



Guideline for Developing a Model of Prevention of the Problem of Elder Abuse in Communities of Thailand

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Abstract

The research aimed at surveying information about the elder abuse situation in Nang Rong district, Buriram province, Thailand and studying ways of prevention of the elder abuse in the community of Nang Rong Municipality Buriram Province, Thailand for developing it as a model of good practice to be used in other community areas. The research was carried out by mixed methods research including both quantitative and qualitative. Sample size included 351 elders residing in communities of Nang Rong Town Municipality, Nang Rong district, Buriram province, Thailand. The quantitative research utilized Krejcie and Morgan table for determining sample size of a given population. Its research tool was questionnaires. Derived information was then analyzed by statistical method that includes percentage and mean. In addition, qualitative research was also carried out by in-depth interview and focus group discussion among related state officials and private sectors.

The research resulted ways of prevention of the elder abuse in the Nang Rong Municipality community Buriram Province could be used as a good practice to guide other community areas. These following actions should be done in the community i.e. elder abuse prevention through social development by raising public comprehension about nature of elder abuse and means of elder abuse prevention and providing neighborhood watch and citizen patrol, community or locally-based elder abuse prevention by applying concept of the neighborhood care, setting up a committee by local government organization or municipality to be in charge of monitoring or preventing recidivism and providing assistance to any abused elder as well as a use of community justice system in dispute resolution.

Keywords: *Elder abuse, Model development, Crime prevention*

1. Introduction

According to a finding in World Health Organization report in the year 2021, around one-sixth of the population aged over 60 all over the world have encountered acts of violence in high rate. Such violent acts have engendered long-term bodily and mental injury to them. The acts of violence against the elders are anticipated to be more snowballing due to the rapidly increasing number of aged population (World Health Organization, 2021). Furthermore, the Thai Health Promotion Foundation's research work on situation of abuse and violation of rights against Thai elderly in the year 2016 found escalating problems of abuse and violation of rights against the elderly in which the most number are mentally-abused cases, followed by the 2nd, abandonment and disregard, the 3rd, abuse by exploitation of the elderly's property by family members and non-family members or swindle of financial transaction, the 4th, bodily harm by close people and the 5th, sexual harassment by close people in family or in community. These problems were regularly arisen to the elderly living solitarily (Jutrakul, 2016). In addition, a study of the elder abuse situation nowadays resulted number of the deprived elders rise, with reference to the Royal Thai Police's statistics that revealed number of the injured population aged over 60 in criminal case has increased from 344 people in 2007 to 703 people in 2015 and tended to escalate continuously. Number of the deprived elders were ranked by nature of abuse, the most is mental abuse, followed by the 2nd, abandonment of dependent elder and the 3rd, exploitation of the elderly's property. Meanwhile, the deprived elders were mostly perpetrated by their close people or family members and caused by these following significant factors i.e. (1) Factors from the caregivers e.g. being drug addicted, intoxicated, emotional, hot-tempered,

easily petulant, emotionally instable and (2) Factors from the elders themselves e.g. being solitary, sick, needy, Dementia, poor and scarce of earning (Sopontammarak, 2017).

Thus, statistical information of the elder abuse in Thailand can be concluded that the elder abuse incidents has increased in every year since growing number of the elderly. The arisen abuses including mental and physical detriment, abandonment or disregard, exploitation of property and sexual harassment have usually been committed by their close people in family or in community.

In taking into consideration of this kind of incident in the provincial especially in these areas of Nang Rong district, Buriram province, a number of elder abuses have occurred as appeared in news reports published in newspaper. Most of the news are elder abuses committed by sexual harassment, bodily harm and murder by close people in family or in community as well as neglect to take care by leaving the elder solitary or otherwise to live with their child being bodily or mentally sick and unable to have self-care for example a news heading published ***A daughter was shocked! Her bedridden 84-year mother raped by neighboring lustful 89-year aged man was dead by blood steam infection*** (Kaosod Online, 2019), a matter of sexually abused elder detailing “on 2nd November 2018 a dreadful incident occurred in Nang Rong district, Buriram province when Mr. A (alias), 89-year neighbor committed rape to Mrs. B (alias), 84-year bedridden patient in a house, then Mrs. B was dead by blood steam infection “. A news heading published ***Disabled child was fasting to have mother filled, finally becoming fatigue and dead body in the toilet*** (Thairath Online, 2019), a matter of leaving the elderly to live with bodily disabled child who was unable to take his self-care, detailing “on 22nd October 2019 in Nang Rong district, Buriram province, a person’s corpse was found in a house and after questioning Ms. Chuan, his 68-year mother said that she has 2 children, the older child went to work in other province and has not been contactable for over 10 years. She has been left to live with another child who has paralyzed. Until 20th October 2018, her son hardly had food, looked fatigue. Before the incident, her son crept into toilet and did not come out. Until his head was found sank in water bin and deceased “. A news heading published ***Sad news! Psychiatric daughter being unaware of mother’s death, living with swollen corpse in her home for four days*** (Channel 7 Online, 2019), a matter of neglect by leaving the elderly to live with child being psychiatric ill or psychiatric patient and unable to take her self-care, detailing “on 2nd October 2019 in Nang Rong district, Buriram province, a 82-year woman being sick of heart disease laid overturn and passed away in her house hall. The physician expressed opinion that the death had elapsed not less than 4 days, assumed that underlying disease relapsed abruptly together with the patient being aged person. The more saddened incident was her 46-year daughter who was psychiatric ill assigned by her older brother to take care of her mother during his departing for work in other province for several days, as every once in a while, the older brother has returned home. Until the mother passed away but the daughter did not know of her mother’s death. During the time, she took care of her mother well and lived normally on daily routine in the same house.

From the aforementioned news during 2018 and 2019, dreadful incidents of elder abuses nowadays have still arisen in particular in these areas of Nang Rong district, Buriram province although certain related laws of Thailand are applicable i.e., the Penal Code and the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act B.E. 2550 (Adulyadej, 2007) to promote family institution and punish perpetrator of the elder abuse. (*remark: analysis of this research project bases on the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act B.E. 2550 which has still taken its effect in virtue of statutes of the Emergency Decree Amending the Family Institution Protection and Development Promotion Act B.E. 2562 B.E. 2562 (2019)*). Hence, there should be a study to explore guideline for developing a model to prevent the problem of elder abuse as an integral part of moving forward sustainably to implement policy on prevention and solution of the elder abuse in compliance with context of Thai society.

This research conducted review of several literature related to the elder abuse and prevention of the elder abuse incident. The essence of such literature review was as follows:

1. Concept of types of crime prevention: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicated several types of crime prevention (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010) as follows: the 1st type was crime prevention through social development comprising with social extent, education, health and training program for education that target society, community, children, youth and family at risk through process of intervening programs for augmenting knowledge and skill of crime prevention to family, school and community; the 2nd type was community or locally-based crime prevention based on attention to

areas at risk of numerous crimes instead of attention to persons by enhancing safety and security of household for dwellers in community in order to respond their needs and solve criminal acts in community and by enhancing services and social capital i.e. social network, belief, social bond through community and neighborhood approach. A concept namely “Neighborhood Care” in management which was a crime prevention by people in community cooperating one another for accomplishment by each neighbor usually kept observation at his or her proximate house. Neighborhood was a system for supporting people in the society and included social network among group of people dwelling in the same environment in benefit of mutual participation in pleasantly solving various problems (Sutheesorn, 2015).

2. Concept of community crime prevention: The US’s National Institute of Justice defined “community crime prevention” concept as a strategy for making change to community infrastructure, culture, physical environment in community for diminishing crime by diversified means e.g. neighborhood watch, community policing, physical design for crime prevention, community comprehensive approach among community activities group and local government organization for solving crime problem, delinquency and disorderliness in each community (National Institute of Justice, 2020). Community activities group and Local government organization have had important role in crime prevention since it is well aware of nature of problem and statistic of crime arisen in each community, works out prevention and solution of crime through cooperation mechanism within community together with its direct duties in provision of various public services and public utilities in community and development of quality of life for well-being of people in community. Hence, these have been helpful for efficient crime prevention and solution (City of Canning, 2016).

3. Guidelines for prevention and protection of the elderly from acts of violence:

3.1 Penjan Pradubmook Sherer, Wongyai, and Charoensukployphol (2014) researched the title of Social Protection Networks: Developing social immunity for the Elderly that aimed to create knowledge on social immunity for the elderly and make recommendation and guideline for direction of the policy formulation in relation to social immunization for protection of the elderly, using mixed methods research. The sample group were 2,553 aged people in every region nationwide. The research found that any measure in policy level should include organization or specific measure of social immunization for protection of the elderly by integrating works with related stakeholders. Provisions of law should formulate duties of related professionals for instance administrative official, social worker and public health official to report awareness/eye-witnessing of or belief in occurrence of the acts of violence to relevant agencies for providing assistance. Measures in operative level should include a project of promoting value in coexisting with the elderly in family, a campaign enhancing good relationship in family, refraining from acts of violence against the elderly and encouraging community and local people to have a duty or responsibility for preventing the elderly from any hazard. In addition, a strategy and plan of actions for systematic prevention of such problem must be also provided.

3.2 Chithapo Chaimadan (2018) researched the title of Forms of Prevention and Solution of Violence in Communities and Local Government Organizations in Sakaeo Province that aimed to study forms and mechanism of prevention and solution of violence in communities and areas of local government organizations in Sakaeo province, using qualitative research. The key informants included executives of local government organizations, community leaders and community volunteers who experienced prevention and resolution of violence in communities and areas of local government organizations, totaling 30 people. The research found that forms and mechanism of prevention and solution of violence in communities and areas of local government organizations in Sakaeo province comprised with 4 significant elements i.e., family, community, local government organization and network and comprised with important mechanism in prevention and solution of violence i.e., participation process, creation of community harmony, creation of knowledge, coordination and co-integration of works.

2. Objectives

- 1) To survey information about the elder abuse situation in Nang Rong district, Buriram province.
- 2) To study ways of prevention of the elder abuse in the community of Nang Rong Municipality Buriram Province for developing it as a model of good practice to be used in other community.

3. Materials and Methods

This research was carried out by mixed methods research and already accredited human research ethics by the Human Research Ethics Sub-committee of Thammasat University No. 2 Social Sciences by the following methodology.

3.1 Quantitative research: The population of elders in Northeast region of Thailand residing in communities of Nang Rong Town Municipality, Nang Rong district, Buriram province are 3,777 people. Sampling utilized Krejcie and Morgan table for determining sample size of population by determining sample proportion at 0.5, allowable error of 5 % with a 95 % confidence interval. As a result, sample size included 351 elders. Collection of questionnaires was done from entire 351 elders in the end. This quantitative research utilized structured questionnaires as data collection tool. The quantitative information derived from the questionnaires was then analyzed by statistical method i.e. percentage and mean through SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science).

3.2 Qualitative research:

2.1 Documentary research by collecting and synthesizing knowledge from academic documents, research report concerning concept and theory used in prevention and laws relating to situation and problem of the elder abuse.

2.2 Field research in communities of Nang Rong Town Municipality, Nang Rong district, Buriram province through coordination with authorities of Nang Rong Town Municipality for field data collection about the elder abuse situation in community by visiting and inquiring families that suffer from violence against the elderly problems together with study of community measures of prevention of the elder abuse.

2.3 In-Depth Interview to key informants selected by purposive sampling that included qualified people, state officials involved in crime prevention and criminal justice process, community leaders and community members connected with prevention of domestic violence in the community totaling 10 people, using semi-structured interview form as data collection tool.

2.4 Focus group discussions among state officials and people in civil society experienced knowledge and skilled in prevention of domestic violence totaling 12 people for exchange and learning one another so as to further find conclusion of good practice of efficient prevention of the problem of elder abuse.

3.3 Analysis and summary of the research result: After completed collection of whole data, those data were categorized according to their content, then synthesized and analyzed through systematic interpretation. At last, the research results were summarized pursuant to the research objectives.

4. Results

This research had the following results.

4.1 Information about the elder abuse situation in Nang Rong district, Buriram province.

From survey and analysis of information by questionnaires derived entirely from 351 elders in communities of Nang Rong Town Municipality, Nang Rong district, Buriram province as of 10th January 2020, results were as follows:

1) General information of the elderly: the study found elderly population total 3,777 people, sample size of the elderly over 60 years old were 351 people, breakdown by gender for 124 males (35.3 %) and for 227 females (64.7 %), breakdown by nature of living for 18 elders (5.1 %) living solitarily and for 333 elders (94.9 %) coexisting with family members and other people, breakdown by education level to be below Bachelor's degree for 338 elders (96.3 %) and above Bachelor's degree for 13 elders (3.7 %), breakdown by status of employment for 270 employed elders (76.9 %) and for 81 unemployed elders (23.1 %), breakdown by debt burden for 140 indebted elders (39.9 %) and for 211 debt-free elders (60.1 %) as appeared in the Table below:

Table 1 General information of the elderly (351 elders)

General information of the elderly	Number (people)	Percentage
Gender		
1) Males	124	35.3
2) Females	227	64.7
Nature of living		
1) Living solitarily	18	5.1
2) Coexisting with family members and other people	333	94.9
Education level		
1) Below Bachelor's degree	338	96.3
2) Above Bachelor's degree	13	3.7
Status of employment		
1) Employed	270	76.9
2) Unemployed	81	23.1
Debt burden		
1) Indebted	140	39.9
2) Debt-free	211	60.1

2) Assessment of physical health of the elderly: the study found 191 elders (54.4 %) being well self-reliance, 150 elders (42.7 %) being moderate self-reliance (homebound) and 10 elders (2.9 %) being incapable of self-reliance (bedridden), also found 222 elders (63.2 %) being sick and 129 (36.8 %) being disease-free elders, and also the disease found the most in 115 elders (52.5 %) being diabetes, followed by 54 elders (24.7 %) being hypertension and followed by 23 elders (10.5 %) getting heart disease as appeared in the Table below:

Table 2 Assessment of physical health of the elderly

Physical health of the elderly	Number (people)	Percentage
Capability of doing daily routine		
1) Being well self-reliance	191	54.4
2) Being moderate self-reliance (homebound)	150	42.7
3) Being incapable of self-reliance (bedridden)	10	2.9
Sickness		
1) Being sick	222	63.2
2) Disease-free	129	36.8
Current disease (top 3 ranking)		
1) Diabetes	270	76.9
2) Hypertension	81	23.1
3) Heart disease	23	10.5

3) Assessment of mental health of the elderly: the study found 64 elders (18.2 %) having better mental health than common people, 191 elders (54.4 %) having mental health equivalent to common people and 96 elders (27.4 %) having worse mental health than common people, also found 14 elders (4.0 %) at risk or tended to be depressive disorder and 337 elders (96.0 %) being normal, not depressive disorder as appeared in the Table below:

Table 3 Assessment of mental health of the elderly

Mental health of the elderly	Number (people)	Percentage
Level of mental health		
1) Having better mental health than common people	64	18.2
2) Having mental health equivalent to common people	191	54.4
3) Having worse mental health than common people	96	27.4
Risk or trend to be depressive disorder		
1) Being at risk or tended to be depressive disorder	14	4.0
2) Normal and not being depressive disorder	337	96.0

4) Assessment of relationship in family and community of the elderly during the past one year: the study found 269 elders (76.6 %) whose family having good relationship 82 elders (23.4 %) whose family having unpleasant relationship, also found 130 elders (37 %) participating in community activity or elderly club and 221 elders (63 %) never participated in community activity or elderly club as appeared in the Table below:

Table 4 Assessment of relationship in family and community of the elderly during the past one year

Relationship in family and community of the elderly	Number (people)	Percentage
Relationship in family		
1) Whose family having good relationship	269	76.6
2) Whose family having unpleasant relationship	82	23.4
Participation in community activity or elderly club		
1) Participating in community activity or elderly club	130	37
2) Never participated community activity or elderly club	221	63

5) Assessment of home safety of the elderly: the study found 347 elders (98.9 %) living in appropriate/safe house and merely 4 elders (1.1 %) living in inappropriate/unsafe house. Moreover, the elders had their opinion on safety of life and property in community, 325 elders (92.6 %) viewing more safety and 26 elders (7.4 %) viewing moderate safety as appeared in the Table below:

Table 5 Assessment of home safety of the elderly

Home safety of the elderly	Number (people)	Percentage
Nature of house where the elderly living in		
1) Living in appropriate/safe house	347	98.9
2) Living in inappropriate/unsafe house	4	1.1
Opinion on safety of life and property in community		
1) Viewing more safety	325	92.6
2) Viewing moderate safety	26	7.4

6) Assessment of experience, perception or eyewitness of the elder abuse in community during the past one year: the researcher categorized assessment pursuant to nature of the elder abuse into these following 5 types:

6.1) The abuse by abandonment and neglect: the survey found the elders have experienced, perceived, eye-witnessed the elder abuse by abandonment and neglect, the most were incidents of leaving the elder solitary by 23 elders (6.6 %), the second sequence were incidents of leaving the elderly to bring up grandchild by 15 elders (4.3 %) and the least were incidents of failure to provide financial support for maintenance by 12 elders (3.4 %).

6.2) Emotion and mental abuse: the survey found the elders have experienced, perceived, eye-witnessed the emotion and mental abuse, the most were incidents of verbal abuse causing sorrow and resentment by 18 elders (5.1 %), the second sequence were incidents of disobedience/inattention by 17 elders (4.8 %) and the least were incidents of scolding and reproaching by 11 elders (3.1 %).

6.3) Physical abuse: the survey found the elders have experienced, perceived, eye-witnessed the physical abuse, the most were incidents of throwing stuff hitting body by 10 elders (2.8 %), equivalent to incidents of injury by bodily harm until going to physician/hospital by 10 elders (2.8 %), and the least were incidents of slapping, beating, kicking, pushing or crashing, striking and strangling by 9 elders (2.6 %).

6.4) The abuse by financial and property exploitation: the survey found the elders have experienced, perceived, eye-witnessed the abuse by financial and property exploitation, the most were incidents of borrowing without repayment by 14 elders (4 %), equivalent to incidents of disregard after property apportion by equal 14 elders (4 %), the second sequence were incidents of extorting money from the elderly by equal 10 elders (2.8 %), equivalent to incidents of representing to receive the elderly allowance but the elderly did not receive it or not in full amount by equal 10 elders (2.8 %).

6.5) The sexual abuse: the survey found the elders have experienced, perceived, eye-witnessed the sexual abuse, the most were incidents of sexual harassed by words, demeanor or googling by 2 elders (0.6 %), the second sequence were incidents of being harm due to denial of sexual intercourse by 1 elder (0.3 %) as appeared in the Table below:

Table 6 Assessment of experience, perception or eye-witness of the elder abuse in community during the past one year

Experience, perception or eye-witness of the elder abuse	Number (people)	Percentage
The abuse by abandonment and neglect		
1) Leaving the elder solitary	23	6.6
2) Leaving the elderly to bring up grandchild	15	4.3
3) Failure to provide financial support for maintenance	12	3.4
Emotion and mental abuse		
1) Verbal abuse causing sorrow and resentment	18	5.1
2) Disobedience/inattention	17	4.8
3) Scolding and reproaching	11	3.1
Physical abuse		
1) Throwing stuff hitting body	10	2.8
2) Injury by bodily harm until going to physician/hospital	10	2.8
3) Slapping, beating, kicking, pushing or crashing, striking and strangling	9	2.6
The abuse by financial and property exploitation		
1) Borrowing without repayment	14	4
2) Disregard after property apportion	14	4
3) Extorting money from the elderly	10	2.8
4) Representing to receive the elderly allowance but the elderly did not receive it or not in full amount	10	2.8
The sexual abuse		
1) Sexual harassed by words, demeanor or googling	2	0.6
2) Being harm due to denial of sexual intercourse	1	0.3

7) As to opinion on request for other people's assistance when being abused and suggestion for measures of prevention of the elder abuse, the researcher categorized assessments into 2 following types.

7.1) Assessment of request for other people's help when the abuse arises and of helper: the survey found that most of all abused elders, 339 elders (96.6 %) having never requested for other people's help and merely 12 elders (3.4 %) used to request for help. The persons whom the elders requested for help include 7 police officials (58.3 %) and 5 community chairmen/community leaders (41.7 %).

7.2) Assessment of suggestions for measures of prevention of the elder abuse: the survey found that the elders had suggestions for measures of prevention of the elder abuse in top three sequences i.e. officers disseminating knowledge and advice by 22 elders (52.4 %), related agencies providing care and assistance by 8 elders (19 %) and campaign to raise conscious mind of abstaining from leaving the elder

solitary and of notifying competent officers of the elder abuse by 5 elders (11.9 %) as appeared in the Table below:

Table 7 Opinion on request for other people’s assistance when being abused and on measures of prevention of the elder abuse

Request for other people’s assistance when being abused and on measures of prevention of the elder abuse	Number (people)	Percentage
Request for other people’s assistance when being abused		
(1) Never	339	96.6
(2) Ever	12	3.4
The persons whom the elders requested for help		
(1) police officials	7	58.3
(2) community chairmen/community leaders	5	41.7
suggestions for measures of prevention of the elder abuse		
(1) Officers disseminating knowledge and advice	22	52.4
(2) Related agencies providing care and assistance	8	19
(3) Campaign to raise conscious mind of abstaining from leaving the elder solitary and of notifying competent officers of the elder abuse	5	11.9

4.2 Actions to prevent the problem of elder abuse of the Nang Rong Municipality Community, Buriram Province.

As regards the researcher’s study of academic documents, research reports and related laws in association with field research to survey and study about actions relating to care and prevention of the elder abuse incidents in Nang Rong Town Municipality as well as in-depth interview to key informants selected by purposive sampling that included qualified people, state officials involved in crime prevention and criminal justice process for 5 people, community leaders and community members connected with prevention of domestic violence in the community for 5 people, totaling 10 people together with one session of focus group discussion among state officials i.e. two officials of Nang Rong Town Municipality, two officials of Provincial Social Development Office, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, one official of Sub-district Health Promoting Hospital (SHPH) and people sector i.e. one village health volunteers (VHV), one elderly home care volunteer (EHCV), chairman and member of elderly club of Nang Rong Town Municipality for three persons, one folk philosopher and one abbot of Mai Rae Rai Thong Temple, total number of 12 people, accordingly, the researcher could be processing lesson learnt to guide by these following actions.

Thus, for prevention of the elder abuse in area of Nang Rong district, Buriram province, a model of moving forward to this inevitably needs the local government organization i.e. Nang Rong Town Municipality acting as the lead agency for operations. In addition, Nang Rong Town Municipality will set up the elder abuse monitor committee in local level to be included in the municipality development plan for working out with every related part in community i.e. community chairman, committee members, folk philosopher, village health volunteers (VHV), elderly home care volunteers (EHCV), abbot of Mai Rae Rai Thong Temple so as to take several actions e.g. patrol and visit elders in community, create geo-social map to be included in database of the elderly’ living places in community, monitor incident, provide assistance by focusing on any elder who faces this kind of problem or takes risk of abuse e.g. elder in family having drug-addicted or liquor-addicted offspring or elder having dementia or sickness requiring special monitor. As soon as any elder is abused, any Committee member usually rushes to provide basic help and makes referral to related state agency for further protection and assistance. The aforesaid operations of Nang Rong Town Municipality, several good practices can be learnt to develop a model of prevention of the elder abuse i.e. to emphasis on promoting mechanism in family and community levels to have knowledge and skill of administration and provision of various activities to enable efficient prevention and solution of the elder abuse arisen in community. There should have these following operations in community.

4.2.1 Elder abuse prevention through social development

The study resulted elder abuse prevention through social development that can be done in 2 methods i.e. first, educating the public for accurate comprehension about nature and means of elder abuse prevention and second, providing neighborhood watch and citizen patrol as appeared in the following details.

1) Educating the public for accurate comprehension about nature and means of elder abuse prevention: education in this regard should be provided to community members, mainstay of elderly club, local volunteers and family members especially nature and means of elder abuse prevention which derived from the result of survey in the areas. Education for accurate comprehension about meaning, form and nature of the elder abuse, preventing and solving problems arisen in family and community and channel for reporting of the elder abuse incident in community for raising people's awareness in community towards the elder abuse in their own community and being enthusiastic to jointly solving such problems. Thus, these materials and activities in various forms should be provided e.g.

- Campaign signages to raise realization of preventing the elder abuse in communities e.g. various Vinyl signages or brochures for dissemination of information to the public by posting in several easily noticeable areas e.g. municipality office, public road, common area of the community and temple area;

- Training session to disseminate various knowledge for preventing the elder abuse e.g. positive communication in family, stress management, practice to lessen violence or abuse in family, training relatives who will be caregiver for raising awareness and comprehension in livelihood of the elderly;

- Activities aiming to implant conscious mind of abstaining from the elder abuse e.g. activities for children and juveniles in educational institute and school in some areas of the communities by targeting to teach pupils who are offspring of the elderly in community, integrating such activities in various learning essences in lesson, activities for temple and Buddhist monks in implanting the conscious mind of people in community e.g. in Mai Rae Rai Thong temple in Nang Rong district, Buddhist monks have had role in teaching or giving a sermon, as means of prevention of the elder abuse in another way.

2) Neighborhood watch and citizen patrol: this is a measure of prevention of the elder abuse by monitor through arrangement of neighbor patrol for inspection and surveillance one another and increment of the communities' capacity to diminish risk of crime by various volunteers in each community e.g. village health volunteers (VHV), elderly home care volunteers (EHCV) or called caregiver as well as community members who were neighbors by helping keep watch abnormality in proximate area are able to report the police official or community leader or volunteer in these areas to access the incident place for help or provision of committee or various volunteer teams for keeping watch in community. In communities of Nang Rong Town Municipality, Nang Rong district, Buriram province, there was a network of community leader and various community volunteers working out together to be the monitor committee in local level in informal manner. The committee has applied community volunteers and public health volunteers to keep surveillance and monitor in connection with various state agencies e.g. Sub-district Health Promoting Hospital (SHPH), local police station, school, children and youth council, shelter for children and families and Buriram province office of social development and human security as well as participation of Buddhist monks in the areas.

4.2.2 Community or locally-based elder abuse prevention.

Operation of community or locally-based elder abuse prevention in these areas of Nang Rong Town Municipality utilized a concept namely "Neighborhood Care" in management which was a elder abuse prevention by people in community cooperating one another for accomplishment by each neighbor usually kept observation at his or her proximate house (Sutheesorn, 2015). This concept emphasized on functioning of persons and institutions in community by building up an informal care system in community together with good relationship among community members and good neighbor to help take care of the elderly within community. Neighborhood was a system for supporting people in the society and included social network among group of people dwelling in the same environment in benefit of mutual participation in pleasantly solving various problems. The concept of neighborhood care comprised with 3 objectives as follows: (Yordpetch, 2017)

- 1) To build mutual good relationship among people dwelling in the same community or having intimacy;
- 2) To engender help and support one another in normal time and emergency time in particular those who disconnect with network of family and relatives and
- 3) To utilize intimacy to access existing problem and situation rapidly prior to assistance from other sources

In communities of Nang Rong Town Municipality, Nang Rong district, Buriram province, there was establishment of the elderly club for performing activities of home visit to address the elders who were sick and lived alone by promoting potential elderly to become volunteer taking care of those who have faced problem (friend visits friend), aiming to help the elders who was lack of care or abandoned or leaving the elder solitary or with child in school age or pre-school age because of economic problem, more expenses than earning, the elders' offspring working out of the areas. As a part of neighborhood care, Buddhist monks have had role in monitoring people in community of Mai Rae Rai Thong temple during receiving food offerings and dharma talk in the morning by querying about livelihood of people in community. Neighbor usually let the monk know about problem or abnormality of his or her neighbor who was elderly or family members. Aside from informing community chairman or community mainstay, such neighbor would also let the monk know and consequently the monk would visit people in community who faced problem or abnormality for mental support or inform community health volunteer for taking care or follow-up.

4.2.3 Setting up the elder abuse monitor committee or prevention of recidivism.

This operation is to monitor the elder abuse incident by targeting the elders who were at risk in the areas e.g. the elder co-existed with family member having psychiatric symptom or drug addicted, alcoholic, the elder having record of being harmed or abused anyway by family member or others and having health problem as bedridden patient that might face abuse in various forms. This monitor project may set up specific organization, committee or working group to carry out active inspection and visit the elders in these areas being at risk of abuse and set up a coordination center, community common area for providing help to the domestic violence survivor by counseling, mutual exchange and learning, referral to multi-disciplinary team or related state agencies for further assistance (Rattanarat & Siripatthanakosol, 2019). At present, in communities of Nang Rong Town Municipality, Nang Rong district, Buriram province, setting up a monitor committee in local area is being on process and such committee will comprise with chairman, deputy chairman and secretary selected from community member having volunteer mind to join the operation. Nang Rong Town Municipality will act as the escort giving advice and guidance in operation. Such committee will carry out occasional home visit to elders on regular basis which is helpful not only to keep watch or observation on sickness and livelihood of such elders but also to coordinate with various volunteer, police officials, local officials or other officers of public sector in order to help restrain family member or people in nearby community committing the elder abuse, as it is prevention of the elder abuse incident in another way.

5. Discussion

The study found ways of prevention of the elder abuse in the community of Nang Rong Municipality Buriram Province can be learnt for developing a model of good practice to be used in other community for the elder abuse prevention i.e. to emphasis on promoting mechanism in family and community levels to have knowledge and skill of administration and provision of various activities to enable efficient prevention and solution of the elder abuse arisen in community. There should have these following operations in community.

5.1 Elder abuse prevention through social development as appeared in the following details.

- 1) Education about elder abuse and elder abuse prevention: education in this regard should be provided to community members especially nature and means of elder abuse prevention. Thus, these materials and activities in various forms should be provided e.g. Campaign signages to raise realization of preventing the elder abuse in communities., Training session to disseminate various knowledge for

preventing the elder abuse and Activities aiming to implant conscious mind of abstaining from the elder abuse.

2) Neighborhood watch and citizen patrol: this is a measure of prevention of the elder abuse by monitor through arrangement of neighbor patrol for inspection and surveillance one another and increment of the communities.

This result of the study is consistent with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicated that concept and forms of crime prevention by crime prevention through social development that target society, community, children, youth and family at risk through process of intervening programs for augmenting knowledge and skill of crime prevention to family, school and community (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010).

5.2 Community or locally-based elder abuse prevention:

The establishment of the elderly club is based on attention to areas at risk of numerous crimes instead of attention to persons by enhancing safety and security of household for dwellers in community in order to respond their needs and solve criminal acts in community and by enhancing services and social capital i.e. social network, belief, social bond through community and neighborhood approach. This result consistent with a concept namely “Neighborhood Care” in management which was a crime prevention by people in community cooperating one another for accomplishment by each neighbor usually kept observation at his or her proximate house. This concept emphasized on functioning of persons and institutions in community by building up an informal care system in community together with good relationship among community members and good neighbor to help take care of the elderly within community. Neighborhood was a system for supporting people in the society and included social network among group of people dwelling in the same environment in benefit of mutual participation in pleasantly solving various problems (Sutheesorn, 2015). This way was also in compliance with Sherer et al research title of Social Protection Networks: Developing social immunity for the Elderly that resulted measures in operative level would be able to prevent acts of violence against the elderly by encouraging community and local people to have a duty or responsibility for preventing the elderly from any hazard and by providing a strategy and plan of actions for systematic prevention of the elder abuse (Sherer, Wongyai, & Charoensukployphol, 2014).

5.3 Setting up the elder abuse monitor committee or prevention of recidivism

This monitor project may set up specific organization, committee or working group to carry out active inspection and visit the elders in these areas being at risk of abuse and set up a coordination center, community common area for providing help to the domestic violence survivor by counseling, mutual exchange and learning, referral to multi-disciplinary team or related state agencies for further assistance. This result was consistent with Chithapo Chaimadan’s research title of Forms of Prevention and Solution of Violence in Communities and Local Government Organizations in Sakaeo Province that resulted important mechanism in prevention and solution of violence i.e., participation process, creation of community harmony, creation of knowledge, coordination and co-integration of works (Chaimadan, 2018) and was also consistent with concept of “community crime prevention” of US’s National Institute of Justice as a use of strategies making change to community infrastructure, culture, physical environment in community for diminishing crime by diversified means e.g. community comprehensive approach among community activities group and local government organization for solving crime problem, delinquency and disorderliness in each community (National Institute of Justice, 2020). Furthermore, community activities group and local government organization have had important role in crime prevention since it is well aware of nature of problem and statistic of crime arisen in each community, works out prevention and solution of crime through cooperation mechanism within community together with its direct duties in provision of various public services and public utilities in community and development of quality of life for well-being of people in community. Hence, these have been helpful for efficient crime prevention and solution (City of Canning, 2016).

6. Conclusion

Accordingly, the research concluded that good practice of prevention the problem of elder abuse must include the following actions.

1) Elder abuse prevention through social development by educating the public for accurate comprehension about nature of elder abuse and elder abuse prevention and by providing education activities to involve participation of community members, mainstay of elderly club, volunteers in the areas and family members for their accurate comprehension as well as provision of neighborhood watch and citizen patrol by arrangement of neighbor to patrol for inspection and surveillance one another.

2) Community or locally-based elder abuse prevention by application of the concept of neighborhood care by community members helping take care of the elders in community equivalent to good neighbor and spotlight role of Buddhist monks participating in querying about livelihood and providing care of the elders in community.

3) Provision of the elder abuse monitor or prevention of recidivism project in particular group of elders at risk of abuse in the areas by possible setting up specific organization, committee or working group to carry out inspection and visit to such elders or by specific person.

4) Protection and assistance of the abused elder and use of community justice system in dispute resolution. When the elder abuse incident is seen or known anyway, it can be reported to competent officer for instant restraining of the incident. Meanwhile, community justice system can be used in mediation to prevent recidivism of the elder abuse. Accordingly, the aforementioned research result would be further a part of moving forward on prevention and solution of the problem of elder abuse in compliance with context of Thai society.

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