



Status of Educational and Social Welfare Services for Children in Conflict with The Law at Bahay Pagasa: Input to Intervention Program

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ABSTRACT

The study generally aimed to assess the provision of educational and social welfare services for children in conflict with the law or the CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa at Sitio Manalpaac, San Pablo, Cauayan City, Isabela. The design used in the study was descriptive-qualitative and quantitative research to gather data on the respondents' assessment of the provision of social welfare services for children in conflict with the law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa as regards its adequacy, efficiency, and satisfaction level with respect to the following: facilities of Bahay Pag-Asa, personnel services, housing services, recreational services, food services, daily routine activities, and counseling services. The study involved seven (7) social workers, eight (8) stakeholders, ten (10) barangay leaders, and fifteen (15) young offenders to assess the social welfare services provided by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa. The frequency and percentages, arithmetic mean, and correlation coefficient r-test were used to analyze the data.

Pag-Asa Reformation Center "sometimes" provides social welfare services to children who are in trouble with the law that are "fairly efficient" and "somewhat satisfactory" to both the CICL and the people who work at Bahay Pag-Asa. The Bahay Pag-Asa ran into a lot of issues when it came to providing social welfare services to children who were in conflict with the law. The more often social welfare services are given to children in conflict with the law (CICL), the more efficient the social welfare services for youth reformers or children in conflict with the law (CICL) become. The more efficient the social welfare services are for children in conflict with the law (CICL), the higher the respondents' satisfaction level with the delivery of the social services for CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa. The proposed Comprehensive Intervention Program as social welfare services for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa, Sitio Manalpaac contributes to the reformation and personality development of young offenders.

It is in this light that this paper recommends that the City Social Welfare and Development of the Local Government Unit of Cauayan City should forge and establish more linkages with the non-government agencies, government agencies, and religious sectors that provide social services for children in conflict with the law or CICL. Regular monitoring of the activities and programs at Bahay Pag-Asa, especially the needs and problems or status of children in conflict with the law (CICL), should be conducted. A study along this line should be considered in the conduct of the study in a wider scope to include other related variables to obtain excellent delivery of social services for children in conflict with the law (CICL).

KEYWORDS: Status of Social Welfare Services, Bahay Pag-Asa, Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), Comprehensive Intervention Program

INTRODUCTION

In order to protect and help children who are in trouble with the law or CICL, R.A. No. 9344 was amended by R.A. No. 10630. The Bahay Pag-Asa was built to protect and help children in trouble with

the law or CICL by setting up funding and managing it through the Bahay Pag-Asa Local Government Unit. Consequently, the LGU designs local juvenile intervention programs for those children at risk or those in conflict with the law.

Such a law was formulated since children are vulnerable to many forms of abuse, and therefore, it is essential to keep the best interests of children who come into contact or conflict with the law in the minds of the policy-making body (Khan and Rahman, 2009). For this reason, the Republic of the Philippines has mandated the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to undertake full responsibility for the protection of social welfare rights of every Filipino citizen, most especially children, and to promote social development.

Given that every child in conflict with the law, or CICL, recognizes and upholds human dignity and worth, and instills in the child respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, the law, known as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 or RA 9344, authored by Senator Francis Pangilinan, states that no child under the age of 15 may be charged with a criminal act, and minors over 15 but under the age of 18 may be held criminally liable only. The law also allocates funds to CICL rehabilitation and intervention programs. Even if the facilities and services are given, the legislation still has significant flaws. For example, it has been seen that a youngster has been brought into custody several times for status violations. These petty criminals use the law as a pass to do all kinds of other things because they know they would not go to jail because they do not have enough criminal culpability (Pagunuran, 2008).

The aforementioned premise holds a sound background or rationale and a basis in the establishment of Bahay Pag-Asa. Henceforth, the Bahay Pag-Asa was built upon the principle of the necessity of establishing Bahay Pag-Asa in the Province of Cagayan pursuant to R.A. No. 9344 as amended by R.A. 10630 under the considerations made by the lawmakers: the right to special protection and assistance for children in conflict with the law or CICL provided by the state and the enhancement of the Philippine Juvenile Justice System through the establishment of financing and management by the Bahay Pag-Asa Local Government Units for the provision of short-term residential care for children in conflict with the law (CICL). Consequently, the LGU designs local juvenile intervention programs for those children at risk or those in conflict with the law.

Fabre et al. (2016) defined the intervention program as a sequence of activities aimed at addressing the causes that led to the child's criminal behavior. It refers to programmatic techniques or systematic social protection programs for children that are intended to improve children's physical and social well-being, prevent juvenile delinquency, and stop or prevent re-offending. Primary interventions

are measures to promote social justice for the root cause of crime commission, such as: a) early childhood care and development, b) creation of Youth Resource Centers in every municipality, c) institutionalization of activities on/for children and youth, e.g. congresses, camps, summits, d) health services/education, e) access of children to child and youth organizations such as SK, PYA, and church-based organizations, Barangay Children Associations, Children Federations like the National Coalition of Children Association of the Philippines (NACCAP) and the National Anti- Poverty Commission – Children and Youth Sector, and f) value formation activities.

Furthermore, the necessity of secondary interventions for youth offenders, which include measures to assist children at risk, is composed of: a) organization of youth, e.g. Pag-Asa Youth Associations, faith-based organizations, children associations/federations, b) psycho-social interventions, which include group/individual sessions by the social worker for children at-risk, c) involvement of former CICL in self-help groups as advocates, d) family therapy for families of children at-risk, e) organization of watch groups, f) development of foster families, g) establishment of Special Drug Education Centers in every province and highly urbanized cities, h) family Drug Abuse Prevention Program, i) institutionalization of Birth Registration in Barangays, and j) Barkada sa Barangay or Youth Facilitators (Fabre et al., 2016).

Bahay Pag-Asa, a shelter for young offenders, is a rehabilitation center for children in conflict with the law (CICL) located at Sitio Manalpaac, San Pablo, Cauayan City, Isabela. It has been operating for almost seven (7) years and is now managed by the City Social Welfare & Development Office. However, even though the city government is willing to spend its money on the Bahay Pag-Asa, its good social services for children in conflict with the law (CICL) could not be felt. This could be because of issues with leadership and human resources, or other reasons. This supports the study's assertions that many Bahay Pag-Asa Reform centers are unable to fully accomplish their purpose of rehabilitating children in conflict with the law (CICL) or adolescent offenders aged 12 to 17 years old (Jalea, Glee: The Manila Times, April 23, 2019). Furthermore, it was discovered that there were some gaps in the implementation of the existing law, such as low compliance by local governments, a lack of awareness of the programs and system of juvenile justice welfare, and insufficient personnel monitoring the law's implementation, particularly in

the provision of social welfare services, prompting the study.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study generally aimed to assess the provision of social services for children in conflict with the law or the CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa at Sitio Manalpaac in San Pablo, Cauayan City, Isabela. Specifically, the research addressed the following objectives:

1. To assess the provision of social services for children in conflict with the law or the CICL by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa as regards its adequacy, efficiency, and satisfaction level with respect to the following: Facilities of Bahay Pag-Asa, Personnel Services, Housing Services, Recreational Services Food services, daily routine activities, and counseling services are all available;
2. To identify the problems encountered in the provision of social services for children in conflict with the law or the CICL by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa;
3. To find out whether or not there is a significant relationship between the adequacy and efficiency of social services provided for children in conflict with the law or the CICL by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa;
4. To find out whether or not there is a significant relationship between the efficiency and satisfaction level of the respondents to the social

services provided for children in conflict with the law or the CICL by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa; and

To design intervention programs or activities as input for a comprehensive social services intervention program for the holistic development of children in conflict with the law or the CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa.

METHODOLOGY

The design used in the study was the descriptive-qualitative and quantitative methods of research to gather data as regards the assessment of social welfare services provision for children in conflict with the law or the CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa as regards its adequacy, efficiency, and satisfaction level in the provision of social welfare services. The study involved seven social workers, eight stakeholders, ten barangay leaders, and fifteen youth offenders to assess the social services provided by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa.

The frequency and percent counts, weighted mean, and correlation coefficient r were used to analyze the data. To describe the frequency and efficiency of providing social services and the satisfaction level of stakeholders with the social services being provided for children in conflict with the law (CICL), the following arbitrary levels and descriptions were utilized:

Arbitrary Level	Frequency	Efficiency	Level of Satisfaction
4.20-5.00	Always	Very Efficient	Very Much Satisfied
3.40-4.19	Often	Efficient	Much Satisfied
2.60-3.39	Sometimes	Fairly Efficient	Somewhat Satisfied
1.80-2.59	Occasional	Least Efficient	Less Satisfied
1.00-1.79	Never	Inefficient	Not Satisfied at all

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Assessment of Social Welfare Services of Children in Conflict with the Law at Bahay Pag-Asa

As indicated In Table 1, the assessment on Frequency, Efficiency, and Satisfaction Level of Social Services, Housing Services, Recreational Services, Food services, Daily Routine Activities, and Counselling Services, at Bahay Pag-Asa which was provided for the children in conflict with the law (CICL) revealed that respondents assessed the

Frequency, Efficiency, and Satisfaction Level of the social services as *Sometimes Provided*, *Fairly Efficient*, and respondents are *Somewhat Satisfied*, having the general mean of 3.11, 3.18, and 3.03, respectively.

The grand mean of Social Services, with is 3.07 implies that Bahay Pag-Asa "*Sometimes*" provides social services to children in conflict with the law (CICL) that is "*Fairly Efficient*" that "*Somewhat Satisfied*" both the beneficiaries and the Bahay Pag-Asa stakeholders.

Table 1. Assessment on Frequency, Efficiency, and Satisfaction Level of Social Welfare Services at Bahay Pag-Asa

Social Welfare Services	Mean	Frequency	Mean	Efficiency	Mean	Satisfaction Level
1. Personnel Services	3.29	Sometimes	3.33	Fairly Efficient	2.70	Somewhat Satisfied
2. Housing Services	3.02	Sometimes	3.25	Fairly Efficient	3.30	Somewhat Satisfied
3. Recreational Services	3.19	Sometimes	2.95	Fairly Efficient	3.03	Somewhat Satisfied
4. Food Services	3.20	Sometimes	2.98	Fairly Efficient	3.07	Somewhat Satisfied
5. Guidance Services	3.04	Sometimes	2.91	Fairly Efficient	3.03	Somewhat Satisfied
General Mean = (3.07)	3.11	Sometimes	3.08	Fairly Efficient	3.03	Somewhat Satisfied

B. Problems Encountered Along the Provision of Social Welfare Services for Children in Conflict with the Law or (CICL) by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa

The problems encountered along the provision of social welfare services for Children in Conflict with the Law or (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa as presented in Table 2 reveals that the general mean of 4.07 implies that the problems encountered along the provision of social welfare services for Children

in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa is "Serious."

The serious problems encountered at Bahay Pag-Asa can be attributed to the encountered problems such as: The management seldom visits the children in conflict with the law (CICL); The management provides limited activities for children in conflict with the law (CICL); and The social workers in charge for youth offenders rarely report at Bahay Pag-Asa.

Table 2. Problems Encountered Along the Provision of Social Services for Children in Conflict with the Law or (CICL) by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa

Problems Encountered	Mean	Description
1. The management seldom visits the children in conflict with the law (CICL)	4.31	Very Serious
2. The management provides limited activities for children in conflict with the law (CICL)	4.22	Very Serious
3. The social workers in charge for youth offenders rarely report at Bahay Pag-Asa	4.24	Very Serious
4. The CICL got easily bored due to lack of sports activities conducted to ease their boredom	3.89	Serious
5. Food served is not enough to satisfy the physical needs of the CICL	3.76	Serious
6. There are no provision of enough activities that hone the skills of children in conflict with the law or CICL	3.48	Serious
7. The activities being conducted by the cooperating agencies at Bahay Pag-Asa are seldom conducted	4.34	Very Serious
General Mean	4.03	Serious

C. Significant Relationship Between the Adequacy and Efficiency of Social Services at Bahay Pag-Asa

The test of correlation of frequency and efficiency of Social Services as provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa which is reflected in table 4 indicates high and positive correlation between the frequency and efficiency of social services provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

Finding means that the more frequent is the Social Services provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), the more it becomes efficient in the delivery of its social services for the youth reformists or Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). This conforms to the study of Fabre et al. (2016) which recognized the necessity of extending frequent intervention activities for the youth offenders or children in conflict with the law.

Table 3. Correlation Between Frequency and Efficiency of the Social Welfare Services for Children in Conflict with the Law or (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa

Variables	Mean	Computed r-Value	Interpretation
Frequency of Social Services	3.11	0.922*	Significant
Efficiency of Social Services	3.08		

*Significant at .05 Level

D. Significant Relationship Between the Efficiency and Satisfaction Level of Respondents on Social Welfare Services provided for the CICL

The test of correlation of Efficiency of the Social Services and Satisfaction level derived from the Social Services provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa as presented in Table 4 reveals high and positive correlation between the effectiveness of social services and the satisfaction level of respondents with the social

services offered to children in conflict with the law (CICL). This means that the more efficient are the social welfare services rendered for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), the higher is the respondents' satisfaction level on the delivery of the social welfare services for CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa. This finding backs up Jalea, Glee's study published in The Manila Times in 2019, which stated that authorities should notify the local social welfare and development officer when determining appropriate programs for children in conflict with the law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa in order to meet stakeholders' expectations and satisfaction levels.

Table 5. Correlation Between Efficiency and Satisfaction Level of Respondents on the Social Welfare Services for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)

Variables	Mean	Computed r -Value	Interpretation
Efficiency of Social Welfare Services	3.08	0.958*	Significant
Satisfaction Level on Social Welfare Services	3.03		

*Significant at .05 Level

E. Proposed Comprehensive Intervention Program as Social Welfare Services for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) At Bahay Pag-Asa

INTERVENTION PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	INSTITUTION/PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET COST	EXPECTED OUTPUT
1. COUNSELING SERVICES (SAS)	To extend counselling services to the youth offenders based on the result of the psychological test conducted	ISU-SAS Prof. G. Hoggang Miss L. Villaluz Dr. G. Luna	5,000.00	Extended counselling services to the youth offenders based on the result of the psychological test conducted
2. ELECTRONICS SERVICES (PS)	To equip the CICL with skills in repairs of electronic gadgets and appliances	ISU-PS Engr. F. Tagle Mr. R. Canceran Mr. W. Aguinaldo	5,000.00	Equipped the CICL with skills in repairs of electronic gadgets and appliances
3. PARALEGAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH OFFENDERS (SAS & CCJE)	To conduct paralegal activities with the CICL for them to amend	ISU-SAS/CCJE Prof. J. Quilang Dr. L. Quilang Mr. C. Galiza	5,000.00	Conducted paralegal activities with the CICL for them to amend

	the offenses they committed for reformation			the offenses they committed for reformation
4. SPORTS CUM DANCE EXERCISES (COE)	To play sporting events and execute dance exercises that promote CICL's physical fitness	ISU-CEd Dr. I. Alejandro Mr. H. Agustin Mr. A. Mateo	5,000.00	Played sporting events and executed dance exercises that promote CICL's physical fitness
5. VALUES FORMATION	To inculcate and form the CICL with values as they become responsible citizens of the state	ISU-SAS Dr. G. Luna Mr. C. Torres	5,000.00	Inculcated and formed the CICL with values as they become responsible citizens of the state
6. HANDICRAFT AND FOOD PRODUCTION CUM LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS (CBM)	To enhance the skills of the CICL in making handicrafts and food products for sustainable livelihood	ISU-CBM Dr. C.H. Bartolome Mr. R. Isidro Dr. R. Jagolino	10,000.00	Enhanced the skills of the CICL in making handicraft and food products for sustainable livelihood
7. VEGETABLE PLANTATION AND PRODUCTION (IAT)	To enhance the skills of the CICL through planting vegetables for their consumption and production for consumers to gain profit	ISU-IAT Mr. I. Dela Pena Engr. S. Agbanlog Dr. C. Ferrer	10,000.00	Enhanced the skills of the CICL through planting vegetables for their consumption and production for consumers to gain profit
8. FOOD INNOVATION AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT	To train the CICL how to innovate raw materials used for product development	ISU-CBM Dr. R. Bautista Ms. R. Elumbra Mr. R. Isidro	10,000.00	Trained the CICL how to innovate raw materials used for product development
9. PHYSICAL FITNESS (CCJE)	To perform physical exercises for the promotion of a healthy body	ISU-CCJE Mr. A. Verzon Mr. N. Ramirez	5,000.00	Performed physical exercises for the promotion of a healthy body
10. ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (DepEd)	To increase knowledge and skills in the basic 3 Rs through the Alternative Learning System	DepEd Mr. N. Galiza Mr. D. Luna	5,000.00	Increased knowledge and skills in the basic 3 Rs through the Alternative Learning System
11. SPIRITUAL FORMATION	To increase the faith of the youth offenders and become closer to God	Bible Baptist Church Pastor Tuazon Mr. C. Torres	5,000.00	Increased the faith of the youth offenders and become closer to God

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

AND

Based on the foregoing findings, the following conclusions are hereby forwarded:

1. Bahay Pag-Asa "*Sometimes*" provides social services to children in conflict with the law (CICL) that is "*Fairly Efficient*" that "*Somewhat Satisfied*" the stakeholders of the Bahay Pag-Asa.
2. The Bahay Pag-Asa ran into a lot of issues when it came to providing social welfare services to children who were in trouble with the law (CICL).
3. The more frequently social services for children in conflict with the law (CICL) are provided, the more efficient it becomes in the delivery of its social services for youth reformists or children in conflict with the law (CICL).
4. The more efficient the social welfare services are rendered for children in conflict with the law (CICL), the higher the stakeholders' satisfaction level with the delivery of the social welfare services for CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa.
5. The proposed Comprehensive Intervention Program as a social welfare program for children in conflict with the law (CICL) in Bahay Pag-Asa, Sitio Manalpaac, helps child offenders rehabilitate and develop their personalities.

Recommendations

In light of the findings and conclusions of the research, this paper recommends that the City Social Welfare and Development of the Local Government Unit of Cauayan City should forge and establish more linkages with the non-government agencies, government agencies, and religious sectors that provide social services for children in conflict with the law or CICL. Regular monitoring of the activities and programs at Bahay Pag-Asa, especially the needs and problems or status of children in conflict with the law (CICL), should be conducted. A study along this line should be considered in the conduct of the study in a wider scope to include other related variables to obtain excellent delivery of social services for children in conflict with the law (CICL).

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Concurrent to his assignment as dean, Dr. Luna is the Editor-In-Chief of the University Linker Journal of Philosophy, Policy-Making and Criminal Justice Education. He is also active in his extension work as Project Leader in the College Extension Project: CASerbisyong Paghahandog sa Balay Silangan at Bahay Pag-Asa. He presented and published researches along education, Cultural Anthropology, and Social Sciences in various fora and journal of publications in the local, national and international organizations.

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