



Cycle of Repeat Offenses: Analyzing the Environments that Facilitate Youth and Juvenile Recidivism

วงจรการกระทำผิดซ้ำ : การศึกษาวิเคราะห์สภาพแวดล้อม
ที่เอื้อต่อการกระทำผิดซ้ำของเด็กและเยาวชน

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Received: July 16, 2024 | Revised: December 2, 2024 | Accepted: December 18, 2024

Research Article (บทความวิจัย)

Abstract

The objectives of this research were to study the characteristics of environments conducive to the recidivism of children and youth and to seek ways to create suitable environments to prevent recidivism of children and youth using qualitative research methods. A total of 155 participants were purposively selected, including repeat offenders, executives, academics, officials, and parents involved with repeat offenders from the Juvenile Observation and Protection Centers. In-depth interviews were conducted with 145 participants, and focus group was conducted with 10 participants.

The study found that there were six aspects of the environment conducive to the recidivism of children and youth: 1) Family aspect, 2) Residence, 3) School Environment/Friends/People Around, 4) Social Media, 5) Culture and Traditions, and 6) Economic Conditions. These six aspects of the environment contributed to the recidivism of children and youth. Therefore, the key approach to prevent children and youth from reoffending is to break

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or reduce the cycle of negative environmental factors that contribute to their repeat offenses as much as possible.

Keywords: Cycle of Repeat Offenses, children and youth, recidivism, environment

บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยครั้งนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษาลักษณะสภาพแวดล้อมที่เอื้อต่อการกระทำผิดซ้ำของเด็กและเยาวชนพร้อมทั้งแสวงหาแนวทางในการจัดสภาพแวดล้อมที่เหมาะสมต่อการป้องกันการกระทำผิดซ้ำของเด็กและเยาวชนโดยใช้วิธีการวิจัยเชิงคุณภาพ จะทำการคัดเลือกกลุ่มเป้าหมายแบบเจาะจง ทั้งสิ้นจำนวน 155 คน กลุ่มเป้าหมายประกอบด้วย เด็กและเยาวชนที่กระทำผิดซ้ำ ผู้บริหาร นักวิชาการ เจ้าหน้าที่ และผู้ปกครอง ที่มีส่วนเกี่ยวข้องกับเด็กที่กระทำผิดซ้ำจากศูนย์ฝึกและอบรมเด็กและเยาวชนของกรมพินิจและคุ้มครองเด็กและเยาวชน แล้วทำการสัมภาษณ์เชิงลึก จำนวน 145 คน และสนทนากลุ่ม จำนวน 10 คน

ผลการศึกษา พบว่า ลักษณะสภาพแวดล้อมที่เอื้อต่อการกระทำผิดซ้ำของเด็กและเยาวชนมี 6 ด้าน ประกอบด้วย 1) ด้านครอบครัว 2) ด้านสถานที่อยู่อาศัย 3) ด้านสภาพแวดล้อมในโรงเรียน/เพื่อน/บุคคลรอบข้าง 4) ด้านสื่อสังคมออนไลน์ 5) ด้านวัฒนธรรมขนบธรรมเนียมประเพณี 6) ด้านสภาพเศรษฐกิจ ซึ่งสภาพแวดล้อมทั้ง 6 ด้านเหล่านี้ล้วนเอื้อส่งผลต่อการกระทำผิดซ้ำของเด็กและเยาวชนได้ทั้งสิ้น ดังนั้นแนวทางสำคัญที่จะไม่让孩子และเยาวชนกลับไปกระทำความผิดซ้ำอีกก็คือการตัดหรือลดวงจรที่เป็นเหตุแห่งปัจจัยจากสภาพแวดล้อมเชิงลบที่เอื้อต่อการกระทำความผิดให้ได้มากที่สุด

คำสำคัญ: วงจรการกระทำผิดซ้ำ, เด็กและเยาวชน, การกระทำผิดซ้ำ, สภาพแวดล้อม

INTRODUCTION

The issue of crimes committed by youth and juveniles is a significant problem that Thailand is currently facing. Several factors contribute to these offenses, including family issues, social influences, peer pressure, and the impacts of rapid technological advancements. These advancements make it easy for youth and juveniles to access online channels, which has become another avenue for committing crimes (Duangsawat, 2023). One of important factors contribute to offense is environment, which can generate repeat offenses among youth and juveniles.

According to a report on recidivism in developed countries by the Center for Prisoner Studies at Salve Regina University in the United States, frequent crimes or those that do not decrease in occurrence are partly due to repeat offenses, including those committed by youth and juveniles (Dedy, 2014). Even in the United States, a developed country, the issue of recidivism is prevalent, with more than 50% of ex-prisoners reoffending



(Durose, Cooper, and Snyder, 2014). In 2010, it was found that repeated offenders aged between 16-17 years or more than 73% of repeat offenders corresponded with the age range of crime victims, which is 16-20 years (Sickmund, and Puzzanchera, 2014). In Thailand, it was found that in the fiscal year 2022, out of 1,456 youth and juveniles who were released, 228 or 15.66% reoffended in the fiscal year 2023, which is the lowest number in years (Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, 2023). Although the situation in Thailand regarding juvenile recidivism seems to be improving, the public media reported that repeat offense are still found regularly, especially 6 month after their release due to they are unable to adapt themselves with family and society (Thaipbs, 2024). Thus, it is essential to study the repeat offense among youth that should not to become complacent and to continuously prevent such occurrences from happening again.

Therefore, the problem of repeat offenses among youth and juveniles, which contributes to criminal issues, can be significantly reduced with minimal loss to the public by designing environments that effectively reduce repeated criminal behaviors in youth and juveniles without causing harm to society. The police play a crucial role in crime prevention through control, surveillance, and community support. Designing safe and efficient environments can reduce crime rates and improve the quality of life for residents. This approach is internationally recognized and contributes to overall development and well-being of the community (Crime Suppression Division, 2007).

This study focuses on analyzing environments that facilitate repeat offenses among youth and juveniles, which will lead to a reduction in the risks that cause criminal problems. The results of this study can provide guidelines for the development of environmental designs that are suitable for preventing and addressing crime issues in Thailand more extensively and concretely.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study the characteristics of environments that facilitate repeat offenses among youth and juveniles.
- 2) To explore methods for designing environments suitable for preventing repeat offenses among youth and juveniles.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Based on the literature review, the researchers have established the conceptual framework for the study as illustrated in the following diagram:

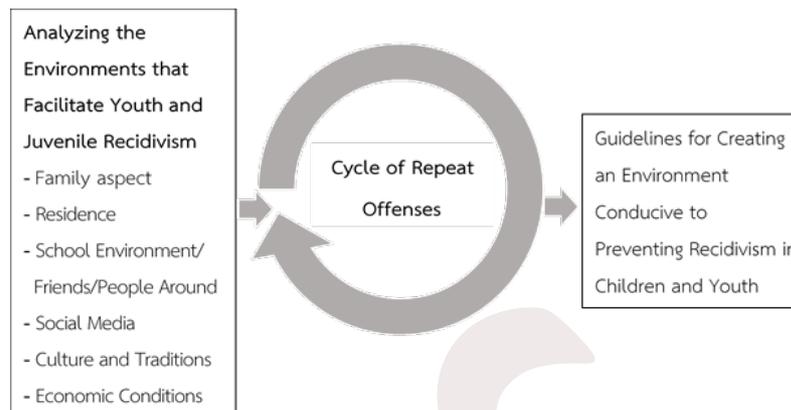


Figure 1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

LITERATURE REVIEW

1) Concepts and theories related to juvenile delinquency

From the research project by Sinloyma (2017). the concepts and theories related to juvenile delinquency are categorized into three groups.

(1) Social Control Theory Group: Social Control Theory focuses on mechanisms that prevent youth from committing crimes by promoting good behavior and bonds with family, schools, and religious institutions. A lack of these bonds can lead to increased criminal behavior, especially among youth offenders from broken families or individuals lacking social ties, who are more likely to engage in illegal activities.

(2) Social Learning Theory Group: Criminologists believe that criminal behavior is learned through real-life experiences, especially in environments that exhibit risky behaviors. The different connections of Sutherland and Aker's Social Learning Theory suggest that association with criminals can influence criminal behavior. This theory is widely accepted in criminology because it explains how the environment dictates the behaviors of both lower and upper classes, thus widely recognized in the field of criminology.

(3) Social Strain Theory Group: Social Strain Theory indicates that crimes arise from societal values that emphasize materialism, leading individuals to adapt through deviant behavior. This theory highlights that social structures create pressures that prevent individuals from achieving societal goals and encourage them to engage in criminal activities, such as drug use, motorcycle racing, and property crimes driven by financial needs or anger.



Sutherland (1947) posited that criminal and deviant behaviors are depended on people who have associated with. If they have associated with good people, they will have good behavior. Contrastly, if they have associated with deviant people, they will also have a deviant behavior.

2) Concepts of Repeat Offending and Causes of Recidivism

(1) Definition of Recidivism Recidivism (Rearrest) refers to being arrested for an offense other than a warrant arrest after being released from a juvenile training and rehabilitation center. The occurrence of recidivism is monitored by checking arrest records from the Criminal Records Division, Royal Thai Police (Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, 2023).

(2) Contextual Factors of Juvenile Recidivism Khunrak (2012). discusses the contextual factors influencing juvenile recidivism, which stem from economic, political, and social systems. Juvenile delinquency is influenced by various contextual factors such as economic, political and administrative systems, social systems, and educational systems. Economic changes lead to family instability and a lack of parental guidance, increasing the risk of criminal behavior among youth, such as family violence and divorce. Disparities in education and public services further exacerbate social conflicts.

3) Crime Control Through Environmental Design (CED)

Crime control through environmental design utilizes fundamental principles of designing environments to be suitable and effective in reducing crime and the fear of crime among people in the area. This is aimed at leading to the development and improvement of safer environmental conditions in the area (Research and Development Division, Royal Thai Police, 2007).

From compiling knowledge and analyzing the contextual factors of the environment that affect the repeat offending of youth and juveniles, which arise from various problem conditions, the following factors are considered: 1) family system, 2) residential community, 3) school environment/ Friends /surrounding people, 4) media environment including print, radio, television, electronic media, and online media, 5) cultural norms and traditions, and 6) economic and social conditions. These six contextual factors are identified as risk factors and have a tendency to influence the criminal behavior of youth and juveniles, which researchers use as a basis for thinking and direction in conducting research in this instance.



METHODOLOGY

In this research, qualitative research methods were used. The following procedures were carried out:

1) Document Analysis

Reviewed literature was conducted from documents and research related to the topic, including articles and online documents, both domestically and internationally. The information were then analyzed and organized according to the research objectives.

2) In-depth Interviews

The researchers conducted in-depth interviews with individuals involved with juveniles repeat offenders from the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection training centers. A purposive selection method was used to choose 145 individuals, comprising 30 repeat offenders, 30 guardians, 85 scholars and department officers. The researchers selected those who are willing to participate and without any health problems. Data from in-depth interview may explain the characteristics of environments that facilitate repeat offenses among youth and juveniles.

3) Focus Group

The researchers conducted a focus group with individuals involved with juvenile repeat offenders from the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection training centers. A purposive selection method was used to choose 10 individuals, comprising with 4 criminologists, 2 environmentalists, 2 representatives from Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, 2 representatives of guardians of repeat offend participants. Data from focus group discussion can be used for designing environments suitable for preventing repeat offenses among youth and juveniles.

COLLECTION AREA

Data related to juvenile repeat offenders were collected from 8 training and rehabilitation centers of the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, consist of 1) Ban Karuna 2) Ban Ubekkha 3) Ban Muthita 4) Ban Bueng (Chonburi) 5) Region 3 (Nakhon Ratchasima) 6) Region 6 (Nakhon Sawan) 7) Region 7 (Chiang Mai) 8) Region 11 (Lopburi).

DATA ANALYSIS

The researcher used qualitative data analysis methods and conducted content analysis by analyzing the collected data to achieve the research objectives. Also, triangulation was employed with the intention of proving the quality of research tools.



QUALITY TESTING OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

The research instruments, including structured interviews and focus group discussion points, were sent to five qualified experts for review of the Index of Item-Objective Congruence (IOC). The researcher selected questions with a IOC index of 0.50 or higher, revised them as necessary, and then submitted them for ethical approval. Once the research ethics approval was obtained, the research tools were used for data collection.

RESEARCH ETHICS

This research was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Mahidol University, with the certificate number 2020/155.2907, duly issued by the committee.

RESULTS

The researchers collected data using in-depth interviews and focus group. The study findings are detailed as follows:

1) Results of the Study on Environmental Characteristics that Facilitate Repeat Offenses by Youth and juveniles

From in-depth interviews with a group of 145 key informants, the environmental characteristics conducive to repeat offenses by them are summarized as follows:

(1) Family aspect :

1. From interviews with 30 youth and juveniles who are repeat offenders, 27 reported that most offenders did not live with their fathers but with other relatives due to family issues, such as divorce and parental disputes. Drug use among family members also influenced the children, making drug use seem normal. Although rehabilitation in training centers helped, returning to the same environment often led to repeated offenses. These family environments contributed to recurrent offending behaviors. However, other individuals lived with their families, including both parents, but still committed offenses, possibly due to other factors besides the family environment, as exemplified by interview:

(A001) "Lives with grandparents, father and mother are divorced. Likes to roam around and is influenced by peers. Grandparents are strict about time, often punished by grandfather with a cane and scolded harshly, even kicked out of the house."

2. A group of 30 guardians consistently reported that most youths were their grandchildren because the real parents were incapable. The children often refused to listen to their advice, leading to misunderstandings. After leaving the training centers, when



children returned to their families but lacked good family relationships, they quickly reverted to previous behaviors, leading to rapid repeat offenses, as exemplified by interview:

(B001) “Grandmother has a grandson, his parents are divorced, mother left him with grandmother. Lately, he rarely comes home, and when he does, he asks for money. When refused, he starts selling things, anything he can sell. Sometimes when there’s no money to give, he destroys things at home, punches walls, smashes tables, sometimes refuses to eat, doesn’t talk to grandmother. The money his mother sends is never enough.”

3. A group of 85 administrators, academics, and practitioners reported that 60 of them provided consistent information that the family plays a crucial role in shaping children’s behavior and preventing repeat offenses. Nurturing, love, warmth, and family bonding can help children avoid criminal behavior. Additionally, 25 individuals provided further information, stating that the home environment plays a significant role in juvenile repeat offending. If families do not support behavior changes towards the better, children may revert to criminal behaviors in society, as exemplified by interviews.

(C001) “The community and family environment have a significant impact because firstly, the family is the mold and the community is their home. It seems like the child is improving, but returning to the same environment is too much. Many times, our efforts fail because children revert to criminal behavior due to non-acceptance by their family and environment, like when parents are frequently arrested, who will the child stay with? They have no role model, no one to guide them, no emotional support, they’re finished, they can’t do anything.”

(2) Residence :

1. From interviews with 30 youth and juveniles who were repeat offenders, 25 reported that after being released and returning to their previous environments with the same peer groups, they were likely to commit crimes again. Most lived in rented homes in crowded communities where drug trafficking was widespread. Additionally, 5 young people reported that some youth and juveniles living in various village communities in rural areas were taken to degraded areas, leading them to engage in harmful activities such as gambling, drinking alcohol, and drug use, as exemplified by interviews:

(A015) “Initially, nothing much changed when I left the training center, but once I returned and reconnected with the same environment and the same friends, they



encouraged me to do wrong things again. If possible, after I left the center, I wanted to train for a new job or move to a new place to avoid the same environment that would lead me to offend again.”

2. A group of 30 guardians provided information consistent with that of the youth and juveniles who were repeat offenders. Once these youths were released, they returned to the same environment, primarily in crowded communities with easily accessible alcohol shops that did not enforce age restrictions. The communities had widespread drug issues, and it was common for children in the community to gather in groups to smoke, with passersby considering it normal without saying anything, as exemplified by interviews.:

(B020) “I have one son and a private house in another province. I left my son in my mother’s care and sent money back home. One day, I received a call from home that my son had been prosecuted for using meth, and I needed to find money for his bail. Upon inquiry, I found out that he got the drugs from an aunt who lives next door. I was shocked and never thought that someone so close, a neighbor, would be the one to provide drugs to my son. After my son was released, three months later, he was arrested again as he couldn’t quit using drugs.”

3. A group of 85 academics and practitioners provided consistent information, emphasizing that environmental factors greatly influence repeat offenses. When children and youth grow up in communities with degraded environments, where unsavory gatherings are common, it can lead to an increase in collective criminal behavior, as exemplified by interviews:

(C070) “I believe that children who reoffend often remain in the same environments. For example, children in northern areas where there are drug offenses. When these children return to the same environments, they encounter the same triggers, such as staying with the same peer group or family.”

(3) School Environment/ Friends /People Around :

1. From interviews with 30 youth and juveniles who were repeat offenders, 28 reported that most youths associated with peers of the same age and were influenced to join older peer groups. The majority of behaviors involved drinking alcohol, using marijuana, and engaging in nighttime activities. Participation in thrilling activities like motorcycle racing or conflicts with outsiders was considered normal, along with using Procodyl. Additionally, two other respondents provided interesting information that some



youth and juveniles were uneducated. When they couldn't find jobs, they resorted to stealing or returning to drug dealing, as exemplified by interviews:

(A070) "I hung out with older friends, 2-3 years my senior. They liked to go out, drink, and smoke, but I wasn't involved with drugs, felt it was a waste of money. Instead, I'd buy 'Procodyl' pills for 50 baht a packet, which used to be in strips but are now in bags. The older peers would buy because they knew the pharmacist. We would mix it with soda or cough syrup, depending on the formula. I once had an experience when we got rowdy at a sports event and fought with students from another school."

2. A group of 30 guardians, 16 of whom provided information consistent with the youth offenders, stated that the environmental conditions leading youth and juveniles to reoffend included peer groups, social acceptance, and lack of education, especially during adolescence when teens are seeking their own identity. Poor peer influence or risky peer groups could lead them astray. Another 14 guardians added that lack of education and employment could cause youth to revert to selling drugs, committing crimes like street racing, posting inappropriate images online, or getting caught again for minor thefts. Struggling in the same environment makes it easy for youth to revert to old ways, as exemplified by interviews.

(B018) "I live in a city in a community of row houses and have a small business with three children. My eldest son helps sell pork at the market, is hardworking but heavily influenced by peers and highly private. He seldom seeks advice, thinking friends might have better answers because today's kids prefer learning from their own experiences rather than from those who are experienced. I try to advise him, but it seems I can't always give him satisfactory answers, which leads him to not consult much about anything."

3. A group of 85 academics and practitioners found that 70 of them reported that youth and juveniles who face various problems from family, community, and peers at training centers are at high risk of reoffending if not effectively rehabilitated. Parental involvement in the rehabilitation process is crucial for success because parents play a significant role in shaping the environment and behaviors of children. An additional 15 people mentioned the importance of enhancing skills in understanding self-worth. This process strengthens youth and juveniles both physically and mentally, as exemplified by interviews.:



(C074) *“Whenever the school gates close, the prison gates are ready to open for these people, because they will eventually enter. They know this, but they can't think otherwise, and they see it as their only way out. They have no other path, so they adopt a life logic that money is everything, can solve everything, buy happiness. Thus, they cannot live within societal norms, and even when given the opportunity to work an honest job, they refuse because it is not worth the effort, it is tiring. Changing this mindset requires time, but ultimately, people can change, because no one wants to be in prison for life.”*

(4) Social Media :

1. From interviews with 30 youth and juveniles who were repeat offenders, many reported that their behavior changed unconsciously due to the influence of online media. This included seeking attention by posting provocative photos on social media due to the excitement and thrill, mimicking bad behaviors or violent actions seen in online games. These behaviors are consequences of the influence from online media.

(A017) *“I got into online gaming through a friend's recommendation. After playing for a while, I felt addicted. On days I couldn't play, I became very irritable. If I didn't have money, I would steal from my parents to play games. Sometimes, my friends and I would watch pornographic movies because we thought it was exciting and daring, leading us to neglect going home.”*

2. A group of 30 guardians revealed that 20 of them noticed that children heavily addicted to online games exhibited behaviors such as isolating themselves from family activities, eating in front of the computer, and staying up late to play games. They neglected their responsibilities, lost interest in their studies, disliked physical activities, and easily became irritable when questioned by their parents, possibly arguing and showing dissatisfaction when warned. Additionally, another 10 guardians mentioned that while children might seem safe at home, using social media exposes them to various risks such as encountering strangers, online abuse, scams, and inappropriate content. Educating children about online safety and monitoring their internet use is crucial to protecting them from potential dangers, as exemplified by interviews.:

(B020) *“My child is heavily addicted to gaming. Whatever the parents suggest, he hardly listens. After coming home from school, he ignores everyone and stays alone in his room to play games. If we suggest something or limit his gaming time, he gets irritated and doesn't listen. He trusts his gaming friends more than us.”*



3. A group of 85 academics and practitioners concurred that the use of online media, particularly the internet, has a significant impact on youth and juveniles, leading to issues such as imitative behavior, gaming addiction, and deceptive behaviors. Addressing these problems requires cooperation, where parents must explain the benefits and drawbacks of excessive media use, which includes educating children about potential health issues and other adverse effects, as exemplified by interview:

“Education and guidance are like planting a small seed in their hearts from a young age. If taught about responsibility and moral values, and provided with religious education, children are less likely to reoffend. Receiving warmth in the family prevents repeat offenses. However, children lacking familial warmth will seek it elsewhere and potentially reoffend in the same way”

(5) Culture and Traditions :

1. From interviews with 30 youth and juveniles who were repeat offenders, they provided insightful information on the social environmental aspects related to culture, customs, and traditions. During traditional Thai festivals such as Songkran, Loy Krathong, and Bun Bang Fai, youth and juveniles participate in various activities. These activities provide opportunities to meet girlfriends and express themselves freely, which may include drug use or consuming intoxicating substances and could lead to fights and injuries, as exemplified by interviews.:

(A019) “Times of local festivals or important traditions in the village are eagerly awaited since they happen only once a year. I feel a sense of freedom to go out and socialize, have fun with friends. There's consumption of alcohol which leads to spirited behavior or sometimes inadvertently committing illegal acts.”

2. A group of 30 guardians confirmed that the social environment related to culture, customs, and traditions can foster delinquent behavior in youth and juveniles. Although these activities are intended to be times for family and community bonding, some youths engage in risky behaviors such as alcohol consumption and sexual misconduct, which can lead to severe consequences like accidents, violence, and even criminal behavior. Guardians expressed increased concerns for their children's safety during such events, as exemplified by interview:

(B027) “Most teenagers think they are grown up during village festivals and tend to want to go out without their parents. They mostly want to go out with friends and



engage in activities together, like inviting each other to drink alcohol, which leads to crimes due to lack of awareness and no one to warn them."

3. A group of 85 administrators, academics, and practitioners found that 77 of them agreed that culture and traditions are valuable heritages passed down through generations. However, the degradation of these traditions often results from individual behaviors. The trend of youth and juvenile committing offenses can be influenced by various factors, including family background and upbringing. Proper parenting can help prevent recurring criminal behavior. Additionally, 8 other individuals emphasized the importance of addressing issues such as sexual misconduct and alcohol consumption during festivals. Youth and juveniles should be taught to respect others' rights and avoid harmful behaviors, as exemplified by interviews.

(C080) "Tradition is a beautiful heritage passed down from ancient times and unavoidable. Thus, when organizing events or traditions, safety measures such as prohibiting alcohol consumption at events, weapon and drug checks should be implemented. Public relations should inform families to supervise their own children closely, explaining the true purposes of organizing traditions, not just for social gatherings among friends."

(6) Economic Conditions :

1. From interviews with 30 repeat offenders, it was revealed that most of them come from economically disadvantaged families. Due to financial struggles, these youth often seek work outside the home, but with limited education, finding employment is difficult. The jobs they can get are usually labor-intensive with low pay, leading to frustration and discouragement from pursuing honest work. Those who have had drug-related offenses learn that selling drugs is a way to earn a significant amount of money quickly, without the need to work hard for an entire month, as exemplified by interviews:

(A008) "My family is very poor and struggles daily. I've seen my parents fight since I was a child. Sometimes, I don't want to go home because I have to face their daily arguments. I feel happier staying with friends where I don't have to struggle. When I run out of money, my friends help me make tens of thousands quickly by dealing drugs."

2. A group of 30 guardians indicated that the prevailing economic conditions have a significant impact, leading to family breakdowns and economic pressures that can drive youth and juveniles to engage in criminal behavior as a means of coping with financial stress, as exemplified by interview:



(B016) *"I hardly have time to talk or care for my children closely because we are poor and I need to work from dawn till dusk. Without this, we wouldn't have money to support the family. My absence means less warmth and care at home, leading my child to associate with friends and get involved in drug use."*

3. Among the group of 85 administrators, academics, and practitioners, 75 individuals indicated that economic environmental factors are very significant. They noted that children who are released and cannot find jobs often return to their communities and unchanged families. When they return home without jobs or income, they may resort to drug dealing as it appears to be the easiest way to make a living, potentially leading them back into the cycle of recidivism. Another 5 people provided a different perspective, stating that economic conditions or family financial status are not direct factors causing recidivism. They argued that even if the family is poor, if the parents raise the children with love and warmth, providing a reliable support system, economic status does not necessarily lead to re-offending. Additionally, 5 other individuals mentioned that when children and youth are placed in training centers with peers who repeatedly commit offenses, it can create an environment where they build networks for drug dealing. This can tempt them to re-offend as it offers a way to earn money easily and buy desired items, as exemplified by interviews:

(C080) *"The economic aspect is crucial. Many kids in the center who are involved with drugs do it out of a need for money. Once released, if they can't find a job, they are at high risk of reoffending. We need to promote education and vocational training to prevent them from returning to an unstable community life."*

2) Strategies for Creating an Environment Conducive to Preventing Recidivism among Youth and juvenile

Based on interviews with 145 individuals and discussions with a focus group of 10 people based on 6 dimensions of (1) Family aspect, (2) Residence, (3) School Environment/Friends/People Around, (4) Social Media, (5) Culture and Traditions, and (6) Economic Conditions, the following strategies for developing an environment conducive to preventing recidivism among youth and juveniles were summarized:

(1) Policy Level

1. It is challenging to alter a child's environment directly, but it is possible to cultivate internal resilience. Therefore, it is essential for children who have been released to be equipped with life skills, which are taught at the training centers before release. This



prepares them to resist criminal behaviors and to live successfully in a society that may otherwise provoke such behaviors.

2. There should be an assessment of the needs of youth and juveniles to enhance skills and aptitudes in various professions such as arts, music, tailoring, singing, cooking, and craftsmanship. The focus should be on strengthening these skills so that, upon release, they have expertise in these areas which they can use professionally.

3. There should be measures to make parents accountable and involved in their children's lives from the time they are in the training centers until they are reintegrated into society. Parents should learn about the training center's system and be conscientized about their responsibilities in taking care of their children. For instance, in Italy, children are placed in training centers for six months, after which a priest or community takes over their care. However, if the children breach the conditions, they are returned to the center immediately.

(2) Operational Level

1 . Modifying the external environment may be challenging, but improvements such as making living spaces cleaner and more livable, increasing learning spaces for youth and juveniles, or expanding areas for joint activities can foster networking and community spirit.

2. Training programs for staff should be promoted to diversify professional teaching skills such as arts, music, sewing, singing, cooking, and craftsmanship to meet the varied interests of youth and juveniles. Some training centers may have staff with limited skills or expertise in only one area.

3. Promoting real-life skills necessary for functioning in society outside the center is essential. Skills like critical thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving are crucial for children facing the outside world.

4 . Families, communities, and relevant organizations should encourage youth to engage in sports and use their free time beneficially to maintain good health.

5. Teachers should incorporate knowledge about the sufficiency economy into the curriculum, particularly for children whose parents work in agriculture. This knowledge is valuable for teaching patience and the importance of timing, which are essential aspects of the sufficiency economy.

6. While controlling the external environment is challenging, platforms like Facebook groups for job placement can help. When children have worked for 1 -2 years,



they are likely to adapt to society without reverting to criminal behaviour due to the life skills they have acquired.

DISCUSSION

From qualitative data analysis, including in-depth interviews and focus group discussion, the environmental factors conducive to recurrent offenses among youth and juveniles were summarized:

1. In terms of Family aspect : Predominantly from broken families not living with both parents, relationships within the family are often fraught with frequent conflicts. This aligns with the findings of Boonchuay and Thiraporn (2019), which found that significant reasons for deviant behavior among youth and juveniles include family issues, lack of bonding, or pressure from the environment that leads to a regressive state where children cannot find solutions to their problems themselves, leading to increased pressure and eventually criminal behavior with widespread negative impacts. and This is consistent with the research by Meldrum et al. (2016), which suggested that family environment, family bonding, family conflicts, and effective parenting significantly affect upbringing that leads to children with low self-control. The study found that biological parents with low self-control have relationships with various aspects of the family environment and youth offenses.

2. In terms of residence, most communities consist of rental houses and subdivided rooms. The surrounding environment includes both crowded communities near liquor stores or various vice establishments. This is consistent with the research of Ketsil (2019) and Shaw and McKay (1942), which found that deteriorated residential areas with dense housing, as well as some areas with rental houses or rooms near vice establishments such as massage parlors, pubs, and bars, are high-risk areas for offenses committed by children and youth.

3. In terms of School Environment/Friends/People Around : The typical behavior in group settings often involves encouraging each other to drink alcohol, use drugs, and engage in nightlife activities. This align with research by Ketsil (2019), which states that factors leading youth and juveniles to commit offenses come from both internal factors of the youth and various environmental elements. The most important and closest environments to youth and juveniles are family, friends, living conditions, school, society,



and media. Therefore, the extent to which youth and juveniles commit offenses largely depends on social conditions and structures, consistent with the Differential association theory proposed by Sutherland (1947).

4. In terms of Social Media : The use of online media and the internet leads to various problems, such as imitative behavior, gaming addiction, violent behaviors influenced by in-game scenarios, and even online fraud or sexual exploitation. This aligns with the research by Phuwachaijirapath (2017), which suggested that parents should properly educate and guide children and youth, and also consistently monitor their use of social media, as it can be a contributing factor to criminal behavior.

5. In terms of Culture and Traditions : Cultural norms and traditions have long been a part of Thai society, but they also provide opportunities for youth to reoffend. During community events, some youth engage in risky behaviors, such as drinking alcohol and becoming intoxicated, which can lead to a loss of self-control. This aligns with the research by Phuwachaijirapath (2017), suggesting that problems from pressure factors and social environment, including issues of values, beliefs, and culture, can be addressed by the family institution. Parents should educate and provide correct guidance to youth and juveniles, particularly about values concerning materialism and lavishness, which can be mitigated through proper parenting and guidance.

6. In terms of Economic Conditions : Families are generally poor, with dilapidated housing conditions. Parents lack steady incomes and jobs, leading youth to seek employment outside the home. Often, they prefer not to return home, where they might join friends in drug trafficking and theft to support themselves, influenced by observing others who appear wealthier. This aligns with research by Vidal et al. (2017), which found that family environments, especially impoverished ones, significantly increase the risk of juvenile delinquency.

CONCLUSION

The cycle of recidivism among children and youth, driven by conducive environmental factors, stems from various causes. These include the characteristics of children and youth living in broken families with poor economic conditions, lack of warmth, and inadequate parental guidance. Additionally, residing in deteriorated areas close to vice establishments, being influenced by peers or individuals in school or the community to engage in negative activities, and excessive use of social media leading to being deceived



into illegal activities all contribute to this cycle. Another significant factor is the differing cultural and traditional practices of each community. During festivals, the gathering of children and youth can lead to group offenses. Therefore, to create an environment suitable for preventing recidivism among children and youth, it is crucial to eliminate or reduce the negative environmental factors as much as possible. Only then can the prevention and permanent resolution of recidivism among children and youth be achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Recommendations from the Research

1.1 Recommendations for policy implications

(1) Training and rehabilitation centers for youth and juveniles should manage the environment and relationships in new ways, emphasizing full participation of youth and juveniles. This includes creating supportive family networks and equipping caregivers with the skills to properly care for youth and juveniles, fostering positive family relationships once they return home.

(2) Training and rehabilitation centers for youth and juveniles should provide policy regarding to the family report about the behaviors of repeat offenders in order to prevent the repeat offending continuously and also design the tracking system in the form of online application.

1.2 Recommendations for practices

(1) Youth and juveniles who have reoffended still have the potential to learn and develop important skills for their daily lives, such as self-awareness, problem-solving abilities, and social skills. Activities and education should be tailored to the specific characteristics and personality traits of these youths, particularly in terms of their behavior and family development strategies after their release. There should be efforts to involve their families and positive peer groups to collaboratively ensure ongoing success.

(2) Training should be promoted for staff involved in the care of youth and juveniles to enhance their teaching skills across various professions, such as art, music, tailoring, singing, cooking, and craftsmanship. This is to match the needs of youth and juveniles who desire to develop vocational skills in various areas.

2) Recommendations for Future Research

(1) Research should be conducted on the acceptance of employment of rehabilitated juveniles by employers.



(2) Additional in-depth interviews should be conducted with groups such as police officers and citizens in areas prone to repeated offenses by youth and juveniles.

(3) Quantitative research should be expanded to explore environmental factors that influence repeated offenses by youth and juveniles.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the juvenile training and rehabilitation centers of the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, and all those involved who facilitated the data collection for this research.

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