

IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTIVE MEASURE IN BARANGAY 173 CALOOCAN CITY: AN ASSESSMENT

ABSTRACT

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DISCIPLINE

Criminology

KEYWORDS

*barangay 173 caloocan city;
anti-human trafficking;
preventive measures;
community awareness; human
rights; vulnerable groups*

ARTICLE ID

AASGBCPJMR-B93995

Human trafficking is a grave crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It involves the use of force, deception, coercion, or abuse of power to exploit individuals, often through false promises of financial gain. Victims are frequently forced into hazardous and inhumane working conditions without compensation, and may suffer sexual abuse, physical harm, or even death. This study focused on evaluating the implementation of anti-human trafficking preventive measures in Barangay 173, Caloocan City. The goal is to assess current efforts and propose strategies to strengthen the community's ability to prevent and combat human trafficking effectively. This study adopted a descriptive research design, which aims to accurately portray the characteristics and behaviors of a specific group or issue. By systematically observing and collecting data, descriptive research provides valuable insights that help deepen understanding and guide future studies. The researchers employed a survey method using purposive sampling, wherein participants were deliberately selected based on criteria relevant to the study's objectives. A total of 50 respondents participated in the study, consisting of 30 residents of Barangay 173, Caloocan City, 10 personnel from the Philippine National Police (PNP), and 10 barangay officials. Findings Based on the Sub-Problems 1. Demographic Profile of Respondents 1.1 Age – The largest proportion of respondents belonged to the 28–38 age group, comprising 15 individuals or 30% of the total sample. Meanwhile, the least represented group was those aged 18 and below, with only 3 respondents or 6%. 2. Awareness and Perception of R.A. 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act) 2.1.1 Awareness – Respondents across all three groups demonstrated a high level of awareness of the proposed anti-human trafficking measures under R.A. 9208, yielding a weighted mean score of 3.53, interpreted as Strongly Agree. 2.1.2 Perceived Effectiveness – The implementation of R.A. 9208 was perceived as effective in preventing human trafficking within the community, with a weighted mean of 3.36, also interpreted as Strongly Agree. Proposed Actions to Strengthen Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives in Barangay 173 Increase Community Awareness Conduct regular awareness campaigns to educate residents on the signs, risks, and consequences of human trafficking. use barangay assemblies, social media platforms, and printed materials to effectively disseminate information. Capacity Building and Training Provide specialized training for barangay officials, law enforcement officers, and community members on identifying, reporting, and managing trafficking cases. Integrate knowledge of Republic Act 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act) and related laws into all training sessions. Strengthen Interagency Collaboration Forge stronger partnerships with NGOs, government agencies, and the Philippine National Police to enhance prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts. Establish clear referral pathways and coordination protocols for victim protection and support. Establish an Efficient Reporting and Response System Create accessible and confidential reporting channels for suspected trafficking activities. Form a dedicated barangay task force to ensure timely response, monitoring, and case management. Implement Empowerment and Support Programs Launch livelihood and skills development programs targeting vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth, to reduce susceptibility to trafficking. Provide counseling, education, and reintegration services for potential and actual victims. This comprehensive action plan seeks to foster a proactive, vigilant, and well-informed community that can effectively prevent, address, and respond to human trafficking in Barangay 173.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Begaso, M. J., Bongalon, J. M., Donato, J. J., Mina, A., & Sumilang, V. R. (2025). Implementation of Anti-Human Trafficking Preventive Measure in Barangay 173 Caloocan City: An Assessment. *Ascendens Asia Singapore – Bestlink College of the Philippines Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Abstracts*, 7(5), 85.