

**A MODEL OF PREVENTION AND SOLUTIONS TO
CRIMES COMMITTED BY STREET CHILDREN**

POL.CAPT. KRISANAPHONG POOTHAKOOL

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(CRIMINOLOGY, JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIETY)
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES,
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

2008

COPYRIGHT OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

Thesis
Entitled
A MODEL OF PREVENTION AND SOLUTIONS TO
CRIMES COMMITTED BY STREET CHILDREN

.....
Pol.Capt. Krisanaphong Poothakool
Candidate

.....
Asst. Prof. Sunee Kanyajit, Ph.D.
Major-Advisor

.....
Assoc. Prof. Suree Kanjanawong, Ph.D.
Co-Advisor

.....
Mr.Arayan Trangarn, Ph.D.
Co-Advisor

.....
Prof. Banchong Mahaisavariya, M.D.
Dean
Faculty of Graduate Studies

.....
Assist.Prof. Srisombat Chokprajakchat, Ph.D.
Chair
Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Criminology,
Justice Administration and Society
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Thesis
Entitled
A MODEL OF PREVENTION AND SOLUTIONS TO
CRIMES COMMITTED BY STREET CHILDREN
was submitted to Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University
for Doctor of Philosophy (Criminology, Justice Administration and Society)
on
January 2, 2008

.....

Pol.Capt. Krisanaphong Poothakool

Candidate

.....

Lect. Dr. Unisa Lerdtomornsakul, Ph.D.

Chair

.....

Asst. Prof. Sunee Kanyajit, Ph.D.

Member

.....

Assoc. Prof. Suree Kanjanawong, Ph.D.

Member

.....

Mrs. Kattiya Ratanadilok, Psy.D.

Member

.....

Mr. Arayan Trangarn, Ph.D.

Member

.....

Prof. Banchong Mahaisavariya, M.D.

Dean

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Mahidol University

.....

Assoc. Prof. Suree Kanjanawong, Ph.D.

Dean

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Mahidol University

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr.Sunee Kanyajit. Her wide knowledge and her logical way of thinking have been of great value for me. Her understanding, encouraging and personal guidance have provided a good basis for the present thesis.

I am deeply grateful to my research committee, Associate Professor. Suree Kanjanawong and Dr.Arayan Trangarn, for their detailed and constructive comments, and for their important supports throughout this work. I also wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to Dr.Unisa Lerdtomornsakul, the chair of the defense examination committee and Dr.Kattiya Ratanadilok, the member of the defense examination committee for their sacrificing time and valuable guidance which have been of great value in this study.

Special thanks to assistant professor Dr.Srisombat Chokprajakchat, the director of doctoral programme in criminology, justice administration and society and other faculty members provided me sufficient knowledge and helpful suggestions to carry out this research.

I owe my loving thanks to my parents and I am deeply indebted to them both for financing my studies and for ensuring that I was given a good education, and above all, for their love. Without their encouragement and understanding, it would have been impossible for me to finish this work. My special gratitude is due to my brother, my sisters and their families for their loving support.

I would like to apologize to all those contributions to this thesis I have forgotten to mention in the acknowledgement.

Police Captain Krisanaphong Poothakool

A MODEL OF PREVENTION AND SOLUTIONS TO CRIMES COMMITTED BY
STREET CHILDREN

POL.CAPT. KRISANAPHONG POOTHAKOOL 4636165 SHCJ/D

Ph.D. (CRIMINOLOGY, JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIETY)

THESIS ADVISORS: SUNEE KANYAJIT, Ph.D.,
SUREE KANJANAWONG, Ph.D., ARAYAN TRANGARN, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT

This study investigates criminal street children in order to find out the causes of crimes of children running away from homes, the traits of street youths' crimes, crime prevention and solutions. This research employed a qualitative method, in-depth interviews, non-participant observation and focus group.

The sample of twelve homeless children who committed crimes and were sentenced to be detained in a detention center, Bangkok, were persuaded to give an interview. Data selection is based on the allegation of the street children's crimes. Those allegations are property crimes, drug dealing, sex crimes and physical attack or trying to harm other people. In addition, key informants experienced in the topic of neglected children for at least five years are interviewed. Those key informants are a policeman working at a railway police station, social welfare expert, and psychologist, the former of the head of the Juvenile Court, a researcher on street children and staff who work at a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

From this study, it is found that homeless children's criminal behaviour is caused by four main factors, their family lives, surviving, their friends and Thai societal changes. It can be explained clearly as follow. Firstly, many troubled children learn to commit crimes from their families. Secondly, these children have no a chance to gain money legally, they decide to commit crimes for basic needs. Thirdly, friends play a major role in street children's lives, in both positive and negative ways. Finally, rapid Thai social changes in globalization substantially affect youths' attitudes, values and beliefs. Crime traits of children running away from homes are that they learn to commit petty crimes first and then these crimes develop to be more serious. Apart from this, repetitive features of homeless children's criminal behaviour seem to be usual in a street child's world.

The effective methods of crime prevention and resolutions for troubled children are their families, communities, government departments and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Yet, crime problems of street children would not be solved successfully if the public do not co-operate closely.

It is recommended that: 1) Street girls should be included in this investigation because of different contexts and accounts. 2) Abandoned children involved with criminal actions but who have not been arrested by the police should be interviewed. 3) The next study should collect data from key informants at the community level, including interviewing generalists. 4) Specific issues of criminal street children's resolutions and rehabilitations should be researched case by case.

KEY WORDS: STREET CHILDREN, SOCIAL CHANGES,
CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIMES, QUALITATIVE METHODS.

รูปแบบการป้องกันและแก้ไขปัญหาอาชญากรรมของเด็กเร่ร่อน (A MODEL OF PREVENTION AND SOLUTIONS TO CRIMES COMMITTED BY STREET CHILDREN)

ร้อยตำรวจเอก กฤษณพงศ์ พุตระกูล 4636165 SHCJ/D

ปร.ค. (อาชญาวิทยา การบริหารงานยุติธรรมและสังคม)

คณะกรรมการควบคุมวิทยานิพนธ์: สุนิษฐ์ กัลยะจิตต์, Ph.D., สุรีย์ กาญจนวงศ์, Ph.D., อารยัน ตระหง่าน, Ph.D.,

บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษาวิจัยครั้งนี้ มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษาถึงสาเหตุของปัญหาอาชญากรรมจากเด็กเร่ร่อน เพื่อศึกษาถึงลักษณะการประกอบอาชญากรรม, แนวทางการในการป้องกัน และแก้ไขปัญหาอาชญากรรมของเด็กเร่ร่อน การศึกษาวิจัยครั้งนี้ ใช้ระเบียบวิธีวิจัยเชิงคุณภาพซึ่งได้แก่ การสัมภาษณ์เชิงลึก, การสังเกตแบบไม่มีส่วนร่วม และการสัมภาษณ์กลุ่มย่อย กลุ่มตัวอย่างที่ศึกษาเป็นเด็กเร่ร่อนชาย จำนวน 12 คน ซึ่งได้กระทำความผิดตามกฎหมาย และศาลมีคำสั่งหรือมีคำพิพากษาให้เข้ารับการฝึกอบรมที่บ้านอุบกขา จังหวัดกรุงเทพมหานคร การเลือกกลุ่มตัวอย่างเด็กเร่ร่อนทั้ง 12 คนนี้ ได้มีคัดเลือกโดยการจำแนกฐานความผิดออกเป็น 4 ฐานความผิดที่สำคัญ ได้แก่ ความผิดเกี่ยวกับทรัพย์สิน, ยาเสพติด, ทำร้ายร่างกาย และความผิดเกี่ยวกับเพศ นอกจากนี้มีการเก็บข้อมูลจากผู้ให้ข้อมูลสำคัญ (Key informants) ซึ่งปฏิบัติงานเกี่ยวกับเด็กเร่ร่อน และมีประสบการณ์ในการทำงานในเรื่องดังกล่าวมาแล้วไม่น้อยกว่า 5 ปี ได้แก่ เจ้าหน้าที่ตำรวจซึ่งปฏิบัติงานเกี่ยวกับเด็กเร่ร่อน, นักสังคมสงเคราะห์และนักจิตวิทยาที่ปฏิบัติที่บ้านอุบกขา กรุงเทพมหานคร, อดีตอธิบดีผู้พิพากษาศาลเยาวชนและครอบครัวกลาง, นักวิชาการซึ่งศึกษางานเกี่ยวกับเด็กเร่ร่อน และผู้ปฏิบัติงานในองค์กรภาคเอกชน

สาเหตุการประกอบอาชญากรรมของเด็กเร่ร่อนเกิดจาก 1) การใช้ชีวิตในครอบครัวซึ่งมีญาติ พี่ น้อง หรือบิดา มารดาเคยกระทำความผิดมาก่อน และได้เรียนรู้รูปแบบการกระทำความผิด 2) กระทำความผิดเพื่อความอยู่รอด เนื่องจากต้องใช้ชีวิตต่อสู้ด้วยตนเอง เมื่อหนทางที่จะได้เงินตามบรรทัดฐานของสังคมไม่มี จึงเลือกที่จะประกอบอาชญากรรม ทั้งนี้ก็เพื่อปัจจัยสี่ 3) เด็กเร่ร่อนประกอบอาชญากรรมก็เพราะการชักนำของเพื่อน คำว่าเพื่อนของเด็กเร่ร่อนไม่ได้หมายถึงแต่ความสัมพันธ์แค่เพียงรู้จักและคบกันแต่หมายถึงความรวมไปถึงความผูกพันที่มีต่อกันเหมือนสมาชิกที่อาศัยอยู่ในครอบครัวเดียวกัน 4) การเปลี่ยนแปลงทางสังคมไทยส่งผลต่อค่านิยม ทศนคติ ความเชื่อ ของเด็กเร่ร่อนซึ่งเปลี่ยนแปลงไปจากสังคมไทยเดิม เด็กเร่ร่อนมุ่งเน้นการบริโภควัตถุนิยม ยอมที่จะรับค่านิยมที่ผิดๆ ออกมาใช้ชีวิตเที่ยวเตร่ ฟุ้งเฟ้อ ยอมที่จะกระทำความผิดเพื่อต้องการเงินมากเพียงพอสำหรับการใช้จ่ายฟุ่มเฟือย ไม่คิดที่จะทำงานที่สุจริตและเก็บเงินไว้สำหรับใช้จ่ายในภายภาคหน้าหรือสำหรับการศึกษาต่อ สำหรับลักษณะการประกอบอาชญากรรมของเด็กเร่ร่อนนั้น มีรูปแบบการประกอบอาชญากรรมธรรมดาไปสู่อาชญากรรมที่รุนแรงขึ้น นอกจากนี้ เด็กเร่ร่อนส่วนใหญ่มีลักษณะของการกระทำความผิดซ้ำ ทั้งในฐานความผิดเดียวกันและฐานความผิดที่แตกต่างกัน **แนวทางในการป้องกันและแก้ไขปัญหาอาชญากรรมจากเด็กเร่ร่อน** คือ ครอบครัว, ชุมชน, ภาครัฐ และเอกชน นอกจากนี้ ต้องได้รับความร่วมมือจากประชาชนทั่วไปในการแก้ไขปัญหาดังกล่าว **ปัญหา** และข้อเสนอแนะในการศึกษาวิจัยครั้งนี้ต่อไป 1) ควรสัมภาษณ์เด็กเร่ร่อนซึ่งเป็นผู้หญิงเพราะอาจมีบริบทที่แตกต่างไปจากเด็กเร่ร่อนชายที่กระทำความผิดดังกล่าว 2) ควรมีการสัมภาษณ์เด็กเร่ร่อนที่กระทำความผิดแต่ไม่ได้ถูกฝึกอบรม 3) สัมภาษณ์ผู้ปฏิบัติงานในระดับชุมชน จังหวัด ทำให้อาจไม่ทราบสภาพปัญหาที่แท้จริงของการแก้ไขปัญหาลูกเร่ร่อนของผู้ปฏิบัติงานในระดับพื้นที่ชุมชน รวมถึงควรมีการสัมภาษณ์บุคลากรซึ่งทำหน้าที่สื่อมวลชน 4) การวิเคราะห์รูปแบบในการแก้ไข ฟันฟุเด็กเร่ร่อนที่กระทำความผิด หากจะทำให้เกิดประสิทธิภาพ และมีประสิทธิผล ควรทำการศึกษาวิจัยเป็นรายกรณี

CONTENTS

	Pages
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
LIST OF CHARTS	viii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to Problem	1
1.2 The Purposes of This Research	6
1.3 Research Questions	6
1.4 The Scope of This Research	7
1.5 The Definitions of This Study	7
1.6 The Benefits of This Research	8
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 Theories Involving with Street Children’s Criminal Behavior	9
2.2 Children and Crime Problems	20
2.3 Government’s Policy on Crime Prevention and Solution of Street Children	24
2.4 Literature Review	25
2.5 Conceptual Framework	30
CHAPTER 3 METHOD	32
3.1 The Area of This Study	32
3.2 Sample and Sample Selection	33
3.3 Tools for Researching	34
3.4 Data Collection	35
3.5 Data Examination and Analysis	37
3.6 Ethical Issue Consideration	38

CONTENTS (CONTS.)

	Pages
CHAPTER 4 THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY	40
CHAPTER 5 RESULTS	121
CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	162
BIBLIOGRAPHY	168
APPENDIX	177
BIOGRAPHY	189

LIST OF CHARTS

		Pages
Chart 1	Crime patterns of Durkheim's theory	19
Chart 2	Conceptual framework	31
Chart 3	The causes of criminal street children	159
Chart 4	The traits of criminal actions of homeless children	159
Chart 5	Crime prevention and resolution	160
Chart 6	The conclusion of causes of offending, crimes trails, Crime prevention and solutions of street children	161

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to Problem

Many decades ago, country developments that focused on industrial and economic growth were measured using progressive indexes such as the figure of exports and gross domestic product (GDP). These figures seemed to show an increase in the quality of life of and benefit the majority of people in society. Nevertheless, these developments have affected several social aspects, which have led to social problems. One of those difficulties is the large gap between rich and poor people.

Thai government has solved those social problems by increasing the rate of employment and supporting investments, particularly for those in rural areas. Because of these, most people have changed their way of life from working on the farms as agricultural society to working in manufacturing industries. In addition, some of them in rural communities have moved to large cities, including Bangkok, so as to receive employment and have a better life.

Old Thai culture and traditions, which are passed from generation to the next, have been destroyed. Modern Thai society evaluates the quality of people from certificate or educational level. A number of people, however, are not able to achieve success in terms of employment or better lives, because they lack those certificates or high educational levels. Hence, people in this group have to spend their lives in difficult circumstances and they remain in the cycle of poverty.

Poverty is one of the main issues that strongly impacts upon children's lives. Most children in deprived families lack basic requirements. They are not able to study as well as other young people can. Many poor families are forced out from their farms because of industrial revolution. Some children in poor families have to wander

with their parents in order to gain employment such as laborers, working in the farms and so on. In addition, numerous parents do not have enough time to take care of their own children due to work commitments. It seems to be difficult for those children to enhance the quality of their lives.

Thai government may try to deal with social difficulties. Many policies have been established and implemented to assist poor families. Those families in trouble have still encountered difficult circumstances. For example, the government supports poor people to plant economic crops but those poor people are not able to sell them. Furthermore, the selling price of these crops is very low. Many cultivators have experienced a great loss. For these reasons, underprivileged families remain a major consideration. Children in poor families especially encounter several different problems. Some of them are pushed to leave their families and communities in order to spend their lives alone as street children.

Children without parents reflect a social phenomenon which links to socioeconomic and political aspects. This trouble indicates dramatic inequality between people in Thai society. The children living on the street have different problems. Some of them might be used to experiencing family disruption, domestic violence and stepfamily. These factors substantially affect upbringing and child development. The number of street children can not live in their families since they are beaten or scolded nearly everyday. Moreover, some parents abandon their own children because of drug addictions and alcoholism. When children are neglected, they leave their homes and spend their lives on the boulevard or public areas. The environment on the street seems to be enjoyable and dangerous way drives them to survive by different means. These manners may make them familiar with criminal behaviour (Phurisinsit, 1988).

Children in this group are at high risk of becoming involved with illegal activities compared to youths in general. Nobody is able to exactly identify the number of street children in Thailand, particularly those in large cities such as Chiangmai, Ubonratchatane, Nakornratchasrma and Bangkok. However, the latest

survey of the development of an action plan found that there are approximately 20,000 street children in Thailand. In the next three years, it would have grown to 30,000. Government departments and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) estimate these street children to number only 5,000. The numbers of homeless children in many areas are approximately 15,000-20,000 in need of help in terms of protection and care (Matichon newspaper, 2006).

The majority of street children spend their own lives as gang/s or group/s. The street seems to be their teacher because children without parents learn to survive by themselves in the unpleasant and awful environment on the street. In addition, they have to know how to survive in these conditions by themselves in both positive and negative ways. These are the major reasons why those homeless children become involved with crimes and they make trouble for people in society (Jitradab, 1997).

Neglected children are children who have several difficulties and they have to live under pressure. Their lives are a struggle to survive and earn money by themselves by both legal and illegal means. Often, they do not have enough food to eat or a good place to sleep. They are familiar with difficult situations that make them unhappy. These factors tend to lead them to have anti social behaviour. Furthermore, they are likely to be young offenders due to the familiarity of those troubles and serious circumstances in their daily lives. According to Trangkrananurak's study, he found that the majority of street youths are pessimistic. Namely, these adolescents believed that adults in Thai society do not provide love and security for them (approximately 22.7%) and those people in society look down on them (around 21.1%) (Trangkrananurak, 1982).

At the moment, street children's problems tend to represent a more serious situation than before in respect of much younger children and their behaviours. These street children tend to leave their homes early. Some of them are aged less than six years. The majority of children living on the street engage in criminal actions. For example, some abandoned children are addicted to glues and drugs. Apart from this, they sell these illegal substances so as to receive money for taking them. Some

neglected children have sex with local people and foreigners so that they are able to obtain money for buying food and clothes. These neglected children do not have enough knowledge about their risky behaviour. For these aspects, various children running away from their homes are at very high risk of AIDS and other diseases (National report about street children, 1990).

Children who run away from their homes are more likely to offend compared to children in general. Their life styles are very free (Maguire, Morgan and Reiner, 2007). There is no control from their families and guardians. Therefore the socialization processes of these children have been reduced. It affects neglected children's performances. Most of them have aggressive behaviour and some commit serious crimes (Rutter and Giller, 1983). When these children leave their homes for a short period of time, they have to participate in illicit methods.

It can be seen that the majority of homeless children scarcely go back and have normal life as same as other people. From the statistics of street girls, it shows that these girls often disappear within twenty four hours on the street since they spend their lives in brothel (Krichanan, 2001). For street boys, they no longer live in public places but they are persuaded to join crime gangs within two weeks. Most of these street boys later are members of crime gangs because these gangs need children who are clever at surviving. In addition, these gangs use street children for offending such as stealing money, selling drugs and street crimes. When these children commit those crimes, the police officers might not be able to investigate and arrest those children. The reason for this is that they have no permanent residents and they wander around many different areas. Therefore, many adults who are the offenders need those street children to use them as their assistants.

According to the files of young people who are detained in detention centers (Ubaekaka house, 2007), Mr. A (anonymous name) aged 19 years old was sentenced to five years in detention centre. This person used to roam the streets before he offended. He left poor family when he was 14 years old. The accusation that he had been charged with was robbery. In this case, the victim was seriously injured.

Namely, Mr. A. grasped the arm of man aged 23 years old to take a gold necklace from him but the man fought against Mr. A. Then, Mr. A. knifed the man in his neck. Mr. A. committed crimes such as this several times. When Mr. A. decided to commit crimes, victims were young people, old people or women. If some of these people fought with Mr. A., he would knife at the necks of those victims. He doesn't know how many people are injured or died because he escapes immediately after doing those crimes. This was the first case for which Mr. A. was arrested.

Another interesting crime case is Mr. B. (anonymous name) aged 18 years old. He has to be put into the house of detention for four years because of his crime. The crime done by Mr. B. was robbery. According to the juvenile's file at Kanjana house (Kanjana house, 2007), it was found that Mr. B. had come from middle-class family. He wandered from his home when he was 15 years old. He was accused of rape crime as an individual and as part of a gang. He also committed numerous other rape crimes. His cases were that he liked to go to large shopping malls in Bangkok to select victims. Those victims' ages were limited between 15 and 18 years old, especially students.

When Mr. B. had a chance to talk to a victim, he persuaded that victim to have dinner with him, after that he asked the victim to go to another place in which he was able to rape that victim. Before he raped her, he dropped a tablet of medicine into a glass of water. On the other hand, some cases Mr. B did not drop a tablet of medicine but he forced girls to have sex. If those girls did not want to have sex with him, he punched them severely at stomach. Mr. B. committed rape crimes at least fifty times, not including the number of times he committed rape crimes as part of a gang. He was never arrested by the police since his victims did not report him. They would not like for people to know of their rape. Again, this was the first case for which Mr. B was arrested. Nevertheless, he was not accused of rape crime. His accusation was robbery.

It can be seen that street children's crimes are serious. These cases are only two examples of those street children who are detained by law enforcement agencies.

Nobody can identify the exact number of homeless children who are involved in crime and who are not arrested by the police. In addition, there are numbers of homeless children committing crimes who are not identified as homeless children or ex-homeless children before.

The crimes of young people running away from home cause public trouble. This issue is not resolved energetically and systematically. As mentioned before, in the next three years these young people running away from homes will dramatically increase and total roughly 30,000 street children in Thailand. If these young people engage in criminal activities, it will mean serious consequences for Thai society. As a result, the study of models of homeless children's crime prevention and solutions is very useful and is a significant one in terms of its potential impact for the public. The outcomes will be utilized to deal with street children's criminality effectively. In addition, it would significantly benefit various government departments and non-government organizations in terms of helping and improving the quality of street children's lives so that these street children will be adults who are able to participate in the country's development rather than engage in unlawful actions.

1.2 The Purposes of This Research

- 1.2.1 To study the causes of crimes of children running away from homes.
- 1.2.2 To study the solutions for street youths' criminal behaviours.
- 1.2.3 To study crime prevention of abandoned children.
- 1.2.4 To study street children's crime solutions.

1.3 Research Questions

- 1.3.1 Why do homeless children commit crimes?
- 1.3.2 What are the effective ways to deal with criminal street children's behaviour?

1.4 The Scope of This Research

This investigation is restricted to the use of qualitative research - in-depth interviews. The researcher will interrogate 12 street children who have committed crimes and who are detained in “Ubakeka house”. Those criminal activities are grouped by four categories: drug dealings, rape, robbery and attack. In addition, the researcher will interview key informants who have worked with neglected children for at least 5 years. These people are police officers working as teachers at Hualumpong railway station, social worker and psychologists working at Ubakeka house, an academician, the staff from a Non-Government Organization (NGO) and a judge at juvenile court.

1.5 The Definitions of This Study

1.5.1 Street children mean young people who are males breaking criminal law or any law that defines those males’ activities as crimes. In addition, these boys are sentenced to train and improve their behaviour at detention centre, Bangkok. Before these boys commit crimes, they spend their own lives as homeless children. They have no permanent residence.

1.5.2 Crimes mean the activities which break Thai laws. This study focuses on four categories:

1.5.2.1 The charge of drug dealing denotes neglected adolescents who have sold or been addicted to drugs.

1.5.2.2 The charge of rape crimes indicates that a street child raped a woman alone or he committed this crime with his friends.

1.5.2.3 The accusation of handling stolen property represents abandoned youths who have received valuable things by illegal ways, including attacking the owner to gain those valuable things.

1.5.2.4 The accusation of attack signifies that children running away from their homes assault someone in order that that person is seriously injured or dies.

1.5.3 Child rearing in a family means parents or guardians who take care of their own children by giving education and experiences so that those children will have good lives in the future. There are three types of child rearing which are:

Type 1: Democratic Rearing

Type 2: Autocratic Rearing

Type 3: Laissez-faire Rearing

1.5.4 The relationship between members in the family refers to the strength of relations between parents or other members of the family with the children of the family.

1.5.5 The background of street children is personal data of street youths. For this study, it will explore age, the number of brothers and sisters in the families, parents' salary and so on.

1.5.6 Earned income means the money that the family earns from their jobs, including parents' salary.

1.6 The Benefits of This Research

1.6.1 The researcher will be able to identify the causes of street children's crimes.

1.6.2 The research results can identify crime patterns of street children.

1.6.3 The results of this study can be applied for the effective methods which are able to decide the model of crime prevention and solution of children running away from homes.

1.6.4 Policy makers would be able to analyses and use the effects of this research as their resources so as to solve crimes of adolescents with troubles.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This examination will find the model of crime prevention and solution for street children. The researcher has applied theories and concepts which relate to the criminal behaviour of young people without guardians. These theories and conceptions are analyzed to identify how they apply to homeless children's illegal activities. Sociological, criminological and psychological theories will be taken to investigate the data. Moreover, numerous literatures involved with this study are reviewed so that those notions they deal with can be utilized. The aspects of those ideas are:

- 2.1 Theories involving with street children's criminal behaviour
- 2.2 Young people and crime problems.
- 2.3 Government's policy on crime prevention and solution of street children
- 2.4 Research about neglected children in Thailand.
- 2.5 The framework of this research.

2.1 Theories Involving with Street Children's Criminal Behaviour

2.1.1 Psychological theory

Freudian theory relates early personality development to the way in which successive centres of bodily need and satisfaction are managed. This theory captured and expressed the perceptions of childhood and development. Sigmund Freud believed that human psychology is based on desire rather than reason. In addition, every child has a human instinct as an animal. This instinct works with subconscious first and responds to sexual desire immediately. The development of human beings depends on the process of moving from animals to humanity. Furthermore, he judged that children are inherently inclined to evil. The validity of traditional sex roles is

important for child development. He emphasized the importance of parental child-raising practices. The life-long characteristics of the human personality are determined almost exclusively by a combination of organic nature and the relation of a child to its parents. The first few years of life are critical. If an infant does not secure satisfying relationships with affectionate, nurturing parents, the damage will be irreversible (Empey, 1978). The child lives on as a selfish infant, failing to develop as a self-sufficient, responsible person.

Freud deemed that personal structure of human beings had three main components which are id, ego and superego. Id or instinct is the basic needs of human nature for surviving such as water, food, sex and so on. These are inherent in each person. They are unable to be built by themselves but they are in the subconscious based on hedonistic principle. Id will be driven for a person's satisfaction. For example, if a baby feels hungry, they will cry for food. Freud assumed that a baby will work use id until it reaches eight months.

Ego is another component of personal structure. It connects between feeling and environment. The purpose of ego is to respond id. When ego develops, it will work reasonably. For instance, ego will choose what a person wishes to do before producing energy. Ego is not able to be separated from id and does not have more power than id because ego remains because of the aim of id.

Superego is the last element of the structure of personality of human beings. It first appears in the infant aged five years. Superego is composed of morals, norms and religious beliefs. Superego is similar to id but it is responsible for controlling basic needs of id. Developed superego will influence children's attitudes and sensations towards their behaviour following norms and values. For example, children with developed superego tend to avoid committing crimes. They will not steal a bottle of water from the shops when they are thirsty. On the other hand, for young people whose superego is undeveloped there is a high possibility that they will take that bottle.

From the composition of personal structure, ego will gain help from the development of superego. Nevertheless, ego often encounters new problems all the

time. Ego, therefore, harmonises with id and norms. It is a representative of living in society. The development of ego may conflict with id and superego. Ego needs to control id and superego in order that an individual is able to spend his/her life in society.

Children's delinquent behaviour is the product of psychological abnormality. They lack child rearing from their families. Namely, id as an element of personal structure is not developed enough. Superego as moral or parental supervision is unable to control id. It leads those children to develop antisocial behaviour. Moreover, Freud supposed that crimes happen due to the deficiency of development of superego. Id is stronger than superego and it results in children's criminal traits.

Freudian theory is employed in this study to explore the causes which make superego weak. When superego can not control id, humanity tends to offend. Nevertheless, the researcher focuses on studying societal, environmental and cultural factors that result in criminal activities.

2.1.2 Personality Theory

Generally, personality means the person's adjustment for environment or all behaviours of a person. Their behaviour mirrors personal characteristics which have improved in the past until now. The personality of each individual is crucial in respect of achievement in his/her life. In addition, it is a main feature affecting failure. In psychological terms, personality is considered as the differences between people. Each person has different behaviour patterns and thinking. Individual personality depends on the development of each period of human life. Although the forms of development of an individual may be alike, the personality type of individual is dissimilar. By this, it means that individuals experience several circumstances differently. If a person gained the stages of development perfectly, he/she would have complete characters.

According to Erikson (1964), he explained the development of personality in respect of the psycho social. He has supported Freudian theory in respect of the process of human instinct, i.e. that ego is a control factor. Erikson also believed that

ego is the component of human behaviour showing decision making, adjustment, belief and attitude. Erikson explained that individuals need to pass eight stages of human development:

Stage 1: age 1-1.5 years	---	love development
Stage 2: age 1.5-3 years	---	skill development
Stage 3: age 3-6 years	---	interaction development
Stage 4: age 6-12 years	---	learning development in educational institutions
Stage 5: Early stage of adolescence	---	social and sex learning
Stage 6: Adolescence	---	love development and social support
Stage 7: Adulthood	---	the development of appropriate ways of life
Stage 8: Old age	---	the development of stability and perfect life

Many psychologists have found that young people who offend often differ from youths in general. For example, adolescents who are addicted to drugs have four types of personality. First, those young people are dull or they seem to be lifeless. Some young people in this group feel more depressed and they may solve their problems by taking drugs. Second, adolescents with aggressive behaviour frequently use drugs. They will use those drugs again if they make them feel happy. Third, youths, who have risky performances, are more likely to try drugs. Finally, young people with self destructive behaviour often harm themselves. Though these people are able to realize that drugs are bad, they would like to try them. This effect results from push factors which have more power than self-control. This factor, therefore, damages those people.

Personality traits make up an individual identity. To measure individual personality, it can be considered by his/her behaviour, ability and adjustment in each situation. According to Keuantham *et al* (1986), who studied the causes of juvenile delinquency, some problems of personality, such as colour blindness and some blood

diseases have resulted in psychological problems in some children. These problems have led to criminal behaviour. This study is relevant to the research of Liberman and others (1973) where it was agreed that adolescents who are addicted to drugs used to have social, intelligence and personality difficulties before. This relates to Cole's study (1963), when he researched five hundred delinquent adolescents. The results demonstrated that young people committing crimes have anti social behaviour. These adolescents hardly participate in social activities and they appear to break the regulations and norms. This is connected to Schafer and Kundton's study (1970). They claimed that young people who are disabled, have a disease or some disease transmitted from their parents, are caused to have mental illness. These factors can lead to deviant behaviour.

However, Suwarnabuppa (1975) believed that personality, intelligence, emotions and others were not the main factors of causes of children's criminal behaviour, except that these elements were irregular at a high level. At this level, these elements would be the causes of delinquent behaviour if those children were not able to take part in any actions, groups or society.

The researcher deems that there are connections between criminal behaviour and individual personality. Namely, personality resulting in delinquent characteristics depends upon the degree of that personality. If children have anti social, aggressive behaviour or they feel more stressed, these children tend to commit crimes when compared with children in general. Consequently, the study of the model of street children's crime prevention and solution needs to focus on a child's personality as a main factor that may considerably affect their criminal behaviour.

2.1.3 Differential Association Theory

Sutherland believed that criminal behaviour is learned through social interaction as a learning process. He coined the concept of differential association. Any person, he contended, may come into contact with definitions favorable to violation of law or with definitions unfavorable to violation of law. The ratio of these definitions or views of crime - whether criminal or conventional influences are

stronger in a person's life - determines whether the person embraces crime as an acceptable way of their lives. His theory consists of nine propositions. They are as follows (Empey, 1978 and Lilly *et al*, 2002):

1. Criminal behaviour is learned. People are not inherently antisocial nor do they possess permanent personality traits that predispose them to delinquent behaviour. Rather, if they violate the law, it is because they have learned to do so.

2. Criminal behaviour is learned in interaction with other persons in a process of communication. People require positive motives or justifications for deviance. These are supplied by symbols, by languages. Gestures and nonverbal communication also contribute to the process, but are much less important. It is the symbolic learning of deviant values, attitudes, norms and techniques that leads a person to commit delinquent acts.

3. The principal part of the learning of criminal behaviour occurs within intimate personal groups. Criminal behaviour is, like other behaviours, attitudes, beliefs, and values which a person exhibits, the property of groups, not of individuals. Consequently, such impersonal sources of learning as movies, television, and newspaper are relatively unimportant. While they might provide the individual with some delinquent ideas, these ideas are not likely to be carried out unless they receive the sanction and support of an intimate group of associates.

4. When criminal behaviour is learned, the learning includes (a) techniques of committing the crime, which are sometimes very complicated, sometimes very simple; (b) the specific direction of motives, drives, rationalizations and attitudes. People do not become mechanics, school teachers, or quarterbacks until they learn the necessary techniques. The same is true of delinquents. It takes training to become a successful shoplifter, or even to smoke marijuana properly. The commission of illegal acts requires the development of appropriate motives, attitudes and rationalizations. These are derived from group definitions which make delinquent behaviour.

5. The specific direction of motives and drives is learned from definitions of the legal codes as favorable or unfavorable. Sutherland supposed that the social order is characterized by cultural conflict. Reactions to the criminal law are not uniform in any modern society. Instead, people associated in groups which put them in contact with two kinds of culture, one kind whose norms favour adherence to law and the other which encourages law violation. Individuals are confronted with mixed definitions for behaviour, some conformist, some deviant. Whether they become delinquent, therefore, will depend upon what they learn from the particular groups they encounter, and how those groups define the legal codes. If they define them favorably, the person will be motivated to be law-abiding. If they define them unfavorably, delinquent motives will be supplied.

6. A person becomes delinquent because of an excess of definitions favorable to violation of law over definitions unfavorable to violation of law. This is the proposition that sets forth the crucial condition for delinquent behaviour to occur. If persons become delinquent, it is because their contacts with delinquent patterns exceed their contacts with ones that are not delinquent. Some individuals, in fact, are almost completely isolated from anti delinquent groups and definitions. Hence, delinquent behaviour on their part is a virtual certainty since there is nothing to counter the delinquent self concepts, values and norms which their groups perpetuate.

7. Differential associations may vary in frequency, duration, priority, and intensity. These four components clarify the nature and effects of association in different groups. Sutherland did not explain them well but frequency refers to how often a person associates with delinquent groups. Duration refers to the length of the associations. Hence, the greater the frequency and/or the duration of delinquent associations, the more likely delinquent conduct will follow. Priority has to do with the time life when delinquent associations begin - the earlier they develop, the more likely they will endure. Intensity has to do with such things as the prestige of the source of a criminal or anti-criminal pattern and with emotional reactions related to the associations (Sutherland and Cressey, 1955). If a delinquent group has high prestige and is emotionally satisfying for its member, the more likely its members are to be delinquent.

8. The process of learning criminal behaviour by association with criminal and anti-criminal patterns involves all the mechanisms that are involved in any other learning. Sutherland considered the meaning of this proposition to be self-evident; namely, that the same mechanisms that are involved in learning non-delinquent behaviour - reward, punishment, imitation, coercion, or search for self-acceptance - are involved in learning delinquent behaviour.

9. While criminal behaviour is an expression of general needs and values, it is not explained by those general needs and values since non-criminal behaviour is an expression of the same needs and values.

Sutherland's theory was applied to study students who smoked marijuana and sniffed glue. This study was researched in Bangkok, Thailand. The sample size was 279 students. Sutherland found that the first using of drugs was caused by friends (Plianjaroon, 1987). Related to Thamniyom's study (1982), she agreed that friends play an important role for adolescents' thoughts. They feel lonely when they have to go to school without friends. Furthermore, some adolescents deem that their friends are more important than their parents. Adolescents often talk to their friends when they have any problems and they are able to do many activities so that their friends accept them as a member in a group. These result in their behaviour. Namely, adolescents are too young to consider everything by themselves. A number of adolescents have deviant behaviour due to their friends. Some of them are addicted to drugs.

This research relates to Rammasoot's research (1985). She deemed that adolescents or juvenile wish to be accepted and admired by their friends. For these reasons, their manners seem to follow their friends such as their manner of dress, speech and behaviour. Most adolescents try to be members of groups. They agree to employ the symbol of the group and observe discipline and regulations. Although those rules and regulations may break the law or societal norms, these adolescents remain to do due to the acceptance of members in the group. Drug uses, for instance; many teenagers have taken them as they hope that their friends who are also utilizing drugs will allow them to become members of their gang.

Sutherland's theory may not be able to explain clearly why some people whose friends offend do not commit crimes the same as their friends do. The researcher believes that those people are able to make decisions by themselves. Should they or should they not offend? However, the researcher judges that the differential association theory should be exploited in this research. It is because some street children who have never committed crimes before may be persuaded by their friends to do so.

2.1.4 Structural and functionalism theory

This theory has been developed for long time. It was one of the most popular theories between 1940 and 1965. This theory was developed by Talcott Parsons. He drew analogies between society and biological organisms to analyse society. There are three assumptions about society:

1. Society is the system.
2. The system is composed of various elements which are held together by shared values and common symbols.
3. This system has exact confinement and it has the process to sustain the system.

The apparent stability and internal cohesion of societies are necessary to ensure its continued existence over time. Societies are seen as coherent, bounded and fundamentally relational constructs, who function like organisms, with their various parts (social institutions) working together to maintain and reproduce them. The various parts of society are assumed to work in an unconscious, quasi-automatic fashion towards the maintenance of the overall social equilibrium. All social and cultural phenomena are therefore seen as functional in the sense of working together to achieve this state and are effectively considered to have a "life" of their own. They are then primarily analysed in respect of the function that they play. Individuals are vital not in and of themselves but in terms of their status, their position in patterns of social relations, and their roles.

Talcott Parsons viewed society as naturally being in a state of equilibrium or balance. According to his equilibrium model, as change occurs in one part of

society there must be adjustments in other parts. If this does not happen, the society's equilibrium will be threatened and strains in the social order will occur. Parsons posited that social changes occur in four distinct and inevitable processes. These are:

1. Differentiation – refers to the increase in complexity of social organisations.
2. Adaptive upgrading – social institutions become more specialised in their processes.
3. Inclusion – groups previously excluded from society because of some factors such as race, gender, social class and so on become accepted.
4. Value generalisation – this is the development of new values which tolerate and legitimate a greater range of activities.

These social changes have been substantially influential in social structure. Each society will be improved or destroyed depending on those societal changes.

One of the theorists who play a major role in the improvement of structure and functionalism theory is Emile Durkheim. His work was a product of the late 19th century. This period of time had seen considerable social change with the industrial revolution. He was the first person who gave the definition of “anomie”. He described anomie not simply as norm-less-ness but as the more or less complete collapse of social solidarity itself, the destruction of the elementary bonds uniting individuals in a collective social order in order that each person is driven to go it alone. Technological change combines with the rise of capitalism, and the old world of society, in which farmers and herders lived simply by face-to-face relationships with interests in common, was rapidly giving way to a more complex, urban, technologically sophisticated social system (Lilly, Cullen and Ball, 2002). The sense of community was being eroded; the large extended family consisting of many relatives working together was being torn apart and replaced with the new nuclear family of parents alone with their children, and the pace of life was accelerating with an increasing division of labour separating different individuals into occupational specialties.

Durkheim believed that social solidarity was maintained by two distinct sets of social functions: those involved with integration and those with regulation.

anomie, children and adolescents' norms and values in that society may be altered. Obviously, these cause the changing of their behaviour, including criminal behaviour.

Rapidly, social, economic and technological changes are key factors affecting norms, beliefs and value. Inevitably, manners, personality and the way of life are altered. These are more likely to be causes of delinquent behaviour in the present and the future. This relates to the research of Paternoster *et al* (1994), whereby it was found that strain directly links to juvenile delinquency. Children living in a poor environment with social difficulties are highly likely to commit crimes (The manual of drug prevention and solution, 2003).

From the perspective of structural and functionalism theory, this theory is applied to the troubles of children without homes to explore social contexts such as custom, values, beliefs, culture and the folkways of these children. Because of the transformation of street children's social contexts, the ways of their lives are changed. Social institutions, family, school, community, organizations, the police and so on have several different responsibilities. These units have to work closely so that society maintains balance or stability. Nevertheless, as mentioned above, society has changed in both positive and negative ways as a system. Some parents pay less attention to their own children since in modern society those parents may not have enough time for children. Many schools focus on business rather than caring for students in the schools. Numerous offenders are not arrested by the police. When those social units do not work as social system, there are some children who are neglected. They have to leave their homes and spend their lives in public places.

2.2 Children and Crime Problems

Crime has been a social phenomenon present in society. If any society lacks care and has no effective ways to control criminal activities, these criminalities will affect the public considerably. Crimes may cause serious damage to the country's economy resulting in economic growth and international funding. Furthermore, an

increase in the severity of crimes is an obstacle of the development of a nation. Every country, therefore, must have efficient and suitable methods to control illegal actions.

The meaning of crime control in academic contexts does not mean that every criminal act has to be eradicated, but it should remain within tolerable limit (Sukhothai Thammathirat University, 1990: 5). Crime control is the first priority of the crime issue, whereas crime suppression is the second. Namely, when illicit acts take place, it has effects on human lives, bodies and property. Even though police officers are able to arrest offenders, it is much more difficult to compensate for damage, injury and the loss of life. The solution of crimes should be considered in three dimensions:

1. Offenders
2. The process of criminal justice
3. Victims

The dimension of offenders might refer to men and women, or young people and adults. Most people believe that most offenders are adults rather than children. Nevertheless, at the moment young people commit crimes and those crimes tend to be more serious than ever before. Sometimes, juveniles commit as serious crimes as adults, if not more serious. For example, gang youths may murder or rape a girl. Moreover, some young people race against each other on the street or highway. By doing this, it makes trouble for many people driving cars on public streets.

The process of criminal justice for juveniles remains lacking in appropriate severity of punishment. Normally, adults who offend are put into prison and they are rehabilitated for a long enough time before they are released from detention. On the other hand, young offenders, who commit crimes of the same degree as adults, such as murder, robber and gang rape, are discharged early. Apart from this, those young offenders are punishable on a lesser scale than adult offenders by law. Hence, the achievement of solving juvenile delinquency should be focused on crime prevention by applying numerous effective methods. These should be planned for the prevention and solving of deviant behaviour simultaneously.

Children with risk factors are highly likely to become involved with crimes compared to adolescents in general. They should be cared for by families, educational systems and communities, particularly governmental departments. According to the first National Economic and Social Plan right through to the seventh, every government has concentrated on economic issues. Nonetheless, the complexity of many social dilemmas has been paid less attention. Many families and neighborhoods have instability because of the rapidity of economic growth. The governmental administration is not able to fully support that growth. In addition, it is unable to provide basic needs for the majority of people in society. This was until the eighth National Economic and Social Plan (1997-2001). This plan reasonably adjusted the notions of development by setting people as a centre of country development. Young people are a main target in development. However, between 1997 and 1998, there was economic depression which substantially influenced most Thai people. For this reason, the eighth plan was not implemented efficiently and effectively.

In the past, only the state played a crucial role to resolve juvenile delinquency, including rehabilitation instead of responsibility of the public. The state has to deal with various societal difficulties among limited conditions, such as the lack of experts, equipment and budget. This results in ineffectiveness of developing young people, especially abandoned children. These children are neglected and they are engaged in criminal activities. At present, children without families are cared for by several agencies and organizations, but this help seems to attract little cooperation. Furthermore, the regulations of governmental departments are problematic posing adverse circumstances and hindrance to treating many street children in terms of medical care and education. As a result, the government should manage programmes for these children and provide essential requirements so that they are able to survive and have better lives (Jitradab and Kanjanawasee, 1998).

Childhood can change behaviour, attitudes and beliefs. Characteristics must be improved before breaking laws or regulations can be reduced or eliminated. Detention is not a good solution to deal with the problem. If a child is put into

detention, it will result in the loss of opportunity for child development. Moreover, they may be loathed by the public. This will lead them to commit crimes again.

The causes of children's problems result from various different factors such as family, communities and environmental circumstances. These troubles may be the root of many crimes in their lives in the future. The state clearly needs to design and implement a policy for tackling children's problems. The strategies and programmes should be organized efficiently so as to develop every child equally. This also relates to the agreement of human rights with the United Nations, of which Thailand is one of the many countries to have signed this agreement. The section of children has 53 legal provisions. The first 40 legal provisions are for children's rights, focused on four parts:

1. Every child has human rights equally and he/she will not be discriminated on grounds of race, sex, ethnic, religion, political opinion, social status or others.
2. Every doing needs to consider the priority of children.
3. Every child has a right to survival, a developing mind, emotions and society.
4. Children have a right to give their opinions and these opinions are significant.

(International Common Law about the convention of human right and the agreement of child's right, 2003)

Street children are vulnerable and they are at risk of becoming involved in illegal acts. They should be treated kindly and well by particular means. The public needs to participate in order to deal with street children's problems and the many difficulties might happen in future. This will prevent abandoned children's criminal behaviour and assure that these young people will have better lives.

2.3 Government's Policy on Crime Prevention and Solution of Street Children

Runaway adolescents are regarded as the problems of society. Many engage in sniffing glue and hanging around on the street at night. Some of them behave badly towards pedestrians in public areas. The government solves this dilemma by taking these children into homes for orphans in different governmental places. Nonetheless, most young children running away from homes do not like to live in those homes and some of these young children escape from those places. Children leaving their families and communities have to spend their lives alone without care from the public. In addition, they have a way of life that differs considerably from that of children in general.

Some street children may not be familiar with illegal acts. When these children have to runaway from their homes and spend their lives on the street, they learn and are taught how to survive in their worlds, including learning to receive money through both lawful and unlawful methods. They may identify what they have to do and where they should do it from their friends. Ultimately, these children learn to take drugs and offend (Krichanan, 2001).

The state policies are unclear. The government deals with the crimes of street children by inspecting and arresting these children in public areas, particularly in big cities, but operates occasionally in order to prevent neglected youths' criminal behaviour. The police and social workers who are responsible for each area will transfer children without homes from streets to specific homes for orphans. This work is the connection between governmental departments and non governmental organizations. Moreover, governmental departments often ask non-governmental organizations to help some abandoned adolescents who would be able to be helped to develop. By doing this, non-governmental organizations will concentrate on helping those abandoned children and in each case are limited by budget, places and staff. From these, it can be seen that the problem of street children remain a major issue

which the state seems to deal with ineffectively. The government has focused on forcing young people into running away from their homes to live in specific houses but the aspect of developing and preventing crime appears to be vague and has no long-term plan.

2.4 Literature Review

Children who have no homes lack basic needs and have no opportunity to develop themselves. Many of these children have to earn money by begging, finding scraps of food in rubbish and stealing money from people on the street. Homeless adolescents are at a very high risk of committing crimes in several different patterns such as drug dealing and offender accomplices. Numerous researches concerned with children without homes have indicated that these children remain a major concern to the public. This relates to the study of Tangkananurak (1997); he found that street children are very vulnerable to becoming offenders. Even though homeless adolescents have freedom for their lives and they may not be beaten or rebuked by their parents, they are more likely to pose risks through their illegitimate acts.

Tangton (1997) researched on homeless adolescents and discovered that these adolescents often set groups. These groups are composed of 4-5 children. Their behaviour is aggressive and anti social. When they live together as a group, they habitually take drugs. Street children at Hualumpong station, for instance, sniff glue, smoke cigarettes and marijuana, where those children at the Patpong area take heroin, methamphetamines and cigarettes. In addition, children running away from home at Pudthayodfhajularoke Bridge inhale glues, methamphetamine and smoke cigarettes. Since these youths take drugs over a long time, their healths will be damaged with ailments ranging from a cough and sore throat, to death because of using drugs too much.

Jitradab (1997) studied children without homes and found that these children have dominant characteristics. These characteristics are red hair, yellow teeth, dark skin, a rude and vulgar men. They smoke cigarettes, sniff 3K glue, take

methamphetamines, valium, and heroin and so on. They are both offender and the accomplice. Some of them are victims of 'dark' businesses and become prostitutes. Child prostitution on the street occurs for approximately 80% and all of them take drugs. Most of these children have AIDS. The occupations of adolescents without homes are often linked with places of amusement. Street girls may dance and show their bodies in bars, while boys have sex with foreigners.

Jitradab (1998) researched the causes and gravity of children without homes in order to identify the hindrances and possible ways out of these difficulties for policy by both governmental departments and non governmental organizations. He found, however, that those agencies are able to aid only 3-5% of neglected children. These children have health problems.

Apart from this, they have the problem of drug addiction. Most of them are thieves and offenders. Street children's troubles are complicated. It is more serious, particularly when it involves drugs and the sex trade. The main causes of the problems are an unstable family. Parents care for these children for a short period of time. This results in the lack of socialization. Many children are neglected not only by their parents but also by their relatives, communities and educational system.

Chaimueng (2001) studied the needs of street children at Udonthanee city. He believed that most street children are boys aged between 12 and 16 years. The majority of those children are boys because girls wander for only a short time. After that, these girls will be (forced into prostitution) prostitutes. Children running away from homes are often involved with stealing, taking drugs, sniffing glues – in general, they commit deviant behaviour.

Krichanan (2001) did research about abandoned adolescents at Hualumpong station area. She found that some abandoned children spent their lives around Hualumpong station. Some of them had friends there and lived in friends' houses in poor areas. These children were beggars and sold flowers. In addition, they earned money through illegal means such as drug dealing, thieving and prostitution.

They encounter different people traveling by train. Those people may help these street children, whereas some of those gain advantage by unfair means. Children who have no permanent home at Hualumpong station do not pay attention to help from various agencies but they like to earn money by themselves at that station.

Chaiykunakornrat, Poldee and Poldee (2003) studied the street youths who are prostitutes by collecting data at Lumpinee Park and Silom, Bangkok. They accepted that the beginnings of street youths' lives experienced several problems on the street. The first problem is how to survive on the street. By doing this, those street youths deemed that they had to have money since money is a key factor for having food and renting accommodation. No street child planned their lives before leaving their homes, or what they had to do next. These children left their homes when they were young, and had a low educational level.

Furthermore, they had no documentation to prove their identities, such as an identity card, the copy of census registration or the evidence of their education. These have significantly affected their lives as many employments require such evidence. Therefore, these youths are unable to acquire good jobs. They only clean car mirrors at junction, sell flowers, collect plastic bottles to sell and beg money from people on the street. These activities earn low money in street youths' thoughts.

The main reason for making the decision to become a prostitute is that they have no money and this is a relatively easy way to receive considerable money. Furthermore, they do not work hard and they spend less time working than one would for other careers. On the other hand, they feel so tired when they have to earn money by cleaning car mirrors and selling flowers.

Ghamsagha and Suparod (2003) researched the real lives of street girls in Samudprakarn province. From this study, it was discovered that the majority of street girls ran away from their homes more than five times between the ages of approximately 13 to 15 years. When street girls have run away several times, they are familiar with this situation. Hence, they leave their homes permanently. Most street

girls from this study were waitresses at restaurants. If these girls would like to earn more money, they were forced to have sex with the customers or they had to dance without clothes. The street girls had to work late into the night. In addition, they did not really know when they would finish working each day. Sometimes, they had to work the whole night. The street girls were disregarded by the public and nobody liked to talk to them except drug dealers, offenders and procurers.

Mateekul (2004) surveyed the ways of earning money by street boys at the Pakkred home. It was accepted that most street boys had neither mother nor father or had only father or mother. The average of their ages was 13.7. The majorities of those boys were aged 12 years old and had graduated from primary school. The street boys from this survey were poor. Their families earned money less than 200 baths a day. Street boys aged less than 13 years worked legally more than did street boys who are aged 14 years and older. Street boys living near communities that had temples and markets had legal work more than street boys living far from communities. In addition, street boys who had friends working lawfully had legal careers more than street boys who had friends working illicitly.

From studying the factors affecting the seriousness in the family and the aggressiveness of Thai juveniles (Phetsuksiri, 1996) it was found that family with serious problems led to juveniles' deviant behaviour. Namely, these juveniles tended to solve their problems through aggressive means because they might believe that domestic violence is a normal circumstance. Furthermore, 14.7% of the samples were used to attacking other people when they had conflict situations. This effect shows that these juveniles' personalities were different from other adolescents. For this reason, it can be utilized to predict potential juveniles' behaviour in the future.

Phetsuksiri's research is relevant to Phurisinsit's study (1988). She researched on juvenile delinquency and found that family problems and juvenile delinquency were profoundly complicated. By this, it means that families where the members had close relationships and hardly any family quarrels were less likely to move on to juvenile delinquency than those from families with conflict between the members.

Farrington (1996) explored the issue of juvenile delinquency. He agreed that cooperation between home and school in dealing with juveniles' criminal behaviour considerably influenced on that behaviour in positive ways. Those juveniles involved with crimes less than before.

Farrington (2002) examined the dilemma of committing criminal acts of family members. This examination supposed that when family; parents, uncles, aunts and grandparents committed crimes, children in those families were extremely likely to offend compared to families in general.

Haapasalo and Pokela (1999) investigated the means of child rearing of parents in families by observing nearly 700 young people. The result demonstrated that children, who were aged from 7 to 11 years and used to be beaten seriously, engaged in illegal activity later.

Henggeler and others (1993) scrutinized 84 adolescents committing crimes by using home and school to improve their traits. Two years later, these adolescents were less aggressive and less deviant.

Holman (1995) studied young people in the northeast of England by examining the background of these young people at 5 years old. It was found that 70% of young people who committed crimes came from poor families. Moreover, they lacked care from their parents and most of them did not receive enough love.

Malinosky-Rummell and Hansen (1993) researched children who were punished seriously, street children and children with family problems. They accepted that these children were highly likely to break the law compared with children who had enough love and care.

MacCord (1983) inspected youths who were beaten and scolded by family members. He admitted that 50% of the sample committed serious criminal activities and they were alcoholics or had mental illness or were even dead before 35 years old.

McCord (1997) surveyed children and adolescents living in families where parents, brothers or sisters offended. He accepted that children and adolescents who had members in their families who were arrested or used to be arrested because of involvement with crimes tended to also commit offences when compared with children and adolescents whose family members never involved them with crime.

Smith and Thornberry (1995) investigated around 1,000 children aged between 12 and 14 years. According to official statistics, the majority of the children who had experienced domestic violence or had been neglected by their parents committed criminal actions later.

Widow (1989) employed court data to analyses 900 children who encountered domestic violence or who were abandoned by their own parents before 11 years old. He compared these data with children at the same age by controlling gender, educational level, school, skin and place of birth. He found that children in the first group involved with crimes more than children in the control groups.

Widow and Ames (1994) researched children who were beaten, abused and raped by family members. They accepted that more children from the sample committed sex crimes when they grew up compared to children without those difficulties.

Thus, the study of a model for street children's crime prevention and solution and for discovering the causes of delinquency has to revise their backgrounds through social aspects, environment, friends, peers, friend groups and the relationships between members in the family. This is because these factors have affected criminal acts.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

From reviewing literatures and theoretical concepts, these are explored to find out the causes, crime prevention and solutions concerned with street children in

terms of society, culture, environment, economic figures and family. These issues can be elucidated as below:

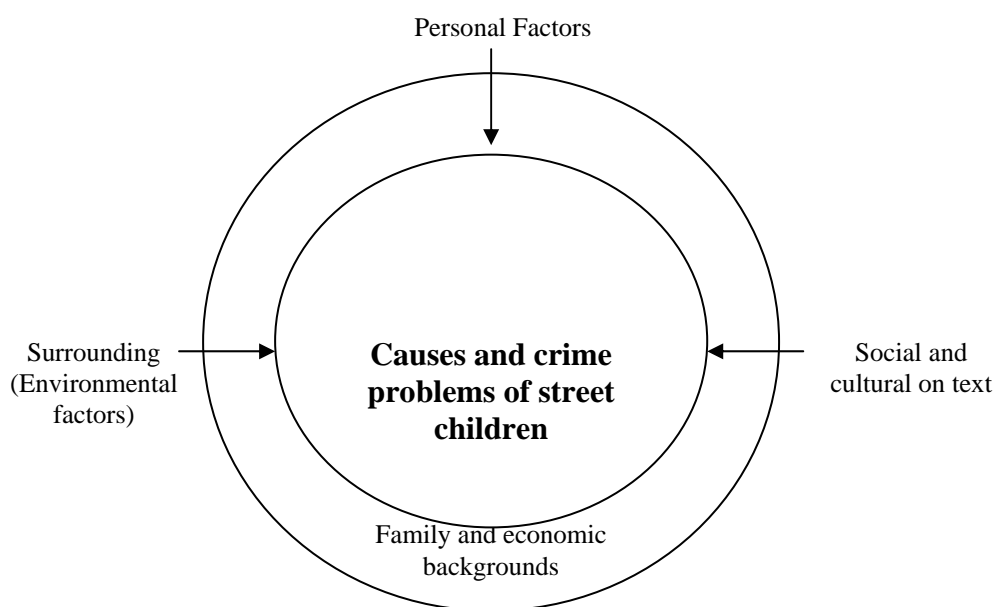


Chart 2: Conceptual framework

From this chart, the analysis of causes and crime problems of neglected children can be discussed:

1. Personal factors – gender, age, parents' marriage, educational level of guardian and so on.
2. Family and economic issues – the relationship between members in the family, child-rearing, family income in each month, guardian's career, etc.
3. Social and cultural contexts – attitudes of friends, media influences (television, radio, internet), friends and so on.
4. Surroundings – the environments of street children's houses, communal living, living conditions and so on.

The circumstances which are mentioned above substantially affect criminal behaviour of young people living on the street such as sex trade, free sex, drug addiction, and conflict and property offences. As a result, when the basis of offending of abandoned youths can be identified, crime prevention and solutions will be organized effectively and efficiently.

CHAPTER 3

METHOD

The purposes of this study are to find out the causes, crime patterns, crime prevention and solutions of and for children running away from home. These issues are investigated by employing qualitative methods. This chapter will elucidate key features which are utilized in this research. These key features are the area of this survey, the sample, tools for researching, data collection, data examination and analysis.

3.1 The Area of This Study

This exploration is restricted to collection of data from street children detained at a detention centre, Ubakeka house, in Bangkok. These street children are accused of four offences. These accusations are drug dealing, sex crimes, property crimes and murder or trying to injure other people.

The most important reason for choosing a detention centre as the location of this study is that street children put into this centre committed serious crimes. Nevertheless, these street children may have also been detained at Muthita house or Karoona house before but they are reluctant to improve their behaviour or have broken the regulations of those houses. In addition, the judges at juvenile court have authority to put children without family into this detention centre by considering whether this is appropriate from their backgrounds, charge and criminal records. Because of these factors, those boys are sent to be detained at this detention centre.

Children who are kept at this detention centre offended in Bangkok or the provinces around Bangkok. Although these children have their domiciles in rural

areas, they are put into this centre. By these features, there is variety of data. Young people committing crimes have different personal details, backgrounds and domiciles.

The researcher also interviewed key informants who work directly with young people who have no homes. Those key informants were:

- 1) Railway police
- 2) Social welfare expert who works at detention centres.
- 3) Psychologists working at detention centres.
- 4) Researchers who do research in the area of street children.
- 5) Staff who work in Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs).
- 6) The former heads of Juvenile Courts.

3.2 Sample and Sample Selection

3.2.1 Sample

1) Children without homes, for the purposes of this research, are young people detained at one detention centres, Bangkok. This study is only restricted to neglected children who committed crimes based on four charges. These charges are drug dealing, sex crimes, property crimes and murder or trying to injure other people. Three neglected children were chosen from each accusation without limiting their age. Sample selection was focused on the background of children who used to spend their lives on the boulevard before and commit crimes differently.

2) Key informants who work closely with street children. These people were selected from six categories ranging from policemen to railway police station workers, social welfare expert, psychologists, researchers, staff at NGO and the heads of the juvenile court. From each category, one person was picked. The person who was chosen needed to have worked with street children for at least five years.

3.2.1 Sample selection

1) For children running away from homes, these were chosen by purposive selection in order to ensure their appropriateness for the topic and to match

the purposes of this study. By doing this, the head of the detention centre informed the methods of selecting abandoned youths committing criminal acts. The researcher explained the sample of those abandoned youths to understand the reasons why they were chosen to participate in this research.

2) For people working directly with children in trouble, they were chosen by their work experiences which need to have totaled at least five years. These people are clarified below.

2.1) The railway policeman has been in charge at “Train library”, Hualumpong station, Noppawong police station.

2.2) For social worker and psychologists, one of these groups was selected. These people have worked at the detention centre because they really comprehend street youths’ behaviour at the detention centre. In addition, they are familiar with these children.

2.3) The researcher who was interviewed has researched children’s issues, particularly neglected children.

2.4) For staff from NGO, his/her job has set the activities for children without family or she/he helps those children.

2.5) The judge who gave information used to be responsible for deciding children’s cases.

3.3 Tools for Researching

For this investigation, it was decided to employ the structured interview. This outline has two main elements for children with difficulties and key informants.

3.3.1 Interview structure for children with difficulties:

- Family background – gender, age, brother/sister, parents’ marriage, the educational level of parents.
- Environment – housing and community
- Child-raising
- Friends/peers

- Media influence
- Economic issue – incomes of family per month, parents' careers
- Causes and crime problems – sex trade, drug dealings, thief, robbery, etc.

3.3.2 Interview structure for key informants:

- Causes and crime problems of street children
- Crime prevention and solution of abandoned children
- The gap between governmental agencies and non governmental

Organizations

3.4 Data Collection

3.4.1 The group of street children

The researcher interviewed these children by asking for an official letter from the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at Mahidol University so as to collect data at the detention centre (Ubakeka house). To do this, the researcher went to that detention centre and explained to the head why this detention centre was selected to do research and what the points of this research were.

Furthermore, interview structures were sent to psychologists at the house of detention two weeks in advance of interviewing children there. If those interview structures would be adjusted, the researcher corrected them before going to that detention centre. For interviewing street youths at this field, they were persuaded to give information. When an interview began, general topics were used to build a relationship between the interviewer and those youths. Those street youths also felt familiar with this conversation before beginning with the formal data collection.

3.4.2 The group of key informants

They were interviewed by the method of in-depth interview. In order to do this, date, time and places were organized by the researcher two weeks in advance, the same as the youth interviews.

Three main techniques for collecting data:

1. Informal in-depth interview. Interview guides were planned to answer the questions why young people without family commit crimes and what the effective ways of solving and preventing this are. As was mentioned before, interview structures were set in advance to identify the key concepts and questions of this investigation. While those interview structures were employed, several techniques were applied such as probing and encouraging the interviewees to answer the questions. In addition, a tape recorder and short notes were utilized.

2. Non-participant observation or direct observation was another technique for this examination. Observation was used because the researcher did not contribute to many activities that were established at the centre. The researcher observed giving interviews and answering the questions, including observing key informants who worked in the field.

Some tools such as cameras and tape recorders were used whilst interviewees gave information. Those tools were used in order that key aspects of collecting data were not lost. Namely, sometimes the investigator was not able to write information immediately when interviews started. Before employing those tools, permission played a significant role.

3. Focus groups were the technique which unveiled most perceptions to the researcher of crime preventions and solutions for street children. For this activity, each person from each group of key informants was invited to join. These people working with children running away from homes were the railway policeman, the social worker, psychologist, researcher, the lawyer and the staff from NGO. Apart from this, these people were different from key informants who gave an interview.

The most important reason why the means of focus group was employed was that different careers of key informants had dissimilar attitudes and viewpoints. The questions used in the focus group method were developed from the conceptual

framework and new issues which were happened upon by conversation with the twelve homeless children. The limitations of the focus group, however, were that each participant had great confidence in their work styles and corrections. Moreover, each participant hardly accepted the weak points of their agencies. Data from focus groups had both conflicts and agreements between key informants. Nevertheless, the researcher concluded upon the data that the majority of participants agreed.

3.5 Data Examination and Analysis

3.5.1 Data examination

The examination of data utilized the technique of triangulation to prove given data. The same data was examined by different sources. These sources were time, place and individual. These sources were also checked more than one way. The idea of Denzin & Lincoln (1994) for examining qualitative methods in this research has four components:

1. Methodology triangulation

These ways were in-depth interview, focus group, non-participant observation, unofficial interview and the inspection of data base at the detention centre and so on.

2. Data triangulation

2.1 This method was to interview some neglected children using the same questions with the same person but these were examined over different periods of time so that the data were reliable.

2.2 Several different sources

There were inspections of different sources such as asking the members in the family of those neglected children by using telephone interviews and asking the officers at the detention centre. The main questions were similar to the questions that were asked of street children, such as their personalities and behaviour.

2.3 Investigation triangulation

Advisers' and researchers' advice were essential for this method. Those people have had experience in doing research about children and juvenile delinquency. In addition, they suggested the useful ways to collect data in the field. They helped the researcher to inspect the data of some researchers who had studied children without family before.

2.4 Theory triangulation

Criminological theories as major assumptions were employed to investigate street children's criminal behaviour and resolution. Namely, the concepts and theories of criminology were main factors in analyzing the data. Those theories were Freud's perception and personality theory. These were employed to study causes of street children's crimes. In addition, the differential association theory was crucial for doing this research in the respect of friends, whereas social context was considered by using the structural and functionalism theory.

3.5.2 Data analysis

Data from the field and transcriptions were analyzed by typological analysis. They were set systematically by analytic inductive. This method was the process of thinking in which the researcher gained data in the field. These data obtained from noting, observing and interviewing, particularly of twelve street children. Word processing (Microsoft word) was taken in coding, grouping and finding data relations. After data examination and analysis were processed, the model of crime prevention and solution of street children were concluded.

3.6 Ethical Issue Consideration

The purposes of this study are to discover the causes of crime patterns and the effective ways to deal with criminal homeless children. These homeless children at a detention centre were persuaded to give an interview. Each child was aware of why they were being interviewed as this was explained to them prior to the interview

taking place. They also had the right to omit answering some questions or any questions which made them feel uncomfortable. Furthermore, if those homeless children did not wish to participate in giving information, they were able to finish taking part at any time. Homeless children's permission for tape recording and noting played a vital role for this study.

CHAPTER 4

THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY

The presentation of research results is to present the contexts of in-depth interviews and focus group. For in-depth interview, the researcher interviewed twelve children running away from their homes. These children are put into the house of detention, Ubakeka house, Bangkok and they are accused of property crimes, drug dealings, sex crimes, and bodily injure other people. Three abandoned children from those four different accusations gave an interview. Apart from this, six key informants participated in giving information. Those key informants are a railway policeman, a social worker, a psychologist, a researcher, the staff from NGO and the judge at juvenile court. They need to have experiences about working with children who have no permanent residents at least five years. The questions which had been employed for this exploration aimed to find out the reasons why these homeless children have criminal behaviour, what the most effective means of preventing and solving crimes of these homeless children are in the respect of Thai society. After interviewing street children and key informants, focus group was organized to exchange ideas, attitudes and viewpoints of dealing with street children's difficulties in different contexts of each career. The data of those were concluded chronologically.

Street Children Interviews

From interview accounts, street children giving an interview are given anonymous names. Those accounts are demonstrated four groups based on the accusation.

1. Property crimes

1st Case – Mr. Tom (Anonymous name) aged 16 years old.

Tom's family has two children. He graduated at primary school and he did not study further. Robbery was an accusation that he gained. For this crime, he

robbed gold necklace, cash and watch. Tom has been detained to improve his behaviour in the detention for two years.

The researcher asked Tom about his parents. He clammed up when he listen this question. Then, he said that:

“My parents divorced when I was so young or maybe just born. I lived with my uncle. My parents abandoned me. I never meet them before. I did not know what the level of their educations was. ”

The researcher asked that you miss your parents or not. If they are alive, will you meet them? Tom replied quietly:

“I missed them nearly all the time. If I got release from here, I will find them. I liked to live with my parents. ”

Tom stopped talking for a while and then he said that:

“I lived in relatives’ house. That house in which was built by my relatives located in a good location. Nevertheless, I did not want to live in that place as I had conflict with my aunt. Frequently, I left my home to live in friends’ house. When I came back to my uncle’s house, I was scolded again, after that I left that house again. This was the cycle of my life.”

The researcher asked how you received money. Tom said that:

“If I asked money from my uncle, I always received it. However, it was a little since my uncle was afraid that he may be blamed by my aunt for giving me money. By this reason, I would not like to gain money from my uncle. I liked to find money by myself such as stealing money and little things”

Tom also told his life story:

“My uncle had three children and he loved those children very much. For me, I seem to be orphan. My uncle did not pay attention to me where I went or what I did or when I went back to the house.”

The researcher noticed that Tom felt stressed when he explained about this issue. It could be observed by his eyes and voices. Therefore, the researcher told the interviewee to drink water and then talked about his brother and the relationship between Tom and that brother.

“I used to hear that I had one brother but I did not really know where he lived. I wished to see him as I concerned about him. He may live in poor conditions as me. If so, I might not be able to help him because I had no resources to aid him. I still had to live in uncle’s house. His wife did not like me so much. I did not like to live there and I did not like my brother to live there as well. Actually, now I was trained at detention center because of my behaviour. I would not like my brother to see me here.”

When Tom finished talking about this topic, he was speechless.

“If my brother met me now, he may copy my traits. I realized that my behaviour was bad by myself.”

Tom said and waved the hand. His voice seemed to be sarcastic.

The researcher inquired Tom about parents’ rearing. The researcher also asked him to compare the family with well child-rearing and poor child-rearing. This method would affect child’s criminal behaviour or not.

“I believed that human behaviour depended on each individual not parents. However, if my parents scolded a lot, it might be so boring. Sometimes, I was not angry because they were my guardians. It was not good to hear those curses everyday even though my mom and dad wished me to have a good life by scolding”

Tom’s voices were louder. The researcher continued to question that how many friends you live with, how those were. Tom discoursed on his friends that:

“I had many friends but those friends’ families had problems. Most friends’ parents divorced. Those friends lived in Bangkok and a few peers came from countryside. Some just were released from prison. These people were older than me and they committed crimes several times. I enjoyed hanging around with them. These

friends cared each other and most people in society did not accept us. When I had squabbles, these friends helped me to deal with those squabbles. On the other hand, I gave assistance to those friends while they required me for helping.”

The investigator interrogated why Tom did not advise uncle for solving troubles. He answered that:

“My uncle did not pay attention to me and he did not assist me. He thought that my obstacles were nonsense.”

The explorer posed a question which hitch Tom talked to uncle.

“That hitch may be general topic such as quarrel with friends at school and guardian meeting. After uncle’s ignoring, I never asked him again. If I did not have money, I could borrow it from some friends. If all of us had no money, we may find jobs. Unfortunately, we were unable to get jobs, we stole things to sell. In additions, we may take stolen things from offenders and sell them. It was necessary to do this due to the fact that I had no cash and I did not want to ask money from my uncle.”

Tom whispered that:

“I earned money by myself both living in uncle’s and friends’ house. Generally, I did not have enough money but I had to find money by illegal means.”

The researcher wanted to know that if Tom saw friends offending, you would warn them. Tom said:

“It was impossible to warn them as they did not obey me. At times, they disagreed with me, particularly a tough.”

In addition, the issue of media in the respect of advertisement influencing their behaviour was questioned. Tom answered that:

“Occasionally, if I wish not to get those commodities, the advertisements were disadvantage. I imitated the advertisement under no circumstances. For watching movies, I did not have specific kinds of movie. I liked to watch motorcycle racing since it was exciting. I was accustomed to see racing at

Canal 1. At that place, it had motorcycle racing field. If anybody won, he/she would have received a motorcycle of those who lose. ”

The real cause of committing crime this time was explained that:

“At that day, I went back from motorcycle racing at 5am with my friends about 5-6. I lost against another motorcycle gang. Therefore, I had to pay money and give my motorcycle to the winner. While I and my friends walked back to the house, I passed Crystal shop near Donmueng airport. I saw a man driving Benz car. That man hanged a gold necklace and had a jewelry watch. He would be rich. When he parked his car, we robbed his valuable things, including the car. Nonetheless, we could not take the car with us because the driver became unconscious in that car. By this result, we fled quickly.”

The researcher asked that did you feel guilty about your behaviour?

Tom answered:

“At that time, I only needed money and his properties. Now, I was sad. Money which I got was used for buying food, party with my friends and shopping with my girlfriend. If I could reverse this event, I will not do like that. I did not want to live in this place.”

It can be noticed that Tom was thin, tall and dark. He had short hair and tattoos at his shoulder, arms and his body. Those tattoos were the pictures of different animals. If somebody met Tom first time, he/she may think that Tom was unfriendly. From the conversation, he spoke loudly and he hardly smiled.

2nd Case – Mr. Ton (anonymous name) aged 19 years old.

Ton offended when he was seventeenth years old. He was convicted of robbery and he had to stay in the detention two years and six months. Before he was put in the detention, he lived with his friends. Ton’s parents divorced. Father’s job used to be a contractor. Now, his father and older brother were detained in Meanburi prison because of drug dealings and taking pistols in public places. Ton committed crimes when he was so young. He was detained a few different detention houses. Ton was proud to train in those detention houses. He said that:

“Young people in detention center were not clever at acting like me sine I went to every detention house in Bangkok (He laughed). I offended nearly every case such as drug dealings and stealing money.”

Ton’s personality was friendly and he often smiled. On occasion, he seemed to like other people to pay attention to him. He also appeared to need a new challenge. He had tattoos around his body and he tattooed eyebrows with black.

The subject of roaming around the street was raised. Ton explained that he lived with his friends in slum in Bangkok. Those friends were both boys and girls approximately 17 people. Ton felt free to live in this condition, whereas living in his house, he was forced to study hard and clean the house. He gave details:

“House cleaning was not my duty but it should be stepmother’s duty. Her child hardly cleaned the house why I had to do this work. Also, I was a boy. I should not work like that.”

The researcher queried the environment near Ton’s house. Ton answered:

“I really liked this area as there were many pubs and bars. No one controlled my life.”

For the relationship between Ton and the members in his family, he explicated that:

“My dad loved me a lot. He never stopped me to go any places. On the other hand, I had conflict with my older brother. He habitually attacked me when he disagreed with me. Sometimes, my older brother punched me till I had blood from my nose. I used to ask my friends to hit my brother.”

Did you feel unhappy when your friends hit your brother?

“I barely pitied him in such that situation because he often hit and kick me. I may love my brother. Nonetheless, when I felt angry, I had to take actions.”

Did your friends help you when you have problems?

“I advised my friend almost everything. Those friends could help me while others could not help. This was because my friends had problems like me. Most difficulty that we met was no money. As a result, I and my companion engaged in criminal actions so that we got money. These criminal actions were easy for receiving more money such as stealing and selling mate amphetamine.”

Ton was likely to do those activities as usual. He also told that:

“I spent my life with these friends as we had the same life. Most people would not like to talk to us and have friends like me. Although those were bad, we had no choices.”

What was your hobby?

“My favorite hobbies were computer game, watching movies and playing football”

The investigator invited the interviewee to give his opinion about playing game and watching movies. These would result in deviant behaviour.

“I thought that those activities would not lead to deviant behaviour. In other words, they were not major factors affecting human behaviour.”

How did you obtain money to play game or watch movies?

“I gained money from my dad. Yet, I did not have money when my dad was away from home. I knew that my dad and brother sold drugs due to receiving a lot of money. I was able to do and identify what I should do. Even though they were into the prison, I could continue this job, who I could contact with, what I had to do. However, it was highly risk to do this. Consequently, I chose to steal money rather than selling drugs.”

Why were you arrested? What was the real cause of this crime?

“In November 2006, I drank and sang a song with my two friends at friends’ room from 4 pm till 7pm. Then, beers were not enough. My friends persuaded

me to buy bottles of beer by using motorcycle. We went out from the room and went to the market in the city. When we came to the city, one of my friends told me to stop the engine. After that we walked to another motorcycle which parked there to steal it. To do this, we tried to clash key lock of motorcycle. Unfortunately, the son of the owner aged 9 years saw us and shouted that someone was stealing the motorcycle. We started running away from there but people at that area caught us.”

While Ton told his crime, he spoke clearly and loudly. He was proud to have criminal actions.

3rd Case – Mr. John (Anonymous name)

John aged 16 years old was sentenced to 2 years in the detention. John and his eight friends stole money and valuable things in the house at night. John has no brother and sister. He was born in rural area. When he was young, he was raised by grandmother. His grandmother worked for money but she has low income. Often, she did not have enough money for food. Sometimes, John’s uncle gave food and money to this grandmother. John graduated from primary school. Then, he came to Bangkok. He explained about his life story:

“I came to Bangkok with my peer living in the same community because I thought that I would have better life. When I arrived to Bangkok, I served as the assistant of an engine man in a car repair shop. I had to perform duty nearly everything that the engine man ordered me to do. I got low payment but work very hard. When I worked there for a few months, I stole valuable things in that car repair shop to sell them. Fortunately, at that time, I was not arrested.”

The researcher asked that do you fear for committing crime at first. John said:

“Yes, I feared. However, I did not want to toil all day. I got low paid and I was also put pressure on working.”

In this case, did you make decision to act criminal alone or someone persuade you?

“I did it with my 3 friends. These friends came from Klong-teuy. I knew them in a big shopping mall while I was buying shoes. They convinced me to do that when I worked at the car repair shop. However, those friends offered a lot of money to me. In addition, I was scolded a lot by the wife of owner of the car repair shop. Therefore, I want to avenge the owner’s wife.”

John stopped talking for a while and then he said:

“After leaving that car repair shop, I lived in friends’ house at Klong-teuy. It was a rental house and this house was made from wood. It was not a big house. The location looked like slum. At that house 16 people lived in the same. All of those people were boys. Sometimes, there were girlfriends who came to stay at that house for a few days. This house was located near pubs and bars.”

Did these pubs and bars result in committing crime? John answered:

“This location was not too bad. It was quite funny since many people had lives in the same area. We were able to find jobs easily. I used to sell drugs as it made lots of money. At present, the police inspected this region closely. If I did not have money, I stole it.”

Were you afraid of being arrested by the police? Or you did not know that this doing was incorrect.

“I knew but money was necessary for surviving. I felt so tired when I had to work. If I broke the law, I got much money and it made me happy.”

What were your income and your friends’ incomes?

“We earned money for food day by day. We did not plan to collect money for our lives in the future. When our money was wholly used, we will begin to find it again. This was our life cycle.”

The interviewer quizzed about his friends.

“Friends/peers were everything in my life as they had the troubles like me. We swore to spend our lives together, including having sex with the same girls.”

John told his life story by utilizing his hand to help his explanation. He gave details about his grandmother.

“I had one grandmother. She loved me so much. Occasionally, she blamed me. I sympathized deeply with my grandmother. I would not like her to find money for raising me. By this reason, I left school in order to find job.”

The investigator enquired that you wish not to meet your grandmother.

“Yes, I wished to meet her but I did not have money to take care of her.”

John replied short question. Then, he seemed to be quiet. After that, the investigator continued to ask that if you had warm family, would you commit crimes.

“If I had mom who loved and taught me, I would not break the law. I needed to have criminal acts because of money. In fact, if I had parents, I would not meet you here.”

John said and laughed. Then, he talked more:

“If I had parents, I was still poor. This was because my grandmother was deprived. I wished that my grandmother was happy. I would like to have a lot of money so that I was able to look after her. If my grandmother was informed about my life here, she would be so sad. I did not want her to know.”

Did you desire to meet your parents?

“It was impossible. My grandmother never told me about them. Actually, when I was born, my parents never came to meet me. If they saw me here, they would not accept me as their son. However, I would like to see them. I wanted to ask why you abandoned me, why you left grandmother, why you gave me a life and why you did not kill me rather than leaving me.”

While John finished answering, he appeared to be depressed. The issue of hobby was explored in stead of the family.

“I liked to play game in a shopping mall. Snooker was another game that I really liked to play. Yet, shopping with my girlfriend was the best choice. When my money was gone, I applied for jobs such as labour and assistance of the offender. Motorcycle racing was one of my hobbies. I used to race my motorcycle.”

The real cause of this crime was asked. John answered that:

“I needed money for food, clothes and others. I did not want to work because I got a little money and I felt tired. If I robbed someone, I could have much money and it was easy. I was arrested with my 8 friends. These friends were detained different places.”

John also described his crime story:

“I and my friends often caught the bus which passed the front of this house. People living in this house seemed to be wealthy since the house was quite big. For this reason, we planned to steal valuable things from this house. We spent time every week to look around. For example, we had checked how many people had lived in that house, what time we were able to begin working, what time those people went out and went back. When our plans were established, at 4 am we burgled into that house so as to steal TV, VCD player/s and others. Unfortunately, one of our team crashed a chair. This made a noise and woke a servant up. She shouted that who was there. We fled the area in panic. Two days later, the police arrested me while I was walking with my girlfriend in a big shopping mall.”

Whilst John gave an interview, his hands were applied to demonstrate his point of views. Actually, John’s personality appeared to be unfriendly. It is believed that John would talk more if he trusted the interviewer.

2. Drug cases

1st Case – Smith (Anonymous name) aged 18 years old.

Smith graduated primary school. He was not able to study further because nobody supported him. His parents were divorced though they had four children. Parents’ educational level was primary school. Smith did not live with his mom or dad as she/he left Smith to live in aunt’s house. Smith’s opinion towards aunt was that she

habitually scolded and blamed Smith. In doing so, he ran away from aunt's house in order to live with his peers/friends. These peers/friends were 20 boys and 10 girls. Most of them were aged 17-18 years old. The causes of leaving home of those young people were different difficulties in their home lives. Smith shared house with those peers/friends. The surroundings of that house were explained:

"I lived in poor conditions which had drug dealings, prostitutions, bars and so on. However, I liked to live in this area as it was not difficult to find money."

Smith was accused of drug selling. He had to be trained at the detention two years. Smith told his life involving with drugs:

"I used to sell drugs more than 3 times. When I did not have money, drugs played important role for me. It helped me to gain lots of money. Money from this was paid for food and accommodation."

Smith stopped talking for a while and then he said:

"When I was 10 years old, I ever held a paper bag having drugs to go to a city with my dad. At that time, I was not sure that it was good or bad but I exactly knew that my dad got a lot of money from coming back."

The researcher would like to identify the cause of running away from home. Smith gave an explanation for this:

"My dad separated from my mom when I was so young. My aunt looked after me but she regularly scolded me. In addition, she hit me with stick. In contrast, I felt very happy for spending time with my friends. They barely had conflict with me. Sometimes, I quarreled with those friends/peers but we were still good friends."

Where are your sisters/brothers? Who take care of them? Smith answered that:

"The youngest child lived with my mom but I did not really clarify where the rest of children were. I never saw them before but I did not want to meet them due to living without basic needs."

Smith's voice was likely to be sarcastic. The investigator asked that your life with no parents resulted in deviant behaviour, did you? Smith said:

"No. I assumed that it depends on my life. If I would like to be a good boy, I could be. I could be a good boy but I did not have money. For me, it was difficult to do like that. Nonetheless, somebody who was rich and had parents was worse than me."

The issue of friends was enquired. Smith described that:

"Friends/peers persuaded me to try and sell drugs. We had our lives in the same house. As a result, we had to find money together. I was so pleased to do this with my friends. Drug selling was a way in which made money. Furthermore, this job was easy. Unbelievably, this job could earn money approximately 10,000 bath a day from working as drug dealer."

Media is another crucial aspect that was interrogated. Smith said that:

"I disagreed that media lead to criminal behaviour. It may be my fault to think like this. I was an offender because of the way of my life. I did not have a good chance in respect of earning money legally."

Naturally, Smith seems to be talkative. Nevertheless, before he told his life story about his aunt, he was quiet for a few minutes. Then, he said:

"My aunt barely gave me money. I wished not to get money from her. I was able to find money by myself. In addition, if my aunt gave me some helps, she liked me to compensate for those helps."

Smith described his criminal action:

"For this crime event, I did the same. I took drug to the man who had close connection with me. Surprisingly, three policemen knew about this and they searched me. A pack of methamphetamine was found. Those policemen arrested me and took me to a police station. I believed that someone told the police. I acted the crime like this several times but the police never ever suspect me."

From this interview, it can be seen that Smith sometimes appeared to be happy to participate in this research. Smith was plump man. He tattooed the word “my life” at his forehead. Furthermore, he had scar at his left arm. It was long 5 centimeters.

2nd Case – Mr.Noom (Anonymous name)

Noom is 18 years old. He has three siblings and graduated from the Secondary School (Grade 9). He lived with his parent until he was approximately 15 years old. His parent are self-employed and Noom does not recognize the definite amount of his parent’s income since he said that he does not pay attention to ask his parent about this. After finishing the secondary school, he moved out to live with his friends in Bangkok. They are 4 boys and 2 girls. This offense results from sale of addictive substance or drugs (Amphetamine). He has never been arrested before but the court sentenced him to attend the training for 1 year. Noom described his life when he lived with his parents as follows:

“My hometown is in rural areas. Nothing is interesting. Just see the grassland. We and our neighbors do not pay much attention to one another. After graduation, I and my friends moved to Bangkok. I think Bangkok is so exciting. There are department stores, movie theaters, etc. in Bangkok. I have rented a house and shared the expenses with my friends.”

When he mentioned this statement, Noom pointed his forefinger to himself and said this.

“I am so proud to live by myself. I do not need to beg for money from anyone, even though, it is illegal.”

The researcher inquired him regarding how his parent took care of himself. Noom mentioned about the family like this.

“My dad is rather quiet. He normally does not talk to anyone, even his children. But, my mom is quite fussy and irritating. If I get annoyed with my mom, I will walk away from her or go to stay with my friends. My dad has never scolded me. But my mom usually hit or smashed me, even though, it was a little fault. Anyway, my

parents raised me democratically but sometimes, they tried to force me. For example, when I was young, they would like me to sleep early, forced me to do homework. I was so annoyed but have never felt angry at them.”

Noom stopped speaking like he thought about something else. The researcher then asked Noom whether he loves his parents or not.

“I love them, of course.”

After answering this question, he was quiet for a while. The researcher, then, confirmed Noom whether the teaching or instruction affects the offensive behaviors or not.

“Noom said that teaching or instructing from parents affects us. We are a good or bad persons depending on such teaching or instructing. If parent take care of and love their children, they should be a good person.”

The researcher, then, inquired Noom about his siblings. He seems to be bored with this question and said that.”

“We, normally, did not pay attention to one another. Just my eldest brother always quarreled and fought with me. (Emphasis). For the youngest sister, we normally did not pay attention to each other. I’m the middle son so I always went out to play with my friends. We were so independent.”

The researcher inquired about money obtained from his parents.

When I lived with my parents, I obtained the money once a week. I always used the money to play games, bought a lottery ticket, made a football gambling like other guys. If I ran out of money, I sometimes borrowed money from my friends or my sister.”

The researcher inquired about his financial condition when he left home.

“When I moved out to live with my friends, money is rather a problem. At first, when I came to work in Bangkok, I worked for legal jobs but money was so little compared to my exhaustion. I was so bored so I have used drugs and sold drugs. I’m so happy and earned a lot of money.”

The researcher, then, inquired that Noom's family seems to be warm. You have both parents and siblings; even though some quarrels. But it is normal in family. Why do you leave home and perform unlawful conduct?" Noom said that.

"I do not blame anyone regarding my offense since I would like to do it. My family is warm but I would not like to stay with them. I would like to be independent, do not want anyone to determine my future, or order me to do anything. I also do not like people to teach me. I will do everything I desire so I have to leave home and stay with my friends who have the same habits as me. If I have problems, friends can help me in everything no matter whom I fought with (gangs or persons). But, if my friends have problem, I also help them too."

When researcher interviewed him about the influence of mass media regarding the knowledge he obtained from the mass media. Noom said that.

"I heard from the advertising on TV, billboard, or circulations that drugs are illegal but I have never perceived it by myself so I could not believe this. But I only sell the drugs. I have never taken drugs so I am still healthy."

The researcher inquired about the cause of this crime. Noom told us that.

"The cause is that I need money. No money means I cannot do anything. I cannot beg for money from anyone since my friends also do not have money, either, even though it is guilty. My parents do not know anything about drugs. I have known drugs because I live with friends. They persuaded me and I only need to earn money."

The researcher asked about his feeling upon committing offenses. Noom said that.

"I have never felt sad since when I decided to do anything, if anything is going to happen, it happens. But, I am so sad that I was arrested. I should be more cautious."

From the interview with Noom, the researcher observed that Noom is not talkative. He is quite big and tall with reddish black skin and has the tattoo throughout his body, especially on his arms and legs.

3rd Case – Mr. Kob (Anonymous name)

Kob is 17 years old. He does not have siblings but he has three brothers and sisters from his stepmother. The eldest is a daughter, the middle one is a son and the youngest is a daughter. Kob lives with his dad and his stepmother in a room around the market. Kob graduated primary school (Grade 6). His mom passes away when he was 6 years old. He has committed offenses more than 3 times. This is the fourth time. He was sentenced to obtain the penalty regarding the sale and taking of drugs (Amphetamine). Before this, he was caught because of taking Amphetamine and Marijuana. For this offense, he was sentenced to attend training for 3 years. The researcher inquired about the family condition. Kob stated that.

“My dad really loves and takes care of his stepmother’s children, especially the daughter since my dad has only a son so he loves daughters. I usually do not have any problems with my stepbrother since she is rather quiet but I decided to flee away from my family to live with my friends because I always had conflicts with all three stepmother’s children. Sometimes, my stepmother was angry but she rarely complained me. Just my dad always hit me when I quarreled with all of them. He has never listened to me at all.”

Kob was quiet for a while and stated that.

“I’m so bored so I fled from home to stay with my friends around Din Daeng.”

The researcher, then, inquired about the environment of his dwelling when he has lived with his friends.

“My dwelling where I have lived with my friends is slum. There are cheap rooms for rent. I live here because I have to earn my living by myself. I don’t like that kind of condition. It is crowded and very dirty. However, I don’t know what to do because I don’t have enough money. My friends told me that staying around here is safe. My friends mean safety from police because there are a lot of people. I live with my friends, 12 persons including me (7 boys and 5 girls). We are all friends and we help one another because we all face similar problems.”

The researcher inquired Kob's feelings whether he missed his dad or not and whether he wants to go back to study or not. Kob said the following.

"I have given up thinking about further study. I don't want to study anymore. I cannot apply anything from the lessons to my real life. The book has never mentioned how to earn money and how to be loved by my mom. The book has also never told my dad not to hit me. About whether I love my dad or not, just forget it. My dad just loves my stepmother's children. He has never paid attention to me."

The researcher requested Kob to talk about the how their family trained, instructed, or took care of him." Kob said that.

"I have to obey my dad. I cannot argue anything my dad said or told me; otherwise, he smashed or kicked me. His instruction is only the rod but for my stepmother, there is almost nothing because we almost never talked to each other. I only remembered that when I was 10 years old, he almost never taught me anything, except smashing or hitting me."

The researcher asked about the relationships between Kob and his friends. He said that.

"I have 2 closed friends. When I have any problems, they can help me almost every time. My most frequent problem I have faced is about money or fighting with others. My friends seem to be sincere to me."

The researcher inquired Kob regarding the illegal sale of drugs or illegal taking drugs. Kob said that.

"I know that drugs are illegal. When anyone takes drugs or sell drugs, he or she must be arrested. But, even though it is guilty, I have to do it. I would like to earn a lot of money but I don't know what to do. I have to earn money for eating and entertaining. If I have to beg for money from my friends only, I feel considerate and they also don't have much money."

The researcher, then, asked how he uses money obtained.

"If I sell drugs and obtain a lot of money, I will go to see movie, karaoke, ask a girl to hang out with m, or treat my friends for a meal. I think my life is happy from this and I don't want anything more."

When Kob finished talking, his face turned serious and he, then, said that.

“Even though it is wrongful but do I have any opportunity to choose? If I don’t do it, I have to be tolerant to live with my dad who has never loved me. My stepmother never paid attention to me. I quarreled with others everyday. Should I be hit by my dad even though I’m not guilty? If it’s you, could you be tolerant?”

Kob said when his face turned more serious and asked the researcher but he seemed not to pay attention to the answer.

The researcher, then, asked whether Kob thought to give money from sale of drugs to his dad or save it for the future or not.

“I sold drugs and obtained a lot of money but my expenses were also high. I have never thought to save money because I have to use it anyway. I earn money by myself since I moved out to stay with friends. I have never thought to go back and request money from my dad since he must be angry and already cut our relationship.”

Kob was quiet for a while like he thought about something, then, he said that.

“Why do I need to give my dad the money? My dad has never loved me. I fled from home and he has never paid attention to me. Why do I have to go back to meet him?”

The researcher inquired the cause and problems regarding the crime. Kob told us that.

“Nobody in my family has committed the crime like this before. I did it because I need money. I didn’t kill or rob anyone. I’ve never intended to hurt anybody also. On the date, I was arrested. I and my friends went to bring the drugs and took them to persons according to our appointment. But, it is the police’s trick so I was arrested. I think my neighbors informed the police because I think that some people around the place I live don’t like me.”

From our interview with Kob, we can observe that Kob is quite straightforward and not talkative. He seems to be frank and rather self-confident. He is dark and tall with the tattoo throughout the body. But the tattoo on the back of his palm is Hanuman.

3. Offense regarding Bodily Injury

1st Case – Mr. Korn (Anonymous name)

Korn is 17 years old. He has one brother. Korn graduated from a primary school and did not further his study since his parents passed away. Korn and his brother just temporarily lived with his friend's mom with the reason that he felt considerate with his friend's mom. Korn always came out of his friend's home to hang out around the market nearby his friend's home. After graduation, Korn searched for a job and moved out to live by himself until he was arrested with the offense regarding committing the murder. He was arrested for 2 times. This time, he has been sentenced to attend the training for 5 years. The researcher requested Korn to talk about life outside his home. He stated that.

"I lived with my friends around the fresh market. There are a lot small rooms for rent. Just it is the place for sleeping but normally I almost do not sleep. I lived with 3 friends consisting of 2 guys and 1 girl, and also my bother, so total is 4 persons, excluding me. I am compassionate towards my life. My parents both passed away. I have no other relatives, no money, and nowhere to go. My parents didn't have any properties. We rented the house but I'm lucky that my friends helped me. I'm OK but I sympathize with my brother."

Korn stopped talking for a while, then, the researcher asked when and why his parents passed away.

"My parents passed away since I was at Grade 5. My dad rode motorcycle with my mom and hit with a car. I and my brother were at school on that day. I heard this news from my friends so I had to stay with my friend's mom until I graduated from Grade 6 and have not continued my study because I don't have money. After graduation, I, then, worked as a waiter and earned some money, then, I

rented a room to live with my friends around the market and also my brother since I felt considerate with my friends. I love my brother. I would like him to graduate with higher educational degree but I have no money.”

The researcher inquired about how his parents take care of him before they passed away. Korn said that.

“My parents pampered me. They were not fierce at all and never scolded me. I can do anything I need. Sometimes, my mom taught me about my learning but I did not pay attention to her, but actually, I preferred my mom to warn me because I could touch that she loved and cared me. If my parents are still alive, I may have an opportunity to continue my study, have money, and have better life. If I can go back to the time my parents were still alive, I will apologize my mom for my improper behaviors.”

Kob, then, stopped talking so the researcher talked to him about his friends by asking about the relationship with his friends and how his friends are.

“Of course, my friends are very nice to me. They asked me to live with them for years. Other friends are also nice. Most of them are at the same age as m. They sometimes helped me. I have never interfered with their privacy. They can do what they want. We don’t interfere with one another because it may lead to controversies, especially a friend who I am staying with. If I quarreled with him at that time, I would not have any place to live and to sleep.”

The researcher inquired about his fondness of playing games and watching movies. Korn briefly said that.

“When I was young, I, sometimes, loved to play games. It’s fun. I love games or powerful sports such as Thai boxing. I think I am so satisfied with it.”

The researcher inquired whether playing such games affects his hot-tempered personality or not. Korn replied that.

“Playing games or powerful sports does not lead to hot-tempered personality. I committed offense because of my emotion only.”

Kob was quiet for a while and stated that.

“The poor like me cannot choose anything. Just earn a small amount of money. Don’t even have money to buy clothes. Playing games only once in a while. But I frequently watch sports because I don’t have to pay.”

The researcher, then, inquired about the cause and problem regarding the crime, and requested Korn to mention about this offense. Korn said that.

“I am hot-tempered. One of my friends had a wife and when my friend was imprisoned, she got a new guy so I’m indignant and asked other friends to attack and kill that guy.”

The researcher, then, asked whether he felt sympathetic or not. Kob mentioned that.

“When I did it, I didn’t feel sympathetic at all. I think he made my friend feel sad so he deserves the penalty. But, now, I feel sympathetic towards his parent and also him. If I can go back, I won’t do this.”

From the interview with Korn, the researcher observed that Korn is drak, big, and tall. From the outside, you cannot recognize the tattoo. From talking with Korn, sometimes he seemed to be reasonable but sometimes he seemed to be hot-tempered. However, basically, it shouldn’t be difficult to correct or rehabilitate his behavior and mind. We observed that when we asked about the family, he was quiet and when we asked about the feeling from committing the offense, it seems that he was aware of his offenses.

2nd Case – Mr. Porn (Anonymous name)

Porn is 19 years old with no siblings. He was sentenced regarding assault with intention. Porn has committed the crime for more than 3 times. This time, he was sentenced to attend the training for 2 years. Porn did not finish Grade 6 since nobody paid for his tuition fee. Porn’s mother passed away when he was 10 years old. He, then, lived with his dad and stepmother until he was 11 years old. Porn fled away from his home since he didn’t like his stepmother. His stepmother always quarreled

with him and spoke to him sarcastically so he was hit by his dad several times. Porn's dad always believed and indulged his stepmother so he felt neglected by his family and decided to flee away to stay with his friends. The researcher requested Porn to mention about his stepmother's behaviors and performance.

When my dad was not at home, she always scolded me that I had never helped her earn a living, and also I used a lot of money. She said that why I didn't move out to stay at other places. Our family wasted a lot of money and resources when you stayed here. She said I had never assisted her to do the job. I hate her. She always scolded me, pinched, hit, and smashed my head. It's painful and unreasonable. Every time, my dad was always with her side. Sometimes, I argued with her and used loud voice. She, then, accused me to my dad and my dad smashed my ear or kicked me. He has never listened to me. I cannot bear this situation so I moved to live outside. It's happier."

The researcher inquired porn about the place that porn is now staying and its environment. Porn said that.

"I rented the house with my friends. I knew them from various places outside my home. We, 8 persons, are living together. We are all guys. Everyone faces the same problems as me, namely, they also have problems with their family. Some of them quarreled with his dad or his brother. My house is rather congested, nearby game machines, horse gambling machines. My neighbors also make football gambling."

The researcher inquired about the family relationship. Porn stated sadly that.

"My mom passed away since I was at Grade 4. Afterwards, my dad remarried. My stepmother hated me and always quarreled with me. She blamed me that I'm dirty. She always scolded me. I'm rather hot-tempered and sometimes argued with her. Then, my dad hit me and blamed me that I was aggressive to adults. I cannot bear this situation so I moved out to live with my friends. I couldn't finish Grade 6 at all. My dad has never asked me to return home. I don't even know whether he loves me or not."

The researcher, then, inquired how Porn would like his dad to behave with him. Porn stated that.

“I would like my dad to love and take care of me more than ever. I would like my dad to separate from my stepmother since my stepmother didn’t live me at all. If it’s true, I would like to return home and finish my study but I don’t like others to scold me, either my dad or my stepmother. I think it was so annoyed. When my mom was alive, she had never scolded me. I can do anything and my mom has never scolded me. Even though she didn’t pay much attention to me but he paid me for my education and she never neglected me.”

The researcher inquired whether his parent’s instruction and training affected his behaviors or not. Porn stated that.

“I think it depends. If parent offers good instruction but their children do not pay attention to such instruction, their children may not be a good person. It’s from the parent for 50 % and from their children for 50%.”

The researcher asked about the relationship with friends and how he associates with his friend. Porn stated that.

“Normally, my friends don’t have any problems, except quarreling with others. I always solve the problems for them or attack others instead of my friends if my friends are attacked or annoyed. It’s like recovering my friends’ dignity.”

The researcher, then, inquired whether his friends persuade him to perform any wrong actions or not.

“Sometimes, our biggest problems are that we don’t have sufficient amount of money. I, therefore, have to steal money or items from others, rob others, or sell drugs. Sometimes, I did it because of money. I have never denied that they’re illegal but just I would like to have money for daily uses.”

The researcher inquired whether the influence of mass media affects his wrong behaviors or not. Porn stated that.

“I think mass media or movie did not affect my wrong behaviors this time since when I did it, I had never thought that I was imitating any persons and didn’t even think that the powerful action movie I love to watch affects my hot-tempered personality, or instigates me to do wrong actions.”

The researcher requested Porn to talk about the cause and problem of this wrong action. Porn stated that.

“The latest situation that forced me to live at this house was that I and my friends went to attend Songkran Festival and met with my friend’s previous opponent. He used to quarrel with my friends before. After seeing him, I and my friends, then, went directly to attack him without paying attention to the number of persons in my opponent’s group. Upon the situation, I have never cared anything. After attacking, one person in my opponent’s group was seriously injured and the rest fled away. The police around there arrested us regarding assault others until serious injury. I accept that I was hot-tempered and my friend really wanted to attack them.”

From the interview with Mr. Porn, the researcher observed that Porn is rather big, tall, and dark. He has the dragon tattoo on his two arms. He is quite straightforward and rather aggressive. His left cheek has a wound like it has just happened. The researcher inquired Porn and recognized that he used the glass to cut his cheek because he would like to know how painful it is.

3rd Case – Mr. Keng (Anonymous name)

Currently, Mr. Keng is 16 years old. He graduated Grade 9 via the non-formal educational system. Currently, he is requesting training center scholarship to further his study in the certificate of vocational education in mechanic area. When Keng performed wrong actions, he was only 15 years old. This wrong action is the attempt to kill others. Keng’s dad has a grocery shop and takes care of 2 nieces. His mom is a chef in a restaurant. She normally does not stay at home because she has to work outside and sometimes she has to sleep at the restaurant. The researcher requested Keng to talk about his family and the environment around his home.

“The environment around my home is rather congested like slum. Others also agree with me but I think it’s not congested at all since I was born here and lived here since I was young. My home has only one floor. Normally, I live with my dad and 2 grandchildren. There are a lot of gambles around my home but I have never seen police before.”

The researcher inquired about the drug problems around his home. Keng replied that.

“Sometimes, I take and sell drugs (Amphetamine). I sometimes saw the police arrest the children around my home. All the children around my home know me. Some children have played with me when I was young. Normally, the children are at the same age as me.”

The researcher inquired about the relationship within the family.

“I feel like I live alone because my dad does not pay attention to me since he is quite busy taking care of 2 grandchildren and sell the items at the shop. My dad does not pay attention to me where I go out and when I will come back. I thin it’s good. For my mom, she returns home sometimes at the end of each month. She always gives me some money of approximately 1 -2 thousand Baht each time and talks about general topics. I feel good because nobody is interested in me and I feel independent. I can go anywhere and do anything I want but I would like to have a lot of money.” (Keng said and touched his hand on the pocket over the shorts. Sometimes, my dad scolded me since I took the money from the sale of grocery items without telling him.”

The researcher focused on inquiring about the relationship with his mom. Keng stated that.

“Normally, I and my mom have never talked to each other. We normally meet each other once a month or twice a month. My mom has to go to work at the restaurant which is very far away from my home. She lives at the restaurant and doesn’t like to go back and forth between the restaurants and home since it wastes a lot of money and the restaurant is far away. My mom prefers to let me go.

She said that I am old enough. It's good when my mom gave me some money and then went back. My family raises their children like Chinese family, namely, asking us to help ourselves without pleading and we need to be able to stand on my own feet and live by ourselves."

The researcher inquired that his parent seemed to care for him, why would he like to stay outside his home? Keng replied that.

"I'm a bad person. Do you understand that I am bad because of my conscious? I have never blamed my parents. I think they would like me to be a bad person but I'm bad by myself. I want to be more independent. I want to move out to live with friends because I am so funny when I'm with my friends. We are enjoyable. When I was at home, even though I can do anything I want but I felt stressful since there is no body to talk to and play with. My dad just only works and my mom returns home once in a while. I think that I live or I don't live at home is not different. My parent may be happy that I am not at home."

The researcher inquired about his source of money.

"I obtained money from my dad but it's not much. Sometimes, I obtained money from my mom when she returned home at the end of each month. Normally, I was generally employed according to my friends' recommendation such as clearing grass and weed, pushing a cart, etc. so I can get some money and used it to buy sweets or groceries. If I want to have money, I take some money from my dad without telling him but it's risky to be caught because if my dad realizes, he scolds, smashes, or kicks me. I told him that the money was not sufficient and I didn't know what to do. He always told me that why I didn't tell him and why I need to steal the money. When I told him that I want to use some money, he has never given me and has delayed to next time."

The researcher inquired about his friends and the relationship with friends. Keng told me that.

"I feel that I'm so closed to my friends around my home more than persons in my family. This may be because we are at the same ages and we can

understand one another. Normally, I spend time with my friends. When I was young, I played with my friends. I have three closed friends but one of them was arrested because of taking drugs. Two of them were not arrested because they are able to flee away from the police. My friend always taught me how to fight with others. One of my friends always carried a knife to protect himself and he gave me one in case of assaulting by group of racketeers.”

Keng said and used his hand to touch his waist to demonstrate how he carried a knife, and continued to say that.

“My friends are both good and bad persons. It’s normal situation since I lived in slum. I think there are more bad persons living there more than such good ones since all of my friends have the cases.”

The researcher inquired about the opinions regarding the influence of mass media.

“I sometimes watch TV and news. Normally, I watch stories about teenagers and fashion. I don’t like news, especially political news. I think it’s boring and don’t have anything related to or beneficial to me. My daily life has not changed no matter who the government is. I love to watch advertising about new model of telephone or motorcycle, especially powerful motorcycle since I love and want to buy it but I have no money. Most of the news I have perceived are about those abovementioned. I don’t normally read newspaper since I have to waste my money to buy it and It’s not necessary to read the news. Usually, I read the newspaper in order to see the advertising more than reading the news.”

The researcher inquired about the cause and problems regarding the crime. Keng stated that.

“I left home to stay with friends around there. My friends asked me to work for earning the income since I thought I didn’t do anything at home so I left home. I have done many things from cleaning the car mirror at the intersection, selling the flowers to general employment but I cannot earn sufficient money to buy items I need. I was caught by police since I went to Buddha Yod Fa Bridge with my

friends to earn some money, and met with another group of children around there. The leader of such group is Mr. Chai (Anonymous name). He is 19 years old. I have never known him before, and then, he scolded me and smashed my head. He blamed me that I came to earn the income in his area. I think it's my right and he didn't allow me so he punched and kicked me. He may think he was bigger than me but I was not afraid of him at all. He punched me until my eyebrows were bloody. So, I stabbed him with a knife for one time. At first, I didn't think he was seriously injured because the knife was not so big. After stabbing, I and my friends fled away and were caught by police since the police immediately went there to interrupt us. I think I was not wrong since he picked a quarrel with me first."

From our interview with Keng, Keng is rather highly self-confident. He doesn't admit defeat easily, is hot-tempered, and he dares to express his opinions until sometimes, he seems to be rather aggressive. He answered the question clearly. He has a very clear face and no tattoo throughout the body like other children.

4. Offenses regarding Sex Crimes

1st Case – Mr. Tun (Anonymous name)

Tun is 17 years old. He committed offenses regarding raping the girl. The court has sentenced him to attend the training for 2 years. Tun's parents passed away since he was 14 years old. Tun is a single son so when his parents passed away, his relatives took him to live in the rural province. Tun lived there for over a year and fled away to Bangkok with the reason that he didn't like the environment, had no closed friends, had no places for relaxation, and his relatives were so strict and always scolded him. Tun told us that.

"I felt annoyed and bored with living there so I fled away to Bangkok to live with friends. They are all my school friends. They lived around my original home. I went to live with 5 friends. They were at the same ages and haven't continued their study. Most of them were self-employed and some of them performed illegal actions from selling Amphetamine until stealing others. I had to live there because I didn't have any options, money and I didn't know where to go. Person who is the

waste of the society like me cannot choose to be a good person. It's rather difficult to be a good one. I can be only the culprit.. It's difficult to be a good person. To be a good person, I need to have money. Is it right? When I would like to work legally, nobody offers me so I have to be the culprit."

Tun's tone, voice and non-verbal communication looked like sarcasm. The researcher inquired whether he would like to continuously live with his friends in that kind of environment or not. Tun stated that.

"I think it's nice to live there. It's closed to snooker room, department store so I have various places to go. I will not feel lonely at all. And, I have friends. We understand one another. We go to meet and court the girl together. I used to have girlfriend. She should be called wife also since at that time, I was 15 years old and she was pregnant. We have 1 child and I think now my child is 2 years old but I haven't met my child before since we were separated since she was pregnant. Her mom took my girlfriend back to the rural province. I have never wanted to see my child and don't want my child to see me. I don't even want my child to know that he / she has dad who is a culprit like me. I don't deserve to be a dad. I can't teach anybody."

The researcher inquired about the relationship within the family. Tun said that.

"I can't remember how the relationship within the family is since I have never obtained such relationship. If you mean the relative whom I used to stay with for a while, I could say that I have never obtained the affection. Nobody paid attention to me. Just they gave me a place to sleep."

Tun stopped for a while and his face turned to be tired, and said that.

"I don't have any sibling. My parent passed away since I was young. I went to live with my aunty in the rural areas and I didn't want to live there. My aunty always scolded me since I was not his son. Nobody paid attention to person with no parents like me. The situation was worse when I lived in other provinces. I didn't know anybody there so it's better that I fled away to Bangkok. I met friends here in Bangkok and I feel warmer than living in the rural."

The researcher inquired about the parent taking care of the children. Tun stated that.

“If the family takes care of their children, such children must feel warm and obey his parent. If parent take care of them, I believe that nobody wants to commit offenses since he / she has mom and dad as the last resort.”

The researcher inquired about the relationship with his friends. Tun stated that.

“I am closed to my friends since we have to live together like we are in the same family. When I’ve got the problem, I can consult with my friends. I don’t have anyone. If I learn that my friends will commit offenses, sometimes I have to warn them but it depends on my friends whether they will believe me or not. It’s their life, not my life. If I warn them too much, they may get angry.”

The researcher inquired about the influence of mass media towards his daily life. Tun mentioned that.

“I and my friends have not paid much attention to mass media but sometimes, I watch movie. My group loves to watch porn movie. There are porn books, cartoons, and movies in our home. I think this seduces us to commit offenses since sometimes when we watched such movie, some person in my group will take a girl to sleep with. But, mostly, such girl is willing to come to meet us.”

The researcher inquired about the cause and problems regarding this crime. Tun said that.

“I was caught under the rape case. Such girl is 14 years old. On that day, I went to go the department store with 5 friends. I met this girl who wore tight dress and very short shorts and she also wore a very small shirt. She greeted me first. Afterwards, we took such girl and her 2 friends to eat KFC chicken. When we finished eating, we went back home and one of the girl went back with me and I didn’t blame her. When we went home, she encourages us so I and my 8 friends have sex with her.”

The researcher, then, inquired how he felt with this girl. Tun said that.

“I feel indifferent. Such girl seduced us so I slept with her. If I didn’t do it, I would feel foolish.”

The researcher, then, asked about how he was arrested when the girl was willing. Tun stated that.

“I don’t know either. After 2 days from sleeping with her, her mom brought the police to our home and informed the police to catch us. We, then, were arrested.”

The researcher inquired about his opinion towards girls who love to wear tight dresses. Tun answered that.

“I definitely love to see such girls. If any men don’t love to see that, I think they are not the real men. But, if I have to take such girls as my girlfriend, I won’t do that. If our girlfriend wears daring dresses, men will love to watch. I don’t like to others to see my girlfriend. If you want to be my girlfriends, you have to wear proper dresses.”

Tun stopped talking for a while and snapped his fingers, and then, he said that.

“But, for some girls who love to wear daring dresses, I think they would like us to look at so we must look at them. It’s normal situation for a man, and if a girl encourages or seduces us, we should accept such offer.”

Tun finished talking and laughed. During this time, the researcher observed that Tun was so energetic to talk about the girl. The researcher, then, asked about this offense regarding how he felt about this offense. Tun stated that.

“I think I was not wrong this time because the girl was willing. I think her mom knew later and would like to tackle with us.”

From the researcher’s observation, we found that Tun is a good-looking guy with white and clean-cut face. He is quite tall but thin. He is a joyful person. During the interview, he was good-tempered and always smiled. It looks like he was quite cooperative in answering the question.

2nd Case – Mr. Fa (Anonymous name)

Currently, Fa is 17 years old. He committed offense when he was 16 years old. Fa lived with his uncle until he was 15 years old and moved out to live with his friends around Bang Rak areas. Fa has been arrested due to various types of offenses for 3 times. The first time was when I was 12 years old regarding the offense about drugs (Amphetamine). The second and third time was regarding the offense about robbery. Regarding this offense, it is the sexual harassment under the rape case. The court has sentenced him to attend the training for 2 years. The researcher requested Fa to talk about his family. Fa said that.

“Before I left home, I used to live with my uncle and aunt in the rural provinces. He didn’t pay much attention to us like his children. I only know that I am an orphan. My uncle said that. Just that they asked me to live with them was more than enough.”

The researcher inquired about the cause of leaving his home.

“I didn’t want to live at home because I felt bored. They always complained me. I felt I was the excess of their family. I think I don’t want to beg anyone and don’t want anyone to take care of me and claim the right or favor later. I think I’m old enough and don’t want anyone to help me so I moved to live outside. I don’t want to make trouble for anyone. I think I can earn my living.”

The researcher inquired about his job and income.

“I used to be self-employed or general employment but I did it for while and my friend asked me to steal items. My friend used to ask me to sell the drugs and rob others. I tried various things. I want to earn my living.”

The researcher inquired about the relationship with friends and his home. Fa stated that.

“I and my friends are much closed to one another since we have only 5 persons. We worked together, and ate together. I used to work for the gambling room with my friends. I did it because my friends did it. We lived together so we should work together. My life has only friends. If I don’t do anything, I cannot earn

my living and I can't live with my friends. It must be weird. I lived around Bangkae Market. I rented a small room with my 4 friends, or 5 persons including me. They are all guys. The room was quite old. Before being arrested, I went out to find a job with my friends around Silom, Bangrak. I went there because there are a lot of rich people around there. Just walked there, and I can get money."

Fa stopped talking and expressed his pride towards his own capability from his eyes. The researcher, then, inquired about the job he worked around Bangrak or Silom. Fa answered that.

"Since people around there worked in the office, I picked their pockets, or snatched their bags and ran away. We have 5 guys so we divided our responsibilities. But I have never gamed."

Fa finished talking and smiled again, and then, talked about his own family again.

"It's better for me to live outside my home than to live at my uncle's home. We can take care of ourselves. I feel like I was the excess of my uncle's home. My aunt always said that I am an orphan. She always complained me. I don't like them to insult me even though I sometimes did some wrong actions. But people in my family have never helped me. I think I live alone in this world and have no relatives. I have only friends. I love my friends more than my relatives."

The researcher inquired Fa whether he behaved like this if he lives with his parents or not. Fa mentioned that.

"If I have dad and mom, I should be a good person and don't misbehave repeatedly. I want to have a warm family like others."

Fa finished talking for a while and continued saying that.

"I will obey my parents but if they love me, why did they leave me and I have to live with my uncle? I used to ask my uncle about my parent. My uncle just said that "Don't mention it". I asked my uncle frequently until he got annoyed."

Fa felt serious and expressed with loud voice. So, the researcher changed the topic and talked about the girl. The researcher inquired about Fa's feeling when seeing the girl wearing tight dresses.

"I like it. Sometimes, I want such girls to be my girlfriend. I want to have a beautiful girlfriend since any guys have beautiful girlfriends; such guys are lucky and can show their friends. But, any girls will love person like me. Beautiful girls shouldn't love me at all."

The researcher observed that his non-verbal posture had changed, namely, from seriousness to smiling when talking about the girl. The researcher inquired about the girl in Fa's opinions.

"I think the girl who will be my girlfriend shall not be a good person since I am not a good person so I want to have the same type of person as my girlfriend. I love my girlfriend to wear daring dresses, showing her navel. I think dressing like that is very beautiful, and dressing normally with no attractiveness is not interesting at all."

The researcher inquired about the influence of mass media on his offenses. Fa said that.

"I think mass media play a partial role. I saw my friends love to read porn books or watch porn VCDs. There were a lot of porn books or VCDs in my room. When they finished reading, they would like to try and sleep with the girl without her willing. I didn't know what they did. For me, I also felt like them."

The researcher inquired about the cause and problem regarding this crime. Fa mentioned the situation that brought him here.

"I and my friends went to the temple festival around my rented room. I met a group of girls and one of them was the most beautiful one. At that time, I knew that such girl liked me since she looked at me several times. When the festival almost finished, she gave me her phone number. Afterwards, I frequently called her so she was finally my girlfriend. We went to several places together and we had deep relationship. On one day, she came to meet me at home when all of my friends were at

home. My friends told me that if I love them, I should share my girlfriend with them. I felt unhappy but they are my good friends. I know that they always helped me so I allowed them to have relationship with my girlfriend. At first, my girlfriend didn't allow them but I persuaded her until she accepted that. I told her that if she didn't allow my friends to have relationship, she may be injured and I can't help her."

The researcher asked whether he was sad and felt sympathy with his girlfriend or not. Fa said that.

"Now, I feel sympathy with her. If I can go back to that time, I don't allow anybody to come to my home at all."

The researcher inquired about the situation when he was arrested.

"Afterwards, I think my girlfriend had changed and two days later, the police caught me and my friends at home. They told me that we committed crime under the rape case but I think that my girlfriend was willing, I shouldn't be guilty."

From the researcher's observation, Fa always said and moved his legs at the same time. Sometimes, he said and laughed together. However, he seemed to be aggressive. Fa is thin, dark, and tall with the tattoo over his two eyebrows. The tattoo is like a lot of small points.

3rd Case – Mr. Porn (Anonymous name)

Porn who committed the sex crime is the same person as Porn who committed the bodily injury. The interviewee aims to offer the researcher the additional information by informing the researcher before the first interview (The researcher informed the objective of the interview, and informed which types of crime shall be interviewed.). Porn committed crime for more than 3 times. This time, he has been sentenced to attend the training for 2 years. Regarding the rape case, Porn committed crime when he was 16 years old. Porn did not graduate Grade 6 since nobody paid for his tuition fee. Porn's mom passed away when he was 10 years old.

The researcher inquired about the cause and problems regarding this crime.

“I think it was not our fault but I cannot totally blame the girl. But, it was unlucky that I was arrested. I have never raped her. She was willing but the girl’s mom argued that we raped the girl. At first, her mom claimed ten thousands of Baht from us. I and my friend didn’t have money so the police arrested us.”

The researcher inquired about the influence of mass media and publications towards his crime. Porn said that.

“I think mass media partially affects my crime. It’s normal that a guy loves to see porn books or movies. I and my friends used to buy them. There are lots of porn books or movies for sale. Everyone watched them but even though I don’t watch porn movies, we must have girlfriends. I’m a guy so it’s nature.”

The researcher inquired about his personal feeling when he saw a girl wearing daring dresses. Porn said that.

“I love to see such girl. Sometimes, I courted her. It’s so normal. When the girl wants to show her figure, we should look at her. But, for me, I love to see girl wearing proper dresses since I cannot bear that my girlfriend wears daring dress to seduce others. But if the girl is not my girlfriend, I will court her and I don’t think I will take the daring girl as my girlfriend.”

The researcher inquired the details of the cause and problems regarding this crime. Porn mentioned that.

“I knew this girl before. She lived around my home. She used to be my girlfriend for a while but her mom always insulted me and my friends so I separated with her. But we already had sexual relationship like other couples. After separating for 6 months, such girl contacted me to stay with me for one night. I allowed her since she used to be my girlfriend. She went back in the morning and 3 days later, her mom took the police to arrest me and my friends at home. Her mom said we raped her daughter.”

From the interview with Porn regarding the rape case, Porn seemed to be more energetic to talk about this and looked like he would like to offer information more than the first interview.

Case of Interviewing Key Informants

The research regarding the guidelines for protecting and correcting the criminal problem from vagabond children in Thailand has interviewed the key informants who are experienced in working relevant to the problem about the vagabond children for at least 5 years. The interviewees were railway police officer acting as the police teachers, social welfare experts, and psychologists who work at Ubakeka House, ex-judge of the Central Juvenile and Family Court, academics, and personnel who are responsible for the vagabond children and in the NGOs, and has summarized the issues relevant to and in compliance with the objective of this research as follows:

1. Police Officer

The police officers who act as the police teachers at Hua Lum Pong Youth Railway Library has given the information about the vagabond children participating in the Railway Library Project that at first there were about 30 children and the police teachers prepared the background information of every child in the database, took their photos, and recorded the situation in the database. Most of the children are 10 – 13 years old and the rest of them are about 6 – 10 years old.

Cause of Being Vagabond Children

From working with children, the police teachers inquired the children and found that:

“The main problem of leaving homes is family problem. Their parents are divorced such as dad went to get re-married and had new family. Most of the children still live with dad or mom. Sometimes, children live with stepfather and the stepfather hit or injured the children so the children have to flee away from home. The children don’t get the warmth in their family. Their parents left them. Sometimes, the children

have to live with their grandfather or grandmother so they don't have any last resort. Mostly, their grandfather or grandmother is very old so they cannot live with their grandfather or grandmother. Such children are mostly poor so the children have to flee away from home without any destination. The children have friends and flee away with their friends. They tried to be harmonious with their friends and some group wanders continuously from their home.”

Cause of Crime from Vagabond Children

1. The vagabond children commit crimes because they go with their friends or are seduced by their friends such as to rob or to take drugs. Most of the drugs are evaporative substance since it is easily found.

2. There are some adults who asked the children to commit crimes. Such adults are older children who are the tough controlling the vagabond children, namely, gangsters. They live around the place where the vagabond children are living in order to find the labors. Such group of people knows the vagabond children very well since the vagabond children usually live in zone such as Buddha Yod Fa Bridge, Hua Lum Pong, etc.

The police officers explained about the children who live at the Railway Library that.

“At first, the vagabond children who live in Hua Lum Pong Youth Railway Library didn't tell us about their life. The teacher had to familiarize with them for a while until they felt reliable and told us. Most of the vagabond children committed crime regarding the robbery. Some of the children are not under the teachers' responsibility. They always committed serious cases such as robbery or hijacking.”

Guideline for Solving Problems about Vagabond Children

Before this, we caught the vagabond children everyday and sent them to the Pak Kred Training Center in Nonthaburi Province but mostly, the children fled away and came back to live with the police teachers. Some of the children went to work with the agents. Therefore, in order to solve such abovementioned problem, we should do the following:

1. Family: The family must be the core for solving the problem since when the children are lack of warmth; they will flee away from home.

2. People in the society: The people in the society must cooperate to solve the problem. For instance, when meeting the vagabond children in the public places or on the road, people should inquire the children regarding where they live or go. If the children have no destination, people should inform the police to take care of such children or send to the Training Center or the Social Welfare Development Center in each province in case that the children have family problems. We can assist them since we have the supportive unit. If we don't do anything, the children may perform wrong actions since they don't have food. At least they rob other, and they may perform more serious offenses such as when they are older, they will commit crime in another way.

3. Community and Relatives: They should take care of and correct such problems in order to protect the children to go out to the society.

Efficiency in Solving Problems about Vagabond Children in Current Situation

The railway police gave his viewpoints:

“The railway police partially help the vagabond children. The children have the opportunity to study, read, write and learn. Any children who want to study will be supported although the police teachers can help only 2 children from 10 children. Currently, there are no budgets for solving the problem, the government does not take care of the children or we obtain some budgets from private organizations, donations from Rotary Club or from charities. We use this money as the food for vagabond children.”

“The government should support the budget and pay more attention to the problem such as the government should monitor and take care of employers who use child labors, and the racketeers. The government must take action or the people should inform the clue to the police to arrest such employers and racketeers. At present, the police teachers cooperate with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Klong Toey Mercy Center who takes care of inferior and HIV infected children, Baan Kru Yui Lad Prao. The railway police take care of only boys.

For girls, they will be sent to Phyathai House. The key informants additionally stated about the vagabond children that.”

“The vagabond children who just left their family are good ones but it will be hard to control when they are experienced. Various units should take care of them. If they have no accommodations, we should support the accommodations, and food. When the children are full, they will be more understandable. We should take care of their study such as the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security should conduct the vocational training for them.”

Measure to Solve Crime Problems for Vagabond Children

Short-term We should access the vagabond children. For instance, some railway police inspected their area to take care of children. Some of the vagabond children take the children to live with the police. If the railway police meet children even at night, they will coordinate to send the children to the house so we can take care of the children in order to protect them from any wrongdoings. Some of the children don't want to get anything. This group is hard to control.

Long-term Every organization should cooperate to solve the problems so the problems from such vagabond children decrease. For instance, Kamnan, head of the village, and the Sub-district Administration Organization must take care of their villagers, conduct training for each sub-district to realize the problem about vagabond children in order to protect the children to move to Bangkok and to help one another. The society must take care of one another or the social welfare in each province must take care of one another by relying on the sufficiency economy principle of His Majesty the King.

2. Social Welfare Expert

Cause of Being Vagabond Children

At first, the vagabond children are out of their home in the short-run such as 1-2 years or 6 months. Such vagabond children always have the problem with their family. Normally, such children are teenagers of approximately 16 – 17 years old. In addition, such vagabond children, sometimes, move out to live with friends to find

their jobs. Some of them are considered “vagabond children” because their parents all passes away so they have to live with friends. Some of the vagabond children like to stay with friends take drugs and want to be independent.

Why Do Vagabond Children Commit Crime?

The vagabond children frequently commit crime such as robbery, taking drugs, etc. because they are young, have no jobs, and would like to earn money. Some children take drugs since they work until being drug-addicted or some children sell drugs, and some of them take and sell drugs. Most of the children who commit crime are approximately 15 -16 years old and always take drugs but the vagabond children don't commit much crime regarding selling drugs. The frequent crime is robbery. The cause of commit crime is from their friends who are the important variable that stimulate the vagabond children to commit crime. Their friends invite them to drink alcohol and stimulate them to commit crime. Sometimes, the children would like to pick the pocket and run away but when the injured person disagrees, it will turn to be robbery. In addition, the children's family should pay attention to the children, namely, the children should be taken care of when they are 15 – 16 years old and such children have to find a job even though they should study at schools. Their parents don't pay much attention where their children go and where their children live with. Some of the children come to work with their parents but when they meet friends, they go to stay with friends.

How to Solve and Rehabilitate Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

The key informant spoke with the researcher that:

“We should know about their family and whether the children have parent or relatives or not. We may use their family to rehabilitate and generate better understanding between children and family according to the training center's system. We should classify the children into each case in order to realize that how should we help the children. The assistance should be done on a family basis since the cause of the problem in each family is different and the solution is different, too. We should assist children to have an opportunity to study and have jobs since when they are

knowledgeable and have occupations; they can earn their living when they are out of Ubakeka Training Center. Any children who love to study can learn with the non-formal educational system without any expenses. 40% of children will continue their study and the rest will attend the vocational training such as carpenter, barber, artist, tinsmith, etc.”

Ubakeka House prepares the children's readiness before releasing such children, namely, the children should be taken care of for 6 months before releasing since most of the children who commit crime have some defects regarding their life skills. They don't know how to say or deny when their friends stimulate them to commit crime. In additions, the counseling towards their study and application for jobs is also important and beneficial to the children since many children haven't had the opportunity to obtain various type of knowledge before. For instance, when children graduate from Grade 8, they don't know how to continue their study. In addition, the children who commit small crime should obtain fundamental legal knowledge since some children don't even know that performing only this action is considered "illegal action" or having the sexual intercourse with the children at the age of less than 18 years old or raping the girl is illegal. Some of the children know that it's illegal but they still perform such action because they think that the girl is willing or easy. We should teach them in another way. We must reflect the children to understand what the external society perceives.

The Social Welfare Development Center in Thailand partially plays some roles in helping the children but most people don't know such institutes or organizations due to the lack of public relations. The problem is that some private organizations don't accept the children over the maximum age specified or select to accept the vagabond children on an individual basis. Some of the children who are out of the training center don't want to go out since they don't know where to go. The training center contacts the foundation to take care of the children after they are released from the training center.

“At first, the foundation accepts the offer but after learning that such children are under the legal case, the training center is, then denied. Some of the

vagabond children don't have parents and live with a very old and disabled grandmother so they don't want to go back home and the training center cannot take care of the children anymore since the period for controlling the children has already expired. Some of the children committed the crime when they was young but when they are released, they are older and the training center don't accept such children. Therefore, the efficiency of private organizations is fair in terms of preliminarily taking care of the children but such private organizations should not discriminate the case and the government must appoint relevant government organizations to directly solve the problems."

The social welfare expert also talked with the researcher that.

"In order to solve the problems regarding the vagabond children, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security must be responsible for such abovementioned since the Ministry is ready in terms of the direct welfare budget and is experienced in taking care of the children. In addition, such organization has already taken care of various types of children so they should be able to take care of the vagabond children. We should conduct more public relations towards the organization. The Ministry of Justice who are responsible for directly taking care of the children who commit the crime should coordinate with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Sometimes, they signed MOU but it's not effective since the operators don't clearly coordinate to solve the problems. We don't know what organizations should be contacted or coordinated, and what topics are agreeable between the organizations, especially the topic about the vagabond children who commit the crime has never been mentioned or under the seminar before. Therefore, the protection and correction of the problem regarding the vagabond children who commit crime is not efficient at all."

How to Protect and Solve Problems regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

Short-Term : Firstly, the children should be managed in order to stay with the family and community. We should send back to the family as much as possible. If they don't have family, we must contact relatives, grandfather, or grandmother. If they really don't have the family, it is the responsibility of the organization to take

care of their education, living condition, or we should arrange the children to live with the sponsored family. At least, the children should have persons to take care of their mind.

Long-term : The informants told the researcher that.

“There should be some units to seriously take care of the problems about the vagabond children. We should not neglect this problem like the current situation. At present, when we meet the vagabond children, we don’t know where to send these children to. Although we directly work as the social welfare expert, we still don’t know. So, there should be the unit to supervise the vagabond children directly. In addition, the government agencies and private organizations should consult each other in order to protect the vagabond children from committing crime and we have to solve the problem later since the efficiency of each organization is different. If we have the opportunity to exchange the information, it must be so beneficial.”

In case that the vagabond children is finding a job, the employer should realize whether the children’s age meet the minimum requirement. If not, the employer shouldn’t accept such children since they should stay with their family and obtain the education. In details, if meeting the vagabond children, the government agencies and private organizations should supervise directly. For the past years, the government has not paid much attention to the vagabond children. Various units should focus on protection more than correction since it’s hard to correct the children that have been destroyed by the society.

“The vagabond children who commit crime should be sent to their hometown and shouldn’t be imprisoned in Bangkok since when the police officers arrest the children and controls them in Bangkok, such children may feel distant from their parent since their family cannot come to meet them. The current problem is that some children flee away to work by themselves but when they commit crimes and are arrested by police, their parent cannot come to visit them since it’s too far away. The relationship between children and family will be more distant.”

3. Psychologist

Cause of Being Vagabond Children

The family problem. Parent are not ready to have the children or when parent have children, they have to work and don't have enough time to take care of their children. Mostly, the problem results from the family at the low level. In addition, the problem comes from the factor regarding child development because teenagers are always free from their family to stay with friends. They would like to get the acceptance from their friends and sometimes, they live with friends for a long time without contacting with their family. Sometimes, their parent move to other places or their parent doesn't pay attention to follow up their children, and then, the children cannot contact their parent. In some family, their parent don't care to follow up their children to get back home or the children's behaviors are disobedient so their parent doesn't want to follow up their children or they want to follow up their children but don't know where their children are.

Why Do Vagabond Children Commit Crime?

The children may commit crime for their survival and may develop from stealing to plundering, etc. Some of the children may be not self-confident and are lack of maturity so when they are free from their family; they are easy to be induced. In addition, there are various factors that stimulate the children to commit crime such as environment. The children would like to have expensive belongings like their friends and want to have mobile phone so if their family cannot support this, they have to find by themselves. If not able to find such items by themselves, they must take such items from others.

How to Protect Problems regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

1. Family : The family should play the role at the first stage. They should conduct the family planning and thoroughly plan to have their children.
2. Community : The people in the community should take care of and pay attention to one another. They should help monitor the children in their

community since some children may live in the community but they don't want to get back home. "The people in the community should help supervise the children and shouldn't think that they aren't my children".

3. Society : Currently, the development concentrates more on material than on moral and ethics, and powerful leader in Thailand should pay attention to solving the problem. If the children come out to the society, they may meet with the group who specially take care of this group of children and may conduct the activities with the children similar to studying for non-formal education, and the voluntary officers should monitor the children according to the frame accepted by the society. We may recommend the children to learn how to stay in the society since the vagabond children are the children who are out of the school system.

How to Rehabilitate and Solve Problems regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

The informant recommended that.

"For solving the problem regarding the vagabond children who commit crime, if possible, we should contact the vagabond children's family first. We should try to contact the family so the family perceives, understand,, and cooperatively consult with us in order to accept the children back into their family. This should be the best solution for them but if it is not able to contact the family, we should coordinate with the units who can assist the children. The small children are able to stay with the center but for adolescent, it may be difficult to find the center to support such children since most people don't want to take care of vagabond or tramp children."

One of the ways to help the vagabond children is to find a job for them and cooperate with the organizations which are able to help and accept the children so the children have the job and are proud of them. This should be processed continuously from the in-house training since if we can conduct vocational training for them; they can have the job and are responsible for themselves.

"In case that the children learns to be the tinsmith, if the children would like to find jobs, we should have the place to support them and various factories should accept such children to work without paying attention that such children are

from the juvenile observation and protection center but most children don't want to work there since they have no freedom and don't like the environment. Some children don't have their own discipline since going to work must have time attendance and time out but such children would like to go anywhere. Some of them would like to open their own grocery shops. We may have to solve this problem from the children themselves."

Some of the juvenile observation and protection centers accept the children and don't do anything. They just wait for donation. Some of the centers aim to express their own potential in taking care of their children. However, some of them cure, assist, conduct group activities, and coordinate to send the children to more proper places or some government agencies have budgetary problems and face the shortage of personnel in assisting the vagabond children. For instance, two social welfare experts have to take care of 200 vagabond children or searching for the house is quite difficult. Therefore, various private organizations can perform better.

Every relevant unit should be cooperative like inter-profession. Every party has strengths in each area so they should be cooperative. For instance, independent organizations have the strengths in terms of budget and operational agility. In some areas, the government officers may not be able to perform. For instance, conducting the vocational training for children by inviting each unit to attend the meetings together plays an important role in coordination and assistance since each party knows relevant personnel from other units so the children's contact and assistance is rapid.

How to Protect and Solve Problems Regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

The informant recommended that.

"Currently, the efficiency in solving the problem regarding the vagabond children who commit crime is not as good as it should be. It looks like we work together but we have never seriously coordinated with each other. We do anything only under our scope of responsibilities. For instance, each unit performs its responsibilities only under its strengths. They don't want to perform responsibilities

other than their own strengths. If they talk to each other and divide their jobs, it will be more efficient. We should not perform our responsibilities without unity. It will be better to do as a group.”

“Regarding the measure to protect and solving the problem regarding the vagabond children who commit crime both in the short-run and in the long-run, we should access the children but at the same time, some children protect themselves and don’t want to obtain any assistance, and they perceive that being the vagabond children is not wrong since they don’t commit any wrong actions. This group of children needs independence. They may feel that when there are adults to take care of them, they may lose the independence. We may take care of each region such as assigning a person to take care of each intersection / junction. For the long-run, we should develop and foster the family to love and take care of their children since some vagabond children don’t come from the low-level family. Their parent only gives them the money so they feel that they have no value and flee away from the family to the world and meet with the friends who perceive their value.”

“The family in the current situation should be similar to Thai family in the past years since family members in Thai family talk to and understand one another. They give knowledge and evolution according to each age. The children in each age have different types of development. Parent should understand them and shouldn’t force the children since it may stimulate children to stay away from the family. We should give knowledge to children. Some family always tells their children what they shouldn’t do in each area so the children may feel that they are forced, and some of the children may not understand why they have to be forced. We should give them only theoretical knowledge since some children may not understand. We, instead, should give them experiential knowledge or add ideas and main issues when talking with them. Parent may give the children via role play. Sometimes, when children behave well, their parent may not pay attention to the children because of working. So, some children may feel that if they are stubborn or disobedient, parent will take care of them so they behave in an improper way to attract their parent’s attention.”

When their parent pays attention to them even by scolding them, they feel happy. In addition, the community itself should also pay attention to the children,

should conduct the activities and exchange experience between adults in the community and children, and various organizations responsible for children and family both in the government areas such as juvenile observation and protection center or organizations directly taking care of vagabond children should cooperate among one another and gather useful data since the unit considered “the last unit” may perceive cause of children committing crime to be clearer than unit responsible for protection so such unit can apply the data to improve their duties and to identify how to plan to protect the vagabond children who commit crime, and coordinate among units since if such children don’t rely on the units, they will not tell any data or facts to such units or officers.

4. Judge

Cause of Being Vagabond Children

The vagabond children can be classified into 2 types as follows:

1. Thai vagabond children
2. Alien vagabond children

The causes of vagabond children are from the family, poverty, social, and economic problems, especially the family’s poverty problems so the children are forced to flee away from the family to earn their living. Here, the government cannot help them. In addition, the society does not seriously pay attention to the children and don’t solve the economic problems of the vagabond children’s family. The alien vagabond children come from our neighboring countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, etc. Such countries is the developing countries like Thailand but the overall economic and quality of people’s life standard is lower than that of Thailand so such children move out of the country and come to Thailand to flee away from poverty and find the jobs.

Why Do Vagabond Children Commit Crime?

1. Most of the vagabond children’s families are poor. The children have to fight with poverty for survival. Therefore, the opportunity of committing crime is rather high.

2. Children themselves: Since such children need money since they come from poor family so they commit crime such as stealing, picking the pocket and running away, etc. Such children don't generate the economic problems but they commit crime abovementioned.

3. Almost every part of the society: The society doesn't pay attention to this group of children so the children have to live alone and have more opportunity to face the illegal items than normal children since this group of children has no parents to take care of them.

How to Protect and Solve Problems regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

Judge illustrated his ideas:

“To protect the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime is difficult. When the government issues the law such as punishing parent who let their children away from home and become vagabond children or beggar, this is not the correct solution. We should solve the problem from its cause by assigning the unit to be directly responsible for such children. This should be the Ministry of Social Development and human Security which should take care of and solve such problems.”

“In addition, the government must distribute the economic income into the poor at the grassroots level, offer the education, and conduct vocational training for such family. This group of people should have sufficient income for their living. At the same time, for alien vagabond children, the government should protect this group of children from committing crime by enforcing them to go back to their countries. But, it seems to be difficult and is hard to solve this problem since, currently, there are a lot of aliens who come to work in Thailand and it is difficult to force them to go back to their countries. In addition, the informant told the researcher that.”

“We can observe from the province with high number of labors such as Samut Sakorn, Ratchaburi, Samut Songkram, etc. In the future, the children from these neighboring countries must be problematic to Thailand since these children will grow up, have family, children, and grandchildren. Although the police officers arrest such children and send them back to Thailand, they finally come back to Thailand

since our country neglects this problem so it's difficult to solve. If we would like to solve this problem, we have to use higher amount of budget."

How to Solve and Rehabilitate Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

The informant stated that.

"Solving the problem regarding the vagabond children in Thailand seems to be unsuccessful. We just see the police arrest the group of vagabond children. This is not the correct solution since such children are still poor. Even though we increase the penalty for their parents, we cannot solve this problem. If they are still poor, we cannot even solve this problem."

Regarding the short-term measure, the government must give knowledge and conduct vocational training for vagabond children committing crime on an individual basis. For instance, if the children have expertise in carpentry and artist, we should promote them in these areas. The government should fully support this so in the future, these children will not be the vagabond children. Or, if we can arrest vagabond children who act as beggars or sell the flowers at the intersection, the budget should immediately be obtained and we must specify the plan that what these children will do since they don't commit any crimes. If the children commit crime, we should solve the problems, rehabilitate them and provide them for the occupation.

"Concerning the long-term measure, we have to solve the problem at the grassroots level so the poor can earn their living and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security should fully act as the host for this measure but the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security at the provincial level doesn't have personnel and budget to distribute knowledge and occupation into the grassroots level. In addition, the compulsory educational policy is good but no efficiency since the poor only think that how can they survive in the society. Their survival is to send their children and grandchildren to work since when the children can work and earn money, they can help alleviate their parent's burden. This is a very concrete outcome for them."

“On the other hand, if they send their children to study, they don’t see the benefit of such study. In this case, the government must have related measures such as if the children have no opportunity to study until finishing the compulsory educational level, what should we do? Should we arrest their parent and punish them? Is this the best way to cope with such parent? If the children can obtain free education and have their own income, every parent should foster their children / grandchildren to go to school. For instance, when the children go to school and have 40 Baht back with them. How should we do in order to obtain such result? Some countries in Asia such as China support the children’s talent such as if the children are good at sports, we should foster them in this areas so they can earn income from playing sports.”

“Currently, many families think that children cannot earn money from their study. They think that they (parents) graduated Grade 4 or 7 without the ability to apply their knowledge to the work. Therefore, they think that studying has no value and cannot be applied to their real life. The school may teach students to do agriculture, grow vegetables, raise animals, and at the same time, the children obtain the education and earn income. The children should have the opportunity to study in their area of expertise.”

In addition, the solution towards the vagabond children’s problem at the national level and the provincial level, there are the national child protection committee’s meetings, and at the provincial level, the provincial development officers act as the secretary and each committee member is high executive of each unit such as the commander of Phuket provincial police, the judge of the provincial court, etc. However, in practice, when there are meetings, only low-level officers attend the meetings so they don’t have any decision and administration power. The informant told the researcher that.

“The commander always sends the second police lieutenant to attend the meeting. At the same time, the court sends only low-level officers to attend the meetings so the meeting is not so beneficial. When we inform the police to arrest, they just said that they are lack of personnel. Everyone knows the problem but don’t take action. When the meeting finishes, each personnel go to work under their scope of

responsibilities without any cooperation so solving the problem doesn't lead to concrete outcome."

5. Academic

Cause of Being Vagabond Children

The family's atmosphere is the main problem, namely, the single family with dad and mom that lets the children live alone. This is different from the ideal family in the past. Thai society in the past years has mom, dad, grandfather, and grandmother. However, if we can maintain the family's atmosphere, the family will be responsible for itself but currently the family's atmosphere is in failure. This academic gives additional information to the researcher that.

"Some vagabond children come from the family that used to be the vagabond family in the past years. Although the children may study in good schools but children in the family may be vagabond, this may be because their parent control them in terms of their education so the children feel restricted. The parent must accept the fact that some children cannot follow the path that their parent expect so these children have to go out before the proper time and stay with friends along the road. They may have the opportunity to follow the wrong way of life. This kind of situation doesn't result from the problematic family."

"Although some family have problems, namely, parent always quarrel or fight with each other, mom has good awareness and will not separate from dad since they are afraid that the children are perceived as children from problematic family and the family problems will be more serious. Another issue is that Thai family cannot adjust itself to the changes and the parent doesn't have sufficient cost to take care of their children so they have to take care of their children like the uncivilized world. If not changed, the children don't have sufficient intellectual capital to cope with the environment. Therefore, we have to be aware of the situation, problem, and ourselves."

"The insufficient cost and social processes leads to the fact that the people in the society cannot cope with the diverse group of people in the society. Children cannot use their own thought to decide by themselves. Regarding how children

associate with friends, if such children are extremely prohibited from associating with friends, they may not be able to adjust themselves to the society.”

“We should give sufficient thoughts to children in order to be the immune for children. This is a big issue since parent cannot stay with their children all the time. One issue that helps our children safe outside their home is the ability to take care of them. They don’t need to be the Prime Minister to administer the country but they should sufficiently be able to associate with friends and they have to deny incorrect issues or items.”

Why Do Vagabond Children Commit Crime?

Some vagabond children may look like normal children, namely they are vigorous and cannot recognize the chain of damage occurred from their own behaviors. It can be called that they are not matured. This is like the statement “Picking a leaf can make an impact to the star”. The children must perceive that their own wrong actions may impact other children and people throughout the country. News on the newspaper is not just the issue between prey and children only but it will impact the people throughout the country. Such children don’t have this principle of thinking but it doesn’t mean that we cannot promote them to have this kind of thought. For instance, we may give the children some example about throwing a stone into the water can ripper the water for long distance or when the airplane crashed the World Trade Center building in the USA, it affects the worlds’ security system. Each country has more restricted security system. The vagabond children commit crime because they cannot create their own thoughts.

How to Solve and Rehabilitate Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

Regarding the solution towards the problem regarding the vagabond children, the informant proposed that.

“We should give the children human values and respect their status as human beings. We should give them for free with no condition. We should not blame them even though they are imprisoned in the juvenile observation and protection center or any places. They are still human beings.”

“We should explain them about the illegal actions such as rape. Some of the children are imprisoned because they raped the women since they think that raping the prostitute is not illegal. We should make them understand this case. Each child has different social costs. Some children are from family with low level of ethics and moral.”

Some children may come from family with high level of ethics and moral. People in the society are different. Some vagabond children may commit crime because they would like to get acceptance from group members such as taking drugs. They know they shouldn't do it because their mom, teacher, and monk told them but when taking drugs; they can be the same group as their friends. They would like to gain acceptance from the group.

“The vagabond who already committed crime should learn about life skill for 50%, vocational training for 25% and education for 25%. We emphasize on life skill because they will be able to think by themselves even though the world has changed in any ways. If they are able to think, learn, and respect other people's rights, they won't commit crime. For instance, when the children see the girl wearing daring or tight dresses, if the children know that they should respect other people's right, they will not touch the girl and will not commit crime by raping such girl.”

How to Protect and Solve Problems regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

Thai society raises their children with innocence. The family that protect their children protects such children too much but the family that doesn't take care of their children lets their children live alone and has to fully adjust themselves to the changing situation. Many families have to change the way they take care of their children and have to take care of them before they become vagabond children. The cause of vagabond children who commit crime results from several factors: age, atmosphere, environment so they have to commit crime. The family can protect them from committing crime. The informant stated additionally that.

“The family and school should not give pressure to their children regarding the education since some children may not want to learn but they want to

perform other occupations. Some children don't have to graduate from the university. The society is lack of merchants, motorcycle drivers, etc. The family gives pressure to their children to get out of the educational system since children cannot study as their parents have expected so they have to stay away from their family and don't want to live in the family. They abandon the family and community to live alone. Such children shouldn't be expected to live or study hard like other children but we should give them some destination regarding how these children are able to live in the society. The destination may not be doctors, police, judge, attorney but the school should answer the question regarding what the children's occupation should be."

"We are going to create the same type of children so some weak children lose the game and get out of the society to become the vagabond children and commit crime. We should take care of them before getting out of the family."

In addition, we have to talk with children when such children are at the school. Thai society has to adjust the curriculum and must separate some parts of the study to be life skill. The children must be able to analyze various social problems by themselves such as drugs problem. We may ask the children to read the news or drugs articles and must recommend them, and give them good thoughts so they are able to think by themselves.

Regarding the solution to the problems regarding the vagabond children committing crime, we should have the units to be responsible for the vagabond children's problem directly since we are not able to ask other units to do that. In terms of structure, we must design the solution that may not include only the vagabond children but all the inferior children. The structure must support this since the structure that means budget, personnel have to be qualified. However, we should have the unit first since the quality will be continuously improved.

The policy to the solution of vagabond children's problem is unclear meaning all the solutions to the problem about the children and youths committing crime. Thailand's policy in this issue is still not good. This may be because Thailand's policy relates to the political vote. Such children and youths are not important to the

political vote at all. This is like the community and Sub-district Administration Organization's responsibilities. This is unlike the populist policy such as village funds. Everyone can talk about this since it is beneficial to the political vote. Nobody talks about building the playgrounds in the village for children. This can strongly help solve the children problem. The importance of this issue is still inferior at the national level.

Measure to Protect and Solve Problems regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

If there are clear units, policies and responsible persons that are the supportive unit from the family, in case that the children's family is problematic and the children are not able to stay alive or the migration of the family, the children may stay away from the movement.

"It's like the star that stays away from the world's movement. We, then, have the mechanism to support and know which areas have the vagabond children and how we should help such children. The personnel to take care of the children are not sufficient. The vagabond children always live in the developed areas and in the areas with abundant foods such as Buddha Yod Fa Bridge, Pak Klong Market, etc. This is like the primitive humans that always lived around the river."

"We know when we ask the big vagabond children about where the vagabond children love to live at. If we have no structure and no clear policy, we cannot find them. We may not take the vagabond children to stay with us since sometimes they don't want to live with us. We may move our workplace to be closed to the place where the vagabond children live and let the children know that their quality of life should be better than it should be and should make them want to live with us."

"When such children feel that they have dignity in terms of human beings and they should not live along the road, making them feel that they would like to live with us is different from arresting them to live with us and they should make them recognize their own dignity. Arresting is the use of government power and it has no benefit and value. If we move the workplace to Hua Lum Pong, Pak Klong Market,

etc., their human's dignity comes out and they love themselves and feel worried about their own security, they will request us and come to live with us."

"We must accept that Thailand still has the family problem related to social problem, and the social problem relates to the family problem. We don't see the problem systematically and we let the family strive in the society alone even though we have the government mechanism and various units that help children to stay alive called family welfare, and children and youth welfare. Since we don't understand this issue, when we create the mechanism to help them, we cannot access them or don't have sufficient power and performing the mechanism is so weak. In addition, the juvenile observation and protection center in Thailand is not efficient and we cannot make the children feel stronger."

The policy for the solution of the vagabond children's problem is unclear. The assistance should be done with spirit and mind and we must love children and would like to solve the vagabond children's problems.

6. The staff working at NGO

Cause of Being Vagabond Children

Thai society in the past is the extended family with grandfathers and grandmothers living together, and it turns to be the single family with only dad, mom, and children. The children are lack of advisor and they may be seriously punished, scolded or hit by their parent. In addition, there are the divorce, stepfather, or stepmother problems. "Humans don't love other people's children like their own children". When their divorced parents have a new family, they must love new children more than their children from the first marriage, especially the labor or low-level family.

"The children who were born from the first marriage have to work hard like slave and if they can't do, they will be hit or punished. The children feel lonely and cannot find any advisors. For the vagabond women, currently, there are not so many women since they are always threatened by adults and the society that they will be deceived by men, or they will be arrested by police if they flee away from home, or

they may be injured. Therefore, the girl always keeps their own feelings and when they study until finishing some levels, the children will flee away to have family. They will not be vagabond when they were young. In the past, if they are vagabond, such women will be a part of women trafficking but currently there are laws to protect such women.”

“However, when the boys are 7 – 8 years old and can decide by themselves, when they would like to flee away from home, they will go from near to far distance and from home to Soi or Bus Station. The children would like to flee away from home because they are injured or punished by using palm or feet. The children are severely hit, kicked or smashed. Some adults may state that “We have to kick or smash them. Hit them is too light.” In addition, the middle-level family also has the vagabond children’s problem since the parents have to work hard and have no time to take care of their children. When the children go back home they don’t know whom I should live with. They may stick with friends or games and these factors force children to get out of the family system since they don’t take care of their children and there are gaps between parent and children.”

“Some of the children are tied at home since their mom doesn’t want them to go out of their home. Regarding the current family, the parent works for 6 days from 7 days in a week. The children issues are the problem for all professions, not just any family. Currently, some families are poor and have to move and become vagabond in order to find jobs and set up the new family. They don’t have their fixed place for sleeping such as Sa-Leng family, especially around Buddha Yod Fa Bridge to sell the flowers, act as beggars, etc. When this kind of family has children, such children may help their parent works. But, when the children become older, they may feel that they don’t want to get money for their mom and want to earn their own living. The children, then, stay away from their family and live with themselves or friends, and set up their own gangs.”

Why Do Vagabond Children Commit Crime?

“The vagabond children is the main catalyst of every problem but is doesn’t mean that they are the problems. When they are vagabond out of their home to meet friends, they will be motivated in the improper way. If they are motivated in

the proper way, it is not problematic. When the children are in group, the children, then, behave improperly. They are lack of adults to teach them so they can commit crime and are easily motivated to behave in the improper way.”

This group of children doesn't want to study and the adults don't take care of their children starting from family, community, and society. When the children are away from the family, they may become criminals and distribute HIV diseases, and may be able to commit drugs crime. The vagabond children are the adult's tool to commit crime in every group of problems.

How to Rehabilitate Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

Some cases regarding the punishment and imprisonment should be compromised. The social welfare experts should use their judgment with the investigation officers to consider which cases should be compromised such as the case regarding children take evaporative substance and the children are arrested and sent to the juvenile observation and protection center. This case should apply judgment in terms of age and behaviors, and should not blame the children because of their innate character and also the case of stealing non-valuable items. The children don't commit crime repeatedly but they commit crime because they are the adult's tools.

In case that there are not many preys, such case should be compromised. Currently, there are MOUs that the children should not be punished because of small crime such as the evaporative substance case. The government is the prey so the psychologist and social welfare expert should realize where the vagabond children should live. If taking the children to the juvenile observation and protection center, the children will then obtain the vocational training in the improper way. Although the Ministry of Justice properly takes care of controlled children, the children may learn improper lessons. Therefore, if the small cases are compromised, the adult may take the children to report to the court or probation officers.

In case that the children live in the juvenile observation and protection center with the punishment of one to two years, they may be rehabilitated but the center like MetTa House may not be able to solve the problems as it should be.

How to Protect and Rehabilitate Vagabond Children's Problems

We should have the juvenile observation and protection center, House, or Hot Line in order to take the problematic children in the family to get therapy. Some families don't have money and they are poor but now there are a lot of hot lines.

"We don't know what we have. We know only Paweena. We must have the sub-district and provincial levels. The sub-district social welfare experts should take care of the family problem and serve as the second house. The social welfare center must be good and efficient but they shouldn't act better than the family. They have to take care of and rehabilitate the family when they get sick. In foreign countries, they fully take care of youths but in Thailand, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security are not efficient at all."

The solution of the vagabond children's problem should have the host which should be the government agencies but we have to work and cooperate with villagers, people, private entities, and NGOs since the private entities have no sufficient budgetary support like government agencies. We have to think how we should develop people and community, and help take care of children. Currently, there are a lot of units to take care of children, namely, the Department of Provincial Administration, psychologist, social welfare expert, but we should take care of their education for children in the community.

The law is like the web but the personnel are not ready. We should promote the community's participation into every group at the school level. If the teacher met the children injured by the family, we must take care of them. The Sub-district or Provincial Administration Organization must be responsible for taking care of children and sending personnel to take care of them. Such organizations should realize how many vagabond children are and who are in trouble.

The current solution towards the vagabond children's problem is not proactive to help children and no measure to help them. The government doesn't take care of children in every area. They should give education, support the budget or vocational training and may set up the fund for assisting the vagabond children. If we

meet the vagabond children along the intersection, everyone should be responsible. For instance, we should inform police or community radio such as Jor.Sor. 100 or Sor.Wor.Por. 91 (radio channels).

The police station or police force should attach the statement that “when you meet the children who are beggars, who sell the flowers, or who commit crime, please call We should ask the cooperation from people. The police must claim this from people. Regarding the children protection law according to the human rights’ principle, the children are not so much violated. To solve such abovementioned problem, we can classify into short-term and long-term measure.

Short-term Measure

Short-term : The informant stated that.

“The head of village should take care of villagers. If there are no more than 2,000 people and 200 children in the rural area, we should know what families don’t take care of children. When we go to the local grocery shops, we are able to know everything.”

“When we recognize that, we will know the guideline for solving inferior children. We always have to take care of such children. We should promote the foundation to proactively assist the children. Regarding the government agencies, when the children have no ID card, they will not help them. The government agencies always help the children with registered address. If we can take care of the children when there are some signals that they will be problematic, the vagabond children will not be created and the problem about children’s criminal will not be created.”

Long-term: The legal measure depends on the government mechanism. We must promote the local administration to stimulate the people in the community to participate in and take care of one another within the community. If the government agencies promote people to participate in the local administration, the people should cooperate with such agencies. The children issue may not be concrete. The local community when depending on the police must realize where they are first.

We don't give sufficient education to people. At present, we don't take care of one another, especially urban society, we don't know one another so when the family problems occur, and there are no ones to take care of family, community, and society.”

Summary of Main Issues from Focus Group

The data collection from focus group helps the researcher realize the guideline for assisting, solving, and protecting the vagabond children's problem committing crime. The people in the focus group consist of a police officer, a social welfare expert, a psychologist, an academics, a person working for NGOs, and a legal expert working for the children and youths' problem.

Cause of Vagabond Children's Problems in Thai Society

Most of the seminar participants thought that the vagabond children in Thai society results from the family problem and the children's needs. Most of the children in this group are from the poor and middle family but the children from the middle-level group are proportionately less than those from the poor family. The psychologist mentioned that.

“We must accept that the children or even adults would like to live in the house with warm atmosphere. If the children are scolded, hit, or smashed almost everyday, the children will not definitely want to live in their home. On the other hand, if children live in the house with their parent and their parent love and take care of them very well without scolding them, they will not want to be the vagabond children or regarding the children committing crime, if the family with parents always train, teach, and recommend them continuously, and understand them without forcing or threatening them, the children will not be under pressure and will be reasonable. They will think before doing anything such as if they would like to steal items or punch with their friends, they will be able think that such behaviors are improper.”

In addition, the social welfare expert gave additional opinion that.

“Especially the family with stepfather, stepmother or other parents taking care of children, most of the vagabond children have bad attitudes towards their

parent since the children may think that the parent don't pay attention to take care of them and let them live with others. Regarding the family with the children who are hit or injured by their stepfather or stepmother, the children may feel under pressure and don't love their family or don't want to stay with their family. They feel hostile towards people in the family. Sometimes, children don't express their feelings but at the point that they cannot bear the situation, they will flee away from home to live alone. It is interesting that this group of children always uses the violence to solve the problem. This may be because when they are at home, they are hit and cannot dispute with anyone in the family. Therefore, when they are out of their home, they always solve the problems via violence."

In addition to the poor family, the middle family may be the cause of the vagabond children as the academics stated that.

"Regarding the middle-level family, if the children's parents are just responsible for giving the children some money to go to school and stay with friends but have no time to fully stay with their children in terms of advising the children regarding the personal and educational problems, the children may feel lack of mental advisor. Especially teenagers, parents are the best mental advisors. If parent can devote some time after finishing their daily work to talk to and inquire their children's problem or children's study, the children may feel warm more than the family with parents who give only money but have no time for their own children."

In addition to the family, friends are one of the main causes that stimulate children to be the vagabond children, namely, childhood years are the years with the lack of knowledge and experience of the life but the children in these years always stay with friends. Therefore, if the children have good friends, they will behave in a proper way but if the children have bad friends and such friends entice the children to flee way from home, it is very risky to be the vagabond children as the legal expert who works for the children and youths proposed the ideas that.

"Friends are one of the main factors of becoming the vagabond children since childhood years are the year of innocence but children in these years always stay with friends. If friends entice the children to flee away, at first the children may

still live around their home. If their houses are in Bangkok, they may be vagabond in Bangkok for 3 – 4 days and then go back home. The children may feel weird or guilty at first, but afterwards they may get used to fleeing away from home, and finally, they move out to stay with their friends. If the children are from the poor family, they may be vagabond in many places such as Hua Lum Pong, Buddha Yod Fa Bridge, Jatujak, etc.”

“The vagabond children have different objectives. Some of them may want to know and learn new experiences. Their friends can take them to many places that they have never gone or if they are vagabond throughout Bangkok, some of the children may be enticed to go to other big provinces such as Chiang Mai, Phuket, or Pattaya. Such children may be vagabond because they think that they used to live in congested community and the environment is not pleasant and their parents have never paid attention to them so they would like to change their life to live outside their home in order to find better opportunity, friends may entice the children to find the jobs in order to find new things that the children believe that such things are better than the living condition they have ever met.”

Regarding friend as the main cause of the vagabond children, most of the seminar participants consistently proposed that children are the age that is lack of life experience and they are not matured so their thoughts and decision are still young. Therefore, if adults, especially parents and relatives don't pay attention to them, the children may live without any recommendation or instruction to behave in a proper way and according to the social norms. If the children have bad friends and stay away from home to wander to many places, the children is highly risky from the enticement of the external society without care from their parents. Therefore, if the children always behave like this, they may get used to it.

Finally, if their friends entice them to be vagabond from their home either for finding small incomes such as general employment, selling old items, or selling items in various festivals, or for assembly for unlawful purpose, the children will not deny and abandon their family to be vagabond with their friends or group of friends. This kind of situation can be frequently found in poor family with their parents living from hand to mouth.

How Vagabond Children Commit Crime

Regarding the problem about the vagabond children committing crime, the seminar participants mostly agreed that the vagabond children are the children under trouble. Such children may be lack of care from the society (both from family, community, and school). The vagabond children have to live alone and face the struggling and competitive society and environment. They have to have food for their survival but when they are hungry, the ability to earn their income in a legal way such as selling flowers or cleaning the mirror around the intersection is zero or it may be less than the normal situation. This kind of legal jobs may not create sufficient income for their three meals. When these children don't have food, they may steal items from others. At first, they may steal small items such as sweets or food. After that time, the children will be stronger and have higher ability to steal items like professional criminal. The children mostly form the gang to commit crime. The police officers proposed the interesting issue regarding the vagabond children who commit crime that.

“Regarding the vagabond children who have just fled away from the family, when they just live along the roads or other places alone, such children are not familiar to the world and don't know how to survive. But when they are risky and alone, they will adapt themselves to survive. Such adaptation is how to get survival and have money for their living. This means small children.

At first, such children may find some money and beg for the food from many shops but when they live like this and feel that it's very hard to get survival, they must steal others. Before stealing, such children always meet with the vagabond children who have more experience. Therefore, the new vagabond children would like to get acceptance from the experienced vagabond children. How can they gain acceptance? They have to adapt themselves to the group's culture and most of the cultures are illegal such as stealing, picking pocket, or robbery, or various types of crimes. This can indicate that why most of the vagabond children commit crime. This is because the vagabond children are the children living alone and they easy to be enticed to commit wrong actions. In addition, these children have to strive to protect their life and to get survival. Therefore, they have to commit crime or participate in various types of crimes.”

One of the NGOs personnel thought that.

“Some of the vagabond children used to be arrested or imprisoned because they commit crime such as stealing. This may be true or not true but this situation is like embedding the pressure, resentment, and pessimism into the children. Such vagabond children are basically from the problematic family; therefore, it looks like the society increases the resentment towards the society or people around them in the children’s mind. When the pressure occurs such as the quarrel with the vagabond children themselves or other people, such vagabond children always use violence to solve the problem. They are lack of reasonable thoughts and do anything with pressure since their mind is fundamentally embedded with resentment and pressure.”

The social welfare expert supported that.

“Such abovementioned vagabond children have the opinions towards the society and environment in a negative way, namely, they think that the society doesn’t give them the security, warmth, and affection. The society always insults them such as some of the vagabond children would like to find jobs by pushing the cart in the market. People in the society always dislike them since they perceive such children as dirty and unreliable children with bad smell. This makes the vagabond children feel separated from the whole society and some children may think that if cannot earn money in an honest way, they will earn their living criminally since I used to have an experience from a vagabond child. I was picked the pocket from a vagabond child around Jatujak market and such child fled away. Then, such child was arrested and sent to the police station.”

“When I inquired such child, he said that he didn’t have food, he was hungry, and he was denied when he requested to work in Jatujak, and he was kicked out so he felt that to find the money for his survival was to pick the pocket. The child said that he did it because his friends recommended him because his friends got hundreds of baht from this before, and have never been arrested. His friends have done it several times. I inquired the child regarding how he felt about this. The child said that he felt it’s not wrong but the society is wrong since the society didn’t give them the money and didn’t give him the opportunity to work or even his family didn’t love him.”

The academics proposed the idea that.

“Therefore, the family problem is the cause of the vagabond children who commit crime, not from the problem regarding associating with friends since the family is lack of affection and warmth so the children think that they are abandoned to live alone without any mental advisor.”

In addition, regarding the committing crime in serious cases by the vagabond children, most of the seminar participants believed that basically these kind of children may just steal items or just pick the pocket and run away but it may be because the environment and society that push and press children so such children have to use violence in committing crime such as from picking the pocket to robbery or plunder by using knife or wood to injure the property owner as the police officer stated that.

“The vagabond children who committed the robbery or plunder are the children who are familiar with the world, namely, at first such children may steal items but when they are arrested, they will learn more about how to commit crime from the juvenile observation and protection center or from the prison. These places are like the school and don’t authentically rehabilitate and solve their behaviors.

When they are free from the prison, these children may not able to find good jobs even the general employment since if the employer knows that such children were imprisoned or arrested, they will not let them work, or if at first the employer doesn’t know that the children have been arrested before and know later, they will be dismissed or fired from work. They are always denounced that they are bad persons. Therefore, such abovementioned vagabond children are mostly old at the age of 15 years old above.

They will hate the society and people around them, except the vagabond children in the same group. When such children commit crime, they will not commit normal crime such as stealing items, but they always commit robbery, plunder, or bodily injury since they are embedded the resentment in their mind and are ready to explode. In the rape case, if the prey resists, he or she will be seriously injured until sometimes passing away. This is because we separate themselves from the society around them.”

How to Solve and Rehabilitate Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

Regarding the vagabond children who commit crime and are arrested, the rehabilitation depends on various factors as each seminar participant gave the different opinions and recommendation, namely, the first person who is the psychologist stated that.

“To rehabilitate the vagabond children who commit crime and are arrested, the government should seriously solve the problem as it is well-recognized that the arrested children are classified by age and offense, and sent to be controlled and rehabilitated in various houses (Met-ta, Ka-ru-na, Mu-thi-ta, Ubakeka, or the juvenile observation and protection center in each province). Such control is still lack of care and rehabilitation. How serious the rehabilitation is in the current situation since the problem regarding the children who are under pressure in various centers still exists on newspaper.

The newspaper states that the children in various houses united and protested the controller. They are not happy about the control system. Although the cause is partially because the children are aggressive, we have to accept that our rehabilitation is under standard and cannot efficiently solve and rehabilitate the children. The vagabond children control center unites with the control center for children committing general cases since Thailand classifies the criminal according to their ages, not according to the type of children so the children committing small offenses such as stealing items when attending such places look like learning more regarding how to survive or learning more about how to commit various kinds of crimes.

Although we classify the children according to the penalty rate, the children who used to commit crime before, even small offenses but several times will be controlled until they are accustomed to the control center or some children commit crime in cases with high penalty rate and are released, and then commit small crimes again will then be controlled at the same place as the children who commit the first crime.” This looks like the source of knowledge for the new vagabond children who are arrested for the first crime. When such children live together, they will absorb and learn more how to survive in the society.”

The social welfare expert recommended additional opinion that.

“Although the juvenile observation and protection center conducts the vocational training for the vagabond children, only some of the children would like to learn since some of them used to live in this place before. When they are out of the prison, they find the jobs according to the job trained in the center. However, when they are inquired about their history or requested to fill in the private information, even though they hide the information, some of the employers check the information from the database of the Royal Thai Police.

When employers find the children’s information, they dismiss the children from the job. Even though the children don’t commit any crimes, they can find the claim to dismiss such children. Therefore, when such children commit crime again and come back to the juvenile observation and protection center, the children don’t want to learn or attend vocational training although we would like to train and tell them that there are a lot of workplaces where the employers are broad-minded and don’t inspect the history of such children. If the employer inspects the children’s history, they will understand us so don’t be discouraged because of facing narrow-minded employers.

Some of the vagabond children accepted that they had to commit crime because nobody accepted them for working. Some vagabond children who were arrested and controlled in the juvenile observation and protection center, and who used to contact us told us that when they were out of the prison, they would like to go back to meet their grandmothers although their mom left home to have new family with the stepfather. When they went back to live with grandmothers, they found the jobs around their hometowns regarding cutting the sugar cane. After the sugar cane plantation’s owner knew that they were imprisoned before, the owner dismissed us from the job with the reason that we had bad work performance, cannot cut the sugar cane, and defrauded the owner’s sugar cane although we didn’t defraud and fully worked for the owner.”

The legal expert proposed that.

“The government agencies such as Ministry of Labor, Department of Employment, etc. should play the role in this since basically people have to eat and

sleep. If the vagabond children who are out of the prison don't have food to eat, they have to steal, conduct robbery, or plunder others. If they have better opportunity, the society gives them the opportunity, sympathize with them or understand them better, the children will feel that they have the same opportunity as other people.

On the other hand, the vagabond children look like the excess or fat of the society. Nobody would like to involve with them or accept them for working. This is not just the vagabond children who were controlled in the juvenile observation and protection center but also the normal vagabond children along the road since people in the society may perceive that these children are the problem of the society but most of the people in the society don't perceive that the problem is from adults that stimulate children to be the vagabond children.”

Most of the seminar participants believed that to solve and rehabilitate the vagabond children who commit crime, the government should play the role in remedying the children's mind since such children are insulted from the society or they cannot find the jobs. Most of the seminar participants agreed that such children should be back to the community and the community should give them the opportunity. The opportunity here doesn't mean only the opportunity to work in the community but also the opportunity to be good people. How should we treat the children so they would like to go back to the community and love the community? This is the big question that the government has to solve.

The government has many units to take care of the vagabond children such as during the past years, it is the Department of Public Welfare and currently, it turns to be the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, or Children and Women Assistance Center, etc. Do these organizations perform their responsibilities at their best effort? The executive of the organization doesn't realize the importance of the vagabond children's problem. Therefore, the solution towards the vagabond children's problem is rather difficult.

In addition, there are NGOs working for solving the vagabond children's problem in Thai society, namely, various foundations such as “Children Creativity

Foundation”, “Children Foundation”, etc. These NGOs should accept the vagabond children who committed crime and were already out of the prison to work there in order for them to have jobs and transfer their bad experience to other vagabond children. The children themselves who transfer the experience must feel proud that they are important and play an important role in the society. The NGOs may provide some income for such children.

At least, they have some options and how to get survival. They will not feel that they are abandoned by the society. However, the NGOs may be able to take care of only some of the vagabond children committing crime since the lack of budget and personnel. In addition, the problem is that if the children wouldn't like to work here, NGOs don't have the opportunity to force them. This is one of the options to solve the vagabond children's problems.

How to Protect and Solve Problems regarding Vagabond Children who Commit Crime

Regarding the guideline for protecting and solving the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime, most of the seminar participants thought that the vagabond children who left home to be vagabond mostly results from the family problem. Thai society used to be the society that people help one another. The family had grandfathers, grandmothers, and relatives who were able to take care of one another. When the economic and industrial growth and development forces Thailand to compete with other countries in the globalization era, it affects the family problem so the parent has to go out to work in the morning and have no time for their children. They don't take care of their children.

The relatives who used to help one another must struggle for survival in the new society focusing only on materials so most children are lack of care from their family. In addition, some of the children must spend their time with both bad and good friends. Therefore, to protect and solve the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime, we should solve the problem from the family. If the family loves and take care of their children, such children will not be vagabond as the academics stated that.

“The family plays an important role in the children life, especially when the children are teenagers. The children in this age always stay with friends, have high spirits, and make decisions due to their emotion. If parent are lack of understanding and care or don’t pay much attention to their children, the children may involve in ruin or illegal items easily, especially when the parent scold their children regarding their personal issues or their association with friends. This will increase the opportunity for children to be vagabond from their homes.

On the other hand, parents in many families not only don’t have time for their children but they also love gambling, and addict to alcohol, drugs or various illegal items, or in some families, parents always quarrel with each other in front of their children so the children are bored with the environment in their homes until moving away from home. Therefore, when the children move out from home, they may be enticed to get involved in illegal items easily, especially the girl who are vagabond from their home. Some of the girls are enticed to be prostitute.”

The social welfare expert proposed that.

“To protect the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime, besides starting from the family, we may concentrate on the family planning, namely, before deciding to get married, both men and women should at least be ready to have sufficient income to take care of their family since some of the girls get pregnant without intention. When they give birth and don’t take care of their children since they feel that they don’t want the children to be born so the children grow up without care from their parents.

In order to protect and solve the problem at the first stage before having family, the relevant government agencies must act as the host such as the provincial, district, or sub-district public health officers must access the community and villagers in terms of birth control. People in the community should know how to protect the pregnancy without intention since when they have children without readiness, the problem will be followed. We have to create understanding among people in the community, especially at the grassroots level. We should recommend the family planning so such people realize various important factors before having the family such as income and expenses within the family, the parent’s maturity, etc. In some

families, the parent is not matured to have children and have to act as dad and mom, especially poor family facing the economic problem.”

The police officer gave some ideas that.

“In some families, parents commit crime themselves such as stealing, robbery, taking, selling drugs, etc. when they have children, their children will learn and absorb this. When the family is problematic, the children will flee away from home to become the vagabond children, or the children become vagabond by themselves because they would like to know and try new things. The illegal environment abovementioned may embed in the children’s mind so the children think that this issue is not weird and able to do. Most of the vagabond children are always forced to send drugs by older vagabond children in the gang. The older vagabond children in the gang may start from innocent vagabond children, and when time has passed, they become familiar to the external world and are brave to commit illegal crimes.”

All the seminar participants agreed that the family plays an important role in the vagabond children’s behaviors regarding committing crime, and recommended that “The vagabond children who commit crime and are arrested and controlled in the juvenile observation and protection center both in Bangkok and in provinces that are not the children’s hometown. Many children miss their parent and would like their parent to visit them or would like to go back to stay with friends. But such children don’t have the opportunity since they are controlled within the juvenile observation and protection center so the gap among family increases. Therefore, if possible, if such vagabond children commit crime and are controlled, the center should contact parents since at least parents, relatives, or children’s friends may visit them and the mental condition of the children gets better and the children won’t feel abandoned, lonely or deserted.

In addition to the family that plays an important role in vagabond children committing crime, the school is one of the important factors in pushing or pulling the children to become vagabond as the NGOs personnel stated that.

“If teachers in the schools or educational institutes pay attention to the children under their responsibilities such as classroom teachers or advisors in case that the children are frequently absent from the class, the teachers may monitor and inquire from the family to realize the cause of absence from schools and whether the children have family problems or not since when the children have problems that cannot consult with anyone, the teacher can take care of, recommend, consult, or assist the children before the children decide to leave from the problem by fleeing from their home, family, or school.

The children may think that they cannot solve the problem by themselves and don't know whom they should consult with so they don't want to come to schools and don't want to get back home. The children, then, flee away from the family and school to live at friends' homes or to be vagabond, and finally, they get involved in illegal items as we all know that childhood is the age of innocence to the world. They are lack of experience so it is easy to entice them to get involved in ruin or illegal items easily. For instance, some vagabond children may would like to see bar, club, disco theque, etc. From this problem, they are deceived or enticed towards the improper way of life and some of the women vagabond children lose their virginity. Therefore, teachers in the schools play an important role in childhood. They can protect and solve the problem for children before they cannot find the solution and flee away from the family to be vagabond alone or with group of friends.”

The legal expert believed that.

“One of the causes of children fleeing away from school and family in order to live alone is from friends at the school since some children may have an inferiority complex. They may be shy and don't dare to express themselves. They are quiet and always annoyed by their friends. When they get home and don't meet their parents, they feel that they are lack of warmth and feel under pressure and don't want to go to schools. They cannot consult with anyone so they find the solution by fleeing away from the society, and the environment.

Some of them may flee away to live with their reliable friends but some of them make decisions to flee away from thee community and live by themselves by taking trains or buses from provinces to the city, especially into Bangkok. They have

money for 1 – 2 hundred Baht and hope to find the job or money in the future since such abovementioned children may feel that their society doesn't give them the affection or warmth. This is not different from the situation that they abandon the city to live alone. The teacher at school may observe the behaviors among students in case of conflict among children or group of children in schools, and solve such conflict.”

The police officer proposed the additional opinion that.

“In some schools, the children in the class may be the Sor.Jor. (Provincial Council Member), Sor.Sor. (Member of the House of Representatives)'s children or Kamnan's or Head of Village's or Mayor of Sub-District Administration Organization's or Mayor of Provincial Administration Organization's children. The teacher may pay special attention to such children. If such children misbehave repeatedly, the teacher doesn't dare to warn these children. So, most of the problematic children at schools are these group of children.

On the other hand, the children from families at the grassroots level are always insulted, scolded, admonished by the teacher or are severely hit by the teacher so the children feel under pressure. The teacher should give fairness to all the children no matter who they are. The teacher has to equally take care of them; otherwise, some of the children whose parent are poor or lives in the low-level society may feel separated from the educational system automatically. This is the starting point of the children's boredom towards the school environment, friends, and teachers. Finally, children will flee from the school system.”

The academics proposed the additional opinion that.

“Sometimes, the educational system in school focuses more on the academics. Many children don't have the ability to study at the same level as their friends but they have other talents that other children don't have. The school doesn't support these talents so they feel bored with the educational and teaching system. For instance, the children may be good at playing musical instrument but they are not good at studying.

Currently, the educational system in Thailand expects the children to learn and know everything from math, Thai language, English language, science, biology,

to agriculture, etc. Many children don't have expert in academics so they cannot study and have to get out of the educational system so where these group of children go. If, especially, the family of these children is not good and doesn't take care of the children, the children may not have any places to go and have to flee away to live alone and become the vagabond children, and finally, become a wreck. These children may get involved in illegal items since currently the children don't have immune that can classify right and wrong items. They are easy to be deceived or enticed to commit wrong actions.

We can see that most of the number of people relevant to drugs is children and youths, or the statistics of rape case demonstrate that the age of the criminals is lower. In the past, Thai society didn't have these types of cases or had lower number of cases. We may have to accept the social change in the information era since the children can quickly access the news and imitate the behaviors from TV and newspaper without consideration. If going back to the educational system, we must change the instruction and teaching in order not to separate some children who can't get along with this system and, finally, it turns to be the big problem in the future.”

Regarding the protection and correction of the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime, the government plays an important role in this issue since the government has various relevant units that have the potential to protect the problem before such vagabond children commit crime as the legal expert stated that.

“The police is one of the important units relevant to the direct protection of criminal problem. If the police inspects and meets the vagabond children along the road, they should ask such children to give their personal data to create the database, and verify their hometown. This will protect the criminal from these children, especially if possible, the police officers should coordinate with relevant units that may be the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and various children foundations regarding the provision of dwellings / residences for these children or the submission of children to their hometown or community. If the vagabond children don't want to go back, the government may provide special residences, conduct vocational training, and provide food and clothing for them.”

The police officer argued that.

“Most of the police officers don’t have time to take care of vagabond children on an individual basis, especially in the big cities such as Bangkok, Phuket, Chiang Mai, etc. since it is well recognized that the police officers have a lot of duties and responsibilities and the policy of their supervisors is not certain. Some of the supervisors may pay attention to and be interested in the vagabond children’s problem but when the supervisors have been changed, the policy for protecting the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime has changed since the new supervisors may not understand or don’t pay attention to the problems, or some supervisors don’t know what the vagabond children are. Therefore, the assistances like us have to follow their instruction or policy.

When the policy has been changed, our duties and responsibilities have also been changed. In another case, the police officers who are directly responsible for the vagabond children have been transferred or have moved to work in other duties, their projects that have been done may run unevenly or may suddenly stop.”

One of the main problems of the police officers to protect the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime is the lack of budgetary support. The police officers stated additionally that.

“Sometimes, we went out to inspect the places that the vagabond children used to live such as Hua Lum Pong and we met some children, we thought that such children should be new vagabond children so we talked and inquired them. Such children told us that his mom forced him to act as a beggar. He wanted to study but had no money. Such children also requested the money from us. Although we didn’t have much salary but we sympathized with the children and gave the money to them.

Many vagabond children wear old clothes because they don’t have money to buy such clothes. When we go to the field trip, we always face this problem. Many times, we would like to help them but we don’t have much money. The railway police have ever been supported the budget relevant to vagabond children in order to assist these children although we cannot fully help them but we can partially do that since when some of the vagabond children don’t have money to buy food, they have to find bits of foods from the food shops. If hungry and don’t have money to buy food, they

may steal others, especially passengers around Hua Lum Pong. If we have sufficient budget to support this, we can partially help them more than now.

Some of the vagabond children become vagabond alone or some of them come with friends. At first, they may commit small crimes such as stealing money, food or sweets, etc. When the vagabond children are more experienced, they are more familiar to the world and commit more serious crimes from stealing to robbery or plunder. They change from collecting old and abandoned items for sale to selling drugs since they don't have any good choices. They have to struggle by themselves so the way they obtain money may be illegal."

One of the NGOs academics gave the opinion that.

"The government agencies are directly responsible for the vagabond children's problem and they should access the children before the children commit crime such as Department of Public Welfare that has currently been changed to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. In addition, the government agencies should access the vagabond children in various places such as Buddha Yod Fa Bridge, Department Stores, Hua Lum Pong, Jatujak, etc. The access is like the protection of problem before the children create the problem.

The agencies should select and classify type of children according to the characteristic of problem and cause of being vagabond children into characteristic of assistance. The agencies should give the children understanding because if we understand them and are ready to help them, the children may not want to commit illegal action. For instance, when the children have no food and clothes, we should give them. When they don't have residences, we should provide them. We may classify the residence as the community for only vagabond children since it will make the control and protection of vagabond children committing crime easier.

Any vagabond children who want to go back home or community, we should coordinate with the government agencies in the hometown of such vagabond children in order to send them to their own community. But if the children have family problems or problem about his study, we may classify children into each case and find the assistance on an individual basis according to the characteristic of problem."

In addition to the government agencies playing the important role in protecting and solving the problem regarding children's crime, the private sector (both private organizations, NGOs, and various foundations) is also important to the vagabond children's problem as many focus group's participants proposed that NGOs and the youths and women foundations should take care of and play the role in protecting the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime since various units abovementioned are flexible in terms of budget utilization and don't have complex procedures like the government system.

Moreover, various foundations can request for donation of money, clothes, and items in order to be used for helping such inferior children. These organizations can help and operate the assistance immediately. Many foundations have been familiar with the vagabond children's problem or inferior children's problem for a long time. The personnel in these organizations have had long experience in this field without transferring to other areas like in the government agencies. Therefore, the advantage is that such organizations understand the problem clearly from the cause that the children have to commit robbery or have to be the prostitutes.

When being able to understand the problem, they can accurately solve the problem and can see the concrete outcome. However, since according to the social condition in Thailand, various foundations or organizations don't emphasize on solving or assisting the vagabond children authentically, they have other purposes such as to gain the political vote as we are well recognized on the newspaper that there is one foundation assisting children and women's problem. Therefore, many people in the society may not be certain to support the foundation's activities or may not be confident in the foundation's operation. However, if such abovementioned private sectors are acceptable in the society, they will obtain higher level of support from people and the assistance of vagabond children or the protection of such children from committing crime will be more effective.

CHAPTER 5

RESULTS

The results are derived from both in-depth interviews and focus group. Namely, in-depth interviews are applied for interviewing street children and key informants. But for focus group is the technique used for collecting data from key informants only. The reason of this is that those key informants have experiences about young people leaving homes in many different dimensions. The conclusion of data collection is designed to be relevant to the purposes of this study. To do this, three main issues are set. These issues are the causes of criminal abandoned children, the reasons of involving with crimes, crime prevention and solution respectively.

1. The causes of criminal abandoned children

Street children are a group of young people who have no the opportunity in terms of quality of life and employment as such general children. By this, it means that abandoned children do not have enough love and care from their families, communities and societies. It reflects inequality of well-beings and opportunity and illustrates ineffectiveness of various social units in society. Inevitably, homeless children are engaged in offending. There are many main reasons why abandoned children commit crimes:

1.1 The beginning of family life

The majority of homeless children come from meager family. They have to make every effort to survive. Some of them are learned/learned crime patterns from being taught in their homes. Parents or guardians may be not able to provide basic needs for family members. Hence, children in those families earn money illegally such as stealing valuable things and drug dealings. These illegal methods absolutely lead to children's criminal actions, especially those running away from homes.

Because of this reason, these children with difficulties are familiar with acting crimes. Apart from this, they learn criminal behaviour different means from their families. When those families are broken, they are unable to live in a new family due to stepparent problems and others. Therefore, these children leave their homes and those criminal actions are transmitted to them. After leaving homes, techniques of offending are improved due to the fact that children experience poor environments in their lives.

“When I was 10 years old, I ever held a paper bag having drugs to go to a city with my dad. At that time, I was not sure that it was good or bad but I exactly knew that my dad got a lot of money from coming back.”

(1st boy aged 18-year-old, drug dealing)

“I knew that my dad and brother sold drugs due to receiving a lot of money. I was able to do and identify what I should do. Even though they were into the prison, I could continue this job, who I could contact with, what I had to do.....”

(2nd boy aged 19-year-old, property crimes)

Stepfamily is one of major problems of leaving homes of children. The number of stepfathers or stepmothers punishes their own children severely. Those punishments may be beating and hitting. In addition, some stepparents imprison children in bathroom or dark room for an hour. These doings put pressure on young people. These young people are familiar with seriousness. When they grow up, they tend to be pessimistic. Furthermore, children kept into bathroom will hate their parents as those children believed that their parents are bad (Aptekar, 1988). Consequently, those children's attitudes are very likely to have anti social behaviour. If they have to be in under stress, they incline to resolve their troubles which they are facing by illegitimate means. These means resulted from child-raising in childhood. It is proved by the street boy:

“She always scolded me, pinched, hit, and smashed my head. It's painful and unreasonable. Every time, my dad was always with her side...”

“After seeing him, I and my friends, then, went directly to attack him without paying attention to the number of persons in my opponent’s group. Upon the situation, I have never cared anything. After attacking, one person in my opponent’s group was seriously injured and the rest fled away. The police around there arrested us regarding assault others until serious injury. I accept that I was hot-tempered and my friend really wanted to attack them...”

(2nd boy aged 19-year-old, bodily injury case)

Family without parents is another aspect of running away from homes of children. Young people who have no parents have to live with their relatives. This has an effect on young people’s lives. It is because family is the first social unit which looks after both their minds and bodies (Gullenkian, 1995). Child-raising is a vital issue of children’s manners. Namely, children will have acceptable or unacceptable characteristics depending on taking care of a child in family, including criminal behaviour (Maguire, Morgan and Reiner, 2007). Another interesting point is that relatives are able to assist adolescents to deal with unpleasant circumstances. Uncle, aunts and grandparents play a key role in terms of providing enough love and care.

“My aunt always said that I am an orphan. She always complained me. I don’t like them to insult me even though I sometimes did some wrong actions. But people in my family have never helped me. I think I live alone in this world and have no relatives.”

“I didn’t want to live at home because I felt bored. They always complained me. I felt I was the excess of their families”

(2nd boy aged 17 years old, sex crimes).

“My dad separated from my mom when I was so young. My aunt looked after me but she regularly scolded me. In addition, she hit me with stick. In contrast, I felt very happy for spending time with my friends. They barely had conflict with me. Sometimes, I quarreled with those friends/peers but we were still good friends.”

(1st boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing).

Family in globalization needs to adjust the ways of teaching and bringing up a child in order to be appropriate for changing in modern world. If parents take care of their own children with restricted lives, it strongly influences children's conducts. Children should be taught to follow the regulations and disciplines. Moreover, they should be practiced to conform to social norms. It is accepted that young people will be adults as next generation. They should be able to think and decide by themselves based on norms and values. It is clarified clearly by one of key informants as interviewee:

“Thai society raises their children with innocence. The family that protect their children protects such children too much but the family that doesn't take care of their children lets their children live alone and has to fully adjust themselves to the changing situation. Many families have to change the way they take care of their children and have to take care of them before they become vagabond children.”

(Academic interview)

On the other hand, adolescents lacking socialization process are highly possible to offend compared to those living in warm family? This notion links to Freud's perception. Namely, general children have criminal mind because of “id”. It is undeveloped factor as extinct instinct. Every child has human instinct as animals. The development of human being depends on the process of moving from animals to humanity. Furthermore, children are inherently inclined to evil. The process of learning in family is a key feature to develop human performances.

In fact, children are taught through norms, believe and values. These factors considerably help children to develop “superego”, whilst ego works as control factor which has power over “id”. If superego is undeveloped, it can be predicted that criminal characteristic will be in those children. From these viewpoints, it is applied to demonstrate why some young people leaving their homes commit serious crimes such as murder and rape. These serious crimes are caused by imperfect development of superego. In other words, superego has less power than id. As a result, it can not control id and this is the causes of different types of street children's crimes. This assumption is verified by the sample of homeless boys.

“My parents pampered me. They were not fierce at all and never scolded me. I can do anything I need. Sometimes, my mom taught me about my learning but I did not pay attention to her...”

“One of my friends had a wife and when my friend was imprisoned, she got a new guy so I’m indignant and asked other friends to attack and kill that guy.”

“When I did it, I didn’t feel sympathetic at all. I think he made my friend feel sad so he deserves the penalty...”

(1st boy aged 17 years old, bodily injury case)

“I feel like I live alone because my dad does not pay attention to me since he is quite busy taking care of 2 grandchildren and sell the items at the shop. My dad does not pay attention to me where I go out and when I will come back. I thin it’s good. For my mom, she returns home sometimes at the end of each month. She always gives me some money of approximately 1 -2 thousand Baht each time and talks about general topics. I feel good because nobody is interested in me and I feel independent”

“The leader of such group is Mr. Chai (Anonymous name). He scolded me and smashed my head. He blamed me that I came to earn the income in his area. I think it’s my right and he didn’t allow me so he punched and kicked me. He may think he was bigger than me but I was not afraid of him at all. He punched me until my eyebrows were bloody. So, I stabbed him with a knife for one tim...”

“...I thinks I was not wrong since he picked a quarrel with me first.”

(3rd boy aged 16 years old, bodily injury case)

It can be noticed that the sample of homeless children accused of bodily injury case at detention center choose to end the conflicts by forcing. In addition, it is found that the backgrounds of each child are dissimilar. These are the answers why homeless child seems to be crueller than children in general.

1.2 To survive

Neglected children from the sample agreed that one of main reasons of acting illegal activities is to survive. Those young people without homes have no knowledge and lack the opportunity to earn money legally, while they need to have food, clothes and money for rent. It is confirmed by some street boys:

“I used to sell drugs as it made lots of money”

“I need money for buying food”

(3rd boy aged 16-year-old, property crimes)

“I need to use money. If I had no money, I was not able to do anything.”

“I had no money for food and rent.”

(2nd boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

“... I only needed money and his properties. Now, I was sad. Money which I got was used for buying food, party with my friends and shopping with my girlfriend...”

(1st boy aged 16-year-old, property crimes)

It can be accepted that children without homes commit crimes as they have no chance to earn money legally. Family is not able to support them due to the fact that most of them live in low-income family. Furthermore, some children living in those families have no source of incomes. Their crimes have to be done because of the lack of basic needs. Although some children running away from home involve with illegal activities for extravagant use, one part of money from those illegal activities are utilized for being alive.

1.3 The persuasion of friends/peers

Friends/peers are one of the most important factor affecting street children's criminal acts. A new street child may spend his/her alone a few days/weeks after leaving their homes. After that this child will meet the former homeless children. A new comer and the formers will have conversation and social interactions. The relationship between these young people is developed. They maybe intimate friends easily as they have similar problems and they are the same age (Emler and Reicher, 1995). Related to the sample group of homeless boys in the case of in-depth interviews, it is found that the majority of new street boys make the acquaintance of the formers. Also, numerous techniques are transmitted by this generation to the next. These techniques are significant in respect of guiding how to be able to struggle in

street children's societies. Criminal means have been learned through difficult conditions (Western, Lynch and Ogilvie 2003).

"These friends cared each other and most people in society did not accept us. When I had squabbles, these friends helped me to deal with those squabbles. On the other hand, I gave assistance to those friends while they required me for helping."

(1st boy aged 16 years old, property crimes)

"Friends/peers were everything in my life as they had the troubles like me. We swore to spend our lives together, including having sex with the same girls."

(3rd boy aged 16 years old, property crimes)

"I advised my friend almost everything. Those friends could help me while others could not help. This was because my friends had problems like me. Most difficulty that we met was no money. As a result, I and my companion engaged in criminal actions so that we got money. These criminal actions were easy for receiving more money such as stealing and selling mate amphetamine."

(2nd boy aged 19 years old, property crime)

"I have 2 closed friends. When I have any problems, they can help me almost every time. My most frequent problem I have faced is about money or fighting with others. My friends seem to be sincere to me."

(3rd boy aged 17 years old, drug dealing)

Another aspect of homeless children's lives is that they often spend their lives as a group or gang/s. As it was mentioned before, homeless children come from families with problems. They are neglected from their parents. Living as a group or gang compensate for the loss of love and care. The members in the group/gang have close relation. There are no timetables for them and no regulations to follow. These significantly differ from their homes (Green, 1998).

Symbols are an interesting feature employed in each group/gang. Those symbols may be tattoos. Three points, for instance, they are tattooed behind the hand. Some gangs tattooed on their shoulders. The purpose of setting group as a gang is to

find money both legal and illegal ways such as beggars, stealing, drug dealers and so on. Each member is instructed to commit crimes. In addition, street children, who roamed for long time and exactly identify how to make money, acts serious crimes.

“Friends/peers persuaded me to try and sell drugs. We had our lives in the same house. As a result, we had to find money together. I was so pleased to do this with my friends...”

(1st boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

“I and my friends often caught the bus which passed the front of this house. People living in this house seemed to be wealthy since the house was quite big. For this reason, we planned to steal valuable things from this house. We spent time every week to look around. For example, we had checked how many people had lived in that house, what time we were able to begin working, what time those people went out and went back...”

(3rd boy aged 16 years old, property crime)

Some street children involve with sex crimes as individual and groups. By this, it means that some of those children rape a girl and then those friends rape that girl.

“I was caught under the rape case. Such girl is 14 years old. On that day, I went to go the department store with 5 friends. I met this girl who wore tight dress and very short shorts and she also wore a very small shirt. She greeted me first. Afterwards, we took such girl and her 2 friends to eat KFC chicken. When we finished eating, we went back home and one of the girl went back with me and I didn't blame her. When we went home, she encourages us so I and my 8 friends have sex with her.”

(1st boy aged 17 years old, sex crime)

“I and my friends are much closed to one another since we have only 5 persons. We worked together, and ate together.”

“But people in my family have never helped me. I think I live alone in this world and have no relatives. I have only friends. I love my friends more than my relatives.”

“...On one day, she came to meet me at home when all of my friends were at home. My friends told me that if I love them, I should share my girlfriend with them. I felt unhappy but they are my good friends. I know that they always helped me so I allowed them to have sex with my girlfriend. At first, my girlfriend didn't allow them but I persuaded her until she accepted that. I told her that if she didn't allow my friends to have sex, she may be injured and I can't help her”

(2nd boy aged 17 years old, sex crime)

“I and my friends often caught the bus which passed the front of this house. People living in this house seemed to be wealthy since the house was quite big. For this reason, we planned to steal valuable things from this house. We spent time every week to look around...”

(3rd boy aged 16 years old, property crime)

Friend is influential in believe and attitudes' homeless adolescents. Most street adolescents agree to break the law when their friends have to experience difficult situations. It is believed by interviewing a boy whom was accused of trying to injure another boy.

“I am hot-tempered. One of my friends had a wife and when my friend was imprisoned, she got a new guy so I'm indignant and asked other friends to attack and kill that guy.”

“When I did it, I didn't feel sympathetic at all. I think he made my friend feel sad so he deserves the penalty...”

(1st boy aged 17 years old, bodily injury case)

In conclusion, friend as informal social network is vital for their lives. Life on the street needs someone to understand and help. Friends seem to fulfill love and care which they never have. Apart from this, those homeless children live with

their friends as the same family. This is a source that they only have. From the sample, the homeless boy with the accusation of sex crime permits their friends to have sex with his girlfriend. Some are able to do everything for their friends. Hence, it is believed that friend is considered as vital factor for children with no homes.

1.4 Thai societal changes

It is believed that rapid social transformation in terms of technology, infrastructure and economy result in Thai societal changes. Norms, values and believe in old Thai cultures have been adjusted. Numerous social components have become less important in modern Thai society. The majority of people become more interested in materialism and consumerism than in the past. Most of their time is spent on earning money and seeking better lives (Poothakool, 2007). It not only leads to the gap between members in the family, but it also destroys social relations with people in communities. Namely, in the past the majority of Thai people live with their families as extended family, especially in rural areas.

Recent years ago, Thai society has been changed from agriculture to industrial epoch. Young people are able to access data through media even though they live in remote regions. At present, the ways of their lives change to be luxurious. There are many attractive places, particularly those in large cities. Those places are shopping mall, game shop, pubs, bars, theaters and others which play a major role for young people's lives in respect of entertainment. Most young people know these places as they are propagated through television, radio, newspaper and so on. There are some young people who are interested in those places and spend more time on them. It results in the adjustment of children's views and behaviour in modern society.

The sample of homeless children at detention center accepted that media influence the ways of their lives. The number of homeless children wishes to have much money for playing games, snooker and shopping but they are unable to earn money which acts in accordance with norms and values. In addition, the limitations of age and qualification of neglected children are main issues of the difficulties of gaining money correctly.

“...I knew but money was necessary for surviving. I felt so tired when I had to work. If I broke the law, I got much money and it made me happy.”

“I liked to play game in a shopping mall. Snooker was another game that I really liked to play. Yet, shopping with my girlfriend was the best choice. When my money was gone, I applied for jobs such as labour and the assistance of the offender...”

(3rd boy aged 16 years old, property crime)

“...I and my companion engaged in criminal actions so that we got money. These criminal actions were easy for receiving more money such as stealing and selling mate amphetamine.”

(2nd boy aged 19 years old, property crime)

“...I could be a good boy but I did not have money...”

(1st boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

“...I would not like to gain money from my uncle. I liked to find money by myself such as stealing money and little things”

“...If I did not have money, I could borrow it from some friends. If all of us had no money, we may find jobs. Unfortunately, we were unable to get jobs, we stole things to sell. In additions, we may take stolen things from offenders and sell them. It was necessary to do this due to the fact that I had no cash and I did not want to ask money from my uncle.”

(1st boy aged 16 years old, property crime)

“...I would like to earn a lot of money but I don't know what to do. I have to earn money for eating and entertaining. If I have to beg for money from my friends only, I feel considerate and they also don't have much money.”

“If I sell drugs and obtain a lot of money, I will go to see movie, karaoke, ask a girl to hang out with m, or treat my friends for a meal. I think my life is happy from this and I don't want anything more.”

(3rd boy aged 17 years old, drug dealing)

From the sample of street children, the effects of this study relates to the national seminar of the national committee of supporting and coordinating activities of street children (1990: 49).

“Pull factors in society are enjoyable ways for pulling children to wander as there are several things that seems to be pleasure of joining in modern world..... . Many children without homes are able to earn money easily by begging in tourist areas or having sex to exchange money without sufficient knowledge. In addition, different kinds of Medias transfer wrong ideas to the large number of children for coping”

Children who are troubled and live in countryside, particularly developing country often have been pulled to a large city due to many entertainment places. These troubled children are able to earn money both legal and illegal ways (Stephenson, 2001). Homeless children from countryside or rural regions, when they come to a large city such as Bangkok and Chiangmai province, they have no accommodation.

Some might live in friends' houses but it is quite a few. Homeless children's lives that are pulled from their communities have to struggle for gaining money each day. Inevitably, they engage in criminal actions, especially those involving with property crimes. While these homeless children have more experiences about living in large cities, their crimes tend to be more serious. For example, they may commit petty crimes first, and then these crimes are developed to be robbery. From social factors mentioned above, ultimately homeless young people are attracted to come to the cities.

“At that day, I went back from motorcycle racing at 5am with my friends about 5-6. I lost against another motorcycle gang...”

“...When he parked his car, we robbed his valuable things, including the car. Nonetheless, we could not take the car with us because the driver became unconscious in that car. By this result, we fled quickly.”

“At that time, I only needed money and his properties. Now, I was sad. Money which I got was used for buying food, party with my friends and shopping with my girlfriend...”

(1st boy aged 16 years old, property crime)

In conclusion, children who have no homes commit crimes because they wish to consume luxury goods but their incomes are very low. Therefore, the ways of receiving those are to break the law. Though these young people without homes realized that these doings are restricted by law, they do not have the opportunity to obtain the quantity of money by legitimate means. In addition, these young people also think that they have no future plans. As a result, street young people’s feelings are not guilty to have unlawful acts. On the contrary, young people without homes consider that it is a good chance to have food in the restaurant, shopping and playing games by using money from those unlawful acts.

2. Crime patterns

2.1 From petty crimes to serious crimes

Due to adolescents’ lives without families and relatives, they learned and they are learned to embark on committing petty crimes, after that these petty crimes are changed to be more serious situations than before. Drug smuggling, for stance, is the beginning of drug dealing and then it is increased in the intensity of seriousness to be drug dealers. Another example is that some homeless adolescents used to harm other people but later they kill or try to kill others.

“I liked to find money by myself such as stealing money and little things”

(1st boy aged 16-year-old, property crime)

“...At first, when I came to work in Bangkok, I worked for legal jobs but money was so little compared to my exhaustion. I was so bored so I have used drugs and sold drugs. I’m so happy and earned a lot of money.”

(2nd boy aged 18-year-old, drug crimes)

In the case of homeless boy who tried to harm another boy, it is found that the offender employed a pocketknife to pierce the victim. Even if the boy did not expect that the victim will be pierced until died, he would guess that this doing cause serious injure or death.

“I am hot-tempered. One of my friends had a wife and when my friend was imprisoned, she got a new guy so I’m indignant and asked other friends to attack and kill that guy.”

(1st boy aged 17-year-old, bodily injure case)

“The latest situation that forced me to live at this house was that I and my friends went to attend Songkran Festival and met with my friend’s previous opponent. He used to quarrel with my friends before. After seeing him, I and my friends, then, went directly to attack him without paying attention to the number of persons in my opponent’s group. Upon the situation, I have never cared anything. After attacking, one person in my opponent’s group was seriously injured...”

(2nd boy aged 19-year-old, bodily injure case)

“...My friends asked me to work for earning the income since I thought I didn’t do anything at home so I left home. I have done many things from cleaning the car mirror at the intersection, selling the flowers to general employment but I cannot earn sufficient money to buy items I need. I was caught by police since I went to Buddha Yod Fa Bridge with my friends to earn some money, and met with another group of children around there. The leader of such group is Mr. Chai (Anonymous name). He is 19 years old. I have never known him before, and then, he scolded me and smashed my head. He blamed me that I came to earn the income in his area. I think it’s my right and he didn’t allow me so he punched and kicked me. He may think he was bigger than me but I was not afraid of him at all. He punched me until my eyebrows were bloody. So, I stabbed him with a knife for one time.”

(3rd boy aged 16-year-old, bodily injure case)

In addition, in the case of sex crime, it can be seen that those street boys' crimes are remarkable. They raped the girl at the same time. By doing this, it is regarded as serious action. Although the offender said to the researcher that the victim agreed to have sex with a few boys simultaneously, it is odds for that girl to do that. If that girl admits those boys to have sex with her, she would not inform the police to catch them.

"...When we finished eating, we went back home and one of the girl went back with me and I didn't blame her. When we went home, she encourages us so I and my 8 friends have sex with her."

(1st boy aged 17-year-old, sex crime)

"...On one day, she came to meet me at home when all of my friends were at home. My friends told me that if I love them, I should share my girlfriend with them. I felt unhappy but they are my good friends. I know that they always helped me so I allowed them to have relationship with my girlfriend. At first, my girlfriend didn't allow them but I persuaded her until she accepted that. I told her that if she didn't allow my friends to have relationship, she may be injured and I can't help her."

(2nd boy aged 17-year-old, sex crime)

"I knew this girl before. She lived around my home. She used to be my girlfriend for a while but her mom always insulted me and my friends so I separated with her. But we already had sexual relationship like other couples. After separating for 6 months, such girl contacted me to stay with me for one night. I allowed her since she used to be my girlfriend. She went back in the morning and 3 days later, her mom took the police to arrest me and my friends at home. Her mom said we raped her daughter."

(3rd boy aged 19-year-old, sex crime)

From the sample of street children, the causes of these children's criminal actions result from their childhoods and they have life freedom (Maguire, Morgan and Reiner, 2007). They lack parental controls and socialization process. It leads to aggressive behaviour and the seriousness of offending (Rutter and Giller, 1983).

2.2 Repetitive Patterns of Criminal Behaviour

From the sample of abandoned boys, it can be observed that street boys' crimes are repetitive. Some of them offend more than twice. It is shown as below:

Kob aged 17 years old is accused of drug dealer (Mate amphetamine) used to be arrested three times because of the allegation of drug dealing. This is the fourth time.

Korn aged 17 years old was arrested as he tried to kill another boy. He used to be caught twice.

Porn aged 19 years old was arrested since he harmed others that results in serious injure. His crimes were committed more than three times.

Fa aged 17-year-old and his friends raped the girl. He was arrested three times in different charges. By the first crime, he was arrested when he was twelve years olds. For the second and the third crime, he was accused of property crimes.

Some abandoned boys said to the researcher that:

"I came to Bangkok with my peer living in the same community because I thought that I would have better life. When I arrived to Bangkok, I served as the assistant of an engine man in a car repair shop. I had to perform duty nearly everything that the engine man ordered me to do. I got low payment but work very hard. When I worked there for a few months, I stole valuable things in that car repair shop to sell them. Fortunately, at that time, I was not arrested."

(3rd boy aged 16 years old, property crimes)

"I used to sell drugs more than 3 times. When I did not have money, drugs played important role for me. It helped me to gain lots of money. Money from this was paid for food and accommodation."

(1st boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

From the sample of street boys, some of them believe that criminal activities in which were acted more than once are common. Furthermore, they are proud to do that.

“Young people in detention center were not clever at acting like me sine I went to every detention house in Bangkok (He laughed). I offended nearly every case such as drug dealings and stealing money.”

(2nd boy aged 19 years old, property crimes)

To sum up, in neglected children’s society, repetitive crimes are considered as usual phenomena. They assume that they do not feel guilty for offending repeatedly both the same and different accusations.

3. The effective ways of crime protections and resolution of children with difficulties

Data are considered and linked to different several dimensions by interviewing troubled children committing crimes, key informants and setting focus group. These are beneficial for the researcher to identify the advantageous means of preventing and dealing with homeless children’s criminal actions.

1. Family

Almost every homeless youth from the sample has different aspects of troubles. Family is the most important social unit which may be push or pull factors of youths. To stop homeless youths’ crimes, family needs to protect their own children in order that children wish not to leave their homes. This would be the best way to prevent street children’s criminal activities. The research outcomes show that there are the relationships between troubled children and crimes (Maguire, Morgan and Reiner, 2007). The reason is that childhood is vulnerable and has no experiences. If young people have to spend their own lives without parental controls or guardian, they are easily persuaded to offend.

In order to prevent youths from wandering, family members need to provide sufficient love and care to their own children. If not, those children are not able to give satisfaction to other people in society (Holman, 1995). In addition, mother and father should have good manners as examples of their own children. Serious punishment and putting pressure on young people should not be used in family. On the other hand, numerous different techniques should be applied for child-raising as it has connected to children's behaviour. A number of programmes have demonstrated success in reducing children's antisocial behaviour, although reductions in stealing and other delinquent activities have in some instances proved short-lived (Muncie, Hughes, and Mclaughlin, 2002).

Not only is the issue of roaming the streets considered, but crime prevention should also be major aspect of children's lives. Believe, values and traditions in old Thai society should be established in modern society. Even though these factors need to take time, family members should have to do. The gap between adults and youths in family should be narrowed since it significantly affect youths' characteristics (Smith and Stern: 1997; Haapasalo and Pokela, 1999). These ideas are validated by some key informants:

“The main problem of leaving homes is family problem. Their parents are divorced such as dad went to get re-married and had new family. Most of the children still live with dad or mom. Sometimes, children live with stepfather and the stepfather hit or injured the children so the children have to flee away from home. The children don't get the warmth in their family. Their parents left them. Sometimes, the children have to live with their grandfather or grandmother so they don't have any last resort. Mostly, their grandfather or grandmother is very old so they cannot live with their grandfather or grandmother. Such children are mostly poor so the children have to flee away from home without any destination. The children have friends and flee away with their friends.

(Railway police)

“...Such vagabond children always have the problem with their family. Normally, such children are teenagers of approximately 16 – 17 years old. In addition, such vagabond children, sometimes, move out to live with friends to find their jobs. Some of them are considered “vagabond children” because their parent all passes away so they have to live with friends...”

(Social welfare expert)

“...the middle-level family also has the vagabond children’s problem since the parents have to work hard and have no time to take care of their children. When the children go back home they don’t know whom I should live with. They may stick with friends or games and these factors force children to get out of the family system since they don’t take care of their children and there are gaps between parent and children.”

“Some of the children are tied at home since their mom doesn’t want them to go out of their home. Regarding the current family, the parent works for 6 days from 7 days in a week...”

(The staff at NGO)

Stepfamily is one of major causes of family problems. This is because the child from old husband/wife is very likely to be forgotten or neglected. It makes that child feel lonely and isolated. Likewise, if children from divorced family have to live with aunt, uncle or grandparents, they tend to gain inadequate love and care as same as their real families. It can be seen that most street boys at detention center have family problems.

“I felt very lonely. I never see my parents”

(1st boy aged 16 years old, property crimes)

“My parents are divorced. I had to live with my aunt.”

(1st boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

From neglected children’ problems, it links to Patharaleedhapan’s (1992), Tangtong’s (1997) and Tangkananurak’s study (1992). These studies agreed that

family is a crucial factor resulting in leaving home of children. Children in this circumstance are highly risk to involve with illegal acts due to lack of knowledge and skills. By this reason, not only should parents protect young people from risk factors but other family members such as uncle and aunt should also take care of them. This way is very useful to keep children from being offender (Empey, 1978; Gullbenkian, 1995) as neglected children are high possible to commit crimes compared to children in general (Malinosky-Rummell and Hansen, 1993; Smith and Thronberry; Widom, 1989).

In addition, if members in the family engage in crimes and they are arrested, adolescents in that family tend to offend or have anti social behaviour (Farrington, 1992; 1996; 2002). As it can be found in the sample of street boys:

“I gained money from my dad. Yet, I did not have money when my dad was away from home. I knew that my dad and brother sold drugs due to receiving a lot of money. I was able to do and identify what I should do. Even though they were into the prison, I could continue this job, who I could contact with, what I had to do...”

(2nd boy, 19-year-old, property crime)

Family is an important component to solve or rehabilitate adolescents' criminal traits. The effective method may apply family therapy in which other people in the family participate in children's crime solutions so that these children can change their behaviour. Family members need to give them a chance in the respect of improving their habits. For stepfamily problems, the real father or mother should pay more attention to their own children.

Furthermore, he/she should adjust child-raising and give more time to children. However, as it was mentioned before, economic and social troubles have adverse effects on family life. Father and mother have to work very hard to earn the amount of money for supporting family members. Relatives play a vital role for caring children in stead of their parents. The relatives should provide love and care as equal as their own child. This process prevents youths' crimes. It also resolves repetitive crimes or involve with unlawful acts (Giallombardo, 1976).

2. Community

Community is another chief factor affecting roaming and offending of adolescents. In rural areas, each family knows their neighbors in the same community. It is also able to identify where young people's houses are and how many relatives they have. People in remote areas give help and care each other more than people in the city. It is the explanation why rural society is different from urban society. From this point of view, if these people in community pay more attention to young people in that region, those young people would not go away from their homes. Apart from this, sense of belonging should have been organized in the community in order that many young people do not wish to spend their live in the city. This is the resolution of the root of street children's difficulties. It is related to the railway police's interview:

“Community and Relatives: They should take care of and correct such problems in order to protect the children to go out to the society.”

Psychologist stated the importance of community:

“Community: The people in the community should take care of and pay attention to one another. They should help monitor the children in their community since some children may live in the community but they don't want to get back home. “The people in the community should help supervise the children and shouldn't think that they aren't my children.”

The sample of troubled boy explained his life in the community:

“My hometown is in rural areas. Nothing is interesting. Just see the grassland. We and our neighbors do not pay much attention to one another. After graduation, I and my friends moved to Bangkok. I think Bangkok is so exciting. There are department stores, movie theaters, etc. in Bangkok. I have rented a house and shared the expenses with my friends.”

(2nd boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

The staff working at NGO said to major role of village and provincial committee:

“The head of village should take care of villagers. If there are no more than 2,000 people and 200 children in the rural area, we should know what families don’t take care of children. When we go to the local grocery shops, we are able to know everything.”

“...We should promote the foundation to proactively assist the children. Regarding the government agencies, when the children have no ID card, they will not help them. The government agencies always help the children with registered address. If we can take care of the children when there are some signals that they will be problematic, the vagabond children will not be created and the problem about children’s criminal will not be created.”

In the case of young people who are punished severely, people in the village should treat and assist them. Homeless children not only experience difficult conditions in the family, but they are also neglected from the community. If those people in each region care more, they would really identify which house has domestic violence. If know, village head and others will approach to help that child in trouble. As the street boy talked to the researcher:

“When my dad was not at home, she always scolded me that I had never helped her earn a living, and also I used a lot of money. She said that why I didn’t move out to stay at other places. Our family wasted a lot of money and resources when you stayed here. She said I had never assisted her to do the job. I hate her. She always scolded me, pinched, hit, and smashed my head. It’s painful and unreasonable. Every time, my dad was always with her side. Sometimes, I argued with her and used loud voice. She, then, accused me to my dad and my dad smashed my ear or kicked me. He has never listened to me. I cannot bear this situation so I moved to live outside. It’s happier.”

(2nd boy aged 19 years old, bodily injure case)

For domestic violence, the officers involving with children agencies should take part in checking, inspecting and solving child abuse before children with difficulties have mental illness. It can be notice that children living in the community without helping each other are very possible to wander from that community. In contrast, the community, where key leaders take actions to follow young people having problems or key leaders deal with young people's crisis in different aspects, would stop leaving that region of young people (Muncie, Hughes and Mclaughlin, 2002).

Furthermore, when youths in the community participate in acting criminal activities, people in community are able to aid those youths in terms of rehabilitating and correcting. Those adults should give youths a chance to improve behaviour so that these youths are able to go back and live in that area again. Each district may provide special employment for adolescents in that district. Brazil, for example, encountered unemployment, especially children.

The district committee set small industry for hiring young people in that community to solve economic phenomena. This results in people's incomes that are higher and support the majority of people in the community. Crime prevention of street children needs to be organized locally by most people. Local agencies should be established to take responsibility for crime prevention. It has no the best programmes for tackling homeless children's crimes but those plans should be evaluated, revised and improved for the next.

3. Educational system

School is one of an important factor preventing homeless children's criminal actions. When children who have family problems go to school, teachers can help those children to deal with those troubles. The teachers may ask their own students what the troubles are and how those troubles should be found out. It is the fact that children would not make wrong decision (Emler and Richer, 1995; Maguire, Morgan and Reiner, 2007). For instance, last week this student used to be happy for lecturing in the class but now he/she seems to be very quiet. He/she is not cheerful as

before. If teachers perceive that situation, she would exactly know what his/her obscurities are. In addition, she would be able to find out the solutions of that student. In fact, young people would feel better while talking to somebody who understands him/her. Related to the staff from NGO:

“...We must promote the local administration to stimulate the people in the community to participate in and take care of one another within the community...”

“...at school level, if teachers found that some students are punished severely, they have to take care of their own students...”

On the other hand, if student who is troubled is unable to solve his/her problems, he/she is likely to escape from that difficult circumstance. In other words, he/she runs away from his/her family and school. Some children might discuss with his/her friends about family troubles and they may receive different viewpoints. Nonetheless, those are children's opinions which might guide wrong suggestions to the student and they easily go astray. It is accepted that teachers as adults have more experiences than young students. Therefore, those adults would point positive directions to the students, including the dimensions of making decisions.

Teachers are able to assist youths living in family with domestic violence by asking social welfare expert, psychologist, government agencies or organizations to help those youths through different channels. It is an important point to pull children from family troubles before those run away from their homes. Certainly, teachers in rural areas not only exactly know their students, but they are also acquainted with their parents. Additionally, teachers understand social contexts of each student. This is the answer why teachers play a major role for assisting their own students and how they should solve those students' problems.

Nevertheless, educational system plays a part to push learners to go away from school. Many students have deviant behaviour or involve with crimes as the school put pressure on them (Wenk, 1976). Namely, numerous schools fail to instruct

students so that those students are able to think by themselves. The knowledge is only tested by the examination, whereas students do not actually identify their real lives. Furthermore, some educators are very strict about disciplines and the exam results but the issues of ethics and morals are omitted. Several pupils like to study outside the classroom. They may not be clever at mathematics and sciences. Yet, they have to study in these subjects because of educational disciplines. As it was mentioned by the expert in children matter:

“The family and school should not give pressure to their children regarding the education since some children may not want to learn but they want to perform other occupations. Some children don’t have to graduate from the university. The society is lack of merchants, motorcycle drivers, etc. The family gives pressure to their children to get out of the educational system since children cannot study as their parents have expected so they have to stay away from their family and don’t want to live in the family. They abandon the family and community to live alone. Such children shouldn’t be expected to live or study hard like other children but we should give them some destination regarding how these children are able to live in the society. The destination may not be doctors, police, judge, attorney but the school should answer the question regarding what the children’s occupation should be.”

“I forgot about studying further. I did not want to study because it was not be able to be applied for my life. Moreover, it did not explain the way to make money....”

(3rd boy aged 17 years old, drug dealing)

In some cases, students are unable to pass the exam and they are restricted to study hard. Those students may feel boring and they wish not to study further. In addition, some learners are also punished by hitting as they do not sit in the class. In fact, these learners would not be punished (Allen, 1996). If those learners have family difficulty before and they encounter another one in the school, they may leave the class and go to spend their lives alone as homeless children. When they have to wander without any degree or certificate, they are easily lured by offenders to engage in criminal actions such as stealing valuable things and drug selling. As a result,

educational institution is an important factor of wandering and offending (Allen, 1996: 14).

Education gives children the skills to succeed in their lives in terms of thinking systematically and reasonably. Young people with a little educational level are very likely to be a victim of offenders. On the other hand, those who are educated are less likely to be persuaded to offend since their analyses and judgments are based on reason facts. Apart from this, before educated children will do anything, they often consider that those things break the rules and laws or not (Wenk, 1976).

Educational system in school should add social learning skills for young people. It should be realized that children have to be taught and trained to think before doing. Also, those young people should be taught to deal with crisis without forcing (Ross and Ross, 1995). If some students used to learn at that school before and then they are forced to leave that school because of failing to study or breaking school regulations, lecturers and classmates should give them a chance to come back to continue studying. Moreover, those students with problems should not be looked down and blamed when they are not able to pass the exams as other students. It is because each learner has different ability to learn. They should not be punished for the reason of low intelligence. The punishment is to teach the learners in respect of responsibility (Allen, 1996: 15).

Educators should take students back to educational system. They should not push the learners to face their difficulties alone both family and education aspects. Educational institution has effects on juvenile delinquency (Sander, 1981).

4. Department of government

Homeless children's crime prevention and solution need to be regarded at governmental schemes. Several agencies that deal with children problems have to approach these homeless children. By this, it means that those agencies are necessary to understand homeless children's problems and give them a chance in terms of employment and education. These children should not be considered as a trouble as in

the past the public looked at them like that. In contrast, they should be cared as same as children in warm family. From interviewing key informants, the judge as the former of the head of central juvenile and family court gave his point of views about the issue of street children's crime prevention:

“To protect the problem regarding the vagabond children committing crime is difficult. When the government issues the law such as punishing parent who let their children away from home and become vagabond children or beggar, this is not the correct solution. We should solve the problem from its cause by assigning the unit to be directly responsible for such children. This should be the Ministry of Social Development and human Security which should take care of and solve such problems.”

“In addition, the government must distribute the economic income into the poor at the grassroots level, offer the education, and conduct vocational training for such family. This group of people should have sufficient income for their living. At the same time, for alien vagabond children, the government should protect this group of children from committing crime by enforcing them to go back to their countries. But, it seems to be difficult and is hard to solve this problem since, currently, there are a lot of aliens who come to work in Thailand and it is difficult to force them to go back to their countries. In addition, the informant told the researcher that.”

The railway police clearly stated the responsibility of department of government:

“The vagabond children who just left their family are good ones but it will be hard to control when they are experienced. Various units should take care of them. If they have no accommodations, we should support the accommodations, and food. When the children are full, they will be more understandable. We should take care of their study such as the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security should conduct the vocational training for them.”

The social welfare expert who works at detention center talked about Ministry of Social Development and Human Security:

“In order to solve the problems regarding the vagabond children, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security must be responsible for such abovementioned since the Ministry is ready in terms of the direct welfare budget and is experienced in taking care of the children. In addition, such organization has already taken care of various types of children so they should be able to take care of the vagabond children. We should conduct more public relations towards the organization.

The Ministry of Justice who are responsible for directly taking care of the children who commit the crime should coordinate with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Sometimes, they signed MOU but it's not effective since the operators don't clearly coordinate to solve the problems. We don't know what organizations should be contacted or coordinated, and what topics are agreeable between the organizations, especially the topic about the vagabond children who commit the crime has never been mentioned or under the seminar before. Therefore, the protection and correction of the problem regarding the vagabond children who commit crime is not efficient at all.”

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security should have specific officers to survey neglected children in each area, particularly those in big cities such as Chiangmai, Patthaya, Phuket and Bangkok. Each officer might be responsible for street adolescents living in each zone as these adolescents habitually spend their lives in the neighborhood in which people are crowded. These are Pakklongtalad, the space under King Rama the first Bridge, Jatujak Park, Lumpini Park and Sanamluang Park and so on. Orphaned young people like to live in those neighborhoods because they are able to earn money both lawful and unlawful means depending on their skills. When the officers survey the figures of homeless children, they should record each children background by operating with the police who are in charge in that area. Although street children roam around the cities, the state can identify where those children come from, who they are and why they come here.

Each abandoned child should be analyzed case by case so that he/she can receive help directly. If any abandoned child would like to study further but he/she has no money, the state should support him/her energetically. In addition, if any youth wish to go back to his/her domicile, the agencies should response for this. But it is crucial to co-operate with the officers at locality. By this feature, the committees of village and province should have to take part in organizing and planning to improve and develop those children's lives. One of the effective way to maintain this notion is that the officers at community level visit homeless children's houses in order that several problems have been discovered and corrected (Olds et al, 1997; 1998). As it was explained by the social welfare expert as interviewee:

“...the children should be managed in order to stay with the family and community. We should send back to the family as much as possible. If they don't have family, we must contact relatives, grandfather, or grandmother. If they really don't have the family, it is the responsibility of the organization to take care of their education, living condition, or we should arrange the children to live with the sponsored family. At least, the children should have persons to take care of their mind.”

In case of young people who have family troubles, the state should convince them to live in the houses for homeless children. Those houses are administered by governmental department. Government may set specific community in which young people without homes live together. However, these communities should be free for every street child. Namely, young people with troubles are able to live and leave whenever they want. The staffs who work in those houses should not force young people to do anything. Not only the state supports these young people, but non-governmental organizations and people in general can help those young people in needs as well by making a donation through media.

At the same time, government should train neglected young people to have skills for working so that they are able to earn money by themselves. If a child grows enough to work or he/she used to have experiences about that job earlier,

governmental department should give him/her a job in factory or industry. Nonetheless, youths who are abandoned have to be able to make decision by themselves. They should not be compelled by anybody. Otherwise, they would escape from those places and go back to be vagabonds again. The houses for homeless children would be very beneficial in terms of deserving human dignity and having mercy on other people.

One of interesting perspective which the state needs to do is that homeless boy or girl who succeeds in his/her life should meet and talk to orphaned children at those houses under governmental control. The reason is that new youths who are neglected can gain, in new notions from the formers. In addition, these neglected youths can hope to have better lives as those who used to wander before. Mr. Apichart, for instance, used to run away from his home because of domestic violence. He left there when he graduated primary school. At that period of time, he was aged about twelve years old. He spent his life as street boy for 2 years and then he went back to study. Ultimately, he is able to be a soldier. This is a good example for the others. Mr. Apichart may come to discuss with other street boys as he would really know what the real causes and troubles of children in troubles are.

Another an idea that the state should begin to do is that the former adolescents without homes should work for the latter. Costa Rica, for example, the government arranges mobile cars to help homeless children along the streets in respect of health and treatment. By working this, the formers have worked closely with the officers and they can aid many young people who have trouble lives. The formers received training from the agencies and they gain money from the state (Green, 1998). It is shown that street children's crimes would decrease if the qualities of these children's lives are improved or they can have a good chance to find money in legal ways. As it was mentioned by the street boy:

“If I asked money from my uncle, I always received it. However, it was a little since my uncle was afraid that he may be blamed by my aunt for giving me money. By this reason, I would not like to gain money from my uncle. I liked to find money by myself such as stealing money and little things”

“I earned money by myself both living in uncle’s and friends’ house. Generally, I did not have enough money but I had to find money by illegal means.”

(1st boy aged 16 years old, property crime)

“I used to sell drugs more than 3 times. When I did not have money, drugs played important role for me. It helped me to gain lots of money. Money from this was paid for food and accommodation.”

(1st boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

“The cause is that I need money. No money means I cannot do anything. I cannot beg for money from anyone since my friends also do not have money, either, even though it is guilty. My parents do not know anything about drugs. I have known drugs because I live with friends. They persuaded me and I only need to earn money.”

(2nd boy aged 18 years old, drug dealing)

“I know that drugs are illegal. When anyone takes drugs or sell drugs, he or she must be arrested. But, even though it is guilty, I have to do it. I would like to earn a lot of money but I don’t know what to do. I have to earn money for eating and entertaining. If I have to beg for money from my friends only, I feel considerate and they also don’t have much money.”

(3rd boy aged 17 years old, drug dealing)

Law enforcement for children who are troubled, the police might judge criminal child case by case. In other words, a child who commits serious crime may proceed with criminal justice system. For petty crimes, on the other hand, special methods should be applied for that child in need such as the provision of education and basic needs so that he/she will not learn more serious illegal actions in the detentions or prisons. For this viewpoint, it is stated by the staff working at NGO:

“...Some cases regarding the punishment and imprisonment should be compromised. The social welfare experts should use their judgment with the investigation officers to consider which cases should be compromised such as the

case regarding children take evaporative substance and the children are arrested and sent to the juvenile observation and protection center. This case should apply judgment in terms of age and behaviors, and should not blame the children because of their innate character and also the case of stealing non-valuable items. The children don't commit crime repeatedly but they commit crime because they are the adult's tools."

Unavoidably, government is responsible for the solution of criminal street children. Department of juvenile observation and protection in which rehabilitates those children have to assist them actively and it must also answer what the effective methods of crime prevention are as well as training at detentions. Apart from this, after gaining release, law enforcement officers have to follow, prove and help abandoned children to make sure that they will not encounter the same problem again, including family troubles and unemployment. Supervisors should support and persuade young people to study further by arousing them (Muncie, Hughes and McLaughlin, 2002). The officers ought not to force those neglected young people to obey the strict regulations since those neglected young people may feel that their rights are restricted. It leads them to ignore helping from government department in which the officers have no right to control them.

The arrangement of employment of youths without homes not only benefits the state but also the public as well. It means that those youths work as a resource of country and they are checked by the governmental department in charge. Moreover, the majority of people in society feel safe in respect of abandoned youths' crimes as the officers know where these youths work and what those youths do now. To do this, an officer may be assigned to follow up ten abandoned youths in each village or community depending on those abandoned youths' background. The connection between the officers from urban and rural regions plays a crucial role for this.

5. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The meaning of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in this research means organizations which assist and support street youths. These organizations are

not governmental departments such as Foundation for The Better Life of Children, The Volunteer for Children Development Foundation and Foundation for Children in Needs. These organizations are important for approaching street youths in terms of crime prevention and resolution because the organizations have flexible working. They can spend money of their own budgets on several projects for street youths. Psychologist gave her point of view:

“Some of the juvenile observation and protection centers accept the children and don’t do anything. They just wait for donation. Some of the centers aim to express their own potential in taking care of their children. However, some of them cure, assist, conduct group activities, and coordinate to send the children to more proper places or some government agencies have budgetary problems and face the shortage of personnel in assisting the vagabond children. For instance, two social welfare experts have to take care of 200 vagabond children or searching for the house is quite difficult. Therefore, various private organizations can perform better.”

Even though NGOs do not have staffs as much as governmental department, they can administer efficiently and those staffs wish to have this duty. The outcomes of NGOs working seem to be more benefits than those from the departments of government. Some associations move towards children in troubles by traveling to the areas in which those children always live there. When the team of those associations goes to the areas, that team invites children to have new lives in specific places so that those children will have better lives. Those specific places are arranged for basic needs and educational system. This way would stop street youths from offending (Stephenson, Giller and Brown, 2007).

Many vagabonds have to offend because they face difficult circumstances. For example, they have no food and clothes. However, NGOs have chosen to help some vagabonds whom would be able to be improved their manners. But there are numerous youths running away from homes do not receive help from NGOs due to the limitations of finances and staffs. Hence, it still has street children who are problems in Thai society.

There are various homeless children who are the assistances of offenders or some of them act criminal activities by themselves. Even so, NGOs should cooperate with the agencies since the organizations have the complexity of bureaucracy less than governmental departments. Those organizations easily contact different agencies and organizations across the country. The permission is not complex compared to the departments of government. This would result in preventing and solving crimes of children without family effectively and immediately.

In case of homeless child, who is sent back to his/her family and community, the officers/staffs of central department/associations are able to pursue him/her in order that those officers/staffs can aid that homeless child in appropriate ways. The cooperation of both central department and rural agencies is vital in terms of helping to deal with different difficulties, correcting weak points and improving advantageous aspects. These doings would be able to solve street children's criminal behaviour (Western, Lynch and Ogilvie, 2003).

NGOs should extend the networks to cover big cities such as Bangkok, Chiangmai, Phuket and Pattaya and so on. They should also establish child center whose purposes are to first aid in each region. This center should be able to provide food and accommodation for homeless children to reduce their crime rates and it may have volunteers from relevant subjects. Those subjects maybe psychological and social issues. Psychologist, social welfare worker and students from several different universities participate in this activity so that they can give consultation and help to those children in needs. This method would protect homeless children from delinquent behaviour (Holman, 1995) as homeless children are vulnerable and they simply go astray.

The difference between NGOs and governmental department is that the staffs working at NGOs hardly change their duties and responsibilities. The officers, on the other hand, quite often change their functions because of bureaucratic procedures. By this cause, the staffs would really understand children going away from homes rather than the officers since they have worked for long time. For this

point, it is useful for separating the former homeless youths and the latter. Namely, some homeless youths who are the formers regularly like to show off in negative ways and they teach the latter to struggle in intricate conditions. Furthermore, those homeless youths set group as a gang and they are the leader. When the staffs of NGOs know about this, those homeless children will be taken into special programme which is set for correcting homeless children's performances.

In NGOs aspect, resolution and rehabilitation of homeless young people's criminal actions are considered case by case. In other words, each boy/girl who would be possible to adjust attitudes and manners is selected. But homeless young people who used to be arrested by the police are ignored for help. It was explained by the social welfare expert:

“The Social Welfare Development Center in Thailand partially plays some roles in helping the children but most people don't know such institutes or organizations due to the lack of public relations. The problem is that some private organizations don't accept the children over the maximum age specified or select to accept the vagabond children on an individual basis. Some of the children who are out of the training center don't want to go out since they don't know where to go. The training center contacts the foundation to take care of the children after they are released from the training center.”

“At first, the foundation accepts the offer but after learning that such children are under the legal case, the training center is, then denied. Some of the vagabond children don't have parents and live with a very old and disabled grandmother so they don't want to go back home and the training center cannot take care of the children anymore since the period for controlling the children has already expired. Some of the children committed the crime when they was young but when they are released, they are older and the training center don't accept such children. Therefore, the efficiency of private organizations is fair in terms of preliminarily taking care of the children but such private organizations should not discriminate the case and the government must appoint relevant government organizations to directly solve the problems.”

However, some associations or organizations which are not the departments of the state should continue to aid young people going away from homes in case that the associations/organizations ever help those young people without homes earlier. Those associations/organizations should contact directly with each detention so that they can identify when those street young people get release. After receiving freedom, NGOs should inform and exchange information of that boy/girl about his/her background with supervisors who are in charge. The important point of this issue is that the associations/organizations have many details of that street child. Also, these details can be shared and preceded by both NGOs and the governmental department.

6. The influences of media on troubled children

It is widely accepted that media is one of the most significant factors affecting juvenile delinquency. Media increases the opportunity of offending of children by presenting the traits of crimes different aspects (Hayward, 2004; Hallsworth, 2005). The presentation includes news, sex crimes and movies about sexual harassment (Giallombardo, 1976). The sample of street boys agreed that media has resulted in sex crimes. Those boys have easily accessed various types of media such as internet shops, pornographic magazines and books. In addition, the sample of homeless boys accepted that they would like to have sex with a girl when they see those types of media. As some of them mentioned about this:

“I think mass media play a partial role. I saw my friends love to read porn books or watch porn VCDs. There were a lot of porn books or VCDs in my room. When they finished reading, they would like to try and sleep with the girl without her willing. I didn't know what they did. For me, I also felt like them.”

(2nd boy aged 17-year-old, sex crime)

“I think mass media partially affects my crime. It's normal that a guy loves to see porn books or movies. I and my friends used to buy them. There are lots of porn books or movies for sale. Everyone watched them but even though I don't watch porn movies, we must have girlfriends. I'm a guy so it's nature.”

(3rd boy aged 19-year-old, sex crime)

The appearance of news, drama and movies should not have sex scenes which arouse the public's sexual emotions, especially teenagers. The reason is that this age is not able to analyze everything themselves. Sometimes, they may believe that girls might agree to have sex with them as same as movies or others. But it is not true in the real world. Those their doings are rape crimes. Related to the sample of neglected boys, some of them rape girls because they think that those girls wish to have sexual relationships with them.

One of beneficial points of media is that it has connected between the state and public, radio and TV in particular. It can be elucidated more that governmental departments which are responsible for neglected children's crime prevention and solution need to broadcast the fact that street children's criminal acts substantially affect people's lives in society. The idea of this is to make sure that the majority of people really understand this topic as media has been influential on the public. Moreover, people in general simply access to media through several channels. For this feature, the state may employ many market strategies to succeed in finding the ways out of street children's dilemma (Council of Europe, 1994).

Government may announce that anybody see homeless child on the boulevard or in communities, please inform at this number. It may set 4 numbers for phone call so that it is easy to remember and contact to hot line center. When the receivers gain data about that homeless child, the staff or officers will go to that area and deal with his/her crisis. The number of hot lines should proclaim through television, radio and others in order that the issue of criminal abandoned children will be discussed by public interest. The staff of one of NGO illustrated her points of view:

“The current solution towards the vagabond children's problem is not proactive to help children and no measure to help them. The government doesn't take care of children in every area. They should give education, support the budget or vocational training and may set up the fund for assisting the vagabond children. If we meet the vagabond children along the intersection, everyone should be responsible. For instance, we should inform police or community radio such as Jor.Sor. 100 or Sor.Wor.Por. 91 (radio channels).”

“The police station or police fort should attach the statement that “when you meet the children who are beggars, who sell the flowers, or who commit crime, please call We should ask the cooperation from people. The police must claim this from people. Regarding the children protection law according to the human rights’ principle, the children are not so much violated. To solve such abovementioned problem, we can classify into short-term and long-term measure.”

The officers who are in charge of the issue of homeless children need to categorize each orphaned child based on their origins. Those officers should also take photograph of each child and note his/her accounts such as family, relatives; educational level and his/her close friends. These data are critical because the investigators are able to prove and track street boys or girls in case of crime happenings. Furthermore, those data are available for the police to arrest the offenders who use children who have no homes as their assistants. Many lawbreakers lure young people in needs to be beggars, drug dealers and thieves.

The analysis of difficult conditions, causes of criminal activities, crime prevention and resolution found that not only are personal factors crucial but family, community, educational institutions, environments and media play major roles for homeless children’s crime aspects. Even though those factors have different tasks but every component in society has an effect on stopping and solving crimes of children running away from homes. It can be concluded as the chart below:

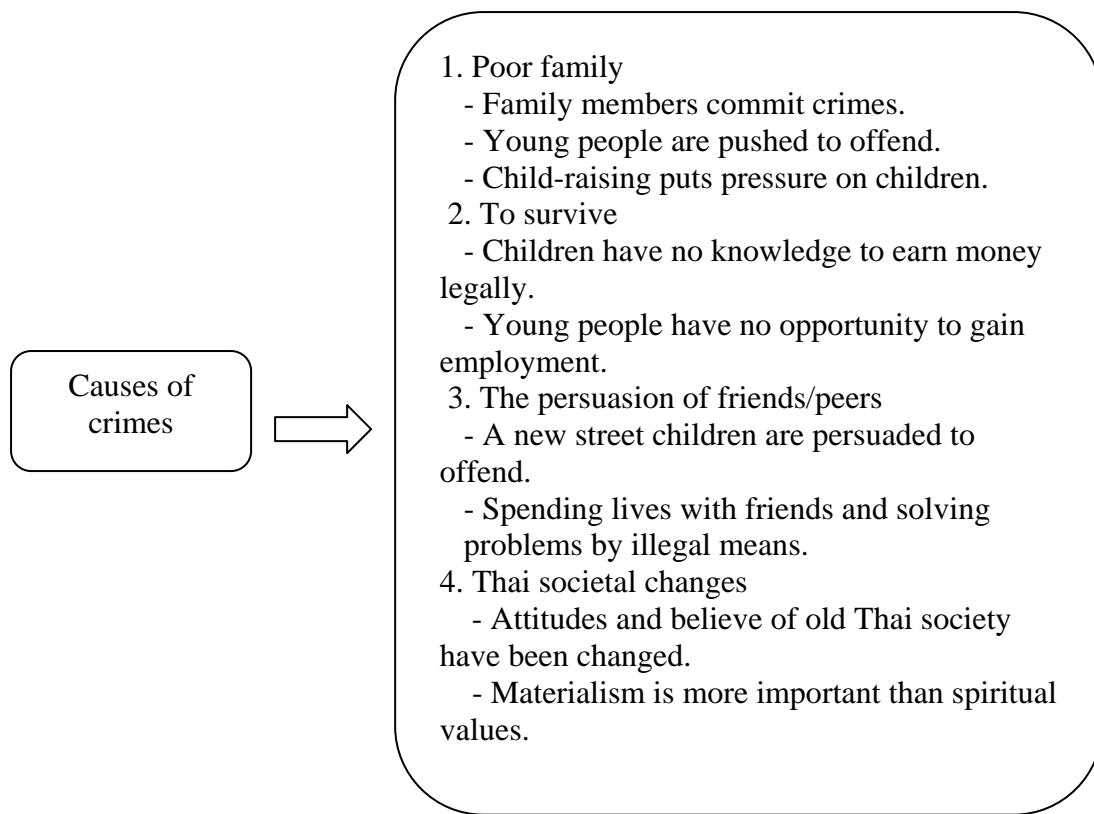


Chart 3: The causes of criminal street children

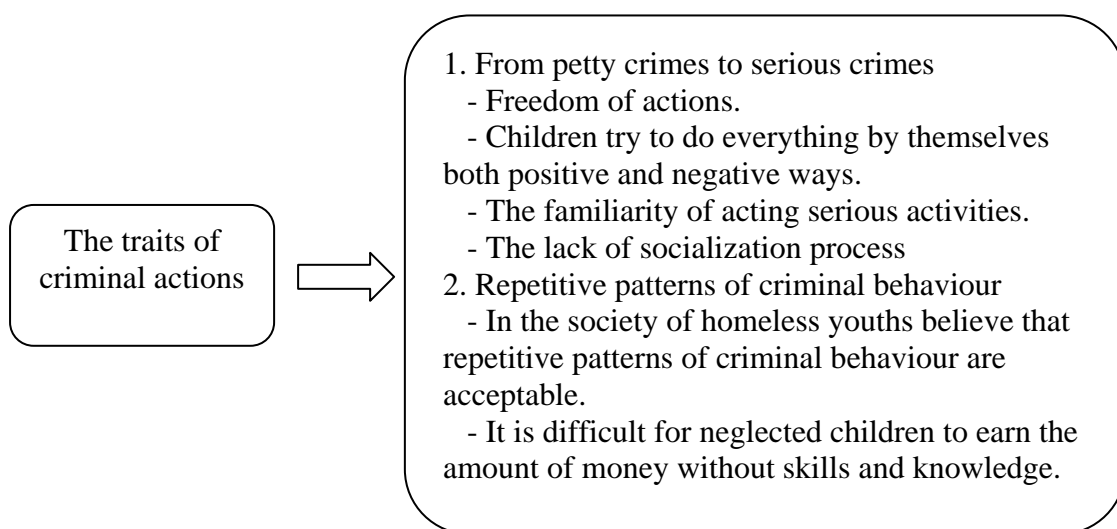


Chart 4: The traits of criminal actions of homeless children

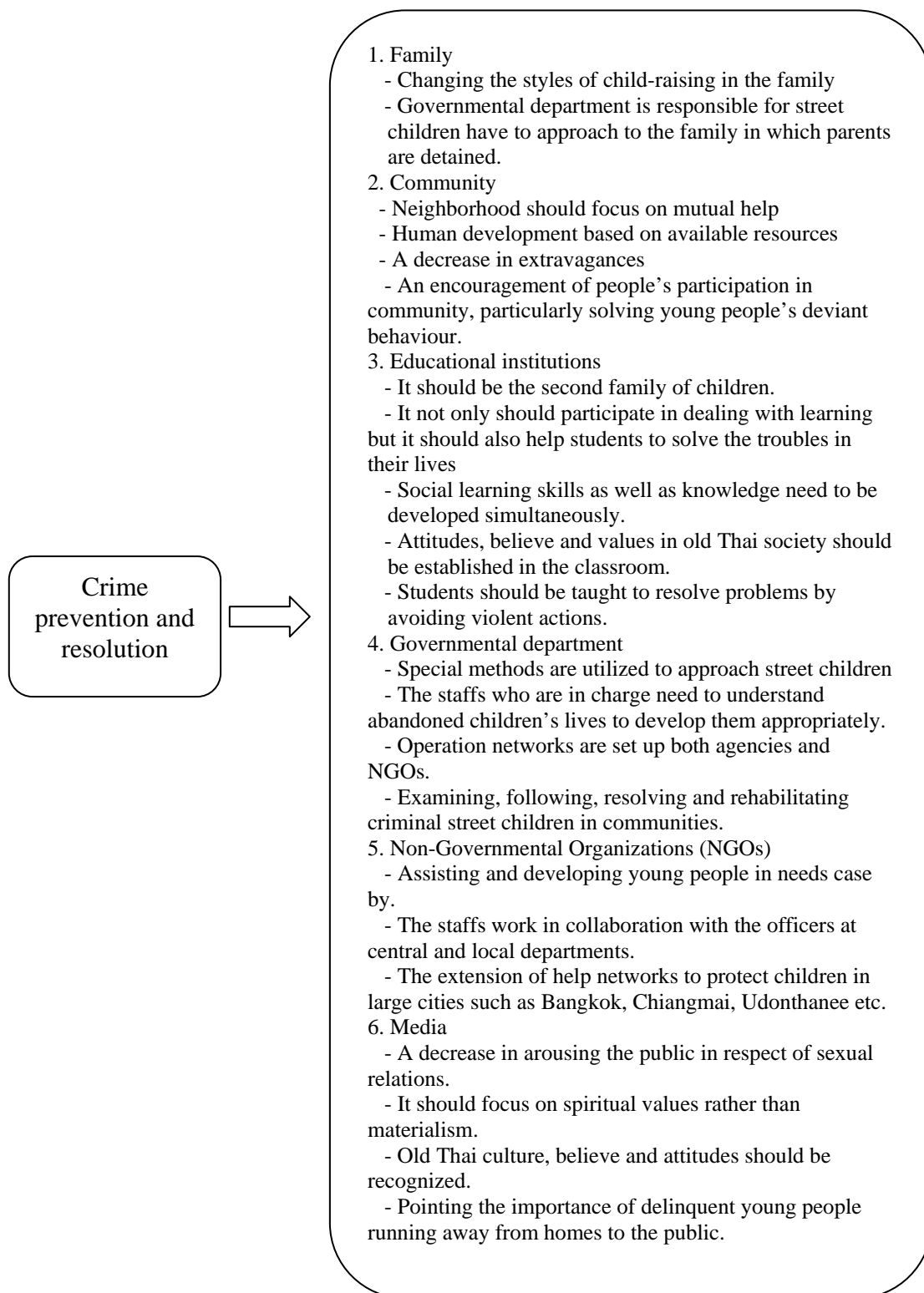


Chart 5: Crime prevention and resolution

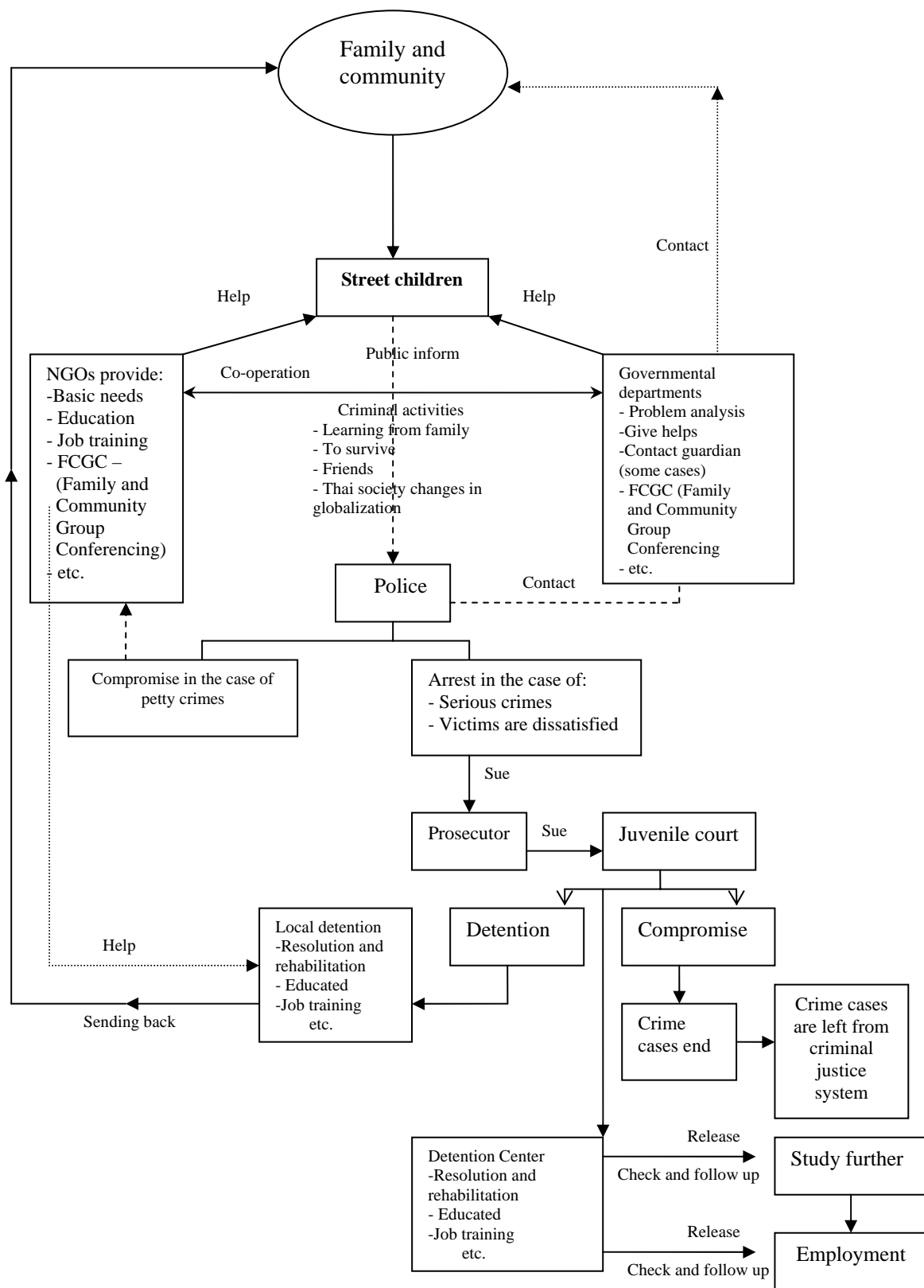


Chart 6 : The conclusion of causes of offending, crimes traits, crime prevention and solutions of street children.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From the study of model of street children's crime prevention and solution, the purposes of this research are to study the causes of crimes of children running away from homes, to study the solutions for street youths' criminal behaviours, to study crime prevention of abandoned children and to study street children's crime solutions. This study is qualitative research. The sample is twelve homeless children who committed crimes and they are sentenced to be detained in detention center, Bangkok. Data selection is based on the allegation of street children's crimes. Those allegations are property crimes, drug dealings, sex crimes and murder or trying to injure other people. In addition, key informants are interviewed. These key informants have experienced the topic of neglected children at least five years. They are policemen working at railway police station, social welfare expert, psychologist, the former of the head of juvenile court, staff who works in Non-Governmental Organization and researcher.

Data were collected by informal & in-depth interview, non-participant observation and focus group. Those data were analyzed by typological analysis. Also, they were systematized by analytic inductive. The data derived from the field notes of researcher, in-depth interviews, the observation of each day about interviewees, particularly twelve street children. Interviews by tape recorder are transcribed by using word processing (Microsoft word) so as to sort out, encode, group and find the relations of data. Then, triangulation technique is employed in order that the derived data are reliable. Data collection of twelve homeless children in this study, ethical consideration is considered as main point. Namely, every homeless children taking part in researching has human right to give or omit information. Moreover, they are able to withdraw the conversation all the time while interviewing. From this research, the researcher concludes three key themes, the causes of committing crimes, criminal types and the effective ways of crime protection and the way out of criminal street children.

1. The causes of committing crimes.

1.1 The beginning of family life

Crimes of street children begin within their families. The sample of street children accepted that they learned the patterns of crimes from their families, especially from their parents or brother/s, sister/s. By doing this, when these children wish not to live in the families, criminal behaviour in the families is passed on children's attitudes. If children encounter many difficulties, those criminal behaviour which is learned is taken back to do again.

1.2 To survive

From the sample of children running away from home at detention center, it is found that most of them came from low-income family and they are underprivileged. Their families are unable to support and give them money. When they leave their families and they have no a chance to gain money, they decide to act crimes for basic needs. Although some abandoned young people agreed that one part of their money of committing crimes has been utilized for shopping and buying luxurious, it can be seen that some money are exercised for food, clothes rent and so on. This is shown that homeless children's crimes are to survive.

1.3 The persuasion of friends/peers

Children who have troubles in their lives might wander alone as a new comers. When these children see the former street children, they will communicate and have social interaction. It is also simple for them to built relationship between the formers and the latter because of comparable age and family troubles. Not only the attitudes and ideas of those children have been exchanged, but several techniques of the formers also are transmitted to new comers both legal and illegal methods. Apart from this, children with no homes often set group as a gang/s to illustrate that they are the same group/gang. The members of group/s or gang/s assist each other in respect of fundamental needs. They also deal with difficulties both individuals and groups/gangs.

It is deemed that some neglected children of the sample agreed to commit serious crimes due to their friendship. Surprisingly, some street children also permit their friends to have sex with their girlfriends. Consequently, the meaning of “friend” in street children’s world differs from children in general. A term of friend of street children means everything in their lives. It is considered that friend only is a resource that homeless children have. These children compensate love and care that they never receive from their families.

1.4 Thai societal changes

In this study, it is accepted that the attitudes, believe and values of children with troubles are different from norms because of rapid social changes in globalization. In this modern society, consumerism is much more important than before. Most children in Thai society focus on having dinner in good restaurants, singing a song in karaoke, watching movie in theater, shopping in big shopping malls and others. Nevertheless, those children are unable to make the amount of money by themselves in lawful ways. Therefore, this is a crucial reason why many homeless young people involve with crimes to gain money for shopping, having dinner in the restaurants and so on. They do not plan to collect money for education or their lives in the future.

2. Crime traits

2.1 From petty crimes to serious crimes

From the sample, the majority of children running away from their homes begin with acting petty crimes. Later, the patterns of crimes have been changed. In others word, it is more serious than before. Thieves, for example, change to be robbery and drug smuggling modify to be drug dealers. In addition, the cases of sex crimes, street children change from raping alone to rape as a group/gang. For the case of injuring other people, homeless children commit much more serious. Namely, some homeless children used to harm some people just a little but now they do this fatally.

2.2 Repetitive patterns of criminal behaviour

It is an interesting issue of the patterns of homeless children's criminal behaviour. Most children without homes act crimes again and again both similar and dissimilar charges. Furthermore, some children who are troubled are kept into different houses of detention. Some of these children are put into those houses at least 2 times and some are detained at the fourth time.

3. The effective ways of crime prevention and resolutions of children with difficulties

From this research, it is supposed that the effective ways of preventing and resolving crimes of children with difficulties are the responsibility of every part in Thai society. Family and community play important role for paying attention towards children. Nonetheless, it would not be successful if co-operation is not performed by most people in society. It can be explained that when young people leave their families and communities by different reasons, they are highly risky to go astray because of the ineffectiveness of organizations and agencies working with young people.

In addition, people in the public do not pay attention on the problems of those children. Special methods need to be used for dealing with street children's difficulties such as taking them back to their families and communities. Yet, some cases of those street children, they have to encounter the same problems as well as environments again. Several choices should be organized for them in order that they are able to have better lives.

Homeless young people from the sample accepted that they had to commit crimes because they had no hope to have better lives in terms of education and careers. These homeless young people also believe that they are able to conform to regulations and social norms. Nonetheless, they are unable to be alive because of insufficient money. On the other hand, their crimes benefit those homeless young people in respect of having money. It is an evident to demonstrate the lack of enough care from relevant agencies.

The resolutions and rehabilitations of criminal behaviour of children in trouble are regarded that family is a crucial social unit. If family members give street children a chance to improve their characteristics, it will considerably decrease the subject of leaving homes and engaging in illegitimate things. The officers of government department are another aspect of dealing with the problems of troubled children. Those officers are able to help street children by informing their parents in remote areas in the case of losing contact between street children and their families. In addition, the officers should assist homeless children who just get freedom from detentions to communicate with their families after releasing.

If abandoned children wish not to go back and live in their communities, the state should provide suitable jobs and support educations to them without paying money. By this way, the department governments are able to continue to check and follow street children's criminal behaviour effectively. These street children will not be neglected by society second time and they did not feel that they have to live alone without resources.

Public relation is one of helpful mean to inform society about homeless children's troubles, especially crime aspects. It is important for people to realize that illegal activities committed by children who have no homes have resulted in children's lives and the development of country. To gain co-operation from the public, missing children in each community should be followed and reported by department governments and NGOs through media. To do this, television, radio, newspapers should set hotline number to receive information from every part in societal in order to help, prevent and resolve the difficulties directly 24 hours a day.

Problems and suggestion for the next study

1. Data of street boys for this study is only collected in detention center, Bangkok. Those street boys are accused of four main crimes, property crimes, sex crimes, drug dealings and murder or trying to injure other people. Three boys of each accusation are persuaded to give their life stories. Data collection of this method

may not cover the girls who wander and commit crimes. Those girls may have different contexts and accounts.

2. Abandoned boys who are interviewed acted crimes already as they are detained into the detention, whereas there are many abandoned children who involve with criminal actions but they have not been arrested by the police. The problems of those abandoned children might differ from homeless adolescents participating in this research.

3. At detention center, the researcher interviewed only social welfare expert and psychologist as key informants but those working in community and provincial town do not participate in giving information. This may have an effect on missing the real causes of solving street children at community level.

4. Next study, it should have an interview generalist as a key informant. This generalist should have experience about street children's problems at least five years so that his/her perspectives would benefit the study in respect of public opinions.

5. The issues of criminal street children's resolutions and rehabilitations should be researched on specific topics to identify what the most efficient methods are. The outcomes of those studies would be able to deal with street children's crimes case by case.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

THAI

- Chaimueng, S. (2001). *Problems and needs of street children in Udonthanee city*, Thesis of Post graduation, Faculty of social administration, Thammasat University.
- Chainarong, T. (1992). *Research on the analysis of the outcomes of drug study*, National research Council of Thailand, Ministry of Science, Technology and environment.
- Chaiyarya, S. (2003). *The development of welfare system for children in needs*, Chiangmai province, The Thai Research Fund.
- Chaiykunakornrat, S., Poldee, W. and Poldee, W. (2003) *Homeless children and prostitutions*, Thailand research fund.
- Chapeelmond, S. (1999) *The comparison of Ethics, morality and values of juveniles both involving and non-involving with drugs receive them from slum: case study of Klong-teuy*, Journal of Anti-Narcotics, 15(1) : 9-41.
- Choopikulchai, S. and others (1990). *Research on analyzing causes to develop training standard at detention*, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University.
- Choopikulchai, S. and others (1990). *Study on spreading drug trafficking in children and juveniles through slum: case study in Bangkok*, Research of The National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand.
- Department of Mental Health (2003) *The manual of drug prevention and solution: the notion of preventing and solving*, Bangkok: The publishing of Agricultural cooperatives in Thailand.
- Gerndee, J. (1986). *General psychology*, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Science, Kasetsart University, Bangkok: Naticul Publishing.
- Ghamsagha, S. and Suparod, L. (2003). *The real lives of homeless girls in Samudprakarn province*, The Thailand research fund.

- Hamaratchata, C. (1982). *Drug problem, Study and Analysis in respect of Law*, Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Publishing.
- Janaim, S. et al (1984). *Psychology of delinquent children*, Psychological Department, Faculty of Social Science, Kasetsart University, Bangkok: Rungreangrat Press.
- Jantavanit, S. (1994). *Qualitative research*, 5th printing, Bangkok: Chulalongkorn Publishing.
- Jitradab, S.(1997). *Street children's traditions*. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University.
- Jitradab, S. and Kanjanawasee, S. (1998). *Problems and causes of neglected children: Preventions and Solutions of governmental departments and NGO*, Prime minister's office.
- Jutikul, S. (1992). *Street children in Thai society*, 2nd Technical documentation, Research Center for Children, Foundation For the Better Life of Children.
- Junaim, S. and others (1979). *Psychology of children with misbehaviour*, Department of Psychological Study, Faculty of Social Science, Kasetsart University, Bangkok: Rungreungrat Publishing.
- Kantee, P. and others (2000). *Theories and research on criminology*, Bangkok: Booknet.
- Kanjana house (2007). *Delinquent juveniles' files*, Department of juvenile observation and protection.
- Kanyajit, S. (2002). *The analysis of causes of juveniles' deviant behaviour in globalization*, PhD research, Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Criminology, Justice Administration and Society, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University.
- Katikarn, K. and others (2001). *The ways of the development of criminal justice system and crime prevention and solution*, Bangkok: ASEAN Institute for Health Development Publishing.
- Katleeradapan, N. (1992) *Research on Status and Policy of Troubled children*, The project of female and juvenile study, Social Research Institution, Chulalongkorn University.
- Keuantham et al (1986). *The report of juvenile delinquency in Thailand and the methods to control*, Prime minister's office.

- Krichanan, W. (2001). *Street children at Hualumpong railway station*, Research of post graduation, Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University.
- Lorthakool, P. and others (2000). *Report on tool development of problem evaluation*, Bureau of Mental Health Technical Development, Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health.
- Mateekul, C. (2004). *Earning money of abandoned children: Case study in Pakkred Boy home*, Thesis of Post graduation, Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat.
- Meungman, T. and others (1986). *Research on the family backgrounds of children's behaviour on haling solvent in Bangkok*, Journal of Anti-Narcotics.
- Meungsom, N. (2000). *Sex culture, risk acknowledgement, risk behaviour for sexual deceases of female adolescents in city: case study of one of city of Northeast*, PhD research, Medical Social Science, Mahidol University.
- National report on street children. (1990). *The national committee of supporting and coordinating activities of juvenile. 2nd National seminar on justice system*, Crime prevention and suppression of organized crimes and influential people, Ministry of Justice.
- Office of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand. (2003), *International law about human rights treaty and children rights convention*.
- Patharaleedhapan, N. (1992). *The report of researching children's status and policy: street children*. Female project and juvenile study, Social research institution, Chulalongkorn University.
- Phetsuksiri, P. (1996). *Survey on main factors affecting domestic violence and aggressive behaviour of Thai juvenile.*, School of Public Administration, National Institute of Development Administration.
- Phurisinsit, W. (1988). *Juvenile Delinquency: sociological perceptions*, Bangkok: Oodianstore Publishing.
- Plianjaroon, J. (1987). *Using marijuana and glue of students in Bangkok: social learning*, Social and humanity thesis. Post graduation, Thammasat University.

- Poothakool, K. (2007). *Street children in Thailand*, Dissertation of Master of Research, Department of Sociology, Aberdeen University.
- Pothisista, C. (2007). *The effective methods of qualitative research*, Bangkok, Ammarin Printing and Publishing.
- Rammasoot P. (1985). *Psychology of adolescent*, Bangkok: Rungwattana Publishing.
- Singkalothai, K. (1997). *Thai child, chosen and survived ways*, Foundation For The Better Life of Children, Bangkok.
- Singpreecha, V. (1995). *Police role and people in preventing crimes*, Bangkok: Kurusapa Publishing.
- Siangthai, S. (1987). *The study of neglected children and juvenile: case study of child service between governmental departments and non-governmental organizations*, Bangkok: Thammasart University.
- Sinlapasuwan, P. and others. (2000). *Research on efficiency of setting project of using drugs of students in Bangkok*, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University.
- Sintavichai, M. (1994). *Thai child is a victim*, Bangkok: S. Asia Press Publishing.
- Sukanan, S. (1997). *Factors influencing drug use of Thai student group*, Research of Department of Physical Education, Ministry of Education.
- Sukhothaithammathirat University, (1990). *Criminal justice administration*, Nonthaburi: Sukhothaithammathirat Publishing.
- Supanan, K. (1987). *Some factors of delinquent children whom are detained at detention center*, Department of Social Science, Royal Police Cadet Academy.
- Tangkananurak, W. (1992). *Forgotten children in Thai society*, Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Publishing.
- _____ (1994). *Yui teacher and street children*, Foundation for the better life of children Bangkok.
- _____ (1997). *Street children, problems and corrections*, personal research, Prapokklao institution, political programme in democratic system for administrators.

- Tangton, P. (1997). *The problems of neglected children who are addicted to drugs in Bangkok*, Thesis of Post graduation in labor and social welfare management, Krirk University.
- Thanathiti, T. (2000). *The factors influencing serious drug uses of students studying in secondary school under the supervision of the fifth educational zone*, Ministry of Education, Thesis of Educational Postgraduate Programme, Mahidol University.
- Thamniyom, R. (1982). *Developmental Psychology, Documentation for lecture*, Bangkok: Ayudhaya Rajaphat University.
- The prime minister's office (1991). *The results of seminar on children in troubles from 20th – 21st December 1991*, Unicef.
- The prime minister's office (1992). *The results of seminar on children in troubles from 16th –18th January 1991*, Unicef.
- Thobanleupob, N. (1996). *Applying motivation theory in disease protecting with social support force to prevent using methamphetamine of students at secondary school, Lampang city, Lampang*, Thesis of Postgraduate Science, Mahidol University.
- Ubakeka house. (2007). *Young people's files in detention center*, Department of juvenile observation and protection.
- _____ (2007). *Published paper of detention center*, Department of juvenile observation and protection.
- Uprasert, P. (2540). *Factors affecting drug uses of teenagers in Bangkok*, Thesis of postgraduate of Medical Social Science, Mahidol University.

ENGLISH

- Allen, R. (1996). *Children and crime*, London: Institution for Public Policy Research.
- Aptekar, Lewis. (1988). *Street children of Cali*, N.C.: Duke University Press.
- Bartollas, C. and Miller, S. J. (1978). *The juvenile offender: control, correction and treatment*, Massachusetts: Holbrook Press.
- Brezina, T. (1998). *Adolescent maltreatment and delinquency: The question of intervening processes*, Journal of Research in Crime and delinquency, 35: 71-99.

- Brian, I. (2003). *Profile of a Criminal mind*, London : Amber Books Ltd.
- Christensen, P. and James, A. (2000). *Research with children*, New York: Falmer Press.
- Council of Europe. (1994). *Young adult offenders and crime policy*, European Committee on Crime Problems: Council of Europe Press.
- Denzin, N.K.&Lincoln, Y.S. (1994). *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, London: Sage.
- Dimenstein, G. (1991). *Brazil war on children*, London: Latin America Bureau Ltd.
- Emler, N. and Reicher S. (1995). *Adolescence and delinquency*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
- Empey, L.T. (1978). *American delinquency*, Los Angeles: Dorsey Press.
- Farrington, D. P. (1992). *Juvenile Delinquency*, in J.C. Coleman (ed.), *The School Years*, 2nd edn,123-63, London: Routledge.
- _____ (1996). *Understanding and Preventing Youth Crime*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- _____ (2002). *Multiple risk factors for multiple problem violent boys*, in R. R. Cororado, R. Roesch, S.D. Hart and J. K. Gierowski (eds), *Multi-problem Violent Youth:A Foundation for Comparative Research on Needs Interventions and Outcomes*, 23-34, Amsterdam: IOS Press.
- Giallombardo, R. (1976). *Juvenile delinquency*, U.S.A.: Wiley.
- Green, D. (1998). *Hidden lives*, London: Latin America Bureau Ltd.
- Greene, S. and Hogan, D. (2005). *Researching children's experience*, London: Sage.
- Gullbenkian, C. (1995). *Children violence*, London: Expression Printer Ltd.
- Haapasalo, J. and Pokela, E. (1999). *Child-rearing and child abuse antecedents of criminality, Aggression and Violent behaviour*, 1: 107-27.
- Hallsworth, S. (2005). *Street Crime*, Cullompton, Devon: Willan.
- Hayward, K. (2004). *City Limits*, London: Glasshouse.
- Henggeler, S. W., Melton, G. B., Smith, L. A., Schoenwald, S. K. and Hanley, J. H. (1993). *Family Preservation using Multisystemic Treatment: Long-Term Follow-Up to a clinical Trial with Serious Juvenile Offenders*, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 2: 283-93.
- Hopkin, E. (1994). *Childhood transformed*, New York: Manchester University Press.

- Holman, B. (1995). *Children and crime*, Oxford: Lion Publishing.
- Lilly, J. R., Cullen, F. T. and Ball, R. A. (2002). *Criminological theory*, Sage Publication.
- MacCord, J. (1997). A comparative study of two generations of native American, in R. F. Meier (ed.) *Theory in Criminology*, 83-92, Beverly Hills, Cal.: Sage
- _____ (1983). *A forty year perspective on effects of child abuse and neglect*, *Child Abuse and Neglect*,7:265-70.
- Malinosky-Rummell, R. and Hansen, D. J. (1993). *Long-term consequences of childhood physical abuse*, *Psychological Bulletin*, 114: 68-79
- Marquez, P.C. (1999). *The street is my home*, California: Stanford University Press.
- Maguire, M., Morgan, R. and Reiner, R. (2007). *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, Oxford:Oxford University Press.
- Mickelson, R. A. (2000). *Children on the streets of the Americas*, London: Routledge.
- Muncie, J., Hughes, G. and Mclaughlin, E. (2002). *Youth Justice: Critical Readings*, London: Sage Publications.
- Olds, D. L., Eckenrode J., Henderson, C. R., Kitzman H., Powers J., Cole R., Sidora K., Morris P., Pettitt L. M. and Luckey D. (1997). *Long-term effects of home visitation on maternal life course and child abuse and neglect: Fifteen year follow-up of a randomized trial*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 278: 637-43.
- Olds, D. L., Eckenrode J., Henderson, C. R., Kitzman H., Powers J., Cole R., Sidora K., Morris P., Pettitt L. M. and Luckey D. (1998). *Long-term effects of home visitation on maternal life course and child abuse and neglect: Fifteen year follow-up of a randomized trial*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280: 1238-44.
- Ross, R. R. and Ross, B. D. (1995). *Thinking straight: The reasoning and rehabilitation program for delinquency prevention and offender rehabilitation*, Ottawa: Air Training and Publications.
- Rutter, M., Giller, H. (1983). *Juvenile Delinquency, Trends and perspectives*, Middlesex: Penguin Books Ltd.
- Sander, W.B. (1981). *Juvenile delinquency: causes, patterns, and reactions*, USA: Praeger Publisher, Inc.

- Smith, C. A. and Thornberry, T. P. (1995). *The relationship between childhood maltreatment and adolescent involvement in delinquency*, Criminology, 33: 451-81.
- Smith, C. A. and Stern, S. B. (1997). *Delinquency and antisocial behaviour: A review of family processes and intervention research*, Social Service review, 71: 382-420.
- Stephenson, S. (2001). *Street children in Moscow: using and creating social capital*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
- Stephenson, M., Giller H. and Brown S. (2007). *Effective Practice in youth justice*, USA: Willian Publishing.
- Stevenson, O. (1990). *Age and vulnerability*, England: Edward Arnold.
- Sutherland, E. H. and Cressey, D. R. (1955). *Principle of Criminology*, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott.
- Underdown, A. (1998). *Strategies for Effective Supervision: Report of the HMIP What Works Project*, London: Home Office.
- Wenk, E.A. (1976). *Delinquency prevention and the schools*, London: Sage publication.
- _____ (1996). *Misspent youth, young people and crime*. The Audit Commissioner.
- _____ (1997). *Tackling youth crime*, Communication Directorate, The home office.
- Western, J. S., Lynch, M. and Ogilvie, E. (2003) *Understanding youth crime*, USA: Ashgate Publishing Company.
- Widom, C. S. (1989). *The cycle of violence*, Science, 244: 160-6.
- _____ and Ames, M. A. (1994). *Criminal consequences of childhood sexual victimization*, Child Abuse and Neglect, 18: 303-18.

NEWSPAPER

- Bangkok post Newspaper, 24 January 2007
- Educational page, Matichon Newspaper, 5 November 2006
- Educational page, Thairath Newspaper, 2 March 2004
- Social page, Banmuang Newspaper, 9 September, 2003
- Political page, Daily News Newspaper, 12 January 2004

WEBSITE

Thai Street Children Report. (2006). *Street children in Thailand*. www.moj.go.th
(Access date 20 April 2007).

World Youth Report. (2003) *Delinquent and criminal behavior*. www.un.org (Access
date 29 March 2007).

Street children. (2007). *Strategic plan to stop street children's problems 2007-2009*.
www.socialwarning.m-society.go.th (Access date 18 October 2007).

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. (2007). *Roles and
Responsibilities of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security*.
www.m-society.go.th (Access date 25 October 2007).

APPENDIX

1. Ubakeka house

Location

It is located at 512, Sanparwut Rd. Bangna district, Bangna province, Bangkok. This house was founded in 1954 called “The center of boys training, Ubakeka house”. It is in charge of Department of juvenile observation and protection, Ministry of Justice. This house has 3.6 acre but for training has approximately 1.6 acre.

Responsibility

Training children and juvenile who are sentenced or ordered by juvenile court to stay in there for a while depending on their crimes. These young people learn social skills, job training, morality and ethics. It also provides health care, sports and hobby to correct criminal behaviour so that these young people are able to have better lives after releasing.

Job training

There are different types of training programmes which are applied for teaching children. The purposes of these programmes are to develop the skills of learners and the learners can employ given skills for working in the future. The training programmes are builder, pressman, carpenter, tinsmith, barber, mechanic, artist and gardener. In addition, it has educational courses that are suitable for young people who do not graduate primary school.

Staffs

There are different professions of staffs, social welfare worker, psychologist, nurse, technique nurse.

Social welfare worker’s duties are:

1. Data arrangement for young offenders as new comers
2. Plan to solve the problems of each child and report about this
3. Behaviour consideration of children and juvenile

4. Consultation giving
5. Acting in consultation with parents
6. Social welfare service
7. Report procedures
8. Coordinating activities for other projects

Psychologist's responsibilities are:

1. Interview and psychological test for young offenders, report and preparation for resolving characteristics of those young offenders.
2. Psychological consultation giving both individual and group
3. Group discussion for new offenders by joining with social welfare worker.
4. Coordinating activities for mental illness treatment by working with psychiatrist

2. Railway Police Department, Central Investigation Bureau

The project of street police teacher

This project is a pilot project of Royal Thai Police. Railway Police Department was assigned to collaborate with local police station on solving street young people. To do this, some police officers of Railway Police Department have had responsibility for helping those street young people. The project was established at Hualumpong railway station. The police who work in this project have close collaboration with NGOs on approaching and assisting children without family. The purposes of this project are to educate, train social skills, protect young people from exploiting them such as beggars, prostitutions and drug dealing.

When the project began in the first time, the street police teachers applied the knowledge and experiences of street teachers from the House for better lives. This house was an original model of working. Later, train library is made from old "bogies" that had been decorated with cartoon pictures and used as rooms. There are spaces in those old bogies. One of these converted areas served as library for the

children and another area was used as by the police. This library has many cartoon books and other books for children.

The police who worked at the hostel have had responsibility of care for abandoned children in terms of protection and security. The majority of street youths respect the police as “teachers” since those policemen/women provide information and guidance to the children (Poothakool, 2007.) At train library, homeless children are educated by the police and it is free for everyone, especially young people without homes. Each child will be assigned different categories of functions without threat. Those functions are cleaning the bogies floor, mowing grass and so on in order that homeless children are familiar with disciplines in their lives.

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Vision

To be a national-level organization and mechanism that facilitates and links all partners involved to ensure that all Thai people are provided with stability, fair, equal and develop themselves, their families and communities to be peaceful, pleasant and sustainable societies.

Mission

1. Enhancing the efficiency of social development process
2. Developing security in life
3. Promoting the development of social capital

Strategies

1. Development of policies and information system on social development
2. Development of pro-active social services
3. Creation of security in life
4. Development of social capital

Responsibilities and duties

Responsibilities

Responsibility of MSDHS is to promote social development and create public equity and social justice. Its operation aim to encourage and develop quality of life, social security, family and communication institutes as well as other concerned functions as prescribed by the laws to be the duties and authority of MSDHS or agencies under the Ministry.

Duties and Authority

1. Office of the Minister has its function in relation to political matters with a view to support the minister's conduct of his/her duties and taking charge of policy coordination with other ministries. It has the following duties and authority:

1.1 Compiling, analyzing data and information as well as proposing recommendation for the Minister's consideration and decision ;

1.2 Supporting the Minister's political tasks in relation to other Ministers, the Cabinet, the Parliament and the people ;

1.3 Coordinating in replying the inquiries, explanation on motions and on draft Acts, and other political issues ;

1.4 Considering all the petitions, appeals and requests for assistance to the Minister ;

1.5 Performing other functions as prescribed by the laws to be the duties and authority of the Office of the Minister or entrusted by the Minister or by the Council of Ministers.

2. Office of the Permanent Secretary has its functions in relation to the development of strategies, the translation of MSDHS policies into action plans, the allocation of strategies, the development of information and communication technology with a view to reach the goals and achieve results effectively. It has the following duties and authority:

- 2.1 Developing MSDHS administrative strategies;
- 2.2 Translating policies into guidelines and action plans;
- 2.3 Economically allocating and administrating all MSDHS resources for the best benefit ;
- 2.4 Coordinating, monitoring, accelerating and evaluating the operating and implementation of agencies under MSDHS;
- 2.5 Development information and communication technology system systems for serving the administrative work and services of agencies under of under of the MSDHS;
- 2.6 Coordinating and exchanging international cooperation and mutual assistance as well as integrating policies of social development, social welfare, and human security in relevance to the international declarations and conventions ;
- 2.7 Setting standards for social development, social welfare and rights protection ;
- 2.8 Studying and analyzing social situation, conduction researches on social warning system , social treatment and protection ;
- 2.9 Supporting the enactment and amendment of the Ministry's laws and regulations and others concerned ;
- 2.10 Promotion and developing the cooperative networks from all sectors for social development, social welfare and rights protection ;
- 2.11 Administrating Social Development and Human Security Fund ;
- 2.12 Compiling and analyzing information as well as dissemination and publicizing activities and accomplishments of MSDHS ;
- 2.13 Performing other function as prescribed by the laws to be duties and authority of the Office of the Permanent Secretary or entrusted by the Minister or by the Council of Ministers.

Under the auspices of the Office of the Permanent Secretary, there are agencies under its central and provincial administration. As for provincial administration, it has a Provincial Social Development and Human Security

Offices (PSDHSO) in each of the 75 provinces. PSDHSO has the duties and authority as follows :

- 1) Studying, analyzing and reporting social and economic situation for provincial policy formulation as well as proposing recommendations and solution ;
- 2) Coordination in making provincial plans, project and activities on social development and human security issues to be in line with the policies of the Ministry ;
- 3) Promoting and coordinating on the operation and activities provision according to the goals and tasks of the Ministry ;
- 4) Enhancing cooperation with GOs and NGOs networks at provincial level ;
- 5) Promoting and coordinating the provision of service and assistance to people with social problems as well as the referral system to concerned and authorized GOs and NGOs on social welfare ;
- 6) Being provincial information center for social development and human security ;
- 7) Publicizing, disseminating and campaigning for social development and human security, MSDHS accomplishments and progress of concerned academic information and data ;
- 8) Cooperating and supporting other concerned agencies or performing functions as entrusted by the Ministry.

3. Department of Social Development and Welfare (DSDW) has its functions in relation to providing social welfare services and assistance for vulnerable people, needy people, the destitute, people with social problems. Services provided are in forms of remedial, rehabilitative and developmental models. Additionally, institutional care, communities organization promotion and referral to other concerned agencies are also provided with regards to encouraging target groups to have self-reliance and dignity. DSDW has the following duties and authority :

3.1 Developing and standardizing models and methods of providing social work and welfare services for various target groups;

3.2 Supporting academic and technological information, giving consultation as well as monitoring and evaluating on social development and social welfare provision for concerned agencies and local organizations;

3.3 Providing social welfare services, assistance and prevention for socially distressed people in all target groups and coordinating appropriate agencies for referring ;

3.4 Promoting and coordinating the operation of social welfare services networks of each target group and each operational area ;

3.5 Promoting and arranging activities according to various special projects, the Royal Initiative Projects and the international cooperative agreements and commitments ;

3.6 Performing other functions as prescribed by the laws to be the duties and authority of entrusted by the Minister or by the Council of Ministers.

DSDW also has 12 Technical Promotion and Support Offices (TPSO) in 12 regions under its administration. It has the following duties and authority :

1) Analyzing and formulating plans for providing services in relation to the target groups and operational areas. Monitoring and evaluating the operational agencies are also included ;

2) Supporting technical knowledge and giving consultation to operational agencies, providing welfare services to all target groups as well as coordinating with local organizations, concerned agencies, NGOs and communities for organization social development and welfare systems which aim to promote quality of life and sustained self-reliance ;

3) Promoting and setting networks system for coordination in operational areas ;

4) Cooperating and supporting other concerned agencies of performing functions as entrusted by DSDW.

4. Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development has its functions in relation to development of woman potential, promotion of gender equality, empowerment of family institution as well as establishment of social equity and justice. It is in charge of formulating policy and measures to enhance social security for woman as well as setting up mechanisms for promoting coordination among concerned GOs and NGOs. It has the following duties and authority :

4.1 Development and suggesting guidelines to promote women potential, gender equality and security of family institution ;

4.2 Establishing and developing measures and mechanisms to promote woman potential, gender equality and security of family institution ;

4.3 Enhancing technical knowledge and supporting various resources to carry out the operation of network which aim to promote woman potential, gender equality and security of family institution ;

4.4 Promoting cooperation in relevance to the international agreements and commitments ;

4.5 Promoting cooperation for woman rights protection according to the laws.

4.6 Conducting researches to develop body of knowledge for promoting woman potential, gender equality and security of family institution ;

4.7 Establishing standards, monitoring and evaluating the implementation according to policies and measures ;

4.8 Coordinating information systems for the promotion of woman potential, gender equality and security of family institution ;

4.9 Performing other function as prescribed by the laws to be duties and authority of the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development or entrusted by the Minister or by the Council of Ministers.

5. Office of welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Group(OPP).

Its functions relate to protecting rights and promoting potential of various target groups. It is in charge of formulating policy, measures and mechanisms for developing security and quality of life of the target groups as well as supporting coordination among concerned GOs and NGOs. It has the following duties and authority :

5.1 Suggesting guidelines for protecting rights and promoting potential of children, youth, vulnerable people, persons with disabilities and older persons ;

5.2 Establishing and developing measures and mechanisms for protecting rights and promoting potential of children, youth, vulnerable people, persons with disabilities and order persons ;

5.3 Enhancing technical knowledge and supporting various resources for supporting various resources for the operations of networks which aim to protect rights and promote potential of the target groups ;

5.4 Establishing and developing standards to protect rights and promote potential of children, youth, vulnerable people, persons with disabilities and older persons as well as enhancing international cooperation in relevance to the world changes, the international agreements and commitments ;

5.5 Promoting activities to develop potential and social roles of children, youth, vulnerable people, persons with disabilities and older persons ;

5.6 Developing body of knowledge for protecting rights and promoting potential of children, youth, vulnerable people, persons with disabilities and older persons ;

5.7 Coordinating and supporting information and data for protecting rights and promoting potential of children, youth, vulnerable people, persons with disabilities and older persons ;

5.8 Performing other functions as prescribed by the laws to be duties and authority of the Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups or entrusted by the Minister or by the Cabinet.

6. National Housing Authority (NHA) has its functions in relation to provide housing for vulnerable people and the low-income people including income low level civil servants and other stage staff members to afford hire purchase of housing units of their owns. The total units are 600,000 for 5 years (2003-2007). It has set its policy emphasizing:

1) the facilitation and coordination to bring about the efficient future social development,

2) responsible for developing housing security and urban development to improve living quality to ensure a balanced, strong, livable and sustainable society. It has following authorities and duties :

6.1 Providing residential units for low-income people engaged in every sector, as well as, low-level civil servants, state enterprise personnel, laborers and individuals ;

6.2 Being responsible for housing development planning in the city and town level throughout the country ;

6.3 Setting the policy and planning strategy emphasizing the prevention and slum solving for the nation to serve the strategy of “City Without Slum” of UNCHS (United National Center for Human Settlements/HABITAT);

6.4 Being the center of “Housing Technical Development Studies” and being the main mechanism to support the national housing policy formulation ;

6.5 Encouraging the establishment of the “ Nation Housing and Urban Development Board ”;

6.6 Encouraging the urban community development and housing estates development;

6.7 Providing housing projects for public agencies or various institutions both welfare projects and hire-purchase or rental projects including housing projects according to the government housing policy;

6.8 Encouraging the establishment of the “ National Urban Development Organization ” in charge of various urban development types i.e. New Town Development and Urban Renewal.

7. Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) has its functions in relation to promote the development of community organizations and civil society by coordinating the efforts of stakeholders involved in community development. It has the following duties and authority

7.1 Supporting and enhancing the role of the community organizations and the local mechanism in development ;

7.2 Promoting community financial institutions and the community-oriented economy ;

7.3 Building and developing the loan system as a tool for development ;

7.4 Improving the efficiency and transparency of CODI's management systems to allow partners to participate and engage in its activities

7.5 Promoting savings activities and general community welfare ;

7.6 Updating community information systems and encourage the sharing of information and knowledge between communities ;

7.7 Supporting integrated loan packages used by community organizations and networks to improve the quality of life of their members ;

7.8 Strengthening civil society from each level to have more power to develop their local area and to support community organizations.

8. Public Pawnshop Office has its functions in relation to low-income earners who have no other options for raising necessary funds, the agency offers reliable and fair pawnshop services, and provides information on pawnshop facilities in Thailand as a basic input for economic development in quality of life. It has the following duties and authority ;

8.1 Providing financial assistance for low-income earners through pledging of assets at low interest rates ;

8.2 Maintaining fair and standard prices among private pawnshops as stipulated by law.

(source: www.m-society.go.th)

BIOGRAPHY

NAME	Pol.Capt. Krisanaphong Poothakool
DATE OF BIRTH	June 4, 1976
PLACE OF BIRTH	Bangkok, Thailand
EDUCATION	Royal Police Cadet Academy, Pre cadet Academy, Bangkok, Thailand Bachelor of Public administration (Police), Sampran, Nakornprathom, Thailand Sukhothai Thammathirat, Bachelor of Law, Pakkred, Nonthaburi, Thailand Mahidol University, Master of Environmental Education in Social Science, Nakornprathom, Thailand Aberdeen University, Scotland, UK Master of Research in Sociology,
POSITION AND OFFICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Police officer (Police Lieutenant) at Crime Suppression Division, Bangkok, Thailand- Private secretary of Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, Thailand- Police officer (Police Captain) at Crime Suppression Division, Bangkok, Thailand- The assistant of Deputy Commissioner of Metropolitan Police Bureau, Bangkok, Thailand