

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDYING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION ON THE PHILIPPINE'S WAR ON DRUGS IN BARANGAY PAYATAS A, B AND C IN QUEZON CITY

ABSTRACT

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This study examined human rights violations during the Philippine "War on Drugs" to inform residents in selected barangays in Quezon City and surrounding areas about their legal rights and the nature of the abuses that occurred. The primary objectives were to raise awareness, prevent future violations, and promote accountability, ensuring that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. A quantitative descriptive research design was adopted to assess the extent of human rights violations during the Philippine "War on Drugs." A systematic sampling technique was employed to ensure a diverse and representative sample. Prior to data collection, formal approval was secured from the Dean's Office, Barangay Payatas, and Police Station 13 in Payatas, Quezon City. The study involved a total of 50 respondents, categorized into three groups: Residents: 30 individuals from Barangays Payatas A, B, and C; Barangay Officials: 15 local government representatives; Police Officers: 5 officers from Police Station 13. Survey questionnaires were distributed with the informed consent of participants. Responses were promptly collected, and the researchers extended their appreciation to all participants for their cooperation and valuable contributions. Demographic analysis revealed that 26% of respondents were aged 18–25 years, 54% were female, and 36% held college degrees. Key findings include: Concerns Identified: Respondents expressed deep concern over incidents of extrajudicial killings, evidence planting, lack of police accountability, and the targeting of vulnerable groups during the War on Drugs. Primary Problem: A significant number of community members lacked awareness of their human rights, which limited their ability to recognize or respond to violations. Top Proposed Solution: The most strongly supported recommendation was to provide adequate support to the families of victims, emphasizing the need for both material assistance and emotional rehabilitation. The findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive human rights education and the development of robust support systems. Empowering residents with knowledge of their rights is essential to preventing future abuses and fostering a culture of respect and accountability. Equally important is the establishment of support mechanisms for victims' families, including access to legal assistance, counseling services, and financial aid, which are crucial for both justice and healing. To address widespread perceptions of impunity, it is vital to conduct transparent investigations and enforce strict accountability for authorities involved in rights violations. In conclusion, this study highlights the profound and lasting impact of the "War on Drugs" on human rights in the Philippines. By implementing the proposed measures, communities and institutions can move toward a more just and humane society—one that upholds the dignity and rights of all individuals and ensures that the mistakes of the past are never repeated.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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