

CHAPTER V: ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter's purpose is to analyse the study's findings and provide suggestions based on those analyses. The study's overarching goal was to shed light on the phenomena of drug mules and provide an explanation for why women are drawn to this line of work. The findings of this study corroborate the widespread belief that women's participation in drug smuggling is often linked to vulnerability and injustice since they are often forced to act out of fear. Furthermore, women may be willing to settle for lesser pay than males. Some criminal organizations are more likely to employ women as drug mules because they are willing to work for lower wages than men do while transporting illegal substances. Each of the five women involved in this study is voluntarily taking part. The conclusions reached are based on the aims of the study, which were previously described. The study's findings add to the literature on the role of drug mules in the drug trafficking industry. Finally, recommendations are made to raise women's knowledge of the problem of female drug mules, including the dangers of being recruited as a drug mule and the driving forces that push women to take part in it.

5.2 Research Overview

Phenomenological and criminal justice benefit greatly from qualitative research (Dantzker et al, 2018). Due to the study's use of a qualitative methodology, researchers were able to gain a comprehensive comprehension of the challenges

faced by female drug mules. Data was gathered using in-person, semi-structured interviews for this study. The extensive data provided by the female drug mules interviewed, which allowed the empirical study to examine and explain the varied motives each female participant had, allowed the research questions and objectives to be answered and the study's goals to be realized. The phenomena of female drug mules may now be comprehended thanks to the solid groundwork given by the literature review. The study's researchers used a number of criminological theories to better understand the female offenders they interviewed and to separate out the various elements that may have led to their criminal behavior. The collected qualitative data provided an accurate depiction of the participants' involvement in drug smuggling and the many factors that led up to it. The collected data underwent thematic analysis, in which the responses of the female offenders were categorized and organized according to commonalities discovered during the research.

5.3 Findings of Research Questions

5.3.1 Research Question 1: Why do individuals involved in drug ring activity and become drug mules?

Based on this study, the findings for research question one was answered by all the participants that the researcher interview at Prison Sungai Buloh, Selangor. As you can see in the discussion at Chapter 4, the participants were involved in 5 female drug mule that responded to the many reasons why they involved in drug mule activity and became drug mules. The participants were involved in drug mules

because of the socio-economic background and poverty, unemployment, and bad financial status.

Based on the findings, the researcher found that the drug mules have a bad issues about lower of money. They need to survive with a lot of money, but they are difficulties to find the money. Thus, the easiest way to find and get the money is by being as drug mules. In facts, women with lower socioeconomic status is an important factor in why they turn to drug smuggling, as we saw in Chapter Two. This meant that the majority of the study's participants were born into impoverished homes and faced significant obstacles as children. A few of the participants had middle-class upbringings in secure homes but struggled financially as adults. These individuals' low socioeconomic status led them to smuggle narcotics for a variety of reasons. If they have a life better with a lot of money, they would not be being as drug mules in Malaysia. Somehow, parents in house need to provide everything such as food, necessities, car loan, house loan, electric bill and others. It involved a lot of money to pay by the end of the month. It will become stressful for those who cannot pay it every month. Thus, this is the fastest way to get the money and they can pay all the necessity by the end of the month.

5.3.2 Research Question 2: Why do drug mules continue to operate despite severe legal penalties?

Based on this study, the findings for research question two was answered by all the participants that the researcher interview at Prison Sungai Buloh, Selangor.

The findings found that the participants still continue to operate despite severe legal penalties because the need more money. Most of them involved in deception, this is the reason the need to continue to operate despite severe legal penalties are very big and its crime in Malaysia. Somehow, they had to do it unwillingly. Even though, they really need money to survive, but they had to do it when they involved in deception.

5.4 Limitation of the Study

5.4.1 Lack of Previous Research in Malaysia

Despite the study's flaws, researchers should nonetheless encourage additional research into the topic, especially in Malaysia. Despite a large number of Malaysian women and men being held in foreign prisons for drug trafficking, there is a dearth of research on the topic of drug mules in Malaysia. Only five female inmates at the Prison Sungai Buloh, Selangor, were interviewed for this study. Therefore, generalizations cannot be formed due to the small sample size, and it is advised that a nationwide study be conducted, encompassing all female inmates at the institution. An examination of the time period between when smuggling began and when participants were apprehended, as well as the gap between the two, would have been an interesting addition to the study. The findings of this study will help law enforcement officials and others charged with drug trafficking create detailed profiles of criminal organizations.

5.4.2 Language Barrier

After explaining the goals of the study and the interviews, the researcher found that some of the offenders were more receptive to participating. Prospective participants' actions and rights to opt out of the study resulted in this restriction. This method ensures that criminals feel comfortable answering the researcher's questions without feeling threatened by their presence.

A difficulty arose since the researcher and the subjects did not speak the same language. This study was conducted without the use of a professional translator; instead, the researcher relied on the help of convicted criminals who spoke English and Indian. However, the interview procedure could have gone more smoothly had a professional translator been made available. Several respondents noted that, while they could communicate in English, it would have been helpful if some correctional staff spoke languages other than Indian languages to break down the linguistic barrier with criminals of other races.

5.5 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study and other media sources, it is clear that drug mules are still used by drug trafficking organizations. Here, the author of the study offers forth some suggestions based on what was discovered.

5.5.1 Further Research on Drug Mules and Drug Trafficking Syndicates

Since drug mules are usually just given instructions and not taught the ins and outs of the drug smuggling process, it is advised that research be undertaken on the drug trafficking recruiters who find and train the mules. It is also suggested that studies be conducted on the experiences of female drug mules once they have been released from prison, specifically looking at the success of rehabilitation programmes, their ability to reintegrate into society, and the degree to which they are protected from their former recruiters. The fact that four of the participants admitted to engaging in drug smuggling voluntarily further highlights a key issue that emerged from the findings of this study. As was previously explained, the majority of studies on the topic (including this one) paint female offenders as helpless victims rather than active participants with agency. Thus, further study on the latter is encouraged.

5.5.2 The Important of a Family Structure

Due to a breakdown in the traditional nuclear family, many female drug mules have been reared by a single parent or other family members. Families are groups of people that share emotional, social, cultural, and economic ties with one another; they typically reside in the same dwelling but have distinct responsibilities for taking care of one another. An individual's ability to socialise, learn, and come into their own is greatly aided by the presence of a stable, loving family. A father's involvement, especially throughout a child's formative years, might have beneficial effects. The second is to avoid assuming that the absence of a father in the house automatically

leads to chaos. According to the views of criminologists, a person's family is crucial to shaping who they are and how they fit into society. The family is the primary institution responsible for a person's well-being and compliance with societal and legal norms. The importance of learning healthy social norms and values is amplified when it is facilitated by a caring and supportive family. From a criminological perspective, individuals who come from a dysfunctional family (i.e., unemployment, single parenthood, parent-child conflict, domestic violence) are often considered to be at risk for future delinquency or crime. This was the case with some of the drug mules who took part in this study. Wong (2017) argues that crime and delinquency rise when families are unstable because it disrupts official and informal control structures, social networks, and the collective efficacy of a community.

5.6 Conclusion

Inmates of the Prison Sungai Buloh, Selangor, were surveyed to learn what drove them to become drug mules. The study's five participants spanned a wide range of ages, socioeconomic statuses, and racial and ethnic groups. It was determined through statistical analysis that most of the offenders in this study are not college educated, are single mothers, and come from low-income households. Due to their personal and financial situations, they were compelled to engage in narcotics smuggling. This study's conclusions about the factors that lead women to become drug mules are consistent with those of previous domestic and foreign studies on the topic.

In comparison to other types of criminal activity in Malaysia, drug trafficking facilitated by female drug mules is often disregarded. The drug mule isn't the only one who suffers the negative effects of drug trafficking; society as a whole is at risk as well. Vulnerable populations can benefit from awareness and instructional efforts that highlight the dangers of being recruited as drug mules. The author hopes that by publishing these findings, the topic of female drug mules will be discussed more widely in the media and among the general public, which will lead to a more comprehensive solution to the issue.