A STUDY OF THE LIFE EXPERIENCES OF FEMALE HOMICIDE INMATES: A CASE STUDY OF FEMALE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION IN THE BANGKOK METROPOLITAN AREA

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research was to study the life experiences of female homicide inmates, before, during, and after commission by examining a sample of 13 female inmates in the Central Women’s Correctional Institution. This was done by in-depth interviews and by studying the justice facilitation process in cases of female homicide inmates by analyzing the Supreme Court’s judgments.

The study found that, in the period before the commission, the sample group composed of women who killed their spouses, were mostly people of lower social status that had family problems since childhood. The majority went through turning points in their life during their coming of age to adulthood when they were getting married and having their own families and faced problems due to gender role conflicts, and they were also confronted with problems of gender crime. They were mostly assaulted by their husbands and victimized by family violence, reflecting intersections of problems of the lower class in Thai society. In addition to conservative social contexts, the problems caused pressure on the lives of these women. When they were aroused by these circumstances, most of the sample group responded by committing the offenses without preparation beforehand. In the period during the commission, most of the sampling group were first time offenders with variations in motives. In the period after the commission, it was found that almost half of the sample group felt that they had not been treated fairly by the justice proceedings, especially at the investigation level, because they had been excessively charged, intimidated with a more severe punishment into confessing their offenses, or deprived of an interpreter. However, most of the sample group placed hopes for their future on royal pardons.

The study of cases dealing with female homicide inmates found that the court took gender context into consideration, and the Court applied provisions of Section 72 of the Penal Code to the commission of the offense being out of rage and was advantageous to the accused. However, it was found that the accused had many obstacles to adequately furnish facts for the trial proceedings because of attitudes of the investigation officers and the public prosecutors were focused on proving the accused guilty. And the accused, who were women, were influenced by Social Norms, which hindered them from presenting some issues of fact. Furthermore, there were no witnesses during some occurrences, inhibiting the accused from sufficiently introducing facts of their cases into the trial proceedings.

Recommendations from this study are that: awareness of the importance of family and loved and warmth in the family should be cultivated; women should be encouraged to make friends with good people; men should be implanted with ideas about the proper treatment of women; the importance of domestic violence problems should be realized; women in the lower class should be empowered to realize ideas of self-values and informed of proper knowledge and understanding of law and criminal justice proceedings; viewpoints and publicizing of knowledge about social aspects, especially gender issues and ideas about criminology, should be provided to personnel in the justice system to be used in adjudicating cases and deliberation of verdicts; an inquisitorial system should be introduced in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code, which would be fairer than an accusatorial system; in practice, names of interpreters should be listed for use in the justice system; and female inmates should receive proper rehabilitation for each individual.

KEY WORDS: LIFE EXPERIENCE / FEMALE HOMICIDE INMATE

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การศึกษาประสบการณ์ชีวิตของผู้ต้องขังหญิงในภูมิภาคเมืองต่างๆ: ศึกษากรณีที่พักสถานของหญิงในเขตกรุงเทพมหานคร
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บทคัดย่อ

วัตถุประสงค์การศึกษา: การศึกษาประสบการณ์ชีวิตของผู้ต้องขังหญิงในภูมิภาคเมืองต่างๆ: ศึกษากรณีที่พักสถานของหญิงในเขตกรุงเทพมหานคร ในการศึกษาประสบการณ์ชีวิตของผู้ต้องขังหญิงในภูมิภาคเมืองต่างๆ: ศึกษากรณีที่พักสถานของหญิงในเขตกรุงเทพมหานคร

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