

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH GANG INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME IN BARANGAY 176-C, CALOOCAN CITY: AN ASSESSMENT

ABSTRACT

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This study examined the factors contributing to youth gang involvement in crime in Barangay 176-C, Caloocan City, with the aim of identifying the primary influences and challenges faced by the community. Understanding these factors is essential for developing strategies to prevent youth engagement in criminal activities and to promote safer community environments. The research used a descriptive method, gathering data from respondents through structured surveys that assessed peer, family, and community-related factors. Respondents' demographic profiles, including age, gender, education, and length of residency in the barangay, were also collected to contextualize the findings. Findings reveal that the respondents were predominantly aged 34–41 years, female, college graduates or with some college education, and had resided or served in the barangay for one to three years. Analysis of contributing factors indicates that peer influence is the most significant determinant of youth gang involvement, followed closely by family-related factors, while community-related factors, though acknowledged, ranked lowest. No significant differences were observed in respondents' perceptions when grouped by family environment, parenting practices, or peer influence. The study also identified key community problems, including frequent encounters between gang members and barangay tanods or police, widespread youth participation in illegal activities, and intimidation or recruitment of minors. Motivations such as seeking identity or belonging were less frequently reported but remained evident. These findings underscore the importance of addressing peer and family influences through targeted interventions and community-based programs. The shared perception among respondents highlights the consistency of these contributing factors, suggesting that interventions should focus on both social and familial contexts. Overall, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of youth gang dynamics and provides a foundation for policy development, community action, and strategies to mitigate crime among young individuals in urban barangays.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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