

## **USING MIXED METHODS RESEARCH TO STUDY THE PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE AMONG STUDENTS IN BANGKOK**

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### **Abstract**

Information sources from the Bangkok area, Thailand during 2011 - 2014 reflected an increase in violent behaviors among students in Bangkok, Thailand such as punching, slapping, hitting and quarreling with fellow students. There is an essential to study more details in terms of research in order to discover an appropriate guideline to prevent and solve problems of that violence. As we have learnt about a popular research technique in this century which the most well-known term is mixed methods research. Some may say it is similarly an integration of qualitative and quantitative methods that was used a long time ago. This research technique may be the appropriate research method to answer these research questions. Moreover, one of the results from this research will present a new knowledge of using mixed methods technique for Thai educational research context. The objectives of this research are 1) to study problems of violence among students in Bangkok, 2) to study and develop a mixed methods technique for educational research in Thai institutions by using questionnaires and qualitative research. The research found that the violent behaviors are increasingly among students in primary school and reducing in vocational level. To succeed in preventing and resolving the problem, agencies and communities cannot work alone. It's required that agencies to be responsible for the whole system and full cooperation in all levels. The research also presented that, although there have been different points of view on the two different research paradigms, this technique is very necessarily for researchers because it can be reduced the limitations of qualitative and quantitative research and combining both strengths. Mixed methods can much more clearly answer research questions. However, we should have an awareness that mixed methods research needs researchers who know well of both qualitative and quantitative paradigms.

**Keywords:** Mixed methods research, qualitative research, quantitative research, the problem of violence, punching, slapping, hitting, quarreling, students

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Nowadays, various academic disciplines have been so rapidly developed that some people compare such development with a sound or light journey. It is said that research paradigm wars broke out and were terminated, but without a static ending. There have been new issues to be endlessly argued and criticized in order to obtain new academic development. In the past, a new theory happened in a five-year, ten-year, or thirty-year time. Today, new knowledge can be expected in every year, every month, or every day, and even every hour, and minute. Academics and instructors emphasize a mission to transfer knowledge to their students while researchers are committed to create new bodies of knowledge. As a result, all those related seem like running athletes who race in order not to be out-of date: In the present decade, it is obvious that

there have been different points of view on the two different research paradigms: qualitative and quantitative research, leading to the new research technique which integrates these two paradigms. This article presents the practice of mixed methods research in studying the problem of violence among students in Bangkok, Thailand.

## **2 OBJECTIVE**

1. To study problems of violence among student in Bangkok.
2. To study and develop a mixed methods technique for educational research in Thai institutions by using questionnaires and qualitative research

## **3 LITERTURE REVIEW**

In Thailand, there are a number of researchers who study and use the mixed methods technique in their work, especially applied researchers, who want to develop various models to uplift and develop their administrative and academic missions. Moreover, mixed methods technique is popular among academically advanced faculty members who also work as university administrators and dissertation advisors to Ph.D. students. A lot of scholars, including researchers who began to use this technique and many of those whose expertise in mixed methods, have set criteria to determine what mixed methods research is or whether mixed methods technique is used, especially with the clear 6-7 elements of mixed methods evaluation criteria (Creswell & Plana Clark.2011: 266 – 267 ), it is clear enough for the current researchers. However, this is not a resolution or an academic conclusion without debates. There have been some arguments.

However, Thai and international research leaders (meaning the distinguished and publicly recognized ones) believe that not only strengths can be gained by mixed methods research, but there are also weaknesses like other methods. Another awareness is that in doing the mixed methods research with long duration and a high budget, the researcher must have a clear explanation of selecting this technique. Methodology accuracy of both qualitative and quantitative research is needed for researchers, including following the movement or stability of this discipline. Currently, as there is no absolute conclusion, we still find arguments from all areas worldwide (Kundalaputra.2012: 10).

Moreover, Bryan's research results indicate that a significant difficulty is that of merging analyses of quantitative and qualitative data to provide an integrated analysis (Bryman.2007:21). Although there have been conclusions from mixed methods researchers, mixed methods research needs researchers who know well of both qualitative and quantitative paradigms, now there are many arguments from some active scholars on whether or not mixed methods researchers must have sufficient and accurate research skills of both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Some believe that a mixed methods researcher must have expertise on qualitative and quantitative techniques and evaluation measures. Others think that some mixed methods research, especially the students' work reflects weaknesses in both techniques. Some scholars think it should be considered that using both qualitative and quantitative techniques in one research to answer the same question means to add both data sources to achieve perfect answers or to validate both results of data collection and analysis. This point may not be found in a text, but in the conference discussion it is generally noted. Another interesting point was found in Bryman's research years ago. It's about the suggestion in the research report which is strongly recommended that the reasons in combining quantitative and qualitative research and the ways in which they are combined in practice must be examined because it is valuable. Such a difference conveys the idea that "...methodological writings concerned with the grounds for combining the two approaches need to recognize that there may be a disjuncture between the two when concrete examples of research are examined" (Bryman.2006:111). Furthermore, terms used in categorizing mixed methods research together with criteria in the categorization, are different in different areas, even though all the main criteria are similar in time order and procedure complexity in applying this technique.

Using quantitative research with only questionnaires may not be comprehensive for the study

of students' violence in Bangkok We need to use a mixed methods research by using qualitative research techniques involved in order to get a more accurate findings. Moreover, it also develops this research technique for educational institutes in Thailand.

When we talk about violence we found that the World Health Organization (WHO. 2015) classified violence into 3 categories; self-directed violence, interpersonal violence, and collective violence. While Jaretl Lehman believes that to solve the problem of violence in primary school children there must be a good relationship between home and the school. The two parties need to have rules that can be put to practice and then tell children to follow. If there is belief of the violence source, such as school, it must be proofed before starting

to solve the problem (Lehman, J.2015). Dr. Diane Smallwood from South Brunswick (NJ) School District stated that there are three important strategies to address the problem of violence effectively; 1) to prevention of violence it need the whole system, from major system and area system, 2) it requires understanding, insight, focus, and emphasis on driving or encourage behavior change, and 3) specify and build important skills to make good choices in bringing the process to use (Smallwood, D.2015).

Online violence or cyber bully becomes an important issue and need to seek urgent prevention. This violence are acts between children, preteens and teenager to make other to be ashamed, mentally hurt, to be angry via internet by using devices that have been developed technologies such as computer Mobile phone, IPAD, etc. Online violence leads to negative behavior to children. If this made repeatedly, finally they will attacked each other in the real world ([Http://stopcyberbullying.org/ what\\_is\\_cyberbullying\\_exactly.html](http://stopcyberbullying.org/what_is_cyberbullying_exactly.html)). There are three types of online violence; 1 direct attack, 2 make proxy, and 3 spread to damage the opponent or the victim continuously. There is a need for parents and teachers to have online access in nowadays world.

The study in 2001 to identify the prevalence of risk behaviors and related risk factors in adolescents in Bangkok, Thailand found that overall, 6.3% and 8.5% of adolescents, respectively, had carried a weapon (e.g., a gun, knife or club) on school property and other places, whereas 7.1% of them had felt insecure on the way to school during the 30 days preceding the survey. During the 12 months preceding the survey, 28.9% and 31.5% of adolescents, respectively, had been involved in a violent event that occurred either on or outside of school property. Regarding assault, 13.9% had been physically assaulted and 6.7% had been injured and needed hospitalization, 17.1% were sexually assaulted, and 2.4% were raped (Ruangkanchanasetr, S. and others.2001:229).

#### **4 METHODOLOGY**

Mixed methods research was used for this research. The main techniques are 1) using questionnaires for 4093 students. There are 797 students as an elementary level, junior high school 802 students, 813 students, 800 vocational and 881 students in higher education. 2) Using case study for one community and interview 5 researchers. The SPSS for Windows was used in descriptive statistical analysis of the collected data. Descriptive statistics were frequency and percentage. Content analysis was used for qualitative data.

#### **5 RESULTS**

**5.1** In Bangkok, Thailand, the violent behaviors are increasingly among students in primary school and reducing in vocational level. To succeed in preventing and resolving the problem, agencies and communities cannot work alone. It's required that agencies to be responsible for the whole system and full cooperation in all levels.

**5.2** Violence occurring within schools in Bangkok, Thailand remains the main reflection of a silent danger of violence in the year 2012-2013. There are 46.44 percent of students carry deadly weapons into school which is higher than a year from 2011 to 2012, with only 31.57percent respectively. For the year 2013 to 2014 the situation of violence, is a better signal. Students has ever seen or ever was or agents blackmail or extort money from students in the 2012-2013 school year has reached 32.22 percent, while the year 2013 to 2014 dropped to 18.40 percent. Students have ever seen the carry a weapon in 2012-2013 to 46.44 per cent. While the year 20130-2014 dropped to 37.70 percent

**5.3** Students who punch / slap hitter / or bickering in the year 2012-2013 is 31.96 percent and from 2013 to 2014 was slightly down to 30.30 percent. The situation of students who have never seen or assaults by students on or off campus, though the years 2012-2013 to 2011-2012, a decrease of 29.42 percent from 32.29 percent, but is still considered a lot. Such situations have increased in the year 2013 - 2014 was 32.20 percent.

**5.4** Details on the violent problem of students by level of education are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 The percentage of students' violence in Bangkok in the year 2013-2014 by level of education

Violent areas	Primary school	Secondary school	High school	Vocational education	Higher education
1) Carry deadly weapons into the schools, such as swords, knives, guns, etc	36.4	40.5	36.0	42.3	32.1
2) The assaults between students in or out of school.	29.1	32.2	35.7	36.3	27.3
3) The situation was blackmail or extorts money from the student or the school.	13.6	23.7	18.0	21.6	15.5
4) The punch / slap / hit or bickering with students	47.3	32.8	25.0	26.6	20.8
5) Having a friend who likes to use violence to solve problems, such as using a punch on the offensive, etc.	44.5	31.8	26.3	35.8	22.8
6) Having been bullied online (Cyber Bully) as disparaging to the media, Facebook and so on.	29.2	37.8	34.7	35.4	31.4
7) Schools are punished with a beating. Or use of force against students	75.7	73.5	69.7	40.9	20.2
8) Families use the word or impolite.	61.5	60.2	57.5	51.8	44.7
9) Seeing violent scenes from the media such as television, the Internet, etc	85.4	84.7	85.8	74.2	84.3
10) Playing computer games / gaming press. Type struggle through checkpoint	80.1	76.4	74.3	72.6	70.5

**5.5** To answer research questions, mixed methods research has become more and more necessary. Specifically, a mixed methods technique is needed in a big long project of any organizations. Although its principles and methods have been developed for such a long that nowadays the way to use this technique is clear, discussions to achieve conclusions are still needed. To develop an educational model or to establish, develop, improve and evaluate a strategy in Thailand, it can be said that mixed methods research partly increases confidence to researchers and to those who are responsible for the implementation of the research results. Even researchers who use mixed methods research in their researches can get benefits in implementing the research findings to the development of their own organizations.

This research reflects that if researchers used several methods to answer the research question, they have to understand well both quantitative and qualitative method. Training and understand thoroughly before researchers collect and analyze data is essential. It's also important to give researchers a chance to practice before doing the research using mixed methods technique. The experienced researchers is practical for this type of research, however, researchers can practice.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

The violent situation of student in Bangkok, Thailand tend to get better in case of student who had been exposed to blackmail or extort money or property by students on or off campus. The punch / slap hitter/ or controversy, fell in 2013-2014. The situation of student who has never seen or assaults by students on or off campus. All sectors need attention. In the year 2014 data also reflects that violent behaviour in primary school continues to rise steadily. Especially punch / slap / hit or bickering with students. Schools are

punished with a beating or use of force against students but a growing concern is continuing. The need to deal with life in the family uses the word strong or impolite to say In addition, students are also exposed to violent scenes from the media, including television, Internet, etc. increased.

Using mixed methods research for education Institutes in Thailand is needed. However, researchers should awareness about the well knowledge of quantitative research and qualitative research before using this technique.

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