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**MAJOR FACTORS AFFECTING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
ON JUVENILE DELINQUENT REHABILITATION**

By

Petcharat Saisombut

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy (Development Administration)
School of Public Administration
National Institute of Development Administration**

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The Examining Committee Approved This Dissertation Submitted in
Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements for The Degree of Doctor of
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ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation : Major Factors Affecting Policy Implementation on Juvenile Delinquent Rehabilitation

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This research aims to study major factors affecting policy implementation on juvenile delinquent rehabilitation. The objectives of this study are threefold: first, to examine the effectiveness of policy implementation on juvenile delinquent rehabilitation; second, to identify major factors that affect policy implementation on juvenile delinquent rehabilitation; and third, to recommend the improvement of public policies that have an impact on the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. The units of analysis are two groups that have major responsibilities on the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. Those two groups are the Juvenile and Family Court and the Observation and Protection Center, which includes the Juvenile Training Center.

The conceptual model is developed on the basis of the implementation theories. For analysis, the research methodology uses the qualitative method to find out how and why events occur in the implementation process and discover the variables that are presumably the factors of policy implementation effectiveness. The study is based primarily on a combination of document analysis and in-depth interviews with key informants, such as the Chief Justice and the former Chief Justice of the Central Juvenile and Family Court, the Chief Judges of the Juvenile and Family Court, the associate judges, the Directors of the Juvenile Observation and Protection Centers, and the Directors of the Juvenile Training Centers. In-depth interviews were also conducted with frontline implementers, such as the probation officers, social workers, and psychologists.

The research result indicates that there are differences in the major factors affecting the policy implementation effectiveness of the two target groups. For the Juvenile and Family Court, there are six major factors affecting policy implementation effectiveness. Those factors are the standards and guidelines to implement the policy, policy resources, capability of the implementing agencies, level of external support, alternative disposition, and effectiveness leadership. For the Observation and Protection Centers and the Juvenile Training Centers, there are four major factors. Those are policy resources, capability of implementing agency, attitudes of implementers, and level of external support.

The effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the juvenile delinquent rehabilitation policy is measured in three dimensions: the recidivism rate, the changes in the behaviors of the juvenile delinquents, and the number of effective rehabilitation programs. This study found that the policy implementation is ineffective due to many factors. Firstly, each juvenile does not receive a specific or individual treatment because there are too few rehabilitation programs to rehabilitate them. The reasons why there are few programs are that the carrying out of rehabilitation programs requires a large amount of funds and the programs need implementers who have knowledge and experience related to children, psychology, and social services. The cooperation of the juveniles' parents and communities are also important to the implementation process. However, the most important element of all is that the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents needs the government's attention and assistance.

This research suggests that government should recognize the problems of juvenile delinquents and pay more attention by granting funds to the implementing agencies so that they can carry out the rehabilitation programs. More personnel should be recruited to take care of the juvenile delinquents. Training courses and seminars should be held for implementers of both organizations so that they can develop their knowledge and skills. The associate judges should be trained and educated about child psychology and counseling techniques. And, more importantly, the Chief Judge of the Juvenile and Family Court should serve in this court for more than one year so that they can develop knowledge and experience in this field.

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Petcharat Saisombut

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