

Youth Drug Problems: The Evidence in Thailand

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Abstract

This research is about youth drug problems. Drug problem is problematic for teenagers almost every part in Thailand. This study focuses on the case of Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict area in Narathiwat province. The purpose of this article aims to (1) study the economic effect of youth drug addiction, (2) the problem of school child's education system on youth drug addiction and, (3) the effect of social living quality from youth drug addiction. The population in the study is totaling 2,035 people, divided into 1,054 males and 981 females from totaling 966 houses. It uses the formula of Krejcie & Morgan table in obtaining the size of sampling group and that totaling 322 people for filling up the questionnaires and the other 12 people for the interviews both from the appointed government officials and the elected members who are working in the local administrative office. It has found some problems concerned. They are such as (first) the drug addition has affected the local economic factor that destroying youth careers in the community, the means is at 3.66 and the S.D. at 1.00 that grouped in a high level and ranked at the 1st position of the group. Second, the drug addiction has affected the local education factor and the policy maker is lack of knowledge and careless about how to solve the problem, the means is at 3.66 and the S.D. at 1.00, it grouped in a high level and ranked at the 1st position of the group. And, third, the drug addiction has affected the local social living quality factor, the means is at 3.66, the S.D. at 1.00, it grouped at a high level and ranked at the 1st position of the group. In addition, the results of effects in the hypotheses' tests such as the economic, the education, the social living quality are coming out differently. However, all of the factors are with the level of statistical significance at 0.05. In conclusion, the drug problem is not problematic at the beginning, but it is increasingly problematic later on by the drug dealers from both sides: government and non-government people. Almost every village now is facing with the problem of burglary in the community, students dropping out of school and, teenagers having no future.

Keywords : Drug Problem, Youth, Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict

Significance of Drug Problems

According to Levy (2016), Drug and alcohol abuse among teenagers in the USA's teenagers has become a major public health issue. The government collects facts on substance abuse and reports on the statistics and they are staggering. Some of the statistics that the United States government has reported on that as almost 50% of high school seniors have abused a drug of some kind as the example.

In a briefing to the United Nations Security Council, Yury Fedotov, head of the UN's office on drugs and crime says his office is registering new alarming trends on drug trafficking in West and Central Africa with disruptive and destabilizing effects on governance, security, economic growth, and public health. The agency says west, north and central Africa jointly account for 87% of all pharmaceutical opiates seized globally.

According to UN statistics 37,000 people in Africa die annually from diseases associated with the consumption of illegal drugs. The UN estimates there are 28 million drug users in Africa, the figure for the United States and Canada is 32 million. That is of no argument that drugs are created to cure diseases and to alleviate human condition; however, people may misuse over-the-counter drugs and this is called drug abuse. It has become a social problem because it has afflicted the family, the economy and the community. In addition, it is also a remarkable fact that there is no real substantial psychoanalytic theory of addiction, especially given that Freud had clinical experience of working with addicts (Fatima, 2017). This fact is even more remarkable when you know that one of Freud's first attempts to cure someone was his clinical intervention with his friend and colleague, Ernst von FleischI-Marxov. Freud had hoped that cocaine could help his friend to get rid of an addiction to morphine. This attempt failed and eventually von FleischI-Marxov died from a cocaine addiction. (Loose, 1998). However, according to Freud's Psychoanalysis Theory (Freud, 1947), there are three metaphorical parts to the mind: Id, Ego and, Super Ego (McLeod, 2013).

In Thailand, Suthirakralas (1993) and Chuthaijenti (1995) said about reasons and behaviors of youth drug problems were that, 1) the reasons of youth who involved with drug abuses were that such as (1) mental mood to eliminate anxiety, (2) physical need to relieve pain, (3) living in a confusing society, (4) to follow friends in avoiding loneliness and (5) mental retardation and using drug to eliminate the stress and the other factor is that, 2) the behaviors of youth who involved with drug abuses were such as (1) change in physical mature appearance, (2) change in social character to follow friends more often and, (3) change in emotional nature with strong expression to break their parents' order. However, according to the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Center (Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), 2010), the government has established an integrated approach towards solving the drug epidemic problem at the local level. It has been trying to reduce the level of drug epidemic problems in villages/communities by tracking and taking supplementary measures to reduce the drug trafficking under the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Center.

Drug Problems in Southern Thailand

Regarding drug problems in southern Thailand, according to Patrick et al. (2012) in *Socioeconomic Status and Substance Use Among Young Adults: A Comparison Across Constructs and Drugs*, *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* (73(5), 772–782) and found that smoking in young adulthood is associated with lower childhood family SES¹, although the association is explained by demographic and social role covariates. Alcohol use and marijuana use in young adulthood are associated with higher childhood family SES, even after controlling for covariates. And in the same problem, Assanangkornchai et al. (2007) in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Volume 86, Issues 2–3 (12 January Pages: 167-174)* and found that drug and alcohol dependence substance use among high-school students in southern Thailand over 3 years (2002–2004) is increasing among Thai adolescents. School-based interventions seem desirable, especially in boys, vocational and public school students. This major problem currently affects society, the economy and national development. Moreover, Kitjakrancharoensin et al. (2020) under the topic *Prevalence and Risk Factors of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Among Agriculturists in a Rural Community, Central Thailand* published in *International Journal of Obstructive Chronic Pulmonary Disease* (2020; 15: 2189–2198), one related study conducted in southern Thailand found that the prevalence of substance abuse in youth groups was 7% in 2002 increasing to 9% and 13% in 2003 and 2004,

¹ Socioeconomic Status

respectively. Nevertheless, information regarding substance abuse among adolescents in Thailand remains limited especially in remote rural communities.

The data conclusion emphasized that substance abuse is a problem in these rural communities. The Public Health Interventions should be designed and provided for these rural communities to prevent substance abuse among adolescents. Further, schools should provide lessons how to negotiate and avoid coercion when being induced to abuse substances or other unhealthy and dangerous behaviors.

In summary, the complications of drug addiction in southern Thailand according to [Srimuangkanjana \(2018\)](#), there are three main problems concerned with drug addiction: 1) illegal drug cultivation for consumption and distribution, 2) drug imports from Thailand-Malaysian borders and, 3) drug trafficking and epidemic from Bangkok and northern Thailand.

Research Questions

Regarding the economic impact of drug abuse in youth that printed in *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development* by [Nyameh et al. \(2013\)](#) found that various government and communities has frowned on the new form of menace that has bedeviled the society, and it is eating deep into the productivity sector of the economic as it directly affects the youths, leaving the labor market vacuum of labor force simply because the youth have indulged in diverse kind of drug abuse and that have made them insane and unproductively members of the society.

Furthermore, drug addiction is also destroying the education of students. In *Drug Abuse and its Academic Implications among Students at Three Secondary Schools in Mutasa Central Area of Mutasa District, European Journal of Education Studies (ISSN: 2501 - 1111)* by [Oyedele et al. \(2016\)](#) found that Drug addiction has destroyed the education of students. The main findings are that teachers do not teach anything about drug use during lessons as they concentrate on their subject content. They have some experience in dealing with drug problems in the schools. The main reasons why students take drugs is influence of peer pressure and lack of models at home. The most common drugs taken by students are tobacco and beer obtained from friends and road side markets. Schools experience conflicts between teachers and students and students perform poorly in examinations as a result of drug abuse in schools. The main recommendations made are that the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education must formalize and support establishment of vibrant guidance and counselling system in schools and school administrators must establish vibrant guidance and counselling departments which effects individual and peer counselling.

Finally, Drug addiction is problematic towards the quality of life and society. In *Egyptian Journal of Social Work (EJSW), ISSN: 2356-9204 Vol 13, Issue 1 (January 2022)* under the topic of *Quality of Life and Its Relationship to Social Alienation of Drug Addicts* by [Abd El-Samee \(2022\)](#) found that there is a statistically significant inverse relationship at the level of significance (0.01) between the quality of life and social alienation of drug addicts, the level of quality of life dimensions for drug addicts is low, and the level of the dimensions of social alienation for drug addicts is medium.

Thus, (1) how is the drug addiction effective towards the economic in southern Thailand? (2) Why is drug addiction problematic towards the school child's education system in southern Thailand? And, (3) how is the youth drug addiction effective towards the social living quality in southern Thailand?

Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are to (1) study the economic effect of youth drug addiction, (2) the problem of school child's education system from youth drug addiction and, (3) the effect of social living quality from youth drug addiction.

Research Methodology

This article was trying to answer the research question “how do the youth drug addiction has affected the general situation in the southern border provinces of Thailand?” In making the framework of questionnaires, it provided an independent factor “drug addiction” and, the dependent factors are such as “economic factor”, “school child’s education system” and “social living quality”. The hypotheses are to find out the relation between “Independent factor” and “Dependent” factors (look at the diagram 1: the relation between independent and dependent factors).

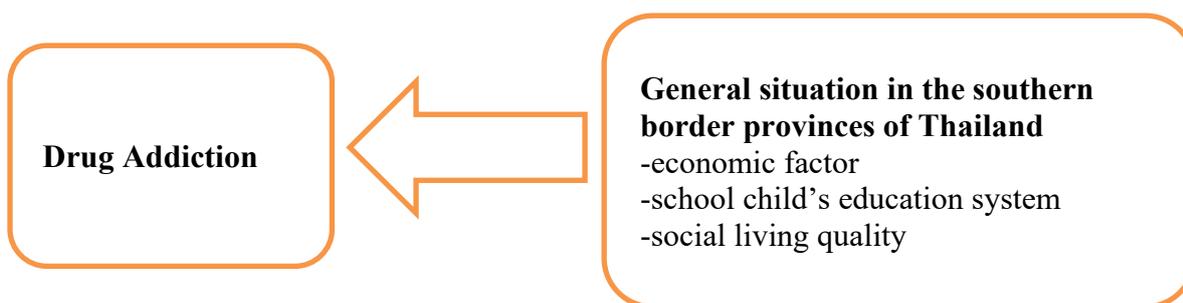


Diagram 1: Relation between independent and dependent factors

This research has designed 2 sets of questionnaires: closed-ended questions and open-ended questions.

(1) Data Collection Questionnaires:

- (1.1) Closed-ended questions. The population in the study is totaling 2,035 people, divided into 1,054 males and 981 females from totaling 966 houses. It uses the formula of Krejcie & Morgan table in obtaining the size of sampling group and that totaling 322 people for filling up the questionnaires.
- (1.2) Open-ended questions. Total of 12 people are designed for the interviews both from the appointed government officials and the elected members who are working in the local administrative office.
- (1.3) Place of fieldwork. It is taken in southern Thailand, Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict area in Narathiwat province.
- (1.4) Time of fieldwork. It is between January 1, 2021-October 31, 2021.

(2) Data Analysis:

(2.1) Quantitative Method

The interpretation result of average 4.51 - 5.00 means the drug problem affecting to the general situation in the local area at the highest level. The average 3.51 - 4.50 affecting at a high level, the average 2.51 - 3.50 affecting at a medium level, the average 1.51 - 2.50 affecting at a low level, and the average 1.00 - 1.50 affecting at the lowest level respectively (Best, 1970).

(2.2) Qualitative Method.

The interpretation result is calculated from the relation factors between the independent and the sub-factors in the dependent factor. And, the percentage of the highest numbers from the measure of the relation is judged as the value of interpretation.

Research Results

The population in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict is totaling 2,035 people, divided into 1,054 males and 981 females with totaling 966 houses. To obtain the sampling group, the study was using the formula from the table of Krejcie & Morgan to determine the sample size. The sampling groups for filling up the questionnaires were totaling 322 people and that for interviewing totaling 12 people from two groups: government officials and elected village members. The survey area was done in 8 villages from Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict (see [Table 1](#) below).

Table 1: Villages, Population and, Sampling Groups

Total of 9 Villages	Population (2035 people)	Sampling Groups (322 people)
1. Ban Ai Pacho	251	47
2. Ban Phu Kaho Thong	306	65
3. Ban Toh Moh	261	40
4. Ban Ai Kapok	261	40
5. Ban Non Som Boon	252	37
6. Ban Choom Thong	253	38
7. Ban Thu Rian	239	35
8. Ban Wang Nam Yen	212	30

In this article, it was mixing between qualitative and quantitative methods. For 1) qualitative, the total of 12 people were programmed for the qualitative. They all were from the Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization and that included 1 Mayor, 1 Secretary, 5 Members and, 5 Village Head-men. All of them were selected through a purposive method by utilizing opened-ended questionnaires to obtain such deeper data to support this research. In addition, for 2) quantitative, most of the data came from the closed-ended questionnaires to measure the perception data.

The data were divided into 2 sources: primary data and secondary data. 1) The primary data came from the questionnaires, the meeting groups and the interviews in the Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict area. And, 2) the secondary data, mostly came from documents, texts, articles, magazines, theses, and research conclusions.

Time Period for Field Work. For this field work, we selected 5 volunteers that depending on the concerned working experiences they have. The time period for field work has been done between January 2021 – October 2021 and totaling 10 months (see [Table 2](#) below).

Table 2: Time Period for Field Work

Handout Questionnaires		Interview		Meeting Groups	
Samples	Period	Samples	Period	Samples	Period
322	1 Apr-30 June 21	12	1-31 May 21	70-90	5,12,19,26 June 21

The data collection of the study were done through both opened-ended and closed-ended questionnaires to interview and to meet the sampling groups in the local area. It was to obtain the data of effects from the youth drug addiction towards the local economy, education and social living quality in the Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict area. In addition, it was to find out how to solve and develop the area from the youth drug problems.

Data of Respondents

The respondents totaling 322 people, divided into 152 males (47.2 %) and 170 females (52.8 %). Ages, lower than 20 years old 52 people (16.1 %), between 21-30 years old 122 people (37.9 %), between 31-40 years old 52 people (16.1 %), between 41-50 years old 37 people (11.5 %), between 51-60 years old 44 people (13.7 % and 60 years old and upwards 15 people (4.7 %). Education, in primary school 80 people (24.8 %), lower-upper secondary school 98 people (30.4 %), vocational-undergraduate school 132 people (41.0 %) and, Master-Ph.D degrees 12 people (3.8 %). Work Experience, between 1-3 years 122 people (37.9 %), between 4-6 years 119 people (37.0 %), between 7-9 years 68 people (21.1 %) and, 9 years and upwards 13 people (4.0 %). And; faith in religion, Buddhism 280 people (87.0 %) and Islam 42 people (13.0 %).

Data of Perception

Towards local Economy (see [Table 1](#) below). The total of 322 people (100 %) perceived that (1.1) the source of working capital to create a career for the community in Phu Khao Thong area that with the mean at 3.66, the SD at 1.00, at a high level and stay at the 1st ranking. (1.2) Funds in the form of savings groups to help each other in this area that the mean at 3.27, the SD at 1.18, at a medium level and stay at the 2nd ranking. And, (1.3) the problem of youth drug addiction affects the economy in the community with the mean at 2.64, the SD at 1.02, at a medium level and stay at the 3rd ranking.

The results of the analysis of the overall local economic problems were that averaged at 3.19, the standard deviation at 1.07 and it was at a medium level.

Table 1: The level of perceptions on Local Economy N = 322 (100%)

No.	Message A	\bar{X}	SD	Level	Ranking
1	Local Economy				
1.1	Source of working capital to create a career for the community.	3.66	1.00	High	1
1.2	Funds in the form of savings groups to help each other.	3.27	1.18	Medium	2
1.3	The problem of youth drug addiction affects the economy in the community.	2.64	1.02	Medium	3
Total A1-A3		3.19	1.07	Medium	

Source: Researcher surveyed between April-June 2021

Towards Local Education (see [Table 2](#) below). The total of 322 people (100 %) perceived that (2.1) the local schools are developing the teachers into such competent teachers as what the Ministry of Education introduced to in Phu Khao Thong area that with the mean at 3.45, the SD at 1.03, at a medium level and stay at the 2nd ranking. (2.2) Policy makers still lack knowledge and lack understanding of educational administration in this area that the mean at 3.66, the SD at 1.00, at a medium level and stay at the 1st ranking. And, (2.3) the problem of youth drug addiction affects the teaching and learning in the schools in this area that with the mean at 2.45, the SD at 1.03, at a low level and stay at the 3rd ranking

The results of the analysis of local education problems as a whole that had a mean at 3.19, the standard deviation at 1.02, which was considered at a medium.

Table 2: The level of perceptions on Local Education N = 322 (100%)

No.	Message B	\bar{X}	SD	Level	Ranking
2	Local Education				
2.1	Local schools are developing the teachers into such competent teachers as what the Ministry of Education introduced to.	3.45	1.03	Medium	2
2.2	Policy makers still lack knowledge and lack understanding of educational administration.	3.66	1.00	High	1
2.3	The problem of youth drug addiction affects the teaching and learning in schools.	2.45	1.03	Low	3
Total B1-B3		3.19	1.02	Medium	

Source: Researcher surveyed between April-June 2021

Towards Local Social Living Quality (see [Table 3](#) below). The total of 322 people (100 %) perceived that (3.1) the lack of good planning that causes the degradation of natural resources and the environment and it will affect the people in Phu Khao Thong area that with the mean at 2.81, the SD at 1.11, at a medium level and stay at the 2nd ranking. (3.2) the lack of production factors, income distribution and, prosperity that have caused the local problems in this area that the mean at 2.34, the SD at 1.00, at a low level and stay at the 3rd ranking. And, (3.3) the problem of youth drug addiction affects the living quality of the local society in this area that with the mean at 3.66, the SD at 1.00, at a high level and stay at the 1st ranking.

The results of the analysis of the quality of life problems of the local society as a whole that had an average of 2.94, the standard deviation at 1.04, which was considered at a medium level. In addition, in part of the analysis of the problems from the three factors such as “local economy”, “local education” and “the quality of life of the local society” as a whole that the mean was 3.11, the standard deviation at 1.04, and that was at a medium level.

Table 3: The level of perceptions on Local Social Living Quality N = 322 (100%)

No.	Message C	\bar{X}	SD	Level	Ranking
3.	Local Social Living Quality				
3.1	Lack of good planning that causes the degradation of natural resources and the environment and it will affect the people	2.81	1.11	Medium	2
3.2	Lack of production factors, income distribution and, prosperity that have caused the local problems.	2.34	1.00	Low	3
3.3	The problem of youth drug addiction affects the living quality of the local society	3.66	1.00	High	1
Total C1-C3		2.94	1.04	Medium	
Total A1-C3		3.11	1.04	Medium	

Source: Researcher surveyed between April-June 2021

Hypotheses Result

Local Economy. The comparison of youth drug problem and impact on local economy is as follows (see [Table 4](#) below):

H0: $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization is effective to the local economy without difference.

H1: $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization is effective to the local economy differently.

P (probability) = 0.00, α = (Significance Level) = 0.05

Thus, the value of P less than α (equal to Sig.) that is to reject H0 and to accept H1

In summary: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization area is effective to the local economy differently with the statistical significance at 0.05 level.

Table 4: Comparison of the problem of youth drug addiction in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict and the impact on the local economy.

Source of Variance	Df	SS	MS	F	Sig.
Between Groups	10	322.31	32.23	7549.359	0.00
Within Groups	311	1.33	0.00		
Total	321	323.64			

* The level of statistical significance was at 0.05.

Local Education. The comparison of youth drug problem and impact on local education is as follows (see Table 5 below):

H0: $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization is effective to the local education without difference.

H1: $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization is effective to the local economy differently.

P (probability) = 0.00, α = (Significance Level) = 0.05

Thus, the value of P less than α (equal to Sig.) that is to reject H0 and to accept H1

In summary: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization area is effective to the local education differently with the statistical significance at 0.05 level.

Table 5: Comparison of the problem of youth drug addiction in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict and the impact on the local education.

Source of Variance	Df	SS	MS	F	Sig.
Between Groups	6	319.09	53.18	3679.98	0.00
Within Groups	315	4.55	0.01		
Total	321	323.64			

* The level of statistical significance was at 0.05.

Local Social Living Quality. The comparison of youth drug problem and impact on local social living quality is as follows (see Table 6 below):

H0: $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization is effective to the local social living quality without difference.

H1: $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3$: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization is effective to the local social living quality differently.

P (probability) = 0.00, α = (Significance Level) = 0.05

Thus, the value of P less than α (equal to Sig.) that is to reject H0 and to accept H1

In summary: the youth drug problem in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict Administrative Organization area is effective to the local economy differently with the statistical significance at 0.05 level.

Table 6: Comparison of the problem of youth drug addiction in Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict and the impact on the local social living quality.

Source of Variance	Df	SS	MS	F	Sig.
Between Groups	7	321.45	45.92	6595.80	0.00
Within Groups	314	2.19	0.01		
Total	321	323.64			

* The level of statistical significance was at 0.05.

Discussion and Conclusion

This research found that most the sample groups 95 % believe in Buddhism. immigrated from the northeastern region of Thailand under the Project of Self-Defense Settlement. The youth living standard of this area looks likely better than the neighborhood. The youth is mostly living on gold panning and that they receive their income around 300-500 baht per day. Other than this, they are engaged in some careers such as rubber tapping, collecting rubber waste, collecting forest items and, collecting durian. In addition, they are trained for a motorcycle mechanic. Regarding the youth drug problem, it was very few problems in the past. However, it's different from what they are facing now. A lot of drug dealers from outside and they brought it into this area.

Regarding two types of data: 1) Data from Local Administrative Organization and 2) Data from Subdistrict Administrative Organization Department.

- 1) Data from Local Administrative Organization. They are such as... "Drug problems in the Phu Khao Thong area today, a lot of outbreaks, some even physically the problematic youth attacked their parents". "The economy is in a very critical condition". "A lot of theft garden products occurred in the area". "Most of the problem solving ones are sent to the treatment center". "However, most of the youths of Thai Buddhists are not very effective".
- 2) Data from Subdistrict Administrative Organization Department. They are such as "the quality of life, people here are very good". "It is because easy money they get", "Just go down to pan gold and they get 500 baht per day". "Most of the people here make a living by planting durian, banana, rubber, and gold panning". "Drugs are rarely problematic". "There are the drug addicts around 5 people per village". "There will be approximately 40 drug addicts in the Subdistrict". "There will be many things to do for drug solutions", ... "such as trying to provide career training for youth, opening a short-term vocational training program." "Most of them are motorcycle repair technicians and, electrical appliance repair technicians".

Thus, the youth drug problems in the Phu Khao Thong Subdistrict area.

- 1) The effect to local economy. The working capital to create its career for the community is resulted that the means at 3.66, the S.D. at 1.00, it grouped in the high level and ranked at the 1st position of the group. To this economic factor, the Local Administrative Organization added that drug problems in the Phu Khao Thong area today has been a lot of outbreaks. Some of the problematic youth attacked their parents physically. In addition, a lot of theft garden products occurred in the area.

- 2) The effect to local education. The policy issuer still lack of knowledge in the educational administration and is careless about the problem and the really need of people and that with the means at 3.66, the S.D. at 1.00, it grouped in the high level and ranked at the 1st position of the group. To this factor, the Local Administrative Organization added that most of the problem solving the youth drug addiction that was sent to the treatment center. However, they were few of them that fruitful. To this matter, the youths may be dropping out from their school.
- 3) The effect to local social living quality, the problem of youth drug addiction affects the living quality of the local society that resulted the means at 3.66, the S.D. at 1.00, it grouped at a high level and ranked at the 1st position of the group. To this factor, the Local Administrative Organization added that only one way to stop the drug problem that is to stop the dealers. However, it's not such an easy job because those dealers come from both non-government and government staffs.

In addition, the results in the hypotheses' tests are that the youth drug problems in Phu Khao Thong are differently effective to the economy, to the education, and to the social living quality that all with the level of statistical significance at 0.05.

Suggestion

The problem of drug addition can be preventing through many ways.

- 1) Prevention. The prevention includes 1.1) cognitive immunity that is to educate about the harm and dangers of narcotics, 1.2) promotion of family institutions that is to promote and encourage everyone to see the importance of family institutions such as love, warmth and care of family members and. 1.3) preventing the illegal production and distribution of drugs that is to strictly control the essence and compounds which used in the production of narcotics. And, 1.4) the treatment of drug addicts should be done to the ones who want to stop taking drugs and those whom medical and government officials diagnosed as sick people. Able to receive treatment in drug addiction treatment hospitals in both the public and private sectors
- 2) Suppression. The suppression is to suppress the smugglers who importing and distributing drugs seriously and continuously.
- 3) Treatment. Giving the treatment of drug addicts to the ones who want to stop taking drugs into the medical treatment centers freely in both public and private sectors.

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