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The Effect of Fear of CRIME on Perception of Severity of Sexual CRIME

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine how fear of crime influences on awareness of severity to sex offense. By examining the impact of crime perceived safety on the severity of sex offense through statistical testing, the purpose of this study is to determine whether the fear of some parts of sex offense significantly influences the severity of sex offense. In addition, it aims to examine whether Recognition for Police Activity has mediator effect between awareness to severity of sex offense. Based on 1,064 cases of the secondary material through e-mail research and random telephone interview for 1,100 people as study subjects of a customer evaluation group of policing policy of the National police agency excluding 54 cases of missing data, it confirmed the effect that recognition of fear of crime and crime prevention activity affects to severity of sex offense through multiple regression analysis by utilizing IBM SPSS Statistics 21. In addition, Sobel test was conducted to confirm that the mediating variable of the recognition of police activity was partial or complete and to verify the mediator effect. As a result, a group that answered that sex offense should be eradicated for the first was resulted 528 people that is 50.5% of whole answerer, which is 204 people of male and 324 people of female. It was confirmed that all the factors of crime influence on the cognitive variables of crime prevention activities among the fear of crime. The variables affecting to the severity of sexual offense were identified as the fear of sex offense, school violence, and police activity. In conclusion, it was confirmed that the fear of sex offense and school violence has a significant effect on the recognition of severity of sex offense, and the Sobel-test showed that the recognition of the police's crime prevention activity was significant as a parameter between all independent variables and the dependent variables of perception of sex offense severity. It was confirmed that the results of the analysis were different according to the analysis model. However, it was confirmed that the perceived safety of the sex offense and the police's crime prevention activity affects to the recognition of severity to sex offense of the citizen. Therefore, patrol activities and patrolling activities for fear of sex offense, and polices to reduce the number of criminal cases such as police's crime prevention activity seems to be required.

[Keywords] *Participation Policing, Sex Offense, Recognition for Police Activity, Fear of Crime, Crime Prevention Activity.*

1. Introduction

Today, as police activity are actively pursued to eradicate crime, the effects and the recognition of citizens' perceptions will be necessary for policy implementation for better police activities. Since the spread of computers and the Internet is widespread in

modern society, everyone knows that access to a lot of information is very high. There will be no exceptions to crime. The news about crime is often exposed to the demand for information, and this phenomenon has a great influence on the recognition and severity of crime for citizens.

Therefore, through researching the recognition and severity of crimes that citizens think, we need to ponder what kind of awareness is given to them, and what policies are needed to improve their perceptions and give them confidence in safety through practical police activities.

Among them, the recognition of citizen, which is related to crime, which is the center of police activities, and police activities and safety related surveys are very important tasks. In fact, the three based tasks of the situation and promotion direction of the policy of police: prevention, scientific, and participation policing, were presented in 2016, and it can be said that there is a close relationship with this research topic in the participation security. Participation policing refers to what related institution, local government, and people try together through policing governance, and the law on the prevention of crime and the promotion of CPTED have been suggested as practical matter[1]. At the time that various crime-based police activities are implemented, understanding the effective safety of citizen and the recognition about the police activities can be an important point in how to set policy for participatory policing.

2. Preceding Research

2.1. Awareness of the severity of sexual crimes

Targets of sex offense are women, children and adolescents. In recent years, the severity of the sex offense has been heightened as sex offense related to children and juveniles, such as child sexual abuse, have become an issue. The reason why we cannot find the fundamental countermeasures against such sex offenses is because our society focuses on strengthening the punishment and restraining the offenders who have already been arrested[2]. By focusing on non-preventive punishment and suppression of recidivism, sex offense will be able to reach citizens more quickly and seriously through mass media. In the case of sex offense management, various policies such

as exposure of personal affairs, the probation system, and management of a person liable to committing crime by regulation about information collection of a person liable to committing crime are enforced. However, as a result of investigating the recidivism rate, as it is found out that it is highest in the first-time offender and the 9th or more time offender percentages next, it has been shown that the prevention and management of ex-convicted sex offender is very important. It states that it is important to follow-up and protect and especially, prevention policing activity is important for sex offense, and it also indicates that there is an urgent need for policing policies linked to local communities and other institutions. In addition, the police policy linked to the company can expect the achievement. Civil-police governance can be harmonized through application of sex offense alert service[3].

These recognition of sex offense is mainly exposed to citizens through mass media, and the mass media is becoming more and more stimulating articles in this crime case. On the contrary, citizens' recognition of the severity of crime leaves room for improvement through various public relations activities of the police.

2.2. A study on the feeling safety

Among various discussions for the eradication of crime, various studies have been conducted on the sense of safety. In order to respond to the safety policy such as life safety policy, the central government and municipal governments are resident-dominant in the mid- to long-term; at the same time, taking a strategy to create a safe community in harmony with private governance will be a new policy demand and response logic[4]. It is because the creation of a safe community is the fastest way to improve the effective safety of the citizen. As a result of this study on the perceived safety, the perceived safety varies according to the residence area and gender; In particular, it was confirmed that factors affecting the safety of sexual abuse were police activity satisfac-

tion and police effort[5]. In the same context, we have confirmed the uneasiness of the people through the study of the policy for the improvement of effective safety of people. And in order to improve the policing policy and to develop the policing policy suitable for relieving anxiety, there was a research result that should concentrate on people's life contact type information provision type public relations[6]. In addition, according to one of the reasons why the level of perceived safety is low is 'lack of efforts to prevent recidivism', citizens are exposed to various information through the media, but it is difficult to know specific policies or achievements[7].

As a result of examining previous studies on the effective safety, the effective safety was still investigated as anxiety to the citizens, it also proposes policies and public relations activities that will act as a policy to prevent and prevent reoccurrence of crime, which directly communicate with the public. Therefore, in this study, if it is confirmed that the perception of police crime activity affects the perception of sexual crime, it can raise the need for publicity for police activities and policy alternatives to communicate with citizens.

2.3. Police activities to eradicate crime

In the advanced studies on crime eradication activities, there was a research that it needs solution plan about whether current domestic violence education is appropriate by pointing out the inadequate knowledge of on-the-spot police officers about domestic violence[8]. It is important for the police to understand the crime of domestic violence. In the context of the above, it can be said that police education is also a very important factor in the close relationship between police and citizens. Also, it is the important to form a national consensus to prevent issuance in the media when sex offenses occur[9]. School violence related police activities are also one of the most frequent correlations between parents and police groups, and have been pointed out as strengthening cooperation among school,

family, and local community related organizations[10].

Recently, the social desire for the increase of citizens' desire for security and the eradication of crime has been collected, and it is very important to diagnose the actual condition of local security through the current status of crime in the region[11]. However, it appeared that most of the residents' recognition of the crime eradication policy promoted by the police was about 50%[12]. In the analysis of the most threatening factors, the response that is the occurrence of crime percentages about 38%, which is the highest rate[13]. Therefore, social aspiration for crime eradication is not ending, but actual and visible police activities and a reduction in the occurrence of crime will be needed to improve citizens' recognition.

3. Research Method

This study utilized secondary data from the Institute for Police Policy. A total of 1,100 respondents were surveyed by the National People and the National Police Policy Customer Evaluation Team. The survey method was conducted by e-mail (Police Policy Customer Evaluation Team) and telephone interview. The survey was conducted by 16 provincial police departments in order to consider local and cultural characteristics.

The survey was conducted from July 1, 2014 to July 8, 2014, for eight days, and 1,046 cases were utilized except for 54 cases that were rejected or has missing value because of the nature of the telephone interview survey.

4. Results

As measured in Model 1 among the four independent variables of fear of crime, it was found that the fear of sex offense and school violence had a significant effect on the recognition of sex offense severity. In Model 2 that added a parameter of the police crime activity variable, The fear of sex offense was still found to be significant, and

the cognitive variables of police activities were also found to be significant. However, as a result of confirming the non-standardized coefficients of the safety measure of sex offense in Model 1 and Model 2, we have confirmed that the parameters are

partly mediated because that figure has not decreased. Through this analysis, the Sobel test was used to verify that the mediator effects of the police's crime eradication activities that were utilized as parameter were significant.

Table 1. Research model verification result.

Division		B	SE	B
Model 1	Safety of sex crimes	.388	.059	.239***
	Safety of feeling about domestic violence	-.080	.059	-.047
	Safety of school violence	-.121	.056	-.076*
Model 2	Safety of sex crimes	.689	.058	.423***
	Safety of feeling about domestic violence	.069	.055	.041
	Safety of school violence	.060	.053	.037
	Awareness of police activities for the elimination of crime	-.567	.043	-.517***
R2			.209	
Adjusted R2			.205	
F			45.434***(df=5)	

Note: ***p<.001, **p<.01, *p<.05

4.1. Mediating effect verification

In order to verify the mediator effect, first, we examined whether the fear factor

consisting of independent variables had a significant effect on the parameters. As a result, we found very significant results in all areas.

Table 2. The effect of citizens' feeling of security on police activities for the elimination fo crime.

Division	B	SE	β
Safety of sex crimes	.531	.042	.357***
Safety of feeling about domestic violence	.263	.043	.170***
Safety of school violence	.319	.041	.219***
R2		.402	
Adjusted R2		.399	
F		144.412***(df=4)	

Note: ***p<.001, **p<.01, *p<.05

As a result of checking Baron & Kenny's three-step process for mediating effect validation, independent variable has a significant effect on parameters, and the variables that have a significant effect on the dependent variables among the independent variables were confirmed as safety variables for sex offense. As a result of regression analysis of both final parameter and independent variables, It was confirmed that the parameter,

the police's crime eradication activity, was partly mediated. The Baron & Kenny method has a problem of low power of the test[14]. Therefore, we examined the mediating effect using the Sobel test.

Table 3. Sobel test.

Sobel verification procedure	B	SE
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Safety of sex crimes → Awareness of police activities for the elimination of crime	.531	.042
Awareness of police activities for the elimination of crime → Awareness of sex crime severity	-.567	.043

Z = -9.126***

Note: ***p<.001, **p<.01, *p<.05

The result that confirmed that non-standardization factor and the standard error of the effect of the independent variable on the mediating effect and the result that confirmed that non-standardization coefficients on the effect of mediator effects on dependent variables were substituted into the equation. As a result of Sobel test, we could check that the variable of recognition level about police's crime eradication activities between fear of sex offense and recognition of sex offense severity, which citizen feels, has a significant mediating effect.

5. Conclusion

The main purpose is to examine what the recognition of the severity of sex offense in this study and how the factor works. As we have seen in advanced studies, the study result was also confirmed that gender, family type, and others appeared different results in sex offense severity. Especially, it was confirmed that fear of sex offense and school violence among the four areas of safety recognition had a significant effect on recognition of sex offense severity.

What is important is the thing that it has been found that the fact that police activities have been recognized properly to citizens very significantly affect. Although police activities are not completely mediated by the recognition of the severity of sex offenses, it is necessary to examine the policy to lower the fear of crime in the future in this study like advanced research result. In particular, it seems necessary to make it easy to publicize police activities that allow citizen participation and appropriate police activities that are easily accessible such as cooperating with related organizations in police activities.

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