

THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON YOUTH CAUSING THEM COMMIT DELINQUENT ACTS IN BARANGAY OBRERO, QUEZON CITY

ABSTRACT

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Youth is a crucial period in our lives when we learn to make decisions and start building a better future. But what happens when young people grow up in poverty? Unfortunately, limited financial resources can push some to commit crimes just to meet their basic needs. Children raised in disadvantaged environments may find themselves part of an "underclass," where lack of opportunities and resources increases the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. The study employed a quantitative descriptive research method, which is particularly suitable for exploring and describing the relationship between poverty and youth delinquency. The research was conducted in Barangay Obrero, using a survey questionnaire as the primary data collection tool. The questionnaire included questions designed to gather insights into the respondents' socioeconomic backgrounds, experiences with poverty, and perceptions of delinquency. Purposive sampling was used to deliberately select participants who possess relevant knowledge and experience to contribute to the study's objectives. The majority of respondents were aged 12 to 18, comprising 35 individuals or 70% of the sample. The group was predominantly male, with 29 respondents (58%), while females accounted for the lowest frequency at 21 respondents (42%). Regarding parental unemployment, respondents strongly agreed on its significance, with an average weighted mean of 3.50. Educational requirements as a proposed measure also received a "Strongly Agree" rating, with an average weighted mean of 3.48. Self-esteem-related materials similarly received a "Strongly Agree" interpretation, with a composite mean of 3.50. "Gang war" was identified as the most pressing problem experienced by the youth, with 90% of respondents agreeing. To address this, the preferred solution was to strengthen community programs such as sports and skills training, which garnered support from 48 respondents or 96% of the total population. This study recommends that community organizations collaborate to create a supportive environment for youth. Initiatives could include recreational programs, sports clubs, and support groups that engage young people in positive activities and foster a strong sense of belonging.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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