The Factors Leading to Sex Offenses of Male Juveniles

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Abstract

The objectives of this research were to study sexual offenses and problems with sexual offenses, by children and male youths through qualitative research. The researcher conducted the in-depth interviews for collecting data. The children and male youths who committed sexual crimes, the multidiscipline groups who worked for 3 years solving child and male youth problems and scholars who have worked for 5 years in their field, were the sample group, made up of 28 people.

The results of this research found that the educational level of children and male youths in relation to the sexual offenses was at grade 6, they were mostly from broken families, lacked refinement, and were addicted to drugs. The children and male youths who committed sexual offenses for the first time lacked a conscience but had sexual desires. The reasons for sexual offenses were hormones, emotions, sexual desires, challenges, pornography and a lack of sexual education. The researcher categorized the behavior which caused sexual offenses by children and male youths into 2 categories: 1. the victim consented because they were a couple and 2. The victim resisted so the children and male youths forced them. The victims in both cases were mostly close friends, friends, and girlfriends.

The recommendations for future research are to study children and male youth behavior in order to prevent sexual offences in the future. This research focuses on sexual crimes only; thus, other offenses should be studied. Moreover, community environment should be studied in order to prevent crimes due to the fact that if the community has a criminal association, this may cause crime. These further studies should also study couples behavior, especially in high school and at university levels to understand their attitudes, perspective and the way of life of children and youths.

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Keywords: Sex Offense, Male Juvenile
Background and Problems Significance

Globalization has strongly affected Thai society. Cultures and Living styles have totally changed from the past. The western culture is the factor which has influenced Thai culture recently. The family bond tends to be less tight compared to 10 years ago. Parents have to work in order to gain more money to take care of their children. Then, they have less time to teach and spend with their children. Once the family bond is not strong, it creates many problems in Thai society including sex offenses.

Currently, the sexual behavior of Thai children and youth has changed from the Thai social norm. It follows the western style and is also more accepted today. Children and youths start to have sexual intercourse from an early age. However, they do not have any understanding from their parents and teachers in the school. Children and youths will learn from their friends or any social media such as the internet. This situation can lead to sex offenses in the future.

According to the Thai law, a child is defined as a person who is over 10 years old, but not exceeding 15 years old. A youth is defined as a person who is over 15 years old, but not exceeding 18 years old. The person who is over 7 years old, but not exceeding 15 years old will not be arrested in any case. The policeman can only arrest children who are over 15 years old, but not exceeding 18 years old. After arrested, they will be sent to the Department of Juvenile observation and protection, and the maximum penalty is between 6 months to 5 years confined at a juvenile detention/training center such as Ubekka training center.

Referring to the agency report it was revealed that, the numbers of juvenile delinquents throughout the nation under its care from 2011 were children and juveniles over 10 years old, but not exceeding 15 years old, amounted to 5,082 or 14.50 percent; whereas those over 15 years old, but not exceeding 18 years old amounted to 29,967 or 85.50 percent as shown in Table 1.
Table 1  Number and Percentage of Children and Juvenile Prosecution Cases by the Nation Probation Department classified by age on 2011 (Unit: Case)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age while Committing Crime (Year)</th>
<th>Number (Person)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 10 years, not exceeding 15 years</td>
<td>5,082</td>
<td>14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 15 years, not exceeding 18 years</td>
<td>29,967</td>
<td>85.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35,049</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Information and Technology Group, Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, 2012

Table 1 revealed that children and youths between 15 years and 18 years of age without proper care could have delinquent behavior eventually turning to criminal behavior.

Furthermore, the statistical display of children and youth offenses from the Department of Probation in 2011 suggested more offenses were committed among male juveniles than females. In the year 2011, the number of children and youths who committed offenses amounted to 32,260 males or 92.04 percent; and 2,789 females or 7.96 percent as being shown in Table 2.

Table 2  Number and Percentage of Children and Juvenile Prosecution Cases by the Nation Probation Department classified by gender in 2011 (Unit: Case)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>32,260</td>
<td>92.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,789</td>
<td>7.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35,049</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Information and Technology Group, Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, 2012

According to Table 2, the proportion of crime committed by male juveniles is significantly higher than female juveniles. The causes come from peer delinquent behavior, drugs, broken family and sexual offenses. Male children are more risk taking and they want to experience new things than female children, even though they do not know whether they are the right things to do.
The existing social problems have been admitted as one of the most concerning issues that continue to spread and may lead to other social problems; mainly narcotics and violence among children and youths. However, the issues tendency is leaning towards juvenile sexual criminals who are much younger than previous offenders. One of the crucial problems besides narcotics and violence involved with sexual crimes such as raping and molesting. Gang raping and sex selling which all reflecting the social decay and deteriorated. Table 3 indicated the offenses cases by the children and youths.

**Table 3** Number and Percentage of Children and Youth Prosecution Cases at the Department of Probation based of Offenses Charges of the year 2011 (Unit: Case)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offenses Charges</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>7,780</td>
<td>20.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and Body</td>
<td>4,294</td>
<td>11.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>1,644</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace/Freedom/Fame and Administration</td>
<td>1,718</td>
<td>4.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcotics</td>
<td>15,053</td>
<td>38.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons and explosives</td>
<td>2,634</td>
<td>6.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others Charges</td>
<td>5,524</td>
<td>14.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,647</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source*: Information and Technology Group, Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, 2012

It can be seen that, Table 3 indicated that children and youths who committed sexual crimes in 2011 numbered 1,644 or 4.25 percent which caused the most social concern and required the most attention. Without proper solutions, the problems would create great social impacts because children and youths are the nation’s future hope. Therefore, such problems must receive immediate remedies to raise qualities among Thai children and youths.
Sex offense includes such crimes as rape, sodomy and sexual abuse. Firstly, rape is generally defined as sexual intercourse with a person who is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless. Secondly, sodomy is defined similar to rape, except that involves deviate sexual conduct, as opposed to intercourse. Lastly, sexual abuse involves similar elements of force or lack of consent, but involves sexual contact, rather than intercourse or deviate sexual acts.

By all, numbers of children and youth offenders continue to increase annually. Although the numbers of sexual offenses are not nearly as much as those crimes committed on property or narcotics, Thai society has maintained strict rules on public sexual expressions. Based on the increased numbers of sexual offenders, it is undeniable that Thai social and cultural changes have affected the children and youth undesirable ways of thinking and behavior; so adults must adjust their attitudes and ways of practice on Thai children and youth to better-balance their co-existence, resulting in the continuation of the country’s stability and prosperity.

Therefore the nature of problems and causes; including children and youth’s behavior leading to sexual crimes are the main subjects of interest for the researcher in order to improve models and find approaches for adults to treat children and youths; as well as inventing suitable guidelines for the concerned agencies, aiming to prevent sexual crime committed by children and youths. As a result, the country would benefit from the nation’s security and sustained progress in developing the country.

Literature Reviews

There are many theories that postulate how a juvenile becomes a sex offender, although few of these theories have been systematically researched. The literature in this area is strongly lacking and more comprehensive information regarding these theories is desperately needed in order to assist with early detection, risk identification, and to provide adequate services prior to the occurrence of more serious sexual offenses.

One of the more prevalent views on sexual aggression by adolescents incorporates components of the social learning theory (Burton, Nesmith, & Badten, 1997; Hudson & Ward, 2000; Hunter & Figueredo, 2000). This theory takes into account the high percentage of juvenile sex offenders that have themselves been the victims of sexual abuse (Burton et al., 1997). For example, Friedrich, Grambsch, Damon, Hewitt, Koverola, Lang, Wolfe, and Broughton (as cited in Burton, et al., 1997) found that children who had been sexually abused scored significantly higher on the
Child Sexual Behavior Inventory and displayed significantly more sexual behavior than their non-abused counterparts. They also found a pattern of family distress and emphasized the significance of family variables in the sexual behavior of children. Family variables considered to be particularly relevant include: parent-child relationships, chemical dependency, and the parents' own history of abuse (Burton et al.). A more specific description of how social learning theory is applied to this population is provided by Burton et al., who explain this concept.

Behavior, personal factors, and the environment are the three factors in this study, which reciprocally affect one another. When sexual behavior that is aggressive and inappropriate for the child's age is paired with positive reinforcement, the child may learn to regard this behavior as appropriate, normal and worthwhile.

Additional support for social learning theory has been provided by Hunter and Figueredo (2000), who found that adolescent sex offenders had more deficiencies in the areas of self-confidence, independence, assertiveness, and self-satisfaction than non-perpetrating youths and they were more apt to blame themselves for negative life events. These youths were described as lacking social competencies and in need of increased family support. Youths in the study who had described their families as being less supportive of them after the discovery of the abusive behavior were more likely to have later sexually perpetrated against younger children. Hunter and Figueredo thus support the use of cognitive-behavioral interventions, social skills training, exposure to various stimulus and response patterns, and peer-mediated interventions; which are all found within the principles of the social learning theory.

Another theoretical perspective offered in the literature is that of a self-psychological perspective. This theory, evidenced in the clinical findings of Kohut (as cited in Chorn & Pareka, 1997), suggests that, "a self is present from birth, that disintegrates when its need for mirroring and idealization are repeatedly frustrated... hostile-destructive aggressiveness results from the repeated frustration of needs by caregivers" (p. 211). Chorn and Pareka’s (1997) research on this theory conclude that, "sexual offending was related to disfigurements in the separation-individuation process of childhood," (p. 222) and that "the characteristic approach-avoidance behavior of this stage persisted because grandiose-exhibitionistic self-representations and omnipotent-voyeuristic (idealized) object representations were never modulated by a balance of parental functions" (p. 222). This theory seems to suggest that a focus should be placed on individual psychotherapy, to examine the youth's weakened sense of self and the thoughts and perceptions surrounding the offenses.
that indicate a difficult detachment from "parental objects." It should be noted that the self-psychological perspective is not evident in other juvenile sex offender literature, and it should be seen only as adding to the body of research on theories on offending.

Family violence has also been theorized as a predictor of juvenile sex offending. Throughout the literature, there is an emphasis on family roles, sexual abuse in the family, chemical dependency, and other components of family violence. Caputo, Frick, and Brodsky (1999) tested this theory and found that although juvenile sex offenders in general witness a great deal of domestic violence, so too did youths who had been convicted of other, nonsexual, offenses. Furthermore, they did not find that poor impulse control, callous-unemotional traits, or sexist attitudes towards women could explain the link between witnessing domestic violence and contact offending. Additionally, they found that although juvenile sex offenders did have a fairly high rate of sexist beliefs, this was common to offenders in general. As family violence seems to be inherent in the histories of both sexual and nonsexual offenders, further research would be useful in determining what, if any, specific correlations exist between violence and aggressive offenses. The objectives of this study are to study the problematic reasons of the sexual offenses by children and male youths, the factors related to sexual offenses by children and male youth and the sexual offensive behavior of children and male youths.

Research Scope

1. Content Scope

This research was done as the Qualitative Research through In-depth interview to collect information on sexual offenses, problems from children and male youth sexual offender habits, the sentences, court judgment, protection under the Department Juvenile Observation and Protection; including sexual offenses habits and natures, and offenses types committed by the children and male youths in the training center. It was done as a two-way communication, including Non-participant Observation to collect data and observe the occurrences for fact-findings during the interview and recording conversations with the following groups:
- Children and Male Youth sexual offenders
- A multidisciplinary group comprised of the judge, lawyer, attorney, social workers or psychologists, investigation officers of Crimes against Child, Juvenile and Women Suppression Division as Key Informant.
- Experts and experienced scholars in the justice system for Children and Male Youth as Key Informants.

In addition, the researcher had studied factors affecting Children and Male Youth sexual offender habits in the following areas:
- Family situations prior to the punishment
- Peer pressures
- Social learning
- Physical conditions/Physical factors
- Self-control
- Not afraid of laws or penalty

2. Key Informants

Key informants in this study are classified into the following 3 groups:

1) Ten children and male youth sexual offenders in cases such as molesting, indecent exposure, rape and murder who had been under the surveillance of Ubekka Children and Male Youth Training Center.

2) A multidisciplinary group of 12 persons with the expertise and knowledge in children and male youth comprised of a judge, attorneys, a lawyer, psychologists or social workers and investigation officers.

3) A group of 8 experts and experienced scholars well-known in the children and youth justice system.

Total 30 Key Informants used for qualitative research.

3. Area of study

Data was collected at the Ubekka Children and Male Youth Training Center. The Ubekka training center is the detention place for juveniles who are 12-24 years old. This place will train and rehabilitate those youths before returning them to the society.
4. Sampling

- 10 male juveniles were used by purposive selection in order to be appropriate to this research. The researcher informed the purpose of this research to the Ubekka training center that only sexual offense juveniles are required.

- 12 people of multidisciplinary groups were selected on their knowledge on working experiences with at least 3 years in their own fields.

- 8 people of expert and experienced scholars were selected on their expertise and experience in juvenile criminal justice. Their experiences are a minimum of 4 years in their own fields.

Methodology

1. Research Tools

The qualitative research employed the structured in-depth Interviews with the following interview process:

*Interview set 1*: Interviewing children and male youth sexual offenders was conducted in each part as follows:

Part 1: Background of individuals and families.

Part 2: Case history such as age at the first time of committing offenses.

Part 3: Causes of children and male youth sexual offenses such as daily living, problems, family and school, peer problems and their own inferiority complex; court sentences and under the protection of Child and Male Youth Training Center.

Part 4: Children and male youth sexual offense habits.

*Interview set 2*: Interviewing a multidisciplinary group and a group of scholars who had the expertise and knowledge in children and male youth sexual offenders comprised of: the judge, attorney, lawyer, psychologist or social workers, investigation officers, Crimes against Children, Juvenile and Women Suppression Division, criminologists, psychologists, scholars from the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection and representatives of the non-government organization (NGO).
Interviewing is divided into the following parts:

Part 1 Personal and Families background such as occupation, present age, highest education level, performance duration and addition training.

Part 2: Additional opinions on the cause of children and male youth sexual offender habits. For instance: daily living, problems from such offenses, families, schools, and peers problems, self-inferiority, cases sentences, court judgment and protection at the Training Center.

Part 3: Opinions on children and male youth sexual offender habits such as nature of the offenses.

Part 4: Guidelines on solving problems from the children and male youth sexual offender habits.

2. Data Collection sources

2.1 A group of children and male youths

2.2 Groups of Multi-disciplinary and Scholars: Data collected by the researcher through In-depth Interviews with the following procedures:

- Conducting In-depth Interviews among children and male youth to find answers on the cause and nature of children and male youth sexual offenses habits.

- Conducting In-depth Interviews with a multidisciplinary groups and a group of scholars to learn about the cause of sexual offender habits, opinions on habits of children and male youth.

- The researcher conducted Non-participant direct observation, acting as the outsider without getting involved in the children and male youth’s activities.

Results from children and male juveniles

Extracted Information from studying 10 children and youths sexual crime offenders (Name: Alias)

Case Study: At

Charged: Gang Rape

General Data: At is 19 years old. He completed Matayomsuksa 4. He is the youngest son in the family. His family has a snooker shop business. He lived in a crowded community
Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: Because of the crowded community living, most of his friends were those living in the same community who resorted to the use of hard drugs and felt power when they were grouped together and were not afraid of wrong doings.

Behavior while committing crimes: Having first time sexual relations with many victims from friends’ persuasions and victims’ consents, being apprehended because the victims’ relatives informed the police and pressed charges.

Case Study: Mud

Charged: Molesting

General Data: Mud is 18 years old. He completed: Matayomsuksa 2. He is the youngest son of the family. His family has a small restaurant business. He lived in the big family.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: Because of the crowded community living and most of his friends were teenagers living in the same community. They do not see anything wrong when boys and girls had premature sex and his family failed to provide sexual advice. Most of the time, Mud learned about sex from his friends. In addition, Mud committed a crime by stealing property once.

Behavior while committing crimes: Having the first time sexual relations with his girlfriend with her consent but sees this as normal. He was caught and brought to trial because the girl’s family did not want the daughter to associate with Mud.

Case Study: Joe

Charged: Molesting

General Data: Joe is 19 years old. He has not graduated from primary school. He is the youngest son. His family has a snooker shop business. He lived in a crowded community.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: Sexual crimes were committed due to the crowded conditions in the community Joe lived in. For such society, premature sexual relations between boys and girls are normal so both Joe and his girlfriend did not see it as breaking any rules.

Behavior while committing crimes: Joe and his girlfriend had sexual relations normally without planning or force, but he was caught and prosecuted because her parents disapproved of their relationship.
Case Study: Mac
Charged: Molesting

General Data: Mac is 18 years old. He is only one child in the family. He graduated lower than secondary school. His parents were separated. Then he lived with his grandparents who pampered him too much.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: The community Mac lived in is crowded with gambling joints and hang-out places for teenagers to get together, with the constant use of narcotics. Mac learnt from his friends in this group and imitated their actions. Mac had learnt about sexual behavior from friends and media such as Pornographic Video and magazines.

Behavior while committing crimes: Having sexual relations with his girlfriend without her consent, without any plans and her relatives did not know about the relationship earlier. As soon as they learnt about the relationship, they informed the police and he was apprehended.

Case Study: Van
Charged: Gang Rape

General Data: Van is 19 years old. He graduated Matayomsuksa 4. He is the first son in the family. His parents were separated. He lived with his mother.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: Van entered the life of sexual crime out of being in high spirits and friends’ persuasion, including getting drunk.

Behavior while committing crimes: Having a plan by inviting the victims to his friends’ house. He had raped the victims together with his friend and used force with the victim when she resisted the rape.

Case Study: Noom
Charged: Gang Rape

General Data: Noom is 17 years old, when he committed crime, getting hooked to computer games and influenced by peers; and his parents separated so he lived with the mother, started drinking at 15 years old and gradually used narcotics.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: Most of Noom behavior was caused by imitating friends and following their actions. On the day of that incident, Noom drank some liquor to boost his courage and sexual desire.
Behavior while committing crimes: Being persuaded by his friend, he took part in sexual crime because the victim knew his friend, but he did not commit a sexual act. The victim did not resist so there was no force used. He was caught and brought to trial because the girl’s family knew about it and wanted to press charges.

Case Study: Art
Charged: Gang Rape

General Data: Art is 17 years old, when he committed crime. His father is now working overseas and he lived with his grandparents. Art got hooked on computer games and was influenced by peers, but was able to make a living.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: Most of Art’s friends are rowdy and take narcotics. When they are together as a group, they would be in high spirits, without consciousness and unable to differentiate right from wrong.

Behavior while committing crimes: Art denied committing actual sexual offenses, but admitted being at the scene of the crime.

Case Study: Beer
Charged: Molesting

General Data: Beer is 17 years old who had committed crimes twice before. He is rowdy and the school expelled him because he fought with other children at school. His family was involved with dealing drugs.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: Sexual offense was committed to his girlfriend out of her consent and sexual desire, self-learning from various media and pornographic materials.

Behavior while committing crimes: There was no plan before. Sexual offense happened out of consent between Beer and his girlfriend.

Case Study: Jai
Charged: Gang Rape

General Data: Jai is 17 years old, completed Pratomsuksa 6, with 1 brother and mostly imitated his brother’s actions. His parents are separated.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: This is his first offense and he did it by being persuaded by his brother.
Behavior while committing crimes: The sexual relations resulted from his curiosity when seeing his brother committing such crimes.

Case Study: Gag

Charged: Gang Rape

General Data: Jai is 17 years old, completed Pratomsuksa 6, with 1 brother and mostly imitated his brother’s actions. His parents were separated.

Leading Incidents to Sexual Crime: This offense resulted from friends’ persuasion and feeling drunk from drinking alcohol.

Behavior while committing crimes: Having deceived the victim and used weapons to mistreat her. Most of the time, he planned with his gang ahead of the crime.

Summary

1. Personal and family background

The average age of children and male youths involved in the sexual offenses was 19 years old, the highest level of education was grade 6, and the number of brothers / sisters was 1-2 persons. However, the children and male youths in this case were mostly the last child or the only child and did not have any occupation and lived with their mother. The family characteristics was generally that parents were separated or a single mother. Their parent’s occupation was a worker without financial stability. The family bond was not strong because the parents did not have enough time for their children. They needed to work so as to make the money to look after their family. Moreover, the environment was a slum and most of their friends had delinquent behavior.

2. Crime background

According to the interview, the average age of the children and youths who involved in the crime was 16-17 years old. The main charges on sexual offenses were raping; whereas drugs, stealing, and fighting were charges that followed later. The court sentenced them to 4 years training due to their inabilities to control their emotions and curb sexual desires as well as having inadequate sexual knowledge.
3. Factors related to children and youths sexual offenses

The life style of children and male youths had less relationship with their families and lacked care from their families. The situation of those juveniles was not harmony and the family bond was not strong. They cared for their friends much more than their families. Juveniles had received strong peer pressure. They would like to experience what their friends had. In other words, social learning started from this situation. However, when they consulted their parents, their parents generally blamed them or disagreed with their thoughts or actions so that they were unsatisfied and preferred talking to their friends. These youths imitated each other when they stayed in groups. Their activities were playing games, surfing the internet and drinking alcohol. They tend to have low self-control and as they were in groups, they definitely felt impetuous. To access pornography media, it was found that the children and male youths learnt from CD, VCD, video clips, internet and porn books, as well as their friends talking about their sexual experiences. According to sexual offenses, this research found that the hormones of children and male youths at these ages was changeable so they wanted to have sex with their girlfriends and were happy to talk to the opposite sex. This is the physical condition of male juvenile leading to the sex offenses moreover, being unaware of right and wrong can also cause offenses. In terms of family problems, it showed that most of them came from poor and separated families as well as lacking being educated in matters, especially sex; hence, they could not control their emotion and followed their desires. Furthermore, the children and male youths did not pay attention to school much and their teachers did not like their delinquent behavior; consequently, the teachers did not care and pay attention to them. Based on friend’s conditions, most of their friends had delinquent behavior and were drug addicts. That behavior show that they are not afraid of laws or penalties at all. The litigation and judgment presented that the children and male youths were fairly judged, trained and developed their behaviors, including enhancing their awareness. The Juvenile Training Center provided sexual education and taught them how to control their emotions through exercises in order to understand their emotions and sexual desires.
4. Sexual offense behavior of children and male youths

There were two characteristics of sexual offenses: individual offenses and group offenses.

In the case of individual offenses, there was no plan but it actually came from both male and female emotions. In fact, youths had sex with their girlfriends but the cousins of their girlfriends did not approve of this so they reported them to the police. The majority of youths accused claimed that this action came from their emotions and sexual desires without any imitation.

In the case of group offenses, there was plan before committing the crime. The youths lured the victims and brought them to the scene of the crime. The victims generally knew the youths well and the delinquent behavior was mostly impetuosity, sexual desire and imitation among friends.

Results from Multidisciplinary Group and Group of scholars

1. Causes in Sexual Crime committed by Children and Youths

Findings from the study of the causes indicated that children and youths committed sexual crimes when they were in high-spirited moods, temptation and following friends’ advice and persuasion, challenging and having premature sexual partners as well as lacking proper sexual knowledge so they could behave accordingly.

The children and youth who are about to enter adolescence face big changes in their lives, especially changes in their hormones levels and they took more interests in the opposite sex. Without awareness and proper advice, children would act spontaneously and their self-control level decreased as well.

The research work of Pattana Umpaeg studied and suggested what the influencing factors relating to imitating behavior of the sexual offenses and crimes were; and what the support elements were to see if they were appropriate or inappropriate.

The concept regarding these surroundings may lead to offensive behavior with the potential to persuade people who have already committed other offenses to be swayed and are eager to learn about such incidents, especially if society endures such action. This is one flaw of the media that led the public to praising wrong social values (Pattana Puaegum, 1998)
As can be seen, most children behaved the same way as their friends or friends’ persuasions. According to Richard A. Cloward & Loyd B. Ohlin (1960), the children and youths’ behavior followed the same pattern as their gang members with criminal skills. These children would like to conform to the group norm which is inconsistent with the laws and they would soon be plunged in so deep by becoming gang members. Therefore, gang members may be developed from a peer group and conflicted with the social surroundings. By becoming gang members, children would absorb criminal values and be ready to commit crimes. The stronger the bond between gang members, the heavier illegal activities transferred to gang members.

2. Leading Incidents to committing Sexual Crime of Children and Youth

The Multidisciplinary group and group of scholars found that children and youths who had committed sexual crimes lacked family warmth and love. Most children came from broken families or unfit parents without proper parenting. Most of time, the parents quarreled violently with children in the area so children would become fed up with the parents’ hostility and not want to stay home, but preferred to hang out with rowdy friends.

Because the parents of these children had no time to rear their children properly, since most of them spent most of their time making a livelihood; and children must learn from friends and the community surroundings. When the children lacking family warmth, they would turn to their peers and looked up to certain figures and role models. These children depended more on their friends for advice, rather than families or parents. The advice from inexperienced figures would lead children and youths to make the wrong decisions.

Furthermore, these children and youths are also lacking in social bonds. The findings indicated that these children had a low level of education or never attended school. Without education, children and youths had inadequate knowledge for truly understanding sex education. Besides, at school, the teachers often had negative attitudes towards rowdy children and youths so they hardly paid attention to those children and often imposed harsh punishment when they made any mistakes. These treatments made them dislike going to school, hated learning and eventually quitting school.
These children are very attached to their peers and imitated their friends. Most of the time, children in this group are rowdy and drug-users. This finding coincides with the theory of Travis Hirschi in Social bonds who stated that crime resulted from lacking social bonds as follows:

- Ties
- Bond
- Association
- Beliefs

Travis proposed that individual criminal behavior depended on the degree of social bonds. He stated that the more social bonds, the less committed crime. The elements of social bond are as follows:

- Family bond
- Community bond
- Whole social bond

Reasons for committing crimes:

1) Lack of family bond
   - Family members stayed together without family ties, living hand to mouth, staying in poverty

2) Lack of Community bond
   - Congested community, family staying together without family ties
   - Lack of community joint activities
   - Religion fails to become the center of community spirit

3) Lack of Whole Social Bond
   - Relocation occurred often so the residents had no involvement to be part of a community.

This research finding coincides with the work of Travis Hirschi to explain the criminal behavior of children and youths. Thus, family should be the primary source to build warmth and awareness for children and youths as well as enhance proper behavior by parents acting as good examples and in turn decreasing sexual crime among children and youth.
3. Behavior of Children and Juvenile committing sexual crime

The study indicated that most sexual crimes occurred from friends’ persuasion, challenges between friends, following friends’ actions. The sexual criminal behavior is divided into the following categories:

1) Nature of Offenses

Findings from the research revealed 2 patterns of sexual crime among children and youth as follows:

Pattern 1: Sexual crime was committed with one person, without advance planning, and rose from the males and females emotions. In this case, the sexual crime charge was raised by the victim’s relatives’ discontent when they found out about the sexual relations and informed the police about the incident. The offender had not used any force because the victim gave her consent. For the pattern of crime, most children and youths indicated that the majority committed sexual acts from the sexual desires, not imitating anyone. Therefore, such behavior is caused by lacking proper rearing or correct advice for their life-styles, including the appropriate sexual behavior.

Pattern 2: Sexual crimes committed by many persons and planned in advance by beguiling the victim to trust and follow the offender to the scene of the crime. Most times, the victim knew the offenders. However, results from most studies indicated that children and youths had not led the plan to commit crime. Quite often, the victim was force raped and the offender acted out of his high-spirited, challenge from friends, sexual desire and imitated friends.

2) Offenses Patterns

The Multidisciplinary group and group of scholars mentioned that the patterns of sexual crime offenses indicated that the imitation of behavior as reported by the Media and stories by friends tends to stir the inner sexual desire of a certain age, especially one who had committed the same offenses and never been caught. With the availability of pornographic materials such as VCD, clip video and pornographic magazines their curiosity in sex was aroused even more.

As can be seen, the sexual crimes committed by children and youths were imitated from the media, experiences, and crimes successfully committed earlier until they got enough courage to repeat the same action. This finding coincides with the concept of Gabriel Trade (1843 –1904) presented as the “Law of Imitation” in 3 aspects.
Firstly, the person who imitates others would become acquainted with such persons. Imitation happened quite often and changed abruptly in the urban society which is called Fashion, in contrast with rural society where imitation occurred slowly, so-called “Custom”. Crimes at first started as Fashion and slowly turn into Custom as they become more frequently seen.

Secondly, those with inferior traits would copy persons with more authority; Trait had studied the history of many crimes such as, wanderers, drunkenness and homicide. It was found that these crimes at first were committed by Royals and aristocrats and spread to those in the rural areas.

Thirdly, the new fashion should replace the old fashion such as, killing others with knives decreasing in numbers and replaced with using guns or explosives.

In conclusions, children and youths who had previously committed sexual offenses, if a single offense, it was usually done with his lover that consented to it. This behavior directly came from improper child rearing and perceiving sexual relationships as a normal thrill for both genders and no adults ever gave a warning so children sought to try this out. In the case where a group of offenders committed certain crimes together, it resulted mainly from the family due to broken bondage between the children and their families. In turn, children formed closer bonds with their peers and adopted levity behavior that made them unafraid of everything and followed the same pattern as friends. Many times, these children committed crimes unintentionally with unreasonable thoughts.

Recommendations

According to the study the sexual offense process of children and male youths in order to know their behavior, the researcher recommended that:

1. There should have the policy opposing sexual offense which is published and disseminated to students, parents and school staff in order to prevent and aid; in addition, the related person know what they have to do or do not do.

2. There should provide sexual education to prevent sexual harassment in schools. The schools should have the rules and regulations in terms of sexual harassment. The Ministry of Education should provide sexual education and add it to the curriculum of grade 4- grade 6 and grade 7 – grade 9 in order to enhance their awareness.
3. The government should provide training about being a good parent and how to cultivate children so that the parents understand the relation between genders including solving both male and female problems.

4. The government should give a chance to every child to have an education and create jobs which are suitable for children and youth in order to create income.

5. The government should control media such as VCD, movie, pornography and internet and seriously have punishments.

6. The government should promote the community without groups for unlawful purposes to promote community help and patrols.

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**International**


