

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DEPRESSION AND CHILD REARING
VARIABLES FOR MOTHERS OF DELINQUENT AND NON-DELINQUENT
CHILDREN IN LAK SI, A BANGKOK SLUM AREA

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to study the effects of financial poverty, maternal depression, and punishment on child delinquency in Lak Si, a Bangkok slum area. There were two groups of mothers: one group consisted of 150 mothers who had at least one delinquent child and the other group consisted of 150 mothers without a delinquent child. The demographic variables were: age, education, income and marital status. The research instrument was a set of questionnaires translated into the Thai language: a demographic questionnaire, Beck's Depression Inventory (BDI) and a modified version of the Child Rearing Questionnaire (CRQ).

Results indicate that mothers with a delinquent child were younger and had a lower educational status and income level, compared to mothers without a delinquent child. There was no significant difference in marital status between the two groups. Mothers with a delinquent child had a lower severity of depression than mothers without a delinquent child – it may be that mothers without a delinquent child are more aware of environmental stressors, as they had a significantly higher *Nomadism* subscale score on the modified CRQ. Education, parental income and marital status

were the three demographic variables that partially predicted BDI and modified-CRQ scores. Implications of these findings are discussed, both in terms of recommended actions and further studies with this difficult-to-access population.

