

Abstract

The study on “Attitudes of Detective Police Officers towards the Factors Affecting Success Rates of Investigation and Apprehension of Criminal Offenders: A Case Study of Metropolitan Police Bureau, Royal Thai Police” has three main objectives : the development of laws, contemporary social perceptions and social change; the attitudes of detective officers; and the problems and barriers on the investigation and apprehension success rates in the Bangkok Metropolitan Police Bureau. It also seeks to suggest solutions for the problems and barriers to administrative and operational staffs in order for them to have a collaborative operation.

This study is carried out quantitatively using a questionnaire designed for data collection from operative units under the Metropolitan Police Bureau. Three hundred and one detective officers were selected as samples. Data is analysed using SPSS software. Statistical parameters used in this study are: percentage, mean, standard deviation, and chi-square test.

The study found that a majority of the samples is male between 30-40 years of age. They hold a bachelor's degree, are married, and have over 15 years of professional experience. Over a half of them are in debt, and has never received any rewards for their work. Most of them have the attitude that practical training, experience, and other related trainings constitute the most important factor affecting the success rates. It is followed by the use of policing technology, namely personal background checking, fingerprinting, and forensic science (latent fingerprints, bloodstain, semen, hair, pubic hair etc.).

Testing of the hypothesis reveals that the use of policing technology contributes with significant to the success rates of investigation and apprehension of criminal offenders while other factors-experience, training, career advancement, professional support, leadership of the superiors-do not have any significant effect. Furthermore, the problems and barriers against successful investigation and apprehension are identified as internal management, eg. budgeting, equipment,

personnel; and the rules of law which have been amended to focus on protection of citizens' rights and liberty.

Finally, this study suggests a few recommendations for improvement for the Royal Thai Police. In order to gain more efficiency, they must:

- Put in place an effective performance assessment system in order to establish a fair and standardized benefits system;

- Employ a mentoring system in the training scheme for detective officers;

- Allocate adequate budget and equipment, for example investigation funds, prize money, information technology system, and modern investigation equipments;

- Amend or enact new laws to protect and encourage police officers at work for a more efficient operational environment; and

- Involve citizens by formulating community police volunteer program to help with police works.

- Education institutes must also play their important role in improving education and training system for police investigators in order for them to become a contemporary and knowledgeable officer in an ever-changing criminal world. Lastly, all related organisations must cooperate with the work of policemen more effectively.