

THESIS TITLE : THE EFFECTS OF GROUP COUNSELING ON LIFE SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT IN THE JUVENILE RECIDIVISTS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this quasi-experimental research was to study the effects of group counseling on life skills development in the juvenile recidivists, particularly on aspects of self-esteem, decision making, negotiation and coping with emotion. The sample group was 16 volunteer juvenile recidivists who had been training at The Observation and Protection Center in Nakhornratchasima province, whose life skills scores were lower than the mean of their class. They were randomly assigned into 2 groups, 8 for the experimental group and 8 for the control group. The experimental group attended 10 sessions of group counseling, twice a week, each session long for 1-1½ hour. The group counseling was led by the researcher. The instrument used in this study were the life skills scale and the group counseling program for life skills development, constructed by the researcher.

The design of this study were a pretest – posttest by the life skills scale. The Wilcoxon Match Paired Signed – Rank Test and The Mann Whitney U Test were utilized for data analysis.

The results revealed that the changed life skills included self – esteem , decision making , negotiation and coping with emotion of the juvenile recidivists who participated in group counseling (the experimental group) were statistically higher than those before the experiment and than those of the juvenile recidivists who did not (the control group) at the .05 significant level.