

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->

neglect/#PSYbpb2PkceFPzyo.99). Another law in Malaysia is prohibition of porn in general therefore, any kind of possession is prohibited (Alkaf, 2016).

Thus, this study aims to reduce this problem through following questions:

- 1) What are the causes that make one to have sexual interest in children?
- 2) What are the extend of effects of pedophilia have on the lives of the victims?
- 3) What kind of treatments that pedophiles can undergo?

Literature Review

Pedophiles and the victims

The characteristics exhibited by individuals based on American Psychiatric Association cited in Green (2002) are that pedophilic disorder can be outlined as follows:

Over a period of at least 6 months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger). The person is at least 16 years and at least 5 years older than the child or children. According to Capra et al. (2014), the method proposed by DSM-IV-TR should include child pornography into diagnostic criteria for pedophilic disorder. According to Foley et al. (2001) surveys conducted by psychologists on the characteristics of adult, male sex offenders such as their ethnicity, age, education, social class and mental health are proportionally similar to those found in the general population.

Liddle (1993) argues that one reason why so many 'normal' males abuse children sexually is because they are in gender terms, socialized to eroticize that which is small, dependent, passive, innocent. So, it is not such a large step to juxtapose that eroticization onto children (p.161).

Pedophiles as likely the child molesters do have high percentage to re-offend again. The U.S Department of Justice Bureau of Justice's Statistics states over 90% of convicted pedophiles are arrested again for the same offense after their release from prison (Illangakoon, Azam, & Jaharadak, 2021; Celinmar, 2021; Rokonuzzaman & Hattori, 2021). Witt and Greenfield (2001) argued that treatment can reduce recidivism rates for child sexual abusers by as much as 30%.

According to Hill and Tisdall (1997), children molested frequently experience psychological problems such as fear, anxiety, depression and low self-esteem. A recent meta-analysis suggested that childhood maltreatment and sexual abuses are associated with an elevated risk of developing recurrent and persistent depressive episodes (Capra, et al., 2014).

Pedophilia around the world: What had been done by other countries?

According to Iaccino (2014), the statistics shows that top five countries with high rates of child sexual abuse are South Africa, India, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom and United States. For instance, in UK, a quarter of a million Britons in which more than one in every 200 adults are pedophiles, (Scotland Yard, the Telegraph reported in 2000) where a computer records penile blood volume while the patient observes a standardized set of stimuli that depict persons of potential sexual interest.

A study conducted by Seto, Cantor and Blanchard (2006) determined whether being charged

with a child pornography offense was a valid indicator of pedophilia. Mokros et al. as cited in Capra et al. (2014) assessed pedophilic sexual interest by using an attentional Choice Reaction Time (CRT) task. Ram (2013) states about a Dutch child right organization that performs a trick by using a created avatar girl which exposed about 1000 online predators. There is also a website named Virtuous Pedophiles created by two men who suffered from pedophilia problems. In this website, there is a collection of stories regarding pedophilia (source: www.virped.org) (Kaplan, 2015). The state of Illinois, USA, has a sex offender registry (Alkaf, 2016). At that website, names, details and pictures of sex offenders are exposed to the public. In 2011 South Korea (first Asian country) to legalise the treatment of chemical castration which involves using drugs to reduce libido and sex drive (Telegraph, 2016; Agung et al., 2022; Alamanda, Ahmad, Putra, & NAA, 2021; Rahman, Suffian, Ghani, Said, & Ahmad, 2021).

Pedophilia Preventive Actions in Malaysia

Since Malaysia does not have any specific laws regarding pedophilia and even do not have sexual offender registry, many people urge this matter to be brought and discussed in the Parliament. Carvalho (2016) wrote that a proposal on chemical castration for pedophiles is being discussed in the Parliament. The RAGE's Predator in My Phone campaign is an initiative taken by a bunch of Malaysian journalists to expose the stories including some interviews of the victims of sexual abuse. Many people were surprised that the number of victims are just too many (source: www.rage.com.my). Many preventive actions are being taken, but parents are still lacking in the awareness about pedophilia. A crime analyst named Kamal Affendi Hashim warned parents not to keep on uploading their children's picture in the social media as this gets viral among pedophiles in just a second (Tamboo, 2016).

Treatments Available for Pedophiles and the Effectiveness

There is no treatment that can cure pedophilia, and available treatments have not shown any effectiveness without a pedophile's willingness to engage in the treatments (Hall & Hall, 2007) as cited in (Kawamoto, 2013).

Krueger and Kaplan (2006) stated that Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (Gn Rh) analogues work by reducing the release of luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone from the anterior hypothalamus. GnRH analogues reduce LH release, which in turn reduces testosterone to essentially castration levels. Brannon (2015) outlined that there are medications that can be considered in treating pedophilia. One of them is antidepressant e.g. the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs).

Many countries primarily in UK and North America use Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) that combines both cognitive and behavioural approaches (Fisher, Ward, & Beech, 2006). Krueger and Kaplan (2006) state that through CBT, pedophile is taught to be aware and keeps away himself from situations that would engage him into proximity with children. The CBT may only help pedophiles to reduce and control their unwanted sexual desires and avoid relapse in the future (Krueger & Kaplan, 2006). Recently, the treatment programs for self-identified pedophiles who are at risk for offending have shown to emerge in some countries (Cantor & McPhail, 2016). Cantor and McPhail (2016) said this treatment project takes about

a year-long in which motivation for change, sexualized versus adequate coping strategies, developing empathy for children especially those involved in child sexual abuse and recidivism prevention are taught to the pedophiles. Even so, pedophilia problem is still proven to be unable to be cured completely. Schober et al., (2005) as cited in (Kawamoto, 2013) stated that even pedophiles who underwent treatment for a year, still showed sexual interests in children.

Methodology

This study was conducted through qualitative method where in-depth unstructured interviews were carried out. For demographic data the respondents' age, ethnicity, religion and background of family were asked. Observation was also used in this study. When collecting data, researcher observed on how the predators as well as victims undergo their treatments with supervision by the professionals such as the psychologists and counsellors. Secondary data sources from various sources such as company records, archives, trade union materials, census data and government sources were consulted. The study area covered respondents who were involved directly or indirectly with pedophilia problem such as Hospital Permai Tampoi, Johor Bahru (a mental institution) and Rumah Kanak- Kanak Toh Puan Hajah Norkiah, Kuching (a children's home for the abused). A total 12 respondents selected to assist the data collection process are as follows:

Three respondents who are the predators under treatment in Hospital Permai Tampoi, five respondents who are victims who under counselling and another two respondents are children placed in Rumah Kanak-Kanak Toh Puan Hajah Norkiah, Kuching, 1 psychologist from Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (Welfare department) and 1 counsellor from NGO.

Research Ethics

Sensitiveness of this study demanded to follow ethical guidelines. The researchers obtained permission from the Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat to do this study at Rumah Kanak-Kanak and Hospital Permai, Tampoi. Anonymity and confidentiality were adhered to in creating pseudo-names for the predators' and also victims to respect their identities.

Data Analysis and Research Findings

Background of the Respondents

Respondents are divided into three groups which are the predators, victims and the professionals in this field.

Table 1: Background of the respondents in Hospital Permai (predators)

Respondents	Sex	Age (years)	Race	Duration been in Hosp Permai (years)	Case
1	Male	46	Malay	20	Sodomized his

					nephew
2	Male	39	Malay	20	Raped his niece
3	Male	37	Malay	18	Raped his employer's daughter

Table 1 (continued)

Respondents	Place of Origin	Marital Status	Educational Level	Occupation (before)
1	Kemaman, Terengganu	Single	Year 6	Not working
2	Jeli, Kelantan	Single	Year 3	Work by own
3	Gua Musang, Kelantan	Single	Year 6	Cleaner

Pedophilia can be considered as one of the mental disorders. However, not all the predators suffer from this disease but if they are positive, they are taken to hospital and treated as mental patients while others remain in the prison. In this study, out of 12 respondents three were the predators being treated in Hospital Permai, Johor.

Respondent 1: He was diagnosed to have mild mental retardation and homosexuality tendency.

Respondent 2: He was diagnosed to have chronic schizophrenia and mild mental retardation.

Respondent 3: He also had mild mental retardation. Therefore, they are all excused from prison and treated as mental patients. However, in order to be released from the hospital, the procedures remain the same. They need to be pardoned by the Sultan.

Table 2: Background of the victims

Respondents	Sex	Age (years)	Race	Case
1	Boy	10	Malay	Sodomised by his step father
2	Girl	5	Malay	Raped by nanny's son
3	Boy	14	Malay	Sodomised by security guard at workplace
4	Boy	10	Malay	Groomed by a stranger from facebook
5	Girl	14	Malay	Raped by her father
6	Girl	13	Malay	Raped by her father
7	Girl	14	Chinese	Raped by her brother

These victims are under protection of Welfare Departments Malaysia. These children received court orders under Section 30(1)(d) Child Act 2001 to be protected. The Court order for child's safety is for three years from the date of the order or until he/she attains the age of eighteen years, whichever is the shorter (Child Act 2001).

Table 3: Background of the professionals (psychologist and counsellor)

Respondents	Sex	Age (years)	Race	Position	Experience
1	Male	50	Malay	Counsellor	More than 20 years involved in clinical Psychology expert in abnormal behavior cases
2	Female	49	Malay	Psychologist and Counsellor	More than 10 years involved in counselling and children therapies

The above were selected based upon their experience in handling the victims and the predators. Their feedback helped to meet the third objective of this study which is to know the effective treatments available for the predators and the victims.

Research Findings

Respondents: The predators who are treated as mental patients in Hospital Permai

Question 1: Why do you find children attractive?

Predator 1

He feels attracted towards children and is more inclined to boys. He believes that children can be exploited because they feel scared with adults. Thus, he feels superior to the children.

Predator 2

He wanted to try sexual intercourse with children and he was successful. Children could be exploited faster and they follow whatever he wanted as compared to the adults.

Predator 3

He feels adults are superior to children and they can follow whatever adults ask to do anything or teach anything.

It is noted that they all feel superior to the children. Since children are considered innocent, the predators exploit this. Children are also seen as targets that are easy to have sexual intercourse with. Therefore, believing children can be exploited fast is the main reason that drove them to have sexual intercourse with them.

Question 2: What are the driving factors that lead you to have sexual interest with the children?

Predator 1

He has an addiction to masturbation since he reached puberty. He continues to-date and has practiced to be friending with children more than adults.

Predator 2

He wanted to try to have sexual intercourse with children as his friend challenged him. His friend taught him how to have sexual intercourse. He lured him to have sex with children. That influenced him to make an attempt to be friending with children.

Predator 3

He has an addiction to masturbation since he reached his puberty. He imagines children during masturbation to-date.

The above account shows addiction to masturbation led them to have sexual interests in children. They believe it is not a wrong act to have sex with children. They also imagine children during masturbation thinking them attractive. They make them friends, showing good attitude and build a kind of relationship to exploit them.

Question 3: Did the respondents ever have any traumatic experience of being abused during their childhood?

Predator 1

He had been abused physically by his parents at home. He is the fourth child among 16 siblings. He was the only one who got abused in the family because he was considered as disabled child.

Predator 2

He was not abused. He was a good guy and always went to mosque. He had a good relationship with his family, always helped his parents in farming activities and liked to help the villagers as well.

Predator 3

He was abused at home as well as in the workplace because people bullied him as a disabled person. His parents abused him physically by beating him using rattan (stick) and he felt isolated in the family.

The above responses show that traumatic experience caused the predators to act up. Since they were abused and even worst by their parents, it made them feel scared with adults. Thus, they find children docile and overpower them. People stigmatized the predators and they avoid adults. Only respondent 2 never experienced any abuse but he had a wrong friend who encouraged him to involve in this crime.

Question 4: What has been done by the respondents showing pedophilic behavior?

Predator 1

I always imagine to have sexual intercourse with children and find ways to realize it. I taught children especially my nephews sexual acts and I believe the children love to learn it. I took advantage when the nephews came back to the hometown. I was able to play together with them and also took bath together. I believe that it is the way to make children happy.

Predator 2

I hunt children to try to have sexual intercourse with them. I took advantage to play and bathed together with the nieces. Showing nice attitude to the children so they will love him.

Predator 3

I love to ask children to touch my private parts as well as I touched their private parts. I like to collect the pictures of the children and always imagine to have sexual intercourse with the children. I do not believe having a relationship with adults. I find children docile and they never reject you. I always went to the playground to look for children.

The results indicate that all of them imagined having sexual intercourse with children. They lured children, offered what children liked, played together with them to establish rapport with them. This luring in makes children love them. All the children were unaware and innocent.

Question 5: What are the wrongs done by the respondents as the reasons for being convicted?

Predator 1

He had asked his nephew to have sexual intercourse with him. He is a homosexual guy. He had sodomised his nephew for several times.

Predator 2

He had asked his niece to have sexual intercourse with him and when she refused, he raped his niece.

Predator 3

He had asked children to have sexual intercourse with him. He had a relationship with underage girl who happened to be his employer's daughter and finally, he raped her.

It is drawn from the above that a pedophile was all out to harm children. They are not only fascinated but also perform sexual acts on children. All the victims were children, close to them and related to them. It is how they exploit the situation for sexual gratification.

Question 6: What types of medications, therapies and routines provided in the hospital?

All the three respondents are getting almost the same therapies and have the same routine in hospital. The medications differ based on health problems.

Respondent 1: He takes tablets which are Clozapine 250mg, Propanol 20mg, Bronexol 2mg and Epilium 200mg.

Respondent 2: He takes Clozapine 200mg/ 400mg, Melformin 500mg, Cloxacillin 500mg and Propanol 1mg.

Respondent 3: He takes tablets of Clozapine 400mg. Clozapine is the tablet specifically for mental problems.

The therapies given them include, music therapy, art therapy, behavior management, conversion therapy and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) administered under the supervision of occupational therapists in hospital. Everyday routine of the respondents in the hospital is as follows:

6.00 am – Wake up in the morning

6.30 am – Take bath and perform Subuh prayer

7.00 am – Eat breakfast and take medication

8.00 am – Having morning exercises such as aerobic/ taking morning walk with the physiotherapists

8.30 am – Go back to the ward/ go to occupational therapy workshop/ free to have own activities

12.30 pm – Lunch and perform Zuhur prayer

2.30 pm – Go to occupational therapy workshop

4.30 pm – Tea time

6.30 pm – Dinner/ free to have own activities and take medication

10.00 pm – Sleep

Question 7: How do the respondents feel after being placed in hospital for such a long time?

Predator 1

Even after so many years, the respondent still could not hold himself. He hunts for other underage male patients in the hospital. He admitted to have sex almost 2 to 3 times in a month. The activities and therapies he gets in the hospital are very much similar every day and he feels bored. Thus, he still hunts for underage patients to fulfil his sexual gratification.

Predator 2

The respondent showed positive response towards the activities and therapies he went through in the hospital. He admitted that he did not do any wrong anymore and he wanted to change his life style by getting married.

Predator 3

The respondent did not show much positive recovery as he still has an addiction to masturbation. However, he has future plans; he wishes to open his own business.

The above responses show that since they were in hospital and did not interact with children for a long time, almost forgot them and got their attention diverted. However, respondent 1 still indulges in the crime due to overwhelming sexual influence. This shows despite the treatment, the sexual desire of some of the respondents is too much and uncontrollable.

Respondents: Victims under counselling and protection of Rumah Kanak-Kanak

Question 8: Have the respondents been exposed to sex education?

Victim 1

He does not know because parents never talked about it. Moreover, it is his own father who always touches his private parts and they take bath together thus he thought nothing is wrong with it.

Victim 2

The parents once told her about private parts that should not be touched by anyone especially the strangers.

Victim 3

He already learned it from school and even knew it is unlawful and very sinful to have same sex intercourse thus it made him scared to let anyone know what happened to him.

Victim 4

He does not know it is wrong even through massages. Only after the case happened, his parents told him the details about the improper acts that could lead to sex related activities

towards children.

Victim 5

He does not know about it from parents but learnt from school. Moreover, she went through a lot of pain after she learnt it is a very wrong act.

Victim 6

She did not know it from parents because she lived in a broken family. She only learnt it from school.

Victim 7

She did not know it from parents because she lived in a broken family. She learnt it from school.

The above responses show a lack of sex education. The affected children trust the adults especially their parents. However, even if they are exposed to sex education, it is also important to let them know about the right channels they can go if they face any kind of related situation. In addition, it is crucial to support them and let them know that whatever happened to them is not their fault.

Question 9: What damage has been done by the predators towards the victims?

Victim 1

He always bathes together with his step-father and both used to be naked. His father used to ask to do sexual intercourse with him almost every day. His father loved to bathe together and mother allowed it to happen.

Victim 2

She called her nanny's son as Abang Besar (big brother). Abang Besar always took her to an empty room and asked her to get naked. Abang Besar used to cover her face with pillow so that she could not shout and threatened her with chilies. That meant if she informed anyone he would put chilies in her mouth. Abang Besar would beat her if she refused to accompany her to the room while nanny used to cook or do other house chores.

Victim 3

He used to be called by a security guard in his workplace. The security guard was an immigrant worker. He would offer to have drink with him and always served him with food. The behavior of the security guard changed day by day and used to ask to 'play' with him sexually.

Victim 4

He was added by a stranger in a friend's list on Facebook. He kept sending him private messages and showed empathy towards the victim. He used to ask him for pictures of private parts and imagined the situation in which they took bath together. He used sweet words and offered the

victim a play station (game) as reward.

Victim 5

Her father would always beat her and her other two siblings. The father would take her to a room and force to have sexual intercourse. Her mother used to be away when father got back from work. The father was a hot-tempered person and mother defended him. He threatened to act more violently.

Victim 6

Her father would always ask to have sexual intercourse with her even though she stayed with her grandmother (because her father stayed with his second wife), every time her father met her he would rape her.

Victim 7

Her brother who is only a year older than her. He always asked her to have sexual intercourse with him and would abuse her when she refused.

Some of the victims were not aware of the consequences of this wrong doing. They were powerless and even if they reported to their mothers, they ignored and trusted the father more (generally due to economical reason). Thus, they were not secured. They felt nobody would believe them. Besides, most of the predators threatened the victims, this made them more traumatized and scared to talk about it.

Question 10: What are the effects felt by the victims?

Victim 1

He showed aggressive behavior in school and asked the juniors in school to 'do' with him as how he did with his father in the bathroom. He was brave enough to curse the teachers in school and uttered abusive words but was scared with male teachers or male adults. He thought all the male adults would do as what his father did to him.

Victim 2

She refused to talk to adults especially males. She preferred to be silent and felt scared of going anywhere other than her home most of the time. She always cried and asked her parents not to leave her again and just be with her all the time.

Victim 3

He felt very depressed as afraid to talk about what happened to him. He preferred to be alone all the time even in school and was a very quiet person. He chose other extreme way to let out anxiety, for instance, trying to cut his wrist with knife or glass. Whenever he had anxiety, he would harm himself.

Victim 4

He felt afraid to talk to any strangers upon knowing that he has become the victim of a pedophile. Not being a happy-go-lucky like before and chose to stay at home rather than going out playing with his friends.

Victim 5

She felt very scared and did not trust anyone anymore. She chose to be silent and hid all the pains she felt. She was scared of her future and once she decided to end her life. Finally, she did not know what to do and felt hopeless.

Victim 6

She did not show that she is traumatized. Easy going as usual and even enjoyed a special relationship with the staff.

Victim 7

She was still very traumatized and did not want to join the activities and preferred to be alone. She still cries whenever she shares her stories.

It is noted that the trauma makes the victims' behavior obnoxious. The male victims turned aggressive while the girls became quiet and sad. Victim 3 could be seen as terribly traumatized as he even intended to harm himself. The victims who were sexually abused by close relatives like their own father tended to be more traumatized, afraid and unhappy.

Question 11: Why are the victims afraid to speak up about what happened to them?

Victim 1

He did not know what his step-father did was a wrong action as it happened almost every day and mother said nothing. He thought it was a normal activity and could be done with anyone of the same sex. He asked a junior to suck his private part as it was the same like what his father asked him to do.

Victim 2

She stated that Abang Besar threatened her by showing chillies if she ever spoke the matter to anyone else. She was afraid that Abang Besar would pour chillies into her mouth or even worse on her private parts if she told her parents.

Victim 3

He was afraid that he would lose the job as it was what the security guard threatened him. He realized that he was underage worker and only the golf club accepted him. If he lost the job, he would not have money for his own expenses.

Victim 4

At first, he was afraid to tell his parents as he thought his privileges to play with smartphones and video games would be taken away. He also believed that the guy would really buy him a

play station (game) and that was only the reason why he persisted to reply to the private messages.

Victim 5

She had no one to talk to because mother also did not believe her plight. Her father also threatened her to beat her even harder if she lets her mother know about that. She felt like all the adults would think she created up stories and purposefully wanted to let everyone know that her father was a bad guy. She was also afraid people would take advantage of her if they knew she had been raped by her own father.

Victim 6

She told her grandmother about what happened to her but her grandmother refused to believe her son did that. Thus, she believed that others would also not believe her plight.

Victim 7

She told her father about what her brother did to her, but her father also did not believe it. She could not hold it to herself anymore, she told her teacher and her teacher took the action.

It is noted that the predators threatened the children who got very terrified. The family members did not believe them and the children felt disappointed. They are afraid of adults especially males as they feel they resemble the predators.

Question 12: What are the feelings of the victims towards the predators?

Victim 1

He does not want to see his father anymore since his father had taught him many wrong and immoral things.

Victim 2

She wished if she could be the same size as Abang Besar and she would bravely beat him because Abang Besar was such a rascal.

Victim 3

Once he felt like killing the security guard but then he realized about the consequences.

Victim 4

He wanted to hit the guy because he was having bad intention towards him. Then he thought it is better the guy runs away and he would not entertain any strangers anymore.

Victim 5

She could do nothing because the predator was her own father. She just hopes that her father gets punishment that he deserves in the prison.

Victim 6

She does not want to see her father anymore and even does not want to stay with her family later when she gets released from the children's home.

Victim 7

She wished she could kill her brother and also her father for not believing her.

Obviously, the children were very terrified and powerless towards the predators. They cursed the predators and prayed they face punishment. Everyone should take this matter seriously because children have feelings too. They deserve to be protected to live in a safe and secure environment.

Question 13: What are the available treatments for pedophiles?

Counsellor 1

There is no treatment available to eliminate their sexual interest towards the children completely. Treatment like Cognitive-Behavior Therapy (CBT) can only help to reduce their thinking about children by directing them to something else. Uncontrollable cases are asked to distance the children. However, CBT and solution-focused training (SFT) are used widely for these cases. Besides, it is important to know the reason so that a counsellor may figure out ways to help them.

Counsellor 2

It is crucial to know the root cause as to why the pedophiles choose children rather than adults. Normally, the pedophiles themselves have bad memories during their childhood and have poor relationship with people of the same age. Therefore, treatment should suit their problems or otherwise they will not be effective. As for now, it is still being studied and researched by clinical experts on how to treat pedophiles. Only CBT can be done right now as they (predators) need to think about something else, so that they do not imagine or think unnecessarily things about children.

The above account suggests how critical pedophilia problem is. Apparently, there is no treatment that can cure pedophilic behavior completely. Only CBT is used all this while to reduce their wants towards children. Besides, Malaysia does not have specific laws regarding this problem.

Question 14: How can we help to treat the victims as well?

Counsellor 1

The victims are very much affected and grieved emotionally because the damage cannot be reversed. It is important for people to give support and counsellors need to know how to tackle the children using the right way. We should gain their trust back with adults as they are very terrified especially with fathers. We need to remind them it is not their fault that the things happened. Normally, treatment for the victims takes 6 to 8 months to recover. Treatment is done phase by phase and it is important to ask clients their feeling scale that they think they

have recovered. We use a doll or teddy bear as an aggressor and ask client to think that object as their predator and allow them to shed their emotions out towards the object. Somehow this practice is quite a success for the cases that I had handled all this while.

Counsellor 2

Undoubtedly, treatment is a must and it is important to let the children share everything first so that they are not depressed to hold everything within themselves. They are too young to be burdened in life. Thus, treatment is done in accordance with their nature of the case. In my experience, children need to be treated by using their way. For instance, if they show interest in art therapy. We use sand or drawing as it helps them to let us know how they are feeling and what they think. Art therapy always shows success as it enables to attract the children. We should not talk too much but rather let them talk to us. With this kind of practice, we can then help them as they also will hear us.

This shows that victims are treated by using different ways like how adults are treated. It is important to gain the children's trust first as victims are traumatized to be with the adults. The approach also needs to be soft and we support them by reminding it is not their fault.

Question 15: What are the best suggestions to curb pedophilia problem in our society?

Counsellor 1

Everyone needs to play his/her role. For me, I would suggest the implementation of sex education and self-security in school. The kids should know what is wrong and their self-defense whenever they face with any immoral situation. There have been too many cases in which children do not get educated properly at home as both parents are working thus the education in school will help them know how to protect themselves.

Counsellor 2

Parents need to play their role in the relationship with children. A good relationship secures the children's safety. Avoid to say 'no', 'it should not be a problem' or 'nothing happens'. We really need to believe that the children are innocent and whenever they tell something, we really should take it seriously.

Finally, everyone has role to play in the society. Every child's life is important. Children should be protected as they have the right to live and grow up in the safe environment. Not only authorities but society itself has to secure the children.

Discussion and Conclusion

Discussion is based on the research objectives;

Objective 1: Causes leading to have sexual attractions towards the children

All the three predators were convicted due to the harm they had committed in the form of rape

and sodomy because they had sexual attraction towards the children. They make it realize by victimizing the children. Their addiction seems to be unending even after they have been under treatment in hospital for many years.

Next, the respondents also had false beliefs that children are innocent and they can be exploited. They tend to make an attempt by befriending the children first and then they harm them. The offenders remove the feeling of shame and guilt by justifying that children as sexual objects (Terry & Tallon, 2004).

The predators' responses reveal that most of them had traumatic experience for being abused during their childhood. The finding is in line with King (1996), 'a majority of pedophiles were themselves the victims of sexual abuse as children'. This can also be related to the attachment theory in which the weak attachment with peers leads to seek intimacy with the children (Terry & Tallon, 2004 and Gannon and Ciardha, 2012).

Objective 2: The effects on the victims

Most of the sexual offenders think that children love what they do to them. The children are very much traumatized for what happened to them especially the offenders are parent, brother or friend. It was found from the seven victims that both boys and girls can be affected. They become afraid of the adults especially male adults. It is because male adults resemble the predators.

According to Beitchman et al., (1992), Kenda-Tackett and Williams and Filkenhor (1993) as cited in King (1996) that several factors contribute to the particular response of a child. The greatest harm in terms of long-lasting negative effects where the abuse is frequent or long-lasting; the abuse involves penetration, force, threats, or violence; the abuser is father and there is no support from mother.

In these cases, the most frequent symptoms include fear, poor self-esteem, inappropriate sexual behavior, greater tendency for homosexual experience, depression, low academic performance and a greater likelihood to be revictimized. The effects are different towards one another. For example, victim 1, showed aggressive behavior and had the tendency to have homosexual experience. Victim 3 was traumatized to the extent that he had depression and did self-harm by cutting his wrist.

The difference can also be seen from the supported victims and unsupported ones. For example, victim 4 and victim 5 who got much support from their parents where they were told that it was not their fault for what happened, they did well in academics.

In many cases, when the child reported what happened to them to their own parents, the parents just ignored it and that made the child fear more. It can be explained by Hierarchy of Needs (Maslow, 1954). As the counsellor explained, most of the victims who were victimized

by their own father came from the low socioeconomic background family. The physiological need is the most important in human life.

Objective 3: The effective treatments available in preventing pedophilic disorders and traumatized victims.

The treatments for both pedophiles and victims vary as one type of treatment cannot fit to all of the problems. The most effective treatment is just to reduce their desire. Cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) is found to be the widely used treatment for pedophiles as it helps them to direct their mind to think of something else other than the children. Krueger and Kaplan (2006) stated that through CBT, pedophiles are taught to be aware and distant themselves from such situations.

However, art therapy is found to be quite effective for victims since it helps the children to let out what they are feeling. It is also important to remind the victims that it is not their fault for what has happened.

Another therapy is Chemical castration that involves using drugs to reduce libido and sex drive (Telegraph, 2016). South Korea became the first Asian country to legalise this treatment in 2011 despite having some implications.

Conclusion

It is hoped that this study will act as a useful resource for people to clearly understand what pedophilia really is and the effects of this wrongful act. Various useful treatments in preventing pedophilic disorders and traumatized victims include Cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT), art therapy and Chemical castration.

The Malaysian Parliament has passed the Sexual Offences against Children Bill 2017 and that is good news in curbing this problem. Parents are expected to take care of the children and have good relationship with them because pedophiles' potential victims are vulnerable children. People also need to co-operate by being aware of the surrounding and make police report whenever witnessing such incidences.

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