

The Use of Online Dispute Resolution under the United Nations Dispute Resolution Framework

Kodchakorn Na Nakornphanom

Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand

E-mail: kodchakorn.nan@stou.ac.th

Abstract

Nowadays legal justice procedure are taken place across the globe and the Information Technology is often brought into the picture to assist various aspects of our everyday lives. With regards to disputes which are common and are persistent within today's society, countries have set up specific organization known as 'court' to deal with such matter. In general, everyone is entitled to present their cases to the court of law, however, in reality, the practices and procedures contain a lot of difficulties and obstacles, for example, the overload of cases filed before court which in turn results in the delay of justice. Also, taking cases to court involves various steps and complicated protocols that produce hindrances for the people to access the system. Accordingly, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has been introduced as an alternative option to the traditional approach of conflict settlement. ADR popularity is heighten with the use of online facility and information technology. The newly introduced Online ADR, with effective database management, allows people to gain easier access to the justice system, saving both the cost and the time, including other resources spent on legally resolving disputes.

Keywords: Information Technology, Online, Alternative Dispute Resolution, United Nations

Prologue

At present, there are 3 main Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) approaches that are commonly known and used widely, these are namely (1) Negotiation, (2) Mediation, and (3) Arbitration. When it comes to negotiation, this is a dispute settlement approach where both parties are trying to work out the conflict together. Once they have reached an agreement, a conciliation agreement will be drafted and signed upon by both parties. With regards to mediation, this is quite similar to the process occurred in a negotiation, however, a third party is involved in order to help facilitating and running the conflict settlement process. At the end of the process, if both parties can reach an agreeable decision, an agreement will be drawn and entered into by both parties in question as well just like what happens in a negotiation process. Regarding arbitration, this is where the conflicting parties assign a third party, known as an arbitrator, to make a final decision concerning the conflicting matter. The ruling issued by the arbitrator is legally binding and enforceable by law. In other words, should one of the party fails to abide by the arbitrator's ruling, the other party can take their case to the court of law and have the court enforce the concerned ruling, unless the law states otherwise.

An Introduction to Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)

As we are now in a digitalized and globalized world, particularly with the advancement of the internet network across the globe, online transactions or more commonly known as e-commerce, have been significantly recognized worldwide. This inevitably follows by a number of problems. One of which concerns the online features where it does not require contracting parties to be in

the same country, as a result, one of the parties may not be aware of such fact. This event eventually leads to conflicts of laws which finally renders nations to issue its own e-commerce law so as to deal with this particular online scenario. Another critical problem concerns the conflicts which have arisen out of these online transactions, especially where the conflicting parties reside in different countries. Such case proves to be geographically problematic and difficult for both parties. On top of that, as most e-commerce related cases are small claims with small value of awards or damages, taking these cases to court are even more difficult and challenging. Accordingly, an idea of an online alternative dispute resolution is introduced, known as Online Dispute Resolution or ODR.

ODR is a result of digitalization and globalization. In 1989, the first internet innovation, known as the World Wide Web was introduced. The event allows computer users to exchange views, ideas, and information between one another with ease. Later, a web browser was introduced, making it even easier for internet users to surf the internet. In 1994, a concern was raised with respect to the use of the internet, or the so-called online world, specifically with a matter vis-à-vis legal conflicts and disputes. This concern led to an idea of bringing in certain tools to effectively handle such conflicts.

A study on ODR was further developed after an academic article on the subject was published in 1996 (Katsh, 1996), followed by a conference on ODR organized by the National Center for Automated Information Research (NCAIR). Henceforth, a vigorous examination into the topic of ODR have increasingly manifested and carried out. However, a topic on ODR study back then was considered as an issue in the future due to the fact that not many people at that time were accustomed to the use of the internet, especially when it comes to online transactions, therefore, there were not many disputes that involved e-commerce and the use of the internet.

As the internet continuously grew its popularity, an increasing number of online transactions is evident, leading to higher number of disputes arising out of this particular online transaction nature (UNCTAD). Therefore, greater recognition and acknowledgement have been made towards the necessity of having an online alternative dispute resolution.

Different Types of ODR

1. **Online Negotiation:** A negotiation between conflicting parties through the use of the internet. This is an automated negotiation with certain restrictions, namely, it only deals with negotiations that concern numbers such as the amount of awards or damages.
2. **Online Mediation:** In this type of ODR, a technological assistance is used as a tool to carry out the settle the conflict. This technology allows itself to act as a mediator, providing and giving advices for both conflicting parties.
3. **Online Arbitration:** An online arbitration contains key characteristics similar to those of its traditional counterpart. That is to say, there is a third party who gets to make a final decision and give out rulings. It is apparent that in this type of ODR, a presence of human is required to function as an arbitrator instead of the use of computer program. An online arbitration involves all processes to take place on the internet without a face to face requirement or any physical meeting between the parties. Hence, processes such as filing a claim, appointing arbitrators, evidence hearings, as well as delivering rulings are all taken place and executed perpetually and exclusively online.

ODR Composition and Characteristics

According to the types of ODR witnessed earlier, it can be seen that a dispute settlement approach through the use of ODR holds 3 important aspects.

First and foremost, it involves the essential technology that must be carefully tailored and designed so that the developed program can be applied and worked with the ODR processes.

Secondly, this concerns the management of relevant elements that ultimately allows the ODR process to function properly. It must also ensure ODR user's confidence and maintain its credibility and stability.

The third composition of the ODR involves relevant legal aspects that come into play with ODR process, for example, an arbitration law and relating provisions and regulations, and a conciliation agreement.

The United Nations Roles vis-à-vis the Development of ODR

In order to encourage and foster the use of ODR that is consistent with the e-commerce dispute protocols, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) first brought up this issue at the 33th UN convention in New York, which was held from 12th June to 7th July, 2000. The UNCITRAL commission discussed issues concerning the introduction of ODR for possible future use and propose that the issue should be included as a part of its research on e-commerce. The commission assigned a second committee (arbitration and dispute settlement) and the 4th committee (e-commerce) to work together upon studying any relevant issues concerning ODR and online transactions. Nonetheless, as there was no development of high speed internet at that time, both assigned committees did not require the necessity to come up with the rules regulating ODR.

Later, during the 42nd UNCITRAL conference held in Vienna between 29th June and 17th July 2009, the UNCITRAL commission had adopted the following ODR agenda:

1. The study of types of online transaction disputes that could be resolved using ODR
2. The suitability of the ODR drafted protocol
3. The feasibility and the need for database for ODR certified providers
4. The legal enforcement within the consenting international legal framework

This particular meeting is viewed as the beginning and the birth of an Online Dispute Resolution Guidelines (Report of Working Group III, 2010).

In the 43rd UNCITRAL conference held in New York during 21st June and 9th July 2010, the following information have been put together and presented by the Secretariat (UNCITRAL, 2010):

1. A traditional method in alternative dispute settlement (ADR) is not a suitable option for disputes arising out of e-commerce transactions. An ODR (Online Dispute Resolution) approach is regarded as the best suitable tool for the overwhelming number of small legal claims.
2. A cross-border e-commerce and online transaction related dispute settlement needs specific mechanism that does not produce certain burdens regarding operation costs and expenses, and delays. Any expensed incurred should be proportionated and economically reasonable with regards to the value of the claims.
3. Due to a technological loophole between developed and under-developed countries, relevant perceptions and opinions must be taken into account particularly those raised by the under-developed nations.

In addition, the UNCITRAL commission views that the workload of such particular tasks require significant amount of time and therefore it should limit the scope of the work to include only conflicts arising between entrepreneurs. With respect to the laws concerning consumer protection, it is considered rather difficult to deal with as the laws and policies upon this area differ across different countries. Hence, to work on this issue, it is essential to have it carried out carefully without producing impacts upon the existing national laws on consumer protection. It is perceived and expressed that within nowadays digitalized era, consumers' transactions amount to a majority part of e-commerce industry, especially those committed or entered into via mobile phones, with a cross-border nature.

Eventually, the Commission set up a third committee to specifically target ODR matters. It is generally agreed upon that at present, there is still no common ground international agreement concerning the standard of ODR, coupling with the fact that there are high amount of small claims being brought to attention, either it is a claim between entrepreneurs or a claim between an entrepreneur and consumers, accordingly, it is important to come up with effective and swiftly management measures to tackle with such incidents, of which it must be executed with less expenses, timely, and with the best interest of the consumers at heart.

The third committee on ODR held the 22nd meeting in Vienna (13-17 December 2010) in order to come together and determine certain fundamental rules regarding the use and practice of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), the recommendations can be seen as follow (Report of Working Group III, 2010):

1. There are various steps and procedures towards an online dispute settlement, namely, a negotiation phase, conciliation phase, and arbitration phase. The committee views that most conflicting parties tend to opt for negotiations and conciliations rather than going for an arbitration approach. To elaborate, for instance, over millions of disputes settlements conducted by eBay and Electronic Consumer Dispute Resolution (ECODIR), which concern negotiations between eBay buyers and sellers, 70% of such disputes were resolved successfully. In the cases where a mediation was carried out by a third party mediator, this resulted in the 95% of the cases successfully settled. Accordingly, very few claims reached the arbitration phase. Nevertheless, arbitration is a crucial component of the ODR as without it, there could be no legally binding and enforceable rulings.
2. Due to the fact that, up to date, there are still no proper established international standards and practices of the ODR, the committee therefore propose an idea to come up with such standards, basing on the findings produced from the model results of international ODR studies and researches.
3. The European Union (EU) representatives have proposed a tool named 'Blue Button' (UNCITRAL, 2010) which offers the conflicting parties to be able to choose their preferred dispute settlement approaches, particularly with the cases of disputes between business and consumers.
4. The Commission gives great attention to ODR in that the processes involved must be clear and clarified to the consumers so that they can be aware of what their responsibilities and legal obligations are once they have entered ODR, especially with regards to the cases where the consumer's domestic laws are not applicable to the ODR procedures.
5. Regarding ODR documentations and filings, it stipulates that all concerned parties must be able to access an electronic channel communication so that both or all parties can be notified by emails every time new documents have been submitted to the system.

6. For a conciliation and an arbitration proceedings, ODR service providers should appoint a third party mediator or an arbitrator so that the process can be carried out promptly and effectively.

7. The Commission proposes that all information and relevant data concerning the practices and functioning of the ODR should be banked and formed into a database so that all parties could benefit from it. Also, the proposed database can be employed to set up international standards and guidelines for ODR. Nonetheless, it is essential to take the privacy of the conflicting parties into account, this also extends further to the conciliation procedure as well because the parties' confidentiality is considered as paramount and must be protected and strictly upheld.

8. For dispute settlement with the use of ODR, conflicting parties can appoint a third party to represent them upon the cases. Consumer associations can also represent and offer assistance to the consumer party, with prior notification issued to the conflicting parties, of which the committee will be looking into this matter shortly.

9. With respect to the issue that has been widely discussed within the working committee, which is the topic concerning the place of arbitration, this issue is considered highly significant especially to the international arbitration process. During this particular commission assembly, the final conclusion has not been reached and therefore the working committee must continue to carry on the studies vis-à-vis the concerned and relevant legal provisions applicable to the dispute settlement approach in question.

10. With regards to the expenses incurred from the ODR proceedings, the committee perceives that it must be notified to the consumers prior to the beginning of the ODR process in order to ensure impartiality and clarity of the dispute settlement process.

The III (third) committee later set up a meeting to consider and determine the rules governing ODR in the 23rd convention held during 23-27 May 2011 in New York⁵. The committee unanimously agreed that the rules regarding ODR must be applicable and must work easily in practice. However, certain problems remain due to the fact the an online arbitration process is a procedure in which legal measurements are at play, it also involves one important convention known as the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Award, signed and ratified in New York, and later commonly known as 'The New York Convention'. The working group committee nonetheless cannot come to a conclusion as to how the rulings giving out within the process of ODR can be recognized and become enforceable under the the New York Convention. The third committee conducted several attempts to propose the draft rules regarding ODR and in the 28th session held during 18-22 November 2013 in Vienna, although the complete establishment of the ODR draft have not been passed, yet, there are several significant process of which can be seen as follow:

ODR Agreement: In order to resort to an Online Dispute Settlement approach (ODR), both parties must give their consents upon the matter. That is to say, when the conflicting/contracting parties have entered into an electronic transactions, they must agree upon the use of ODR as an option should any disputes were to take place. For countries where there are no restrictions applied to the making of ODR agreement, parties may come into an agreement prior to the disputes or may insist upon using ODR as an option once the disputes taken place. For countries where there are certain limitations imposed and barring the conflicting parties from entering into

⁵ Note by the Secretariat, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Working Group III (Online Dispute Resolution), Twenty-second session, Vienna 13-17 December 2010 (A/CN.9/WG.III/WP.105) page 3.

a dispute settlement agreement before the actual disputes have taken place, the parties shall opt for an ODR process after the conflicts arises.

Entering into an ODR Process: The filing of claims initiates from the claimant (i.e. the party who initiates the ODR process under this particular rules by issuing a debt notification) sending out relevant documents and submitting any related evidences to the ODR providers (i.e. the service provider who offer ODR as their services as stipulated or stated within the agreement on dispute settlement clauses, the ODR provider is considered a party that set up and manage the ODR process as well as laying out an ODR platforms, notwithstanding as to whether or not they are the ODR platform providers or not, under the contracted arbitral provisions. The ODR provider must then send out a notification to the respondent without delays. Once this is complete, it will be regarded that the process have entered into the ODR proceedings.

Negotiation between Conflicting Parties: Once the respondent have been notified from the ODR provider, the respondent must respond by issuing out a reply form together with any related evidences back to the ODR provider. Should the respondent wish to make any further requests, the respondent may seek to send and submit the 'Counter-claim' back to the ODR provider, all of which the respondent must submit all the relevant documents back to the ODR provider within 7 working days after the notification.

When the ODR provider have received the respondent's reply form, the ODR provider must then notify the claimant immediately.

Following such process, this will enter into a phase where negotiation and conciliation between both conflicting parties are taken place. Should the negotiation is successful, the disputes will be resolved and finalized through the use of ODR. However, should the negotiation becomes unsuccessful, further proceedings of the ODR shall continue to the next stage.

Conciliation Process: Should the negotiation fails, either because the conflicting parties cannot come to a conclusion or the respondent does not submit the reply form within 7 days after the notification, the ODR process will enter into an automated conciliation procedure. Upon this process, the ODR provider must issue a third party mediator (this refers to the third party who comes to help facilitate and assist the conflicting parties to reach an agreement) immediately and must notify both parties regarding the appointment of such third party mediator. If the parties do not oppose to the appointment, the ODR provider must pass on relevant information and documents to the third party mediator. The mediator can request additional documents or make further inquiries. The task of the mediator is to assist both parties to come into a conclusion and reach a consensus agreement. Should this fails, the mediator must prescribe and set out the final deadline for the final evidence and document submission, which must not exceed 10 days after the mediator has been appointed.

If the conflicting parties can come to an agreeable conclusion, the parties will then enter into a dispute settlement agreement and have such agreement recorded and submitted into the ODR platform (this refers to the ODR platform which is a system created to receive, transmit, record and exchange any relevant documents and information concerning the disputes in question. This platform is normally issued and identified by the ODR provider at the beginning of the ODR process.) and the ODR process will be complete. In an event where the conciliation fails, the ODR process will move on to the next level, of which is still under the determination of the working group III. Still, following guidelines and possibilities have been issued below:

1. To allow the third party mediator to make an automatic final decision. Yet, such decision will not be legally binding to both parties;
2. To have the ODR proceedings automatically ceased; or,

3. To have the case automatically enter into an arbitration process.

Summary and Final Remarks

An Online Dispute Resolution approach (ODR) is considered to be rather new to the alternative dispute settlement regime, in which the dispute settlement process does not involve a face to face meetings or interactions between the conflicting parties, whilst on the contrary, involves the use of modern day's technological advancement. The ODR system is presented to be a mix between information technology sciences, management skills, and legal aspects altogether.

The need for ODR is rather essential nowadays due to the fact that the communication technology have vastly extended and advanced in a way that allow great number of online transactions to take place, which is considerably popular amongst both the business entrepreneurs and the consumers. As a result, the number of claims arising out of such online transactions have increased in volume as well. Such disputes may involve parties who reside in different countries and the conflicts, in itself, only concerns small claims or awards, rendering the conflicting parties to face with difficulties and barring them from seeking their access to justice through a traditional justice channel.

The introduction of ODR and its use upon such particular type of claims and disputes are accordingly highly essential. However, the development of the relevant laws and legal provisions that are in line with the ODR system are still lacking and may not be sufficient to run a successful and effective ODR process. The study into ODR system especially with regards to the relevant technological tools as well as related legal mechanism is significantly important towards the development of the internationally recognized ODR process.

Ultimately, the feasibility study of the UNCITRAL laws development is immensely beneficial as this area of law is rather new and even though certain countries may have their own domestic laws regarding the practices and uses of ODR, however, not enough nations could provide adequate information vis-à-vis the ODR. The research carried out by the UNCITRAL, which is a study to identify the overview of the concerned issues throughout the globe should be taken into account and employed as a key guideline towards the ODR development in Thailand.

References

- Katsh, E. 1996. **The Online Ombuds Office: Adapting Dispute Resolution to Cyberspace.** Retrieved from www.odr.info/ncair/katsh.htm.
- Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/65/17). Report of Working Group III (Online Dispute Resolution) on the work of its twenty-second session (Vienna 13-17 December 2010) (A/CN.9/716).**
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 'E-Commerce and Development Report 2003 (Internet edition prepared by the UNCTAD Secretariat) Chapter 7: Online Dispute Resolution: E-commerce and beyond'.**

Suicide Risk Factors of Royal Thai Police Officers

Veerapol Gulabutr

Mahidol University, Thailand

E-mail: gveerapol@gmail.com

Abstract

This research study employed quantitative and qualitative methods and was aimed to investigate suicide risk factors among the Royal Thai Police officers and the social, environment and psychological factors causing the suicide. The quantitative method was used to collect data from 977 police officers in the Provincial Police Region 3, 5 and the Metropolitan Police Bureau using questionnaires while in-depth interviews with 8 qualified supervisors were conducted to obtain qualitative data from the police officers who were involved in the crime prevention policy as well as 9 psychiatrists and psychologists. Statistics used for data analysis were percentage, mean, standard deviation, the t-test, the F-test and Structural Equation Modeling by AMOS program. The study indicated that the majority of the police officers were male Police Senior Sergeant Major, working in the suppression line of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, whose ages were between 41-50 years, working for 21-30 years in the government civil service, Buddhist, married with no children, and have a bachelor's degree. Factors that affected the suicide risk level of the Royal Thai Police officers were social, surroundings and psychological factors. These, consisted of disputes in the family, having congenital disease, inadequacy of income, pressure from work, Suicide history in family or had been prosecuted. These factors were significantly associated with the Thai police officer's suicide with the statistical significance at 0.05 levels. In addition, the result indicated that depression and impulsiveness were significantly related to suicide among the Thai police officers with statistical significance at 0.05 levels as well.

Keywords: Suicide Risk, Royal Thai Police Officers, Impetuosity, Depression

Background and the Significance of the Problem

Suicide is a major problem that affects society, community and family. Comparing to other countries worldwide, the World Health Organization estimates that each year there are more than one million people successfully committing suicide, meaning a successful suicide in every 40 seconds. As for Thailand, the suicide rate of Thai people is 6 in 100,000 persons. Suicide is definitely one of Thailand's greatest social problems. The suicide victims mostly are in the age group of 20-29 years with a total number 18,699 people, followed by the age groups of 30-39 years and 40-49 years which are 18,545 persons. The highest suicide rate is among adults between 20-29 years of age there are 18,699 people (total number). The second highest suicide rate occurred in those in the ages between 30-39 and 40-49 years there are 18,545 people (total number). (Mongkol, Vongpiromsan, Tangseree, Huttapanom, Romsai, & Chutha, 2014: 75-80)

The suicide rate of Thai population is higher in males than females. The suicide rate in males was 2.81 persons per 100,000 individuals in 1992 and increased to 9.4 per 100,000 individuals in the year 2005. Suicide rate in Thailand as a whole is about 9-10 people per 100,000 annually which is relatively low compared to other countries. Nevertheless, considering the ages, the highest rate was found in the young age group of 22-33 years. This differs from global trends in which the high suicide rates vary with the older age. As in the US, it was found that 14 percent of all suicides, occur in people whose ages are 15-24 years old whereas the age group of 65 years or

older the number of victims is 16.9 percent and the number for people who are over 75 years is 20.6 percent. In Asian countries such as China, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore, it was also found that suicide occurs in the elderly as well. (Siruenthong, Kongsuk, Pangchunr, Kittirattanapaiboon, Kenbubpha, Yingyeun, Sukawaha, & Leejongpermpoon, 2011: 413-424)

In the year 2013, suicide rate of Thai people was 6.08 per 100,000 persons. There were 3,900 people committed suicide or attempted to every 2 hours on average. The male suicide rate is three times higher than female. (Mongkol et al., 2014: 83-85)

Because the population who died from suicide mostly are in young age, it affects the country very much economically. In Thailand, although the average number of deaths from suicide is not high, but if the population died at a young age, it can cause serious problem to the country's long-term productivity and will result in the serious economic impact. This economic impact will be more serious for Thailand even though other countries have higher numbers of suicide because most of them died in the old age. Moreover, suicide creates a great impact on the mental health of family members and contributes to the country's economic losses even those who attempt suicide, but do not lose their life but it is a loss due to the required admission to hospital. The attempted suicide victims may not lose their lives but are suffering from complications or disability. Apart from that it will definitely bring serious mental health problems to family members making them unable to live their lives happily and perform works efficiently. Given that it is the loss of production workers and labor cost to maintain the loss for the country economically in a society level Consequently, the country as a whole will suffer the economic loss because the suicide victims are in the working age group of 20-40 years. Suicides in this age group also highly affects the mental health and the well-being of the family since it is the age of starting a family or their children are still in school age. If the head of the family died, the remaining family members would be hopeless. (Wilachai, Hanching, Gojagang, & Keawbuadee, 2006: 53-79)

Social and economic problem is the main cause of suicide in the working population. Throughout the year 2008, Thailand had encountered several serious problems, both political and economic. The number of unemployed people increased, causing a lot of stress and depression to those unemployed and couldn't make ends meet which eventually will lead to suicide. Data from the World Health Organization specified that the number of deaths from suicide is currently approximately one million a year or 2,739 persons per day or an average of 114 persons per hour, or two minutes per person. In the year 2020, the suicide will be up to 1.5 million people. Thailand was ranked 71th in the world in terms of suicide rate. (Bureau of Mental Health Promotion and Development, 2009: 68-71)

The suicide of Thai police officer of Royal Police collected in the fiscal year 2008-2013 was 166 police officers in total and tend to rise steadily. In the year 2008, there were 12 police officers (7.23%) succeeded in commit suicide, in 2009 there were 22 police officers or 13.25%, in 2010 there were 31 police officers or 18.67%, in 2011 there were 32 police officers, (19.28%), in 2012 there were 47 police officers (28.31%) and in the year 2013 there were a total number of 22 police officers (13.25%) committed suicide. (Office of Police Strategy and Police General Hospital, 2014: 85-90)

Considering the background of police officers who committed suicide, it was found that all were males, none of the female was found. They were mostly in the age range of 41-50 years, with a total of 74 cases (44.58%), followed by the age range of 31-40 years with 47 cases (28.31%). With regard to the ranks, the majority held the rank of Police Senior Sergeant Major with total number of 97 (58.43%), followed by 21 Police Sergeant Major (12.65%). Most of them work in

the Provincial Police Region 5 (12.05%), followed by the Provincial Police Region 3 and the Metropolitan Police Bureau which have the same number of 17 police officers or 10.24%. Their lines of work are mostly in the crime suppression with a total number of 124 police officers (74.70%) followed by general and supporting for 13 police officers (7.83%). (The Royal Thai Police, 2013: 44-47)

Reasons for suicide are sorted from the highest to the lowest, 53 cases (31.93%) for having family problems and adultery, 45 cases (27.11%) for having health problems such as cancer, liver disease, 22 cases (13.25%) for of unknown clear cause, 19 cases (11.45%) for personal problems such as being a fugitive, or fleeing from custody, and 18 cases (10.84%) for debt problems as well as 9 cases (5.42%) for work related problems.(Tongchai, Sangchot, & Bamrunghaokasem, 2014: 87-91)

The suicide of a police officer brings about a serious impact on the security and stability of the family despite the efforts of all parties involved such as the Ministry of Public Health, Mental Health Department who strongly support and encourage the treatment of patients with mental health problems in accordance with the Measures by the Mental Health Act 2008 and other measures related to the issue of suicide which led to the establishment of the National Mental Health Commission under Section 5 that designated the Prime Minister to serve as the Chairman as well as the Commissioner-General of Royal Thai Police as the committee member with the authority to establish the policy under Section 10 and Section 11. However, the suicide problem of the police officer has been existing continuously. The issue of why the police officer has an increasing rate of suicide has been in an attention of several researchers. They conducted various studies to investigate how the victims commit suicide successfully from the suicide statistics and collected data from surviving relatives and friends. But the study on risk level of the suicide of a police officer who is still alive is still insufficient. Thus, the study of suicide risk level of the police officer as well as factors affecting the suicide of a police officer should be conducted in order to effectively provide suggestions and measures to prevent the suicide of police officer.

Literature Review

Theories of suicide

Theoretical Sociology: Emile Durkheim, a French sociologist was interested various social issues such as social integration, social disorganization, and social bond. In order to study these social issues, Durkheim (1951: 97-98) used suicide rates to measure how well the European societies are integrated. Additionally, Durkheim presented his view on suicide in the book “Suicide: A Study in Sociology” that the suicide rate is different from society to society and from era to era (Pattamacharoen, 2008: 28-33). For example, Protestant group has higher suicide rate than Catholics group; a group of people who are not married has higher suicide rate than a group of married people; soldiers have higher suicide rate than civilians or Petty officers have higher suicide rate than the draftees. The rate of suicide in the country that have normal situation is higher than the time of war and revolution. The rate of suicide is high at a time when the economy is booming and busting than the time when the economy is in stable condition. Durkheim explained that each group had a different rate of suicide is partly due to the social organization of the country which may be or may be not able to prevent the group members from committing suicide. There are many reasons leading to the suicide of the individual, such as economic hardship, loss of love and illness. But these reasons cannot be explained why the rate of suicide among certain groups are likely to be higher than other groups. In addition, the degree of integration of the group is associated with suicide. However, analysis of the two relationship

that lead to suicide can happen to both group members; either those who have deep relationship or those who have superficial relationship which can be a condition that leads to suicide as well. Durkheim (1951: 100-105) studied the suicide by collecting the data related to the relationship of the person towards society. The suicide was classified into 4 categories including: 1) Egoistic Suicide-a consequence of the deterioration of social and familial bond and linked anomic suicide to disillusionment and disappointment, feeling worthless, lack of support, being abandoned, for example. Single people are more likely to commit suicide than those who are married; and people in urban area commit suicide more than people in rural area. 2) Altruistic Suicide-a suicide due to having close bond with the group. It is caused by a sense of obligation to society or the public, upheld the survival of the group rather than their own. 3) Anomic Suicide-this is caused by the inability to adapt to the rapidly-changing society. It is a condition where social and also moral norms are blur and confusing which are caused by sudden or rapid social changing, making society members confused and cannot adapt to the change. A thought of suicide can, thus, occur when there are changes within the family or the death of important person in their lives, for example. 4) Fatalistic Suicide-it is due to excessive pressure and being strictly controlled. Thus, suicide can be an escape from the shame of business bankruptcy, financial problems, jobless and lack of income. At present, suicide is increasing because of the high unemployment rate or chronic illness. This can lead to suicide attempts which occur so often in some region that it becomes a sub-culture such as in the northern region of Thailand (Tantipiwatanasakul & Wisrutrat, 1998: 17-20). Examining the statistics on police officer suicide, it was found that most suicides were caused by family problems such as family disputes, personal problems such as being a fugitive or escaping the guilt, and health problems such as cancer or liver disease. These, according to Durkheim's theory, are considered as a fatalistic suicide which is usually caused by unbearable pressure and being strictly.

General Strain Theory: Robert Agnew (2001: 319-361) has developed this theory from Merton's strain theory. Agnew added two more important parts to Merton's theory: losing important or valuable things in life and facing with bad thing or harm in life (Suriyamane, 2010: 45-47). Below are factors contributing to strain based on Agnew's theory:

1) Failure to get something valuable in life.

1.1) The dream did not come true as needed or not true in practice.

1.2) Expectations are not met. This expectation received from the experience the individual has encountered and compared with other people who are in the same condition.

1.3) Results are not as expected or on the opposite of righteousness. For instance, unfairness or injustice can create a lot of anger, pressure and frustration which can lead to crime. (Cullen & Agnew, 2006: 221)

2) Loss of valuable things in life (strain as the removal of positively valued stimuli from the individual) such as the loss of loved ones; parents, grandparents, including the loss of family, friends, relationships among family and friend, close friends that Agnew regarded as stressful life events. Examples of research involved in such matters are research of teen stress caused by the loss of loved ones. (Cote, 2002; Cullen & Agnew, 2006: 219)

3) To get something bad or something harmful to life (strain as a presentation of negative or noxious stimuli) which refers to all bad things such as bully, abuse, rape, exploitation, accident, etc.

Factors involved in 1)-3) include anger, stress, anxiety, depression, grief and sadness which Agnew called "negative effect" and are directly brought about by the three areas of pressure mentioned.

4) The links between strain and delinquency: even though the factors involved in 1)-3) abovementioned can cause the person to commit an offense, these factors will really cause the offending when they have created a bad mood (negative emotion), or affected in a bad way (negative effect) or anger. This strain can create predisposition that means signs or gestures that are repeatedly enabling the person to conduct crime more than those who do not have pressure or have less (Cote, 2002: 119). Additionally, pressure also makes the person more likely to commit crime (Criminal Events) which usually refers to the environment that facilitates or helps the individual to commit an offence more easily. For example, the police officer needs to carry firearms at all times, when the pressure or stress occurs, firearms may be easily used for an offense.

5) Problem-solving skills (Coping): if one has good problem-solving skills, one could not have committed the offense. Good problem-solving skills consists of personal traits such as emotional intelligence, creativity awareness of their own capabilities, self-esteem, and the ability to build relationships with others. In addition, factors related to social support which include obtaining correct information, receiving support or any other tools from others to build skills in having good emotion. These are main factors contributing the persons to have problem solving skills. (Thoits, 1995: 53-79)

Self-control theory: Michael Gottfredson & Travis Hirschi (1990: 117-122) had developed this theory since 1990 to correct the mistakes on Hirschi's Social Bond Theory that was developed in 1969 by integrating with biosocial theory, psychological theory, routine activities and rational choice theory in order to better explain the crime problem (Siegle, 2000: 289). This theory gives priority to the families in controlling the behavior of the persons directly. The power to control result from the upbringing and education to the persons (socialized child), supervision and punishment when there is a misconduct. Such power control can be seen from the ability to hold or restrict or repression (Self-restrain) and not to show their negative personality signs such as impulsivity, prefer using physical force self-centered, and temper or volatile temper. When these symptoms appear too often, it means that the person's self-control is not good or low. (Suriyamanee, 2010: 85)

Grasmick, Tittle, Bursick & Arneklev (1993: 5-29) concluded the symptoms that cannot be withheld or inhibited or have low self-control to develop a measure of self-control by summarizing in the form of self-control elements on each part below: 1. Impulsive 2. Simple Tasks 3. Risk Seeking or Risk-Taking 4. Physical Activities 5. Self-Centeredness 6. Temper or volatile temper. The categorization of symptoms or trends in the offense in Grasmick's Self Control scale makes it easier to measure the degree of self-control of an individual. Apart from that, this scale can be used to measure only one particular area or all areas combined. (See also Suriyamanee, 2010: 88)

Research Objectives

1. To investigate the risk of suicide of police officers
2. To study the social environment and mental factors contributing to the police suicide.

Research Methodology

The researcher had designed this research study process to be a survey research employing mixed methods. It used both quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate factors contributing to the suicidal risk among Thai police officers. The population and sample group in

this research were 1,200 officers serving in the Metropolitan Police Bureau, Provincial Police Region 3 and Provincial Police Region 5. The three police bureaus were chosen due to the fact that their police officers had high suicidal risk. The qualitative data was collected through the in-depth interviews with 5 police commanders who were involved in developing the crime suppression policy and 3 psychiatrist or psychologists. The researcher employed the purposive sampling technique in selecting the experts. The interviews were carried out in January to March 2016. The researcher conducted the interviews by himself.

As for the quantitative data, the researcher used questionnaires to collect it. The questionnaires were distributed during August to December 2015. The researcher also asked for permission to collect data from the commissioners of the three police bureaus. The researcher designated the time and venue in which the samples could obtain and return the questionnaire. In total, 1,200 questionnaires were distributed and 977 or 81.42% were responded.

In the quantitative data analysis, Percentage, Frequency, Mean, and Standard Deviation were used. In the Correlation analysis, the statistical t-test, the F-test were employed to test the hypothesis. Structural Equation Modeling: SEM using AMOS program. As for the qualitative data analysis, content analysis was employed.

Research Results

The findings show that the majority of the samples hold the rank of Police Senior Sergeant Major and work in in the crime suppression units of the Metropolitan Police Bureau. Most of them are 41-50 years old and the duration of their service is 21-30 years. They are married and childless. They are Buddhists. They have a bachelor's degree and are financially healthy. They have no problems with family members. They have no serious illness and no work pressure. They have never faced legal charges and have no history of family members committing suicide. They have no sudden loss of loved ones. They also have no one to support when in trouble. However, they have firearms. According to the hypothesis test 1, it was found that personal factors are related to suicidal risk of police officers. By using the F-Test in testing the hypothesis, it was found that the sample group of different personal factors have the same level of suicidal risk. However, when taking the region and province factors into consideration, it was found that both factors have different relations with suicidal risks with statistical significance at.05 level.

Table 1 Scheffe's Post Hoc Test of the personal information and suicidal risk: Bureau

Dependent Variable	(I) Bureau	(J)Bureau	Mean Difference (I-J)	p
Suicidal risks	Metro Police	Police Region3	.106	.018*
		Police Region5	.100	.012*
	Police Region 3	Metro Police	-.106	.018*
		Police Region5	-.006	.987
	Police Region 5	Metro Police	-.100	.012*
		Police Region3	.006	.987

* Statistical significance at.05 level

According to Table 1, using Scheffe's Post Hoc Test, it was found that police officers working for Metropolitan Police Bureau and Provincial Police Region 5 had different suicidal risks with statistical significance at.05 level. Metro police had higher suicidal risk than police working for Provincial Police Region 5 in Chiang Mai province.

As for the social and environment factors' relation with the suicidal risk of police officers, by using the F-Test, it was found that the sample group with different social and environment factors have the same level of suicidal risk. Specifically, sufficiency of income has different levels of suicidal risk with statistical significance at .05 level.

Table 2 Scheffe's Post Hoc Test of the social and environment factors and suicidal risk: Financial Status

Dependent Variable	(I) Sufficiency of income	(J) Sufficiency of income	Mean Difference (I-J)	p
Suicidal risks	Sufficient income	Insufficient income	-.079	.174
		Having saving money	-.056	.805
		Indebted	.119	.028*
	Insufficient income	Sufficient income	.079	.25*
		Having saving money	.023	.983
		Indebted	.040	.25*
	Having saving money	Sufficient income	.056	.805
		Insufficient income	-.023	.983
		Indebted	-.063	.767
	Indebted	Sufficient income	.119	.025*
		Insufficient income	.040	.805
		Indebted	.063	.767

* Statistical significance at .05 level

According to Table 2, using Post Hoc test, it was found that officers who had insufficient income and indebted had difference suicidal risks with statistical significance at .05 level. Police officers who had insufficient income have a higher suicidal risk than those who were indebted.

Apart from that, in the hypothesis 2, social and environment factors had influence on impulsiveness. In testing the influence of the social and environment factors on depression and impulsiveness, the researcher used T-Test and F-Test.

According to Table 3, it was found that the samples who had different social and environment factors had no differences in suicidal risks with statistical significance at .05 level. In details, it was that having fights with family members, having serious disease, and work stress were different with statistical significance at .05 level. Being unfit for the new job, impractical policy, overloaded working hours, facing legal charges, family history of suicide, loss of loved ones and precious asset, and having someone to help when in trouble were no differences.

Table 3 Social and Environment factors and Depression

Social and Environment Factors	\bar{x}	S.D.	t	p-value
Family quarrel during the past month including today.				
No	.09	.494	-3.764	.000*
Yes	.43	.973		
Having serious diseases				
No	.11	.532	-2.662	.009*
Yes	.42	.991		
Having work stress				
No	.07	.427	-4.465	.000*
Yes	.31	.852		
The causes of work stress, if having one, are changing the line of work and do not fit in, impractical management policy, overloaded working hours and others.				
No				
Yes	.11	.523	-1.634	.103
	.17	.663		
Facing legal charges				
No	.12	.562	-1.363	.175
Yes	.23	.763		
If facing legal charges, face disciplinary action and convicted guilty by the court.				
No	.12	.562	-1.363	.175
Yes	.23	.763		
Having family history of suicide				
No	.12	.564	-2.063	.055
Yes	.72	.1.227		
Having lost loved ones or precious asset during the past month including today				
No	.13	.586	-.356	.722
Yes	.17	.621		
Having someone to help when in trouble				
No	.13	.580	-.222	.824
Yes	.14	.598		

* Statistical significance at .05 level

As for the social and environment factors and impulsiveness, it was found that:

Table 4 Social and Environment factors and impulsiveness

Social and Environment Factors	\bar{x}	S.D.	t	p-value
Family quarrel during the past month including today.				
No	2.17	.665	-6.019	.000*
Yes	2.57	.700		
Having serious illness				
No	2.19	.670	-4.397	.000*
Yes	2.57	.733		
Having work stress				
No	2.16	.650	-4.419	.000*
Yes	2.38	.736		
The causes of work stress, if having one, are changing the line of work and do not fit in, impractical management policy, overloaded working hours and others.				
No	2.19	.620	-1.373	.170
Yes	2.26	.759		
Facing legal charges				
No	2.19	.681	-4.244	.000*
Yes	2.49	.637		
If facing legal charges, face disciplinary action and convicted guilty by the court.				
No	2.19	.648	-3.933	.000*
Yes	2.47	.621		
Family history of suicide				
No	2.21	.680	-2.807	.005*
Yes	2.67	.686		
Having lost loved ones or precious asset during the past month including today				
No	2.21	.680	-2.251	.025*
Yes	2.45	.705		
Having someone to help when in trouble				
No	2.22	.703	-.097	.923
Yes	2.22	.652		

* Statistically significant at .05 level

According to Table 4, it was found that the sample group who had different social and environment factors had no differences in the suicidal risk with statistical significance at .05 level. Taking each factor into consideration, it was found that having fights with family members, serious illness, work stress, legal charges, having family members committing suicide, loss of loved ones and precious asset were different with statistical significance at .05 level. Factors such as unfit for the new job, impractical policy, overloaded working hours, having someone to help when in trouble were not different.

Apart from that, the researcher also used the Structural Equation Modeling to test the hypothesis by using the structural of casual factors contributing to the suicidal risk. Before testing the structural of casual factors contributing to the suicidal risk among Thai police officers, the

researcher had conducted an analysis on the correlation between casual factors such as depression and impulsiveness as well as other social and environmental factors such as having fights with family members, having serious illness, work pressure, family history of suicide, sufficient income, legal charges and risk factors in committing suicide by using Pearson product moment correlations. The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Pearson's correlation coefficient analysis

Factors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Suicidal risks	1								
2. Depression	.761	1							
3. Impulsiveness	.229	.208	1						
4. Family quarrel	.208	.200	.233	1					
5. Serious diseases	.162	.134	.144	.193	1				
6. Work stress	.182	.191	.179	.066	.265	1			
7. Family history of suicide	.219	.138	.102	.167	.382	.175	1		
8. Sufficiency of income	.084	.081	.151	.097	.086	.046	.014	1	
9. Legal charges	.106	.060	.142	.020	.176	.045	.102	.174	1

Note the value <.08 is not statistically significant at 0.05level

According to Table 5, it was found that factors such as depression, impulsiveness, family quarrel, serious illness, work stress, family history of suicide, financial status and legal charges have positive relationship with suicidal risk, depression and impulsiveness with statistical significance at .05 level. This means serious depressed and highly impulsive people have a high level of social and environment factors (family quarrel, serious illness, work stress, family history of suicide, sufficiency of income and legal charges). As a result, they will have a high suicidal risk, serious depression and impulsiveness. Thus, there is no problem with the Multicollinearity which can be used to analyze the structural equation model.

Structural equation modeling consists of several factors. Family quarrel, serious illness, work stress, family history of suicide, sufficiency of income and legal charges all have direct and indirect influence on impulsiveness and suicidal risk. The result shows that the structural equation model in this study does not correspond with the empirical data ($X^2=72.685$, $df=10$, $p\text{-value}=0.0$, $GFI=.988$, $AGFI=.906$, $CFI=.958$, $SRMR=0.80$, $RMSEA=0.03$). It was not acceptably fit. Therefore, the structural equation model as hypothesized does not correspond with the empirical data. As a result, the researcher had made some modification indices and the theoretical framework to better explain the cause and effect of depression, impulsiveness and suicidal risk. The researcher also cut the relationship of factors which do not have a statistical significance at .05 level as shown in Diagram 1 (Standardized Coefficient).

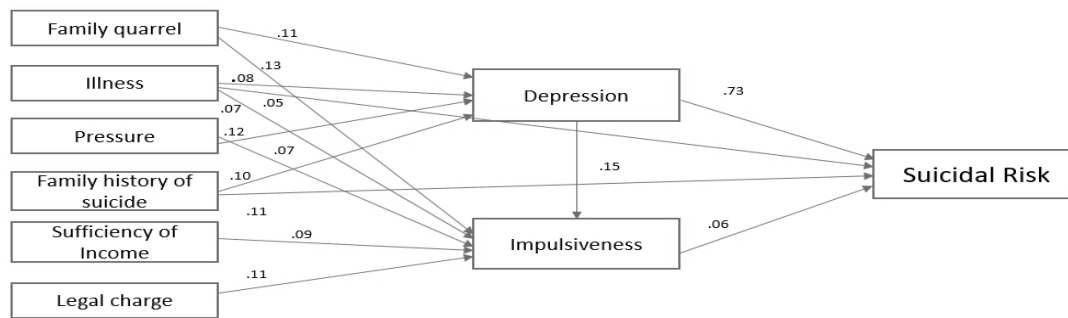


Figure 1 Results of the structural equation model of the Thai Police's suicidal risk

After adjusting the structural equation model, it was found that the new model is more suitable and better corresponding with the empirical data ($X^2=6.295$, $df=7$, $p\text{-value}=.506$, $GFI=.999$, $AGFI=.991$, $CFI=1.000$, $SRMR=0.012$, $RMSEA=0.00$). It can be concluded that the structural equation model of the Thai Police's suicidal risk is acceptably fit for the empirical data. The result of the correlation of causal factor and depression, impulsiveness and suicidal risk is presented as a new alternative. The social and environment factors can be used to explain the variance of impulsiveness for 11 percent, depression for 9 percent and suicidal risk for 60 percent. When considering the social and environment factors influencing the depression, impulsiveness and suicidal risk as shown in Diagram 1, it was found that family quarrel has indirect influence on the suicidal risk through depression ($B=.11$) and impulsiveness ($B=.13$) with statistical significance at .05 level. Serious illness has both direct and indirect influence on suicidal risk ($B=.05$) with statistical significance at .05 level; the indirect influence is through depression ($B=.08$) and impulsiveness ($B=.07$). Work pressure has indirect influence on suicidal risk through depression ($B=.12$) and impulsiveness ($B=.07$) with statistical significance at .05 level. Family history of suicide has both direct and indirect influence on suicidal risk ($B=.11$) and indirect influence via depression ($B=.10$) with statistical significance at .05 level. Sufficient income has indirect influence on suicidal risk through impulsiveness ($B=.09$) with statistical significance at .05 level. Legal charges Legal charges has both indirect and direct influence on suicidal risk ($B=.73$) with statistical significance at .05 level, the indirect influence is exerted through impulsiveness ($B=.15$). Impulsiveness has direct influence on suicidal risk ($B=.06$) with statistical significance at .05 level.

Discussion

According to the study, it was found that the personal information factors which have the relation or influence on Thai police's suicidal risk are Bureau and Province. The results show that police officers who worked for Metropolitan Police Bureau in Bangkok and Provincial Police Region 5 in Chiangmai have higher risk in committing suicide than those who worked for Provincial Police Region 3 or other provinces. This can be explained that the Metropolitan police is responsible for the area of Bangkok which is Thailand's capital city. Thus, they are charged with various missions such as crime prevention and suppression, detectives, investigation, traffic, crowd control which mainly deals with political protests, and security. All of these tasks are demanding and require much attention and efforts from the officers responsible for.

Consequently, they have less time to rest and relax. As for the case of Provincial Police Region 5 in Chiangmai, it is one of the busiest jurisdictions in the country. They are charged with various missions. Police officers in Region 5 said that they were overloaded. They are facing several problems such as unfit job, being blamed by commanders. They are so stressed out which can eventually lead to suicide. According to the Royal Thai Police's (2013: 50-52) study concerning suicides among Thai police officers during 2008-2013, it was found that most suicidal victims were officers who worked for Provincial Police Region 5 in Chiangmai and Metropolitan Police Bureau in Bangkok. Most of them were male having the age of 41-50 years. Most suicidal victims held the rank of Police Senior Sergeant Major working in crime prevention and suppression units.

It was also found in the findings that social and environment factors associated with suicidal behavior were having fights with family members, serious illness, work stress, family members committing suicide, financial status and legal charges. The Structural Equation Modelling analysis was completed by using the AMOS program.

In details, it was found that "having fights with family members" factor has the root in financial problem, indebtedness, family misunderstanding. This factor can lead to suicidal behavior. Fighting with family members can cause many serious consequences to one's mental health such as the feeling of being neglected, disappointed or anxiety. Consequently, they will have stress from being unable to cope with the problems which might result in suicidal behavior. Similarly, Durkheim (1951: 201-230) conducted a study about suicide and found that anomic suicide is caused by the sudden-changing social conditions such family members passing making its members unable to cope with such changes. Consequently, they have an impulse to do some unexpected things.

As for the "serious illness" factor, it was found that most police officers who had serious illness would be much discouraged, hopeless. Therefore, they have the highest risk of committing suicide. Having cancer, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure or AIDS can result in hopelessness, discouragement or tiresome. People who had these terminal illness might choose to kill themselves to escape the pain they were suffering. It was found that they would be very impulsive and unable to control their emotion. Correspondingly, the Royal Thai Police (2013: 53-55) conducted a research concerning Thai police officers' suicidal behaviors during 2008-2013. It was found that having serious diseases such as cancer or liver disease could be the cause of suicide.

The "work stress" factor can definitely be the cause leading to suicide. Police officers suffering from work stress will have worsening mental health. They will perform very badly at work. They will also have problems in getting along with their colleagues or commanders. Thus, this will result in stress, anxiety and eventually suicidal risk. When under pressure, they cannot perform fully. Work stress can result from unfit job, impractical policy, overloaded working hours, careless and unhelpful commanders, incorporative colleagues or unfair promotion. They will be so stressful that they choose to end their miserable lives. This also corresponds with the research conducted by the Royal Thai Police which found that work stress that police officers suffered resulted from overloaded work, unfit job, being blamed by bosses, for example.

As for having family members committing suicide, it was found that officers who experienced family member committing suicide both directly and indirectly would have a high risk in committing suicide. Certainly, the suicide of family members be it father, mother or daughter will make them very sad. The memory of the suicidal incident of loved one will cause them to be depressed. Consequently, their behaviors will change in the worse manner. Some might lose their

appetite and not eat at all. Other might keep to themselves not socializing or be unconscious to what is happening around them. They might be very quiet and lose the eagerness in doing everything. Their working performance will be affected. They will be bored to live. They will think that they are worthless. In the end, they will choose to kill themselves. They have a very high risk in committing suicide.

In terms of financial status factor, it was found that most officers could not make ends meet. When they cannot pay the bills, or have enough money to take good care of their loved ones, they will be stressed out eventually. It can lead, both directly and indirectly, to suicide risk. This is because policemen are underpaid. Thus, they always have problems paying bills. Some might be struggling to pay for their children's tuition fee. Other might be struggling to pay for their monthly car installment. They have to take out loan from the bank or from the loan shark which charge much higher interest but they have no choice. Finally, when they cannot find money to pay back for their loan, they will be very stressed out. They can be impulsive which can lead to suicide. Uniformly, Durkheim (1951: 105-122) has similar result: fatalistic suicide is caused by too much pressure. Thus, the suicidal victims such as bankrupted businessmen will choose to kill themselves to escape from embarrassment and the fact that they cannot financially take care of their family.

Concerning facing legal charge factor, it was found that officers who faced legal charges or was convicted guilty in the court of law or facing disciplinary action would have high risk in committing suicide. This can be explained as they will be very ashamed of the what, they have done. They will be very embarrassed. Whether it is a criminal case or civil case, they will be very stressed out. Whether it is a misconduct charges or adultery, they will be very stressed out. Being convicted guilty, they will be embarrassed. They will not want to see anyone anymore. Finally, they will find no way out of the problem and choose to kill themselves. Similarly, the Royal Thai Police (2013: 57-59) conducted research concerning the suicidal behaviors among Thai police officers during 2008-2013. It was found that personal problems such as facing legal charges or disciplinary action can lead to committing suicide.

As about depression factor, it was found that officers who had this symptom due to several causes. It can be the society, economy, indebtedness, lovers, friends, bosses, subordinators or working condition. The depressed officers are likely to have higher risks in committing suicide. The symptoms of depression are being quiet or inactive. They cannot perform their work. They will feel very bored with everything in life. They feel worthless and want to die eventually. Death seems to be the only way out for them. The suicidal victims seem to lose the ability to control their emotion. They will be impulsive and leading to suicide.

As for the factor of impulsiveness, it was found that the personality, mental health condition, being not ready for all the pressure would lead to suicidal risk. Hot-tempered personality will have high impulsiveness. They will be very angry and impulsive. They lack future plans. They prefer to have happiness at that moment rather than thinking about the negative consequences. They rather focus on short term than long term. They like use physical or violent solution. They will react immediately when provoked without thinking of the consequence. Their action will be driven by anger. They have a low ability in controlling themselves. Thus, they will have a high suicidal risk.

According to the results of this study, factors associated with suicidal risk among police officers is family members committing suicide, fights with family members, serious illness, work stress, financial status and legal charges. This can explain that police officers regularly find stress in their work. They usually have problems of long hours or work, unfit job, being unable to get

along with colleges or facing legal charges. Also, family problems can further intensify the problems they have. Eventually, they will be stressed out because they have no one to talk to or help them out. The anxiety is consequently getting higher and higher until it reaches the boiling point which leads to suicidal behaviors. At present, unemployment and chronic serious diseases can be the contributing factors of more frequent suicidal behaviors. As for the police officers, the causes of committing suicide among them are fighting with family members, adultery, legal charges, indebtedness and health problems such as cancer, liver disease, diabetes, high blood pressure. These can lead to fatalistic suicide. According to Durkheim (1951: 161-168), different suicidal rates in different groups of people is the same thing as social organization. That is, the group or organization has the ability to stop or prevent its member from committing suicide. However, not all groups have such ability. Egoistic suicide, according to Durkheim, is committed by people who are not strongly supported by membership in a cohesive social group. For example, single people have higher rate of committing suicide than married ones. People who live in the city where there is excessive individualism tend to have higher risk of committing suicide than people in the country. According to Durkheim, anomic suicide is linked with disillusionment and disappointment. However, fatalistic suicide in Durkheim's definition occurs when the victims cannot see the way out of the problem such as the overwhelming indebtedness or losing job.

According to this study, factors associated with suicidal risk among police officers are social and environment factors which can be further classified as direct and indirect factors. Direct factor is family member committing suicide whereas indirect factors via depression and impulsiveness include fighting with family members, serious illness, work stress, financial status and legal charges. In other words, officers who experience family members committing suicide, fighting with family members, serious illness, work stress, unable to make ends meet, indebtedness and legal charges can be the stress stimuli. When it happens for some time, they will develop to depression. They will be bored, inactive or insomniac. They will have difficulty concentrating, remembering details and making decisions. They will have fatigue and decreased energy. They will have feeling of guilt, worthlessness and/or helplessness. It can be said that depression can be the risky factor leading to suicidal behaviors among police officers.

Impulsiveness is also associated with suicidal behaviors among police officers. Impulsive people have difficulty in waiting. They will interrupt other people before they finish their questions. They are easily angry. They do not have plans for the future nor put effort for it. They cannot control themselves. They will do things without thinking about the consequence. They will have impulse control disorders. They will lack confidence in themselves. They will have the feeling of worthlessness, guilt or helplessness. As a result, officers who have these kinds of symptoms will think about suicide when facing crisis in life in which they find no way out of or improve it. Their lives will be losing balance. The situation is beyond their control. Problems such as losing loved ones or being indebted can cause stress. Some people may already develop depression and psychosis. Some people may have serious illness. They will not be able to find the way out of or improve this bad situation. Thus, they will choose to kill themselves to end all the suffering. Suicidal victims tend to think everything in binary or black and white. They have limited ability in solving the problems. More difficult is the alternative solution. Moreover, the people tend to have negative attitude towards policemen. When put together, these can lead to suicide. Depression and impulsiveness can be the reinforcement making the situation become worse. Eventually, when they will lose the ability to control themselves, they will want to commit

suicide. They will want to cut in front of the running car. They will want to shoot themselves. Consequently, they will start planning about it and kill themselves eventually.

Suggestions from the research

Suggestions on Policy

- 1) The Royal Thai Police should have systematic and practical preventive measures and solutions for the Thai police officers' suicide. For example, there should be psychological screening test for every officer to find out who the risky group are. After that, preventive action and solution should be applied to them. The project should be carried out regularly and continuously. The Police General Hospital should be tasked with running the project in collaboration with the Mental Health Department, Ministry of Public Health. Apart from that, the demand of the number of the staff responsible for mental health should be met.
- 2) The Royal Thai Police should set up a unit to provide consultancy and advice for every police officer who might need help. They may suffer from the serious disease which can lead to suicide to escape from the pain. Or they may be jealous or angry or stressful resulting from accumulative stress, losing money or respect. They want to end their lives as the last option. There can also be other factors such as economic problem, love problem. The members will feel detached from the society. The main purpose of this unit is to provide consultancy and advice in times of need. The Police General Hospital should be responsible for setting up this kind of unit.

Practical suggestions

- 1) According to the study, one factor leading to suicide is the inability to make ends meet and indebtedness. Therefore, the Royal Thai Police should provide better welfare to help them getting by. As we all know, policemen are underpaid and they hardly get by each month. That is why they need to take out a loan from a variety of sources. However, when they cannot pay back the loan, the stress will occur. Thus, The Royal Thai Police should increase the salary for them to make ends meet. Apart from that, the debt of the police officers should be taken care as well.
- 2) As for the work stress which may result from unfit for the new job, impractical policy, overloaded working hours, unfair promotion, The Royal Thai Police should have a transparent and fair promotion and transfer. The policy should be more practical and systematic. That is, it should be the policy that police officers can really carry out. The promotion and transfer should be on the basis of "put the right man on the right job". Apart from that, the working hours should be more appropriate. The officers should have a balance between working and resting.

References

- Agnew, R. 2001. "Building on the Foundation of General Strain Theory: Specifying the Types Strain Most likely to Lead to Crime and Delinquency." **Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency** 38 (4): 319-361.
- Bureau of Mental Health Promotion and Development. 2009. "Myths about Suicide. Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Pubic Health." **Journal Psychiatric Association Thailand** 54 (3): 68-71.
- Cote, Z. 2002. **Criminological Theories Bridging the Past to the Future**. London: SAGE.
- Cullen, F. & Agnew, R. 2006. **Criminological Theory: Past to Present Essential Readings**. Los Angeles: Roxbury Press.
- Durkheim, E. 1951. **Suicide. A Study in Sociology**. Illinois: The Free Press.

- Gottfredson, M. & Hirschi, T. 1990. **A General Theory of Crime**. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Grasmick, H., Tittle, C., Bursick, R., & Arneklev, B. 1993. "Testing the Core Implications of Gottfredson and Hirschi's General Theory of Crime." **Journal of research in Crime and Delinquency** 30: 5-29.
- Mongkol, A., Vongpiromsan, Y., Tangseree, T., Huttapanom, W., Romsai, P., & Chutha, W. 2014. "Suicide Number Report in Thailand 1997-2014 in Age Groups." **Journal of the Association of Psychiatrists of Thailand** 2014 59 (8): 75-85.
- Office of Police Strategy and Police General Hospital. 2014. **Report on the Cause of Police Suicide, Research Study Report**. Bangkok: The Royal Thai Police.
- Pattamacharoen, P. 2008. "Suicide: Social and Cultural Phenomenon." **Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences** 5 (2): 28-33.
- Siegle, J. 2000. **Criminology**. California: Wadsworth Thomson Learning.
- Sriruenthong, W., Kongsuk, T., Pangchunr, W., Kittirattanapaiboon, P., Kenbubpha, K., Yingyeun, R., Sukawaha, S., & Leejongpermpoon, J. 2011. "Suicidal Risks of Thai People: A National Survey." **Journal of the Association of Psychiatrists of Thailand** 56 (4): 413-424.
- Suriyamanee, C. 2010. **Contemporary Theories of Criminology and Research**. Nontaburi: Yin Yang Printing Book.
- Tantipiwatanasakul, P. & Wisrutrat, S. 1998. **Suicide: Cause and Prevention**. Bangkok: Plus Press Printing Book.
- The Royal Thai Police. 2013. **A Survey Study on Police Suicide during 2008-2013**. Bangkok: Police Printing Book.
- Thoits, P. 1995. "Stress, Coping, and Social Support Processes: Where Are WE? What Next?." **Journal of Health and Social Behavior** 36 (4): 53-79.
- Tongchai, W., Sangchot, W., & Bamrungchaokasem, K. 2014. "A Qualitative Study on Police Suicide during 2012-2013." **Journal of clinical psychology** 46 (1): 32-39.
- Wilachai, P., Hanching, A., Gojagang, R., & Keawbuadee, A. 2006. **Contributing Factors to Suicide Attempts among Working Population**. (A paper presented in the 2nd Conference on Suicide Prevention: Depression Therapy and Suicide Prevention, Dusit Island Resort Hotel, Chiang Rai).