ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to examine the psychological poverty and the factors that contribute to the sexual offending behavior of the Juvenile Sex Offenders in Malaysia. This study also examined the influence of family’s and friends’ social support of the juvenile sex offenders. Apart from this, the psychopathological effect, demography and life history were also investigated. Data were analysed qualitatively and quantitatively using a mix method approach. The sample of this research comprised of 35 juvenile sex offenders from a detention centre in Malaysia. The instruments employed for this research included 21 open-ended items questionnaire, 45 close-ended item questionnaires, family social support with 20 item on each questionnaire, friend social support with 20 item, Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS) and a face-to-face interview. The respondents were also clinically interviewed to obtain qualitative data on the psychopathological aspects. The findings of this research showed that several factors pertaining to the causes of the psychological poverty were linked to family issues such as absent parent, neglect, domestic violence, and attachment issues; issues involving peers and exposure to pornography, lack of religious involvement, substance abuse and incomplete education. There were no psychological effects on all the 35 juvenile sex offenders who took part in this study. This study interestingly has laid the ground work for future researchers to work and to improve research in this area in Malaysia.
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