

The strategies to control and manage the homemade gun in Thailand

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Abstract:

Homemade guns are expanded throughout Thailand. Currently, the government does not fully inform the exact number of homemade guns, and there is no legitimate research of homemade guns. The objectives of this research were to explore situations and problems in controlling the possession and use and selling of homemade guns. It also explored some suggestions effective for the control measures for the possession and use and selling of homemade guns. This qualitative research collected data from document research and in-depth interviews from samples with a specific selection of 34 people. It has been found that the problem of homemade gun is from the provisions of the Firearms Act 1947, which is the only gun control law in Thailand. The aforesaid law requires homemade gun as criminalization and impose penalties for violators, which must be strictly on law enforcement by officials. It therefore becomes a limitation in the control of Thai homemade gun to exempt from the law such decriminalization for certain types of homemade guns, especially those used in rural areas for self-defense, agriculture, livestock, and hunting. In addition, the influence of internet technology and online social media created the market for homemade guns on computer systems as well as new users of homemade guns. However, officials under the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947 and police still do not have the power to end the situation on the said computer system. Therefore, the guidelines for controlling the possession and use and selling of homemade gun require formal social control mechanisms and reinforcements with informal social control by using positive social media and strengthening social norms regarding public safety.

Keywords: Homemade gun, Gun control, Safety Management, Social media

1. Introduction

Crime is a problem in every human society that pattern has been developed to be more complicated based on factors causing a crime, which changes in the economy, technology, and society. A crime committed by humans to humans using weapons to the point that one or both sides are seriously physically harmed or to the death will be a violent crime and frightened general people than other types of crime. Crime problem, which used firearms as important means happens all the time and happened constantly. In addition, there are occurrence statistics at a high level (Aekkanthamakorn, 2014). It indicates that using firearm committed a crime has a large effect on public safety. Additionally, the previous study of the University of Sydney's School of Public Health in Australia and the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation found that Thailand is the country that has a high number of gun murder statistics compared to the other countries (Idris, 2018; Kelto, 2016).

The Royal Thai Police has collected statistics of the criminal case regarding gun violence. There were over 100,000 cases in 2015-2019 (Office of Police Strategy, 2019). The Royal Thai Police has collected crime statistics using firearms to commit crimes, including registered firearms and illegal firearms all over Thailand during 2012-2016 as shown in Table 1

Table 1 Crime statistics of comparison of the use of firearms to commit crimes between registered firearms and illegal firearms all over Thailand during 2012-2016

Year (1 Jan -31 Dec)	Results		Firearms Status		Ratio
	Cases	Accused (person)	Registered firearms	Illegal firearms	
2012	26,187	30,504	3,986	6,916	1: 1.74
2013	29,642	32,951	4,067	8,483	1: 2.08
2014	29,606	33,120	3,531	9,075	1: 2.57
2015	25,861	28,773	2,168	6,468	1: 2.98
2016	26,628	29,217	1,007	2,756	1: 2.73
Total	137,924	154,565	14,759	33,698	1: 2.28

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Note. Office of Police Strategy, 2019

According to Table 1 showing crime statistics using firearms to commit crimes, apparently, offenders used a large number of firearms during 5 years (2012-2016) and did not incline to decrease. When comparing types of firearms used to commit crimes, illegal firearms were used as twice as registered firearms using during 5 years, and almost three times during 2015 and 2016. From the above mentioned, it can be seen that there are legal and illegal guns, which are in the possession and used to commit crimes by people. However, illegal gun is mostly used to commit crimes (Office of Police Strategy, 2019). The illegal gun or unregistered firearms include firearms, which are illegally imported into the country, firearms which are altered registration number, and illegally acquired firearms. In addition, in various illegal firearms, homemade gun is one illegal firearm that is found to be used the most in crimes. The homemade gun is difficult to trace. This is the first research about homemade gun in Thailand. The researcher is interested to explore the problem of homemade gun control in Thailand and it has not found any studies toward problem of homemade gun control in Thailand as well. Therefore, this study aims to find out actual problem of homemade gun control and provide appropriate solution to effective control of homemade gun in order to reduce crime in Thailand. In business, there is a clear link between the storage and transport. In order to minimize transport, the number of deliveries should be increased, which in turn entails the need to increase the number of means of transport. To make transport fulfill its task properly, the process of transportation should be fast, flexible and precise. The reason of the cost it is necessary to keep an eye on the means of transport, make sure that are they best loaded and avoid any kind of empty trips, which generate entirely unnecessary costs. All of these activities for individual companies can be extremely difficult, time consuming and costly, and above all require certain specific conditions, such as having a huge warehouse, when company is unable to have it. The logistics centers, having adequate storage space and the number of transportation modes, are able to meet all logistical tasks - from supply logistics to the logistics of distribution.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Related Theory

2.1.1 Deterrence Theory

The deterrence theory explains the cause of the crime that crime has occurred because free will in humans. Since humans have free will since birth, they tend to do something that benefits oneself more than harm oneself. Humans will avoid committing if they consider that the action will do more harm than good. Also, the occurrence of a crime is based on the fact that humans have considered that the consequence of the action will be beneficial than harmful, and they have no fear of laws and penalties as well as the lack of severity of penalties. Therefore, the way of prevention of crime focuses on enforcing laws to be most effective. Consequently, to make people in the society to fear of law and penalty can be caused the motive of committing a crime to be reduced. This concept has resulted in legislation of criminalization or the way of decriminalization, however, there are still penalties to control the behavior of people in the society. When the law has been legislated, the criminal justice system must be effective with three important characteristics: severity, promptness and certainty (Zimring & Hawkins, 1973)

2.1.2 The Concept of the Right of Self-Defense

The Constitution of Kingdom of Thailand 2017 in the Rights and Liberty of the Thai People stated that “all persons are equal before the law, and shall have rights and liberties and be protected equally under the law”. The right of self-defense has been assured by the general legal defense. The government are responsible to launch order and security to public. Also, the police and administrator are importantly considered to perform responsibility. However, in fact, the government officials are not able to defend promptly, thus people should have the right to defend life, body and property of themselves or others. If the defense to the danger which is imminent has been done reasonably, that defense should be supported by the law. It also helps the government to restrain and suppress offender. Basically, the right of self-defense concept is from the saying that “the right does not need to give way to injustice (Das Recht braucht dem Unrecht nicht zu weichen)”. Therefore, to defend against unlawful violence that is imminent is boundless. In other words, there is no need to consider the moral of retaliation which has done to the criminal, the accurate morality of the law or receiving the defense of a person who defends oneself whether or not it is proportional, and then the defense shall be regarded that it is appropriate and reasonable (Saengwirojanaphat, 2014). According to the saying of French law, “the right does not need to give way to injustice (Das Recht braucht dem Unrecht nicht zu weichen)” is the defense about the conflict between the right and injustice. Thus, a person who exercises the right of self-defense shall be the right side, while the attacker shall be the injustice side. The offence is the action that affects protected interest of a person who exercises the defensive legal rights shall result in the self-defense to retaliate violence that occurred to oneself (Somudorn, 1993).

2.1.3 Drift Theory of Delinquency

David Matza (1964) developed the Drift Theory of Delinquency with belief that criminals have physical and psychological states the same as general people have. That is, in normal circumstances, criminals comply with the laws, but whenever they have a free drift in the area regarding the structure of society with weak control mechanisms, this

allows criminals to commit crimes freely so as to satisfy their drives or motives. Matza studied young people who committed crimes and also found that they knew what they had done was wrong, but there were reasons or circumstances to extenuate the punishment. As a result, they did not feel any guilt for what they had done and there was no need to be responsible for such acts. In other words, a person will be freed from rules, regulations, and laws. In addition, a person who commits a crime may develop a sense to feel that he or she is treated unfairly by justice. In the state of the drift, a person can decide to do anything according to one's own satisfaction that can be illegal or illegal with certain motives causing that person to choose to break the law.

2.1.4 Hierarchy of Needs in Humans

Maslow (1980) is a psychologist and anthropologist who described that the human behavior is a hierarchy of requirements into five steps. Human needs can be rank to meet the needs. Incentives will be in accordance with the demand in order of Hierarchy of Needs, that consists of 1) physiological needs 2) safety and security needs 3) social or belonging needs 4) esteem or egoistic needs 5) self-actualization needs.

2.2 Gun Control Law in Thailand

Currently, there is specific gun control law in Thailand that is the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks, and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947, and Amendment. This Act intends to protect public order and people's rights in order to let them possess and use firearms under requirements prescribed by the law. Section 4 under this act defines "firearms" as all kinds of weapons which are used to fire ammunition by explosion, gas or air pressure or any machinery any mechanism which uses the power and any part of that weapon and the Minister deems essential and has specified in the Ministerial Regulation. Furthermore, Section 7, as well as Section 9 under this act, allow people to possess and use firearms if a license is granted from the local registrar. This license allowing general people to possess and use firearms is for self and property defense or sport, hunting or collection. For the application for a license, in Section 55; categories, types, and sizes of firearms, ammunition, or explosives that the registrar shall issue a license in accordance with section 7, 24, or 38 shall correspond to the ministerial regulation.

The ministerial regulation no. 11 (1979) prescribes categories, types, and sizes of firearms, ammunition, or explosives that can be issued by the registrar as follows:

Article 2 firearms that the registrar can issue a license in accordance with Section 7 or Section 24 shall be firearms with the following types and sizes:

(1) Firearms with threaded bore barrel diameter not exceeding 11.45 mm

(2) Non- threaded firearms as follows:

(a) Bore barrel diameter of less than 20 mm

(b) Muzzle-loading firearms, shotguns, and flare guns

(3) Firearms with bullet loader that can be fired repeatedly as follows:

(a) Barrel length of less than 160 mm

(b) Shotguns

(c) .22 rifle with bore barrel diameter not exceeding 5.6 mm

(4) Firearms without silencer

(5) Firearms that do not use dangerous or toxic chemical ammunition, or ammunition containing pathogens, fuels, or radioactive materials.

2.3 Previous Studied of Gun Control in Thailand

Currently, there is only one gun control law that is the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms Act 1970. This act has been used for a long time and inevitably causes certain sections to be inconsistent with the current conditions of Thai society. The control provisions and various provisions are also ambiguous and inappropriate (Homjan, 2019; Wiriyajaroenkit & Saensuk, 2019; Pornnutchachuanom, 2015; Noito, 2014). In the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947, firearms are divided into two systems; formal firearms including firearms used in the military, policing, Department Of Provincial Administration, forest service officers, and firearms issued by the government allowing people to protect their property that can be verified ownership; and another systems is informal firearms that cannot be licensed by the registrar such as illegal firearms, homemade guns, and ownership cannot be verified, also the users have a relatively high impact on possession of firearms for committing crimes (Wiriyajaroenkit & Saensuk, 2019; Pornnutchachuanom, 2015; Aekkantamakorn, 2014).

The previous studied also showed that provisions of the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947 have no permission by classifying firearms based on the lethality of such firearms. However, those who are authorized to grant licenses are determined by considering the domiciles of people who apply for a license to possess, use or carry firearms. In other words, in consideration for granting a license, when firearms are not divided by their power and lethality, there is no standard and strictness for granting a license based on the power and lethality of firearms. Therefore, both non-lethal firearms and lethal firearms have the same standards of consideration for granting that this will bring disadvantages for gun control (Pornnutchachuanom, 2015). Therefore, certain measures or provisions of the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947 are urgently necessary to be improved (Suriyavorapunt, 2018).

3. Methodology

The method used in this research was qualitative research. The researcher gathered information from academic documents, research, and observation from using and selling homemade gun-related offenses (Thai pradit guns). For patterns of laws, policies, and measures used to control homemade guns, the researcher selected key informants with knowledge and experiences in various fields that were consistent with the purposes of this research.

There were a total of 34 key informants including 2 groups; group 1: 11 police officers with knowledge and experiences of prevention and suppression of homemade guns who had work experiences in prevention and suppression of homemade guns not less than 100 cases from 11 law enforcement agencies throughout Thailand, and 3 police officers who were in charge of verifying homemade guns in criminal cases with a total of 14 key informants of this group; group 2: officials with knowledge and specialized in gun law, including government officials from the Department of Provincial Administration who had not less than 10 years' experience as the registrar, and scholars or experts on gun law with a total of 10 key informants of this group.

In this research, an interview was a tool used for gathering in-depth information. The researcher created guidelines especially for main questions based on issues that the researcher required from key informants of each group. For follow-up questions and probe questions, the researcher might repeat interviews in order to expand issues required by the researcher for the completed information. If key informants gave consent to be recorded audio before the interview, the researcher would record the audio every time and transcribe it later. Each interview took approximately 30-45 minutes.

After information were gathered from the sample, information obtained from the interview was transcribed and then typed contents and obviously specified footnotes (informants/date-time of interview). Later on, information was classified into main issues that linked to the purposes of this research, and into sub-issues for the depth in systemic information analysis and synthesis. When the researcher had already systemized, the information was analyzed in its context and content by adjusting to personal characteristics and focusing on holistic understanding in order to be used to interpret information into descriptive research that was clear and accurate with specified purposes. This would lead to understanding and be able to gather information for the conclusion and discussion of this research.

4. Result

4.1 Current Situation of Homemade Gun in Thailand

4.1.1 Definition of Homemade Gun in Thailand

Since there is no formal definition of a homemade gun, the researcher starts by seeking the definition of "homemade gun (Thai pradit gun)" that is the essence of this research and will lay out mutual knowledge and understanding of homemade gun in Thailand. The researcher defines "homemade gun" by gathering information from key informants' opinions in this research, from criminal investigation documents of police officers and 10 years' experiences since the researcher served as investigating officer in crime prevention and suppression (2004-2014), and systemically analyzing until obtaining the definition. Most key informants agreed that homemade gun as call Thai Pradit guns in Thailand, is illegal homemade gun by using skills of assembling materials which are not created to be used as a specific element of firearms with the capability to deliver ammunition by various methods as general firearms. Homemade gun has such an interesting feature that is a homemade gun which is assembled by general materials or modified from an imitation of a gun with destructive power. Even though the safety in usage is low, homemade gun has been developed its shape and feature to suit the user needs. Thus, such feature causes homemade gun to be in high demand for some group of people. The number of homemade guns which are possessed by the general public affects the possibility of crime occurrence. Therefore, this study aims to study the situations of homemade gun in Thailand and problems related to the control of homemade gun in order to set guideline to control the use and sale of homemade gun in Thailand.

4.1.2 Current Type of Homemade Gun in Thailand

Currently, five types of homemade gun are found to use and possess in Thailand. Firstly, gap gun has Match Lock machinery that is the same as the Musket imported into Thailand in Ayuttaya era by Portuguese mercenaries. Gap gun is believed that is one of the early types of homemade gun which is used in Thailand. Secondly, coach gun that machinery and appearance are developed to be a Percussion Locks because a metal hammer which strikes on an explosive causing

an explosion that is unique to this gun. Also, the development of ammunition to the current forms that are single bullet and pellets. This type of homemade gun has both short-barreled and long-barreled type with rifling or without rifling. Coach gun which is commonly found and used is short-barreled shotgun and handgun by using a bullet of shotgun no.12 or .38- and 11-mm caliber, also is called in illegal firearm community as “E-bo gun” or “Colt-tra-kwai”.

Thirdly, pen gun is easy to make compared to other types. There is a handgun with a barrel length which is not exceeding 2 inches with rifling and without rifling. The appearance of this gun resembles an ink pen. The pen gun which is generally found and used are single barrel and 2-4 connected barrels in order to be able to load more ammunition. The unique feature of a pen gun is a simple mechanism and small that is easy to carry and hide. Fourthly, Chab-Phong are both long-barreled type and short-barreled type with rifling and without rifling. The appearance of this gun is a rod. Chab-Phong is distinctive that resembles many types of tools such as a barrel, wrench, hammer, hatchet handle, and so on. Therefore, it is easy to carry and hide. Lastly, imitation firearm is a short-barreled and long-barreled gun with a rifling or without rifling. This homemade gun is invented from imitation firearms such as Wingun or BB GUN which has appearance resembles firearms. Materials made by stainless. This gun uses plastic beads or small round metal for shooting. Ammunition is driven by carbon dioxide (CO₂) tank with compression at high pressure. However, it is modified some essential elements including barrel, firing pin, trigger kit and ejector kit to be effective as a general firearm. It can be used to deliver ammunition from .22, .38, .357, .45 and 11 calibers. In addition, there is a type of loading 1 bullet at a time and type of 2-6 bullets at a time.

4.1.3 Aim of Use and Possession of Homemade Gun in Thailand

The study also found that most of the user of homemade gun are people who want to possess firearms but have a weak economic status or to be unqualified to request permission of legal gun possession. According to the study, the user based on the purpose of usage is divided into 3 types.

The first group is defending life and property of oneself and haunting as folkways. It is found that the Gap gun is preferable in Thai local society for defending oneself or property and agricultural tools, also people who are a hunter-gatherer. The second group is symbolizing and committing crimes. The use of homemade gun in this aspect is mostly found in adolescents. Also, homemade gun which is used is pen gun, coach gun as well as imitation firearms that are easy to carry in various places. The last group is firearm collectors. The user of a firearm in this group is absolutely different from the previous two groups. Their taste for homemade gun which is unique, regardless style of gun, mechanism or attractive design. Also, the imitation of antique firearms which is found in Gap gun and Coach Gun. Generally, a firearm is made by orders and demands of customers in order to be a collection or ornament of house or firearms collection, also to show their own influence in the society.

4.2 The problem of Homemade Gun Control in Thailand

4.2.1 Legal Problem

The research revealed that key informants all agreed that “homemade gun” is “firearm” under the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947, Section 4 (1)

“Homemade gun is “firearm” under the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947, Section 4 (1)”

Furthermore, the research also revealed that the problem of homemade gun control in Thailand is caused by provisions under the Firearm Act 1947 and Amendment. The researcher will analyze and link to legal issues in order to indicate why possessing and using homemade are illegal. To start from Section 7, no person shall possess, use firearms, unless a license is granted from the local registrar under conditions specified by law. Conditions to apply for a license to possess and use firearms must be intended to be used for self and property defense or sport or hunting under Section 9. Firearms that can apply for licenses must be under the provision in Section 55 under the Firearm Act 1947 and Amendment. Ministerial regulation no. 11 (1979) also prescribed categories, types, and sizes of firearms that the registrar can issue a license, and allow a person to possess under Section 7.

Since Thai pradit gun is a homemade gun, it has patterns and sizes that do not follow the aforementioned ministerial regulation. Consequently, a homemade gun is against the conditions prescribed by law. The local registrar is, therefore, unable to issue a license to possess and use a homemade gun. A homemade gun is also unable to be marked its identification even though it is considered a firearm under the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation Firearms Act 1947 in Section 4 (1), and intended to use and possess for self and property defense or hunting that are prescribed by law.

“The registrar is unable to make registration and issue a license to possess and use homemade gun since it is not in accordance with the ministerial regulation, also it is unsafe and not up to the standard”

Furthermore, the research also revealed that there should be a law to allow a person to possess and use some types of homemade gun. Key informants also agreed that gap gun which has firepower lower than other homemade guns is

allowed to be possessed and used. In addition, those who use gap guns are in local society and do agriculture for a living, and they are remote from the protection of the government. A gap gun is necessary for self-defense, agricultural and livestock tools, hunting for food or living. Consequently, a gap gun is used with honest intention.

“If a gap gun which is used by people to make a living is legalized, police officers do not need to arrest. Arrest should focus on those who use firearms to harm others that is actual social harm”

4.2.2 Influence of Internet and Social Media

This research revealed that the internet and social media also affect the control of using and selling homemade guns. Nowadays, the homemade gun market is not only interpersonal deal with traditional methods, but the advancement of technology places homemade gun markets and advertisements on computer networks and also causes rapid information dissemination. The deal is the direct interaction between purchaser and seller through social media such as Facebook, Line, Chat On, or Twitter. The advertisement showing homemade gun’s effectiveness is often created as video clips on YouTube or private blogs. When the deal is done, a purchaser will transfer money to a seller’s bank account or electronic backing account or account prepared by a seller by hiring others. For delivery of homemade gun, a seller often takes a private shipping company or provincial post office where there is no X-Ray machine to scan items within packaging so as to avoid being caught. It is convenient to trade homemade guns whether it be the deal, advertisement, payment, and delivery. These are influenced by the advancement of technology and there is no provision to authorize the government officials under the gun control law to promptly and effectively suppress the aforesaid circumstances.

“Nowadays, teenagers buy illegal guns online. There are websites for selling and reviews on social media. There seem to be a lot of private groups. So, they are probably afraid of police officers inspecting”

“Social media is the important channel for trading...money is transferred online via an application on a smartphone”

In addition to the Firearm Act being unable to control homemade gun from the influence of technology, nowadays, even relying on the Computer-related Crime Act 2007 and Amendment (2nd edition) 2017, Section 20, that prescribes a block of computer data with procedures of instructions to restrain the dissemination of computer data or delete such computer data from a computer system that requires so much time, the data of using, making, trading or advertising homemade guns on computer systems is not directly against the Computer-related Crime Act. But if competent officers or inquiry officers have gathered evidence and deemed that the data of using, making, trading, or advertising homemade guns on a computer system is against the public order or moral of people, officers are able to gather evidence and file a petition to the court to restrain the dissemination or delete the data from a computer system. The competent officers under the homemade gun control law have no direct authority to access the data on a computer system. Consequently, this causes difficulties in the investigation and gathering of evidence. Therefore, the control of homemade guns which is influenced by the internet and social media based on law enforcement according to the Computer-related Crime Act is ineffective to promptly suppress circumstances.

4.3 Guidelines to control homemade gun in Thailand

According to in-depth interviews, key informants who have knowledge and experiences in homemade gun prevention and suppression, and experts of gun law agreed that homemade gun is harmful weapons causing danger to the public safety of Thai society. Therefore, the use and sale of homemade gun should be strictly controlled based on both formal and informal social control mechanisms to reduce the number of this type of illegal firearms possessed by people. Besides, for the more effective control of using and selling homemade gun, the research have measures as follows:

4.3.1 Legal Measure

The research revealed that there should be clear laws of categorizing and guidelines for granting a license to possess and use certain types of homemade gun. From this research, key informants agreed that homemade gun which is the typed of gap gun is allowed to be possessed and used. Key informants reasoned that among homemade guns found in Thailand, there is only gap gun which its machinery still uses gunpowder and smooth ball to be loaded into muzzle. Consequently, its firepower is not severe compared to other types of homemade gun which use modern ammunition with higher firepower. Therefore, this type of homemade gun should be allowed to be possessed and used by clearly specifying categories, types, and conditions to apply for a license. Allowing possession and use of gap gun is the opportunity to bring illegal homemade gun into legal control system and to be able to examine. Besides, this is to reduce the number of those who possess and use firearms with honest intention not to get criminal punishment.

“The local registrar can issue a license for some types of homemade gun. If the law allows and there is clear practice from the Ministry of Interior, this will partly reduce the number of illegal gun outside of the system”

4.3.2 Law enforcement measure

Since the measure to impose punishment to offenders who possess and use homemade gun has been used for a long time, general people are not afraid of punishments that they will receive and continue to commit offenses. Key informants also deemed that measure to impose punishment for criminal offenses regarding possession, use, and sale of homemade gun should be improved to be more severe in both imprisonment and fines so that general people are afraid of penalty rate that they will receive, and those who used to commit this offense will not repeat this offense.

“Suspended sentence or short-period imprisonment makes people fearless. Or even those offenses with predictable penalty rate or a gap which is used to reduce penalty also makes people unafraid of committing crimes”

4.3.3 Measure of the Positive Use of Social Media

This research revealed that the influence of the internet and social media cause law enforcement for controlling the use and sale of a homemade gun to be ineffective. Key informants also suggested the idea of the positive use of social media to carry out information operations by creating knowledge, network, and public cooperation. This is to drive social change in awareness of the importance of homemade gun's threats toward violent crimes that threaten public safety and it can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, time, and place. This trend of social change is significant control of the use and sale of a homemade gun.

“Social media have both positive and negative impact. If using positive impact to carry out the IO, this will give enormous positive energy; for example, a trend of saving energy that is to turn off electricity in house for 1 hour each time; or in a preventive way, Thai Health Promotion Foundation uses the term that “giving alcohol is curse, and so on. To constantly carry out the IO about homemade guns on social media probably causes social trends against homemade guns. The crime control is accordingly easier because people are well-informed”

4.3.4 Measure to Strengthen Social Norms Regarding Public Safety

In addition to the positive use of social media to drive social change in awareness of the importance of homemade gun's threats toward violent crimes that threaten public safety, this research also revealed that there is another informal social control that is to strengthen social norms regarding public safety to people in the society to feel that they must be responsible together and do not be concerned only about one's own safety.

“Such as Neighborhood Watch Project that is a model of cooperation between police and community. So, people in the community have to always monitor and warn each other, especially respected community leader must be the main person for the community. This matter is more important than the way police officers come to the scene after an accident”

5. Discussion

This research revealed that purposes of the use and possession of a homemade gun in Thailand are for self and property defense or for hunting animals or wild things for consumption or sale as a profession and making a living. Since homemade guns are still used in local society, especially a gap gun and break-action shotgun for preventing theft and protect agriculture and livestock tools, a gap gun is made or bought at a cheap price. Some cases are firearms handed down from their ancestors. Even though these people make their own firearms or illegally possess firearms, they have no intention to commit crimes. Therefore, a homemade gun becomes an important tool used by people in local society for their daily life. The demand for homemade guns is caused by motives to satisfy humans' needs which is consistent with the idea of Maslow's Need Hierarchy. It is because a homemade gun is used as a tool to fight over elements for living such as food, water, or medicine to survive. Therefore, a homemade gun is used as a tool to satisfy physiological needs that are basic needs according to Maslow's Need Hierarchy, also to protect the safety of life and property, protect oneself from being harassed, and protect agriculture or livestock tools. A homemade gun is used with honest intention. Besides, it is used as a tool to satisfy safety and security needs that are basic needs according to Maslow's Need Hierarchy also (Maslow, 1980).

However, according to the analysis of provisions of the Firearms Act 1947 and Amendment regarding control of the use of a homemade gun, it has been found that there is a legal mechanism to illegalize homemade guns. That is the way a homemade gun is used by claiming that it is used for self-defense and it is considered as people's basic right prescribed by law, also the government is unable to promptly offer protection. This is a practical viewpoint but it must be under conditions of the law. Claiming that it is people's basic right to possess and use a homemade gun which is an illegal gun for self-defense is a weak viewpoint and invalid excuse. Therefore, the point of claiming that using a homemade gun for self-defense is consistent with Matza's Delinquency and Drift Theory. This theory explains that an offender uses excuse techniques to give oneself a feeling that he/she does not break the law or feel vicious (Matza, 1964). Such an offender is well aware that what he/she has done is illegal. Instead, an offender is more favorable to break the law than comply with the law without considering bad consequences that are possibly caused by possession and use of illegal firearms. In addition, since both formal and informal social control mechanisms are weak, this allows a person to drift and then

decide to commit crimes to satisfy one's own motives (Matza, 1964). Therefore, this theory accounts for the reasoning of an offender that a homemade gun is possessed for self-defense despite having known that it is illegal. This happens when social control is weak.

Furthermore, the problem of out-of-date and delayed gun control law and certain provisions are ambiguous cause a gap in gun control in Thailand (Homjan, 2019; Wiriyaaroenkit & Saensuk, 2019; Pornnutchachuanom, 2015; Noito, 2014). This is consistent with Deterrence Theory with the idea that effective guidelines for crime prevention must focus on the most effective law enforcement in order to be crime prevention and suppression that make people in society to be afraid of the law of penalty. This criminological theory aims to explain the effects or influences of the law used to govern people. Besides, when the law has been legislated, it must be effective with 3 essentials: severity, promptness, and certainty. However, since gun control law is ambiguous and penalties are moderate, offenders are unafraid of the law and continue to commit crimes (Zimring & Hawkins, 1973).

This research revealed that homemade gun control is influenced by the internet and social media. The study result of the current situation of homemade guns in Thailand showed that the homemade gun market is not only an interpersonal deal, but it is upgraded into computer networks. As a result, trading homemade guns is convenient whether it be the deal, advertisement, payment, and delivery. The result of convenience and rapidity of the internet and social media, therefore, cause extreme dissemination of information regarding making and selling homemade guns. This also causes an increase in purchasers and homemade guns that it is difficult to control. It can be said that the internet and social media affect the problem of homemade gun control in Thailand by reinforcing the problem to be more complicated and severe.

The research revealed that gun law should be improved in order to authorize the registrar to grant a license for certain homemade guns such as a gap gun to be registered and allowed to possess and use for protecting oneself, agricultural or livestock tools, hunting for foods or hunting as a profession in remote local areas. This is a bringing of illegal firearms outside the system into the illegal control system so that they can be examined. It also reduces the number of those who possess and use firearms with the honest intention not to get criminal punishment. This is consistent with the research by Suriyavorapunt (2018) and found that some measures or provisions of the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks, and Imitation of Firearms Act 1947 are necessary to be revised for appropriation. To determine distinct categories, types, and conditions to apply for a license to possess or use homemade guns may bring about positive effects on homemade gun control in Thailand (Pornnutchachuanom, 2015).

6. Conclusion and Suggestion

This study aims to find out problem of homemade gun control in Thailand and recommend appropriate measure to control homemade gun in Thailand. This research was qualitative study that carried out via in-depth interview. 34 samples were interviewed to collect data. It found that problem of homemade gun control mainly from the Firearms Act 1947, which is the only gun control law in Thailand. The law and provision of the Act itself set homemade gun as criminalization and impose penalties for violators. Also, some provisions are vague and ambiguous that be unsuitable for current situation of gun control. Moreover, advance technology led to difficult control of homemade gun that cause problem as well. This study suggests that due to effective of homemade gun control in Thailand, it must allow to own and possess some type of homemade gun and the Firearms Act 1947 must be improved and update. Also, appropriate use of online media must educate to people in order to delete homemade gun trading cycle on social media.

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