troubles.

Measure 3 Problem solving using society and community as center:

According to the findings, society and community is influential factor causing juvenile behaviors and play a role in solving juvenile offence problem.

People in the society all have mutual duties and responsibilities in monitoring and solving problems, as well as getting rid of variables which might cause violent crimes. Cooperation is very important for solving problems. We need to understand that violent crime is a social problem that needs to be solved by many people in the society. Social activities should be organized to create good relationship with people in the community. Moreover, the government should not assign the duty to improve juveniles to Juvenile Observation and Protection Centers alone, but should encourage all concerned parties to help solve the problem.

Measure 4 Solving problems of public policy and performance of related officers: From qualitative study, researcher has developed an idea that the government or organization in charge need to take more serious and tangible actions since today related organizations do not take serious actions or do not really want to solve problems. As a result, problems cannot be solved.

Additionally, problems of juvenile offences have always been ignored. A lot of people try to solve problems too late. Thus, the government needs to encourage people to seriously help solve juvenile problems. Related organizations need to inform all concerned parties to follow up the work and conduct consistent assessment in order to create efficient and effective works.

Moreover, Department of Probation should train probation officials to have more specialties. Position of specialist should be set to support those with unique specialties. This will allow officials to work in the field of their own interest. In addition, skilled personnel should be increased in the organization. In order to be promoted a higher position, official needs to develop works both theoretically and practically such as work on development, improvement and problem solving for juveniles.

Another interesting measure is by separating juveniles who committed violent crimes from those who committed general offences under strict law enforcement. Places should be arranged to support juveniles. Moreover, specialized staff should be sought to handle the juveniles.

Measure 5 Law enforcement and justice promotion: To conduct an investigation, the officials need to find out whether juveniles' parents are involved with the violent crimes. If they are not involved with the crimes, but have ignored their children, they might be fined only since law enforcement in this issue still have problems with proof. It is hard to prove the intention of parents or guardians. Punishment should also be given to those who persuade or encourage juveniles to commit illegal acts, not only just parents.

The law enforcing parents to be liable to punishment caused by their children's illegal acts is appropriate since parents can help monitor and prevent their children from committing illegal act. By doing this, number of offences should decrease. However, the intention of law is to have parents be part of protecting their children. Consequently, their punishment is not severe.

Another important legal measure is giving severe punishment to juveniles who have committed severe crimes. Light punishment such as short period of detention cause juveniles to not respect law. Juveniles do not feel the necessity to abide by law. Thus, the court should increase more severe punishment for juveniles, especially for those committing violent crimes. They should receive the same punishment as adults or similar. If the law is not strictly enforced, probation and behavior monitoring will not be so effective since juveniles are likely to recommit violent crime.

Although juveniles who committed violent crimes can be executed or jailed for life, there has never been such case ordered by court since juveniles are regarded as inexperienced. Court should have severe and tangible punishment to prevent behavior imitation by other juveniles. Departments in the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection should be improved, such as by increasing training centers to support juveniles who commit violent crimes and develop security system. Meanwhile, training should focus on basic and vocational education, together with teaching of religion, morality and ethics. Probation officials need to be well selected with the same standard as the Department of Prisons. They will also play a role as good teachers.

Thus, it can be concluded that a good measure in solving juvenile violent crime problems is by solving problems at their roots. Furthermore, information from

Juvenile Observation and Protection Center is also important. People from all sectors need to join hands in solving problems, especially among organizations in charge.

To solve juvenile violent crime problem, parents or guardian should take part since it is their duty to take care of their children and prevent them from committing illegal acts.

As a result, concrete method needs to be even more concrete such as sending drug-addicted juveniles to Wiwat Phonlamueang School, having soldier as trainer, teaching of vocational subjects while being detained, joining public activities and improving environment in Juvenile Observation and Protection Centers.

7.3 Discussion

Although the researcher had studied antecedents of offence, appropriateness of punishment, factors causing juveniles to recommit offence and way to solve problems, it was found that Juvenile and Family Court judges and probation officials have totally different ideas about how to handle those juveniles. That is, Juvenile and Family Court judges think the real cause of juvenile violent crimes should be found out so that the problem can be solved at its root. The judges also believe that related factors can cause the behaviors. To solve problems, the condition is that all concerned parties must be willing to solve the problem

Meanwhile, administrative probation officials suggested the way to handle juveniles who committed violent crimes, which was by separating them from others and using strict legal enforcement. Place should be arranged to support this group of juveniles. Specialized officials should be sought. In addition, the court should give more severe punishment to juveniles who could be executed or jailed for life.

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7.4 Recommendation

1. Parents/guardian need to take care of their children and prevent them from getting involved with risk factors, which will lead to illegal acts. If children recommit illegal acts, parents and guardian should also be liable to punishment.

2. Community should take part in solving problems of social environment and risk factor. Community leaders should organized activities to enhance good relationship between people in the community and conduct activity assessment.

3. The government should not assign the duty to improve juveniles to Juvenile Observation and Protection Centers alone, but should encourage all concerned parties to help solve the problem.

4. Juvenile Observation and Protection Centers should organize social environment to enhance children creativities.

5. Police officers need to patrol around the area they are in charge to get rid of risk factors causing illegal acts among juveniles. Also, they need to arrange public relations to seek cooperation from the community as much as possible. Besides gaining information to be used for preventing juveniles from committing illegal acts, they can also learn changes of the society.

6. Investigators need to use careful consideration based on law and political science to bring about the most effective and efficient procedures. For example, they need to know all related people which can be cause of juvenile delinquency, so that they will also be liable to punishment and the network can be destroyed. If parents are found to encourage the illegal acts or fail to provide warning to their children, parents can also be prosecuted.

7. Court should order severe punishment for juveniles who have committed violent crimes or recommitted crimes by using the same kind of punishment as adults.

By doing this, juveniles will be less likely to recommit such behaviors. In case of very severe case, besides punishing juveniles, parents or guardian should also be punished or warned.

8. Probation officials need to watch, follow and monitor juveniles' behaviors after being released. Moreover, they need to inform parents or guardian of juvenile to cooperate in monitoring their children's behaviors.

9. The government should provide enough budget for juvenile probation. If probation fails, juveniles are likely to recommit offence. Thus, education should be promoted and access to education should be provided. Finally, career should be promoted for juveniles' families so that they can earn enough income for a living.