

Gangsterism among Indian Youth in Penang

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Abstract

The aim of this research paper done is to study the problems of gangsterism among the Indian Youth at Butterworth, Penang. According to the statistic issued by Police Headquarters of Penang shows that a total of 20 cases recorded in 2014 increased to 29 cases in 2018, an increment of 68.97%. Moreover, as of May 2019, 21 cases have been recorded (Police Headquarters of Penang, 2019). Therefore, this study enlightens on gangsterism that took place among the Indians youth in Butterworth, Penang. The objectives of this study are to know the types of gangsterism, analyse the main reasons on why Indians youth joining in gangsterism and suggest the suitable approaches on the ways to overcome gangsterism problem among the Indian youth in Butterworth. A qualitative method was chosen by the researcher whereby interviews took place to answer structured questions regarding gangsterism issues. Hence, the researcher carried out interview sessions with eight respondents consisting of three gangsters, a lawyer, a police, a school counsellor, a chairperson of Taman Puyu Neighbourhood and a former prisoner's dad. Transcriptions are done once the interviewee's results are obtained and the discussion begun. Delphi technique was applied to get an agreement on experts' opinion. The overall analysis reveals that due to parents' failure in controlling their kids leads to Indian youths involve in gangsterism. Hence, it is crystal clear that the role of parents and authorities are crucial to overcome this gangsterism issues among the Indian youths at Butterworth, Penang.

Keywords: Gangsterism, Gangster, Youth, Indian Community, Gangsterism Problems, Gangsterism Activities.

Introduction

In the Malaysian context, although the composition of the Malaysian population is made up of various races, ethnicities, descendants, cultures and religions, the harmony that exists among the people is still preserved. This multicultural nature has made Malaysia a multicultural country that is not only an asset to tourist attractions and destinations, but also an example of the prosperity and harmony of multiracial society (Harian, 2015). In order to maintain the harmony of people's lives, the Malaysian Constitution known as the Federal Constitution 1957 has been a guiding principle for all citizens. So it is clear that Malaysia is a national priority. Nonetheless, various problems have spread in the community and threaten public order. Every day, social problems are becoming more widespread in society and affecting the well-being of the people (Manimala, 2014).

The well-being of the nation is disturbed when youth are involved in moral issues that deviate from the values of the south (Tan and Rohana, 2016). Youths who are supposed to be the backbone of the country should not be caught up in a host of socially incorrect issues. One of the social issues involving youth is the issue of gangsterism. The gangsterism that is being spoken about has spread to the youth especially in India. For example, in 2017, 43 Indian youths were arrested by the police (Royal Malaysian Police, 2019). In addition, gangsterism is a string of other moral issues such as running away from home, theft, drug addiction, hangover and many other symptoms (Nashir, 2014). So it is clear that the issue of Indian youth involved in gangsterism needs to be researched and addressed as youth is the backbone of the nation in realizing the country's aspiration to become a developed nation (Tan et al., 2016). Therefore, the study of gangsterism among Indian youth is important to find out the true cause of gangsterism while highlighting a realistic approach to solving the problem of gangsterism.

Problem Statement

The well-being of non-violent living is very important to Malaysia as the crime of violence is in line with the development of society. Notwithstanding various measures, policies, laws such as the Prevention of Crime (Transfer and Extension Act 2014), Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Section 43 of the Establishment Act 1966, Section 385 of the Penal Code, Section 147 of the Penal Code, Criminal Prevention Act 1959, Section 3 (3) The Police Act 1967 has been implemented to eradicate this violent crime, but gangsterism still exists among the youth.

In fact, this youth group is formed and joined by the youth themselves in various gangs such as Gang 36, Gang 18/04, Gang 36, Gang 08 and One Heart Gang (Royal Malaysian Police, 2014). The formation and participation of gangs in this context is the involvement of youth in gangsterism in Malaysia. Youths who are supposed to be contributing to this country are unfortunately stuck in gangsterism. This can be seen when local newspapers such as Berita Harian, Berita Harian, Metro News have published several issues of gangsterism involving youth in particular cases involving Indian youth. For example, a case of gangsterism reported in the newspaper has listed gang leaders, mostly Indian youths, and five gang leaders identified in Penang as a 04 gang leader named Prai Bala. Two head of Gang 08, Indran and Jiva and two gang leaders 36, Sadam and Satish in Butterworth (the Star, 2013).

Futhermore, the police forces intensified efforts to hunt down 26 gangsters from Gangs 04, 08 and 36 who were believed to be actively involved in gang clashes in Penang. In fact, Penang Police Chief Datuk Abdul Rahim Hanafi said the gang was between 22 and 36 years old. These gangs are being hunted to assist in the investigation of violent crime cases in Penang. He also said that clashes between gangs were a motive for revenge and that a fight between two gangs at a restaurant in Tanjong Tokong was one of several gangs. These hunted gangs are believed to be perpetrators of violent crimes in Penang and each has a previous criminal record under the Indian Thug Gang (Malay Mail, 2015). Moreover, members of the gang of 24 organized crime have been present in Penang since 2015. All the accused are in the age group of 24 to 55 and have been charged with gangs since January 1, 2015 until January 29, 2017. In fact, all the accused were charged under section 130V under the Penal Code (Act, 574). The sad thing about this report is that besides the youth there is a Datuk Seri among the 22 who are accused of gangsterism (Berita Harian, 2017).

In the next case in Georgetown, five young men who were previously arrested in the case are expected to be arraigned in court on Nhaveen's murder charges. According to police,

the suspect was 16 to 18 years old, including two fourth-grade students and five were remanded for further investigation. In the 2.10am incident, five teenagers were reported to have beaten Nhaveen and his best friend, Previin, with a helmet on his head and injured at the Penang Hospital (HPP). In fact, Nhaveen suffered serious injuries and was reported to have torn his throat due to being shot by a blunt object, as well as a burn on his shoulder by a gangster. The teenager had been in a coma since the incident and died at the Penang Hospital. An autopsy revealed that Nhaveen died from a head injury due to a blunt force. In fact, a police investigation found five teenagers suspected in the incident live in the same area and are bullying and blackmailing. They were also involved in the case of a 19-year-old convenience store worker who was beaten in Jelutong on May 5, 2017.

So, it is clear that so many cases have occurred involving youths that the lives of an Indian youth are at stake. According to statistics released by the Penang Police Headquarters showing that the number of gangster cases involving Indian youths is increasing in Penang, 20 cases recorded in 2014 increased to 29 cases in 2018 with an increase of 68.97%. In fact, as of May 2019, 21 cases have been recorded (Penang Police Headquarters, 2019). Therefore, the problem of gangsterism among the youth especially the Indian youth needs to be fully resolved in order for this Indian youth to return to the path of good and no longer be involved in gangsterism.

Therefore, in light of previous studies on gangsterism, this study has been a preparation to further analyze the study of gangsterism as well as to repair the gaps in previous studies. For example, freelance researchers are less involved in gangster opinion in their studies. In fact, through the study of gangsterism, the true cause of youths being involved in gangsterism in Butterworth, Penang can be traced to all the questions regarding the problem of gangsterism among Indian youth. Moreover, researchers have also adopted a devotional behavior theory approach to study the problem of gangsterism among Indian youth in the town of Butterworth. This study will examine the factors affecting the prevalence of gangsterism among Indian youth in Butterworth, Penang.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to look at the triggering factors of gangsterism among Indian youth in Penang. The specific objectives of the study are as follows: -

1. Identify significant forms of gangsterism among Indian youth.
2. Analyze the real factors that are causing Indian youth to become involved in the problem of gangsterism.
3. Suggest appropriate approaches to curb the problem of gangsterism among Indian youth.

Gangsterism

Gangsterism or organized crime and gang violence are a common global phenomenon in urban areas. More and more countries are beginning to see serious concern for gangsterism as this issue threatens public safety. Laws specifically designed to combat gangs should be implemented correctly and thoroughly. The legal difficulties of dealing with the phenomenon of gangsterism and the analysis of different approaches have been adopted so far at the national and international levels (Pierre Hauck and Sven Peterke, 2010). The problems of organized crime and violence perpetrated by gangs can be found in both poor and rich countries. The crisis is especially prevalent in urban areas in a country where people, mostly

teenagers or youths, are in the public domain. Various national and international laws have been formulated more effectively to combat organized crime as well as violent gangs.

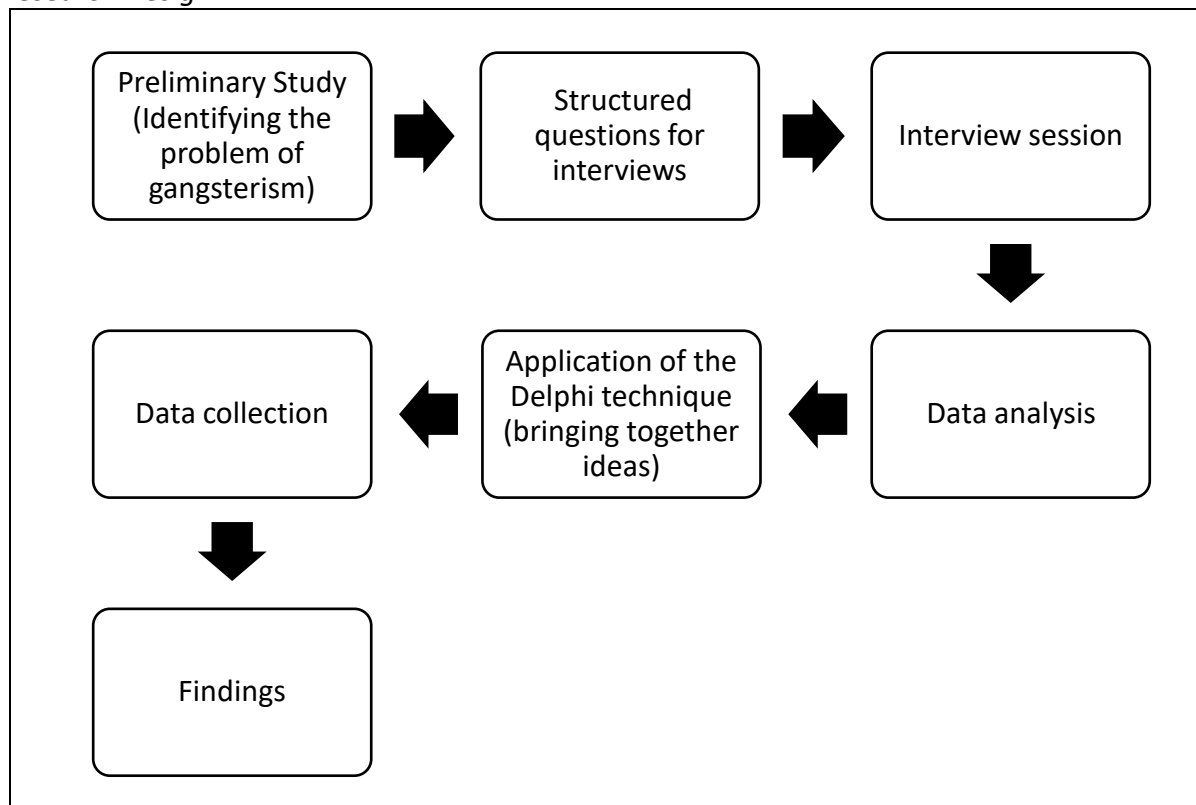
However, this organized crime group still exists because in some countries there is no clear definition of gangsterism due to overly scrupulous laws regarding the use of the terms in court proceedings. The issue of definitions of legal terms must be addressed to distinguish between criminal groups, serious crimes and structured groups that are often difficult to explain. Lawmakers take one step at a time to analyze each term based on the theory and practice of using the terms criminal group, crime and structured group. So it is clear that a criminal group means a group of three or more persons for a specified period of time and that the group acts with its members and intends to commit one or more serious crimes.

Subsequently, serious crime means conduct that is a crime punishable by the maximum lack of freedom of at least four years or more serious punishment. In fact, a structured group means a group that is not randomly formed for instant commissions of offenses and does not need to formally have a designated role for its members, continuity of membership or membership structure developed. Researchers can delve deeper into the meaning of crime groups, crime and structured groups. Researchers conduct organized crime studies and researches based on the forms run by gangs and focus only on the factors of youth involvement in gangs and the theory of devian behavior theory in combating gangsterism. Thus, gangsterism is a symptom of a group of people who violate the laws and norms of social life that threaten public order (Nashir, 2014).

Methodology

The design of this study is qualitative method. This study aimed to explain the factors of youth involvement in gangsterism by using the theory of devian behavior in combating the problem of gangsterism among youth in Butterworth, Penang.

Table 1.

Research Design**Sampling**

There are three criteria that the informants have set that all the informants are Indian. This is because the study is based on gangsterism among Indian youth. The second criterion was that all informants were selected, whether or not they were involved in gangsterism. There are three groups of informants, expert groups, gangsters and special groups. For the expert group, the experts consist of police, lawyers, school counselors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with experience in gangsterism. For gangs, gangs have made themselves known as gang members. In fact, the special group is the parents of children who are involved in gangsterism.

Instrument of Study

The Delphi technique is a procedure for finding consensus among experts by using the questionnaire in an anonymous way. This technique was used in this study by interviewing in the first round and distributing the next question until a high consensus value was obtained among experts (Irdyanti et al. 2015). This technique is used to gain expert consensus on the cause of gangsterism among Indian youth and to address the problem of gangsterism. The instrument development was carried out in two rounds by five experts with expertise, experience and knowledge on the issue of gangsterism.

In fact, investigators used structured interviews with eight informants consisting of gangs 04 and 08, a prisoner of gangs 08, a lawyer, a police officer, a school counselor, an NGO body of the Neighborhood Neighborhood Chairman Park Puyu and a background father the child is involved in gangsterism. Researchers use structured interviews to gather information such as education level, group and duration within the group. In addition, all informants

answered the questions provided by the researcher in order to give the interview a satisfactory result and to ensure that the interview was within the context of the study.

Findings

There are three research findings on forms of gangsterism, factors of Indian youth involvement in gangsterism and measures on gangsterism.

Forms of Gangsterism

There are nine forms of gangsterism practiced by gangs in Butterworth - fights, fundraising activities, murder cases, selling and distributing illicit goods, looting, gambling, robbery and theft cases, holding religious ceremonies to become gang members and holding annual gatherings.

Table 2.

The Forms of Gangsterism in Butterworth, Penang

Forms of gangsterism	First round		Second round	
	Position (/ 8informan)		Position (/ 8informan)	
Fights	1	(8/8)	1	(8/8)
Selling and distributing illicit goods	2	(4/8)	4	(5/8)
Murder Case	3	(5/8)	3	(5/8)
Fundraising activities	4	(5/8)	2	(6/8)
Robbery and theft cases	5	(5/8)	7	(4/8)
Gambling activities	6	(4/8)	6	(4/8)
Hang out and enjoy	7	(4/8)	5	(5/8)
Special ceremony for gang members	8	(3/8)	8	(3/8)
Annual Meeting	9	(3/8)	9	(3/8)

Referring to Table 2, it clearly shows that the main form of gangsterism is a quarrel activity involving the consent of 8 informants out of 8 informants. This is because all informants agree that fighting is a major activity of gangs in gangs. This is further proven when gang informants say they will fight for their respective gangs. In addition, G1 informants admitted that he was going to punch people who were talking rude and G2 informants said that he would hit people with weapons.

Factors of Indian youth involvement in gangsterism.

There are seven major factors that cause Indian youth to become involved in gangsterism in Butterworth city of Penang. Factors identified are parental failure in controlling children, individual attitudes, influence of peers and individuals, living environment, financial pressures, insistence and hardship and poor understanding and adherence to religious teachings.

Table 3.

The Factors of Indian Youth Involvement in Gangsterism.

Factors of gangsterism	The first round Position (/ 8informan)	Second round Position (/ 8informan)
Parental Failure in Controlling Children	1 (8/8)	1 (8/8)
Influence of friends and other people	2 (6/8)	3 (5/8)
Individual Attitude	3 (5/8)	2 (6/8)
Financial stressors	4 (5/8)	5 (4/8)
Lack of understanding and adherence to religious teachings	5 (4/8)	6 (3/8)
Living environment	6 (4/8)	4 (5/8)
Life's urges and difficulties	7 (3/8)	7 (3/8)

Based on the Table 3, it clearly shows that parental failure in controlling children is the major factor that causes youth to be involved in gangsterism. However, there are other eight factors which are influence of friends and other people, individual attitude, financial stressors, lack of understanding and adherence to religious teachings, living environment and life's urges and difficulties.

Steps to Deal with Gangsterism

There are four proactive measures that can be implemented to curb gangsterism among Indian youth in Butterworth. Some of the appropriate approaches to combat gangsterism are the role of parents, the role of law enforcement, the role of religious institutions and the role of government.

Table 4.

The Steps to Deal with Gangsterism

Steps to deal with gangsterism	The first round Position (/ 8informants)	Second round Position (/ 8 informants)
Parental roles	1 (6/8)	1 (6/8)
Role of law enforcement	2 (3/8)	4 (3/8)
The role of religious institutions	3 (5/8)	2 (5/8)
Role of the kingdom	4 (3/8)	3 (3/8)

Based on the Table 4, it clearly shows that most of the informants agree that parental roles are vital in curbing the gangsterism problem among the youths. Other measure like role of law enforcement, role of religious institutions and role of the kingdom are need to be considered to curb this gangsterism problem also plays crucial role to overcome this gangsterism problem.

Conclusion

Before concluding this study, the researchers again emphasize that this study has achieved the research objectives, answered all the research questions and met all the objectives of the

study that were set at the beginning of the study. So, researchers have already discussed the significant form of gangsterism among Indian youth in Butterworth, Penang. In fact, other forms of gangsterism include distributing and selling drugs, gambling, killing, stealing, hanging out, collecting money, holding religious ceremonies to become gang members and holding annual dinners. Moreover, each form of gangsterism is briefly explained to the reader.

Furthermore, the factor of failure of parents in controlling their children is identified as the true factor of Indian youth involved in gangsterism but there are other factors such as financial factors, environmental factors, peer influence, religious upbringing and individual factors. Each factor has been described in detail by the researcher so that a clear statement can be presented to the reader. In addition to factors, the researchers suggest the appropriate approach is the role of parents. In fact, researchers have described other approaches such as the role of government, the role of law enforcement and the role of religious institutions in curbing symptoms of gangsterism. Thus, researchers can conclude that the role of parents is to play a role in controlling children's movements from childhood to free children from involvement in gangsterism. Every problem has its way of solving the problem, so researchers believe that rampant gangsterism among Indian youth can be prevented if all synergy comes from parents, families, the public, police, lawyers, local leaders, NGOs and finally, all the Indian youths are located in Butterworth, Penang.

These Indian youths should be protected under the supervision of parents so that Indian youth do not choose the wrong path because youths are the backbone of the nation that will lead the country's leadership and further the country's policies and dreams. Establishing a youthful morality to become an intellectually and spiritually balanced person is a lifelong educational process and needs to be emphasized in line with the development and progress of nations.

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