

ปัญหาและแนวทางการแก้ไขปัญหาการท่องเที่ยวที่แสวงหาผลประโยชน์ทางเพศจากเด็ก
กรณีศึกษาจังหวัดสมุทรสงคราม

Problems and Solutions of Preventing Children Exploitation Tourism
A Case study of Samut Songkhram

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บทคัดย่อ

งานวิจัยนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์ เพื่อศึกษาความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างการแก้ไขปัญหาการท่องเที่ยวที่แสวงหาผลประโยชน์ทางเพศจากเด็ก และวิธีการแก้ไขปัญหา วิธีการวิจัยเป็นการวิจัยเชิงปริมาณ โดยการสุ่มตัวอย่างจากผู้ประกอบการอาสาสมัครประชาชนนักท่องเที่ยวในเขตพื้นที่จังหวัดสมุทรสงคราม เครื่องมือที่ใช้ในการวิจัยคือแบบสอบถามโดยประชากรคือ นักท่องเที่ยวที่ไม่ทราบจำนวนที่แน่นอน และเก็บข้อมูลจากกลุ่มตัวอย่างจำนวน 300 คน สถิติที่ใช้ในการวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลได้แก่ ค่าเฉลี่ยมัชฌิม เลขคณิต ส่วนเบี่ยงเบนมาตรฐาน และค่าสัมประสิทธิ์สหสัมพันธ์ของเพียร์สัน

ผลการวิจัยพบว่าความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างการแก้ไขปัญหาที่มีต่อการท่องเที่ยวที่แสวงหาผลประโยชน์ทางเพศจากเด็กโดยรวม อยู่ในระดับค่อนข้างน้อย และไม่มีนัยสำคัญทางสถิติที่ระดับ .05 โดยพิจารณา พบว่าสาเหตุปัญหาวิธีการแก้ไขปัญหา แนวทางป้องกันปัญหาไม่มีความสัมพันธ์ กับปัญหาการท่องเที่ยวที่แสวงหาผลประโยชน์ทางเพศจากเด็กสาเหตุปัญหาวิธีการแก้ไขปัญหาแนวทางป้องกันปัญหา

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ABSTRACT

This research represents the results of the investigation regarding the problems and solutions of preventing children exploitation tourism. Data collection has been done through quantitative research where samples are from several groups. These samples consist of business owners, volunteers and tourists. The study examines the area of Samut Songkhram, a province in Thailand. Questionnaire was used as a research instrument for data gathering. Tourists were the majority of the study samples. There was no fixed amount of the samples. Overall, there were approximately 300 samples. Statistical analysis has been done in order to identify the Arithmetic Mean, the Standard Deviation (SD) and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

The results of the study reveal that the correlation between prevention of children exploitation tourism is found to be less. This has been reported with a statistic figure at .05. This means that prevention, problem solutions and the investigation of the influence factors were not relevant to prevent children exploitation tourism.

Keywords: Government policy, Tourism, Children Exploitation

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1. Introduction

Samut Songkhram has inherited natural resources which allow tourism industry to be established like some provinces in Thailand. This natural heritage benefits Samut Songkhram' tourism industry in particular. This aspect increases its attraction where outsiders often visit in order to witness its beauty. With this regard, Samut Songkhram has been recognized as one of the most famous tourist destinations of the region in 2012. According to the record, it was reported that there were 802,052 visitors visited the province. This helps to increase community members' income for almost 777.05 Million Bath.

This determines positive economic condition of the province. This benefit could result from the government policy which helps to improve the country's economic condition. Better consumption ability was encouraged by government policy. It is believed that, having government policy to support consumers purchasing ability may result in better business flow. This strategic plan does help to improve local economic condition, providing financial budget by central government which therefore help to encourage investors for their product development and increase in productivity. This would also help agricultural sector and the improvement of farming products in directly. It is reported that financial budget for each member of the country in 2011 is 79,456 baths. (Ministry of Tourism and Sports, 2012).

Currently, it is found that social structure has changed. This factor has a great deal which influenced tourism business management at certain point. It is realized that there is a shift from traditional tourism to current tourism industry where the relationship between community and tourists is more concerned. However, this has caused several drawbacks toward present tourism business. Several problems have emerged due to child sexual exploitation. This issue is considered as a negative image of the current tourism business. These crucial issues include prostitution, child exploitation, and child laboring as a result of the development in tourism industry. This has increased negative image of Thailand at international platform. This problem is the significant factor to exploit the country's reputation. It also lowered Thailand's status in the world's ranking which therefore let America to group Thailand as a member of "TIER 3". This group named the countries which failed to prevent the practice of human trafficking. (Rachaniporn Sujaritpakdeekul, 2009). This problem can be considered as a result of benefit seeking by exploiters. Poverty also one of the factors that being caused by economic structure and government policy. Therefore reformation of Thai national policy is needed in order to maintain established tradition and social culture. It is also necessary to promote the country' sustainable economic. This can be done with the

collaboration between community members where all the parties must support the prevention of the problem of child exploitation tourism. The researcher is therefore interested to examine the relationship between the problems and solutions of preventing children exploitation tourism in Samut Songkhram area.

Research aims and objectives

To study the problems and solutions of preventing children exploitation tourism
a Case study of Samut Songkhram

2. Research scope and methods

The study examines factors related to problems and solutions to prevent children exploitation tourism by the examination of tourists' needs and government policy.

3. Research methodology

Data collection has been done through quantitative research where samples were from several groups including business owners, volunteers and tourists. The study focuses on the area of Samut Songkhram. Questionnaire was used as a research instrument for data gathering. Samples were mainly the tourist with no fixed amount of the samples.

However, data has been responded by approximately 300 samples. (Kanlaya Wanitbancha, 2002: 27) with an error at ± 5 Statistical analysis has been done in order to identify the Arithmetic Mean, the Standard Deviation (SD) and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient

4. Results

1. General information of 300 questionnaire responders was from female more than male samples. Among 300 samples, it consists of 215 female samples which can be reported as 66.0 % while the total number of male samples is 111 samples which are 34.0% of the overall samples. Personal details of the samples when considering their age level, it is found that the majority of the responders are below 20 years with the amount of 214 samples. This can be reported at 65.6% and acquired the highest number. Secondly, samples are in between 21 - 40 years with the total number of 61 which can be counted as 18.7%, thirdly, samples aged in between 41 - 60 years are found to be the total of 45 which can be calculated as

13.8% while samples aged over 61 years are found to be the least responders among overall samples which is found to be total of 6 samples that can be counted as 1.8%. Considering personal details based on the sample's education background showed that 164 of the samples have attained the certificate of Secondary Education or equal to which can be reported at 50.3% which is the highest number of the samples. Secondly, 101 samples have attained the Certificate of Bachelor Degree or equal to which is 31.0 %, Thirdly, 42 samples have attained the Certificate of Vocational Education or Pre-university education or equal to which is 12.9%, Among these, 10 of unattained education qualification samples which is about 3.1%, and 9 samples from higher education degrees which is 2.8%.

Considering personal details according to profession and career, it is found that the majority of the questionnaire responders are school students and university students with total number of 226 samples which is 69.3%. Second are business owners in tourism industry with the total number of 36 samples which is 11.0%, third group is totally 18 private organizational staffs which is 5.5%, 15 samples are community leaders and local politicians which is 4.6%, 12 samples are business owners which is 3.7%, 10 government officers which is 3.1%, 9 are freelancers and laborers which is 2.8%. Considering personal details based on personal income, it is found that the majority of questionnaire responders consists of ; the group which has their income below 10,000 bath which is found to be 214 which is 65.6% and consider to be the highest. Second group has income above 20,001 baths for about 81 samples which is 24.8%. Lastly, a group with income level between 10,001 – 20,000 baths about 31 samples which are 9.5%.

2. The analysis of attitude towards influent factors which correlate solutions toward the problem of child exploitation tourism showed that the majority of the population agrees that there should be an action to solve the problems regarding child exploitation by tourism business. This can be seen as the highest statistic figure with overall at Mean = 4.62. Considering in each domains, it has revealed that community members and social population have realized the causes of child exploitation that brought by tourism industry. This can be explained with statistic figure at Mean = 4.64 which reported as the highest responses. Second is the solutions toward child exploitation which caused by tourism business at Mean = 4.62,

.Lastly, it is the concern for the finding of solutions to prevent child exploitation by tourism business which is reported at Mean = 4.61. The concern for causes of the problem regarding child exploitation and prostitution in overall is the highest rate at Mean = 4.64. Considering in each domains, it is found that child exploitation is the significant factor that

create a negative image of Thailand in the world platform. This is reported at Mean =4.79, which is the highest responses. Secondly, lack of moral and ethical principles among business owners could lead to the exploitation of child and prostitution in services. This is reported at Mean = 4.71. It is reported that night entertainment business provides sexual appeal performances and activities that encourage the exposure of child abuse to attract tourists and customers. This is found to be Mean =4.67. Thus, the problem of child exploitation tourism can be solved by strictly constructed laws with the collaboration of several government sectors.

The problem needs to be solved in a systematic ways. This is found to be at Mean =4.66. Poverty can be considered as one of the factors that lead to the problem which often is the force to encourage poor children to get into prostitution and child exploitation business. This is found to be at Mean =4.53. Benefit seeking business from child exploitation tourism means having sexual violence against children below 18 years old. Whether it is agreeable between sexual abuse victims and the customers or so called sexual violators or not, however, this can still be considered as misconduct and against the laws.

This perspective is reported as Mean =4.45. Concern for problem solving regarding child exploitation tourism in overall is found to be the highest responses at Mean =4.62. Considering in each domains, it is suggested that having systematic collaboration between the community and the central department is needed which is reported at Mean =4.75. Secondly, family and strong community will help to prevent the problem of child sexual exploitation. For instance, it needs to be reported to parents or guardians when having seen children in night entertainment places. The responses to this domain are found to be at Mean =4.66.

The problem of child sexual exploitation tourism needs to be solved by constructing strict laws and punishment rules which need serious action taken by government sectors. This will help to prevent and solve the problem effectively and systematically. The responses are found to be at Mean =4.62. The Department of Tourism has a significant role for the establishment of punishment rules, principles and social responsibility for business owners dealing with tourism such as hotel business owners. This means that business permits can be withdrawn when guilty or misconduct have been found at Mean= 4.58. Parent should take good care of their own children is found to be at Mean = 4.58. Government officers need to promote and build the awareness toward child exploitation tourism in order to develop right moral and ethics among community member as well as the tourists. This is found to be at =4.55.

There should be volunteers to prevent problems of child sexual exploitation tourism in the community. This is found to be the highest responses at Mean =4.61. Considering each do-main based on government policy, the highest responses suggested that government policy needs to promote cultural education tourism at Mean =4.71. Secondly, there is a need for critical analysis regarding problem solution for strategic planning for investigation purpose where practicality plans need to be constructed. This is found to be at Mean =4.70.

Another response suggested that private business owners need to avoid activities that promote child sexual appeal to attract the customers or tourists. This is found to be at Mean =4.67. It is also suggested that business owners must not involve in child exploitation tourism. This is found to be at Mean =4.67. It is suggested that tourists must not misbehave toward children during their visiting. This is found to be at Mean =4.65.

It is suggested that there should have scope setting of tourism principles in order to prevent child exploitation tourism. This is found to be at Mean =4.58. Another point is that the tourists must not have sexual oriented activities as their goal for their visits. This is found to be at Mean =4.61. It is also suggested that there should be awareness building toward sexual values for youngsters. This is found to be at Mean =4.58. All social sectors need to realize the drawbacks from child exploitation tourism. This is found to be Mean =4.58. It is suggested that awareness building regarding desirable tourism is important for both tourists and business owners. This is found to be at Mean =4.56. It is suggested that misconduct tourism which lightly lead to child exploitation tourism should be reported to the responsible officers. This is found to be at Mean =4.53. Tourists need to understand the cultures of their visiting places. This means that they should behave in desirable manners which will help to develop the desirable social values and appropriate behaviors among youngsters. This is found to be at Mean = 4.52.

3. Correlation analysis of solutions toward problem of child exploitation tourism in overall found that there is less action and the correlation statistic figure is found to be at .05. This means that the solutions that have been mentioned or taken were not relate to the emerged problem including tourists needs, social problems and government policy. These can be reported at statistic figure ($r=.048$, $\text{Sig}=.387$; $r=.769$, $\text{Sig}=.206$; $r=.082$, $\text{Sig}=.139$) respectively.

5. Discussion and Recommendations

The study found that government policy toward tourism is found to be less at Mean =2.30. When closely examine the government policies, there are the presence of the attempt to solve the problem of child exploitation tourism by all the government at Mean =2.50. Aiming to establish strict laws and punishment rules to prevent and protect child exploitation is found to be the most significant target by every government parties which is found to be at Mean =2.43. It is found that serious action to prevent and solve the problem of child exploitation by the government is at Mean =2.32. It is found that the government aimed controlling other departments to collaborate in serious action to solve the problem of child exploitation at Mean =2.21. It is found that government departments aimed at solving the problem of child exploitation through awareness building regarding appropriate social values and social expectations among the children at Mean =2.02.

To conclude, it is compulsory for government sector to take a serious action toward the problem of child exploitation tourism. There should be strict laws which can be directly constructed by government strategic plans. The most important factor to help solving the problem is to construct strict laws and well- prescript punishment rules. This will provide a better working scope for government officers who deal with the prevention and protection of child exploitation tourism. Secondly, all government offices and departments need to cooperate with one another in order to prevent and protect the problem of child exploitation tourism. Thirdly, parental is one of the most important factors to prevent the problem. Lastly, awareness building toward prevention and protection of child exploitation tourism should be promoted in the society; this will help to develop social responsibility among community members as well as the tourists toward the drawbacks from their misconduct toward the tourism industry and children. Therefore tourists should be aware that they should not misbehave and violate against children's rights and avoid child prostitution.

Community and private entrepreneurs must not allow the children to take any actions that could attribute to prostitution including provide the area for business talk. Community and private entrepreneurs need to have social responsibility and should follow the right principles to improve social conditions and strictly prohibit prostitution especially in children that result from the development of community tourism industry.

The study has found that government policy is one of influence factors that will help to prevent and solve the problem due to child exploitation tourism. Thus it is necessary for the government to take a serious action regarding this issue. One of the significant aspects is

to construct a strict laws and punishment rules for the violator. Another point is to cooperate between different government departments in order to prevent the occurrence of this issue. In order to cope with this challenge, Tourism Authority of Thailand also needs to take a serious action by construct the laws and punishment rules toward the prohibition of child exploitation tourism to deal with the violators particularly the entrepreneurs, business owners, and local business dealers in order to prevent this issue. Another solution is to withdraw the permit from the violators when they are found to be guilty.

Government officers need to promote and update tourism information and build the awareness toward the outcomes from misconduct of tourism especially child exploitation. It also is important to establish the values for the desirable community and society. Parent is also one the most important role to help to prevent and avoid this problem. Thus morality and ethics are the basic social principles that need to be established particular in those who own businesses related to tourism. This means that social responsibility is the most important issue that need to be concerned not only benefit making. Panthong Srithawong (2008) studied Problems and Obstacles of Children Juveniles and Women Division's Police Officers in Preventing and Suppressing Human Trafficking. It has revealed that prostitution, child and woman human trafficking are serious is-sue which found to happen frequently. Overall, considering case by case, it is found that the level of education qualification of investigative police officers could affect police tasks such as investigation, arresting and law execution of investigative toward the problem of child exploitation. This is found to present the significant statistic figure at .05.

5.2 Suggestions for use in this research

This study examined the attitudes of the social population and many revealed that problem solution can be done for two key aspects. These aspects are directly related to the tourist's exploitation seeking attitude that often being supported by the dealers and flexible government policy. The investigation found that there are three domains that need to be concerned according to the population's point of view. These include

1. government policy which should be strict and clear mentioned regarding to the punishments for misconduct and malpractices.

2. There should be collaboration between community members for strictly follow the traditional and customary practices and believes which promote religious' rules and principles in order to avoid the sexual exploited tourism toward youth and prevent community's positive

image. Overall, there should be a strict watch toward malpractice of government officers who are responsible for community tourism.

3. central government and regional government need to establish the policy, strategic plans, projects and programs which help to support and development the employment opportunities for community members to reduce the poverty and other related problems that could arise from this issue.

5.3 Suggestions for further research

1. Those interested may study the said problem, expanding to other provinces such as Bangkok, Pattaya etc.

2. Research should be developed by adding to the dimension of quality research or mixed method research.

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