Clinical and Developmental Characteristics of Sex Offenders in Malaysian Prisons

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Abstract

The population of incarcerated sex offenders in Malaysia is steadily growing.

Objective: This is a descriptive study to look at what clinical and developmental characteristic are present amongst the sex offenders in Malaysia, which could be possible mitigating factors

Methods: Data was collected from offenders located in 3 prisons where the offenders are held.

Results: a total of 147 prisoners participated in the study. Slightly more than half of the victims were below the age of 18, of which 10\% were below the age of 12. Three quarters of offenders were thirty years and older, while 12\% were below 18 years. However their problems begun much earlier in their life with 50\% of the offenders reporting that they had difficulties in their primary support group, resulting in them feeling their families were less expressive, their parents were distant and unsupportive.29\% of the offenders had not lived with their parents from the age of 16. More than half of the offenders reported academic, behavior and developmental difficulties; they reported losing interest in their studies and were struggling during their schooling days. 43\% had history of aggressive...
behaviour during their adolescent years and 76% had peers who often indulged in risky behaviors. 85% of the offenders were Muslim. 40% made the criteria of Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder and conduct disorder while a quarter were diagnosed with having personality disorder. Slightly more than half of the offenders had alcohol and drug-related problems, 36% had history of previous crimes, mainly drug and theft offence. Conclusion: The findings show that the sex offenders are indeed a heterogeneous group with pervasive familial, behaviour, academic and social problems which are possible risk that can be identified early in the lives of offenders.

Keywords: Incarcerated, Juvenile, Adult, Sex Offenders