

THE IMPACT OF FREE LEGAL LITERACY PROGRAM AMONG CHILD IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW IN PAYATAS B. QUEZON CITY: AN ASSESSMENT

ABSTRACT

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This study assesses the impact of a Free Legal Literacy Program on Children in Conflict with the Law (CICLs) in Payatas B, Quezon City. Grounded in the belief that youth are the future of the nation, as expressed by Dr. Jose Rizal's well-known saying "Kabataan ang Pag-asa ng Bayan," the research explores how legal education can serve as an intervention tool for rehabilitation and reintegration. The study seeks to understand the role of legal literacy in empowering CICLs, promoting their rights, and aiding in their social development. A quantitative research design was employed to examine the effectiveness of the Free Legal Literacy Program. Data were gathered through surveys and interviews conducted with purposively selected respondents, including ten (10) social workers from Molave Youth Home, twenty (20) barangay workers, and twenty (20) community members of Payatas B, Quezon City—totaling fifty (50) participants. The instruments used were carefully constructed, validated, and administered, with statistical analysis applied to assess the data. The purposive sampling technique ensured that respondents possessed relevant knowledge and experience to contribute meaningful insights to the study. The findings revealed that the Free Legal Literacy Program positively influenced CICLs by increasing their awareness of legal rights, reducing misconceptions about legal processes, and improving their capacity to make informed decisions. Respondents acknowledged the program's role in enhancing communication between CICLs and legal authorities, as well as promoting a greater sense of responsibility and accountability. However, challenges such as limited resources, inconsistent program delivery, and a need for expanded community participation were identified as areas requiring attention. The results suggest that legal literacy programs are valuable in rehabilitating and empowering CICLs. While the program has shown effectiveness in bridging gaps in knowledge and supporting reintegration efforts, its success depends on sustained collaboration among social workers, barangay officials, and community members. Strengthening outreach, ensuring consistent implementation, and addressing resource limitations are key to improving the program's overall impact. Future research may explore long-term behavioral outcomes and assess similar programs across different communities to broaden the scope of assessment.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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