

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEER INFLUENCE AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT ON JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to study the relationship between the levels of peer influence and the levels of moral development of juvenile delinquents in selected juvenile homes in Bangkok according to gender, age, education level, living conditions, delinquent behavior, and number of times caught.

There were 216 respondents which consisted of 130 males and 86 females who were measured by using a set of 3 questionnaires, namely Personal Information Questionnaire, Moral Development Questionnaire (MDQ), and the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA).


The General Linear Model for multivariate ANOVA was used to test the significant differences between the levels of moral development, the levels of peer influence, and the demographic variables. A post-hoc Scheffe test was conducted to analyze the differences between the demographic variables that had three or more categories. Pearson r Correlation Coefficient was used in finding the relationship between moral development and peer influence.

Based on the findings of the study, the results revealed that males have a higher frequency of delinquent behavior than females, with more females charged with drug crimes while more males were charged with robbery. The most number of

juvenile delinquents are in the 17-year-old age group, have an education level of less than grade 6, and live with both parents. Most of the juvenile delinquents are charged with involvement in drugs. The influence of friends is the reason that was most cited by juvenile delinquents. Most juvenile delinquents are caught only once. There is a significant difference at the 0.05 level in the levels of peer influence and the demographic variables of gender, age, education level, living conditions, delinquent behavior, and number of times caught. There is a significant difference at the 0.05 level in the levels of moral development and the demographic variables of gender, age, education level, living conditions, delinquent behavior, and number of times caught and finally there is a positive relationship between the levels of peer influence and the levels of moral development of juvenile delinquents.

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