



**International Labour Organization  
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)**

**Thailand  
Child Labour in Illicit Drug Activities:  
A Rapid Assessment**

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## Preface

Unacceptable forms of exploitation of children at work exist and persist, but they are particularly difficult to research due to their hidden, sometimes illegal or even criminal nature. Slavery, debt bondage, trafficking, sexual exploitation, the use of children in the drug trade and in armed conflict, as well as hazardous work are all defined as Worst Forms of Child Labour. Promoting the Convention (No. 182) concerning the Prohibition and immediate action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999, is a high priority for the International Labour Organization (ILO). Recommendation (No. 190, Paragraph 5) accompanying the Convention states that “detailed information and statistical data on the nature and extent of child labour should be compiled and kept up to date to serve as a basis for determining priorities for national action for the abolition of child labour, in particular for the prohibition and elimination of its worst forms, as a matter of urgency.” Although there is a body of knowledge, data, and documentation on child labour, there are also still considerable gaps in understanding the variety of forms and conditions in which children work. This is especially true of the worst forms of child labour, which by their very nature are often hidden from public view and scrutiny.

Against this background the ILO, through IPEC/SIMPOC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour/Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour) has carried out 38 rapid assessments of the worst forms of child labour in 19 countries and one border area. The investigations have been made using a new rapid assessment methodology on child labour, elaborated jointly by the ILO and UNICEF<sup>1</sup>. The programme was funded by the United States Department of Labor.

The investigations on the worst forms of child labour have explored very sensitive areas including illegal, criminal or immoral activities. The forms of child labour and research locations were carefully chosen by IPEC staff in consultation with IPEC partners. The rapid assessment investigations focused on the following categories of worst forms of child labour: children in bondage; child domestic workers; child soldiers; child trafficking; drug trafficking; hazardous work in commercial agriculture, fishing, garbage dumps, mining and the urban environment; sexual exploitation; and working street children.

To the partners and IPEC colleagues who contributed, through their individual and collective efforts, to the realisation of this report I should like to express our gratitude. The responsibility for opinions expressed in this publication rests solely with the authors and does not imply endorsement by the ILO.

I am sure that the wealth of information contained in this series of reports on the situation of children engaged in the worst forms of child labour around the world will contribute to a deeper understanding and allow us to more clearly focus on the challenges that lie ahead. Most importantly, we hope that the studies will guide policy makers, community leaders, and practitioners to tackle the problem on the ground.



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<sup>1</sup> Investigating Child Labour: Guidelines for Rapid Assessment - A Field Manual, January 2000, a draft to be finalized further to field tests, <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/simpoc/guides/index.htm>

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In addition to the names mentioned above, we would like to thank the officers of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), the Central Observation and Protection Center and key persons at Klong Toei Community, Wat Pracharabeutham I Community, and Klong Prempracha Patana for their cooperative attitudes and cordial assistance in providing actual and useful information and supporting the collection of data.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to acknowledge the important group of 100 youths who provided us with the necessary information. Without their help we would not have been able to prepare this research report.

The team of researchers would like to dedicate this report to everyone who devotes themselves to the prevention and suppression of narcotic activities, with the aim of building a more peaceful society.

Research Team  
May 2002

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## **Executive Summary**

It is generally known that Thailand is currently facing serious problems surrounding narcotic drugs. Recognizing the danger of drug problems, the Royal Government of Thailand is stepping up its efforts to solve the problem. Presently, the abuse of methamphetamine is the most serious problem. Methamphetamine abuse is widespread amongst children and youth who begin their involvement with drugs due to curiosity. After they started using drugs, many become addicted to drugs and seek money to support their habit. These children eventually enter the drug trade. According to research by Assumption University during May-June 2001, it was estimated that there were 79,620 students at school and university levels in Bangkok Metropolitan who were involved in drugs. Out of the total, 1,274 students were drug traders and abusers.

This study is aimed at discovering the reasons children get involved in illicit drug activities. Its result will be of use in formulating appropriate measures to eliminate the exploitation of children in worst forms of child labour, namely drug trafficking, as outlines in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999 (No. 182).

In this rapid assessment study, questionnaires with in-depth interview were used as a tool to collect data. The target group of the study was children (below 18 years of age) who are - or used to be - involved in drug trading. They all presently live in Bangkok. Fifty samples were chosen from three communities: Klong Toei Community, Wat Pracharabeutam I Community, and Klong Prempracha Patana community. Another 50 samples were chosen from five centers: Ban Metta, Ban Karuna, Ban Mutita, Ban Pranee and Ban Ubekha. These were under the responsibility of the Central Observation and Protection Center. The total sample population was thus 100 children.

The limited timeframe of the study coupled with the hidden and illicit nature of the topic provided challenges to the research team and made it very difficult to look for the target group in the communities. Children who associated with the narcotic drug movement were afraid of being punished and therefore would not show up to meet the researchers. As a result of this, the data collection had to be done very carefully, and always within a tight timeframe. For the target group comprised of children from the Central Observation and Protection Center, it was easier to select the samples but it seemed like these respondents were afraid of the affect of their answers on their futures and they were not always willing to answer certain questions, particularly questions about the offenders, the locations and the ways of performing the illicit drug activities, including their opinion about the offices' performance.

Despite the research challenges there are several findings about the causes of children's involvement in the drug trade that are useful for formulating appropriate measures to eliminate and prevent the illicit drug activities in the first place. Details of the results are shown as follows:

## 1. General Data

Out of the 100 samples, there were 78 males and 22 females. The number of samples aged 17, 16, 15, 14, and 13 were 61, 18, 15, 5 and 1 respectively. Most of the samples were Buddhists with only 7 Muslims. Of the total, 75 were single, 2 were married with marriage licenses, 22 of them lived with their boy/girl friends and one was divorced.

## 2. Offending action

There were four types of offending actions represented in the illicit drug activities of the respondents. These were drug buying, a drug selling, a drug delivering and drug walking. The survey found that 30 children were employed as drug buyers, 34 were drug sellers, 6 were drug deliverers, 9 were drug walkers and 21 carried out a combination of these activities.

## 3. Factors, which relate to entry into the cycle of illicit drug activities

There were four factors which pushed the child group to take part in the cycle of illicit drug activities:

### 3.1 Economic

In both sampling groups, the majority were not in school nor employed in work fitting to their age and according to national legislation. Of the children who were employed some of them worked in places like restaurants and snooker clubs that can increase the chances of joining drug activities. Working often requires the use of a vehicle (motorcycles or cars) which limited the options for many.

The main difference between the two groups was that those from the slum communities did not have to pay for the expenses in the family, rather their lives depend on the families' income. Their reason for getting involved in the drug trade was because they wanted money to buy luxury items such as mobile phones, motorcycles, etc. In contrast, most of the population in the Central Observation and Protection Center had to take responsibility for their families while they were unemployed. Therefore they decided to step into the cycle of the drug trade to earn money for their families' expenditures.

Due to their low economic status, 79 % of the sample population live in wooden row houses located in slummy areas. It can be said that this inappropriate environment also played a role in their entry into the cycle of illicit drug activities.

### 3.2 Family behavior

In respect to family behaviour there were different characteristics present between the two sampling groups. Most of the sampling population in the communities lived in incomplete families, i.e. one of their parents had died, or the parents had separated but the children still lived with the father or mother or other relative. Most of the population in the group from the Central Observation and Protection Center, however, lived in

complete families but with tense relationships between family members. The rest of this group lived in incomplete families in which the parents had separated.

### 3.3 Education

Most of the respondents had already left school before finishing high school. The reasons given were low grades and bad behavior. Forty three percent of the samples said that they used to take drugs while studying. The information collected indicated that children entered the cycle of the drug trade during their education for three reasons:

1. Children who used drugs during their studies had no money to buy more drugs. They would be persuaded to sell drugs by friends who were involved with drug as a means of earning money.
2. Children who never took drugs but who had financial problem would finally become drug sellers, introduced to the activities by friends.
3. Children took part in the drug trade to have extra money, and because they had friends involved who had never been arrested.

It can be said that the lack of a high education causes a child to miss the necessary reinforcement it can provide in terms of attitude, value and behavior. In turn these can affect their life skills, personality, decision making and self-confidence. These children will blame themselves and have a low sense of self-value and self-worth. Such factors contribute to children's persuasion to engage in the drug trade.

### 3.4 Lifestyle

Lifestyles of the children in both sample groups mostly related to temptations such as drinking alcohol, gambling, or enjoying nightlife. These are risk activities, which can lead children into illicit drug activities, both selling and abusing. Moreover, these activities take place in an environment of materialism and lack of goals. Lifestyle is also affected by economic status, and in this case with economic difficulties, and lack of work and income which can lead them to involvement in the drug trade in order to earn money to respond to their desires.

This research serves as an initial study, undertaking within a limited timeframe, to understand the status and causes that lead children into the illicit drug activities. To study the problem of child labour in the drug trade more thoroughly, and to contribute further to solving the problem with the least error, it is necessary to undertake more studies over a longer period of time. Still, this study found that the economic factor was the main factor that influenced the use of child labour in the drug trade, and that the lack of development of children socially and as individuals is exploited by their use in the drug trade. The research points out that to solve the problem a holistic approach emphasizing all causes of the problem and their corresponding solutions must be undertaken. Prevention of the problem is a key

issue. The government should strengthen policies that will in turn decrease the conditions that encourage children to get involved in the drug trade. Greater chances in education to children who have problems studying and behaving must be addresses. Restriction of children to venues that create temptations should be considered as well as the strengthening of factors that will nurture children and instill values that will not lead them to destruction. Parents must be educated to understand how to build up love and understanding in the family. Guided income and skill generating activities that do not violate rights nor compromise education should also be made available to provide a sense of value and visions and goals for the future.

# **Chapter I**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Rationale**

Aiming to protect children from exploitation and to solve the problem of child labour - a serious problem in many countries throughout the world - the International Labour Organization (ILO) through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) - Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) has declared the need to combat the problem, particularly the worst forms of child labour, as a matter of urgency. At present (as of 25 July 2002) 126 countries have ratified the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999 (No. 182). Thailand ratified this Convention in February 2001. Under Convention 183 and the accompanying Recommendation 190, the ratifying country is committing itself to formulating urgent and effective measures to prevent and eliminate the large-scale worst forms of child labour. For this, information is needed on the circumstances of the children currently participating in worst forms of child labour around the world. As a step forward IPEC-SIMPOC has undertaken 38 rapid assessment studies in 19 countries and one border area. This study on children's involvement in illicit drug activities in Thailand is one of them.

In Thailand the problem of drug abuse amongst children and youth is becoming an even more serious problem as these young people enter the drug trade. According to research by the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) in 1993, there were 1,267,290 drug abusers in the country. The number of drug abusers increased to 3 million in 2001 based on the estimation of the Office of the Narcotic Control Board (ONCB), a national central agency on drug matters in Thailand. Regarding the involvement of children with narcotic drugs, in 1999 Assumption University estimated that there were 663,290 students between primary school and university level involved with illicit drug activities. As a step towards addressing these problems and achieving the protection from and elimination of children's exploitation in illicit drug activities, this study has been undertaken.

### **1.2 Objectives**

1. To gain information on the causes, characteristics, scope and consequences of children involved in illicit drug activities in Thailand.
2. To identify the influential factors that reinforce the participation of the children engaged in illicit drug activities.
3. To study the behavior and actions related to illicit drug activities of the children engaged in drug trafficking.
4. To test and evaluate the RA methodology when applied to drug trafficking as a worst form of child labour.

### **1.3 Study process**

A quantitative assessment of the participation of children in illicit drug activities in Bangkok Metropolitan was undertaken by studying documents, statistical reports on drug cases, statistics on the number of children and youth in treatment services, and

research papers related to the narcotic drug situation. A questionnaire with open-ended questions to obtain in-depth information was administered.

#### **1.4 Target group**

The sample population consisted of 100 children below age 18 who are Bangkok residents or have lived in Bangkok at least six months, and who are involved or used to be involved in illicit drug activities. The sample is divided into two groups. The first 50 samples comprise the group that lives in slum communities. The second 50 samples, is the offender group who are from five centers of the Central Observation and Protection Center.

#### **1.5 Sampling selection**

The selection of the two sampling groups was based on the recommendations and considerations of key informants in the communities and officers of the Central Observation and Protection Center respectively.

#### **1.6 Duration**

The duration of the study was from July – November 2001 (5 months). Extensions from the initially scheduled three month period were necessary as data were difficult to collect given the criminal nature of the activities being investigated. Getting through to the target group in the communities was hard because they did not want to open themselves up as their actions were against the law. Collecting data in the communities was therefore done very carefully. Re-interviewing or re-checking responses could not be carried out because of time limits. For the target group at the five centers of the Central Observation and Protection Center, the selection of the sampling population was easier than the target group in the communities. Still, questioning about methods, places and people related to the illicit drug trade including the issue of the performance of drug officers were very sensitive topics. The samples did not seem to speak with complete frankness because they were afraid that they might be in danger in the future if they expressed their negative attitude towards the work of drug officers.

## 1.7 Schedule of activities

Activities	Jul				Aug				Sept				Oct				Nov			
<b>1. Preparing stage</b>																				
1.1 Reviewing document and data	*																			
1.2 Targeting areas and samples in communities		*																		
1.3 Targeting areas and samples in the Central Observation and Protection Center		*																		
1.4 Designing and improving a tool for collecting data			*																	
1.5 Producing a tool, questionnaire				*																
1.6 Selecting and training for data collectors.			*	*																
<b>2. Collecting and compiling data stage</b>																				
2.1 Collecting data						*	*	*	*	*										
2.2 Compiling, analyzing, and synthesizing data										*	*									
<b>3. Reporting stage</b>																				
3.1 analyzing data and drafting a report													*	*	*					
3.2 making the first draft report																*	*	*		
3.3 organizing the meeting for discussion																			*	
3.4 editing the report, and making the final report																			*	*

## 1.8 Usefulness of the study

1. The results will be of use for concerned agencies in formulating appropriate policies and measures to prevent and to solve the problem of using child labour in illicit drug activities.
2. This study can be used as a preliminary study for further study on the involvement of children in illicit drug activities.

## 1.9 Definition of variables

**Drug** means any drugs or substances that physically and psychologically affect the user and that are addictive.

**Child involvement in illicit drug activities** means all activities related to delivering drugs to other people by a child for which they receive rewards in the form of money or other. This term covers all illicit drug activities (such as buying, selling and delivering) where a child is involved, whether by force, persuasion or free will.

**A child** is defined as a person below the age of 18 (as per ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999 (No. 182)).

**Selling** is the action of selling drugs one has bought to abusers. The child who acts as a drug seller will collect money or lend money from various sources (such as friends, relatives, neighbours) to buy drugs to sell. Normally a drug seller will invest money in the amount of 40 US\$ (Baht 4,000) to buy 100 tablets of methamphetamine at a time. A tablet that cost 1 US\$ (Baht 40) will be priced at 1.5 US\$ (Baht 60) when sold to drug abusers. A child's daily earning estimates from selling drugs is 75 US\$ (Baht 3000).

**Walking** means the action of the child who devotes his time and labour in acting as a middleman between drug abusers and drug dealers. The children in this group needs not have funds to buy drugs. They use their credit to get drugs and deliver them to other people. The children gain a profit from the different prices of drugs at selling and buying rates. The actions of a child in this group can be divided into two types:

- 1) Firstly, the child is an employed drug buyer. He/she gains a profit in the form of money from drug abusers who asked him/her to buy drugs for them.
- 2) Secondly, the child is a drug walker. He/she gains a profit in the form of money or drugs from drug dealers who ask him/her to deliver drugs to abusers.

Normally, the children in this group – both drug buyers or drug walkers - will stand by at a place where drug abusers and drug dealers can come to see them very easily. The average number of methamphetamine tablets held by the child who is engaged in drug buying or drug walking is about five tablets at a time. The child who is a drug buyer will gain 0.50 US\$ (Baht 20) per tablet from the abuser, while the child who is a drug walker will gain 0.50 US\$ (Baht 20) per tablet from a drug dealer. Daily earnings of both groups are about 6.25-7.5 US\$ (Baht 250 to Baht 300) or 1- 4 tablets.

**Delivering** means the action of the child who devotes his time, labour and vehicle to serve as a drug deliverer between a small dealer and a big dealer. Small drug dealers hire the child to takes drugs from a big dealer at another location and return drug to him. The earnings the child gains from this business depend on the number of drugs, the distance between the two places, and the risk of being arrested. Normally, the child gets no less than 37.50 US\$ (Baht 1,500) for delivering at least 200 tablets of methamphetamine.

**Baht** is the Thai currency. The exchange rate to US\$ is 1US\$ equal 40 Baht.

## **Chapter II**

### **Drug situation in Thailand**

#### **2.1 Background**

Thailand is a country in Southeast Asia. It is located at the centre of the Indochina Peninsula, along 5°27-21° degrees north latitude and 97°21-105°37 degrees east longitude. Its area covers 513,115 square kilometers and shares the border with four countries, comprising of Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Malaysia. A democratic country, Thailand divides its administration areas into 76 provinces. Bangkok Metropolitan is the capital city. According to the 2000 statistics of the National Statistical Office (NSO), Thailand has a population of 60,617,230, comprising 29,850,180 males and 30,767, 050 females. There are 19,962,730 people between the ages of 0-19 years. Bangkok has a population of 6,320,170. Out of this total, there are 1,650,940 people between 0-19 years in the capital city.

#### **2.2 Drug situation**

Presently methamphetamine is the main problem drug in Thailand. It is estimated that the production and abuse of methamphetamine is higher than 600 million tablets. Out of the total, 70-80% of the methamphetamine comes from outside the country, mostly smuggled into Thailand from the borders of the North and Northeast Region of the country. The groups of methamphetamine abusers are various, and include children. Apart from the methamphetamine problem, Thailand also faces problems with many other types of drugs like opium and heroin. In the past, Thailand has put its efforts towards eradicating the cultivation areas of opium poppies. The progress of agriculture technology using by opium growers has made it such that opium still exists in Thailand, however, the opium situation is now considered to be under control. During 1999/2001, the cultivation area of opium in Thailand decreased to 1,087.36 hectares compared with 1,441.12 hectares in 1998/1999.

Thailand is not a heroin producing country. Most heroin available in the country is from places along the border in the North of Thailand where the clandestine laboratories of methamphetamine are located. Concerning cannabis, the cultivation areas of cannabis in Thailand have continuously decreased due to an effective eradication programme. However the increase of cannabis cultivation areas in neighbouring countries have made the problem of cannabis trafficking through Thailand for exporting to western countries a serious situation. Some cannabis is illegally imported for Thai abusers from the Eastern border. The trend of illegal smuggling of cannabis to Thailand for transporting to the western markets is decreasing because drug traffickers are changing to use the neighbouring countries of Thailand as transit routes instead.

Thailand also faces problems with ecstasy, ketamine and cocaine, which are smuggled from the western countries by drug traffickers, both Thai and foreigners. Though the abuse of these drugs is still limited, the problem is expected to expand in the future

considering the behavior of Thai drug abusers who show a pattern of imitating the behavior of youth in the western countries, particularly in drug cultures.

According to the research of Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), as of December 31, 1993, there were 1,267,590 drug abusers in Thailand. Out of this total, 71,666 abusers were students at school and university levels. There were 729 children and youth who were drug offenders in the centers of the Central Observation and Protection Center. Types of drug abused among these two groups, were as follows:

Child and youth groups	Heroin	Opium	Methamphetamine	Cannabis	Volatile substances
School/Academy	3,209	47	9,090	36,704	22,740
The Central Observation and Protection Center	317	-	-	157	255

In 1999 Assumption University conducted a national survey on drugs among students from primary schools to university. The results showed that there were 663,230 students involved with drugs. Out of the total, the number of students who had experience as drug abusers, drug addicts, drug dealers, both addicts and dealers, and both abusers and dealer were 285,886, 143,607, 80,819, 56,499, 50,442, and 46,057 respectively. When classified by the levels of education, the percentage of students involved with drugs at each level was 6% (6<sup>th</sup> grade), 35% (Junior Secondary School), 24% (Senior Secondary School), 26% (Junior Vocational School), 7% (Senior Vocational School), and 2% (University). A drug abuser is considered a person who has used drugs for sometime. A drug addict indicates a person who always uses drug when they have the psychogenic need.

Lastly, during May-June 2001, Assumption University conducted a survey on drugs among 893,249 students at school and university levels in Bangkok, excluding Ramkhamhaeng University, Sukholthai Thamathirat University. The results showed that 8% of the total or 79,620 students were involved with drugs. From 79,620, the number of males and females were 56,411 and 23,209 respectively. They were composed of 45,463 (5.09%) students who used to abuse drugs, 21,895 (2.45%) occasional drug abusers, 4,379 (0.49%) drug abusers but not addicts, 3,026 (0.34 %) drug dealers, 1,274 (0.26%) drug addicts, and 1,274 (0.14%) students who were both drug dealers and abusers. Most of the drugs used were composed of methamphetamine, cannabis, tranquilizers, ecstasy, volatile substances, ketamine, heroin, cocaine opium and morphine.

## Chapter III

### Sampling population data

The sampling population focuses on 100 children below 18 years of age who are Bangkok residents or have lived in Bangkok for at least six months. The sampling population, all who are either involved in illicit drug activities or used to take part in illicit drug activities, are divided into two groups. The first 50 samples comprise the group in slum communities. The second 50 samples comprise the offender group at the five centers of the Central Observation and Protection Center. The following data details the characteristics of each group.

#### 3.1 Sampling population in community

Data collection was carried out at three slum communities in Bangkok: Klong Toei Community, Wat Pracharabueutham I Community, and Klong Prempracha Patana Community. Data of each community follow.

1. **Klong Teoi Community** is located at Klong Teoi District. There are 10 units in the community. It has a population of 39,219. The number of children and youth involved with illicit drug activities is about 1,690.
2. **Wat Pracharabueutham I Community** is located at Nakhon Chaisri Road, Dusit District. There are 112 households with a population of 600 in the community.
3. **Klong Prempracha Patana Community** is located at Tung Song Hong Sub-District, Lak Si District. There are 197 households with 1,200 people in the community.

#### 3.2 Sampling population at the five centers of the Central Observation and Protection Center

The Central Observation and Protection Center is an agency at the Division level of the Office of the Justice Ministry. It is assigned to take care of children and youth in 28 centers throughout the country. In this study, five Centers in Bangkok were selected. Details of each center follow.

1. **Ban Metta Remand, Home Division** is located at Chaeng Watana Road, Ban Khen District. There are 450 children and youth. Forty percent of the total population are there on charges of drug cases.
2. **Ban Karuna, Training Center for Junior Male Youngsters** is located at Sanpawut Road, Bangna District. All of the youth in this center are there on charges of drug cases.

3. **Ban Mutita, Training Center for Senior Male Youngsters** is located at Sanpawut Road Bangna District. There are 78 boys and youth.
4. **Ban Pranee, Training Center for Female Youngsters** is located at Pranakhon District. There are 300 girls and youth who are there on charges of drug cases, comprising 114 disposal cases and 186 consumption cases.
5. **Ban Ubekha, Detaining Center for Male Youngsters** is located at Sanpawut Road. There are 117 boys and youth who are there on charges of drug cases, comprising of 51 disposal cases and 66 consumption cases.

## Chapter IV

### Results

From the results of the analysis from the collected data, we can determine four factors that push the youth into narcotics trading. These four factors are:

1. Economics
2. Family Behavior
3. Education
4. Lifestyle

The results of the study will be presented in three parts as follows:

- a) The results on the children and youth in the communities;
- b) The results on the children and youth in the Central Observation and Protection Center;
- c) A comparative study between the two sampling groups.

#### 4.1 The results of the study of children and youth in the communities

The following were the basic characteristics of the 50 children and youth in the communities:

<b>Domicile:</b>	-98% (49 cases) were born and live in Bangkok. Only one child was born in another province and lived in Bangkok.
<b>Sex:</b>	-76% (38 cases) are male; 24% (12 cases) are female.
<b>Age:</b>	-14–17 years old; broken down by age as follows: 17 years old - 58% (29 cases), 15-16 years old - 38% (19 cases) and 14 years old – 4% (2 cases).
<b>Marital status:</b>	-84% (42 cases) were single.
<b>Religion:</b>	-all were Buddhist.
<b>Education:</b>	-96% (48 cases) had done some studies and 4% (2 cases) had never studied and could not read.
<b>Narcotics drug trade behaviour:</b>	-62% (31 cases) were employed buyers, 12% (6 cases) were sellers, 10% (5 cases) were deliverers, 2% (1 case) was a walker and the rest 16% (8 cases) were combined actions (see detail in Table 28).
<b>First time drug involvement:</b>	-the youngest was 10 years old, by taking drug. Apart from this, the most common age of first time involvement was 14-15 years (see detail in Table 29).

**Duration  
between first time  
drug involvement  
and participation**

**in trading behaviour:** - 0-3 years to develop (0 indicating involvement in the drug trade right from the beginning).

The information collected found certain factors and qualities that indicate a relationship between children and the drug trade as follows:

**The factors of economics**

1. Occupation

The above information indicated that four samples still study in the school system, so another 46 cases would be used to analyze the information about occupation. As the results showed, the samples from communities were 74% (37 cases) unemployed, 18% (9 cases) had jobs and 12% (6 cases) worked with vehicles and often had a chance to travel. Those who worked with vehicles were:

- motorcycle or tricycle drivers (4 cases)
- newspaper deliverer (in Thailand newspaper deliverers usually use motorbike for work) (1 case)
- messenger (use motorbike for working vehicle) (1 case)

Another career that 4% (2 cases) of the samples were engaged in was the job of being a marker at a snooker club (pool halls in communities that serve as a gathering place for in and out of school children). There was one more career that was not counted as one that uses a vehicle, which was an unskilled worker.

2. Responsibilities

The study results showed that the samples from communities 56% (28 cases) did not have to take care of any expenses in the family while 34% (17 cases) had to pay their own expenses. Only 10% (5 cases) had to share part of the expenses such as water, electricity, etc.

**Discovery**

It can be said that economic status was obviously related to the use of children and youth as labour in the drug trade in the community. The cases that were found follow:

- Unemployment <sup>1</sup> could be one of the factors that pushed the children and the youth from communities to get involved in illicit drug activities – a worst form of child labour, partly because this situation could lead them to gather together in the communities and partake in a lifestyle that makes them

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<sup>1</sup> While the report refers to unemployment as a main factor pushing children into drug activities, this should be considered in the larger context of a lack of interest in or positive experiences in school thus leading to drop out, as well as the lack of alternatives available to these children once out of school (sports, vocational training, positive social opportunities). Furthermore, it is understood that employment consists of appropriate occupations according to age and national legislation.

vulnerable to drug involvement (see the factors of lifestyle section for more details).

- Certain types of activities could be factors that led the children into the drug trade, for example, the work entailing driving vehicles back and forth (such as motorcycle drivers) and tasks that take place in a location where children like to come together (such as serving in a snooker club).

However, the need to be responsible for the family's economic status should not be considered a directly influential factor of the children and the youths from communities in getting involved in the drug trade. This is because it was found that more than half of the sample (54%) did not have to take responsibility for their family's economic security. A directly influential factor for the involvement of child labour in the drug may be more closely related to the way they were treated and raised by their parents and relatives (this will be extended upon under the topic of the quality of family behavior).

### **The factors of family behavior**

#### **1. Family**

The results showed that 66% (33 cases) of the sampling group from communities had come from unhappy families. These respondents grew up in families where the fathers and mothers did not live together. From the above numbers, 36% (18 cases) came from families in which one of the parents had died. The rest (30% or 15 cases) came from divorced or separated families.

#### **2. Habitation**

The result indicated that in the present situation (at the time of studying) There were only 30% (15 cases) live with both of their parents. The rest of 70% (35 cases) did not live with their parents which was further broken down to 32% (16 cases) lived with mothers only 6% (3 cases) lived with their fathers only. Another 32% (16 cases) lived with others such as relatives or brother/sister (26% or 13 cases), friends (2% or 1 case) and their lovers (4% or 2 cases). The results found that 94% (47 cases) of the samples still live with their parent(s) and relatives.

#### **3. Treatment**

According to the information about habitation, it was found that the majority of the sampling group still live with their parent(s) and relatives. Also the data from the economic situation pointed that 92% (46 cases) had left school to be able to provide some part of the family's expenses. However, the fact was 56% of the samples did not have to take any responsibility for the family. Besides, 54% (27 cases) still receive financial support from their parents and relatives.

## **Discovery**

It could be said that the quality of family behavior was obviously related to the children and the youths in communities and their involvement in the drug trade. The issues discovered were:

- Growing up in a family in which the members, especially the mother and father, were never home at the same time caused children to lack training in both social and individual skills. This lack of cohesiveness and continuity played a role in children becoming involved in illegal drug activities.
- In general, most Thai families raise their children to help others and to depend on each other and on relatives. Families and relatives are thus the first source for assisting materially, mentally and socially. This approach can, on the one hand, build up the feeling of helping, sharing and support amongst family, but on the other hand, it can push the weaker members to have less motivation to be independent. This can build up a dependent personality in the children and make them vulnerable to peer pressure and following their friends in negative situations instead of taking a stand on their own. This upbringing that teaches dependence could be a factor that led the children and the youth from communities to get involved in labour in the drug trade.

## **The factors of education**

### **1. Studying and the school system**

The results showed that 92% (46 cases) of the sampling group from communities were now out of the school system or did not study (4 cases were studying in the school system).

### **2. Success in education**

The results showed that the majority of the sampling group from communities did not succeed in education. By seeing their study results it was assessed that 56% (28 cases) were at the low level, 40% (20 cases) were at middle level and there were none at the high level of grading. (There were two samples who never studied at any level.) It could be said that lack of educational success was one of the factors that pushed children into drug abuse and other drug activities.

In addition, the results indicated that 86% (43 cases) of the samples had to stop and leave the school system because they had problems while studying such as being absent, showing inappropriate behavior, etc. Most of them did not finish high school.

## **Discovery**

The educational standards are a factor in children's involvement in the drug trade. The issues discovered were:

- Being out of the school system or leaving school before graduating from high school led children into the drug trade.

- Being unsuccessful in education is considered another factor that pushed the children into the drug trade. Because of their lack of success in education these children have lost their self-esteem. Dropping out of school before finishing high school due to poor performance leaves the children confused and without any goals in life. This aimless nature can make them join with others of the same predicament, and lead them to get involved in the drug trade.

## **The factors of lifestyle**

### **1. Risk activities**

This study measured the risk activities by observing the samples' activities in everyday life. For instance, gathering with their friends in communities, enjoying the nightlife, gambling, drinking alcohol/intoxicants and taking narcotic drugs. The results of the study indicated that of the sampling group from communities 96% (45 cases) had done these activities as shown below:

- 78% (39 cases) spending more than 5 hours with their friends
- 88% (44 cases) drinking alcohol/intoxicant
- 70% (35 cases) gambling
- 60% (30 cases) enjoying the nightlife
- 54% (27 cases) taking narcotic drugs.

### **2. Involvement in drug trade activities**

The results showed that the most important condition that led the samples in communities to join or enter drug trade activities for the first time was their introduction to the trade by friends who were already involved in this business (58%). Furthermore, 30% were led to join the illicit drug activities through their proximity to environments that fostered illicit drug activities around the communities, for example, a child's neighbor may be a dealer and provide the entry point.

### **3. Remaining in the business continuously**

The results showed that the important conditions that related to or influenced the sampling group in making the decision to stay continuously in illicit drug activities in the communities were:

- 100% of the samples (50 cases) remained still active in drug trade activities due to the amount of money they can make. They receive a very high amount through the trade, higher than they could ever make in any ordinary career or than they could ever receive as assistance from family and relatives. More specifically, an ordinary career or help from family would earn 20-300 Baht per day while working in drug activities could earn 200-2,000 Baht.
- 54% of the samples (27 cases) remained in the activities in order to earn money to afford narcotics for their own consumption, or to receive a portion of drugs to repay them for their work. This means that they are addicted to narcotic drugs and engage in the trade to support their habits.

- 12% (6 cases) continued their involvement in the drug trade as they were very confident that it would be safe and that they would not be arrested or punished under the law.
- 6% (3 cases) continued their involvement in the drug trade for the reason that it was a family “job” – i.e. their parents were running such a business.
- 4% (2 cases) continued their involvement in the drug trade for the reason that it was a challenging “job” that they enjoyed doing.

## **Discovery**

The quality of lifestyle of the children from communities was a factor in their involvement in the drug trade. The issues found were:

- Being involved in tempting activities, especially gathering with their friends, enjoying the nightlife, gambling, drinking alcohol/intoxicants and taking narcotic drugs, were definite factors that brought them to get involved in the drug trade.
- Having relationships with people involved in illicit drug activities was also a factor that led the children and the youths in communities to step into the drug trade.
- Places where illicit drug activities were widespread in the communities were a factor that led the children and the youths in communities to enter into the drug trade. These circumstances meant that children would meet neighbors who were involved in illicit drug activities and in this way they would find their way to the business.

However, the most important matter basically was the value of lifestyle of the children and the youths in the communities. As shown by the economic circumstances indicated by the survey responses (56% of the sampling group did not pay any family expenses), the requirement in needed income of the sampling group was due to family responsibility. The actual reasons are explained below:

The results showed that the samples who were addicted to drugs prior to engaging in the drug trade because they wanted to continuously have drugs for themselves.

For the sampling group not addicted, the expenses motivating them to acquire money were funds for playing machine games in the samples under 16. Those over 16 needed money to do the following activities:

- To buy and decorate their motorcycle.
- To spend on nightlife.
- To spend less time and energy than ordinary job and earn money all the same.

Additionally, from interviewing the sampling group it was found that owning a motorbike was the highest dream of most samples. Despite the fact that motorbikes

can be used as vehicles for work, the respondents wanted them to be able to cruise around, show girls, and also to assist their drug activities. Moreover, having a motorcycle was defined not only as owning or using it but also decorating it in the latest style by using expensive equipment. Involvement in the drug trade serves to cover such expenses. The respondents viewed the value of life as “having a luxurious life” and “owning a vehicle.” These desires were responsible for the entry into the drug trade to earn money in hopes of achieving these.

**Table 1: Domicile of the children and the youth from communities<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Domicile</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bangkok	49	98
Another provinces	1	2
Total	50	100

**Table 2: Gender of the children and the youth from communities**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	38	76
Female	12	24
Total	50	100

**Table 3: Age of the children and the youth from communities**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
14 years old	2	4
15-16 years old	19	38
17 years old	29	58
Total	50	100

**Table 4: Marital status of the children and the youth from communities**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	42	84
Married	8	16
Total	50	100

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<sup>2</sup> The source of all tables is RA Field Work, 2001.

**Table 5: Career status of the children and youth from communities**

<b>Career Status</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Studying	4	8
Left school and being in labour status	46	92
Total	50	100

**Table 5 a) Particular sampling group who left schools and was in labour status**

<b>Career</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total percentage</b>
Unemployed	37	74	80
Employed	9	18	20
Total	46	92	100

**Table 5 b) Particular sampling group who left schools and was in labour status**

<b>Career</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>
Employed motorcycle driver	3
Employed tricycle driver	1
Newspaper deliverer	1
Messenger deliverer	1
Take care of snooker club	2
Labouring in unskilled work	1
Total	9

**Table 6: Responsibility of the children and youth from communities**

<b>Responsibility status</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No Responsibility	28	56
Self expenses	17	34
Part of family expenses	5	10
Total	50	100

**Table 7: Family background of the children and youth from communities**

<b>Family background</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Parents live together	17	34
Parents separated	33	66
Total	50	100

**Table 7 a) Particular sampling group from imperfect family (parents separated)**

<b>Imperfect status</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total percentage</b>
Divorced	15	30	45
Father or mother pass away	18	36	55
Total	33	66	100

**Table 8: Habitation of the children and youth from communities**

<b>Habitation</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Live with family and relative	47	94
Live with others	3	6
Total	50	100

**Table 8 a) Particular sampling group from imperfect family (Parents separated)**

<b>Imperfect status</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total percentage</b>
Friend	1	2	33
Lover	2	4	67
Total	3	6	100

**Table 9: Success in education of the children and youth from communities**

<b>Result of Studying</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Low	28	56
Fair	20	40
Good		
Not answer	2	4
Total	50	100

**Table 10: Reason for leaving school of the children and youth from communities**

<b>Reason for leaving school</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Studying in school system	4	8
Studying out of school system	1	2
Never study	2	4
Stop study with negative reason	43	86
Total	50	100

**Table 10 a) Particular sampling group who left school for negative reasons**

<b>Reason for leaving school</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Being absent	12	24
Family problem	9	18
Didn't want to study and had inappropriate behavior	22	44
Total	43	86

**Table 11: Risk activities of the children and the youth from communities**

<b>Risk Activities</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Drink alcohol	44	88
Gather with their friends	28	56
Gambling	35	70
Enjoy nightlife	20	40
Abused drug	27	54
Go outside community in the daytime	4	8

**Table 12: Involvement in the drug trade of the children and youth from communities**

<b>The condition of joining the activity for the first time</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Introduced by family member who was a drug seller	2	4
Introduced by girlfriend or boyfriend	1	2
Introduced by relative	3	6
Introduced by friend	29	58
Self-decision	15	30
Total	50	100

**Table 13: Remaining in illicit drug activities by children and youth from communities**

<b>The condition of remaining</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Money	50	100
Gain some drugs to meet addiction	27	54
For pleasure	2	4
Confident that there was no risk on being arrested	6	12
Family business	3	6

#### 4.2 The results of the study of the children and youth in the central observation and protection center

The following were the basic characteristics of the 50 children and youth in the Central Observation and Protection Center:

<b>Domicile:</b>	-88% (44 cases) were born and live in Bangkok. Only 10% (5 cases) were born in other provinces but lived in Bangkok. In one case the child did not mention his hometown.
<b>Sex:</b>	-80% (40 cases) are males. 20% (10 cases) are female.
<b>Age:</b>	-between 13–17 years old; broken down to 17 years old - 64% (32 cases), 15-16 years old - 28% (14 cases) and 13-14 years old – 8% (4 cases).
<b>Marital status:</b>	-66% (33 cases) were single. 32% (16 cases) were married either with or without a marriage license. The rest 14% (7 cases) were divorced.
<b>Religion:</b>	-86% of the samples (43 cases) were Buddhists. 14% (7 cases) practiced Islam.
<b>Education:</b>	-96% (48 cases) had done some studies and 4% (2 cases) had never studied and could not read.
<b>Narcotics drug trading behaviour:</b>	-86% (43 cases) were sellers, 2% (1 case) was a deliverer, 4% (2 cases) were walkers, and the rest (8% or 4 cases) were combined actions (see details in Table 28).
<b>First time involvement:</b>	-the youngest was 7 years old and involved by taking drugs. Apart from this, the most common age of the samples when they first got involved were 13 and 16 years (see details in Table 29)
<b>Duration between first time drug involvement and participation in trading behaviour:</b>	- about 0-7 years to develop (0 indicating involvement in the drug trade right from the beginning).

The results of the study of this sampling group as related to involvement in illicit drug activities follow:

##### The factors of economics

###### 1. Occupation

As indicated above, one respondent still studies in the school system. Based on this, the responses of the other 49 were used to analyze the information about occupation. As the results showed, of the samples from the Central Observation and Protection Center, 92% (46 cases) were unemployed, and 6% (3 cases) had jobs. One respondent

did not mention occupation. For the three cases with jobs, two worked with vehicles and often had a chance to travel: one was a passenger pickup driver, the other was a car driver who delivered people to gambling houses. The third worked as a waiter in a restaurant.

## **2. Responsibilities**

The results of the study show that the samples from the Central Observation and Protection Center 54% (27 cases) had to take care of themselves and others. Of those 54%, 30% (15 cases) had to pay their own expenses and 24% (12 cases) had to pay part of the family expenses. Forty-six percent (23 cases) did not have to take care of any expenses in the family.

## **Discovery**

It can be concluded that economic status was clearly related to the use of child labour in the drug trade for the respondents from the Central Observation and Protection Center.

- Unemployment (reflecting lack of school attendance and/or other positive opportunities for development as well as financial circumstances) could be a factor that pushed the children and the youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center to get involved in illicit drug activities. Analysis showed that a little over half of the sampling group who had to take responsibility for the family's economic situation and their own expenses. When the children were not in school nor employed and had no income, they tended to enter the drug trade.

## **The factors of family behavior**

### **1. Family factors**

The results showed that from past to present, 60% (30 cases) of the sampling group from communities came from broken families. This means that these samples were growing up in families where the father and mother did not live together. From the above numbers, 44% (22 cases) came from divorced or separated families, and 16% (8 cases) came from families in which one of the parents had died. Thirty percent (15 cases) came from families where both father and mother lived together. The remaining five cases did not supply this information.

### **2. Habitation**

Moreover, the results indicated that in the present situation (at the time of the study), only 12% (6 cases) lived with both of their parents. Thirty percent (15 cases) did not live with both of their parents at the same time; of these 28% (14 cases) lived with their mothers only and 2% (1 case) lived with their fathers only. Another 38% (29 cases) lived with others such as relatives or siblings (24% or 12 cases), girl/boyfriends (14% or 7 cases), friends (10% or 5 cases) and stepfather or stepmother (4% or 2 cases). Additionally, 4% or 2 cases lived alone and one case did not provide this information.

The results found that 66% (33 cases) of the samples still live with their parents and/or relatives. The remaining 32% (16 cases) live with others who could not provide protection from the social pressures to become a drug abuser.

### 3. Treatment

According to the information about habitation, it was found that, although more than half of the sampling group still lived with their parents and relatives, the relationships within the family between father and mother, parents and the sampling group, or brothers/sisters and the sampling group were not smooth. Also the data on economic status pointed out that 98% (49 cases) had left school to help contribute to part of the family's expenses. Fifty-four percent of the samples took care of the economic situation of the family and themselves, while only 14% (7 cases) still needed financial support from their parents and relatives.

### **Discovery**

It can be concluded that unstable family background was related to the involvement of children and youth in the Central Observation and Protection Center to the use of labour in drug trade. The issues found were:

- Living and growing up in an unstable family environment in which the members of the family, especially the father and mother, were never home at the same time could be one of the factors that pushed the children and the youth to enter the drug trade.
- Contrary to the teachings of Thai society, the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center could not rely on their family and relatives because family was not their source of material, emotional or societal support and assistance. In their effort to survive given their difficult conditions and lack of support they were pushed into drug abuse and eventually the trade.

### **The factors of education**

#### 1. Studying and the school system

The results showed that 98% (49 cases) of the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center were now out of the school system or not studying (1 case was studying in the school system).

#### 2. Success in education

The results showed that the majority of the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center were not successful at school. In terms of study rankings, 48% (24 cases) achieved low level results, and 26% (13 cases) had middle level results. Twenty percent (10 cases) had success in studying and achieved high level grades. (There were two samples who never studied at any level and 3 cases who did not mention their education.) It can be said that being successful in education was not one of the clear factors that pushed the children into the business of drug abuse.

Still, the results indicated that 90% (45 cases) of the samples had to stop and leave the school system because they had problems while studying such as being absent, displaying inappropriate behavior, etc. Most of them did not finish high school and within that number 16% (8 cases) were expelled from school.

## **Discovery**

It can be concluded that educational success was related to the involvement of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center in the drug trade. The issues found were:

- Being out of school system or leaving school before graduated from high school either willing to do so or were fired was the factor that led the children and the youths to the use of labour in drug trade. Because in such circumstance could send them back to face the distinguished condition in the family and community that would push them into the use of labour in drug trade.
- Being unsuccessful in education was not the obvious factor for the children and the youths from the Central Observation and Protection Center to get involved into the use of labour in drug trade because there were both successful and unsuccessful in education in this sampling group.

## **The factors of lifestyle**

### **1. Risk activities**

This study measured the risk activities by observing the samples' activities in everyday life. For instance, gathering with their friends in the Central Observation and Protection Center, enjoying the nightlife, gambling, drinking alcohol/intoxicants and taking narcotic drugs. The results of the study indicated that the sampling group from communities had carried out risky activities as shown below:

- 96% (48 cases) taking narcotic drugs.
- 92% (46 cases) doing “nothing” in the eyes of others, i.e. it appears that they were wandering around in the communities but actually they were spending time seeking customers. It was found that 66% (33 cases) spent more than 12 hours a day doing this. Another 26% (13 cases) spent 5-10 hours a day.
- 50% (25 cases) drinking alcohol/intoxicant.
- 46 (23 cases) spent time in the day roaming around outside of the communities with their friends.
- 34% (17 cases) gather around with their friends.
- 48% (24 cases) gamble.
- 38% (19 cases) enjoying the nightlife.

### **2. Involvement in the use of labour in drug trade**

The result showed that the most important condition that led the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center joined or stepped into the use of labour

in drug trade for the first time was 88% (44 cases). The samples needed friends or other people who were already involved in this business to lead them in to the movement. Those people were friends/older generation/neighbors (31 cases), relative (7 cases), family members (3 cases), lover (3 cases). Furthermore, 12% (6 cases) could find their ways to join the business by using the environment and their old/new social relationship to the drug dealers.

### 3. Remaining in the business

The results showed that the conditions that influenced the sampling group to remain in illicit drug activities were as follows:

- 100% of the samples (50 cases) were still active in the activities for the reason that they had made around 100-80,000 Baht per day.
- Even though most of the samples were addicted, only 30% of the samples (15 cases) reported remaining in the activities for the reason that they work for money to buy narcotic drugs for themselves.
- 12% (6 cases) continued their involvement in the drug trade for the reason that it was a challenging “job” and they were enjoy doing it.
- 6% (3 cases) continued their involvement in the drug trade for the reason that it was a family “job” and their parents or boy/girlfriend were running such a business.

### **Discovery**

It can be concluded that the nature of the children’s lifestyle was clearly related to the their involvement in the drug trade. The issues found were:

- The samples showed that most of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center did not join the activities for extra money but they did it as a main “career”. Ninety-two percent spent between 5-12 hours looking for an opportunity and customer to sell drugs to. Moreover, 16% (8 cases) of the samples had communication equipment (mobile phone and radio communication) and 42% (21 cases) had vehicles (motorcycle). Some of them had more than one vehicle and they used them for escaping arrest. This equipment was bought in to assist in the efficiency of the activities.
- Participating in risky activities, especially consuming intoxicants and taking narcotic drugs, were definite factors that led children to get involved in the drug trade.
- Having relationships with a person who was participating in risky activities was also a factor that led the children and youth in the Central Observation and Protection Center to enter the drug trade.

However, in the case of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center, the lifestyle values were not the basic factor which related to involvement in the drug trade. It was more the struggle for survival in a bad environment. For example, the failure of the family institute (broken homes), the failure of educational institutes unable to assist the children to advance, the social

environment where people think of lifestyle values in the material sense and not the emotional and developmental, and the failure of communities that are weakly organized, letting the temptations of narcotic drugs and the violation of the original social regulations spin out of control. Such conditions are the prime factors that pushed the children to join their addict friends and drug dealers to make a living, for protection, and to fill mental and social needs.

It can be said that entering into illicit drug activities can happen to any child if they are under such dire circumstances.

**Table 14: Domicile of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Domicile</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bangkok	44	88
Another provinces	5	10
Not answer	1	2
Total	50	100

**Table 15: Gender of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	40	80
Female	10	20
Total	50	100

**Table 16: Religion of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Religious</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Buddhism	43	86
Islam	7	14
Total	50	100

**Table 17: Age of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
13-14 years old	4	8
15-16 years old	14	28
17 years old	32	64
Total	50	100

**Table 18: Marital status of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

Marital Status	Number of samples	Percentage
Single	33	66
Married	16	32
Divorced	1	2
Total	50	100

**Table 19: Career status of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

Career Status	Number of samples	Percentage
Studying	1	2
Left school and in labour status	49	98
Total	50	100

**Table 19 a) Particular sampling group who left schools and was in labour status**

Career	Number of samples	Percentage	Total Percentage
Unemployed	46	92	100
Employed	3	6	7
Total	46	92	100

**Table 19 b) Particular sampling group who left schools and was in labour status**

Career	Number of samples
Delivered people to gambling house	1
A passenger pickup driver	1
Waiter	1
Total	3

**Table 20: Responsibility of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

Responsibility Status	Number of samples	Percentage
No Responsibility	23	46
Self expenses	15	30
Part of family expenses	12	24
Total	50	100

**Table 21: Family background of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Family Background</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Parents live together	15	30
Parents separated	30	60
Not answer	5	10
Total	50	100

**Table 21 a) Particular sampling group who had imperfect family (parents separated)**

<b>Imperfect Status</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total Percentage</b>
Divorced	21	42	70
Father or mother pass away	8	16	27
(Father) ordain	1	2	3
Total	33	66	100

**Table 22: Habitation of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Habitation</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lived with family and relative	33	66
Lived with others	14	28
Lived alone	2	4
Not answer	1	2
Total	50	100

**Table 22 a) Particular sampling group who lived with others**

<b>Person staying with</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total Percentage</b>
Friend	5	10	36
Girl/boyfriend	7	14	50
Stepfather/stepmother	2	4	14
Total	14	28	100

**Table 23: Educational success of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Result of Studying</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Low	24	48
Fair	13	26
Good	10	20
Not answer	3	6
Total	50	100

**Table 24: Reason for leaving school of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Reason for leaving school</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Studying in school system	1	2
Never study	2	4
Stop study with negative reason	45	90
Not answer	2	4
Total	50	100

**Table 24 b) Particular sampling group who left school for negative reasons**

<b>Reason for leaving school</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Being fired because of having inappropriate behavior	8	16
Family problem	11	22
Didn't want to study	26	52
Total	45	90

**Table 25: Risk activities of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Risk Activities</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Abused drugs	48	96
Roam around in community (looking for an opportunity)	46	92
Drink alcohol	25	50
Go outside community in the daytime	23	46
Gather with their friends	17	34
Enjoy nightlife	19	38
Gamble	24	48

**Table 26: First time involvement in the drug trade of the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>The condition of joining the activity for the first time</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Introduced by member in the family who were drug seller	3	6
Introduced by girlfriend or boyfriend	3	6
Introduced by relative	7	14
Introduced by friend	29	58
Introduced by neighbor	1	2
Introduced by older generation	1	2
Self-decision	6	12
Total	50	100

**Table 27: Remaining in illicit drug activities by the children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

<b>Reasons for remaining</b>	<b>Number of samples</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Money	50	100
Gain some drugs for self abusing	15	30
For pleasure	6	12
Family business	3	6

#### **4.3 The results of the comparative study between the two sampling groups: the children and youth from communities and from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

The study of the two sampling groups (the children and youth from both communities and the Central Observation and Protection Center - 50 from each group) found that there were similarities and differences in relation to their involvement in illicit drug activities.

##### **1. Unemployment**

For both groups the majority of the respondents were unemployed (74% from the communities and 92% from the Central Observation and Protection Center). Both sets of results showed that unemployment is related to the involvement of children in the narcotic drug trade.

## 2. Family factors

Sixty-six percent of the sampling group from communities came from broken, unstable families as did 60% of the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center. However, there were differences in some of the details regarding family background: the group from communities came from families in which the father or mother had passed away (36%) more than from families with divorced or separated parents (30%). On the contrary, the study of the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center found that (44%) came from divorced or separated families - two times more than families in which the father or mother had died (16%).

The results of the study illustrate that the broken, unstable families are related to the involvement of children in the drug trade, however, they also indicate that the group from the Central Observation and Protection Center had more serious problems in terms of this than the group from communities.

## 3. Living

Ninety-four percent of the samples from communities still lived with their parents and relatives while only 66% (33 cases) of the samples from the Central Observation and Protection Center still lived with their parents and relatives. This difference could carry over to lifestyle quality with the samples who lived with their parents and relatives having more support financially, emotionally and socially. This means that the samples from the Central Observation and Protection Center would receive less help and support than the samples from communities and therefore they have to fight for these matters more than the other group. This would explain why the children from the Central Observation and Protection Center are involved in the drug trade at a deeper level than the sampling group from communities.

## 4. Responsibility

Differences in levels of responsibilities were apparent between the two groups. For the sampling group from the communities, 56% had no responsibilities in terms of contributing to family expenses while the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center had to take responsibility of themselves and others (54%).

Meanwhile, 54% (27 cases) of the sampling group from communities still depend on their parents' and relatives' money, while only 14% (7 cases) of the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center need help from their parents and relatives.

It can be concluded that the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center received less help and less encouragement economically, mentally and socially from their families and relatives than the sampling group from communities.

### 5. Leaving school before finishing high school.

A similar finding was that 86% (43 cases) of the sampling group from the communities had to stop studying and leave school because of problems they experienced such as being absent and displaying inappropriate behavior. For the sampling group from the Central Observation and Protection Center the results were essentially the same: 90% (45 cases).

The results of the studies showed that having to leave school before finishing high school was linked to the entry of children into the drug trade.

### 6. Behaviours linked to the use of children as labour in the drug trade

Differences were apparent in the types of tasks the two sample groups carried out as part of the drug trade. Sixty-two percent of the group from communities were engaged in the drug trade in the form of employed drug buyers, whereas of the group from the Central Observation and Protection Center, 86% were engaged in drug selling. In addition, it was found that the group from communities tended to follow a pattern, i.e. 78% liked to gather around with their friends in the communities, spending more than five hours per day drinking (88%), gambling (70%) and participating in the nightlife. The pattern of the group from the Central Observation and Protection Center was different. They (92%) spent time wandering around in the communities seeking customers and looking for a chance to carry out the illicit drug activities. It was found that 66% spent time doing this for over 12 hours a day and 26% spent 5 – 10 hours a day engaged in this way.

It can be said that the group of the children and youth in the communities got involved in illicit drug activities just because they wanted some money to respond to their lifestyles. For instance, they wanted to have an “easy” life, possess material things (like motorcycles), reinforce their own image of being smart – looking and attracting the opposite sex. In contrast the group of children and youth from the Central Observation and Protection Center considered their involvement more as “working” for a living. Their vulnerability to this worst form of child labour came from the hurt they had experienced from family, relatives, school or university and from the community. Given their background it was too hard to resist the temptations.

Overall the study found that both groups were in similar circumstances and faced many similar problems. One point of particular interest is that the study found that the two groups had different timing in terms of when they entered the drug trade. The youngest child from the communities sampling group started to get involved in this business at the age of 10. It then takes 0 – 3 more years to become an employed drug buyer. For the children from the sampling group of the Central Observation and Protection Center the youngest age reported as starting in drug activities was 7, with 0 – 7 years as the timeframe for becoming a drug dealer.

The ages of 7 – 10 years for Thai children who are brought up by learning to rely on others are too young and inexperienced to be able to distinguish between good and bad. It is beginning at these young ages that children are already extremely at risk to turning to the drug trade. Any programmes and plans to protect children from getting involved in this business need to start at these young ages.

**Table 28: Comparing the types of tasks performed in the drug trade between the children and youth from communities and from the Central Observation and Protection Center**

Offences	Communities		Central Observation and Protection Center	
	Number of samples	Percentage	Number of samples	Percentage
Employed buyer	31	62		0
Seller	6	12	43	86
Deliverer	5	10	1	2
Walker	1	2	2	4
Employed buyer/ Deliverer	2	4		0
Employed buyer/Walker	2	4		0
Seller/ Deliverer	1	2	3	6
Seller/ Walker	2	4		0
Employed buyer/ Deliverer /Walker		0	1	2
Total	50	100	50	100

**Table 29: Age of the children and youth from communities and from the Central Observation and Protection Center when they first got involved in illicit drug activities**

Age started to get involved to the illicit drug activities.	Communities		The Central Observation and Protection Center	
	Number of samples	Percentage	Number of samples	Percentage
7		0	1	2
8		0	2	4
9		0		0
10	1	2	1	2
11		0	2	4
12	6	12	3	6
13	5	10	11	22
14	12	24	6	12
15	16	32	8	16
16	7	14	11	22
17	3	6	2	4
Not answer		0	3	6
Total	50	100	50	100



## **Chapter V**

### **Summary and recommendations**

#### **5.1 Summary**

According to the rapid assessment research focusing on two sample groups, children in communities and children in the Central Observation and Protection Center, it was found that there are four main factors that relate to the involvement of children in illicit drug activities. These are economic, family behavior, education and lifestyle.

The most important point found concerning these four factors was that the majority of both sampling groups were not in school and that there was a lack of positive alternative opportunities available to these children - in line with their age and according to national legislation – to assist in their healthy development and for them to be able to contribute to their families. Also, it was found that they were mostly from unhappy families. In some families, one or both of the parents had died or they were separated but the children still lived with their father or mother or relative. Part of the children, especially ones from the Central Observation and Protection Center lived with others or lived alone.

The results found that regards to taking responsibility of families' expenses, about half of the sample populations undertook this, while the other still depended on their families for money.

In terms of education, most of the respondents had stopped school and dropped out of the education system because they were frequently absent and/or did not behave properly. The children's behavior was also linked to temptations like drinking alcohol, hanging around with peers of negative influence, gambling or participating in nightlife. Furthermore, most of those children admired and sought luxurious items representing their lifestyle focused on materialism.

From the four factors discussed above, it can be said that narcotic drug traders (adults) can identify the vulnerability of children confronted with these factors. In turn they can use certain conditions, motivation, deception and persuasion to bring the children into the cycle of illicit drug activities. They can play upon the children's desire for luxury items by showing they can earn money to buy motorbikes, jewelry, etc.

#### **5.2 Recommendations**

The information gained from this study indicates that the important factors which affect children's behavior include the love and nurturing provided by families as well as their own values. Thus, considering this, it will not be effective to only use law enforcement measures to eliminate children's involvement in the drug trade.

Preventative measures must also be taken to address the root and primary cause of the problem.

A holistic approach must be taken including the coordination of different organizations including representation from the government, non-government, publicity, social institutes, private individual development organization and children. Whether looking at social, cultural, economic or political aspects, the factors pushing the children into this worst form of child labour must be reduced and likewise the one protecting the children must be strengthened. The research team suggested the following actions to address the four main push factors indicated in the study:

### ***1. Family behavior factor***

Since the family is the smallest unit of society and is the first place that forms and creates a child's attitude and behavior before they are sent out into the world, the Thai government should emphasize the importance of family harmony and happiness. This can be partially achieved if the government will build up the standards of living in respect to quality and quantity in order to raise the warmth and economic adequacy in families. With all this, they should formulate a unit of administration to take the responsibility of this matter by working under the principle of participation and the holistic approaches in development. Also, they should publicize and encourage the people to understand family significance and how to have a happy family through support and education. Moreover, the Government should set up a family's problem solving assistance unit 24 hours per day, especially geared to help children when there is violence or any other problem in the family.

### ***2. Lifestyle factor***

In a developing country, the government and administration units need to have a clear view of policy and a trend of the balance between the progression of technology and material and the progression of the moral principles. In order to creating and/or maintain the moral principles and place the healthy values on lifestyle, education and religion can play important roles.

In the meantime, the government must be strict in reducing and controlling the condition factors that build up a child's bad behavior. For example, children and youth must be protected from the dangers of nightlife hangouts, gambling houses and pornographic materials, etc. Besides being strict in those cases, they should promote better values and behavior by supporting cultural and sports activities that are accessible to all children, regardless of their background.

### ***3. Economic factor***

The government needs to emphasize on distributing income to every group of population thoroughly in order to earn money permanently and continuously. So that every family have enough to live on. In the same time, the government should Decrease the conditions that push the children into market labour before the right time. In the case that children need to be in the market labour, the government has to take the importance of preparing in the child labour skilled and being strict seriously

in using the law of child labour protection. In order to give the children choices in career and not to force them making use of narcotic drug.

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## ANNEX 1: CASE STUDIES FROM THE TARGET GROUP

### **Case 1: Mr. Thongchai,<sup>3</sup> 16 years old**

#### **Personal data:**

Thongchai was born into a poor family in a community called Wat Pracharabeuatham I, Dusit District. He was the eldest child with one younger brother. His father was a painter and his mother worked as a manicurist at the hairdresser shop. They did not have a steady family income. The relationship of his parents was not good. They quarreled quite often and his father was a heroin addict. When Thongchai was 12 years old, his father was arrested and sentenced to jail, charged with drug possession. He died in a prison. One of his uncles was also a drug addict who died because he took an overdose of heroin.

Once his father had been sentenced to life in prison, Thongchai's mother began to have affairs with many male strangers. Quite often she went away with a man and left her children alone for months. Thongchai and his brother had to take care of themselves. When their mother returned home, she gave Thongchai some money but it was only a small amount 0.50 US\$(Bhat 20). His cousin felt sorry for Thongchai's predicament and he and his relatives could not ignore this situation. They asked Thongchai and his brother to move in with their grandmother at Nongkham District, but the three children declined the offer. They wanted to stay in the community where they were born and grew up. However, they moved to live with one of their uncles, their father's older brother who lived alone in the same community. Later, Thongchai's mother returned to the community and decided to settle with a man who was a Tuk-Tuk driver. She asked her children to live with her but they refused. The relationship between mother and sons was not good and they seldom contacted each other.

At school Thongchai's studies were poor. He failed the examination and had to repeat the same class often. During studying Thongchai was never involved in or tried drugs and none of his friend were involved with drugs. His life began to change in a bad way when his father was arrested and sent to jail, while his mother completely ignored him and his brother. By the time he was in the fifth grade, he was not interested in continuing his studies and he decided to quit school. He lived aimlessly in the community, however, his life was not too difficult because many of his cousins lived in the same area. He could go to have food at their houses and did some work such as small errands in return. He started hanging around with a group of other out of school youth in the community. They had no aim and passed each day without doing anything valuable. They got drunk, played games, watched motorcycle racing, teased girls and did not return home until after midnight.

Though he thought of Thongchai as his dearest nephew, his uncle, a moody man that even his wife and children could not bear, was very upset with Thongchai's behavior. His uncle always scolded him loudly and seriously any time that Thongchai invited a friend to the house. The conflict became more serious until finally there was a break-up. Thongchai rarely came home and instead went to live with his friends.

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<sup>3</sup> All names have been changed to ensure confidentiality.

**Offending action:**

As he kept closely in touch with friends in the community, Thongchai found that some of them were involved with drugs. Some were methamphetamine drug users and some were employed drug buyers. Though he was a member of one of the street groups, Thongchai had never tried drugs. But after the break-up with his uncle, Thongchai had to take more responsibility for his life and he needed money. What he really wanted in life was a motorcycle. He thought that working as a hired motorcycle driver would be the best career for him, and because he knew that some friends got money to buy a motorcycle by being drug buyers who bought drugs from the outside at the request of inner community drug abusers, he asked his friend to introduce him to the drug business and became a drug buyer for methamphetamine abusers at age 15.

Finally his dream came true; he could own a motorcycle by paying in monthly installments. He worked as a motorcycle driver in the community. His work went from 5 a.m.-12.00 p.m. then he took a break for two hours and began to work from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. He was not serious about his work but enjoyed decorating his motorbike with expensive equipment, which meant that he needed more money. After working until past midnight, he spent most of his time with friends who enjoyed driving around the community and teasing young women. As he did not take his motorcycle work seriously he paid for all his expenses through his drug buying activities.

Normally, Thongchai hung around the place where hired motorcycle drivers gather, though sometimes he drove his bike around the community. As he was so often in the same location his drug customers who were drug abusers could come to see him anytime. In general, each drug abuser asked him to buy only four to five tablets of methamphetamine; and there were two to three customers per day. After getting money from customers, Thongchai went to buy drugs from a drug seller. Methamphetamine tablets were packed and sealed in a tube such as a drinking straw. Thongchai carried drugs by taping them under the soles of his shoes. Each tablet was priced at 1.5 US\$ (Baht 60) but he sold them to customers at 2 US\$(Baht 80), gaining 0.05 US\$(Baht 20) per tablet. Each day he got money in the amount of 6-6.50 US\$(Baht 240-260) from the drug business. Out of this total, some money paid for the motorcycle (about 2.50-3.75 US\$ or Baht 100-150) and the rest was to cover other expenses.

Presently, Thongchai's mother and her new husband are involved with drugs. They buy drugs from the outside and distribute drugs in the community. Thongchai is now 16 years old and has joined his mother's drug business.

**Case 2: Mrs. Khwan (assumed name), 16 years old****Personal data:**

Khwan was born at Sriyan Sub-District, Dusit District. There were two children in her family and she was the youngest one. She came from an unhappy family. Her mother was a housewife and her father, a government officer who worked at the Royal Irrigation Department, had a mistress and did not care much about his family.

At school, her educational record was fair. She started to be involved with drugs when she was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 14 years old. Her classmate who was a drug abuser asked Khwan to try a methamphetamine tablet in the restroom at school. Initially, Khwan abused drugs by taking drugs from friends. Soonafter she and her friends pooled their money to buy drugs. A boyfriend of one of Khwan's friends was a drug abuser so he could supply drugs to Khwan and his girlfriend. Khwan accepted that she abused methamphetamine but said she was not an addict, just an occasional user.

In grade eight she not only tried to use drugs but also had a boyfriend who was an out of school youth. He was a hired motorcycle driver who lived in a community called Wat Pracharabeuatham I, Dusit District. The route of his work covered the distance from Khua's house and the school. Once she had a boyfriend, Khwan was not interested in studying any more. In the morning, she stepped out of the house in her student uniform, but her boyfriend would then come pick her up along the way to school. She changed the student uniform to casual dress. After that Khwan and her boyfriend would go shopping at a big mall. Sometimes they went to see their friends at houses. When evening came, Khwan returned home in her student uniform. Getting a notice from the school about Khwan's behavior and her absences from school made Khwan's mother mad and upset. Khwan was hit and punished by her mother. She decided to quit school completely and ran away to live with her boyfriend at Wat Pracharabeuatham community I. She was 14 years old.

Though none of Khwan's boyfriend's family liked her, they inevitably had to accept her as a daughter-in-law. Khwan's father-in-law was the driver of a rich man. Her mother-in-law was a merchant who sells food at the school. Her boyfriend had a younger sister who was studying. All expenses in the house were under the responsibility of her in-laws.

Khwan did not do anything around the house. She got Baht 50 a day from her husband. Sometimes she went to drink and took up gambling. She spent much of her time sitting in the front of the house or walking around the community. Eventually she knew many people in the community and dared to sit and talk with them quite often. One of her neighbors was a drug dealer. The more she spent time with the drug dealer, the more she learned about the drug business. In her opinion, it was a very easy business, especially because she got just a little money from her husband. So, she decided to enter into the drug business to gain more money for her and her husband who had a debt to pay for his motorcycle, which he brought by paying money in installments. One day while she sat in front of the house, people from the outside community walked up to ask her about drugs. After that she became a drug buyer.

### **Offending action:**

Khwan entered the drug business at age 14. Everyday after she woke up at 9 a.m. and prepared food for her husband, Khwan would sit in front of the house where drug customers could come to see her anytime. Most of them were army officers from the army office near the community. They were drug abusers who always bought about two to three tablets, and there were five to six customers a day. After getting money from customers, Khwan went to buy drugs from drug sellers near her house. Methamphetamine tablets were packed in a foil wrapper. Khwan carried drugs by placing them in her palm. Each tablet was priced at 1.5 US\$(Baht 60) but she sold

them to customers at 2 US\$(Baht 80), gaining 0.5 US\$(Baht 20) per tablet. Each day she got money in the amount of 7.5 US\$(Baht 300) from the drug business. Presently, in the family, only her husband and his sister knew that Khwan worked as a drug buyer. Her parents-in-law did not know exactly what she did. Her husband said nothing as she helped him to pay his debt. However, her husband seriously asked her not to abuse drugs again and she kept this promise.

### **Case 3: Mr. Wichai (assumed name), 17 years old**

#### **Personal data:**

Wichai came from a broken family. His parents separated when he was a child. There were three sons in the family and Wichai was the youngest one. His father was dead and his eldest brother had his own family. Wichai lived in a community called Wat Paiton. There were four members in the house, comprising his grandmother, aunt, second brother and Wichai. He is now 18 years old but the case study begins when he was 15.

#### **Offending action:**

Wichai started to abuse drugs at age 15. He was a student at that time. He had seen his brother and friends smoke marijuana in the restroom at school. They seemed to have fun. So Wichai asked his brother's friend to buy him some marijuana. It cost 1.25 US\$(Baht 50) a bag. He cut it into small pieces and put it in a cigarette for smoking. At the beginning, a bag of marijuana would last three to four days. Later, he increased his intake and a bag of marijuana lasted only one day. Some friends took him to buy drugs at Soi Intamara 14 so that next time Wichai could go alone to buy marijuana here which was cheaper than before at just 0.625 US\$(Baht 25) per bag.

Normally, he went to smoke marijuana at the back of a temple called Wat Paiton. If he did not have money to buy drugs, he committed robbery. After committing several robberies the police came to the community to find the suspect as requested by the victims. His brother advised him to escape for a while so Wichai had to move to live with his friend at Suthisan District. This situation happened after he completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and quit school because he found studying boring.

While he lived with his friend, Wichai still smoked marijuana. When his friend found out he told Wichai that it was out of fashion to smoke marijuana, and he gave Wichai a tablet of methamphetamine to smoke. The first time that he smoked methamphetamine, Wichai found that it tasted good - so smooth without making his throat ache like marijuana. So Wichai started smoking methamphetamine and marijuana alternately. With help from his friend, he discovered a place to buy methamphetamine. Wichai began to commit robbery again to get money to buy drugs. He and his friends joined together to commit a gang-robbery and got money in the amount of 112.5 US\$(Baht 4,500).

Wichai became a methamphetamine drug dealer at about age 16-17. He invested some money (that he gained from committing gang-robbery) into his drug business. Money in the amount of 62.5 US\$(Baht 2,500) was used to buy 50 tablets of methamphetamine from the distributor at Klong Toei District. The motorcycle that he

had borrowed from his brother when escaping the police to live with his friend was used as a vehicle to buy drugs. He went to Klong Toei twice a day. Normally he bought drugs in the morning and in the evening. Methamphetamine tablets were placed in the pocket of his shirt. At home, he repacked the drugs by putting a tablet in a tube such as a drinking straw. All tablets in the tube form were collected in a paper box and carried to a place near the electric post where the dustbins were located. Wichai and his friends would walk around there. Their eyes kept focus on the drugs. Soon, some drug abusers came to buy drugs from them. Some customers were friends of Wichai's friends, but some were strangers. Then Wichai would go to pick the drugs for the customer. He sold one tablet at 2 US\$(Baht 80).

Normally, Wichai went to buy a bag of 200 methamphetamine tablets at Klong Toei every couple days. It cost 175 US\$(Baht 7,000) a bag. The tablets were repacked in tube form. Each tube contained 10 tablets. Out of the total 200 tablets, 100 tablets were hidden in the house and the rest were brought to sell. When the customer came to buy drugs, Wichai would cut the tube and sold the drugs as requested. The profit he gained from selling 100 tablets a day was about 112.5 US\$(Baht 4,500). That money belonged to Wichai and his friend. Concerning the customers, most of them were night workers both men and women in the age group of 18-19 years. They always came to buy drugs at 4-5 p.m. Each customer bought about 10-20 tablets, some bought for self-abuse and some bought for friends. In the case of the students, they came to buy drugs at 6 a.m. The number of methamphetamine tablets bought by each student was about two to three tablets. Apart from the night workers and the students, Wichai's drug customers also included unemployed youth. Wichai told his customers that if they want to buy 10 tablets of methamphetamine from him to just say "I want to buy a sweet at 0.25 US\$(Baht 10)."

Sometimes Wichai went to wait for his customers at the front of a small lane that led to the house where he lives. If there was a customer, Wichai would ask his customer to wait for a while. Then he drove the motorcycle to collect drugs that were hidden along the way home.

After selling drugs and staying at his friend's house for a year, Wichai could buy his own motorcycle. He made a down payment of 300 US\$(Baht 12,000) to the Motorcycle Company and agreed to pay money installment at 100 US\$(Baht 4,000) a month. When Wichai returned to live with his brother at Wat Paiton community as his brother requested, he had only 225 US\$(Baht 9,000) left. He thus went to buy a bag of 200 methamphetamine tablets from Klong Toei distributing place. A bag of drugs cost 175 US\$(Baht 7,000). Each tablet was priced at 0.875 US\$(Baht 35). At home, 10 tablets of methamphetamine were packed in a tube. Then Wichai took 50 tablets or five tubes of methamphetamine with him. He stood at a location where crowds of people pass by. During the early stages of selling drugs there, Wichai had to find new customers by walking around. His target groups were emaciated looking people who dressed in cheap clothing. He felt lucky when a new customer approached him directly. Here Wichai could sell drugs at a rate of not less than 70-80 tablets per day. A daily profit from his drug trade was 75 US\$(Baht 3,000).

At Wat Paiton community, his drug customers were neighbours, students, and night workers. He had 20 regular customers and some occasional customers. Those customers came to buy drugs two to three times a day, two to three tablets at a time. Most of them bought drugs for abuse. Some bought drugs both for abuse and sale.

This group would buy 5-10 tablets at once. For Wichai, all profits gained from drug trade were invested to buy drugs for sale and also for abuse. He used 5-10 tablets of methamphetamine a day.

Wichai was arrested on drug related charges five times (three times on charges of consumption, once on charges of robbery and once on charges of possession for the purpose of disposal). The last arrest was by the police who used the technique called the buy and bust operation. The police asked his agent to buy 10 tablets of methamphetamine from Wichai and then arrested him while he handing drugs to the agent. Forty tablets were also found on his body. Wichai was sentenced to jail for two years. He is now under the responsibility of the Central Observation and Protection Center.

#### **Case 4: Mr. Choochart (assumed name), 17 years old**

##### **Personal data:**

Choochart completed his studies through grade 5 at 12 years old. He lived with his parents; his father was a hired motorcycle driver who also had a mini-bus for rent and his mother was a housewife. There were five children in the family.

##### **Offending action:**

Choochart reported that he started to use drugs at the age of 13 when he was in grade 6. Friends from another school asked him to sniff glue, so he and his younger brother who always came along with him sniffed glue for the first time. They then began to sniff glue four times per week. A tube of glue cost 0.15 US\$(Baht 6). They sniffed glue in groups – a group being composed of 10 people. They went to sniff glue at the graveyard in the evening. They used two to three tubes of glue per day. Choochart would place the glue in a plastic bag, then he handed around the bag to let his friends sniff it first. This was because he did not like the strong smell of glue and preferred to be the last one. Sometimes he put a candy in the bag to made the glue smell sweet.

After two months of sniffing glue, Choochart changed to methamphetamine tablets when he was 14 years old. He also quit school saying that he was not interested in studying any more. This was in part due to the fact that his ability to learn was at a lower level than his friends' ability. The first time that he abused methamphetamine tablets he was given them by friends by means of inhaling the smoke of methamphetamine which was burned in cigarette foil. Choochart thought that the smoke of methamphetamine was sweeter than glue. It also did not cause an intoxicated effect like glue. He felt active and had more energy, so he completely changed to using methamphetamine tablets, asking friends to buy the drugs for him. A tablet cost about 20-25 US\$(Baht 80-100). He increased his use of from a half tablet per day to five tablets per day. His younger brother also began to abuse methamphetamine.

Choochart's older brother was not a drug abuser, but his brother's friend who lived in the same area where his aunt's house was located was involved in the drug trade. A friend of Choochart's brother sold drugs to his brother at 1 US\$(Baht 40) a tablet. His brother sold the drugs to Choochart at 1.25 US\$(Bhat 50) a tablet. It was a cheaper

price compared to 2 US\$(Baht 80) a tablet which his brother got from his drug customers. Though Choochart knew his brother's friend, Choochart could not buy drugs from him because his brother's friend did not trust him. After he was sure that Choochart abused and sold drugs, he provided drugs to Choochart - 20 tablets each time. Choochart and his brother's friend had dealt business in credit by taking drug without payment immediately. A friend of his brother gave Choochart 20 tablets of methamphetamine at a price of 1 US\$(Baht 40) per tablet. Choochart returned money to him after all the drugs were sold out and took 20 new tablets. The relationship between Choochart and his brother's friend went on very well. The number of methamphetamine tablets that his brother's friend provided to him was increased gradually from 20 tablets at the beginning to 100 tablets.

After getting drugs, Choochart would repack them by putting a tablet in a tube to avoid a moist tablet. Out of the total, 50 tablets were hidden somewhere in the house and the other 50 tablets was delivered to his regular customer. Choochart did not wrap tablets in foil because it was not popular packaging. Customers would not buy drugs packed in foil because they were not sure whether they were real or fake. At the beginning of his involvement in the drug business, Choochart's target group was comprised of people who had the physical appearance and characteristics of a methamphetamine drug addict. They looked thin, ground their molar teeth carelessly, stroked their hair very often, and constantly moved and seemed restless. If Choochart saw someone who acted like this, he would approach them to offer them drugs. Soon, those people would come to see him directly. Most of his customers were employed workers. Some worked at an engine house or a printing house. Some were hired motorcycle drivers or mini-bus drivers. Their ages mostly ranged from about 20-40 years. Some were youth aged 15-16 years.

Choochart had 20 drug customers who regularly came to buy drugs from him. Each day he could sell not less than 50 tablets at a price of 2-2.50 US\$(Baht 80-100) a tablet. Most bought drugs for self-use. Later, Choochart did not even need to leave his house. His customers came to buy drugs at his house. If he had to go out to sell drugs, he would work with just 10 tablets that he kept hidden in the holes of the electric posts. If there were a customer, he/she would come to pick up the drugs at the hidden place. The Methamphetamine tablets that he sold were orange in color with the logo of WY, wy or R. There were also two green tablets in each bag. During the month of January 2001, methamphetamine tablets in green with logo of 888 were appeared. Normally, Choochart kept the two green color tablets for self-use. He took 15 tablets a day. He preferred the green ones because their effects were stronger than the orange tablets. He explained that two tablets of orange color produced the same effect as one green tablet.

Choochart became a real retail drug dealer in his community when he was 15 years old. After the police arrested drug dealers in community, Choochart asked his friend to bring him to buy drugs at the distributing place in Klong Toei District. There he knew a supplier who regularly gave him good quality orange methamphetamine tablets with the wy logo which was easy to burn, smelled sweet, gave more intoxicant and provided a long lasting effect. Every morning Choochart drove his motorcycle to buy drugs at the distributing place where all equipment used for drug abuse were prepared to serve customers. There, the tablets were counted in as requested. Then they were packed in a plastic bag, sealed with fire and wrapped with black tape to be hidden in the palms that hold the handle of the motorcycle. Drug dealers preferred to

hide drugs in their palms because it was an easy way to throw drugs away if they encountered the police. It was a risk to conceal drugs on one's body as the police could find them more easily.

After he became a retail drug dealer Choochart still sold drugs to the same customers. The number of methamphetamine tablets sold each day numbered about 40-50 tablets. One month before he was arrested, Choochart helped his father drive a mini bus. There were 10 mini buses in the community. While waiting for his turn to drive his mini bus out, Choochart often abused methamphetamine tablets and sold drugs to other drivers. Choochart had been arrested four times; twice on charges of being a public nuisance, once on charges of methamphetamine possession and once on charges of possession for the purpose of disposal. The last time he was arrested was because a new mini bus driver wanted to buy three tablets of methamphetamine at the price of 2.50 US\$(Baht 100) per tablet, but Choochart had no drugs left. He went to buy drugs at Klong Toei at 10.00 a.m. and after getting drugs, he dropped by his house to collect drugs before returning to the place where the mini bus were gathering. When Choochart gave drugs to the new driver, the driver asked for two more tablets and handed him 5 US\$(Baht 200), so he had to go back to Klong Toei again. There, the police raided and arrested him. They found two tablets of methamphetamine on his body with money in the amount of 5 US\$(Baht 200). He was arrested on charge of possession for the purpose of disposal.

#### **Case 5: Mr. Ord (assumed name), 16 years old**

##### **Personal data:**

Ord was the only child in his family. His parents separated when he was seven years old. Both his parents then had new families and Ord was left to live with his grandfather. He is now 16 years old.

##### **Offending action:**

When Ord was in grade 4 at 10 years old, he started to abuse methamphetamine tablets. Four of his close friends were methamphetamine abusers. They provided Ord a tablet and told him it was good for his studies. They told Ord that if he took the drug he could do his homework without feeling exhausted. At that time, Ord knew nothing about the bad effects of drugs, so he smoked half a tablet and he felt good. He had more energy and wanted to work more but there was nothing to do. Three to four hours later when the last effect of the drug had gone, Ord felt tired, sleepy, and hungry. After this he never touched drugs again because two of the friends who had provided drugs to him were expelled from school.

Ord started to use drugs again when he was in grade 6. He saw a movie about a truck driver who could drive for a long time after taking drugs and this encouraged him. The availability of drugs in the area where he lived and the fact that he had the money to buy drugs also encouraged his return to drugs. He bought drugs from a man who sold a dessert somewhat like a banana split. His wife was a methamphetamine drug dealer and was arrested on charges of possession for the purpose of disposal. The man warned Ord not to use drugs because he knew that Ord was a good boy. However, his actions contradicted his words as he selected a tablet of

methamphetamine that was packed in a blue plastic bag and hidden in his underwear and sold it to Ord. It was an orange tablet of methamphetamine with the logo WY; it cost 1.25 US\$(Baht 50). Ord hid the tablet in his pocket and smoked it in the restroom of his house at 4 p.m. The effects disappeared by 4 a.m. During 4 p.m.-4 a.m., Ord did housework and played games to reduced the stress. After that Ord used the drug regularly. He smoked two to three tablets three to four times a day. He always used drugs at the house of his friend. There, drugs were shared among five to six friends. Daily, his friend took drugs with the help of Ord who provided a broken tablet to his friends. But Ord would use drugs only on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Every time that he used drugs with friends, he asked his friends to share in the cost by buying the tablets at the same price that Ord paid to the drug dealer. Ord used to abuse methamphetamine tablets, both orange and green with the logo WY and brown ones with the logo 999. He preferred the orange color because of its sweet smell and strong effect.

Ord began to be a drug deliverer when he was 13 years old. During that time he lived with his grandfather who provided him about 0.50 US\$(Baht 20) a day. But on weekends his grandfather gave him just Baht 10 for each day which was not enough to buy drugs. Ord went to see a friend, a drug abuser, who lived near Wat Klong Toei. Ord wanted to consult his friend about money. His friend offered to introduce Ord to a drug dealer who was his aunt, so he took Ord to meet her and informed her that Ord wanted to be a drug deliverer. After questioning Ord about his life and the reasons he wanted to get involved in the drug trade for a while, she agreed to hire him. The first time she asked Ord to deliver drugs to 10 places that Ord knew very well. Each customer would get 10 tablets of methamphetamine. It was a small number because she was not sure she could trust Ord yet. Later, Ord was asked to send drugs to customers six to seven times a day. Before Ord arrived, she would phone the customers, giving them details about the character of the drug deliverer and the exact date and time. Methamphetamine tablets were packed in tube form, 10 tablets per tube. Ord was taught to hide drugs between his fingers and to drop drugs under the police vehicles if the police came to him.

Normally, Ord went out to deliver drugs to customers after school between 7-8 p.m. He got 5 US\$(Baht 200) a day. After six months, the woman bought a new mobile phone for Ord in order to keep in touch with him during working times. At this time, Ord went to deliver drugs to four to five customers a day. Most of customers were older than 30 years and lived in Samut Prakan Province. Ord went there by the motorcycle that was provided to him by the woman. The number of methamphetamine tablets delivered to customers each day was about 200 to 4,000 tablets. There were two main places to conceal drugs during delivery, in his underwear or under the cushion of his motorcycle. The cycle of drug delivery started with the phone call from his friend's aunt. She would inform Ord of the place to deliver the drugs and request him to work. Then she phoned to inform the customer. While working, she contacted Ord all the time through his mobile phone in order to make sure the goods would safely reach the customer. Ord often worked after school. But sometimes he was asked to deliver drugs at lunchtime. When customers got drugs, they paid in cash. The price of drugs differed among customers. Supposing that 200 tablets cost 157.50 US\$(Baht 6,300), if they were close customers they could get the drugs at a price of 167.50 US\$(Baht 6,700) per 200 tablets, if not, it cost about 200 US\$(Baht 8,000). Generally, Ord got 12.50 US\$(Baht 500) for working as a drug deliverer. He also got 1.25-2.50 US\$(Baht 50-100) for fuel expenses per day and

0.75 US\$(Baht 30) for food. Sometimes he got extra money in the amount of 2.50-5 US\$(Baht 100-200) from customers who had kept him waiting.

In the year 2000, he was arrested for the first time on charges of possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of disposal. He was captured with his cousin who did not know that Ord was a drug deliverer. Ord was sentenced to jail for a year.

### **Case 6: Mr. Pom (assumed name) 17 years old**

#### **Personal data:**

Pom was born in Bangkok. He was the youngest one in a family of six children. His parents were merchants who sold vegetables at the market. Pom was expelled from school for violating rules and arguing with his friends. This happened during his second year of Junior High School at 14 years old. After his parents moved to live in a province in the south of Thailand, Pom had to live with his brother who was very strict with him. Their relationship was like that of a father and son.

#### **Offending action:**

Pom started to use drugs during his second year of junior high school before he was expelled from school. His friends persuaded him to use drugs by telling him that any worry will disappear if he abused drugs. Among eight friends in his group, there were five persons who abused glue. At that time Pom had a problem with his brother who scolded him very often. Sometimes his brother hit him, so Pom decided to use drugs. The first time he used glue, he felt high. After five months of abusing glue, he believed that he could talk to the moon, fly and fight a plastic robot.

While going to school, Pom used two tubes of glue about once or twice per day, but only at school. When he was out of school, he abused a can of glue daily at home. Normally he sniffed glue alone, but sometimes he used drugs with his brother. There were two glues that Pom used – one with an elephant brand name and the other a 3-M glue. He preferred to use the 3-M glue rather than the first one which had strong effects but disappeared too quickly, compared with the second one that had a longer lasting effect. He believed that using glue increased sexual activities. It was because three months after using glue his sexual needs increased.

One year later Pom stopped using glue because of a physical illness. He felt very tired when playing sports or doing housework. Withdrawal symptoms made him have a blocked or dripping nose, and put him in a bad mood. He tried to do things like eating, sleeping or watching movies to keep him from thinking of drugs. However, Pom returned to use drugs again after stopping for 5 months. Again, it was because he had a problem with his brother.

Methamphetamine was the second drug that he used. At this time he was hired as a labourer to carry fruits and vegetables. He worked hard and also worked at night from 10 p.m.- 6 a.m. He got 2.50-5 US\$(Baht 100. - 200.) per day. His employer gave the workers water mixed with methamphetamine to drink. Pom did not know that there was methamphetamine in the water, but he felt very active, had more energy and could work without exhaustion. He could help his mother work without feeling

sleepy. After that his friend told him that there was methamphetamine in the water. Pom's friends also persuaded him to smoke methamphetamine. They shared money to buy a tablet of methamphetamine from his employer at the price of 2 US\$(Baht 80).

Pom abused methamphetamine because he thought that methamphetamine was not an addictive drug and that its affects were more like those of cigarettes. Initially, Pom abused methamphetamine alternately with glue. He preferred to use glue first because Methamphetamine would provide stronger effects after abusing glue. When Pom was arrested in 2000, he used only methamphetamine about twice a day, totaling five to 12 tablets of methamphetamine. Normally, he smoked at any time that he wanted to. Sometimes he smoked alone; sometimes he smoked drugs with his subordinates who helped him sell drugs. They used an uninhabited house, which belonged to his mother in the past before she sold it to others as a place to abuse drugs. He would smoke drugs continuously for two days, then stop for a day before starting to abuse them again.

In 2000, Pom participated in the illicit drug trade. At that time, methamphetamine was more available. Pom did not dare to ask for money from his mother because he was afraid that she would know about his behavior in drugs. Accidentally, his neighbours - both drug abusers and non-drug users - asked him to sell drugs. The non-drug user's girlfriend who also abused drugs provided funds to him. Some of the profits from selling drugs were in the form of drugs. Half of the profits belonged to the girlfriend of the non-drug user and the second half was shared between Pom and his friend who was a drug abuser.

Initially, his friend took Pom to the house of a drug seller in Klong Toei Community. After that Pom went there to take drugs. But Pom went only three times because he was afraid of being arrested. Daily he took 30 tablets of methamphetamine from friends. He had 20 regular customers. Most of them were guards, labourers and merchants. There were also some new customers. Because there were so many workers who abused methamphetamine, it was easy for Pom to find a customer. If he saw someone hesitantly walked to the place where he stayed, Pom would directly approach them by asking whether he wanted drugs or not. If yes, he would tell them to come buy drugs from him next time.

There were many customers who came to buy drugs from him. They came in the morning, the afternoon, or in the evening. Sometimes they came alone. Normally, each customer bought about one to three tablets at a time. Some bought 10 tablets of methamphetamine; a tablet of methamphetamine cost Baht 50. - at retail price but it cost 2 US\$(Baht 80) for customers. In the case that Pom could buy a tablet at the price of 1.75 US\$(Baht 70), it cost about 2.25-2.50 US\$(Baht 90 -100) for customers. For those who bought 10 tablets, it cost 17.50-18.75 US\$(Baht 700-750). Sometimes Pom sold drugs to customers on credit but only the ones that Pom was very sure he could trust. Tablets of methamphetamine, which Pom got from friends, were in various colors like green, orange, or brown.

Normally, Pom took drugs from friends on credit but he always sent money back to his friends at the end of the day. Twenty to 30 tablets of methamphetamine in tube form from friends were repacked at home in forms of 1, 2 or 3 tablets a tube. Those tubes were hidden in the flies of Pom's shirt near the first button. They were taken out when Pom was where the customers came to buy drugs from him, and then the

tubes were hidden in the clothes of villagers that hung on the clotheslines. When a customer came, Pom would walk over to collect the drugs for the customer. If there were methamphetamine tablets left at the end of each day, Pom would return the drugs to his friend. Sometimes he found a fake tablet, produced from a candle or a brick which he would send back to his friend as well.

Pom would only sell drugs to his regular customers. If there were a new customer, he would send his subordinate to talk to them. His subordinate would give drugs to the customers and get money back. This was the way Pom used to protect himself from the police. His subordinate received drugs in payment. At the place where Pom sold drugs, there were many drug sellers. So, the competition was very high. The average profit gained from selling drugs was about 15 US\$(Baht 600) per day or 300 US\$(Baht 12,000) per month. Pom had no money left because most of his money was spent on buying fashionable clothes, food, and drugs.

When Pom was free from the arrest in 2000, he moved to live with his brother because his parents had moved to live in the South. He did not want to ask for money from his brother who had his family to provide for, so he returned to being a retail drug seller again when his younger friend persuaded him to return to the business. Each day he took 20 tablets of methamphetamine from his friend. A tablet cost 1.25 US\$(Baht 50). At that time, he had a small number of customers because when Pom was arrested some of his customers had become regular customers of the other drug seller. While he lived with his brother, Pom sold drugs in the evening after his brother and wife returned home. He sold drugs because he wanted to have drugs for use, not for the profit.

Pom was arrested three times. First, he was arrested on charges of possession of methamphetamine when he was 15 years old. The judge put him on probation for a year. Secondly, he was arrested on charges of possession of methamphetamine when he was 16 years old. He was in custody for six months. Thirdly, he was arrested on charges of selling methamphetamine when he was 17 years old. The judge put him in custody for a year.

### **Case 7: Mr. Suwat (assumed name) 17 years old**

#### **Personal data:**

Suwat was born in Klong Toei District. He lived in a community called “Wat Klong Toei Inner Community”. He was a Buddhist. He completed his education at the primary level when he was 13 years old. His house was located in the slum areas. He lived with his mother and a brother. His parents had separated 10 years ago and both had new families. His father moved to live with his new family in the other province. His mother had two children with Suwat’s stepfather. He had one older sister from the same parent, but she married and moved to live with her husband. Suwat was under the support of his mother who sold food and his sister who was an employee in a company. He got 5 US\$(Baht 200) per day. The economic status of his mother and sister were at a good level. They had money left to contribute to their savings every month.

Suwat enjoyed playing basketball with friends in the community. He was also happy to drive his motorcycle around the community. Most of his money went to cover the expenses of decorating his motorcycle. All activities in his daily life involved methamphetamine. He was a drug abuser and a drug seller as well.

### **Offending action:**

Suwat started to abuse methamphetamine, which was the first drug he used, when he was 15 years old. He had many friends who were drug abusers and became involved out of curiosity. He abused methamphetamine in the community by smoking through water. Suwat became a drug seller because he saw it as a way to make money. Each day there were many people from outside who came to buy drugs in his community. They were both drug abusers and drug sellers. Suwat came to be a retail drug seller after abusing methamphetamine for two years. A month later he became a wholesale drug seller who sold 200-2000 tablets of methamphetamine.

As Suwat was good at selling, he could gain money from selling drugs at the retail market very easily. He got drugs on credit from a drug dealer in the community. He hired his friend to deliver drugs on order. All of his friends in the community knew that Suwat was a wholesale drug seller who bought and sold drugs for not less than 2000 tablets in cash. There were thus many people who phoned Suwat in order to buy and sell drugs with him. Before his arrest, Suwat was the one who could buy drugs from the dealer who was the first one to get the drugs from their place of production.

The process of selling and buying drugs at the wholesale level was similar. It was initiated by his friends who would give his phone number to drug buyers and sellers to enable Suwat to make a deal with these people. After that he would hire some of his friends to take or deliver drugs to customers at the meeting place. Then Suwat would go to get money from customers or pay money to sellers at another location. Suwat paid his friends 250 US\$(Baht 10,000) for delivering 2,000 tablets of methamphetamine. Each day Suwat would buy not more than 20,000 tablets of methamphetamine to sell. Usually the tablets would be sold out within a week.

Early in the year 2001, methamphetamine was readily available. The number of drug sellers was higher than drug buyers, and there were many drug sellers who offered drugs to Suwat. He could thus buy drugs at a cheaper price. Two thousand tablets of methamphetamine cost about 725-875 US\$(Baht 29,000 - 35,000) depending on the quality of drugs. Those drugs were sold to customer at a price of 1,500 US\$(Baht 60,000 - t 70,000) for 2,000 tablets. Most of the people who came to sell or buy drugs from Suwat were both Bangkok residents and people from another provinces. Suwat was very well known among drug abusers and dealers and as a consequence his name was on the list of the police. Though Suwat was a big wholesale drug dealer, he enjoyed being a retail drug dealer in community as well. A tablet of methamphetamine cost 1.125 –1.25 US\$(Baht 45-50) at retail price; 2,00 tablets cost 125-150 US\$(Baht 5,000 -6,000); and 2,000 tablets cost 725-875 US\$(Baht 29,000-35,000).

Eighty percent of methamphetamine tablets available in Bangkok were produced in Bangkok. There were about six producing places of methamphetamine in Bangkok. The colors of the tablets were various, comprising of ruddy, rose, reddish yellow and soft pink. Physical characteristics of methamphetamine produced in Bangkok were similar to methamphetamine produced by minority groups in neighbouring countries.

But a tablet produced in Bangkok was of low quality when compared with a tablet from another source. 2,000 tablets of methamphetamine produced in Bangkok cost about 750 – 800 US\$ (Baht 30,000 - 32,000). For buying 2,000 tablets at a time, a customer would get a free gift of 20 tablets.

Regarding methamphetamine produced by the minority groups of the neighbouring countries along the border of Thailand, this constituted about 20% of the total methamphetamine in Bangkok. Its price was stable at 875 US\$ (Baht 35,000) for 2,000 tablets. Methamphetamine from neighbouring countries was different from the tablets produced in Bangkok. Those were composed of a thin, hard-pressed tablet sweet smelling, hard to dissolve with water, and leaving black-sheet deposits after smoking. There was also a bad quality of methamphetamine, which cost 500 US\$ (Baht 20,000) for 2,000 tablets.

This was the first time for Suwat to be arrested related to drugs. Suwat was sleeping at a house when the police raided and arrested him on charges of possession of 200 tablets of methamphetamine. This case was in the process of justice. Suwat used to be arrested on charges of breaking a public law because of racing his motorcycle along public roads when he was 16 years old. At that time, he got a suspended sentence and the judge put him on probation.

#### **Case 8: Mr. Along-korn (assumed name) 17 years old**

##### **Personal data:**

Along-korn was born in the Wang Tong Lang District of Bangkok. He was of the Islamic faith. He completed his education through grade 5 of the primary level at 11 years old. His parents did not recognize the importance of education, so Along-korn did not have a chance to continue his studies. He was the eldest child in the family. He had three brothers and sisters. He came from a broken family home. His parents quarreled very often and then separated. He ran away from home to work at the food shop of someone that he knew, and lived there as well. After work in the afternoon he went to play machine games at a mall called Maboonklong. He always went out to the country once a month. He sent money to his brothers and sister in the amount of 50 US\$ (Baht 2,000) per week. He told his brother that he got money for selling spare parts of old cars. He told the interviewer that he had more expenses to pay for, however, so he participated in the drug trade because he gained much more money from it.

##### **Offending action:**

Along-korn started to abuse drugs four years ago. He saw his friends use drugs and thought it seemed fun. It appeared that drugs could release stress from any problem. He began to smoke methamphetamine and then stepped into the cycle of selling methamphetamine for fun and money. He came to be a drug deliverer first. Then he developed himself to be a retail drug seller in the community. This was because delivering drugs put one at more risk of being arrested than selling drugs.

When he started his work as a drug deliverer, his friend who was a drug abuser introduced him to a drug dealer at Klong Toei community. Then he got a phone call

from a drug dealer to deliver drugs as requested. His duty was to deliver drugs, not less than 2,000 tablets of methamphetamine, to customers and to take the cheques for his employer. He got a payment in the amount of 0.125 US\$(Baht 5) per tablet. Each day he delivered drugs one or two times, and always felt the risk of being arrested by the police. His work was dependant on his employer. He did not have any free time so he changed to become a retail drug seller.

He bought methamphetamine tablets from the subordinates of his former employer. It was done secretly between Along-korn and the man so that his former employer did not know about it. Along-korn went to Klong Toei by Tuk-Tuk (motor-tricycle). The Tuk-Tuk driver got a payment in the form of drugs - about two tablets of methamphetamine. Normally, Along-korn went there once every couple of days to buy 200 tablets of methamphetamine, which cost 150 US\$(Baht 6,000). He had to pay 12.50 US\$(Baht 500) to the drug walker who took drugs for him.

Along-korn sold drugs at the market. Most of his customers were labourers, workers, mechanics, and Tuk-Tuk drivers and taxi drivers. There were about 150 customers who came to buy drugs from him at any time. Each would buy one to three tablets. A tablet cost about 2.50-3.50 US\$(Baht 100 – 150). Regular customers would buy a tablet at a cheaper price than the new customer would. Along-korn hid methamphetamine tablets by concealing them in the synthetic clay and then sticking them on the wall. Each day he could sell 40-50 tablets. He gained a profit in the amount of 50 - 250 US\$(Baht 2,000 - 10,000) per day but he still had no money left.

He was arrested for drug cases four times. He was also arrested on charges of committed robbery. His criminal record was as follows: First, he was arrested on charges of committing robbery when he was 12 years old, but his case was sentenced to be acquitted. Second, he was arrested on charges of abusing volatile substances when he was 16 years old. He was fined for 25 US\$(Baht 1,000). In fact, he should have received a more severe punishment because he abused methamphetamine, but with the help of the police, he got a light punishment. Third, he was arrested on charges of abusing cannabis when he was 16 years old. He was fined Baht 1,000. as in the previous case. The last time, he was arrested on charges of selling methamphetamine when he was 17 years old. The police used the buy and bust technique and captured him.

### **Case 9: Mr. Preecha (assumed name) 17 years old**

#### **Personal data:**

Preecha was a Buddhist. He had never been educated and was thus illiterate. Preecha was the only son of his parents. His parents had separated when Preecha was just one year old. His mother remarried and had one son with the stepfather. He was two years younger than Preecha. Preecha lived in a community called “Fuel Community.” His stepfather was a small builder. His Mother worked as a housemaid. The economic status of family was at the middle level. Preecha had a girlfriend and moved to live with her in a rented house near his mother’s house.

**Offending action:**

Preecha started drinking alcohol at the age of 17 years. He tried cigarettes when he was 13 years old out of curiosity. Two to three months later, he smoked a joint because cannabis was more available in his community. He began to abuse methamphetamine at age 14 when he was persuaded to by friends. His friend put half of a methamphetamine tablet in a funnel, then fired it and let Preecha smoke from a paper tube. Preecha started to use valium, a tranquilizer, when he was 16 years old. He drank Pepsi with valium as the suggestion of a friend. During that time, Preecha was into racing motorcycles. He felt that taking valium with Pepsi was good for him because its effects made him unable to think clearly and he was not afraid to die when driving very fast.

Preecha abused methamphetamine at a rate of about 100-150 tablets a day. He used to abuse 50 tablets of methamphetamine at a time without having a break. Taking methamphetamine all day long kept him awake for three to four days. Then he would fall asleep for two days. Sometimes there was a group of young women who came to abuse drugs with Preecha. If a woman would let Preecha sleep with her, he would give her some drugs for free. Preecha had the chance to have sexual activities with many young women who were drug abusers. It was a secret between Preecha and the women and his girlfriend did not know. To protect himself from AIDS, Preecha used a condom any time he had sex with a stranger. But he never used a condom when he had sex with his girlfriend. It was because he believed that he would never get AIDS from his girlfriend. Preecha was 15 years old when he had a girlfriend for the first time. He changed women quite often. The relationship between him and each girl lasted just 6 months. He had had five girlfriends.

Every Friday and Saturday evening, Preecha enjoyed going to the disco tech. Some of his friends took a weapon like a jack knife and a pistol to the disco tech, while Preecha had a pistol. There, they could easily seek a mate. If he saw a young woman sitting alone, he would approach her to talk or ask the woman to sit with him. Sometimes he offered methamphetamine to the woman after he was sure that she abused drugs. Then he and the women would go to the hotel.

After abusing methamphetamine for three months, Preecha came to be a drug seller at the age of 14 years. His friend who was a drug seller introduced him to a drug dealer in the community. The first time he took 200 tablets of methamphetamine from the drug dealer on credit because his friend was close to the drug dealer. Two hundred tablets cost 175 US\$(Baht 7,000) or 0.875 US\$(Baht 35) per tablet. A tablet was sold to customers at a price of 1.25 US\$(Baht 50). After all the tablets were sold out, Preecha would pay money to the drug dealer and get a new bag of methamphetamine. Normally, Preecha and his friend would sell drugs along the road under the expressway. He gained small amounts of money by selling drugs because he was simultaneously paying money to abuse drugs. Preecha had a good relationship with the drug dealer, so he could get 1,000-1,400 tablets for sale on credit.

Preecha had many customers. Most of the customers were children and youngsters, both male and female. The number of young women was higher than young men. Some were students, taxi drivers, hired motorcycle drivers and other drivers. Most of them bought drugs for abuse and some bought drugs for sale. He had a regular customer who came to buy 200-400 tablets at a time. Additionally he had a regular

customer who was a Thai International Airways employee who drove the Mercedes Benz of the company to buy drugs, about 50-100 tablets. Preecha also acted as a drug distributor who supplied drugs on credit to his five subordinates - about 50-200 tablets for each. His subordinates would then sell drugs to abusers in the community.

Though there were about 20-30 methamphetamine sellers at the selling place along the road under the expressway, there was no competition among drug sellers because they were friends, and all methamphetamine tablets were sold at the same price. It cost 1.25 US\$(Baht 50) per tablet and 187.50 US\$(Baht 7,500) for 200 tablets. There were many customers there. Sometimes there was an argument between a drug seller and a customer who came to ask for drugs with one seller but bought drugs from another seller there. As Preecha could sell about 10,000-14,000 tablets a day he earned a profit of about 125-200 US\$(Baht 5,000 - 8,000). Most of money went to pay for new clothes, playing computer games, and gambling at the horse races. The rest was for his girlfriend and mother who got 7.50-12.50 US\$(Baht 300 - Baht 500) from Preecha each day. Sometimes he donated money to a person in the community who bought food or sweets for small children in the community; this made him feel happy. Preecha did not consider himself a problem in the community, rather he contributed some money to the unity and was met with acceptance in return.

Preecha had been arrested three times. First, at age 15 on charges of possession of two tablets of methamphetamine. At that time, he got a suspended sentence. A month later, he was arrested on charges of possession of 100 tablets of methamphetamine for the purpose of disposal. He was sentenced to be controlled at the center of the Central Observation and Protection Center for a year. The third time he was arrested at the age of 17 years after a year and a half of being out of the center. He was sentenced to jail for two years on charges of possession of 125 tablets of methamphetamine for the purpose of disposal.

Preecha is now 17 years old. He is in the center of the Central Observation and Protection Center. He insisted on taking part in illicit drug activities again after he was last released, but next time he will act as a drug distributor and not a drug seller any more. To be a drug seller was too risky. When he leaves the center he will be a financier who supplies drugs to his subordinates. In this way he will be safe from the police.

#### **Case 10: Miss. Bo (assumed name) 16 years old**

##### **Personal data:**

Bo is a Buddhist. She completed her education through the second year of junior high school at 13 years old. Though she had a good academic record she was not interested to keep on studying. She was the only daughter of her parents. Her father died two years ago and her mother sold food at the factory. She and her mother lived in a rented room at Dusit District.

**Offending action:**

When Bo was six years old, she went to live with her uncle. After five years working at the food shop of her uncle, Bo got a gold necklace costing 25 US\$(Baht 1,000) from her uncle. At age 11 she sold it and gave the money to a friend of her cousin who went to buy 12 tablets of methamphetamine for her. It cost 2 US\$(Baht 80) per tablet. She gave six tablets to buyers and kept the rest for self-use. A friend of her cousin put a tablet in a funnel, then fired it and let Bo smoke from a paper tube. The first minute of smoking methamphetamine, Bo choked and felt high. After that she felt very active and had more energy. Normally, she abused just one tablet per day. Two years later, she ran away from the house because her uncle knew that she abused drugs. Bo moved to live with a woman who was a regular customer at the food shop of her uncle. Bo was very close to the woman and called her her older sister.

She started to take part in the illicit drug trade at age of 14 years after moving to live with her “sister.” Bo found that the sister and her husband were drug sellers. They took drugs from a drug dealer at Senanikhom Village. Bo thought selling drugs was the easy way to get money so she started to sell drugs as persuaded by her sister. The sister led her to meet a drug dealer who was a woman and the sister called her “Mom.” With the close relationship between the sister and drug dealer, Bo got 20-30 tablets of methamphetamine for sale on credit. A tablet cost 8.75 US\$(Baht 35). Bo sold drugs along the canal under the bridge called Wang Hin. Most of her customers were youngsters, students, and labourers. She got a profit of 12.5 US\$(Baht 500) per day. The number of drug customer increased after three months. During that time Bo had a boyfriend who help her to sell drugs so she could sell more drugs than in the past from 30 tablets to 200 tablets a day.

Later, she met a poor woman who was separated from her husband and had to take care of two kids. The woman lived in a community where Bo came to sell drugs. Bo pitied the woman and offered that the woman could be a drug seller; she would provide 50 tablets of methamphetamine on credit. A tablet cost 1.25 US\$(Baht 50). She also offered drugs to a gay woman who was her regular customer. After getting tablets from the drug dealer, Bo would repack drugs to 50 tablets a bag. Then she asked her boyfriend to carry two bags to customers. One bag was for the poor woman with the young children and one bag was for the woman who was gay. The business went on very well. The number of tablets, which Bo provided to the two women increased from 50 tablets to 200 tablets a day. Her boyfriend would come to see the two women four times a day in order to give drugs to them. During the second trip, her boyfriend would get the money from the first 50 tablets back. Bo could sell about 600-800 tablets a day. She got a profit in the amount of 150-250 US\$(Baht 6,000 - Baht 10,000).

Bo deposited all the money she got from the drug trade with the woman who was called Mom by the sister. She and her boyfriend also called the woman “Mom” and she trusted this woman. She could ask for money from Mom whenever she wanted. In fact she did not know the exact amount of money she deposited with Mom. When she supplied drugs to those the women, she would go shopping at a mall called Center Point to buy new clothes or have food at the fast food shop. She gave her boyfriend’s mother 25-50 US\$(Baht 1,000 - Baht 2,000) per day.

Bo had been arrested twice. At age 15, she was arrested with 15 tablets of amphetamine on charges of possession and possession for the purpose of disposal. At that time, the judge put her on probation for two years. The second, at the age of 16 years, she was captured with 30 tablets of amphetamine, also on charges of possession and possession for the purpose of disposal. She was sentenced to jail for 18 months.

Bo told the interviewer that she would return to get involved with the drug trade again after leaving the center. She said that next time she must do business very carefully, however, and will take drugs from a big drug dealer, then deliver drugs to the two women who were part of her network. In this way she will be safe from the arrests.

### **Case 11: Mr. Somchai (assumed name) 16 years old**

#### **Personal data:**

Somchai was a Buddhist and single. He lived in a rented house in a slum area called New Development Community at Klong Toei District. He used to study but stopped studying because he lacked money and he was frequently absent from school. He lived with his parents, one older sister and two younger sisters. The relationships between members of the family were good. His parents were employed. They quarreled sometimes and they were in debt. His mother gave him 12.5 US\$(Baht 50) per day. Somchai enjoyed playing with friends who were drugs abusers in the community. He often went out to have food at the food shop where there was karaoke four times a week. He also enjoyed shopping at a mall and going to the nightclub. Most of his expenses were for shopping, having food and a drink at a nightclub, and buying methamphetamine tablets for abuse.

#### **Offending action:**

Somchai started to use drugs at the age of 14 years old out of curiosity. During that time he was a student. His close friend was a drug addict so he abused drugs with this friend. Methamphetamine was the first drug he uses. He abused methamphetamine by eating and inhaling it.

Somchai mobilized himself from drug abuser to drug seller because there were many drug abusers in his community, and each day he found many people from outside came to buy drugs in his community. He realized that he could earn much more money from selling drugs. After abusing methamphetamine for a year, he learnt how to sell drugs and started as a retail drug dealer. He took 30 tablets of methamphetamine from his friend who informed him about the place and the exact time to get drugs. Sometimes he went out to take drugs from his friend at 2 a.m. His friends would fix the place to collect drugs, and also the place to pay money back. Normally, Somchai concealed drugs in his alarm clock.

Most of his customers were strangers from outside between ages 15-20 years. They were composed of students at school and university levels, and employees. Somchai had 40 customers. He could take drugs from his friend at a price of 1.5 US\$(Baht 60) per tablet, which was sold to a customer at a price of 2 US\$(Baht 80) per tablet, gaining 0.5 US\$(Baht 20) for each tablet. Normally, he could sell 30 tablets a day. In each month he earned 300 US\$(Baht 12,000) from selling drugs.

Somchai had been arrested four times. First he was arrested at the age of 14 years on charges of possession of drugs. He was released on bail. The second, he was arrested in the same year on charges of abusing drugs. He was held in custody for six months at the center called Ban Metta Remand, Home Division. The third time, he was arrested again on charges of possessing drugs. He was 15 years old at that time. He was sentenced to be in custody for six months at the same center. The fourth time, he was arrested at the age of 16 years, again for drug possession. This time he was sentenced to be in custody for another six months at the same center.

### **Case 12: Miss. Noon (assumed name) 15 years old**

#### **Personal data:**

Noon was a Bangkok resident. Her father was dead and she lived with her mother and older sister at the house belonging to her mother. Her residence was located in a slum area of Klong Toei District. Her mother was a methamphetamine drug seller. The relationships between members in the family were good. The economic situation of the family was alright. Noon was single and a student in her second year of the junior school. Noon got Baht 50. - a day from mother. She spent most of her time at school. She had four classmates who were drug abusers. On the weekends she stayed at home to deliver drugs to customer as requested by her mother. She was not interested in going shopping or travelling outside. Normally, she went to see a movie once a month.

#### **Offending action:**

Noon started to act as a drug deliverer three years ago when she was 12 years old. Her mother would come to take drugs from a drug dealer. Then someone who she respected asked her to send drugs to customers at the meeting place. Most of the customers lived in the community. To deliver drugs to customers, Noon hid about three to four tablets in her bra. She would get cash from the customers. Generally, she delivered drugs to customers five to six times a day. Her worked went from 6p.m.-12 p.m. For payment she was dependedant on her mother.

Her mother had about 10-20 customers. Most of them were workers and labourers from both in and outside the community. They were between the ages of 17-28 years. A tablet of methamphetamine was sold to customers at a price of 1.5-2 US\$(Baht 60 - Baht 80) depending on the relationship between her mother and customer. A regular customer bought drugs at a cheaper price than a new customer. Most of them bought drugs for abuse. Noon has never been arrested.

## **ANNEX 2: COMMUNITIES' BACKGROUND**

### **Klong Prempracha Patana Community**

Klong Prempracha Patana Community is located on private land covering 1.26 hectares along the canal at Tung Song Hong Sub-District, Lak Si District. Ninety years ago this community was used as a farm to grow rice. People settled their houses along a canal because it was good for irrigation systems. At that time, people traveled by boat. After the city expansion, some areas were sold to build townhouses, factories or other buildings, and people in the community changed their work to be employees in the factories or companies. Some became government officers, while others became merchants. The influx of people from the country to the city made this community very crowded with people.

Presently, there are 197 households with a population of 1,200. The inhabitants live in a row of wood houses or in two storey houses along the canal. The old houses have an area with a fence compared to the new houses which stand in a line without fences. The total population is broken down as follows: employees in a private company (50%), government officers (25%), merchants (15%) and the rest (10%) are unemployed. The relationship between people in the community changed from a peaceful one in which they helped each other to taking care of one's own problems and ignoring the others. There are many problems in the community like air pollution, wastewater, and the epidemic of drugs.

Since 1987, an organization has been established within the community to gather people who are devoted to solving the basic problems of the community such as lack of electricity, water, telephone, and the wastewater problem. The development of this people's organization appeared clearly in 1989. There were many groups in the community like the housewife group, the protecting community group, the saving group and the volunteer group. They all had the same goal: to do good for the community. However, drug problems still exist in the community. According to the community survey at the provincial level in 2000, it was found that the problem of drugs abuse in Klong Prempracha Patana Community was very serious, as it is surrounded by other communities where drugs are available. Moreover, the youth group is the biggest group in the community and the problem of drug abuse among the youth is expanding widely in the community.

### **Wat Pracharabeautham I Community**

Wat Pracharabeautham I Community is located on a temple land at Nakhon Chaisri Sub-District, Dusit District. This community has existed for ninety years. People in the community know each other very well. Most of them are cousins or relatives which is why they settled in houses close to each other. In the past the relationships between people in the community are very good. They live a peaceful life and enjoy helping each other. Presently, there are 112 households with 600 total inhabitants. Most of them are the third generation. Some work as employees in private companies, some are government officers, and some sell food at the first floor of their house. The population in the community seemed to be crowded.

According to the 2000 community survey, Wat Pracharabeautham I Community is one of the communities with an intensive drug problem. This is because of its location and sophisticated routes inside the community. It is also because of the surrounding communities where drugs are available. It is very difficult for the community to protect the children and youngsters from drugs. Moreover, lack of strong efforts and work by the people's organization in the community contribute to the rapid expansion of drug related activities among the community's youth.

### **Klong Toei Community**

Klong Toei Community has been in existence for fifty years. It started in 1952, when people invaded the land to live and settle on the land of the Port Authority of Thailand. Presently, there are 40 units in the community. Most of the people in the community are Buddhists who have completed education at the primary level. They have their own houses, all in a line. Most of the inhabitants are employees and merchants, and some are poor. There are many government and non-government agencies in this community such as the school, the police station, the public health center, the kindergarten center, the library, the office of the community committee, a temple, a church, a mosque, and Doung Prateep Foundation.. Klong Toei Community is now facing a serious problem of the trafficking in and the abuse of drugs.



## ANNEX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE

### In-depth Interview and Questionnaire of rapid assessment research “Rapid Assessment of Child Labour in Illicit Drugs Activities in Thailand”

Duration of interview: Date.....Month.....Year.....  
Time of interview : Start at.....End at.....  
Total time of interview: .....Hours.....Minutes  
Place of interview: .....  
Amphur/District .....Province .....  
Name of interviewer: (Mr./Mrs./Ms.).....  
Name of questionnaire checker: (Mr./Mrs./Ms.).....

#### **1. General Data**

- 1.1 First name ..... Last name.....
- 1.2 Gender:  
( ) Male ( ) Female
- 1.3 Age: .....Years
- 1.4 Nationality:  
( ) Thai ( ) Chinese  
( ) Others (please give the detail) .....
- 1.5 Religion:  
( ) Buddhism ( ) Islam  
( ) Christianity ( ) Others (please give the detail)  
.....
- 1.6 Marital status:  
( ) Single ( ) Widow/widower  
( ) Divorced ( ) Separated  
( ) Married with registration ( ) Live with  
( ) Others (please give the detail ) .....
- 1.7 Place of birth: Tambon/Sub-District .....  
Amphur/District .....  
Province .....

- 1.8 Please list all activities that you do each day from the time you wake up until you go to sleep.

Activities	Duration	With whom
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		

- 1.9 How many numbers of the following facilities do you have in your house?

- ☐ Television.....set (s)  
☐ Video player .....set (s)  
☐ Radio.....set (s)  
☐ Stereo .....set (s)  
☐ Refrigerator... set (s)  
☐ Electric cooking rice pot..... set (s)  
☐ Microwave..... set (s)  
☐ Oven..... set (s)  
☐ Gas range..... set (s)  
☐ Clock..... set (s)  
☐ Safe..... set (s)  
☐ Computer.....set (s)  
☐ Telephone ..... set (s)  
☐ Others (please give the detail) .....

- 1.10 How many numbers of the following accessories that cost more than Baht 5,000.- do you have?

- ☐ Wrist watch.....set (s)  
☐ Necklace..... set (s)  
☐ Ring..... set (s)  
☐ Bracelet.....set (s)  
☐ Brooch... set (s)  
☐ Organizer.....set (s)  
☐ Mobile phone..... set (s)  
☐ Others (please give the detail) .....

- 1.11 Do you have your own vehicle?

- ☐ No. ☐ Yes. (please give the detail)  
 Type of vehicle: .....  
 Numbers of vehicle : .....

## **2.Educational background and experiences in academics**

2.1 Are you studying?

( ) Yes.

At grade: .....

Name of academy : .....

(Please complete only the question no.2.2, 2.5 and 2.6)

( ) No. (I used to study but not now)

(Please complete the question no.2.2 - 2.6)

( ) No. (I have never been educated)

(Please complete only the question no.2.7 and 2.8)

2.2 What is the level of your educational record?

( ) Excellent (>3.5 point)

( ) Good (3.0-3.5 point)

( ) Fair (2.5-3.0 point)

( ) Poor (1.5-2.5 point)

( ) Failed (<1.5 point) which means that you have to attend the class again.

2.3 Why don't you continue your studies? (You can mark more than one answer)

( ) Finish the highest education as setting

( ) Have to work for money

( ) Have to work as parents' request

( ) Cannot afford to study

( ) Others (please give the detail ) .....

2.4 Do you want to continue the study?

( ) Yes. ( ) No.

( ) O.K. (it means that it is okay whether you have a chance to continue studies or not)

2.5 During your studies, did/do you have any friends who involved with drugs?

( ) Yes. ( ) No.

If yes, please give more detail about how many of your friends who are involved with drugs? What is the relationship between you and your friend? What was/is the behavior of your friend?

.....

2.6 Have you ever tried drugs during your studies?

( ) Yes. ( ) No.

If yes, please give us the reason.....

.....

2.7 If you are not educated, can you read and write?

( ) Yes. ( ) No.

2.8 If you are not educated, do you work?

( ) No. (unemployed)

( ) Yes. If yes, what is your career? .....

How much money do you earn per day? ..... Baht

How much money do you earn per month?..... Baht

### **3. Family and economic status data**

3.1 Who is the owner of your present residence?

( ) Myself

(        ) My father

( ) My mother

( ) My cousin

( ) My relative

( ) My friend

( ) My step-father

( ) My step-mother

( ) Rent-resident owner

( ) Others (please give the detail) .....

3.2 What is the name of your residence?.....

### 3.3 What is your residence?

( ) A flat

( ) A house with areas

( ) A row wood house

( ) A brick house

( ) Others (please give the detail) .....

3.4 Who do you live with? (You can mark more than one answer)

Person	Career	Salary/month (Baht)	Expenses under your responsibility	Notes
( ) Parents	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Father	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Mother	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Spouse	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Cousin	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Relative	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Friend	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Alone	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Step-father	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Step-mother	( ) Yes ( ) No			
( ) Others	( ) Yes ( ) No			
.....				

- 3.5 Who supports you?
- ( ) Parents ( ) My father  
 ( ) My mother ( ) My cousin  
 ( ) My relative ( ) Myself  
 ( ) My step-father ( ) My step-mother  
 ( ) Others (please give the detail) .....
- 3.6 What is your supporter's career?
- ( ) Government service/ State Enterprises' employee  
 ( ) Merchant  
 ( ) Agriculture  
 ( ) Employee/labourer  
 ( ) Others (please give the detail) .....
- 3.7 What is the economic status level of your supporter?
- ( ) Rich (Income = >15,000.-Baht/month with monthly saving)  
 ( ) Middle (Income = 5,000-15,000.- Baht/month with occasional saving)  
 ( ) Poor (Income = < 5,000.-Baht/month, having debt, income is less than expense )
- 3.8 Do you gamble?
- ( ) No. ( ) Yes. (Occasionally) ( ) Yes. (Habitually)
- 3.9 Do you drink?
- ( ) No. ( ) Yes. (Occasionally) ( ) Yes. (Habitually)
- 3.10 Before you got involved with the drug trade, what was the financial situation of your family?
- ( ) Very good. (We have monthly saving)  
 ( ) Good. (We have occasional saving)  
 ( ) Fair. (Some months we have a balance budget, but some months we have to use saving)  
 ( ) Bad. (We have a debt/ the expenses exceed the income)
- 3.11 Are there any expenses under your responsibility? (You can mark more than one answer)
- ( ) No.  
 ( ) Only my expense.  
 ( ) Expenses of parents/cousin.  
 ( ) Expenses of spouse and children.  
 ( ) Others (please give the detail ) .....

3.12 Do your parents still live together?

( ) Yes. (please complete the question no.3.13)

( ) No. because of:

☐ Their divorced/separated

( ) A dead father

( ) A dead mother

( ) Others (please give the detail) .....

(If no, no need to complete the question no.3.13, just complete the question no.3.14)

3.13 What is the relationship like between your parents?

( ) Very good. (Their love is marvelous)

( ) Good. (there are quarrels sometimes)

( ) Not good. (They are often quarreling)

(        ) Very bad. (Habitually, they hit and ignore each other and there is not a word to say between them.)

3.14 How many relatives do you have?

Please give the number of your relatives .....person(s)

( ) Your relatives from the same parents

( ) No. of the older .....person(s)

( ) No. of the younger .....person(s)

( ) Your relative from the step-mother/father

( ) No. of the older .....person(s)

( ) No. of the younger .....person(s)

3.15 How is the relationship between you and the relatives from the same parents?

.....

.....

3.16 How is the relationship between you and the relatives from the step-mother/father?

.....

#### **4. Lifestyle**

Types of expenses	Monthly frequency (times/month)	Budget/Time (Baht)
<p>1. <u>Having food and entertainment with friend.</u> Please specify the name of your favorite place. .....</p> <p>2. <u>Travelling to the country</u> Please specify the name of your favorite place. .....</p> <p>3. <u>Enjoying nightlife</u> Please specify the name of your favorite place. .....</p> <p>4. <u>Shopping for new clothes</u> Please specify the name of your favorite place. .....</p> <p>5. <u>Seeing the movies at the theater</u> Please specify the name of your favorite place.</p>		

## **5. Experiences and actions involved with the drug trade**

5.1 How are you involved with drugs? (You can mark more than one answer)

- (        ) As a drug user
- (        ) As an employed drug buyer, which means the actions of the child who devotes his time and labour in acting as a middle man between drug abusers and drug dealers. The child gains the profit in form of money from drug abusers who asked him to buy drugs for them
- (        ) As a drug seller, which means the actions of the child who buy drugs for selling drugs to abuser. He will collect or lend some money to buy drugs for sale
- (        ) As a drug deliverer, which means the actions of the child who devotes his time, labour and vehicle in acting as a drug deliverer between a small dealer and a big dealer. The child is hired by a small drug dealer to take drugs from a big dealer in other place and return drug to him.
- (        ) As a drug walker, which means the actions of the child who devotes his time and labour in acting as a middle man between drug abusers and drug dealers. The child gains the profit in form of money of drugs from drug dealers who asked him to deliver drugs to abusers.
- (        ) Others (please give the detail) .....

5.2 How long have you been involved with drugs? Are you still involved with drugs?

Behavior/ Acting as a...	Types of drugs	Duration (month/year)	Keep on selling drugs	Stop selling drugs now
-Drug abuser -Employed -Drug buyer -Drug seller -Drug deliverer -Drug walker -Others (please provide detail) .....				

Note: In the event that you are involved with many types of drugs in the above actions, please name all types of drugs that you are involved with.

- 5.3 In case you are a drug abuser and you still use drugs, please name the types of drugs from the first time use to present.

Types of drug	Age at first use	Route of Administration	Pattern of drug use (single, combined, alternated drugs)	Reason for the first time use and for changing drugs
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.				

- 5.4 If you are still involved with drugs, what is your pattern, method, client group, place, time work, and the profit?

An employed drug buyer

Types of drugs	Pattern/ method	Customer	Meeting place	Time work	Profit

A drug seller

Types of drugs	Pattern/ method	Customer	Selling place	Time work	Profit

As a drug deliverer

Types of drugs	Pattern/ method	Customer	Sending place	Time work	Profit

### A drug walker

Types of drugs	Pattern/ method	Customer	Meeting place	Time work	Profit

Other actions, please provide detail .....

Types of drugs	Pattern/ method	Customer	Place	Time work	Profit

5.5 What is the first drug that you sold?

- ☐ Cannabis
 ☐ Volatile substances  
☐ Heroin
 ☐ Amphetamine  
☐ Others, please give the detail .....

5.6 How can you contact a drug dealer for the first time? Where? and Why?

.....

5.7 Are there any factors or people who forced you to sell drugs the first time? Who, Why, Where, When and How?

.....

5.8 What is the reason for your first time involvement as a drug seller?

- ☐ High profit  
☐ Poor income that cannot cover the expenses  
☐ Having a big debt  
☐ Need money to buy drug for use  
☐ Unemployed  
☐ Others, please give the detail .....

5.9 How old are you when you first sold drugs? ..... years.

5.10 Please give the reason(s) for the first drug sale ?

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

5.11 How can you take drugs from the selling place?  
And how can you escape from a search and arrest of the police ?

.....  
How can you cancel of store drugs before selling ?

5.13 What is a package of drug for sale ?

5.14 The types of drugs that you bought and sold during the 3 months before being interviewed/arrested:

Type of drug	Quantity of drug for buying	Price/unit (Buy)	Price/sale (sale)	Quantity of drug sale/day
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

5.15 Normally, where is your place for selling drugs?

5.16 Do you sell drugs everyday?  
( ) Yes. ( ) No. (please specific the day)

5.17 How much money do you gain from selling drugs each day? .....Baht.

5.18 How much is the average profit for monthly drug sale? .....Baht.

5.19 What is your expense in each day? And how much money do you have to pay for?

5.20 At the place where you sell drugs, are there any drug sellers who sell the same drug as you?  
( ) No. ( ) Not sure ( ) Yes.

5.21 Have you ever moved or changed the location where you sell drugs?  
( ) Never, because.....  
( ) Yes, because.....

5.22 How many drug customers do you have? .....person(s).

- 5.23 What age are most of your customers? .....years.
- 5.24 Where do they come from?  
       (        ) Your community/ nearby community  
       (        ) Outside your community
- 5.25 How many times do most of your customers buy drugs from you each day?  
       (        ) 1 time.        (        ) 2 times.        (        ) 3 times.  
       (        ) Others, please give the detail .....
- 5.26 At what time do most of your customers come to buy drugs from you?  
       (        ) Morning                      (        ) Afternoon  
       (        ) Evening                      (        ) Night  
       (        ) Others, please give the detail .....
- 5.27 What quantity of drugs do they buy in each time? Please give more  
       detail about the type and the unit of drugs.  
       .....
- 5.28 What is the reason for most of them to buy drugs from you?  
       (        ) To sell drugs to the others people  
       (        ) To abuse drugs  
       (        ) To abuse and to sell drugs  
       (        ) Others, please give the detail .....
- 5.29 Mostly, what is the career of your customers?  
       (        ) Unemployed                      (        ) Merchant  
       (        ) Employee                      (        ) Company's officer  
       (        ) Student in school/college/university  
       (        ) Others, please give the detail .....
- 5.30 How do you get your customers? (You can mark more than one answer)  
       (        ) From friend's recommendation  
       (        ) From talking among drug users/buyers  
       (        ) From contacts among drug customers, then they  
               contact me directly  
       (        ) From drug brokers  
       (        ) Others, please give the detail .....
- 5.31 Do you use drugs while selling drugs?  
       (        ) No.  
       (        ) Yes. If yes, please name the types of drug  
               .....  
               and how often for daily drug use ?  
               ..... time(s)
- 5.32 Have you ever suggested to or persuaded other people to use drugs?  
       (        ) Never.  
       (        ) Yes, please name the types of drug  
               .....

- 5.33 Have you ever been arrested?  
 ( ) Yes. ( ) No.  
 If yes, how many times?.....  
 And what were the offences of each arrest?  
 Offence of the first arrest: .....at age of .....years.  
 Offence of the second arrest: ..... at age of..... years.  
 Offence of the third arrest: .....at age of .....years.  
 Offence of the fourth arrest:.....at age of .....years.
- 5.34 For the last arrest, was there any other offender being arrested with you?  
 ( ) Yes. .... persons ( ) No.
- 5.35 How many times have you been arrested on charges of drug offences?  
 .....time (s).  
 And what is the punishment of each arrest?  
 The punishment of the first arrest: .....duration ... ..years.....months.  
 The punishment of the second arrest: .....duration.....years.....months.  
 The punishment of the third arrest: ... ..duration .....years.....months.  
 The punishment of the fourth arrest:.....duration.....years.....months.
- 5.36 How did they treat you during the control/punishment?  
 .....
- 5.37 How did you feel? Is there any change in your life after receiving punishment?  
 .....

## **6. Comment on measures of drug intervention**

- 6.1 What do you think about the solving of drug problems undertaken by the Government agencies? How would you rate the success?  
 ( ) Very good  
 ( ) Good  
 ( ) Fair  
 ( ) Failed, please give the detail .....
- 6.2 What do you think about the performance of the drug officers?  
 How is the success?  
 ( ) Very good  
 ( ) Good  
 ( ) Fair  
 ( ) Not good  
 ( ) Poor, please give the detail .....
- 6.3 On drug suppression work, is it suitable and successful?  
 ( ) Very suitable and successful  
 ( ) Suitable and successful  
 ( ) Suitable and successful in some part  
 ( ) Not suitable and not successful  
 ( ) Completely failed, please give the detail .....

- 6.4 How is the work of the drug law enforcement officers?  
       (        ) Very good  
       (        ) Good  
       (        ) Fair  
       (        ) Not good  
       (        ) Poor, please give the detail .....
- 6.5 On drug prevention work, is it suitable and successful?  
       (        ) Very suitable and successful  
       (        ) Suitable and successful  
       (        ) Suitable and successful in some part  
       (        ) Not suitable and not successful  
       (        ) Completely failed, please give the detail .....
- 6.6 How is the work of the officers who are in charge of drug prevention?  
       (        ) Very good  
       (        ) Good  
       (        ) Fair  
       (        ) Not good  
       (        ) Poor, please give the detail .....
- 6.7 On drug treatment work, is it suitable and successful?  
       (        ) Very suitable and successful  
       (        ) Suitable and successful  
       (        ) Suitable and successful in some part  
       (        ) Not suitable and not successful  
       (        ) Completely failed, please give the detail .....
- 6.8 How is the work of the officers who are in charge of treatment service?  
       (        ) Very good  
       (        ) Good  
       (        ) Fair  
       (        ) Not good  
       (        ) Poor, please give the detail .....
- 6.9 To be successful in solving drug problems, what more needs to be done by  
       the Government to combat the problem?  
       .....

Thank you !

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## **ANNEX 4: RESEARCH TEAM**

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