

Conference room 2 : "Children, Women and Family"

Session 1

Psychological interventions for parents of children who have cancer:

A Meta-analytic review

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Abstract : **Introduction** The role of psychological interventions in decreasing parents' distress to childhood cancer has received growing recognition. **Objective** The aim of this paper is to review past studies related to the effectiveness of psychological interventions on parents who have children with cancer with special focus on their emotional distress, based on the best available evidence. **Methods** Five (5) randomized controlled trial studies were reviewed using the meta-analytic techniques. The expected outcome measure is emotional distress, which refers to anxiety, stress, and depression, as reported by parents using objective questionnaires. In the said studies, effect sizes were calculated by comparing the measures before and immediately after the (pre and post) intervention, in order to examine the effect of psychological intervention on the participating groups. A separate analysis was conducted to calculate the effect size of non-intervention (control) groups in comparison to intervention groups in measuring the post-intervention period. **Results** The findings provide a minimal support ($d = -0.33$) of the effectiveness of psychological interventions, and a moderate support ($d = -0.54$) for those studies which incorporated cognitive behavioural techniques, in reducing participants' emotional distress after the interventions. The cognitive behavioural approach of interventions had showed greatest effects on parents' stress ($d = -0.66$), followed by anxiety ($d = -0.63$), and depression ($d = -0.33$). However, there is no evidence which supports psychological interventions are effective in terms of alleviating parents' distress when compared to the control groups. **Conclusion** Although this review suggests that psychological interventions have minimal potential in reducing parents' distress; the cognitive behavioural techniques, in particular; have shown some promising effects. The generalization of the findings is however restricted to some limitations. **Recommendations** The effects of psychological interventions could be further enhanced by designing well-defined treatments with improved control conditions, and by having outcomes and measures relate to the theoretical model, which allow the testing and refinement of the interventions. Future areas, scopes and directions, for further research in the field are also discussed.

Gender Differences and Stress Management among Psychology Students

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Abstract : This paper presents a study on gender differences in stress coping styles among psychology students in International Islamic University Malaysia. It is hypothesised that male respondents would be more likely to use problem-focused rather than emotion-focused coping style in dealing with stress as compared to the female respondents. A questionnaire consisted of 15 close-ended items was constructed and pilot-tested to 15 psychology students (7 males and 8 females). Minor changes were made after the pilot, and the actual survey was administered to 50 psychology students (25 males and 25 females). Gender was set as the independent variable, while coping styles, namely problem-focused and emotion focused, were set as the dependent variables. An analysis of variance of the data failed to support the hypothesis, with $F(1, 48) = 3.273, p = .077$. Justifications of the results in terms of overlapping roles and responsibilities for both genders are discussed. Classification of items and more choices for answers were suggested for future research.

Analysis of Parents' Satisfaction toward Teachers and Supervisors of Public Elementary Schools in Kermanshah

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Abstract : The purpose of this descriptive-correlational research was to describe the parents' satisfaction toward teachers and supervisors of public elementary schools in Kermanshah. Additionally, the study sought to investigate the amount of variance in parents' overall level of satisfaction explained by selected demographic variables. The population of this study was all parents of elementary schools students in Kermanshah city in the school year of 1384-1385 ($N=63064$). A sample of 400 members was selected using stratified random sampling method. The instrumentation for the study consisted of a three-part researcher- designed questionnaire. The first, and second parts of the questionnaire consisted of supervisors' satisfaction scale, and teachers satisfaction scale, respectively. The third part was used to accumulate demographic characteristics of the subjects. Based on the results, the parents were satisfied with supervisors' and teachers' of their children. The variables such as "parent's participation in school affairs ", and "parent's education" were predictors of satisfaction toward schools supervisors. The only predictor of satisfaction on schools teachers was educational level of parents.

Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS) Revisited

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Abstract : To evaluate psychometric of DASS, data obtained from 850 university students (Male = 306, Female = 533, 11 cases did not report their sex) were analyzed. For men average age was 22.13 (SD = 2.27) and for women the mean age was 21.63 (SD = 1.79). Coefficient alphas for Depression, Anxiety, Stress subscales and full scale (DASS-42) were .88, .85, .86, and .95 respectively and for DASS-21 these values were .79, .70, .76, and .89. For the total sample correlations among DASS-42 subscales were .75 to .81 and among DASS-21 subscales correlations were .61 to .67. For women correlations among DASS-42 subscales were .73 to .79 and among DASS-21 subscales correlations were .59 to .65 and for men these correlations were .77 to .83 and .63 to .70 respectively. Corrected item-total correlations and the correlations between each item and DASS subscales were within acceptable boundaries. This was true for both DASS-42 and DASS-21. All the correlations were significant ($p < .0001$). Principal component analysis with varimax rotation did not result in simple factor structure for any of the three subscales. Very few items loaded only on their corresponding factors. Most items loaded on two factors. Some items loaded on three factors also. The overall results indicated that for assessing depression, anxiety, and stress of Malaysian population DASS is a reliable and valid instrument. However, locally translated and adapted version of DASS is likely to serve better. Discussion includes implications of these findings.

Understanding Factors that Facilitate Strategic Retrieval of Information from Episodic Memory

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Abstract : When one is able to control what to retrieve and what not to retrieve, he/she is engaging in a strategic retrieval processing. Several mechanisms have been thought to facilitate selective retrieval processing. In an attempt to investigate factors that are responsible for the selective control of information from memory, thirty participants initially completed one study-test cycle of an exclusion task. The exclusion task was followed by an old/new recognition task employing a Remember/Know procedure (Tulving, 1985; Gardiner, 1993). These two retrieval tasks were different in the sense that in the second retrieval task, the old words were words that were presented at study but not in the exclusion task. An equal number of these old words, however, were associated with the same kind of processing that had been associated with the categories designated as targets or as non-targets in the exclusion task. Memory accuracy and reaction times (RTs) for 'target' and 'non-target' words did not differ overall in the Remember/Know task. RTs for Remember judgments to 'targets' were, however,

faster than Remember judgments to 'non-targets'. This provides some support for the view that selective recollection is due to processes that operate directly on memory representations.

Narrating Ghost Stories: 'Us' and 'Them'

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Abstract : Ghost stories have evolved to become a distinct genre of narrative in the cultural context of Singapore. Its commercialized status has allowed this genre to penetrate the level of the social; uprooted from its 'traditional' (oral) method of storytelling, where children would huddle in a corner as they are spooked out by the hushed voice and stories of the (adult) storyteller. The presence of Ghostly entities in the mass dissemination and transmission of these stories- continuously being produced and consumed in the commercialization of this specific narrative genre- are thus seen and interpreted as social actors; existing in antithesis to 'us'. This paper will engage in a textual analysis of these Ghost stories and under the lens of a poetic approach, aim to illuminate the relationship(s) between 'us' (the human beings), and 'them' (the Ghosts). As a result, Ghosts will be discussed as an institutional entity and *other* that reflect, and often, cruelly mimic the world and reality of the storytellers and audiences who come in contact with (via these stories). Ghosts also become a symbolic *other* that exists to embody covert thoughts and ideas of morality, normalcy, and taboo; ideas that are hidden or left unsaid in 'our' world.

Cohabiting With Memories: The Politics of Place Making

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Abstract : This paper tries to map out the links between memory, identity and space. The erosion of place identity is a relevant issue in Singapore due to the state's conservation efforts, which are often criticized for being "contrived". This paper seeks to explore what then sustains place identity and how memory has a role in it. The accounts of informants seem to indicate that sites that live in continuing histories, that are open-ended and in affective conversation with "the past" (located in memory) will help to sustain place identities (and by implication the identity of the group that inhabits that space and others) due to its position as lived- in memories as opposed to sites that become located in history i.e. the preserved Chinatown whereby time is conceptualized as linear, progressive and the past becomes something that should be relegated to that part of the time line largely devolved of its emotive content and relevance in everyday life, standing in history, rather than in tension with history¹. Based on the premise that places come into being through praxis, this paper thus attempts to explore how the state's efforts (practice) at preservation is often deemed contrived because it provides only an inadequate

consideration of “local agency in the production of locality” and neglects memory’s role in ‘live’ place production.

The Sociology of Battered Women

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Abstract : This paper undertakes to examine the hitherto neglected but nevertheless important area of Research , the Sociology of Battered Women. As there are very few researches in Sociological Literature in this area, particularly in the Indian perspective, hence a study in this direction in Kanpur City (India) was carried out. The analysis reveals the diverse factors which lead to wife battering such as the age, religion, caste, educational background, rural or urban background, childbearing, sex, dowry, male child, economical status, dominance of in-laws, etc. The study explores that despite the various empowerment and emancipation strategies adopted by the different sectors of society for women , the ghastly reality still persists that what so ever be the religion, caste, background of the women, they are being tortured and battered even today. The basic causes behind this being the prevalence of male domination & patriarchal systems, gender discrimination, social dependency and power relations. This social devil can be eliminated only and only after the women gain political and economic power. This research undertook more than four years. Kanpur City happens to be one of the largest cities of India and hundred cases of women were selected from the lower class as well as another hundred from the middle class for examining and studying wife battering. This was indeed a tough experience for me as women from the middle class do not divulge the atrocities very easily. However, it has been my earnest attempt to garner a pragmatic and realistic data so as to give this research a meaning in detecting some what the solutions of this demonist problem.

Session 2

Fortification of Beneficence and Integrity (FBI) Child Project

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Abstract : The Provincial Police Region 4 implemented the Fortification of Beneficence and Integrity (FBI) Child Project in the conceptual framework focused on children-oriented programs and activities. The inputs were obtained from student leaders and observing teachers from participating schools in the Amphur Muang Khon Kaen. This research applied a combination and integration of various knowledge fields, including Management, Community Police, and in the spirit of the Royal "Sufficient Economy" plan. The objective was to observe the attitude of the participants towards this pilot project in December 2006, based upon (1) the project objectives and (2) the project management by using the descriptive-analytical method. A total of 17 schools participated, each sending between 4-7 participants. The ratio of student leaders to observing teachers was 10:1. The ratio of males to females was 2:1. The ratio of high schools to vocational schools was 2:1. The majority of groups had in-school experience of 4 years. The attitude of the respondents towards the project objectives and the project management were positive, with the high to highest level of satisfaction in attitude towards this pilot project when grouped according to institution, roles, gender, types of school, and in-school experience, with statistical significance of 0.05 level.

Promoting the Quality of Life through Family Reading

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Abstract: Thailand is moving toward the learning society where all people should have a learning habit. According to the Education Act 1997, it is said that the Thai citizen should become a lifelong learner so that they can improve their quality of life. But there is a doubt whether the Thai citizen are ready or well-prepared for the learning society. Some research stated that Thai people read only eight lines per years. What will happen if people do not like to read since reading is an important means for learning. In their daily life, they have to acquire knowledge from various sources for their living such as food labels, medicine instruction, and the like. So it is skeptical why people did not read. What are their major problems? Due to the above matter, this paper will address the state of reading and reading promotion among families in Maharakham province. Based on the research results, it is recommended that reading should be promoted at an early age in the family because a family is the first school for every child and all family members should play a major role in reading promotion.

Reversion to Islam by indigenous Namibians as from 1979 – 2005: A study of motivations and outcomes of religious conversions.

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This study primarily investigates the phenomenon of religious conversion, with a focus on motivations and outcomes of religious conversion on identity and lifestyle of those who convert. The target groups are persons that have left their previous religious affiliations to convert to the religion of Islam. This study will investigate a group of indigenous Namibians who converted to Islam as from 1979 to 2005. The basic units of analysis will be their conversion narratives and self-reports, with a specific interest in their motivations for becoming Muslims. The study is, additionally, interested in the emotions and challenges involved in their transition from one's previous religious tradition to a Muslim identity and Islamic lifestyle. A structured questionnaire and open-ended interviewing methods will be used as data gathering techniques. Since the study is largely qualitative, a narrative analysis method will be used for data analysis, to be employed in conjunction with any appropriate quantitative data analysis method(s).

Family / School Environment and Personality Related to Adolescent Students' Adjustment.

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Abstract : The objective of the study was to investigate the relationship among adolescent students' adjustment, family environment, school environment and personality factors, and to predict adolescent students' adjustment from family - school environment and personality. The sample comprised of 391 adolescent students who lived with their parents from 9 schools of Office of the Basic Education Commission in Bangkok. Independent variables in the study consisted of 1) seven types of family environment and school environment : fathers' age, fathers' education, fathers' income, fathers' roles in family and social, democratic rearing practices, teachers' relationship, and friends' relationship, 2) five types of personalities : extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional instability, openness. A dependent variable was adolescent students' adjustment. The data was collected by using questionnaires. The SPSS Version 12 (Statistical Package for the social science for Windows) was used for analyzing the data by Basic Statistic data, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis and Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis. Research results were summarized as follows :

1. Democratic rearing practices, father roles in recreation, support and problem solving, families' expenses were positively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment at the .01 level of significance.
2. Friends' relationship and teachers' relationship were statistically positively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment at the .01 level of significance.

3. Personality of extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness were statistically positively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment but personality factors on emotional instability was statistically negatively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment at the 01 level of significance.

4. Emotional instability, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, democratic rearing practices, friends' relationship, and teachers' relationship could predict 75.2% of the variance in adolescent students' adjustment at .05 level of significance. Father roles in recreation, support and problem solving, families' expenses and openness could not predict adolescent students' adjustment at an acceptable level

Session 3

Causal Relation Analysis and Indices of Midlife Crisis of Employed, Married Thai Women

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Abstract : This study is an exploration of perceived causal indices of midlife crisis among married Thai women. The study has the following objectives; a) analyzing indices of midlife crisis of married Thai women b) constructing and developing a causal model of midlife crisis of married Thai women, and c) investigating the interaction between observed variables in each factor influencing the perceived of midlife crisis. The sample consists of married Thai women working in 3 sectors; government sector, state- enterprise sector, and private sector in Bangkok and its Periphery, The ages of participants ranged between 35-55 years old. Each participant had at least 1 child. The sample consists of 1,375 persons from 12 organizations. There are 6 latent variables and 18 observed variables. The measuring instrument used for this research is a 244 items six-scaled questionnaire with Cronbach's alpha between 0.7646 and 0.9531. LISREL version 8.72 is used for analyzing confirmatory factors. Results indicated the presence of 4 latent factors; Personal factor, Family factor, Working factor and Urban-society factor. All factors were found to have an influence on 2 dependent variables; Self-perception of life crisis and Impact on individual life crisis. Thus, the hypothesized model of midlife crisis was consistent with the empirical data in all 3 sample groups. The model accounts for 95 % of the variance in the government sector group, 84% in the state- enterprise sector group, 80% in the private sector group, and 89 % in all groups.

The Psycho-social Immunity of At-Risk Adolescents : Review of Empirical Findings on Antecedents and Consequences

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Abstract : In rapidly changing societies, such as Thailand, Thai adolescents still increasingly encounter varieties of risky social problems, for instance, harmful intoxication, gambling, social violence and violation, negative peer influence, etc. It is inevitable to enhance research activities on psychological and social immunization, especially in at-risk adolescents. Even though, there are some studies in Thailand, but these pressing issues need urgent and more research attention. This review paper aims to identify important antecedents and consequences necessary to be used as basis for a national research and development program.

Relationship between Birth Order, Self-Esteem, and Coping Style

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Abstract : This paper examines the relationship between birth order, self-esteem and coping style. Forty-five (n=45) students of IIUM aged between 19 and 25 will be recruited to participate in this study; first born child= 10, second born child= 10, middle born child = 10, last born child = 10, and only child= 5. All participants will be asked to complete one set of questionnaire consisting of Rosenberg Self-Esteem Inventory, COPE and the demographic data. One-way ANOVA and chi-square statistical analyses will be used. It is hypothesized that (1) there will be differences in terms of coping strategies among the participants of different birth order, (2) differences in the self esteem level between any of the birth orders, and (3) differences between high and low self esteem participants in their coping styles.

Child Needs Mapping of Migrant Children in Four Border Provinces of Thailand

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Abstract : The needs, problems and solving methods of the children aging between 8-17 years in 4 border provinces (Mae Sai district, Chiangrai; Mae Sot district, Tak; Muang district, Ranong and Muang district, Mukdahan) were investigated. The target children group were interviewed both in Thai and Myanmar languages. Meeting, discussion, interviewing the people in the communities and experts and community observation were also included. The data were qualitatively and quantitatively analyzed using SPSS program. A number of 617 out of total 2,317 target group children were selected for the interview. They were 150, 133, 209 and 125 from Chiangrai, Tak, Ranong and Mukdahan, respectively. The children from Chiangrai (18%) have serious problems and need helps in several aspects, whereas the children from Tak, Ranong and Mukdahan (39.8, 22.5 and 18.4%, respectively) did not want to go back to their home countries and need help to stay in Thailand peacefully. Most of the children were uneducated either in their home or in Thailand. Most of the children feel that they do not have anyone to give them advices and consultation. The major complaints were the lack of the 4 basic needs. This study revealed several typical problems and needs of the migrant children in the border of Thailand. Certainly, these problems will also affect Thailand in several aspects, such as human trafficking, labor mobility, exploitation of child labor and communicable diseases. The results of this study can be applied for the solution of cross-border migrant children, raising the awareness of children trafficking as well as the conduction of the child needs mapping which will efficiently and

sustainably help solving all of these problems. This experiment was done during March 2005 to June 2006.

Level of motivation for AIDS preventive behaviors among Malaysian male tourist visiting Thailand border town: Individual and social attributes

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Abstract : HIV/Aids remains a significant threat to global public health; over 30 million people in the world are living with AIDS, and 5.8 million new HIV infections were diagnosed in 1997 (World Health Organization, 1998). Both Thailand and its southern bordering country, Malaysia is also facing the HIV/Aids epidemic, and both confront the AIDS situation with vigor because it affects their public health, safety of the society and not mentioning, the economy well-being of the nation. This is especially significant at the borderlands of both countries (Thailand and Malaysia), where it is defined as a high risk area due to the existence of numerous tourism and entertainment outlets, such as karaoke bars and night clubs which also fuelled the sex industry in the area. This study focuses on Malaysian male tourist visiting the border town of southern Thailand, specifically looking at their motives to engage in sexual related activities with the focus on their motivation to take precautions prior to engaging sex workers. The study also assessed self-practice concerning AIDS preventive behaviors among the respondents. In addition, the purpose of this study is also to investigate the relationship between their levels of motivation for AIDS preventive behaviors which are evaluated by using the components of the Protection Motivation Theory (PMT) and psychological motivation theory. The sample consists of 400 male Malaysia tourists traveling the borderland of Thailand and Malaysia. A structured questionnaire containing questions concerning threat and coping appraisal and AIDS preventive behaviors were used as the primary instrument to obtain data for the study. The survey was conducted in borderland of Thailand and Malaysia, specifically around the Danok, Sadao and Hatyai area. In-depth interviews were also conducted with 50 commercial sex workers who attended the venereal diseases (VD) clinics at primary health unit in Sadao district to ascertain their protective practices when engaging their clients. The study provides pertinent information of safe sex practices that could be applied for public level HIV/Aids prevention campaigns for both countries.

Adaptation to Thai Culture and the Effects of Restrictions on Rights on the Quality of Life of Tai Yai Without Thai Nationality in Chiang Rai Province

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Abstract : This dissertation is concerned with the following: (1) the adaptation to Thai culture of the Tai Yai without Thai nationality in Chiang Rai province; (2) restrictions on the rights of the Tai Yai without Thai nationality in Chiang- Rai province; and (3) the effects of rights restrictions on the quality of life of the Tai Yai without Thai nationality. The research methodology of this study included (1) documentary research, as well as qualitative research making use of an array of anthropological fieldwork techniques. (2) The researcher spent about thirteen months in the area researched, in-depth interviews of forty key informants were conducted. (3) The quantitative research methods used consisted in doing survey research. Data was collected from 485 people by selecting from every other head of the household. Qualitative data analyses were undertaken through the descriptive ecological mapping of culture and customs of the Tai Yai at Huay Nam Kun sub-district on the basis of fieldwork, by collecting societal and demographic data from the in-depth interviews of forty key informants. Quantitative data analyses were undertaken through using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences on a microcomputer. Conclusions can be divided into two parts: (1) descriptive statistics utilizing percentage, mean and standard deviation; and (2) correlations discerned between the adaptation to Thai culture and the effects of rights restrictions on the Tai Yai's quality of life. It can be concluded that (1) as for adapting to Thai culture, the most important variable was the acceptance of Thai customs and tradition. The second and third ranked variables were using the Thai language and having Thai friends. (2) Regarding restrictions on rights, it was found that the most important factors were how assets were possessed, being able to travel outside of the area, and the restrictions on job applications with Thais, respectively. (3) In reference to rights restrictions on the quality of life of the Tai Yai without Thai nationality, it was found that those who had fewer rights restrictions enjoy a higher quality of life.

Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact on Students' Educational Performance

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Abstract : This study examines the relationship between emotional intelligence and Academic success. We are at the beginning of a new century, and intelligence and success are not viewed the same way they were before. New theories of intelligence have been introduced and are gradually replacing the traditional theory. The whole child/student has become the center of concern, not only his reasoning capacities, but also his creativity, emotions, and interpersonal skills. For this purpose a purposive sample of 128 students, including both males and females was selected. The sample was comprised of students of Bahria University, Islamabad doing their BBA's and MBA's. It was hypothesized that

students with high Emotional Intelligence were high Academic Achievers and vice versa. To measure the level of Emotional Intelligence the sample was administered an emotional quotient inventory. The grades for each of students were compared with Emotional Intelligence level of each student. The statistical analysis of data shows that significant relationship existed between Emotional Intelligence and Academic Achievement.

Relationship between Customers' Religious Orientation and Non Purchase Decision for Pepsi and Coca Cola

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Abstract : Religions do affect purchase behavior as evidenced by the mushrooming growth of carbonated sort drink companies after 2001 all over the world and their inroads into the Muslim world. This research paper investigates the relationship between customers' religious orientation and non purchase decision for Pepsi and Coke. Self administered questionnaires were got filled from 153 respondents selected from Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Peshawar, that represented the buyers of 1500 ml PET bottles of Carbonated Soft Drinks. The independent variable "Customers' Religious Orientation" was tapped by measuring their responses for 15 items while the dependent variable "non purchase decision for Pepsi and Coke" was worked out by asking their recent purchases. To check the hypothesis "bivariate correlation" analysis was applied. The finding of the survey asserts that Customers' Religious Orientation and Non Purchase Decision for Pepsi and Coke are correlated positively. The management of Pepsi and Coke can make use of the results by incorporating it in their sales strategies to attract the non purchasers of Pepsi and Coke respectively.

Communication in Restorative Justice : A Case Study of Family and Community Group Conferencing (FCGC) to Remedy and Rehabilitate Children and Juveniles who have Committed Offences

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Abstract : Family and Community Group Conferencing (FCGC) is a type of restorative justice applied with children and juveniles who have committed offences. The objectives of this study were to study processes of communication, methods of communication, factors about communication affecting social harmony, and analyze the conformity of such processes with healthy public policy. The data in the study was collected by non-participatory observation in 5 conferences; using a recording-form and sound recordings to collect the data, and interviewing 42 victims, offenders, mediators, academics and

experts about FCGC. It was found that there were 3 main processes of communication, preparing a conference, during a conference and follow-up offenders' behavior after a conference. Methods of communication were speaking, listening and writing. Mediators understand and have skills for communicating verbal language, which were probing for clarification, rephrasing, reflecting, and summarizing. In addition, mediators developed listening skills to determine the status of the speakers, focus on understanding and concentration and learn how to speak and act appropriately and accept differences through understanding and sincerity by paying attention to all parties at the conference. They also applied writing with offenders who preferred writing than speaking. Good facilitators who conduct conferences have knowledge of FCGC principles and possess good communication skills, including psychological awareness, be adapted at counseling, be motivated and sincere, be able to establish and maintain good human relations. Factors about communication affecting the success of the conference were approaches towards the victims and offenders, the selection and role of participants, style and methods of communication, and atmosphere during the conference. FCGC would be a healthy public policy if the process could bring participation from all stakeholders, encourage learning together among participants, and apply to solve disputes in Thai society. From this study, it is recommended that the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection promote and maintain continued training for facilitators, organize meeting for offenders who attended the conference, including workshops and conferences for facilitators from all provinces.