

The Process Of Foreign Drug Networks Using Thai Females As Drug Mules

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ABSTRACT

While men have, for the most part, run drug trafficking organizations, women also have the leading roles as their male counterparts. Even in lesser roles, most women act as “drug mules” to ensure their financial gain. This qualitative study examines how Thai females were tricked into smuggling drugs for foreign drug dealers, as well as finding guidelines for preventive measures. The research deployed in-depth interview to extract data from a group of 8 women prisoners selected by Purposive Sampling, whether they had been tricked into acting as drugs mules and trafficking across international borders. Data was also collected from a group of 10 informants consisting of executives, field specialists, and scholars, and derived from studying documents and interview reports on Thai former female prisoners in foreign jails. The study recommends the preventive guidelines and solutions to problems, as well as seeking international collaboration to combat drugs trafficking and international preventive measures.

Key Words: Drugs trafficking; Drugs mules; International borders; International collaboration

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1. Statement of Problems

Illegal drug trade is the transnational crime connected to other crimes that caused significant and growing threat to the nation economic and security until bringing tremendous losses to the country and global community. Despite the visibility of women in drug trafficking, little is known about the role of women in the drug trade. Although women's participation in drug trafficking is now acknowledged, only few reports show a steady increase in the number of women arrested for drug trafficking offences worldwide. Judging from the current drug situation, even though Thailand and other countries around the world are giving priority to combating illegal drug trafficking with extreme penalties and drugs prevention and suppression strategies, drugs trafficking is still a lucrative business with benefit and profit that could create enormous wealth within short time period in which many persons are tempted to risk everything and willing enter the life of crime. Some criminal groups even came up with various persuasion techniques to trap others into drugs trafficking.

The current transnational organized crime activities in Thailand involves women drug mules either by hiring, persuading or volunteering. Many Thai women are being lured into smuggling drugs by foreigners, and thus being apprehended and prosecuted as drugs smugglers, serving times in Thai and foreign prisons. For example, the African drug gangs that have formed and operated the giant network with many drugs affiliates (office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB, 2015, copies) targeted on Thai women due to their soft manner and submissive nature, with traditional commitment to the family or some women may see as a good opportunity to travel aboard without paying for expenses or some women preferred to marry foreigner. These behaviors are the weaknesses of Thai women that male foreigner used to manipulate women to do the work for them. Furthermore, a group of low-income women deal drugs to escape

economic hardship, avoid being in debt, and relieve themselves from family burden. These are more reasons for Thai women to enter the life of crimes.

The recent concern is that Thai women are being lured into marriage Africans and majority of them would ask the wives to bring drugs into the country. This was voluntary done or the women may be forced into doing it. At that time, when a Thai female mule was arrested, she had no mean to connect the actual dealer because she never learned the identity of the man she married, neither real name, address and background of the foreign husband, only called him by assume name or perhaps under fake identity. After being arrested, Thai women drug mule was abandoned to face the criminal charges alone. In some case, Thai women may contract smuggling drugs, hoping to earn high compensation worth the risk or some may be persuaded by those associated with African males.

Besides, technological advancement enables the foreign drug dealer network to access potential customers through social media such as, Facebook as well as building relationships with Thai women, especially those who wanted to marry foreigners, generally contact each other through social networks until gaining trust of Thai women and eventually persuading them to commit crime or recruiting other Thai women to help smuggling drugs

Research Objectives

The aim of this project was to study patterns and approaches of foreign drug dealers luring Thai Females into being drugs mules, the reasons for Thai females becoming drug mules as well as seeking the preventive guidelines and solution to problem of such problems.

Relevant concepts and Theories

This study involves the concepts, the relevant criminology theories as the direction for explaining phenomenon and offenses committed by Thai females who had been tricked or duped into carrying drugs by foreigners.

Methodology

In order to satisfy the objectives of the study, a qualitative research was held, the research approach, the methods of data collection, the selection of the sample, the research process, the type of data analysis and the ethical considerations were explained in details.

1. Samples

This qualitative research engaged the in-depth interview among key informants selected by Purposive Sampling and divided into two groups.

1) Total 8 females prisoners of Thai Nationality serving sentences on narcotics charges were selected through purposive sampling based on the following criteria:

1.1 Female prisoners, voluntarily giving information.

1.2 Female prisoners whom the court had passed the final sentences as the real offenders and remained under the custody in prison.

1.3 Female prisoners who had been selected from those female prisoners who had been the drug mules.

1.4 Female prisoners who had been selected from female prisoners who received the final sentences, especially Thai female prisoners serving the sentences in the narcotics charges.

2) A group of samples comprised of executives, field specialists, scholars and field practitioners with at least 5 years experiences dealing directly with narcotics suppression, especially Thai female drug mules who had been duped into committing the offense were selected with Purposive Sampling. They are the following individuals:

2.1 Three officers from the Narcotics Suppression Bureau, Royal Thai Police.

2.2 Four officers from the office of Narcotics Control Board.

2.3 Scholars comprised of

- A judge
- A Prosecutor
- An officer from Department of Counselor Affairs

Research Tools

1) Structured Interview was conducted after amending the first set of questionnaires to ensure all necessary contents included in this comprehensive study: The questionnaires contain explicit content and the informants could answer the questions freely.

2) A note book and a tape recorder for raw data as the entire data in detail that derived from the interview and the entire situations as the support evidence in the analysis in which the field report could be verified later.

However, the Correctional Department prohibited the use of tape recorder. Therefore, the researcher had prepared to cope with this problem, using the written record and aide memoire instead so the duration and number of interview to collect data from each targeted group were varied.

Data Collection

Data was gathered from the female prisoners on drugs charges by conducting the following procedures:

Prepare a letter from Mahidol University to ask permission to collect data from female prisoners to the director of women Department Correctional Center, with the thesis Topics, objectives and targeted groups based on the set conditions, including all interview forms. As soon as the researcher received permission, the researcher went to meet the coordinator to inform about the research samples needed and made appointment by herself at the Women Department Correctional Center.

On appointment, data was at Women Department Correctional Center by observing the Center strict rules such as allowing the physical search before entering the premises, keep the Mobile Phone somewhere outside the interview areas, same as the camera, and tape recorder. When the interview started, the research explained all concerned issues every time and warmed up by making casual conversation to make the key informants feeling relax, until the researcher gain their trusts and they were glad to volunteer information. During the interview, the researcher recorded every issues that related to the topics based on the questionnaire , but the researcher always looked straight at the key informants while interviewing them to bond with them as well as ensure the data continuity as the two-way communication. Meantime, the researcher had observed the key informants such as noticing their outside appearances, personalities, gestures, eye expression, voices speakers and physical displays. In each interview, the researcher spent 2-3 hours per person and asked to re-interview if the acquired data were incomplete. Therefore, the duration and number of interview each time were not the same on each female prisoner. It was fully understood that if any female prisoner showed sign of distress, uneasiness, crying, or reluctant to give information, the researcher must stops the interview immediately to assess the situation if the interview should continue, Nonetheless , the researcher received full cooperation from the female prisoners, the whole targeted group.

The executives, specialists, experts and practitioners were another group of informants in which the researcher conducted the interview by first contacting the sample group to seek permission to meet and inform the objective of the research by attaching the entire questionnaire and sending through Fax or e-mail of the key informants making appointment 4. Document used in questioning key informant are the government documents that had been kept at the Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the additional information

source to support and verify data accuracy in which the quantitative data were present in separate issues that had been extracted details from the government documents. These are crucial information, enabled to answer the objectives of this study more clearly. Then, quantitative data analysis is the same where the data must be separated into small pieces and put back to derive at the correlations or perfect picture in order to explain the study explicitly. The researcher herself had met the targeted samples comprised of executives, specialists and scholars at their offices.

Before each interview, the completed explanations was given to the samples on the Participant Information Sheet in full details in which all key informants agreed and willing to cooperate and in line with the requirement of Ethical Committee on Human Research, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Mahidol University that the researcher must strictly follow. The researcher seek the permission to record the interview on the tape recorder together with the written record to cover the entire issue in the questionnaire form. The interview was done on one-to-one basis, and lasted about 2 hours to 2 and a half hour.

Data Verification

The researcher verified data with Triangulation to find the accuracy, test and retest more than one time or one approach in which the validation of qualitative data based on the concept of Denzin&Lincoln (1994) as follows:

1) Using Methodology triangulation to validate numerous data that the researcher had acquired:

1.1 Conduct Individual Interview through the In-depth interview among female prisoners

1.2 Conduct Individual Interview through formal interview with a group of executives, specialists and practitioners

2) Verified data derived from Data

Triangulation was used to validate other sources for similar data, mainly, from the government documents on the inquiry reports on 32 former female prisoners who had served the sentences in the foreign country listed below, then released and returned to Thailand.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1) Brazil | 13 persons |
| 2) Argentina | 11 persons |
| 3) Hong Kong | 1 person |
| 4) Arab Emirates | 2 persons |
| 5) Turkey | 2 persons |
| 6) India | 2 persons |
| 7) People's Republic of China (PRC) | 1 person |

Such documents were kept at the Department of Consulate Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the additional information to support and verified the accuracy of quantitative data by categorizing data into specific issue as same as the government documents to gain additional insight information for answering research questions.

Data Analysis

Data Analysis based on the key issues of the study had been compiled from the in-depth interview to conduct the content analysis, which involved reading and interpreting data , separating and categorizing to display the correlations for insight understanding until able to answer on questions completely.

After each interview, the researcher record data carefully with complete details and categorized into each group with summary so the findings could be kept systematically as well as being the aide-memoire before expanding and analyzing in details.

In so far, quantitative data must be separated into small pieces and put back to derive at the correlations to explain and answer research questions (Benja Yoddumnuen-Attic and Kanjana Tungcholati, 2009).

Result

This study proposed outcomes as summarized on Table 1 and 2 :

Qualitative data acquired from In-depth interview among female prisoners on drugs charges and the main charge is the smuggling illegal drugs in and out of the country and such illegal activities involved foreigners, in which the offenders themselves were imprisoned during the time of interview. Total 8 female prisoners were selected through Purposive Sampling based on the demographic data and background, reasons for being in the mishap, pattern, and manipulation by Foreign Drug Networks. The findings suggest different details given by samples as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Background of Female Prisoners

Background Case Study	Age at the time of Arrest	Educational Level	Religion	Domicile	Occupation	Status prior to committing the Offenses	Children	Status at the time of committing the Offenses
1	22	Matayom 3	Buddhist	Lopburi	Bar	Broke up with Thai Boyfriend	None	Living with African Male
2	32	Bachelor	Christian	Songkla	Bar	Broke up with Thai Husband	1	Living with African Male
3	37	Matayom 6	Buddhist	Not Specify	Store Employee	Broke up with Thai Boyfriend	2	Living with African Male
4	29	Matayom 6	Christian	Bangkok	Company Employee	Broke up with Thai	None	Married African

			Former Buddhist			Boyfriend		Male
5	37	Pratom 4	Christian Former Buddhist	Uthai Thani	Bar	Broke up with Thai Boyfriend	1	Living with African Male
6	45	Matayom 6	Buddhist	Bangkok	Message	Broke up with Thai Husband	2	Living with African Male
7	30	Matayom 6	Christian Former Buddhist	Nakhon Pathom	Bar	Broke up with Thai Boyfriend	None	Making friend with African Male
8	29	Matayom 6	Christian	Uthai Thani	Unemployed	Broke up with Thai Boyfriend	1	Drug Mule/ Not knowing African Male

Furthermore, Table 2 and Table 3 also show details of females drug mules committing crime in different countries

Table 2 Age, Domicile, Occupation, Venture into committing offenses, and Methods of Offenses: Drug Offenses and smuggling drugs between countries from the Documentary Study

	Countries being Arrested and Imprisoned	Age	Occupation	Venture into committing Offenses	Methods of Offenses
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1	Brazil	1	Unemployed	Friends ask to joint her working to entertain customer at Brazil	Being detained and received assistance to return home
2	Brazil	7	Unemployed	Black male asked her to accompany him on the trip	Being detained and received assistance to return home
3	Brazil	29	Unemployed	Having Family problem and friend who had black boyfriend asked her to smuggle drug	Travelling and swallowing cocaine lump
4	Brazil	-	-	Knowing a Thai female through internet who asked her to smuggle the drug	Travelling to pick up the handbag with cocaine concealed inside
5	Brazil	33	Department Store Employee	Knowing a Thai female who asked her to pick up precious stones	Travelling to carry the handbag , no attempt to escape to seek assistance
6	Brazil	27	Work at Pattaya Bar	A friend who had black boyfriend asked her to help pick up precious stones.	Travelling to pick up the hand bag with cocaine concealed inside
7	Brazil	-	Internet employee	Nigerian customer and boyfriend asked her to visit Brazil	Travelling to pick up the shoulder bag with cocaine concealed inside.

Table 2 Age, Domicile, Occupation, Venture into committing offenses, and Methods of Offenses: Drug Offenses and smuggling drugs between countries from the Documentary Study (cont.)

	Countries				
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	being Arrested and Imprisoned	Age	Occupation	Venture into committing Offenses	Methods of Offenses
8	Brazil	-	Company Employee	A Thai woman at the company asked her to pick up clothes and shoes for sale.	Travelling to pick up the bag with clothes and shoes inside, not knowing cocaine was hidden inside the shoes.
9	Brazil	34	Salesperson	Knowing a female who asked her to go pick up the package of merchandise	Travelling to pick up the small bag with cocaine concealed inside
10	Brazil	-	Unemployed	Knowing a female working at Pattaya asking her to go to work together at the restaurant Brazil	Travelling and forced to swallow capsule packed with cocaine.
11	Brazil	30	-	Knowing black male at the entertainment center at Sukhumvit who gave the number and a woman phone her and asked her to go to Brazil together	Travelling to pick up the bag with cocaine concealed inside
12	Brazil	-	Bar at Sukhumvit	Nigerian customer asked her to smuggle narcotics	Travelling to pick up the bag with cocaine concealed inside
13	Brazil	-	Restaurant Employee at Pattaya	A friend with Nigerian boyfriend asked her to visit the country and pick up the luggage.	Travelling to pick up the new luggage with cocaine concealed inside.
14	Argentina	-	Company Employee	Having a Nigerian boyfriend and knowing a women who had black boyfriend , hired her to smuggle narcotic	Travelling to pick up the pull luggage with cocaine concealed inside

Table 2 Age, Domicile, Occupation, Venture into committing offenses, and Methods of Offenses: Drug Offenses and smuggling drugs between countries from the Documentary Study (cont.)

	Countries being Arrested and Imprisoned	Age	Occupation	Venture into committing Offenses	Methods of Offenses
15	Argentina	-	Bar at Pattaya	Knowing a black male at the Bar who asked her to smuggle drug once and she was caught the second time.	Travelling to pick up the backpack with cocaine concealed inside
16	Argentina	-	Work at Malaysia	A Thai woman living at Malaysia asked her to smuggle narcotics. She did twice, and she was caught the second time.	Travelling to pick up the hair dryer with cocaine concealed inside
17	Argentina	-	Bar at Sukhumvit	First time : Knowing Black male at the Bar who asked her to smuggle narcotics Second time : A friend who had black boyfriend u= introduce her to another black male and asked to travel to meet at Argentina	Travelling and a black man asked her to deliver a computer notebook to her friend with narcotics concealed inside.
18	Argentina	-	Drop out of School Temporary	Drop out from University because no money to pay for school. She went to the entertainment place at Sukhumvit and met black male who hired her to swallow narcotics for delivery in Thailand.	Travelled and swallowed 83 lump of narcotics
19	Argentina	28	-	A Thai woman asked her to smuggle narcotics	Travelling to pick up the bag with cocaine concealed inside

Table 2 Age, Domicile, Occupation, Venture into committing offenses, and Methods of Offenses: Drug Offenses and smuggling drugs between countries from the Documentary Study (cont.)

	Countries being Arrested and Imprisoned	Age	Occupation	Venture into committing Offenses	Methods of Offenses
20	Argentina	27	Sale foods at Pattaya	Thai female friend who had African boyfriend introduced her to black male through internet and asked her to visit Ecuador	Travel to meet boyfriend at Ecuador on the way Thai Female friend asked her to stop at Peru to bring a bag back to Thailand in which the cocaine was concealed inside
21	Argentina	-	-	Knowing Thai Female who asked her to go work at Argentina	Travelling to pick up a bag that may concealed cocaine inside, and she was afraid to refuse.
22	Argentina	27	Bar Beer at Pattaya	Work at Bar Beer where she had known black Cameroon male who asked her to smuggle narcotics	First time: not being arrested. Travelled to Brazil and swallow 70 lumps of cocaine Second time: being arrested when travelled to Argentina and swallowed 101 lumps of cocaine

Table 2 Age, Domicile, Occupation, Venture into committing offenses, and Methods of Offenses: Drug Offenses and smuggling drugs between countries from the Documentary Study (cont.)

	Countries being Arrested and Imprisoned	Age	Occupation	Venture into committing Offenses	Methods of Offenses
23	Argentina	31	-	Thai female friend gave her the money to pick up tax evasion clothes from Argentina to be delivered at Vietnam.	Travelling to pick up 10 dresses and she was arrested from cocaine – soak dresses.
24	Argentina	34	Used to work at Karaoke at Singapore. Later marries Malaysian and divorced. Returned to Thailand to live.	Received payment for smuggling narcotics first and second time by a knowing a female at a Pub at Kao San Road who had black boyfriend asked her to find someone to smuggle drug for her. Third time got hired by a female with African boyfriend arranged for her to contact new employee at Guangzhou, China	First time no arrest Travelling to South Africa to pick up a bag for delivery at Hanoi, Vietnam and return to Thailand passed Cambodia through Poipet Border Crossing Second time: No arrest, travelling to Brazil to pick up leather bag 5-6 bags and delivered to Hanoi (cont.) Second time: No arrest. Travelling to Brazil to pick up leather bag 5-6 bags and delivered to Hanoi and return to Thailand like the first trip. Third time: Got arrested. Travelling to meet African boyfriend Guangzhou, China and extended to Argentina to pick up cocaine concealed in the shirt button
	Countries being Arrested and	Age	Occupation	Venture into committing	Methods of Offenses

	Imprisoned			Offenses	
25	Hong Kong	-	Clothes Vendor at Chiangrai	Hang out at Kao San Road and make acquaintance with Thai female who had black boyfriend and she was introduced to Indian male and connected with each other through Internet and later he asked her to visit India	Travelling to pick up the cocaine shipment by being forced to swallow narcotics and she was told that if she reused , she would not be able to return to Thailand so she seal it inside the sanitary napkin and Travel further to Hong Kong and Guangzhou, China with another Thai Female who swallow cocaine
26	United Arab Emirates(Dubai)	30	Work at a Hotel, Soi Nana, Bangkok	A female co-worker hired her to pick up cocaine	First time: no arrest , travelling to Brazil to pick up a bag and return to Thailand Second time: No arrest. Travelling to Malaysia to pick up the luggage and return to Thailand Third time: Got arrested. Travelling to pick up a bag and return to Thailand. She was arrested at time travelling to Brazil and on the way back to Thailand, she changed a flight at Dubai and the officer found cocaine hiding inside the luggage
27	United Arab Emirates(Dubai)	36	Company Employee	Work at tour company. Knowing Pilipino males who asked her to visit Brazil	Travelling together a woman who changed new luggage for her and got arrested while waiting to change flight at Dubai when cocaine was found in her luggage.
28	Turkey	-	Housekeeper Pattaya Hotel	Co-worker persuaded who had black boyfriend persuade	Travelling to Brazil to pick up the luggage. Got arrested while changing

				her to smuggle narcotics for money	a flight at Sao Paulo Turkey and cocaine was found concealing inside.
29	Turkey	-	Bar at Pattaya	Used to have Congo boyfriend, but they broke up. Later, she made acquaintance with Brazil through Internet and he invite her to visit Brazil	Travelling to Brazil, upon the returning flight she met a Thai female who had been arrested at the Airport because cocaine was found in her possession but she had none. Because she talk to the woman, she was also got arrested.
30	India	-	-	Knowing a Thai female who invited her to smuggle narcotics	Traveling to India to pick up a luggage , found heroine hiding inside
31	India	44	Company	A co-worker has Nigerian boyfriend living in India asked to visit India	On the return, aa friend asked to deliver bag to relatives. Later, the bag was found with heroine concealed inside,

From data classified by issues that has been gathered details from the government document on the inquiry as mentioned earlier are summed up as follows:

- Demographic Data and Background

The findings suggest that Thai female who had been arrested and imprisoned in the foreign countries amounted to 32 females from 7 countries, Out f these numbers, 17 females lack the data on age, but the available data indicated that the youngest females 27 years and the oldest 44 years. Majority are 27-34 years and most of them were providing services in the Bar, and mainly workers. The establishment were located mainly in Bangkok and Pataya areas. Some women were unemployed and facing economic hardship.

- Pattern of manipulation of Foreign drug Networks using Thai Females as Drug Mules

The findings suggest that these women were persuaded into this type of work by a friend or acquaintances who had the black boyfriend by being the drug mule and receive

compensation in return. While certain number of Thai women who had black boyfriends trick them into visiting foreign countries, Some were tricked into pick up the package of clothes shoes or other merchandise that had been concealed inside or ask to go to work aboard and to smuggle diamond as well as planned and those who naïve, only thinking of getting a job so they had been forced to smuggle drugs unknowingly.

- **Methods of Transporting Drugs between Countries**

The findings suggest that prior to travel date. Thai woman would receive a plane ticket and some received pocket money about 700-1,200 USD, When she reached the destination a member of network may arranged the pick up or she must get the designated taxi to check-in the shelter, perhaps a house or hotel and waited there 1-3 weeks. Majority of women use the 2 popular methods to smuggle as follows:

1. Hidden inside the luggage with other merchandises or non-declared merchandise . The network member would arrange for the drugs shipments and she would be sent home immediately. This is a case where a women was forced to bring back the item

2. Swallowing the drugs by the network arranged for everything, the drug mule must swallow as much drugs as she could and she must returned to Thailand immediately. Even the one that did not get involved in the service were forced to drugs otherwise she would not be allowed to leave the country.

Discussion

Deception or Persuasion Pattern for Drug Mules

Many drug dealers used Thai dealers as drug mules were a group of black Africans who had been involved with smuggling ICE and Cocaine. Majorly of black Africans communicated in English, capable of using Technology well, with various plans and methods to persuade Thai females as drug mules.

The main reason for Thai women increasing drug offenses at present time which quite different from previous concept in which most people thought of crime committed by males only. Naturally, women are less aggressive than males because they are , physically and emotionally weak and the way they have been raised in Thailand taught Thai women to be afraid of committing offenses (Nuanchun Tassanadiaikul) . Nowadays, more women have prominent

social roles, with more family responsibilities which pressures women to commit more offenses. Moreover, women may find the right opportunity to commit crimes such as they may be overlooked as being the person of interest or it is quite difficult to body search females than males, so the drug network seized the moment to use women committing the offenses. Moreover, the earnings from dealing drugs are large sums as compared to the time spent.

The observations during the interviews reveal that most women in this group have nice personalities, age, plump, talkative, daring and full of self-confidence. These characteristics are the criteria for African males to select Thai females for the job because each trip, the drug mule must travel alone without knowing in advance the situation she must deal with in the destination country. Therefore, she must be daring enough to cope with the unexpected situation.

These women were living in different regions of Thailand. Majority of them worked in the Bar, Pub and specific entertainment places in Bangkok, particularly around Soi Nana or Sukhumvit Road and Pattaya area, Chonburi because this is a group that black males could easily access and make acquaintance with. This concept is coincided with the live style theory. According to the criminologist, Gary Sensen & David Brownfield, individual's lifestyle put himself into risk of becoming the crime victim. The high risk lifestyle creates high risk of a person subjected to crime as well. Majority of victims are females working in the Bar, Pub or entertainment. This is a group under extreme emotional pressure who needs to gain social acceptance. Moreover, a group of female workers at those places are being exposed to the risk from daily routine that required close contact with foreign clients, particular African males.

With this type of work, these women are vulnerable and risk developing relationship with African makes who intended to persuade females into committing the offense. . There are almost no chances for these African males to feel sincere. This group is more at risk to become the victim of deception or this group is easier to fall into victim than officers.

The deception patterns found are as follows:

- 1) Making Thai females fell in love, and developed relationship or married by first approaching women who worked at the Bar and able to communicate in English. After the African male had made the selection, or would make acquaintance and visit her more often, he would ask her to live with him. Most of African makes maintained the relationship 1-2 years to

build the trust. As obviously seen, African males are planned to deceive Thai women ever since the start of relationship.

It is almost common culture for Thai women to devote her life to the family. Therefore , this type of deception is the unkind action because it manipulated Thai women emotion, making she felt as if she was working to support the family , so nothing wrong with what she had done.

This concept is coincided with the idea of Patriarchal Society Perspectives Theories who regard men are more prominent than women. Because women are submission , their rights have been limited with regulations and quite often they are subjected to exploitation , not to mention under pressure from social ethics which rooted itself from the belief in inequality between men and women. Although modern society allows equal opportunity for women, the socialization process tends to lessen women’s opportunity apart from women dependency on men in which the women power has been reduced even further. In Thai social context this concept is still prevailed, men are considered figure of authority by being head of households, particularly, wife must consider the needs of her husband and children before start thinking of her own. In addition a wife must obey and honor her husband, endure hardship and suppress the emotion. Even though, the present society pushed women to be almost in the equal states as men, the society still allows the practice of, Patriarchy where a wife must obey her husband wishes and command and the same time sharing family responsibility, not only looking after their well-being, but also relieving the burden of family expenses by working to generate income for the family. This is another pitfall for Thai women to venture into the life African as being persuaded by her African husband or close acquaintances. Below are Chart 1 and Chart 2, showing the complete chart showing how Thai females are lured into becoming drug mules.

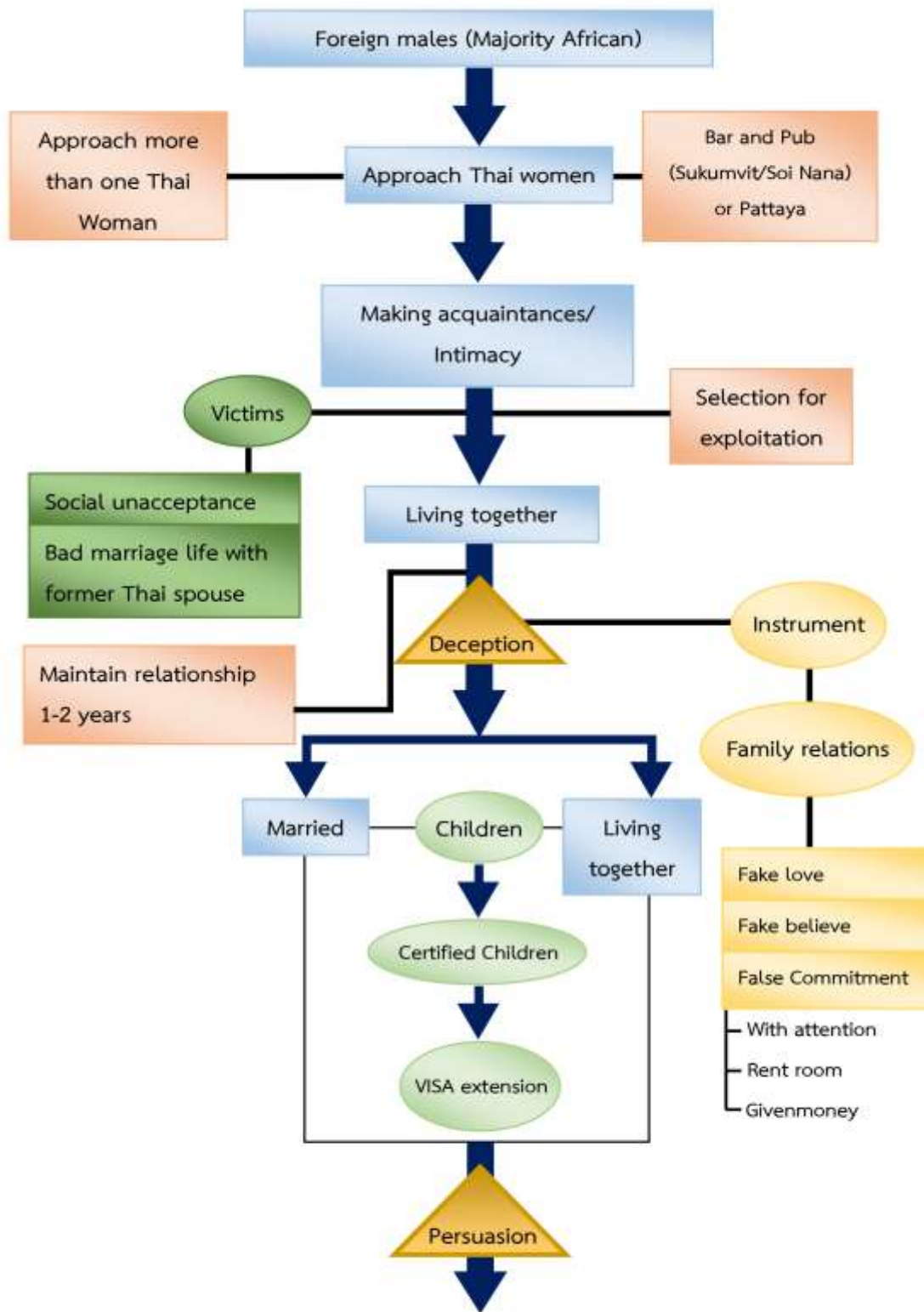


Chart 1: Persuasion Process for luring Thai Women becoming drug mules

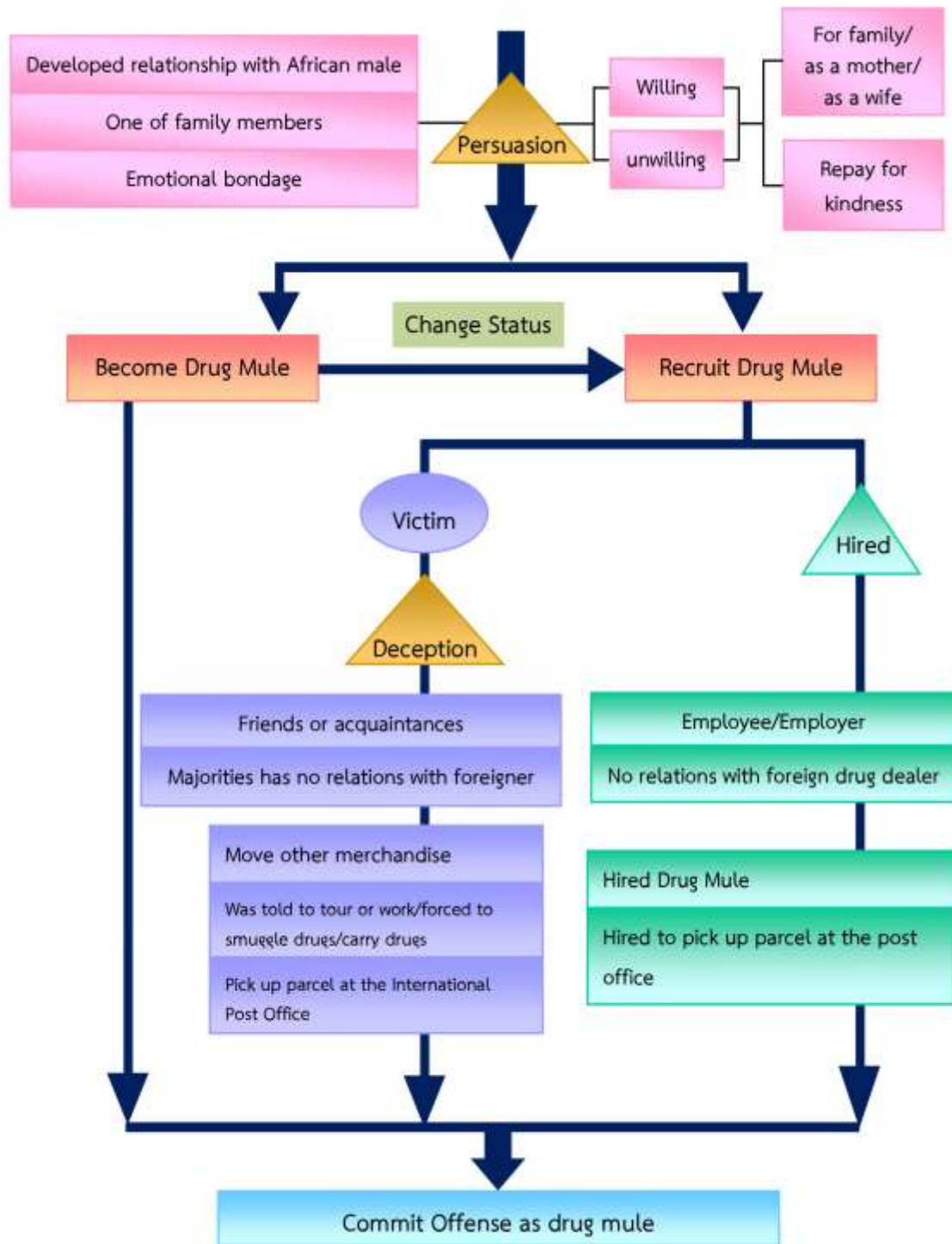


Chart 2: Persuasion Process for luring Thai Women becoming drug mules (cont.)

Direction for preventive measures and solution to problems of foreign drug networks using

Thai Females as Drug Mules

African Group

Establish strict measure to verify their true profession, and background based on their given address in Thailand, including checking their financial status if they had enough income to live in Thailand, if not, they should not be allowed to stay. There should be an effective screening system for foreigner to accompany VISA application to enter Thailand.

Preventive measures

Publish warning on drugs trafficking to warn Thai women when foreign wanted to strike conversation or warning messages make through TV spot, storytelling based on experiences or video clip on You Tube. Besides, there should be the campaign at Suvarnabhumi Airport or the way to the Airport by putting up the Billboard, particularly knowledge related to prevention or deter the wrongful decision.

Conclusion

Conclusions are made for reasons for Thai women became drug mules for foreign drug network

1) Economic problems are the major forces pushing Thai females to enter the drugs related activities due to high commission and social surroundings that make women burden themselves with more responsibilities. They have gained outside employment in which, their opportunities to be exposed to African males who wanted to exploit them or had them into the life of crime.

2) Love, bonding and repay for kindness

The data derived from interviewing Thai females offenders in this group suggest that majority of women loved and developed strong bond with black males. A black male once spending time with a woman for 1-2 years, After sensing the bond between them, An African male would talk a woman into working for him, but never use force, but, out of love and bonding, a Thai woman comply with all his wishes.

It is expected that the outcomes from this study would yield the educational benefits, leading to the creation of analytical guidelines to clearly understand the root of problems, enabled to form the perspective and guidelines in planning preventive measures and seeking effective solutions regarding Thai females are being duped as drug mules.

Further Recommendation

1) Extend the quantitative study on Thai female drug mules to expand the scope of knowledge and support this research in related areas.

2) The findings from this study reveal the relationship between emotion, love, bonding, thought, and attitude which are sensitive issues. In the next study, there should be the study related to personality and psychology of Thai female inmates involved with drug smuggling and the foreign drug networks, leading to preventive measure clearly.

3) In this study, data derived from 2 key groups, namely Thai women drug mules and a group of executives, specialists and practitioners in which the criminal act involved foreigners. Therefore, there should be the qualitative research on foreign prisoner who involved in deceiving Thai women to derive at another dimension of the study and thus complete the answer to problems.

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