



MULTISECTORAL CAPABILITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS TOWARDS ENHANCED COMPETENCIES

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the multisectoral capabilities in implementing the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (RA 9344 as amended by RA 10630) in major urban areas of the Philippines, specifically focusing on the Philippine National Police (PNP), Barangay Personnel, and Social Welfare Officers. The objective of this study is to evaluate the diverse proficiencies involved in the implementation of this legislation, with a specific emphasis on the implementers and logistical capabilities of each sector. By employing a quantitative and descriptive methodology, this study aims to ascertain the level of competence and disparities among different demographic categories, with a specific focus on urban regions like Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela. The results indicate that the professionals of the Child and Social Welfare Department (CSWDO) have satisfactory levels of competence in both executing and managing tasks. However, there is an immediate need for substantial enhancements in the PNP and Barangay sectors. Notwithstanding the presence of operational gaps, the research revealed no statistically significant disparities in the perceptions of capabilities across various sectors. This suggests that the difficulties are systemic rather than isolated flaws. The findings emphasize the importance of implementing a cooperative and multifaceted approach that includes extensive training, increased human resources, and enhanced logistical support to strengthen the implementation of RA 9344. This approach aims to prioritize a rehabilitative rather than punitive approach to juvenile justice, to promote the welfare and rehabilitation of children involved in criminal activities.

KEYWORDS: *Multisectoral Capabilities, Juvenile Justice and Welfare, Enhanced Competencies, Implementers, Logistics*

INTRODUCTION

The juvenile justice system in the Philippines has seen a progressive change with the passage of RA 9344, as amended by RA 10630, generally known as the JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT OF 2006 (JJWA), which aims to replace punitive measures with rehabilitative alternatives for adolescents in confrontation with the law. This act emphasizes the value of child welfare by supporting a therapeutic strategy that puts young offenders' rights and rehabilitation ahead of more conventional forms of punishment. The effective coordination and competencies of multiple stakeholders, including the Philippine National Police (PNP), Barangay personnel, and Social Welfare Officers, are critical to successfully executing this act as the Philippines transitions to a more humane and rehabilitative framework.

As the initial contact point for juvenile offenders, the Philippine National Police is essential to the JJWA's enforcement. Their duties go beyond simple law enforcement; they also have to ensure children's rights are upheld during the court proceedings. This calls for a careful balancing act between protecting youth welfare and upholding public order, which calls for specific training and in-depth knowledge of the juvenile justice system.

In the study conducted by Baranda (2014), PNP participants pledged to do everything within their power to fulfill their responsibilities in preventing adolescent delinquency. The functions of detection and counseling stand out the greatest, followed by the transformative and informational ones, which seem to be the least performed. The PNP made every effort to be watchful in identifying potential hotspots for the majority of juvenile offenders as well as locations that are well-known for being breeding grounds for juvenile crime. In some way, being aware of their origins will make it easier for the PNP to carry out their informative and transforming responsibilities. Regardless of age, sex, duration of service, level of education, or rank, the PNP

generally consistently fulfills, to a very high extent, its planned tasks in preventing juvenile delinquency.

In a similar vein, Barangay personnel are crucial community volunteers who work at the local level. They are in a critical position to affect the course of juvenile proceedings because they are frequently the first responders to occurrences involving youngsters. In this particular setting, Barangay personnel's efficacy is dependent on their capacity to manage situations with tact and cognizance of juvenile justice concepts, advocating for restorative measures instead of punishing ones.

On the other hand, social welfare officers play a crucial role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of young criminals into society. They provide a variety of roles, including case management, psychosocial support, and program execution for diversion. These officers work hard to avoid recidivism and promote positive reentry into the community by navigating complicated social issues and providing the support needed to ensure youngsters receive the care and direction they need.

Notwithstanding these stakeholders' vital responsibilities, there are several obstacles to the JJWA's implementation, ranging from a lack of specialized training and resources to problems with interagency collaboration. Comprehending these obstacles is essential in formulating tactics to improve the abilities of all stakeholders, culminating in a more efficient juvenile justice system in the Philippines. By thoroughly reviewing the existing situation and opening the door for changes in the system's overall performance, this analysis aims to shed light on the complex dynamics at play.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In heavily urbanized cities, the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (Republic Act 9344, RA 9344) must be implemented with a comprehensive strategy, especially in terms of implementer and



logistical capacity. Powell (2024) draws attention to the growing safety net in the US juvenile justice system, drawing comparisons with the circumstances in the Philippines, particularly with regard to RA 9344. This emphasizes the requirement that implementers be skilled in both managing and applying this more expansive control mechanism to prioritize rehabilitation over punishment, in addition to having a solid understanding of the law. Similar to this, Yin and Zhao (2024) emphasize how crucial it is for police officers to comprehend the law and the legal system. This emphasizes the need for extensive training and education for law enforcement personnel in the Philippines so that they are prepared to handle juvenile cases in accordance with the rehabilitative and restorative justice principles of RA 9344.

Furthermore, the logistics and resources required to support juvenile justice programs are included in the logistics capabilities in the context of RA 9344. In his discussion of Malaysia's restorative justice programs, Mustafa (2023) highlights the significance of logistical support for activities aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration. This is in line with the requirements of the Philippine juvenile justice system as outlined in Republic Act 9344, wherein sufficient facilities, funds, and resources are necessary to enable the successful execution of restorative and rehabilitative initiatives. Furthermore, in order to address the underlying causes of juvenile offences and promote the reintegration of juveniles into their communities, logistic efforts in the Philippines should concentrate on developing and supporting family- and community-based interventions, as highlighted by Azami et al. (2023).

Programs for education and awareness are yet another essential component of an implementer's skill set. A classroom-based program designed to teach youth about the law and their rights is presented by Fix et al. (2023). This program aims to make encounters between youth and law enforcement safer. This kind of instruction should be replicated in the Philippines, where RA 9344 implementers stand to gain from similar initiatives that heighten youths' awareness of their rights and duties and may even lower rates of juvenile criminality. In order to create a society where young people are knowledgeable and less inclined to commit crimes, education is essential.

Regarding legislation, Canete (2022) talks about the controversial discussion around the RA 9344 amendment, notably the plan to lower the criminal liability age. This talk emphasizes how difficult it is for legislators and implementers to strike a balance between the needs of society for safety and accountability and the preservation of juvenile rights. It emphasizes the necessity of a well-informed legislative framework that addresses public concerns and upholds the goals of RA 9344, guaranteeing that the law's execution is both socially and practically acceptable.

Finally, the DILG – CWC Joint Memorandum Circular (2020) and the Robertson et al. (2020) study highlight the value of contextual awareness and adaptability in the juvenile justice system. The dynamic nature of juvenile justice and the need for implementers to modify techniques in response to local conditions and new difficulties are demonstrated by variations in recidivism rates and the requirement for protective measures for children during emergencies like the pandemic. Together, these observations highlight the necessity of a flexible and comprehensive strategy for the multisectoral implementation of RA 9344, making sure that the logistics and implementer capacities are sufficiently taken care of to enhance the juvenile justice system in the Philippines' highly urbanized cities.

Objectives of the Study

The study compared the multisectoral capabilities of implementing the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act to enhance competencies in highly urbanized cities such as Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, and Quezon City. Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. How do the respondents assess the multisectoral capability in the implementation of RA 9344 as amended in highly urbanized cities in terms:
 - 1.1 Implementer's Capability; and
 - 1.2 Logistics Capability?
2. How do the multisectoral differ in their level of capabilities in implementing the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in highly Urbanized Cities in terms of the aforementioned variables?
3. Is there a significant difference among the assessments of the group of respondents on the multisectoral capability in the implementation of RA 9344 as amended in terms of the implementers?
4. Is there a significant difference among the assessments of the group of respondents on the multisectoral capability in the implementation of RA 9344 as amended in terms of the logistics?
5. Based on the findings, what competency enhancement program can be proposed to improve the multisectoral capability in implementing RA 9344 as amended in highly urbanized cities?

METHODOLOGY

This study used a quantitative and descriptive survey approach to examine the multisectoral capabilities in applying Republic Act No. 9344 (as modified) in highly urbanized cities. The present study aimed to ascertain two principal goals: firstly, to appraise how respondents evaluated the multisectoral capability concerning implementer and logistical capabilities, and secondly, to ascertain whether notable variations existed in the evaluations between the respondent groups. This section describes the research methodology, with particular attention on the methods used in the study for data collection, data analysis, population and sampling, and survey design.

The study included a systematic questionnaire to evaluate the respondents' assessments regarding the multisectoral capability for implementing the amended RA 9344. Under the study's objectives, the questionnaire was split into two primary parts: Part 1 examined the Implementer's Capability, assessing the abilities, know-how, and efficacy of individuals directly responsible for carrying out the law. The Logistics Capability was evaluated in Part 2, encompassing the sufficiency and accessibility of resources and support services. A four-point scale was used to assess the items, giving a quantifiable indication of the attitudes and perceptions of the respondents.

Following the guidelines provided by Nassaji (2015), the study was organized using a descriptive research methodology to portray the phenomenon being studied—more precisely, the logistics and implementer's capabilities in relation to the implementation of RA 9344. According to Stokes and Wall (2014), descriptive research provides an in-depth analysis of recent or historical issues, which is crucial for fully comprehending the subtleties of multisectoral capacities. A systematic survey was used to operationalize this study strategy, which sought to define the "what" of the variables under investigation without exploring the "how" or "why" that cause them.

According to Gall, Gall, and Borg (2007), descriptive research aims to describe phenomena and their features carefully. This



method works well for this study since it focuses on examining the current state of multisectoral skills rather than examining the causes or consequences. As a result, using observation and survey instruments was crucial to the data-collecting process, offering a structure for obtaining factual information to describe the phenomena as they exist.

After being gathered, the survey data was collected carefully and statistically. The data was comprehensively outlined using descriptive statistics, highlighting the primary tendencies and diversity in respondents' evaluations of implementers' and logistics' capacities. The study also looked for any discrepancies between the various respondent groups. To do this, significant differences in perceptions among the different groups of respondents were examined using inferential statistical techniques, such as ANOVA.

Scope and Delimitation

This study focused on comprehending the multisectoral capabilities needed to implement the amended Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in the highly urbanized cities of Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela. This geographic approach enables a focused analysis of metropolitan areas typical of the complex and varied contexts in which juvenile justice programs are implemented. The study is primarily focused on assessing the implementer's capability and the logistical capabilities. These topics are essential to comprehending how different organizations, including social services, law enforcement, and barangay personnel, work together to administer juvenile justice laws. The study aims to offer a thorough analysis based on the viewpoints of many parties directly involved in the law.

The survey restricts its respondents to three distinct groups based on delimitation: social workers, police officers, and barangay officials, often known as tanods. Concentrating on these groups is to collect focused perspectives from individuals who work directly on the front lines of juvenile justice administration. The study's temporal scope, which spans the academic years 2019–2022, further limits it. The research can reflect current practices and experiences within the designated urban contexts because this time range provides a recent perspective on the implementation procedures and challenges. This methodology establishes the limits of the investigation, guaranteeing a targeted and controllable analysis of the research goals within the designated urban and temporal frameworks.

Data Gathering Tool

The primary research tool used in this study was a structured survey questionnaire, primarily used for data collection. This questionnaire was painstakingly created in two parts to collect extensive data relevant to the study's objectives. The first part of the survey was to gather basic information about the respondents, such as age, gender, civil status, and highest educational attainment. This demographic section aimed to offer background information for the answers given in the following sections and to facilitate a more in-depth examination of the findings based on various respondent profiles.

The capabilities of the multisector, such as the police officers, social workers, and barangay personnel, in implementing RA 9344 as amended were the focus of Part II of the questionnaire, which also covered the study's key findings. This part evaluates the logistics and implementer capabilities, two crucial factors that affect how well the juvenile justice system is implemented. The study used a four-point scale, ranging from "Not Capable" to "Very Capable," to ensure uniformity and clarity in replies. This scaling method was chosen to promote more definitive responses

by eliminating respondents' inclination to remain neutral. The four-point scale made the analysis more straightforward by offering a simple framework for assessing respondents' opinions and experiences with implementing the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act. The utilization of an organized methodology for data collecting facilitated the acquisition of precise and practical insights that were crucial in accomplishing the study's goals.

Further, the survey questionnaire, which served as this study's primary data collection tool, underwent a rigorous validation process to guarantee its dependability, correctness, and relevance. The validation process started with comparing other comparable instruments used in relevant research. A comparison analysis was essential to ensure the items included were relevant and purposefully created to collect the data required for the study. The subject matter experts also carefully reviewed the questionnaire. This step was necessary for incorporating expert opinions and modifications, improving the instrument's overall quality and applicability to the study's goals.

In addition, the questionnaire's face validity was thoroughly examined. This required a thorough examination of every item to determine how it directly relates to the particular issues and goals stated in the study. Face validity is crucial since it guarantees that every question is written in a way that will directly advance the goals of the study. The questionnaire was pre-tested on 25 people who were not included as respondents in the main study after the initial validation procedures. The purpose of this pre-testing phase was to assess the internal validity of the instrument and find any biases, ambiguities, or misconceptions that the questionnaire items might have brought about. The pre-test data were carefully compiled and examined to identify any flaws or shortcomings in the tool. The questionnaire was refined and improved by applying the appropriate corrections in light of the comments and findings from this step. The development of the final questionnaire form, tailored for clarity, relevance, and effectiveness in data collecting for the study, was the outcome of these meticulous validation stages.

Data Gathering Procedures

The study's data collection procedures were methodically planned and carried out in a step-by-step manner to guarantee the accuracy and consistency of the data gathered. The procedure started with identifying the research challenges, which was accomplished by thoroughly analyzing the body of research pertinent to applying the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act (RA 9344 as modified) and the functions of the multisectoral institutions concerned. This initial data-gathering stage was a strong foundation for the research and directed further stages.

After reviewing the literature, the researcher conducted initial interviews with key stakeholders involved in the juvenile justice system. The first conversations played a crucial role in creating the survey tool by identifying critical areas of emphasis and ensuring that the questionnaire met the practical issues and experiences experienced in the field. After the initial creation of a preliminary tool, it was subjected to a process of improvement to guarantee that it was clear, relevant, and comprehensive in collecting the required data for the study.

Before implementing the instrument, the relevant law enforcement agencies and local government entities obtained official authorization. Obtaining the required rights and access was essential in researching the designated Highly Urbanized Cities. After receiving the necessary approvals, a preliminary survey questionnaire was assessed using a small sample group not part of the main study. The pre-test was conducted to detect any possible flaws in the questionnaire's design or content, ensuring



the instrument's efficacy before its more comprehensive implementation.

The survey questionnaire was administered once the pre-test was completed and appropriate adjustments were made. The questionnaires were disseminated to the chosen respondents, guaranteeing an all-encompassing portrayal of the three categories: law enforcement personnel, social workers, and Barangay personnel. After distributing the questionnaires, a methodical retrieval procedure was put in place to gather the completed forms, guaranteeing a high response rate and maintaining the accuracy of the acquired data.

After being retrieved, the answers underwent the proper statistical processing to transform the unprocessed data into insightful knowledge that could be examined further. In order to evaluate the respondents' opinions and experiences with the juvenile justice law's implementation, this stage applied descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The next step in the data analysis process was to look at the data in light of the goals and research questions of the study.

Ultimately, conclusions and suggestions were developed using the analytical results as a foundation. The results were summarized in this final stage, including essential insights and practical recommendations for resolving the issues raised and strengthening multisectoral capacities for implementing the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in highly urbanized cities. This all-encompassing strategy guaranteed a rigorous and organized method for collecting and analyzing data, enhancing the study's validity and robustness.

Treatment of Data

Using various statistical techniques to handle the many facets of the research aims, the data treatment in this study was created to analyze the information gathered from the survey questionnaires efficiently. The procedure of treating the data was organized and involved applying particular statistical methods to the various collected data.

The demographic profile of the respondents, which includes age, gender, civil status, and highest educational attainment, the percentage was used. This method allowed for a clear representation of the composition of the study's participants. By calculating the percentage distribution of each demographic attribute, the study provided a comprehensive overview of the background and characteristics of the respondents, offering context to the subsequent analyses of their perceptions and responses.

Evaluating the responses about the degree of multisectoral capabilities in putting the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act into

practice formed the basis of the study's quantitative analysis. In order to do this, the average responses of the respondent groups on various statements about the logistics and implementer's capability were measured using the weighted mean. The study was able to ascertain the perceived level of each capability feature through a weighted mean, which gave rise to a more nuanced view of the respondents' overall judgment. Every rating scale item was given a weight, and the composite score representing the perceived capability level was calculated by averaging these weighted replies.

ANOVA was used to ascertain whether there were any notable distinctions between the opinions of the three respondent groups, PNP personnel, Social Welfare and Development personnel, and Barangay personnel, about the multisectoral application of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act. When comparing the means of three or more independent groups, this statistical test is beneficial in determining whether there is a significant difference between the means of at least one of the groups. The study used ANOVA to find any statistically significant differences in the perceptions of the various groups. These differences could point to areas where experiences or perceptions differ, requiring focused interventions or additional research.

Ethical Considerations

Strict attention to ethical norms was highlighted in the study, which focused on the multisectoral implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act within Highly Urbanized Cities to ensure the protection and respect of all respondents. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents before the start of data collection, ensuring that they fully understood the study's goal and their rights, including anonymity and the freedom to withdraw from the study at any time without facing the consequences. The significance of upholding confidentiality was emphasized, guaranteeing personal data privacy and anonymizing responses during analysis to promote integrity and confidence. This strategy guaranteed that participants could answer honestly without worrying about being found out or facing negative repercussions.

In addition, the instrument was carefully assessed to uphold the principle of non-maleficence and prevent any possible harm to the respondents. Prioritizing emotional and psychological safety meant that any discomfort respondents experienced during the study would be promptly attended to. Beyond respondent contact, the ethical principles impacted objective data processing, the honest reporting of the research findings, and the impartial selection of respondents. By putting these moral principles into practice, the study not only protected the respondents' well-being but also improved the validity and consistency of the research findings, offering significant new insights while adhering to the strictest guidelines for research ethics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Multisectoral Capabilities in Implementing Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in Highly Urbanized Cities

Table 1

Multisectoral Capabilities in Implementing Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in terms of Implementers

| Indicators | PNP Personnel | | Barangay Personnel | | CSWDO Personnel | | Total | |
|---|---------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------|----|
| | WM | AR | WM | AR | WM | AR | WM | AR |
| 1. Presence of an adequate number of personnel assigned at the Barangay Women's desk, Women & Children Protection Desk (PNP), and social worker from the CSWD to handle Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). | 2.37 | LC | 2.31 | LC | 1.99 | LC | 2.22 | LC |



implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act for the better support and rehabilitation of CICL.

Table 2

Multisectoral Capabilities in the Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in terms of Logistics

| Indicators | PNP Personnel | | Barangay Personnel | | CSWDO Personnel | | Total | | Rank |
|---|---------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------|----|------|
| | WM | AR | WM | AR | WM | AR | WM | AR | |
| 1. Presence of well-equipped processing centers for the conduct of an initial investigation of children in conflict with the law at the Barangay, police, and CSWD offices. | 2.42 | LC | 2.60 | C | 2.56 | C | 2.53 | C | 5 |
| 2. Availability of mobile or patrol car/s including gasoline allocation specifically intended for transporting children in conflict with the law to juvenile facilities and other institutions. | 2.49 | LC | 2.38 | LC | 2.61 | C | 2.49 | LC | 4 |
| 3. The presence of Bahay Pag-Asa in the area, a 24-hour child-caring institution that provides short-term residential care for children in conflict with the law. | 2.12 | LC | 2.35 | LC | 2.95 | C | 2.47 | LC | 3 |
| 4. Availability of funds intended for community-based programs and diversion programs for children in conflict with the law at the barangay, police, and CSWD office. | 1.80 | LC | 2.00 | LC | 2.45 | LC | 2.08 | LC | 1 |
| 5. Presence of juvenile lock-up cells or detention facilities intended for children in conflict with the law at the barangay hall and police station. | 1.83 | LC | 2.07 | LC | 2.37 | LC | 2.09 | LC | 2 |
| Total | 2.13 | LC | 2.28 | LC | 2.59 | C | 2.33 | LC | |

Legend: Very Capable (VC)
Capable (C)

Least Capable (LC)
Not Capable (NC)

Table 8 proves the respondents' assessment of the capability of the multisectoral in implementing the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act (RA 9344), as amended, in terms of Logistics. The table shows that the overall assessment of the respondents is Least Capable, with a mean score of 2.33.

The group of PNP Personnel has an overall assessment of Least Capable, with a mean score of 2.13. All of the indicators have an assessment of Least Capable, such as the presence of well-equipped processing centers for the conduct of an initial investigation of children in conflict with the law at the Barangay, police, and CSWD offices, Availability of mobile or patrol car/s including gasoline allocation specifically intended for transporting children in conflict with the law to juvenile facilities and other institutions, Presence of Bahay Pag-Asa in the area, a 24-hour child caring institution which provides short-term residential care for children in conflict with the law, Availability of funds intended for the community-based programs and diversion programs for Children In Conflict with the Law at the barangay, police and CSWD office and Presence of the juvenile lock-up cells or detention facilities intended for children in conflict with the law at the barangay hall and police station, with mean scores of 2.42, 2.49, 2.12, 1.80 and 1.83, respectively.

The overall assessment of Barangay Personnel is Least Capable, with a mean score of 2.28. All but one of the indicators has an assessment of Least Capable, such as Availability of mobile or patrol car/s including gasoline allocation specifically intended for transporting children in conflict with the law to juvenile facilities and other institutions, Presence of Bahay Pag-Asa in the area, a 24-hour child caring institution which provides short-term residential care for children in conflict with the law, Availability

of funds intended for the community-based programs and diversion programs for children in conflict with the law at the barangay, police and CSWD office and Presence of the juvenile lock-up cells or detention facilities intended for children in conflict with the law at the barangay hall and police station, with equivalent mean scores of 2.38, 2.35, 2.00 and 2.07, respectively. The remaining indicator, *The Presence of well-equipped processing centers for conducting an initial investigation of children in conflict with the law at the Barangay, police and CSWD offices*, has an assessment of Capable, with a mean score of 2.60.

On the part of the CSWDO Personnel, the overall assessment is Capable, with a mean score of 2.59. The majority of the indicators have an assessment of Capable, such as the Presence of well-equipped processing centers for the conduct of an initial investigation of children in conflict with the law at the Barangay, police, and CSWD offices, Availability of mobile or patrol car/s including gasoline allocation specifically intended for transporting children in conflict with the law to juvenile facilities and other institutions and Presence of Bahay Pag-Asa in the area, a 24-hour child caring institution which provides short-term residential care for children in conflict with the law, with mean scores of 2.56, 2.61 and 2.95, respectively. While indicators: *Availability of funds intended for the community-based programs and diversion programs for children in conflict with the law at the barangay, police and CSWD office and Presence of the juvenile lock-up cells or detention facilities intended for children in conflict with the law at the barangay hall and police station* have an assessment of Least Capable, with mean scores of 2.45 and 2.37, respectively.



The indicator that obtains the highest mean score of 2.53, interpreted as Capable is the *Presence of well-equipped processing centers for the conduct of an initial investigation of children in conflict with the law at the Barangay, police, and CSWD offices*, while the lowest mean score of 2.08, interpreted as Least Capable is in the indicator *Availability of funds intended for the community-based programs and diversion programs for children in conflict with the law at the barangay, police and CSWD office*.

The results indicate that there is a great deal of room for improvement when it comes to the logistics of managing children who conflict with the law (CICL), especially when working with PNP and barangay personnel. For example, the presence of adequately equipped processing centers is necessary for the preliminary examination of CICL. In contrast, Barangay and CSWD offices are deemed capable, and PNP personnel are deemed 'Least Capable'. This scenario raises concerns similar to those raised by Azami et al. (2023), who stress the significance of

adequate facilities in juvenile delinquency management and suggests that police departments need to improve their infrastructure and resources in order to comply with the standards set by the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act.

Additionally, the evaluation highlights a severe deficiency in community-based and diversionary program offerings, with every sector receiving a "Least Capable" rating. This is especially concerning because the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act's rehabilitative strategy relies heavily on these programs, and it shows that money and resources are generally lacking. This result is consistent with Mustafa's (2023) analysis of the value of restorative justice initiatives. It indicates that more funding and resources are urgently needed to launch successful community-based CICL programs. The data as a whole shows that even though CSWDO personnel are evaluated more highly in terms of their logistical capabilities, there is still a sizable gap in logistics support across all sectors, underscoring the necessity of systemic changes and more funding to guarantee the successful execution of juvenile justice welfare policies.

Table 3
Comparative assessment of the respondents on the Multisectoral Capabilities in the Implementation of Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in Highly Urbanized Cities

| Variables | PNP Personnel | | Barangay Personnel | | CSWDO Personnel | | Total | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------|----|
| | WM | AR | WM | AR | WM | AR | WM | AR |
| 1. Implementer's Capability | 2.28 | LC | 2.27 | LC | 2.80 | C | 2.45 | LC |
| 2. Logistics Capability | 2.13 | LC | 2.28 | LC | 2.59 | C | 2.33 | LC |
| Total | 2.21 | LC | 2.28 | LC | 2.69 | C | 2.39 | LC |

Legend: Very Capable (VC)
 Capable (C)

Least Capable (LC)
 Not Capable (NC)

Sub-Problem No. 2. The test of significant difference between respondent's assessments on the Multisectoral Capabilities in the Implementation of Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in Highly Urbanized Cities

Table 3 explains the comparative assessment of the respondents on the capability of multisectoral in the Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act (RA 9344), as amended. The result shows that the overall assessment of the respondents is Least Capable, with a mean score of 2.39.

The group of PNP Personnel has an overall assessment of Least Capable, with a mean score of 2.21. The group of Barangay Personnel also has an overall assessment of Least Capable, with a mean score of 2.28. And lastly, the group of CSWDO Personnel has an overall assessment of Capable, with a mean score of 2.69. The variable *Implementer's Capability* obtains the highest mean score of 2.45, interpreted as Least Capable, while, the lowest variable *Logistics Capability* has a mean score of 2.33, interpreted as Least Capable.

Table 3 delineates the diverse views of the three groups of respondents regarding the implementers/duty bearer's capability and logistics capability. The overall assessment of the three groups of respondents gained an overall weighted mean of 2.39, interpreted as "Least Capable".

Law enforcement agencies all over the world are facing unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges are at the same time related to the complexity and the large scale of the activities that law enforcement is asked to perform and to the changing nature of their role during the pandemic.

The law enforcement's role may include enforcing public health orders (e.g., quarantines or travel restrictions), securing the perimeter of contaminated areas, securing health care facilities,

crowd-control, monitoring the suspected biological scenes, terrorism, and protecting national stockpiles of vaccines and medical necessities. (Cruz and Frontuna, 2021). It is in this line, that the assessment of the three groups of respondents is "Least Capable" in Implementers Capability because during the surge of the coronavirus, law enforcement agencies which includes police, barangay personnel, and social workers aside from the usual and mandatory functions, were also tasked as frontliners that involved in the implementation of public health orders which is considered as a drastic change in their working environment. With these overlapping functions, the respondents assessed their capability as "Least Capable."

In Logistical capability, aside from the presence of well-equipped processing centers for the conduct of an initial investigation of CICL, all the indicators such as *availability of mobile or patrol car/s including gasoline allocation intended for transporting CICL to juvenile facilities; the presence of Bahay Pag-Asa in the area, a 24-hour child caring institution which provides short-term residential care for Children In Conflict with the Law, the availability of funds intended for the community-based diversion programs and Presence of the juvenile lock-up cells or detention facilities intended for CICL at the barangay hall and police station* have an overall assessment of "Least Capable".

Ranked at number 1 in the indicator is the availability of funds intended for the community-based diversion programs for CICL at the barangay, police, and CSWD office, since the surge of the pandemic most of the LGUs and other government agencies diverted their funds in response to COVID-19 in fact, budget cuts inflicted upon government agencies further ballooned to a net of thirty-four point five billion pesos (P34.5 billion) as more money was diverted to response to global health crisis, (Philippine Daily Inquirer, August 2020.) The budget allocated for diversion programs for CICL was mostly sidetracked since the utmost priority of most government agencies is programs intended for



COVID-19 response. The presence of juvenile lock-up cells or detention facilities intended for CICL at the barangay hall and police station ranked at Number 2.

This has been a long-time problem for the implementers even before when everything was still normal, without the pandemic. The majority of the Police Stations and Barangays do not have juvenile lock-up cells as temporary holding areas of the CICL while undergoing investigation. Those urbanized cities that have CICL lock-up cells, were converted to adult facilities during the surge of the coronavirus. According to the article published by Human Rights Watch in April 2020, the Philippines has had the highest jail occupancy rate in the world since the intensified anti-illegal drug campaign of the government in which hundreds of thousands of people have been jailed since July 2016. Then during the outbreak in March 2020, the arrest and temporary detentions of thousands of people for violating quarantine regulations have further crowded police lockups and jail facilities. The combined population in prisons run by the Philippine Bureau of Corrections and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has reported a congestion rate of five hundred thirty-four percent (534%) and three hundred ten percent (310%) in March 2020 respectively. Like the diversion programs funds that have been diverted to other programs intended to flatten the curb of the virus, the availability of mobile or patrol car/s including gasoline allocation intended for transporting CICL to juvenile facilities and other institutions has been converted to "Libreng Sakay" free-ride program of the Philippine National Police which aim of reaching out to citizens by providing mobility and other extended services so that commuters could attend to their work with convenience even while in the quarantine period. A lot of law enforcement programs intended for Children in Conflict with the Law have been converted to other programs intended for COVID-19 response which is the uppermost priority of most highly urbanized cities.

Powell (2024) identified systemic issues within the juvenile justice framework and suggested a possible lack of comprehensive training and resources necessary for effective juvenile justice administration. This finding is consistent with the perception of PNP and Barangay Personnel as 'Least Capable.' This is especially important when it comes to logistics capabilities since insufficient facilities and resources can make it very difficult to provide Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) with the care and rehabilitation they need. The scenario is consistent with Mustafa's (2023) concerns about the need for surroundings that are resource-rich and well-structured to support restorative justice initiatives effectively.

On the other hand, Azami et al.'s discussion of the community-based and rehabilitative orientation of juvenile justice is consistent with the considerably higher skill assigned to CSWDO Personnel (2023). Their better ranking raises the possibility that social welfare agencies are more in line with the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act's guiding principles, which place a greater emphasis on rehabilitation than on punitive measures. The fact that they are not ranked as "Very Capable," however, indicates that there is still room for development in the social services sector, especially when it comes to strengthening cooperation with local government agencies and law enforcement to guarantee a cogent approach to juvenile justice.

The ratings are indicative of a more significant problem that Yin and Zhao (2024) draw attention to, namely the significance of legal expertise and specific training for all those working in the juvenile justice system. Given the critical responsibilities that PNP and Barangay Personnel play in the early phases of juvenile justice processes, it is clear that they require better training and resources. Improving their capacities can result in improved results for CICL, which is consistent with the legislation's rehabilitative objectives.

Table 4

Test of significant difference between respondent's assessments on the Capability of the Multisectoral in the Implementation of Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in terms of Implementers

| Source of Variation | Sum of Squares | Degree of Freedom | Mean Squares | F Computed Value | F Critical Value | Interpretation |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Between Groups | 0.919 | 2 | 0.4595 | 2.81 | 3.88 | No Significant |
| Within Groups | 1.964 | 12 | 0.1637 | | | |
| TOTAL | 2.883 | 14 | | | | |

Table 4 divulges the test of significant difference in the assessment of the respondents in the Capability of the multisectoral in the Implementation of Juvenile Justice Welfare Act (RA 9344), as amended, in terms of Implementers.

The F computed value of 2.81 is less than the F Critical value of 3.88, with 2 and 12 degrees of freedom. The result shows that there is no significant difference in the assessment of the respondents. The null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the multisectoral Capability in the Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in terms of Implementers, is Accepted at a 0.05 level of significance.

The findings suggest that the consistency of these competency assessments may point to a structural issue with the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act's implementation. Powell (2024), for example, addresses structural problems in the juvenile justice system, suggesting that problems like insufficient resources and training affect many sectors. The lack of statistically significant disparities between groups in our analysis may be a reflection of this more significant systemic problem, indicating that

adjustments are needed everywhere rather than just in specific industries.

Furthermore, this result is consistent with the worries expressed by Azami et al. (2023), who emphasize the value of community-based strategies for dealing with adolescent delinquency. The consistent evaluation among various groups would suggest a shared need for increased community involvement and resources to promote efficient juvenile justice procedures. Furthermore, the results are consistent with Mustafa's (2023) focus on the necessity of resources and an organized setting in order to promote restorative justice initiatives effectively. The lack of discernible variations in capability evaluations may highlight the general need for improved infrastructure and support in all relevant areas.

Additionally, the outcome backs up the claim made by Yin and Zhao (2024) that competent legal counsel and training are essential for managing juvenile justice cases effectively. The consensus among the groups points to a common need for improved educational and training initiatives to give all staff



members the know-how and abilities needed to carry out juvenile justice policies efficiently and effectively.

Table 5

Test of significant difference between respondent’s assessments on the Capability of the multisectoral in the Implementation of Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in terms of Logistic

| Source of Variation | Sum of Squares | Degree of Freedom | Mean Squares | F Computed Value | F Critical Value | Interpretation |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Between Groups | 0.54117 | 2 | 0.27058 | 3.81 | 3.88 | No Significant |
| Within Groups | 0.85136 | 12 | 0.07095 | | | |
| TOTAL | 1.39253 | 14 | | | | |

Table 5 illustrates the test of significant difference in the assessment of the respondents in the Capability of the multisectoral in the Implementation of Juvenile Justice Welfare in terms of Logistic.

The F computed value of 3.81 is less than the F Critical value of 3.88, with 2 and 12 degrees of freedom. The result reveals that there is no significant difference in the assessment of the respondents. The null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the capability of the multisectoral in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in terms of Logistic Capability, is Accepted at 0.05 level of significance.

This lack of statistically significant variation suggests that the various sectors participating in the juvenile justice system acknowledge the same perceived strengths and issues in logistics, such as facilities, transportation, and resource allocation. This finding is consistent with the more extensive discussions in the literature on the issues associated with the implementation of juvenile justice since it may point to a systemic problem where logistical limits or flaws equally impact all sectors.

The shared belief, for example, is consistent with the issues raised by Mustafa (2023) and Azami et al. (2023) regarding the necessity of environments with sufficient resources to support successful juvenile justice methods, such as rehabilitation and community-based programs. The lack of discernible variations in the logistic capacities evaluated by the various groups may indicate a general need for better infrastructure and logistical planning.

Moreover, this outcome validates Powell's (2024) claims about systemic problems in the juvenile justice system, showing that logistical problems like inadequate facilities and vehicles affect not only one sector but all parties engaged in the process of implementation. This is consistent with the focus on the necessity of extensive improvements and reforms to the juvenile justice system's administrative support systems in order to guarantee the successful and efficient execution of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

Multisectoral Capability

Based on the evaluations provided by the respondents, specific components within the multisectoral structure, particularly the CSWDO, exhibit a reasonable level of proficiency in terms of both implementation and logistical capacities. However, there exists a notable requirement for enhancement within the PNP and Barangay sectors. The detected differences highlight the urgent requirement for extensive training programs, augmented manpower, and improved logistical assistance to strengthen the overall efficacy of the execution of RA 9344. It is essential to address these deficiencies to ensure that all sectors are adequately

prepared to make a constructive contribution to the well-being and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law (CICL) within the juvenile justice system.

Multisectoral Differences in Level of Capabilities

The evaluation reveals variations in competencies among officers from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Barangay, and CSWDO. The personnel of CSWDO are assessed as 'Capable' in terms of implementation and logistics, but the personnel of PNP and Barangay are ranked as 'Least Capable.' In comparison to law enforcement and local government, social welfare departments have a higher level of capabilities.

Significant Difference among Respondents on Implementers' Capability

There is no notable disparity in the evaluations of multisectoral capabilities across personnel from the PNP, Barangay, and CSWDO. Although there are noticeable discrepancies, they do not have a statistically significant impact. This indicates that there is a systemic problem rather than individual shortcomings in all sectors.

Significant Difference among Respondents on Logistics Capability

There is no significant difference in the perceived logistics capabilities among the respondents, showing that although there may be shortcomings, these perceptions do not exhibit significant variations across other industries, hence implying the absence of significant disparities.

Theoretical Implications

The consistency in evaluating capabilities across several sectors, despite their diverse functions, poses a challenge to the conventional comprehension of multisectoral dynamics in the provision of public services, specifically within the juvenile justice system. This highlights the necessity of adopting a comprehensive theoretical framework that addresses systemic and cross-sectoral obstacles and remedies, surpassing sector-specific models to comprehend the intricacies involved in implementing reforms within the juvenile justice system.

Practical Implications

The results emphasize the urgent requirement for extensive, cross-sectoral training initiatives, improved allocation of resources, and the development of infrastructure in all areas related to juvenile justice. The presence of comparable degrees of proficiency among individuals from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Barangay, and CSWDO highlights the importance of establishing standardized protocols and fostering collaborative endeavors to effectively address the deficiencies in the skills and logistical support of implementers. This suggests a deliberate change in approach aimed at promoting collaboration among different agencies, establishing common resources and training platforms, and ensuring that all sectors possess the necessary



skills and readiness to effectively contribute to the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in metropolitan areas.

The results obtained from the comparative evaluation and statistical examination of the multisectoral capabilities in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act as amended in highly urbanized cities, several recommendations emerge.

1. Develop and implement cross-sectoral training programs that are tailored to address the distinct requirements and responsibilities of professionals from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Barangay, and CSWDO within the juvenile justice system. The primary objective of these programs should be to provide uniformity in knowledge and practices across many sectors, with a particular focus on legal frameworks, child psychology, concepts of restorative justice, and the effective communication and management of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).
2. Foster a culture that promotes collaboration and coordination among the Philippine National Police (PNP), Barangay, and CSWDO to enhance operational efficiency and ease the exchange of information. This may entail frequent inter-agency meetings, collaborative community initiatives, and the utilization of shared databases to ensure that all sectors are in sync and making meaningful contributions to the rehabilitation and reintegration of CICL.
3. Obtain additional funds and resources for the sectors involved, with a specific focus on addressing identified shortages in workforce and logistical requirements. This may involve allocating resources to the development of facilities, such as creating child-friendly environments and establishing dedicated transportation for CICL. Additionally, it could involve increasing the personnel to provide sufficient coverage and specialized assistance within the juvenile justice system.
4. Develop a comprehensive framework to facilitate continuous evaluation and feedback on the performance and competencies of all entities engaged in the juvenile justice system. Use this data to continually refine and enhance training programs, operational procedures, and inter-agency collaborations, ensuring the system remains responsive to the needs of CICL and the communities served.
5. Strive to implement policy changes that align with the conclusions and suggestions derived from the multisectoral capability assessment. Furthermore, it is recommended to implement public awareness initiatives aimed at enlightening the community regarding the objectives of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, the significance of collaborative efforts across several sectors, and the community's involvement in facilitating the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders.

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