

THE EFFECTS OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE USE IN THE INCREASING NUMBER OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN BARANGAY GAYA - GAYA SAN JOSE DEL MONTE BULACAN

ABSTRACT

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This study investigates the effects of illegal substance use on the rising incidence of juvenile delinquency in Barangay Gaya-Gaya, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. The proliferation of illegal substance use remains one of the most pressing issues in the country, affecting individuals regardless of socioeconomic status—including minors. It is particularly concerning that the youth, considered the hope of the nation, are falling into patterns of substance abuse and criminal behavior. This study aims to explore the extent to which substance use contributes to the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in the community. This study utilizes a descriptive research design and employs purposive sampling to select respondents who possess relevant knowledge or experience concerning the issue. A total of forty (40) respondents participated in the study, consisting of ten (10) Barangay Officials, ten (10) members of the PNP Women's Desk, and twenty (20) DSWD personnel. Data were collected using structured survey questionnaires, which served as the primary instrument for assessing the perceived relationship between illegal substance use and juvenile delinquency. The results revealed that respondents strongly agreed with the identified link between illegal substance use and the increasing number of juvenile delinquency cases in Barangay Gaya-Gaya. Among the factors cited, the most frequently encountered issue was the lack of parental supervision for minors engaged in substance use. To address this, the respondents recommended educating the youth about the dangers of illegal substances and implementing programs that include recreational and sports activities to keep young individuals engaged in positive pursuits. The findings underscore the vital role of Barangay Gaya-Gaya in supporting the physical, mental, and social well-being of the youth. The respondents' strong agreement across these dimensions affirms the urgent need for community-based interventions. In conclusion, local authorities should prioritize involving parents in awareness seminars on substance abuse and encourage active parental supervision. Furthermore, the barangay should establish more youth-focused initiatives, such as sports and other recreational programs, to help deter minors from engaging in illegal activities and substance use.

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