

Independent Study : A Case of Child Abuse and Neglect in
Chiang Mai : A Search for Alternative
Models and Legal Measures

Author : Pol. Lt. Col. Sayan Saengvanich

M.A. (Political Science) : Politics and Government

Examining Committee :

Assoc. Prof. Somsak Keawkingkeo	Chairman
Assis Prof. Siripong Ladavalya Na Ayuthya	Member
Assis. Prof. Taipsernivati Bhakdikul	Member

Abstract

This study has the main objective in collecting statistics and types of child abuse cases which take place in Changwat Chiang Mai in order to search for appropriate preventive and corrective measures which should be taken by Police Department.

The study collects data and information on child abuse from reports which are filed at various Chiang Mai police stations and hospitals. These reported cases are rarely brought to court because compromist can be reached between the would be plaintiffs and would be defendants who usually are relatives. Therefore, Police Department has very limited data and information of child abuse while Chiang Mai provincial hospitals tend to have more data and information on this issue.

From the interviews of 12 persons who are concerned with prevention and suppression of child abuse offences such as psychiatrists, police, public welfare officials, judges of juvernile delinquency cases and associated judges, the following conclusions are derived :

Child abuse cases both physically and sexually are widely practiced. Mostly, the cases are committed by relatives and acquaintances and usually the cases take place among low income population. The proposed recommendations are that :

1. Parents should be informed about danger of child abuse.
2. Mass media should be aware of the problems and should play major role in dissemination of knowledge on the issue.
3. State officials should take serious consideration of child abuse cases.
4. Convicts of child abuse should be severely punished.
5. The prevailing law concerning child abuse is appropriate and needs no alterations. Finding a preventive measure is better than finding a corrective measure.