

## Fear of Crimes

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### Abstract

Social and economic changes have provided advantages and negative outcomes. The changes lead to huge developments in technology, science, economy and expanding community. However, the changes cause disadvantages. Problems in environment, natural resources and society such as drug, poverty, education and people with fewer opportunities have appeared and arisen. People in societies cannot respond due to rapid changes, consequently, social institutions cannot decline the problems and leads to fear of crimes. The study not only investigated on level of people's fear of crime, but also research on comparative people's fear of crime aspect. Population in this research was at least 18 years old. The research conducted in 79 police offices, which were metropolitan police offices, regional police offices, Southern Border Provinces Police Operation Center, and Central Investigation Bureau. The study revealed that in overall out of 6,319 samples had 2.30 average ( $\bar{x}$ ) (46.00%) on fear of crime aspect. Nonetheless, the study also showed that the majority of samples fear of drug crime crisis in their community resulted at 2.48 average ( $\bar{x}$ ) (49.60%). The Findings showed that gender, occupation and their types of fear of crime aspect have significantly different in the aspect of fear of crime at high level. Therefore, governmental and private sectors should collaborate to build effective programs of crime prevention. Safe areas should be promoted to women such as residence, workplace, and public areas for the security of life and property. People shall avoid being victims of crime.

**Keywords:** *Crime, fear of crime, victims, offences*

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### 1. Rationale

The Royal Thai Police Statistic Report showed number of crimes toward five categories of crimes (which consist of serious offence, body, life and sex offences, property offence, robbery and state crimes) during 6 months in 2015, including analysis of crime trends. Firstly, 2,273 cases in serious offence were informed and a murder case was a large number in serious offence. Secondly, body, life and sex offences were informed 11,245 cases in 2015. Battery charge was high proportion and attempted murder charge, respectively. Thirdly, property offence was informed 23,738 cases in 2015. Theft was a great number in property offence, followed by malicious damage. Fourthly, robbery of vehicles was informed 5,537 cases. Car robbery was informed 660 cases. Finally, state crimes were totally 245,552 cases in 2015. Weapons charge was 19,760 cases and gamble was 25,883 cases in gamble. In addition, drug charge was 188,665 cases and sex trafficking was 11,135 cases (Royal Thai Police, 2015).

The Royal Thai Police said that although the number of criminal cases such as murder, battery, rape, theft and robbery tended to reduce however, unstable in economy and high rate of unemployment lead to increase crimes, practically property and drug (Royal Thai Police, 2015). Then, it is essential to prevent increasing of crimes. Crimes cause loss to victims and people are fear and insecure, as a result, it is direct effect to living and daily life in societies. Feeling fear in crime makes the individual to predict high or less rate on crime in that area. People are different level in fear of crime. People reside in the area of high rate on crimes, then, they have high level in fear of crime. According to victims, they are more fear than individual who feels insecure in daily life. As a result, it is important to research fear of crime. The objectives of the study were to investigate the level of fear on crime and to compare the level of fear on

crime in population. This research can assist to prevent crimes and serve security in life and property to citizens as well as peace in society.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Definition of Fear on Crime**

Meaning of fear on crime is defined by several domestic and international academic scholars. Feeling of fear did not only happen to individual; however, it was replaced by attitude and feeling from groups of people (Dammert et al., 2003). According to Amerio and Roccato (2005), fear of crime can be agitation or anxiety of human related to insecurity of life and property. Fear of crime does not only happen to the individual but also affect to people who have similar experiences on crime (ibid.).

Definition of fear on crime by Warr refers to human feeling in fear of crime (cited in Cordner, 2010). The feeling of such a fear or mistrust possibly affects to people. They will be panic and build their behaviors against dangerous circumstances. Skogan determined that fear of crime is true in society and politics and impacts on way of life and also affects to the individual and groups of people in society (cited in Cordner, 2010). Fear can keep people into their residences and destroy trust of neighborhood. Skogan believes that fear can be a factor to control quality of life for people in society.

An interest in fear of crime in USA was found in 1960 when conflicts and racism protests were occurred. This social movement obviously led to survey victim of crime and modern era of searching in criminology was discovered. Fear of victim on crime then becomes social problem since people risk to face crime. Moreover, fear of crime is associated with crime rate. Even though crime rate is fallen; however, fear of crime is not reduced (Parker & Ray, 2010).

### **2.2 Factor Related Emotion on Fear of Crime**

According to fear of crime by Parker and Ray, it has been found that fear of crime is related to social factors (Parker & Ray, 2010). It can be explained as follows:

Fear of crime and feeling in life security is that fear of crime toward life security is more threatening than fear of crime regarding security of property.

Fear of crime and socialization determines that males have less fear of crime comparing with females.

Fear of crime and environmental circumstance generally is surveyed by questions. The victims of crime would be asked about their feeling of safe level when walking at night. Elements of environmental circumstance are divided into various factors such as neighborhood, fear of darkness, knowledge of weakness and feeling in different circumstances.

According to fear of crime and feeling in weakness, Hale (1996) found that fear of crime is closely related to weakness or unstable. Knowledge of risk is taken to calculate risk rate.

Fear of crime and risk rate is strikingly different. According to a survey of victims, the relation between fear of crime and risk seem to be contrast. This is because male employers who spend time with entertainment venues have high risk rate to face crime but they are less fear of crime. On the other hand, elder women have low risk rate but they are more fear of crime.

According to fear of crime and gender, British Crime Survey in 1996 found that males and females are different in fear of crime when they face the same situation. Fifty-eight percent of female is fear of crime when walking at night but only 12 % of male is fear of crime when travelling at night.

According to fear of crime and physical environment, fear of crime appears and is connected with societies. Narrow, unclean and dark places areas in societies have presented unfriend image to people.

According to fear of crime and adult lifestyle living, in 1996, British Crime Survey and Islinton Crime Survey both investigated research of fear of crime. It is significant between fear of crime and adult lifestyle living. The prior survey found that 36 % of female has never been out at night because of fear on crime but only 7% of male has never gone out at night. Fear of crime seems to change human behaviors to avoid nightlife. Similar to another survey, 11% of female and 5% of male have never gone out at night. Thirty-five percent of women have fear of crime when they go out at night but only 15% of men have fear of crime.

According to fear of crime and races, crime affects to victims who are different in races, religions and nationality. It is often seen that Asians have high rate of fear on crime when they are out at night. African and Caribbean seem to be safer than other races when they go out at night. Consistently with Victim Aid Office, the office explains that all races that face crime experience have been in prison. They have set up curfew and avoid the life from risk environment. Children are unfamiliar and unhappy to school. Women have fear of crime to daily life and residence.

Fear of crime and power inequality of victim, Stanko, a criminologist, has been interested to study feminist criminology. A criminologist explains the rate of fear on crime in women is increased. Several research studies determine that crime usually happens to women when they are out of the residences, in particular sex crime. Women have high risk rate to be victims and fear of crime by women is unreasonable. Due to power inequality of victim, women and elder people tend to have high risk rate of victim when their physical and mental states are taken to consider. Low class families have high risk rate to face crime. Similarly to minor ethnic group, people in minor ethnic group are fear of crime when they live with various races in a huge society.

### 3. Method

#### 3.1 Population and Samples

The research was a quantitative research. Population in this research was over 18 years old and they live in risk areas, which are areas of high crime rate (Royal Thai police, 2016). Areas of high crime rate are specified by the Royal Thai Police. Quota sampling was employed.

Firstly, two police office from 1-9 Metropolitan Police Offices were selected and totally 18 offices. There were 1,440 samples from 18 police offices. Secondly, three Provincial Police Offices in 1-9 Regional Police Offices were chosen. Each Provincial Police Office selects two community police. There were total 480 respondents. Thirdly, Provincial Police and Community Police Offices in Southern Border Provinces Police Operation Center were selected. There were total 40 police offices and 480 participants. Finally, Central Investigation Bureau was carried out in 40 police offices and there were 80 respondents. The total samples were 6,319.

#### 3.2 Equipment

Questionnaires were used as a tool created from related literature reviews. The researchers studied textbooks, journals, previous research, master thesis, academic recommendations and other related materials. The study was carried out by questionnaires. Theories and concepts from related literature review were taken to build questions that cover to all objectives. Pretest was used to investigate 50 samples. Samples that meet similar qualification have Alpha Coefficient of Cronbach at .8774.

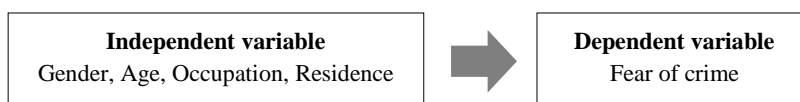
#### 3.3 Data Collecting

Data was gathered and examined validity to analysis.

#### 3.4 Research Hypothesis

Data by different samples were found with various results in fear of crime. The results are significant to relate to statistics.

#### 3.5 Research Framework



**3.6 Data Analysis**

The quantitative research is used via questionnaires to collect data. Data was then generated and analyzed through automatic program in social science. Descriptive statistic will be determined such as frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. Likert Scale technic was applied through questionnaire to arrange scores, related to interval level. Scores were converted to find level of fear on crime.

Means	Level of Fear on Crime
1.00-1.80	Least
1.81-2.60	Less
2.61-3.40	Moderate
3.41-4.20	High
4.21-5.00	Very high

**3.7 Results**

**Table 1** Fundamental data of samples

Fundamental data of samples	Amount	Percent
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	3,243	51.3
Female	3,076	48.7
<b>Age</b>		
under 20-year-old	386	6.1
21-30 year-old	901	14.3
31-40 year-old	1,322	20.9
41-50 year-old	1,645	26.0
over 51-year-old	2,066	32.7
<b>Occupation</b>		
Employee/ Corporate Officer	1,724	27.3
Farmer	1,977	31.3
Government Official/ State enterprise employee	528	8.4
Business Entrepreneur/ Merchant	1,268	20.1
Student	481	7.6
Others	342	5.4
<b>Types of Housing</b>		
Housing Development or Townhouse	769	12.2
Commercial Building	768	12.2
Single House	4,000	63.3
Condominium	404	6.4
Official Residence	188	3.0
Others	191	3.0
<b>Types of Fear on Crime</b>		
Burglary	2,727	43.1
Automobile theft	1,107	17.5
Pickpocketing	719	11.4
Fraud	675	10.7
Robbery	575	9.1
Battery/Assault	306	4.8
Rape	205	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,319</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 1 is demonstrated that there are 3,243 of males (51.3%) and 3,076 of females (48.7 %). Out of samples, 2,066 (32.7 %) are over 51 year-old whereas 1,645 (26.0 %) are at aged 41-50 year-old. As shown in Table 1 above, the majority of the samples are 1,977 farmers (31.3 %) while employee or corporate officer are 1,724 (27.3 %). In addition, most of housings, which are single houses, belong to 4,000 samples (63.3%) while housing development or townhouse belongs to 769 samples (12.2 %). In the past year, most of the samples, 6,130 people (97.0 %) or their family had never experienced crime. Only 190 samples (3.0%) had experienced one. The result has revealed the most fear of crime of the samples on fear of burglar (43.1 % which is 2,727 samples) whereas fear of automobile theft was only 17.5 % or 1,107 samples.

**Table 2** People’s fear of crime aspect

People’s Fear of Crime Aspect	Aspect					$\bar{X}$	S.D.	percent
	least	less	moderate	high	Very high			
<b>Overall</b>						<b>2.30</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>46.00</b>
1. Drug crime crisis in your community	1,127 (17.8)	2,320 (36.7)	1,835 (29.0)	771 (12.2)	267 (4.2)	2.48	1.05	49.60
2. Teenagers gather for unlawful purpose in your community	1,225 (19.4)	2,233 (35.3)	1,866 (29.5)	673 (10.6)	323 (5.1)	2.46	1.07	49.20
3. Burglary in your community	1,505 (23.8)	2,388 (37.8)	1,637 (25.9)	575 (9.1)	215 (3.4)	2.30	1.03	46.00
4. Automobile theft in your community	1,895 (30.0)	2,315 (36.6)	1,410 (22.3)	549 (8.7)	151 (2.4)	2.17	1.02	43.40
5. Outsider who has unlawful purpose in your community	1,850 (29.3)	2,250 (35.6)	1,489 (23.5)	569 (9.0)	162 (2.6)	2.19	1.03	43.80
6. Allurements or Temptations in your community	1,727 (27.3)	2,295 (36.3)	1,495 (23.7)	594 (9.4)	208 (3.3)	2.25	1.05	45.00
7. Crime rate risk is in high level in your community	1,720 (27.2)	2,204 (34.9)	1,550 (24.5)	637 (10.1)	208 (3.3)	2.27	1.06	45.40

People’s fear of crime aspect as shown in table 2 revealed that out of 6,320 samples, had 2.30 average ( $\bar{x}$ ) (46.00%) on fear of crime aspect. Nonetheless, the study shown that the majority of samples fear of Drug Crime crisis in their community resulted at 2.48 average ( $\bar{x}$ ) (49.60%) while fearing of teenagers gather for unlawful purpose in their community was 2.46 average ( $\bar{x}$ ) (49.20%).

**Table 3** Comparative people’s fear of crime aspect according to samples’ fundamental data

Fundamental data of samples	$\bar{x}$	F(t)	p-value
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	2.90	-11.2	0.00*
Female	3.54		
<b>Age</b>			
under 20-year-old	2.74	1.53	0.19
21-30 year-old	2.87		
31-40 year-old	2.85		
41-50 year-old	2.95		
over 51-year-old	2.78		
<b>Occupation</b>			
Employee/ Corporate Officer	2.79	5.80	0.01*
Farmer	3.12		
Government Official/ State enterprise employee	3.41		
Business Entrepreneur/ Merchant	3.13		
Student	3.13		
Others	3.12		

<b>Fundamental data of samples</b>	$\bar{x}$	<b>F(t)</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Types of Housing</b>			
Housing Development or Townhouse	3.14	1.06	0.38
Commercial Building	3.18		
Single House	3.53		
Condominium	3.11		
Official Residence	3.55		
Others	3.21		
<b>Types of Fear on Crime</b>			
Burglary	3.26	4.66	0.00*
Automobile theft	3.09		
Pickpocketing	3.03		
Fraud	3.09		
Robbery	3.11		
Battery/Assault	3.17		

\*p-value < 0.05

Table 3, *Comparative People's Fear of Crime Aspect According to Samples' Fundamental data*, is demonstrated that the statistic of males and females has significantly different aspect of fear of crime at 0.05 level. That is to say females react with more fear of crime than males. Nevertheless, age of the samples and their types of housing cannot measure fear of crime because their aspect of fear of crime is roughly indistinguishable. On the other hand, the differences in occupation of the samples and also their types of fear of crime aspect could measure fear of crime because the former has significantly different aspect of fear of crime at 0.05 level and the latter has nearly level.

#### 4. Conclusion

The majority of samples were 3,243 males (51.3%) and there were 2,066 (32.7%) who are over 51 years old. Out of the samples, the majority was 1,977 farmers (31.3 %) and most of housings, which are single houses, belong to 4,000 samples (63.3 %) In the past year, most of the samples, 6,130 people (97.0 %) or their family had never experienced crime. The result has revealed the most fear of crime was the samples on fear of burglar (43.1% or 2,727 samples).

The study of people's fear of crime aspect revealed that in overall out of 6,319 samples had 2.30 average ( $\bar{x}$ ) (46.00%) on fear of crime aspect. Nonetheless, the study also showed that the majority of samples were fear of drug crime crisis in their community resulted at 2.48 average ( $\bar{x}$ ) (49.60%).

Moreover, the research of comparative people's fear of crime aspect resulted that gender, occupation and their types of fear of crime aspect have significantly different aspects of fear on crime at high level.

#### 5. Discussion and Suggestions

The research of people's fear of crime has classified into two categories as follows:

##### 1) Studying people's fear of crime aspect

The study showed that the majority of samples on fear of drug crime crisis in their community occurred the most because this problem affects directly to the people and the problem which is in large scale to affect to economy's nation. It also led to other crimes.

##### 2) Comparing people's fear of crime aspect

Gender, occupation and the types of fear on crime aspect has significantly different aspect of fear on crime at high level which is according to the research's hypothesis. Plus, females react with more fear of crime than males.

## 6. Recommendations

Policy recommendations are the following:

- 1) Governmental and private sectors shall collaborate to build effective programs of crime prevention. Safe areas should be promoted to women such as residence, workplace, and public areas.
- 2) Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and local administration shall provide knowledge about crime and victims of crime to people, especially farmers. People will know the way to protect crime.
- 3) Government and the Royal Thai police shall decline or prevent crime such as drug because it affects to citizens, community and nation.
- 4) Governmental and private sectors shall promote crime prevention through social media. Citizen can know more information about crime prevention.
- 5) People shall realize the security of life and property. People shall be avoid to be a victim of crime.

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