

A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAM TO REDUCE CHILD IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

ABSTRACT

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This study focuses on the pressing issue of children in conflict with the law (CICL) in the Philippines, highlighting the need for a comprehensive strategy to address the root causes of juvenile delinquency. Contributing factors include broken families, unemployment, lack of education, and peer pressure. In addition, systemic challenges—such as inadequate law enforcement policies, poor rehabilitation services, and societal apathy—hinder effective reform and reintegration efforts. This study aims to evaluate a comprehensive school-based intervention program designed to reduce the incidence of CICL through targeted demographic and intervention activities, including parental involvement, outreach through the Alternative Learning System (ALS), and life skills education. The study employed a quantitative research method with random sampling to identify respondents, which included 15 students, 5 parents, 5 teachers or professors, 3 school authorities, and 2 guidance counselors. Data collection was conducted at Maligaya High School, where the researchers secured permission, explained the content of the questionnaire, and ensured confidentiality throughout the process. The data collection took approximately 15 minutes per respondent. The information gathered was statistically analyzed to assess the effectiveness of the intervention program and to profile respondents based on age, gender, and educational attainment. The data revealed that the majority of respondents were male students aged 17 or younger. The composite mean scores indicated strong support for the intervention techniques employed. However, challenges such as societal stigma were identified as significant barriers to the program's success. The most commonly cited solution to these challenges was the need for adequate training for staff and volunteers involved in the intervention programs. The report highlights the need for alternative solutions to address the challenges faced by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). While therapeutic programs are generally well-received, the study emphasizes that addressing social stigma is crucial to improving their overall effectiveness. Proper training for staff and volunteers is essential to ensure successful program implementation. Additionally, the study recommends strengthening family support systems, expanding access to education, and increasing public awareness to combat stigma. It advocates for a shift in focus toward prevention, education, and rehabilitation, rather than punitive measures.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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