



Domestic Violence Resulting from Alcohol Use: An Analysis of Reports from Thai Daily Newspapers during 2006-2015

Kanyaprin Tongsamsi* and Isara Tongsamsi**

Abstract

Strong families contribute to making human resources valuable to society as a whole but in Thai society domestic violence as a result of alcohol drinking continues to exist. Therefore, this study aimed to analyze forms of domestic violence resulting from alcohol use reported in Thai daily newspapers during 2006-2015. This documentary study analyzed a population of 585 pieces of news about alcohol use that led to violence. Of this news population, 72 pieces were domestic violence. A coding system was used to collect the data with which basic statistics and content analysis were performed based on WHO concepts of violence. The study found that in most violence cases, physical force, mainly parts of the body were used, against one person, in residential areas, caused by husbands followed by fathers, against the working group followed by early childhood children, and resulted in physical injuries. It is recommended that data about effects of alcohol use on family should be made known in all communities; personnel should be prepared to provide consultations and advice on solutions to domestic problems and should be accessible at all time; and measures should be taken to concretely reduce domestic violence resulting from alcohol use.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Alcohol, News

* Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prince of Songkla University
181 Charoenpradit Road, Rusamilae, Muang, Pattani 94000, THAILAND.
E-mail: kanyaprin.s@psu.ac.th

** Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Songkhla Rajabhat University
160 Kanjanavanit Road, Muang, Songkhla 90000, THAILAND.
E-mail: isara8391@gmai.com

ความรุนแรงในครอบครัวอันสืบเนื่องจากการดีมสุรา: วิเคราะห์ป่าวนรอบ 10 ปี

กันยปริน ทองสามสี* และ อิสระ ทองสามสี**

บทคัดย่อ

ครอบครัวที่เข้มแข็งจะช่วยสร้างทรัพยากรมนุษย์ที่มีค่าต่อสังคมโดยรวม หากแต่ในสังคมไทยยังเกิดความรุนแรงในครอบครัวอย่างต่อเนื่องโดยมีสาเหตุที่สืบเนื่องจากการดีมสุรา การวิจัยครั้งนี้จึงมุ่งวิเคราะห์รูปแบบการเกิดเหตุความรุนแรงขึ้นในครอบครัวอันเนื่องจากการดีมสุราที่ปรากฏในข่าวหนังสือพิมพ์รายวันระหว่างปี พ.ศ. 2549-2558 วิธีการวิจัยเป็นการวิจัยเอกสาร ประชากรข่าวเกี่ยวกับการดีมสุราแล้วนำไปสู่เหตุการณ์ความรุนแรงจำนวน 585 ข่าว ในจำนวนนี้มีป่าวนความรุนแรงในครอบครัวจำนวน 72 ข่าว เครื่องมือที่ใช้ในการรวบรวมข้อมูลเป็นแบบบันทึกข้อมูลข่าว (Coding system) วิเคราะห์ข้อมูลด้วยสถิติพื้นฐานร่วมกับการวิเคราะห์เนื้อหา โดยใช้กรอบแนวคิดเกี่ยวกับความรุนแรงขององค์กรอนามัยโลก

ผลการวิจัยพบว่าเหตุการณ์ความรุนแรงส่วนใหญ่เป็นการใช้กำลังประทุร้ายทางกายโดยใช้อวัยวะของร่างกายเป็นอาวุธหลัก เหตุการณ์ส่วนใหญ่มีผู้ได้รับความรุนแรงเพียงคนเดียว บริเวณที่เกิดเหตุการณ์ความรุนแรงมักเกิดในเขตที่พักอาศัย ผู้ก่อเหตุความรุนแรงในครอบครัวส่วนใหญ่เป็นสามี รองลงมาเป็นบิดา ผู้ได้รับความรุนแรงส่วนใหญ่อยู่ในวัยแรงงาน รองลงมาคือเด็กปฐมวัย ผลลัพธ์ของความรุนแรงส่วนใหญ่ก่อให้เกิดการบาดเจ็บทางกาย ข้อเสนอแนะจากการวิจัยคือถ่ายทอดข้อมูลผลกระทบของการดีมสุราที่มีต่อครอบครัวให้เข้าถึงทุกชุมชน จัดเตรียมบุคลากรให้คำปรึกษาแนะนำการแก้ไขปัญหาครอบครัวที่เข้าถึงได้ตลอดเวลา และการกำหนดมาตรการลดความรุนแรงจากปัญหาการดีมสุราอย่างเป็นรูปธรรม

คำสำคัญ: ความรุนแรงในครอบครัว สุรา ป่าวน

* คณะมนุษยศาสตร์และสังคมศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยสงขลานครินทร์
เลขที่ 181 ถนนเจริญประดิษฐ์ ตำบลรุสະมีแล อำเภอเมือง จังหวัดปัตตานี 94000
อีเมล: kanyaprin.s@psu.ac.th

** คณะมนุษยศาสตร์และสังคมศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏสงขลา
เลขที่ 160 ถนนกาญจนวนิช ตำบลเขารูปช้าง อำเภอเมือง จังหวัดสงขลา 90000
อีเมล: isara8391@gmail.com

Introduction

The family institution is the smallest social unit and plays an important role in developing people to be effective. Thus, strong families result in human resources valuable to society, community and the country (Kanchanajitra and Jasatsit, 2009). However, there are data that reflect continuous domestic violence. Friends of Women Foundation found from its study on statistics of domestic violence gathered from newspapers during 2007-2008 that alcohol drinking was a motivating factor causing an increase in domestic violence from 18.9 percent in 2007 to 21.6 percent in 2008. Most news was on killing family members (53.3 percent), followed by news on suicides, and injuring each other, respectively (Thai Health Promotion Foundation, 2009). In 2011, it was found that every hour three women were injured physically by their partners and strangers as a result of alcohol as an important risk factor, and in most of these cases, women were injured by their spouses (Thammarangsee (Ed.), 2013). A survey by the National Institute of Development Administration on “People’s opinions on the problem of domestic violence in Thai families” revealed that most of the 4,853 respondents (5.58 percent) had seen or known cases of domestic violence such as parents quarrelling, stepfathers physically harmed their stepchildren, stepfather raped stepchildren, drug-addicted children physically injured family members, and child labor, etc. However, 44.42 percent of the respondents had not seen or known of domestic violence. When asked whether they had experienced domestic violence themselves or seen it happen to their own family members, 82.54 percent had never experienced it, and 17.46 percent had experienced it in the form of quarreling, beating up friends, being drunk and lost their senses, etc. The causes of these were drinking alcohol, quarreling, and drug abuse (NIDA Poll, 2015).

Many studies have been conducted on domestic violence as a result of alcohol abuse. Teeraphan (2016) studied domestic violence on the west coast of the Songkhla Lake Basin found that the average domestic violence rate was 18 times per year, and the top three causes were alcohol abuse and abuse of other substances, work stress, and a lack of love and understanding from family; and most of the victims were wives. Laeheem (2016) who studied factors resulting in domestic violence in Thai Muslim families in Satun Province, and gathered data from 1,920 married Thai Muslim women found that 34.3 percent of domestic violence was caused by husbands who drank alcohol, which

was one of the six causes of domestic violence. More women whose husbands drank alcohol regularly were injured by their husbands 2.4 times while those whose husband drank occasionally were injured 1.4 times more than those whose husbands did not drink. In addition, a survey of seven communities in Bangkok Metropolis found that 27.5 percent had domestic violence and 83.6 percent of this was found to have alcohol abuse. Families with alcohol use were found to have 3.84 times higher chances to have domestic violence (Khongsakon et al. cited in Thammarangsee (Ed.), 2013).

Studies in other countries also confirm that alcohol use and domestic violence are associated. Gebara et al. (2015) studied forms of domestic violence and alcohol drinking among women in Brazil and found that drinking alcohol is associated with domestic violence, and that cultural factor and social context are mediator variables. This corresponds with a study by Sprunger, Eckhardt, and Parrott (2015) who found that drinking alcohol is a cause of violence with one's spouse and perpetration in which victims both females and males are usually injured physically even though male victims were found to be directly related to alcohol use. Rotheram-Borus, Tomlinson, Roux, and Stein (2015) investigated the association between alcohol drinking and domestic violence among pregnant women in Cape Town, South Africa. The study were divided into three phases: the early phase, 18 months and 36 months found that drinking alcohol during pregnancy was most related to spousal violence in the first phase and continued to the 18-month and 36-month phases. Moreover, same-sex domestic violence was revealed by Lewis et al. (2015) who examined emotional stress, alcohol drinking, and domestic violence in lesbian relationships found that lesbians with emotional stress usually drink alcohol to solve problems and that is when bidirectional partner violence (BPV) took place.

The above findings confirm that alcohol drinking can lead to domestic violence that affects three groups of people: 1) family members who are injured physically and mentally; 2) other family members—domestic violence destroys relationships, peace, happiness, love, unity and trust among family members; they cannot live happily and the couple could eventually divorce resulting in a broken home that affect their children who could possibly imitate the violence their parents encounter. 3) The community or society—domestic violence could lead to divorces, and homeless children; children running away from home could lead to short-term and long-term social problems for

which society has to be responsible in solving by providing medical treatment, welfare in terms of giving advice and providing care for people with family problems in addition to seeking preventive measures as well as measures to solve the problems (Kanjanakul, 1997; Masrungson, 2011; Chuaykamchoo, 2012; Laeheem, 2016, Laeheem, & Boonprakarn, 2016). Nevertheless, there are ways to solve problem of domestic violence, for example organizing activities to develop knowledge and skills needed to lead happy family life, and to exchange knowledge and experience between model families and people in the community (Sanprasit, 2011). Tuenchang (2013) proposes the use of Buddhist principles to solve the problems, especially choosing the partner who has approximately the same level of beliefs, precepts, sacrifice, and intelligence while Masrungson (2011) proposes transformation of family conflict to understanding, prevention of repeating the problem, and treatment and cure the mind to make it peaceful for all family members. Thailand tries to solve domestic violence resulting from alcohol use and it is in the Ten-year national strategic plan for reduction of alcohol consumption (2011-2020), especially Strategy 3: Reduction of danger from consumption which aims to reduce risk for problems of alcohol drinking and to limit severity of the problem (Usaha & Vichitkunakorn, 2016). Thus, the objective of this study is to analyze domestic violence as a result of alcohol drinking that is in daily newspapers in one decade (2006-2015) to reflect domestic violence resulting from alcohol use in order to inform society and related organizations so that they can cooperate in solving the problem and to provide guidelines for prevention and solving problems of alcohol drinking that leads to domestic violence problems.

Objective

To analyze forms of domestic violence resulting from alcohol use in Thai daily newspapers during 2006-2015.

Concepts and Theories

Definitions of Domestic Violence

According to the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act, B.E. 2550 (A.D. 2007), “domestic violence” means any act committed with an intention to cause bodily, mentally, or healthily harm of, or any act committed intentionally in a manner that may

cause bodily, mentally, or healthily harm of a family member or any coercion or undue influence conducted with a view to make a family member to do something, refrain from doing something or accept any act illegally, but not including an act committed through negligence while Shrader and Sagot (2000) define domestic violence as any act or coercion committed by a family member that may harm life, body, mind, rights or freedom of other family members.

Snowden (2015)'s concepts describe the relationship between alcohol drinking and violence in four levels of effects as follows.

1. Individual level could be described in four aspects.

1.1 Direct effects—These effects could be explained using the inhibition theory that drinking can affect the drinker's nervous system when alcohol enters the bloodstream, and as a result, the person cannot control his behavior to make it proper.

1.2 Indirect effects—Alcohol drinking can cause changes mental health, perception and movement that may lead to more aggressive behavior. For example, alcohol use may cause a lack of introspection and reasoning in decision making that can result in using violence to solve problems.

1.3 Expectancy—Individual learning takes place and makes the individual know that alcohol drinking can cause violence because that individual has experienced it.

1.4 Alcohol myopia—Alcohol drinking can make individuals literally nearsighted and place them in a muddle, make them unable to gather important information and lack self-restraint resulting in violence.

2. Small group level—Alcohol drinking is a social act and when the drinker is in a social situation or context, the physical environment that exceeds the balance point can trigger violence. For example, 1) two or more people drinking together; 2) a situation leading to a chaos and a dispute between the victim and the wrong doer; 3) the wrong doer has an intention and can threaten the victim; and 4) the wrong doer assess himself/herself as able to beat the victim. When the violence user experiences the aforementioned situation, violence can take place. Other examples include being in a drinking establishment decorated in a way that triggers violence, crowded, and with no rules and regulations.

3. Community level—This can be explained with the availability theory of alcohol and prevalence of drinking and the theory of community structure. The availability theory of alcohol and prevalence of drinking explains that if there is prevalence of drinking in the community and easy access of alcohol, more people will drink it. This will lead to detrimental health followed by negative social effects. However, it can be prevented by making it difficult to access alcohol which can reduce negative effects. Regarding the community structure theory explains that alcohol drinking and violence depend on the community structure. Alcohol drinking and violence usually happen in communities with high rates of poverty or high rates of divorces and with a large number of male teenagers. This theory reflects that a disorganized community leads to a weak community which is based on Shaw and McKay (1942)'s social disorganization theory. The theory was the first on to explain that family and community disorganization lead to anti-social behaviors, and alcohol abuse is one of such behaviors that results in difficulty in enforcing laws that control alcohol drinking that causes violence.

4. Cultural level—The drinking culture of one society is different from the other and how it leads to problems is looked at differently and thus problems are tackled differently, too. Drinking cultures can be classified into two categories: 1) Dry drinking cultures where people drink occasionally, and Wet drinking cultures where drinking is a way of life. Nevertheless, problems resulting from alcohol drinking usually happen in the dry drinking culture because drinking is not part of everyday life but drinking usually happen during weekends or holidays. Drinking in the dry drinking culture can be reduced by law and by changing values. People in the dry drinking culture consider drinking as an exception according to law (they do not accept social norms). Therefore, in solving the problem, stricter laws are required and social values need to be improved. Drinkers are usually males and can lead to violence that is usually resulted from drinking whiskey rather than wine or beer. For the wet drinking culture, people drink alcohol with meals, usually wine or beer, and it is part of their social life which usually does not cause violence.

In addition, problems resulting from alcohol drinking can cause problems of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Rehm, et al., (2003) found that drinking patterns and volumes of alcohol consumption can result in four types of effects. 1) Acute health effects such as injuries and accidents. 2) Chronic health effects such as cancer. 3) Acute social effects such as crimes; and 4) Chronic social effects such as family problems,

and unemployment. These problems are caused through three mechanisms: toxicity, intoxication, and dependence.

This study analyzes domestic violence resulting from alcohol drinking based on the World Health Organization concept (WHO, 2002) which defines violence as "*the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation*". Based on this definition, there are three main components of violence as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Components of Violence

Input	Victim	Result
Intentionality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional Physical Force • Sexual Violence • Psychological Violence 	Levels of victims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person/Individual • Group/Interpersonal • Community • Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury • Death • Psychological Harm • Mal-development • Deprivation

Research Methodology

Method

This is a documentary research or unobtrusive research based on Babbie's (2011); it is a study that examines recorded human communications, and a study that the researcher has nothing to do with the situation. If based on Plowright (2011), it is artifact analysis where numbers are gathered (Type 9 research), and data on alcohol drinking behavior and violence were also gathered (Type 18 research). News in two daily newspapers: Matichon Daily and Khaosod from 2006 to 2015 were continuously collected for a 10-year survey. Thus, data on domestic violence resulting from alcohol drinking were collected and could reflect changes in violence and context related to violence very well.

Population and Sample

This article is part of a study on “Violence and Effects of Alcohol Use: Collection of news from Daily Newspapers in a Decade”. The population of news on alcohol drinking leading to violence consists of 585 pieces of news gathered from the database of Matichon Newspaper (www.matichonelibrary.com). Two newspapers were used: Matichon and Khaosod because they are two different types. Khaosod is regarded as a popular newspaper while Matichon is regarded as a quality newspaper (Siriuvatasak, 2004; Phingkanon, 2005).

Pieces of news were selected using inclusion and exclusion criteria that have been set. The characteristics for inclusion criteria are that the news must be about domestic violence resulting from alcohol drinking, violence-doers and victims of the violence must be family members which are children, spouses, parents, and siblings; the incidence happens in Thailand, and the incidence involves a Thai person, and in the case that the piece of news is reported in both of the newspapers, the one with more details are taken. The characteristics for exclusion criteria are that the incidence happens abroad, the news is about foreigners’ family, and it is not domestic violence. Based on these inclusion and exclusion criteria, 72 pieces of news were selected.

Research Instrument and Data Analysis

The research instrument used to gather data was a news recording form with a coding system for the news content. The news recording form was tested by four experts for its validity and reliability. In data analysis, WHO violence concepts were employed in analyzing news about violence taking place among family members consisting of husbands, wives, children, parents and siblings. The focus of the analysis was on direct effects of violence on the body and mind of violence-doers and/or victims of violence only as reported in the news based on the situation on the news; the situation before or after the incidence were not analyzed. The quantitative data collected were analyzed using basic statistics consisting of frequency and percentage while the qualitative data were analyzed in terms of the content of the news.

Study Results

The Results of News Analysis

The results of the analysis of news on domestic violence resulting from alcohol drinking reported on the two newspapers over a period of ten years were as follows. There were 62 pieces of news (86.1 percent) in Khaosod, and 10 pieces (13.9 percent) in Matichon. Most pieces of the news on domestic violence (55.6 percent) had only one victim, followed by news with two victims (41.7 percent). The weapons or tools used in most cases of violence (61.1 percent) were parts of the body such as hands and arms to slap, beat, box or to lift the body of a child to throw it against the floor or other hard objects; feet were used to trample or kick; and the body to crush the victim. This was followed by the use of knife (30.6 percent) and stick (6.9 percent). It was found that in 25 pieces of news (34.7 percent), more than one type of weapon or tool was used. Most of the incidences (in 69 pieces of news or 92.2 percent) took place in residential areas followed by transportation routes or passenger waiting areas (2 pieces of news or 2.8 percent), and in government premises, in this case, it was a hospital (one piece of news or 1.4 percent). Most domestic violence-doers were husbands against wives (31.4 percent), followed by fathers against their own children (23.8 percent), and wives against husbands (16.2 percent). Physical attacks accounted for most domestic violence cases (97.1 percent); most victims were wives (31.4 percent), followed by violence-doers' own children (24.8 percent), and fathers (8.6 percent). The majority of domestic violence victims (63.8 percent), were in the working age group (15 to 59 years old), followed by infancy and early childhood age group (0 to 5 years old) that accounted for 14.3 percent. The youngest domestic violence victim was one month and eight days old. Regarding the results or effects of domestic violence, most were physical injuries (67.6 percent), followed by death (30.5 percent) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Domestic Violence-doers, Types of Domestic Violence, Victims of Domestic Violence, Age of Domestic Violence, and Results of Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence	Number	Percent
Violence-doer		
One's own father	25	23.8
One's own son/daughter	15	14.3
Husband	33	31.4
Wife	17	16.2
Step-father	4	3.8
Sibling	6	5.7
Oneself	2	1.9
Stepchild	2	1.9
Father and stepmother	1	1.0
Total	105	100.0
Type of violence		
Physical force against the body	102	97.1
Sexual violence	3	2.9
Total	105	100.0
Victim of domestic violence		
Father	9	8.6
Mother	7	6.7
Child	26	24.8
Husband	16	15.2
Wife	33	31.4
Stepchild	4	3.8
Sibling	6	5.7
Oneself	2	1.9
Stepfather	2	1.9
Total	105	100.0

Table 1: Domestic Violence-doers, Types of Domestic Violence, Victims of Domestic Violence, Age of Domestic Violence, and Results of Domestic Violence (cont.)

Domestic Violence	Number	Percent
Age of domestic violence victim		
Infant to early childhood age (0 to 5 years old)	15	14.3
School children (6 to 14 years old)	6	5.7
Adolescents/Students (15 to 21 years old)	4	3.8
Working age (15 – 59 ปี)	67	63.8
Elderly (60 years old or over)	12	11.4
Not specified	1	1.0
Total	105	100.0
Result of domestic violence		
Injuries	71	67.6
Death	32	30.5
Psychological harm	2	1.9
Total	105	100.0

News Content

News content reflecting domestic violence could be classified into violence-doers, victims, and results as shown in the following examples.

An alcohol drinker (a husband) intentionally used physical force to physically injure an individual victim (his wife), and the result was death.

A husband aged 32, physically injured his wife aged 29 to death in front of his 8-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son. The news content is as follows. "...Ramphai was sleeping in her house with her daughter and son while Samroeng, her husband went out to drink since late afternoon and came back late at night knocking on the door with drunkenness. Ramphai did not open the door for him so he broke it open. They had a serious quarrel and he used a solid object hit her head until she fell unconscious..." (Furious, a man smashed wife on the head for not opening the door, 2006, October 1st, p. 12).

An alcohol drinker (a husband) intentionally used physical force to physically injure a group of victim or interpersonal level (his wife and the drinker himself), and the results were injuries and death.

A husband physically harmed his wife regularly. The news content is as follows. “...Somchai, the dead, and Bu-nga lived together as a couple without being married for about 10 years and had two children. Somchai had no job and drank alcohol every day while Bu-nga worked in a kitchen of a well-known restaurant. ...Somchai got drunk and hit his wife almost every day and this was known among their neighbors. ... Bu-nga came home late at night after work as usual but forgot to buy him Lao Khao (potent rice whiskey) so he jumped on her and used his feet to crush her. She grabbed a knife nearby and stabbed him...He cried out loud...and could not tolerate the painful injuries and eventually died.” (Angry about being beaten up for ten years, wife stabbed husband to death, 2008, March 15th, p. 15).

An alcohol drinker (a stepfather) committed sexual violence and intentionally used physical force against an individual victim (a stepson), and the result was death.

An alcohol drinker (a stepfather) committed sexual violence and intentionally used physical force against his stepson aged one year and 11 months. The news content is as follows. “...Anucha usually drank alcohol and got drunk, and beat his wife and stepson regularly. Sometimes he inserted his index finger into the child’s rectum and sometimes he inserted his sexual organ instead. ...In the latest incident, he inserted his index finger with force and the child began to cry loudly which made him angry and lifted the child up and thrashed his body against the wall and trampled it with his feet until the child became unconscious and died. (Stepfather arrested after thrashing stepson against the wall, 2015, November 20th, p. 15).

An alcohol drinker (a son) intentionally used physical force against an individual victim (his mother), and the result was injuries.

A 50-year-old son physically harmed his 78-year-old mother and destroyed things in the house. The news content is as follows. “...Pramot liked drinking and got drunk and acted madly, destroyed things around the house and attacked his mother”. (Angthong Province, Drunk and attacked his own mother, 2015, October 1st, p. 14).

An alcohol drinker (a father) intentionally used physical force against a group of individuals (two sons), and the result was injuries. A father physically beat up his two sons. The news content is as follows. "...Saharat, a 6-year-old boy was found injured with a bleeding nose and bruises all over his body. Akhrawut, his 5-year-old brother who was also bruised all over his body was found with him. A rescue team rushed them to Ao Udom Hospital. When asked, they said they were beaten up by 28-year-old Nawin, their father, who admitted it and said that the children were stubborn and naughty. He is unemployed, moody and drunk and could not give much detail. Their neighbors said that the two boys are often beaten up by their father..." (Sad, drunk father beat up two children severely, 2010, March 18th, p. 11).

An alcohol drinker (a stepfather) intentionally used physical force against an individual victim (a stepson), and the result was death.

A 35-year-old stepfather physically injured a 2-year-old boy to death. The news content is as follows. "...The result of the post-mortem examinations by forensic doctors of Chulalongkorn Hospital revealed the ruptured spleen, broken liver and fractured skull. Sirimongkon said that she was divorced and had one son. After that she has lived with Mai, a construction worker, who always drinks and quarrel with her and beats her son regularly. This last time she came back home from shopping and found her son in a very bad condition without any clothes on and lie motionless. Mai told her that her son was not well and vomited; he did not know what happened to the boy. She rushed him to Chulalongkorn Hospital where later on he died..." (Stepfather arrested for beating son to death, 2011, November 28th, p. 9).

Conclusion and discussion

It can be seen from the study results that domestic violence in Thai society appearing in the daily newspapers that with regard to the input dimension, violence-doers intentionally use physical force to physically injure and commit sexual violence against family members. Regarding the victim dimension, there are victims in the family at the individual level where only one family member is injured, psychologically hurt or killed while at the group level where more than one victim is injured; most incidents are between husband and wife. In the result dimension, the pieces of news cover physical injuries, death, and psychological effects where family members express fright. In short,

most domestic violence cases cause injuries. Based on the concept of Snowden (2015), it can be concluded that alcohol drinking affect drinkers directly and indirectly making them more aggressive and decrease their decision-making abilities resulting in their decisions to use violence in solving problems. It is in agreement with Rehm, et al. (2003) who states that alcohol drinking causes acute social effects, especially crime; and crime here refers to crime against family members. In addition, alcohol dependence can cause chronic effects on family as shown in news about husbands regularly beat their wives when drunk and do it continuously for many years. Alcohol dependence also causes family problems and unemployment that can cause injuries among husbands and wives that can lead to death (Angry about being beaten up for ten years, wife stabbed husband to death, 2008, March 15th, p. 15; Rehm, et al., 2003).

The results of the study found that the highest number of victims in domestic violence was wives injured by husbands who had drunk alcohol. Most of the incidents were about the use of physical force that resulted in injuries and death. This correspond with studies in Thailand where domestic violence cases were found most often and most easily between spouses; they physically hurt each other using hands or weapons, and many violence incidents occur when one party is drunk or intoxicated (Sanprasit, 2011; Teeraphan, 2016; Laeheem, 2016), and various studies in other countries (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2003; Ellsberg, Jansen, Heise, Watts, & García-Moreno, 2008; Sprunger, Eckhardt, & Parrott, 2015). Sanprasit (2011) found further that physical injuring is often seen by people around fighting couples, and such incidents are usually not stopped or intervened by neighbors or people in the community because the incidents are regarded as family matters.

Data in the dimension where alcohol causes domestic violence reflect that the status of most violence-doers was either a husband or a father. Therefore, it can be concluded that most drinkers in the cases that lead to domestic violence are males; this is in agreement with data revealed by Friends of Women Foundation that 70 percent of male drinkers usually lead to domestic violence (Kusol (Ed.), 2014). In 2015, alcohol consumption among adult population revealed that the number of male who drank regularly was three times higher than that of female drinkers; 45.8 percent males and 16 percent females (Vichitkunakorn, 2016b). The proportion of drinkers to the entire population of the country in 2014 was 12.9 percent females to 52.9 percent males (Behavioral change in alcohol drinking in Thai society in a three-year period (2011-2014),

2016). The age group that drinks most alcohol is the working age group as shown by a study by Vichitkunakorn (2016a). This indicates that the number of adult alcohol consumers (15 years old or older) increased continuously from 30 percent in 2007 to 34.04 percent in 2015. Hence, when more of the working age group consumes alcohol, this can result in more cases of violence, and domestic violence cases are usually between husbands and wives who are in the working age group. Some incidents also lead to violence against oneself because the two parties injuring each other. This study therefore helps confirm that the largest number of working age population in Thailand fall victims to violence as a result of alcohol drinking which affects the country's economy at present and in the future.

Furthermore, the research results revealed that the most frequently found domestic violence-doers after husbands were fathers against their children. Sanprasit (2011) found that the second most found domestic violence-doers after spouses against each other were parents against their children because children are less strong and have less power in the family, especially children aged between 0 and 5 years old who cannot help themselves. One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) found that alcohol drinking was a major cause leading to violence against children and women; an average of 63 children and women per day or three per hour were victims of violence. According to Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women (2010 in Thammarangsee ((Ed.), 2013), 89 percent of violence-doers against women and children were husbands, and the factor leading to violence against women and children was alcoholic drinks.

Recommendations

The results of the research revealed alcohol drinking leads to domestic violence and is prevalent between husbands and wives. Therefore, government and related organizations should continuously disseminate information related to effects of alcohol drinking on family to all communities. This should be carried out along with married preparation sessions for people who are getting married or starting a family so that they know the roles of the husband and wife in addition to preparation for having children, problems that may happen and how to solve them together. Training on self-control skills when in a situation that one must drink alcohol should also be provided. Moreover, married couples should make agreements in their families. Organizations

related to management of alcohol drinking problems should develop personnel to be competent in giving advice on problem-solving at the family level, and this service should be accessible 24 hours a day. There should be sufficient number of personnel to conduct home visits to families with alcohol problems and have risk for domestic violence. Activities should be organized for people in the community or village, and problems should be closely followed up to prevent violence.

Furthermore, the Office of Alcohol Control Committee should publicize the National Strategic Plan, B.E. 2560-2563 (A.D. 2017-2020), especially Strategy 3: Reduction of harmful alcohol consumption. Measures to reduce severity of alcohol problems and the number of alcohol drinking victims should be specified and carried out concretely. Realization on effects of alcohol drinking should be focused. Another strategy that should be publicized is Strategy 4: Management of alcohol problems at the local level. Management methods should be specified to strengthen local areas so that they can concretely cope with alcohol drinking problems from the provincial level to district, sub-district, village, and family levels.

Nevertheless, this research still has limitations as it analyzes news from only two daily newspapers. Thus, for further research, news from more newspapers published in Thailand should be investigated and analyzed.

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