

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : People's Participation in Crime Prevention in the Area under the Responsibility of the Muang District Police Station in Yala Province

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The study was conducted to find out the following : 1) the level of people's participation in crime prevention in the area under the responsibility of the Muang District Police Station in Yala Province, 2) the factors influencing people's participation in crime prevention, and 3) the problems and obstacles to people's participation in crime prevention.

The sample group consisted of people aged 15 years or more who lived in the area under the responsibility of the Muang District Police Station in Yala Province. A multi-stage random sampling was employed to select the sample of 399 people. A questionnaire was used to gather the data. The SPSS for Windows was used for data analysis. Percentage, mean and standard deviation were employed to describe the data, while t-test and F-test were used to test the hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance.

Of the total 399 subjects, men (62.9%) outnumbered women (37.1%). Most were 36-50 years old (77.5%). Also, most completed secondary school, vocational school, or earned an associate degree (79.5%). The majority were government officials or employees of state enterprises (60.2%). They earned an average salary of 5,001-10,000 baht (56.1%). Most lived on their own land and house (55.9%).

Other findings were summarized below:

Most people in the area had some knowledge and experience about crime. About 87.1 percent learnt about crime from people around them. Only 8.1 percent directly witnessed crime. About 4.8 percent used to be crime victims. As for types of crime they ever experienced or heard from people surrounding them, the top hit crime was illegal drugs ($\bar{X} = 2.91$), followed by gambling ($\bar{X} = 2.74$) and theft ($\bar{X} = 2.50$) respectively. With regard to the severity of crime,

people thought that the crime problem in the area was moderately serious. However, killing and pick pocketing were found to be at a low rate.

It was found that the subjects agreed at a moderate level ($\bar{X} = 2.50$) that people should participate in crime prevention. They gave importance to the crime problem at a high level but had faith in policemen at a low level.

Moreover, their participation in crime prevention was found, as a whole, to be moderate ($\bar{X} = 1.85$). They participated in self-defense at a high level ($\bar{X} = 2.68$), giving advance warnings at a low level ($\bar{X} = 1.42$) and support crime prevention and assistance in crime suppression at a low level ($\bar{X} = 1.45$).

When the hypotheses were tested, the only factor found to significantly influence people's participation in crime prevention was giving importance to the crime problem. Other factors had no significant influence on people's participation in crime prevention at the 0.05 level. These factors were sex, age, education, occupation, income, type of residence, experience in crime, and faith in policemen.

Recommendations

Since people in the area participate in crime prevention only at a moderate level, the police should arrange different activities to motivate them to participate more in this matter. For example, the household police project should be established. Or a volunteer group may be formed to help police work. The regulations about witness protection should be revised so as to assure people of their safety when they were asked to be witnesses. Public relations about different activities for crime prevention should be carried out regularly and continuously so that people will know the facts and have a correct understanding of crime prevention, this not being careless or giving a chance for bad people to commit crimes. On top of that the police should be honest, sincere, fair to people and have good human relations so that people will feel impressed by them. All these will contribute to people's participating more in crime prevention.