

Title of Research Paper : The Opinions of Social Workers on Social Work Code of Ethics and Implementation According to the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act (No.20) B.E. 2542 (1999)

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The study concentrated on eliciting the opinions of the social workers who completed a training course for social workers or psychologists in accordance to the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act (No.20) B.E. 2542 (1999). This training course was offered by the Public Welfare Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The Social workers who completed the training course were responsible for investigating and interrogation child witnesses, child suspects and child victims as stipulate in the Act.

The purpose of study was to find out the social workers' opinions and the factors contributing to such opinions on the social work code of ethics and work performance in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act (No.20) B.E.2542 (1999). The research results would be used to develop and improve the work of social workers to cope with the real situation and to recommend some ways and measures control their work preference to be in conformity with the social work code of ethics.

The sample group consisted of 94 social workers who completed the training course for social workers in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act. This training course was held by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for those who had the qualifications as stipulated in rules and regulation of the Ministry of justice. Also, secondary sources of data were used in the study. The Primary data were gathered by using a questionnaire. Percentage, mean standard deviation, multiple regression were used for data analysis by the SPSS/PC+ program.

It was found that most of the social workers were females, aged 25 – 29. They were single and had a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare. The number of these working with 5 – 6 year – old children. Most of them had no work experience in criminal procedures in which they had to interrogate, interview or concerned with victims, suspects or witnesses.

Regarding the social workers' opinion about the social work code of ethics, it was found that they strongly agreed that the code of ethics was a good guideline for their work and was very suitable for the actual practice of the social worker ($\bar{X} = 4.46$) and that they could really follow the code of ethics ($\bar{X} = 4.20$).

As for their opinion about the practice in the with the Act, the social workers strongly agreed that the Act was suitable for child welfare protection ($\bar{X} = 4.12$) and that it was suitable for the social workers to follow when they worked ($\bar{X} = 4.03$).

The factors found to have no influence on their opinions were gender, age marital status, education, major field of study, number of working years they dealt with children and number of working years they dealt with criminal cases, at the 0.05 level of statistical significance.

Besides, it was found that the opinion of the social workers on the social work code of ethics and their opinion on the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act (No.20) B.E.2542 (1999) were significantly different at the 0.05 level.