

**PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIME PREVENTION AND
SUPPRESSION OF POLICES
: A CASE STUDY OF HUAI KHWANG POLICE
STATION, DIN DAENG, BANGKOK**

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ABSTRACT

Abstract—The objectives of this study were (1) to study people's attitude towards crime prevention and suppression of polices at Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng, Bangkok and (2) to study people's suggestions on police's crime prevention and suppression at Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng, Bangkok. The samples studied were 398 people living in the Huai Khwang Police Station' area of responsibility. Research results found:

1. People's attitude towards crime prevention and suppression of polices at Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng, Bangkok was at a middle level.
2. Some comments regarding police's crime prevention and suppression in the area were also made; it had been said that most police officers generally perform well, but some requires improvement. Therefore, it is the job of the superiors to supervise their subordinates for a better performance.

Keywords— attitude, crime prevention and suppression, Huai Khwang Police Station

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, criminal is one of most major issues causing ongoing life-threatening situations and property damages. It is an issue threatening the state's economy, society, security of life and property, as well as national security resulting in the loss of manpower and budget to prevent and suppress a large number of crimes. According to the statistics, criminal records are increasing in align with an increase of population and expansion of the society; furthermore, with more planned, discreet and complex crimes in combination of high-tech criminal tools, prevention and suppression meet with difficulties.

Based on National Statistical Office or NSO (2015), criminal records in Bangkok in 2015 were very high compared to other regions. Population in Bangkok has been continued to increase and its society also has been grown unstopably. Bangkok is a capital city or considered to be a city of civilization and a hub of all institutions combined; furthermore, it is a hub of tourism by both Thai and foreigners. Unsurprisingly, these aspects create an attraction making a large number of people to come to reside and make a living; however, with such so many local resident, it cause a dense population which results in many kinds of problems, as well as criminal issues. According to Somphob Srikhankong (2006), the increase of criminal phenomenon can relate to national development or in the other words: the criminal issues grow along the growth of economy.

It is interesting to understand attitudes of local residents towards crime prevention and suppression within areas under responsibility of Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok owing to criminal records in such area ranking one of the highest in Bangkok in accordance with the following table:

Table 1: The criminal records of Huai Khwang Police Station

Crimes	2016		2017	
	Committed (trials)	Arrested (trials)	Committed (trials)	Arrested (trials)
1 .Offence concerning life and limb and sexuality	54	33	56	47
2 .Offence concerning property	372	166	187	117
3 .Special criminal case	21	18	10	8
4 .Offence against the state	525	632	574	658
Total	972	849	827	830

Source: Prevention and Suppression Section, Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok retrieved on 2018.

The local residents in such area are met with problems and difficulties as a result of crime incidents. As the researcher is interesting to investigate attitudes of local residents towards crime prevention and suppression within areas under responsibility of Huai Khwang Police Station and to attempt to investigate a direction concerning the prevention and suppression and to find what suggestions can be provided by the local residents. Obtained results will be presented to administrators and police officers to consider, develop and improve the efficiency and to be able to response to the maximum needs of the local residents.

Objectives

1. To investigate attitudes towards crime prevention and suppression of police within the area under responsibility of Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok
2. To study suggestions provided by the local resident concerning prevention and suppression of police within the area under responsibility of Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok

METHODOLOGY

Quantity research was applied; a determined target was 398 local residents (both male and female and all kinds of occupations) in areas under responsibility of Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok and a questionnaire consisted of 3 parts was utilized as a tool to collect data.

The research consisted with 2 phases, i.e.

1. Data collection was performed in order as follows:
 - 1.1 The objectives and data collection method were informed to Huai Khwang Police Station;
 - 1.2 Questionnaire was handed out to the sample group; all filled questionnaires were gathered and collected by the researcher.
2. Data analysis

Data analysis was performed in order as follows:

- 2.1 Every obtained questionnaire was checked and inspected;
- 2.2 All questionnaires were classified into each group of respondents;
- 2.3 Data contained in part 1 of the questionnaire (respondent's status) was classified based on frequency and was brought to find percentage;
- 2.4 Data contained in part 2 of the questionnaire (attitude) was statistically analyzed with software package program to find mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (S.D) and compared with the following standards:

- 1.00 – 1.49 means a “barely agree” attitude towards prevention and suppression;
- 1.50 – 2.49 means a “slightly agree” attitude towards prevention and suppression;
- 2.50 – 3.49 means a “moderately agree” attitude towards prevention and suppression;
- 3.50 – 4.49 means a “strongly agree” attitude towards prevention and suppression;
- 4.50 – 5.00 means a “completely agree” attitude towards prevention and suppression.

RESULTS

Part 1: Overall and each analysis outcome concerning attitudes towards prevention and suppression duty conducted by police officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok

Table 2: \bar{X} , S.D. and attitude levels of local residents towards prevention and suppression duty conducted by the police officers in each item.

Attitudes of local resident towards prevention and suppression duty conducted by policed officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok	\bar{X}	S.D.	Level
Discipline of crime prevention and suppression officers	3.51	0.91	Strongly agree
Performance of crime prevention and suppression officers	3.29	1.00	Moderately agree
Integrity of crime prevention and suppression officers	3.23	1.08	Moderately agree
Fairness of crime prevention and suppression officers	3.42	0.94	Moderately agree
Human relationship between crime prevention and suppression officers and the local resident	3.45	1.01	Moderately agree
Total	3.38	0.89	Moderately agree

According to Table 1, a total analysis yields a “moderately agree” level ($\bar{X} = 3.38$). Taking each aspect into consideration, it reveals 1 “strongly agree” level and 4 “moderately agree” levels.

Part 2: Summary of an open-ended questionnaire to sample opinions and suggestions from the respondents concerning prevention and suppression duty conducted by policed officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok

Suggestions concerning the prevention and suppression duty conducted by policed officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok obtained from the sample group residing in the responsible area of the police station could be classified into the following aspects:

1. Discipline of crime prevention and suppression officers
The police conducted themselves with an orderly and discipline manner and respected the chain of command; furthermore, they punished the offenders with clear and unbiased fashion.
2. Performance of crime prevention and suppression officers
Areas under responsibility of Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok had high altercation records and narcotic issues which might be drug addiction or drug trafficking; therefore, the police had to be on the lookout and to have an efficient patrol in order to prevent and suppress narcotics in the responsible areas and to be depended on.
3. Integrity of crime prevention and suppression officers
It was necessary to instill responsibility and integrity mindsets to the police officers.
4. Fairness of crime prevention and suppression officers
The police had to perform their duty in responsible areas unbiasedly, not playing favoritism towards their colleagues or the inner circle and performing their duty without discrimination.
5. Human relationships between crime prevention and suppression officers and the local residents
The police had a decent human relationship with the local residents as they used polite words when talking and opened to local resident’s opinion
6. Other suggestions
Most of police officers performed their duty with a decent fashion; however, some did not perform well enough. The higher ranking officers had to supervise their subordinates in order to keep such minority in line and improve them to perform better.

DISCUSSION

Based on the study, a conclusion and discussion can be proceeded as follows:

The study yielded a “moderately agree” level in an overview; however, taking each aspect into consideration, it revealed 1 “strongly agree” level and 4 “moderately agree” levels, signifying that the police may not perform the crime prevention and suppression for local residents well enough and it is possible the higher ranking officers did not supervise their subordinates thoroughly. Such findings are in alight with the research performed by Chawalit Anantharungsi (2003): attitudes of the local residents towards crime prevention and suppression officers within a provincial police region, Nakhon Chai Si district, Nakhon Pathom which found that attitudes of the local residents towards the crime prevention and suppression were moderate and the consideration in each aspect revealed that discipline of crime prevention and suppression officers yielded a strong attitude and the other aspects were in a moderate level.

Looking into each item, the discipline of crime prevention and suppression officers within Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok revealed a “strongly agree” level possibly owing to the obedience in rules, discipline and respect in their higher ranking officers; a clear penalties against offenders; honesty and the high regard of the local residents.

In regard to a human relationship between local residents and the police, the 3 items, i.e. fairness of crime prevention and suppression officers; performance of crime prevention and suppression officers and integrity of crime prevention and suppression officers were in a “moderately agree” level possibly owing to an involvement with the police operation making such local residents hear, listen, see things or overhear rumors regarding their performance or certain behavior, some of which might be positive and negative in combination of lacking of efficient performance in the police officers.

SUGGESTIONS

Policy suggestion

According to the study, it is possible to formulate policy suggestions as follows:

From the study, the overall attitudes were in a “moderate agree” level; therefore, Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok should create a policy or strategy which is suitable or in align with the actual needs of local residents.

When each aspect was taken into consideration, it was found that

1. In regard to the discipline of crime prevention and suppression officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok, the item with the lowest mean was “before raiding the police would execute an search warrant and arrest warrant and properly fill in the police records” ($\bar{x} = 3.22$). Speaking of which, The police should execute an search or arrest warrant before raiding or arresting and should properly fill in the police records;
2. About the human relationship between crime prevention and suppression officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok and the local residents, the item with the lowest mean was “joint operation between the police and local residents to encourage local residents to participate in crime prevention and suppression” ($\bar{x} = 3.41$); therefore, a project should be planned in order to allow the joint operation between the local residents and the police for better familiarity.
3. As for the fairness of crime prevention and suppression officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok, the item with the lowest mean was a fair suspect interrogation ($\bar{x} = 3.36$); in order to improve, the police should be fairer and should not let the social inequality involve in their performance;
4. Moving on to the performance of crime prevention and suppression officers under Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok, the item with the lowest mean was “In case the police are informed that local residents are being in trouble, they must react and mobilize quickly” ($\bar{x} = 3.22$) and “the police must provide service without discrimination “ ($\bar{x} = 3.22$); as for “In case the police are informed that local residents are being in trouble, they must react and mobilize quickly”, a patrol, help and support should be available all the time; as for “the police must provide service without discrimination”, the police should not let social discrimination involve in the service provided to the local residents and should perform their duty with all local residents within the responsible areas with equality.
5. On integrity of crime prevention and suppression officers under Huai Khwang Police Station, Din Daeng sub-district, Bangkok, the item with the lowest mean was “no bribery and extortion from places of vices in the police force”, i.e. casino, illegal lottery or cabaret for turning a blind eye ($\bar{x} = 3.05$); therefore, police officers should uphold their ethics and code of conduct and should not be influenced by the money or property acquired from the misconduct.

Research suggestion

1. The attitudes of local resident towards crime prevention and suppression officers in other area under their responsibility should be studied in order to develop and improve the police's performance by basing on such findings;
2. Other personal status should be added into the study, i.e. marriage statue, social statue, etc. for finding whether other factors will affect attitudes of local residents towards crime prevention and suppression officers or not.

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