IJACT 18-1-3

Mediating Effect of Cooperation with the Police on Compliance with the Law in Model of Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy

Bojun Seo[1], Soochang Lee[2*]

Faculty of Social Welfare Counseling, International University of Korea
Department of Police Administration, Kyungwoon University, Korea
E-mail: *bjseo0912@hanmail.net, leesc@ikw.ac.kr**

Abstract

The main purpose of the research is to examine the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law in the causal relationship between procedural justice and police legitimacy and criminal deterrence. This research employs a survey questionnaire to evaluate procedural justice, police legitimacy, cooperation with the police, and compliance with the law. The number of subject of the study is 312 citizens residing in Daegu metropolitan city and some cities of Gyeongsangbuk-do province. The study employs Structural Equation Model by using AMOS 24 to analyze the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law. As the result of analysis, the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law is statistically significant at the level 0.01. The key findings of this study is that in the community-based policing, cooperation with the police and compliance with the law are very important determinants in controlling and deterring crimes and the police need to reinforce a cooperative relationship with residents to reduce crimes through strengthening the willingness of compliance with the law.

Keywords: Procedural Justice, Police Legitimacy, Cooperation with the police, Compliance with the law

1. Introduction

The South Korean police have implemented policy for community-based policing in terms of reducing crimes, which was perceived as an innovation in the 1990s. The community-based policing, or called community-oriented policing, is both an operational philosophy and an organizational management strategy that fosters the police and the community to cooperate together to eradicate problems of crime, disorder and unsafely and to improve the quality of life for residents in the community. The community-based policing puts priority on improving the relationships between the police and citizens.

It is very important to understand that if communities play a key role in defining their own security and safety needs and are engaged in planning, implementing, and monitoring locally-defined solutions to their

problems, community safety and security can be improved considerably. Researches indicate that in order for the police to effectively control crime and secure cooperation from the community, there needs to exit high levels of support for the police as an appropriate, proper, and just institution[1][2]. The community-based policing focuses on building public cooperation with the police in the community, so the police have to develop strategies for establishing friendly and amicable relationships with citizens and participating in policing activities and organizational management.

To effectively engage citizens in the community, police organizations need to understand the intrinsic and internal motivations shaping people's desire to voluntarily cooperate with police[3]. Some researches support the conclusion that such motivations are largely inked to perceptions of legitimacy[4][5]. Some researches also show that if citizens view an authority as legitimate they will be more likely to cooperate with the police's authority[6][7][8]. We also need to recognize that law compliance has a close relationship with procedural justice and police legitimacy in criminal deterrence in community-based policing. Law compliance depends on citizen cooperation with the police affected by police truth that is a major factor of procedural justice and police legitimacy.

A model of procedural justice and police legitimacy has a close relationship with a model of compliance the law and cooperation with the police in order to deter or control crimes[9]. Both models are a criminal deterrence approach based on not sanctioning of misbehavior and criminal offences but especially building of truth and cooperation with the police, which is the direction point of community-based policing. The concepts of the model of procedural justice and police legitimacy include police fairness, legitimacy, people's compliance with law, and cooperation with the police. We, however, need to understand that cooperation with police can play a mediating role in the causal relationship between procedural justice and police legitimacy and compliance the law. The mediating effect of cooperation with police hypothesizes that people who trust and cooperate with the police in terms of police fairness and legitimacy are more likely to comply with the law and thus positively help in deterrence crimes in their communities.

On considering the causal relationship delineated by the model of procedural justice and police legitimacy, we decided to identify the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law in terms of improving the understanding of community-based policing implemented by the police in South Korea that has almost failed to apply for a policing strategy in Korean communities. The primary objective of this research is to make understanding and explaining the relationship between cooperation with the police and compliance with the law better in the model of procedural justice and police legitimacy, using the data obtained.

2. Theoretical Underpinnings

The proposed model in this study is rooted in a psychological model of the dynamics of legitimacy, cooperation, and compliance. The model has two major components. The first is based on around the study of Tom Tyler and his colleagues on the group-value model of procedural justice[10]. Tyler(1990), in Why People Obey the Law, explained that policing styles have an influence on public beliefs about police legitimacy which in turn can promote or erode compliance with the law. Tyler and Huo(2002) highlighted that legitimacy can also lead to public cooperation with the police in reporting crimes, acting as witnesses, and offering criminal information. The proposition is that the activation of individuals' feelings crimes of responsibility and obligation to their community[8].

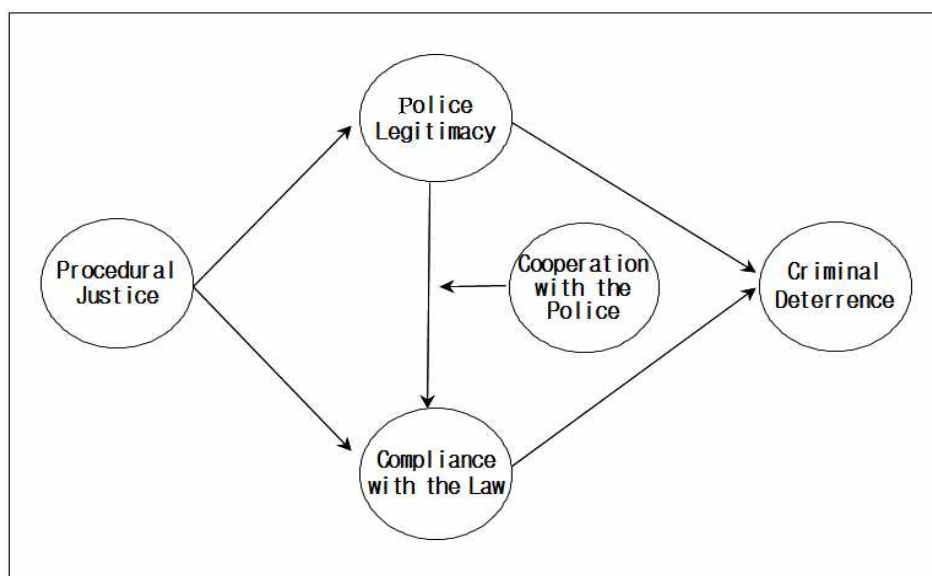The second component depends on the work of Robinson & Darley(2007)[11] on intuitive justice. People

care about morality, not least because morally facilitates social cooperation. It means that when people believe that the criminal justice system is not adequately punishing law-breakers, the public sense of legitimacy of the rule of law may be eroded[12].

On the one hand, therefore, the procedural justice model links police legitimacy to cooperation with the police and compliance with the law. On the other hand, cooperation with the police can mediate compliance with the law in the model of procedural justice and police legitimacy.

Procedural justice refers to perceptions of fairness related to the ways in which procedures, independents of their specific outcomes, are conducted. It emphasizes the process of hearing all parties before a decision is made, which gives all participants a sense of control, fairness, and satisfaction[14]. The concept of legitimacy is highly abstracted and complex, and has been approached and interpreted by scholars in several different academic fields[15]. Police legitimacy has been found to comprise both instrumental and relational aspects. In the point of the instrumental perspectives, police legitimacy is linked to instrumental evaluations of tree elements: police performance, risk of detection, and judgments about distributive justice[8]. Police legitimacy can also comprise relational aspects. This refers to the influence of relational factors such as procedural justice in shaping institutional legitimacy and voluntary cooperation[9].

For criminal justice managers, public confidence-building is regarded simply as a strategy for enhancing the cooperation provided by the law abiding majority to the criminal justice system. A more subtle perspective, which has emerged from procedural justice thinking, is that compliance with the rule of law is most likely to occur when the population trusts the criminal justice system. Thus, trust in justice is important because it promotes compliance with the rule of law, as well as citizen cooperation[12].

Figure 1. Research Framework

3. Data and Method

3.1 Sample

The purpose of this study is to examine the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law in the causal relationship between procedural justice and police legitimacy and criminal deterrence. The study is based on statistical analyses as an empirical research to test the mediating effect of cooperation with the police. The data used for the statistical analyses were from a survey targeting citizens who reside in Daegu metropolitan city and some cities of Gyeongsangbuk-do province. The surveyors met the prospective respondent's on the street to conduct the survey through a random sampling. It was conducted for both September and October, 2017.

Sample data were collected from 312 respondents, giving a response rate of 98.5%. The demographics of the respondents are shown in Table 1. Respondents in the sample were between 20 and 71 years of age (M = 43.6 years), 55.6% were male, 44.4% were married, 63.9% had attained more than a college qualification, and 68.2% have been living in the survey areas for more than 5 years. It is worthy to note that the respondents tended to be a little bit old and more educated. In particular, the response rate of men was higher than the one of women.

Table 1. Demographics of Respondents

(N=312)

Gender	
1 = Male	55.6%
2 = Female	44.4%
Age	M = 43.6 years
From 20 years age to older than 70 years	Minimum = 20 years, maximum = 71 years
Marital status	
0 = single, divorced, widowed	32.9%
1 = married	67.1%
Education	
1 = less than the level of high school	36.1%
2 = college	60.5%
3 = graduate school	3.4%
Years of residence	
1 = less than 1 year	2.1%
2 = 1 year to less than 2 years	15.8%
3 = 2 years to less than 5 years	13.9%
4 = 5 years to less than 10 years	42.3%
5 = 10 years to less than 20 years	21.1%
6 = equal to or longer than 20 years	4.8%

3.2 Measures

The questionnaire was drawn from the ESS Trust in Justice Module made by Jackson et al.(2009)[12] and the measure tool of procedural justice made by Reisig et al.(2007)[16]. Of particular interest to the current study were survey questions that related to 4 variables: procedural justice, police legitimacy, cooperation with the police, and compliance with the law.

Procedural justice. This research measured procedural justice by six questions on 5-point Likert-type scales, with a higher score indicating more favorable evaluations. The questions are as follows: (a) "police treat all people fairly", (b) "police treat everyone equally", (c) "police treat people with dignity and respect", (d) "police listen to people before making decision", (e) "police are always polite when dealing with people", (f) "all citizens are treated politely by police".

Police legitimacy. This research measured police legitimacy by five questions on 5-point Likert-type scales, with a higher score indicating more favorable evaluations. The questions are as follows: (a) "I respect police", (b) "I trust police", (c) "I have confidence in police", (d) "I am proud of my police force", (e) "I have a great deal of confidence in the police as an organization".

Cooperation with the police. This research measured cooperation with the police by four questions on 5-point Likert-type scales, with a higher score indicating more favorable evaluations. The questions are as follows: if the situation arose, how likely would you be to. . . (a) "help police to find someone suspected of committing a crime by providing them with information", (b) "report dangerous or suspicious activities to police", (c) "call police to report a crime", (d) "willingly assist police if asked?".

Compliance with the law. This research measured compliance with the law by three questions on 5-point Likert-type scales, with a higher score indicating more favorable evaluations. The questions are as follows: (a) "I bought something I thought might be stolen", (b) "I illegally disposed of rubbish or litter", (c) "I committed traffic offences".

4. Results

A confirmatory factor analysis was conducted to test for the assumed conceptual differentiation between the individual variables used to construct each scales (see Table 2). Many of the items used to construct these scales were based on previous work. As can be seen from Table 2, no overlap between the constructed scales is detected. As we can see from the figure 1, all factor loading-values of these items are significant ($p < 0.05$) and all Squared Multiple Correlations-values are higher than 0.4. Table 2 also shows Cronbach alpha reliability coefficients of procedural justice, police legitimacy, cooperation with the police, and compliance with the law. As can be seen, the Cronbach alpha coefficients of each scale are reasonably reliable scales.

Table 2. Confirmatory factor analysis and reliability analysis to variables used in the study

Item	Factor Loading	t-Value	SMC	Cronbach alpha
Procedural justice				
Police treat all people fairly	1.000	-		
Police treat everyone equally	1.018	9.938*	.642	
Police treat people with dignity and respect	.927	8.728*	.502	
Police listen to people before making decision	1.074	10.177*	.673	.912
Police are always polite when dealing with people	1.151	9.481*	.450	
All citizens are treated politely by police	1.041	12.280*	.794	
Police legitimacy				
I respect police	1.000	-		
I trust police	4.742	2.949*	.472	

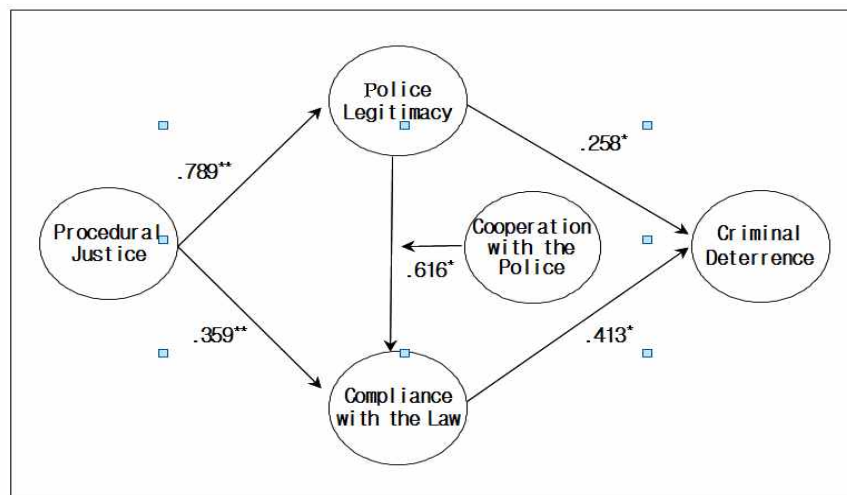|				
I have confidence in police	2.503	2.661*	.462	.882
I am proud of my police force	1.112	15.127*	.852	
I have a great deal of confidence in the police as an organization	.876	10.990*	.553	
Cooperation with the police				
Help police to find someone suspected of committing a crime…	1.000	-		.842
Report dangerous or suspicious activities to police	1.163	10.504*	.724	
Call police to report a crime	.932	8.634*	.472	
Willingly assist police if asked	.924	8.235*	.461	
Compliance with the law				
I bought something I thought might be stolen	1.000	-		.799
I illegally disposed of rubbish or litter	.986	7.902*	.612	
I committed traffic offences	.784	6.897*	.693	

*p<0.01

The research employs Structural Equation Model by using AMOS 24 to analyze the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law. As an analysis with the collected data, it shows that it has based data, could significantly affect our conclusion, so we used the full information maximum likelihood estimation for the analysis.

To analyze the mediating effect of cooperation with police, the research divided into two groups-high cooperation and low cooperation by evaluating the level of cooperation with the police. Figure 2 shows the diagrammatic representation of the results of the SEM in the high cooperation group. The model fits the data fairly well (x^2=218.405, *df*=69, p=.000, RMSEA=.041, CFI=.923, TLI=.919).

As we can see from the figure 2, the paths from procedural justice to police legitimacy and to compliance with the law, the paths police legitimacy to compliance with the law and to the criminal deterrence, and the path form compliance with the law to criminal deterrence are all statistically significant. The mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law is also statistically significant at the level 0.01 (β = .616).
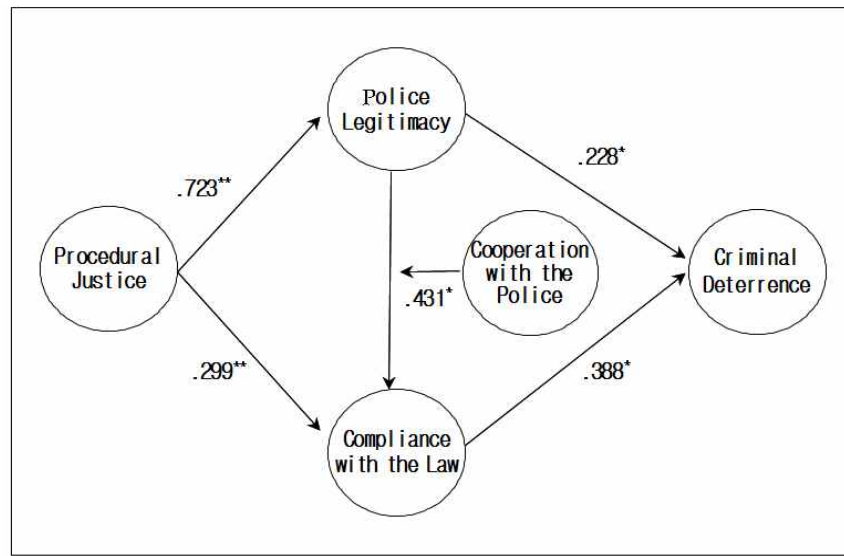
Figure 2. Path Analysis for High Cooperation Group

*p<0.05, **p<0.01

On the other hand, Figure 3 shows the diagrammatic representation of the results of the SEM in the low cooperation group. The model fits the data fairly well (x^2=219.298, *df*=70, p=.000, RMSEA=.040, CFI=.934, TLI=.921). It indicates that the paths from procedural justice to police legitimacy and to compliance with the law, the paths police legitimacy to compliance with the law and to the criminal deterrence, and the path form compliance with the law to criminal deterrence are all statistically significant. The mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law is also statistically significant at the level 0.01 (β = .431).

Figure 3. Path Analysis for Low Cooperation Group

*p<0.05, **p<0.01

In comparison with the mediating effects of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law in both high cooperation group and low cooperation group, the mediating effect (β = .616) of high cooperation group is higher than the one (β = .431) of low cooperation group.

5. Discussion

The main purpose of the research is to examine the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law in the causal relationship between procedural justice and police legitimacy and criminal deterrence. The analysis shows that cooperation with the police has an influence on compliance with the low as a mediating variable in the model of procedural justice and police legitimacy for criminal deterrence.

The key finding of this study is that we can identify the relationship between cooperation with the police and compliance with the law and these causal relationships presented in the research framework does seem to be sufficiently applicable to the South Korea we collected. In particular, in the community-based policing, cooperation with the police and compliance with the law are very important determinants in controlling and deterring crimes because the community based-policing is based on a friendly and truthful relation with citizens and police. In terms of the relationship between cooperation with the police and compliance with the law, building a good cooperation with police can enhance citizens' compliance with the law, which is based

on preposition that citizens with trust and belief in criminal justice system are more cooperative with obeying the law that we want to examine in the study.

This study, in particular, is focusing on lighting up the mediating effect of cooperation with the police on compliance with the law that the existed literatures have the lack of interest just testing the model of procedural justice and police legitimacy. These are antecedences of cooperation with the police and compliance with the law. If these factors, however, are not linked to cooperation with the police and compliance with the law, the model of procedural justice and police legitimacy is not effective in criminal deterrence. The police, therefore, need to reinforce a cooperative relationship with residents in the community in order to reduce crimes through strengthening the willingness of compliance with the law in the community-based policing.

References

[1]K. H., Murphy and J Fleming, "Encouraging Public Cooperation and Support for Police", *Policing and Society*, Vol. 18, pp.136-15 5, 2008.

[2]S. Piekering, J. McCulloch, and D. Wright-Neville, "*Counter Terrorism Policing: Community, Cohesion and Security*", New York: Springer, 2008.

[3]T. R., Tyler and Y. J., Huo, "*Trust in the Law*", New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002.

[4]J. Jackson and J. Sunshine, "Public Confidence in Policing: A neo-Durkeimain Perspective, *British Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 47, pp. 214-233, 2007.

[5]T. R., Tyler and J. Fagan, "*Legitimacy and Cooperation: Why People help the Police fight crime in their communities*" Columbia Law School Working Paper No 06-99.

[6]L. Hinds and K. Murphy, "Public Satisfaction with Police: Using Procedural Justice to Improve Police Legitimacy, *Austrian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 40, pp. 27-42, 2007.

[7]K. Murphy, "Regulating more effectively: The Relationship between Procedural Justice, Legitimacy, and Tax Non-Compliance", Journal *of Law and Society*, Vol. 32, pp. 562-589, 2005.

[8]J. Sunshine and T. R., Tyler, "The Role of Procedural Justice and Legitimacy in Shaping Public Support for Policing, Law and Society Review, Vol. 37, pp. 513-547, 2003.

[9]T. R., Tyler, "*Why people obey the law*", Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.

[10]T. R., Tyler and E. A., Lind, "A Relational Model of Authority in Groups", *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, Vol. 23, pp. 115-191, 1992.

[11]P. H., Robison and J. M., Darley, "*Intuitions of Justice: Implications for Criminal Law and Justice Policy*", University of Pennsylvania Law School, Scholarship at Penn Law, Paper 150.

[12] J. Jackson, M. Hough, S. Farrall, K. Aromaa, & J. de Keijeser, "*ESS5 Trust in Justice Module Proposal*", 2009. Retrieved from http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/round5questionnaire/ESS5_jackson_proposal.pdf.

[13]E. Lind and T. R., Tyler, "*The Social Psychology of Procedural Justice*", New York Plenum Press, 1988.

[14]T. Masahiro and H. Koichi, "Public Cooperation with the Police in Japan: Testing the Legitimacy Model", *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 212-228, 2015.

[15]M. Hough, J. Jackson, B. Bradford, A. Myhill, & P. Quinton, "Procedural Justice, Trust, and Institutional Legitimacy", Policing*: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, Vol. 4, pp. 241-248, 2010.

[16]M. Reisig, J. Bratton, and M. Gertz, "The Construct Validity and Refinement of Process-based Policing Measures", *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol, 34, pp. 1005-1028, 2007.