

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AT RISK IN BARANGAY SOUTH ZUZUARREGUI: A PROPOSAL

ABSTRACT

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Community-based youth programs play a vital role in promoting development and reducing risks among vulnerable children, particularly in areas with limited access to support systems. In Barangay South Zuzuarregui, such programs serve as a primary intervention for children at risk by providing opportunities for personal growth, education, and meaningful community engagement. This study aims to assess the effectiveness of youth development programs implemented in the barangay and their role in addressing the needs of vulnerable children. This study employs a quantitative approach using a descriptive research design to evaluate key variables such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status. Purposive sampling was used to select respondents who had direct experience with youth development programs. The study involved 50 respondents, including ten youth participants, ten parents or guardians, ten barangay officials, ten community leaders, five program coordinators, and five social workers from Barangay South Zuzuarregui. A structured survey questionnaire was used to gather data for analysis. Findings revealed that the majority of respondents were aged 18 to 25 (34%) and predominantly female (60%). A slightly higher percentage were single (52%) compared to married respondents (48%). In terms of educational attainment, 62% had completed high school, while 38% were college graduates. The most significant barrier to accessing youth development services was the cost, as indicated by 76% of respondents. Recommended program enhancements include the provision of life skills training, academic support, livelihood initiatives, youth centers, community engagement activities, and conflict resolution training for barangay officials. Aligned with the principles of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (RA 9344), the study highlights the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration for children at risk rather than punitive approaches. The findings underscore the necessity of accessible, well-structured, and sustainable youth programs in barangays to support the development and protection of vulnerable youth. Emphasizing education, livelihood, and psychosocial support may enhance the impact and reach of these initiatives.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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