

Abstract

The study on the Perception of Multidisciplinary Team Member on the Protection of the Rights of Women who are Victims of Domestic Violence is aimed at studying the perception of multidisciplinary team members on the protection of women and girls who are victims of domestic violence, studying problems and obstacles to the implementation of Domestic Violence Act B.E. 2550 and discussing opinions and suggestions for improvement. The study is a qualitative research composing of documentary and field research, of which data are collected by means of in-depth interview 16 samples and analyzed by descriptive discussion.

The study finds that in the case of offences relating to sexuality, multidisciplinary team members consider gender sensitivity as an important aspect for identifying the case of sexual abuse of female children in the household. As for the case of offence against life and body i.e. women battering, the team members still hold on to stereotypical ideas that domestic violence is a private issue. Meanwhile, the case of sexual harassments to maid or people living in the household are perceived by some team members as an issue to be considered individually in terms of family relationship, while some suggest that power relations within the family must also be taken into consideration. Additionally, for the cases of trafficking in women and forced prostitution on family members, the multidisciplinary team members think that this law also covers the cases of domestic violence that concern sophisticated power relations i.e. seducing or dominating a person in conducting unlawful acts.

Problems and obstacles faced by multidisciplinary team include the limitations of law and guidelines of operation in receiving complaints and reconciliation, prejudice of officers against women who are victims of sexual assaults and stereotypical perceptions of domestic violence as a private and trivial issue, re-victimization in criminal justice system, difficulties in evidence finding process, timing of law, impreciseness of legal and specialized roles, as well as the organization management.

Suggestions for further implementation of the law and the overall protection and elimination of domestic violence are that the quality of work in the policy-making, operational and local network levels should be improved, and that the protection and surveillance system, the multidisciplinary process development, and the standards for multidisciplinary team work should be developed for the protection and elimination of domestic violence.

On the overall, this study holds that the perception on gender and gender sensitivity is important for the development of multidisciplinary team members' work i.e. the improvement of skills in protection of women and girls who are victims of domestic violence, knowledge in gender sensitivity in law and justice system for law enforcement officers. Also, the affirmative actions to protect women and girl victims are to be developed along with the development of gender-sensitive skills and measures in conciliation for multidisciplinary team and related officers, and the promotion of non-governmental networks.