

Stings Of Pedophilia: Case Studies From Malaysia

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Abstract

Pedophilia is a current topic in Malaysia since the imprisonment of Richard Huckle. This study was carried out due to the recent awareness among Malaysians regarding pedophilia issues. The main objectives of this study were to investigate the causes of pedophilia, effects on the victims, the effective treatments available in preventing pedophilic disorders and on the traumatized victims. This study was conducted by using qualitative method, i.e. through in-depth interviews and observations at Hospital Permai, a psychiatric hospital, a few other places of the victims in Johor and Rumah Kanak-Kanak Toh Puan Hajah Norkiah, Kuching (abused children's home). This study managed to interview three pedophiles, seven victims, a counsellor and a psychologist. The findings of the study show that the predators admit to have an addiction to masturbation and child pornography. They find children attractive and vulnerable, thus enabling them to abuse and overpower these children. The findings also indicate that the victims are badly affected by the acts more so for those who have been abused by their own fathers. It is found that the boys tend to show aggressive behavior while the girls tend to feel scared and choose to be in isolation. The widely used treatment of cognitive-behavior therapy is not as effective in treating the predators and victims. Art therapy has been found to be very effective in helping children draw out their trauma. The Sexual Offences against Children Bill 2017 passed recently is a new law protecting children from sexual abuse

and crimes in line with the Child Act 2001.

Keywords: Pedophilia, pedophile, child pornography, Malaysia, sexual

Introduction

This study was conducted as a response to the recent awareness among Malaysians on the pedophilia nationwide issue. Generally, pedophilia can be defined as the sexual feelings where strong sexual interest is directed towards children (Dreger, 2013). According to Seto (2008), the word pedophilia is originated from the Greek word, philia means love and prediktos means young children while the term pedophilia erotica was coined by Richard von Krafft-Ebing (1906/1999) in his work collection of sexological cases namely as Psychopathia Sexualis. Pedophiles are mainly male adults. A research published in the scientific journal, Biology Letters led by Jorge Ponseti from Germany's University of Kiel has shown that pedophiles are different to ordinary adults in neurological reaction to child images. All of their relevant cerebral areas become as they see children attractive and they have sexual predilections that lean towards the children (Lytton, 2014). Therefore, pedophilia can be classified as disease or disorder of adult personality and behaviour. In many Western countries, the debate on whether pedophilia should be classified as criminal conviction or mental disorder problem is still ongoing.

Cochran and Cole (2010), define pedophilia as persistent sexually arousing fantasies involving children, having desires and behaviours that look forward to have sexual acts with a child. Pedophiles are usually people who are 16 years old and above and victims are children below 14 years old. The danger of person with pedophilia is that they have tendencies to abuse young children (Cochran & Cole, 2010). This makes pedophilia not different from child sexual abuse.

Problem Statement

In Malaysia, many people are aware that pedophilia cases have begun since a long time ago. The statistics from Royal Malaysia Police shows that since year 2009 until year 2012 there were about 124 reported cases on pedophilia and the number is believed to be higher than that (Awat! pedofilia, 2012). Malaysians had two big shocks, first, when they heard about a scholarship student (Malaysian) was sentenced to a five-year jail term on the charge of possessing child pornography and second when a Britain's worst pedophile, Richard Huckle sexually abused up to 200 Malaysian impoverished children aged 6 months to 12 years old. Undoubtedly, pedophilic problem is on the increase and should be taken seriously. Malaysia does not have a law specifically pertaining to pedophilia. It is still being proposed in the Parliament. However, Act 611 on the Child Act 2001, Section 31 states "any person who, being a person having the care of a child (a) abuses, neglects, abandons or exposes the child in a manner likely to cause him physical or emotional injury or causes or permits him to be abused, neglected, abandoned or exposed or (b) sexually abuses the child or causes or permits him to be abused, commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding RM20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or to both". (<https://www.thestar.com.my/opinion/letters/2015/01/20/address-issue-of-child->