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PREECHAKIT CHUATRISORN : FACTORS AFFECTING THE AMPHETAMINE ABUSE OF FEMALE JUVENILES IN THE OBSERVATION AND PROTECTION CENTER IN CENTRAL REGION. THESIS ADVISORS : CHANKHANIT K. SURIYAMANEE, M.A., JUAN CHAISUWAN, M.S., SOMBAT SUPPATCHAI, M.A. 101 p. ISBN 974-662-599-3

The objectives of the study are to discover the factors affecting the amphetamine abuse of the female juveniles and to make the recommendations for solving the problem. The subjects were 160 female juveniles in 4 training schools of the Central Observation and Protection Center of the Central Juvenile and Family Court. The Data were collected via questionnaires. The results of the study are summarized as follow:

1. The social backgrounds of the subjects : the subjects had average age of 17 years old with education not more than Mathayom 3. Most of them were employees and wage earners before the training with average income of no more than 4,000 baht per month. Most of them had experiences of being accused of offenses concerning amphetamine. Most of them consumed amphetamine 3 times a day. Most of the subjects parents were divorced or deceased. The subjects lived or nearby the source of amphetamine. Subjects gained knowledge concerning amphetamine from close friends and mass media.

2. The treatment of parents: most of the subjects were physically punished by the parents, blamed and controlled and neglected.

3.Characteristics and behaviors of the friends: the subjects' friends smoked cigarettes, roamed around, drank alcohol, owed, sold and consumed amphetamine.

4. Characteristics and behaviors of the subjects: the subjects consumed amphetamine, roamed around, sold Amphetamine and drank alcohol.

5. Emotional and mental status of the subjects: the subjects claimed that they were calm and but could be stable, impulsive, stressed and frustrated and had high tension.

6.Values and beliefs towards amphetamine: the subjects believed that amphetamine enabled them to handle hard work, made them feel joyful and good for joining friends and is a stress reliever had them to forget pain.

7. Influences for amphetamine consumption: the subjects viewed that they had curiosity to know and to try amphetamine and had suggestion from friends.

The author recommends that parents should give good care to children and minimize neglect and blame of the children to prevent them consuming from amphetamine due to emotional and stress problems, Parents and teachers should be aware of children who roam around, smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, gamble and consume other narcotic drugs because these behaviors had high relation to amphetamine consumption of the youngsters.