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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PROGRAMS IN REGIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER FOR YOUTH REGION 1

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ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency programs encompass center-based rehabilitation initiatives designed to prevent youth from engaging in criminal or antisocial activities. Effective and preventive rehabilitation programs play a crucial role in mitigating the involvement of children in conflict with the law, which threatens both their personal morality and societal values. This is especially vital amid the increasing social challenges affecting the youth in these trying times. This study assessed the effectiveness of the Juvenile Delinquency Program implemented at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Youth in Region 1. Specifically, it evaluated the program's level of implementation, its effectiveness, and the severity of the problems encountered during its execution. Employing a descriptive survey research design, the study utilized a quantitative approach, with data analysed using weighted mean to measure the program's success and identify key issues. Major findings revealed that while the program is generally well-implemented and effective in addressing the needs of the youth, challenges such as resource limitations, staff capacity, and community reintegration efforts hinder its full potential. These issues underline the need for targeted interventions to enhance program sustainability and outcomes. The study concludes that the Juvenile Delinquency Program is a valuable tool in rehabilitating youth and preventing recidivism, but it requires continuous improvement to address identified challenges effectively.

KEYWORDS: *Juvenile Delinquency, Rehabilitation Program, CICL.*

INTRODUCTION

Crime is a universal phenomenon that spares no demographic, affecting individuals across socioeconomic statuses and age groups, including youth and juveniles. The rising number of young individuals involved in criminal activities has become a significant concern, posing a moral and social challenge for modern societies (Lipsey et al., 2010).

Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers are established to provide a structured environment for the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law (CICL), typically ranging from 15 to 21 years old. These centers serve various purposes, from ensuring community safety during court proceedings to providing treatment programs aimed at addressing the underlying causes of youth delinquency (Puzzanchera et al., 2018).

The Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (RRCY) exemplifies these efforts, offering a residential facility that delivers comprehensive rehabilitation services for male CICLs with suspended sentences. RRCY's holistic approach combines intensive psychological, emotional, and psychosocial interventions within a structured, therapeutic, and home-like environment. Its ultimate goal is to reintegrate rehabilitated individuals into their families and communities, thereby fostering improved social functioning. (Puzzanchera, 2018).

In line with these efforts, educational programs within rehabilitation facilities have also gained prominence. These programs underline the critical role of education in rehabilitation and reintegration, equipping CICLs with the skills and knowledge necessary for societal reintegration. (Sabalza, 2020).

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office 1 further emphasizes RRCY's pivotal role in delivering 24-hour care, treatment, and rehabilitation services under the guidance of trained professionals. Through a well-balanced and structured program of therapeutic and non-formal activities, RRCY nurtures the development of its residents, ultimately aiming for their reintegration into society as responsible and productive individuals. Given the increasing societal importance of juvenile rehabilitation, this study aims to assess the effectiveness of the Juvenile Delinquency Program implemented at RRCY in Region 1. By evaluating its level of implementation, effectiveness, and challenges, this research contributes to the discourse on enhancing juvenile rehabilitation programs and promoting sustainable solutions for addressing juvenile delinquency (Center-based Programs, DSWD FO1).

Juvenile delinquency remains a global challenge, necessitating the development and implementation of effective prevention

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programs (Radic, 2016). Center-based prevention initiatives primarily target males aged 14–17, focusing on curbing alcohol and drug abuse as well as school-related violence. These programs adopt a holistic approach by engaging not only juveniles but also their parents, alongside other stakeholders such as police officers, social workers, educators, and judicial representatives (Radic, 2016, p. 125).

These programs offer full-time supervision, counseling, recreational activities, and community support services. Youth participants attend local schools, engage in family visits, and reside in monitored foster homes or private residences. The programs aim to equip juveniles with life skills and foster positive behavioral changes, facilitating a smoother reintegration into society.

Life skills programs are integral to various youth confinement settings, including juvenile detention centers, correctional facilities, and adult institutions. Facilities prioritizing successful community re-entry often emphasize comprehensive preparation, addressing the behavioural and developmental needs of Child in Conflict with the Law in Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth Region 1 to reduce recidivism and support long-term progress. (Casey, 2014).

This study assess the effectiveness of Juvenile delinquency programs in the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1. Specifically it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of implementation of juvenile delinquency programs in the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1?
2. What is the level of effectiveness of the juvenile delinquency programs in the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1 along the following services;
   2.a. Social Services
   2.b. Home life Services
   2.c. Educational Services
   2.d. Psychological Services
   2.e Health Services
   2.f. Livelihood services
   2.g. Recreational Programs
   2.h. Spiritual Enhancement Program
3. What is the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered in the implementation of juvenile delinquency programs in the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1?

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Juvenile Delinquency Programs are grounded in Deterrence theory (Pratt et al., 2006; Paternoster, 2010), and Preventive theory (Path Legal, 2017), and Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (Sec.44, RA 9344). Juvenile Delinquency programs leverage this principle by providing realistic depictions of incarceration to dissuade at-risk youth from engaging in criminal behaviour

- Deterrence theory posits that the certainty and severity of punishment deter individuals from committing offenses by instilling fear of consequences (Pratt et al., 2006; Paternoster, 2010).
- Preventive theory, this theory highlights prompt and humane interventions, with imprisonment serving as a preventive measure to disable offenders from reoffending (Path Legal, 2017).
- In the Philippine context, Republic Act No. 9344, the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act," aligns with these theories by establishing a child-appropriate system that includes prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs. Section 44 emphasizes the goal of enhancing the social functioning of children in conflict with the law to facilitate their reintegration into families and communities as productive members.

METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a quantitative research using the descriptive survey method in the sense that it determines a certain condition about the implementation, effectiveness and degree of seriousness of the problems encountered in juvenile delinquency programs in the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth Region 1.

Research Locale

The research was conducted at the DSWD Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1. The study involved 22 Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) boys aged 18–21, who were court-mandated to undergo rehabilitation at the facility. Additionally, 22 DSWD administrators and staff members, responsible for implementing and managing the rehabilitation programs, participated in the study. This locale was chosen to provide a comprehensive understanding of the facility's center-based rehabilitation programs from both the beneficiaries' and implementers' perspectives.

Data Measure/ Instruments

The researchers utilized a survey questionnaire as the primary data-gathering tool. Developed with guidance from the RRCY manual and the researcher adviser, the questionnaire was designed to address the study variables and consisted of three parts:

- Level of Implementation – Assessed how the Juvenile Delinquency Programs are implemented at the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1.
- Level of Effectiveness – Measured the programs' impact and success in achieving their objectives.
- Degree of Seriousness – Evaluated the challenges and problems involved in program implementation and its effectiveness.
- The guide questionnaire was validated by a group of experts as to its clarity, objectivity, and usability.

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Data Gathering Procedures (with Ethical Guidelines)

- Participants were informed of the purpose, procedures, and potential benefits of the study before participating. Written consent and waiver was obtained from each respondent.
- A formal request letter was sent to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Regional Office in San Fernando City, La Union.
- The request sought access to data, information, and compliance records in accordance with Memorandum Circular No. 10, Series of 2019.
- The total population of the target respondents, including CICL boys and DSWD staff, was obtained with the assistance of the DSWD regional office and the RRCY administration.
- The researchers ensured the anonymity and confidentiality of the participants throughout the data gathering process.

Data Analysis

- Quantitative Data: Weighted Mean was used to analyze the survey responses, categorizing results into descriptive equivalents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The juvenile delinquency programs at the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1 are effectively implemented and strictly adhered to by both the clients and staff. These programs, which include a variety of center-based interventions and services, have proven to be beneficial in assisting youth offenders with their rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration into society. The structured and disciplined environment within the center ensures that the objectives of the program are consistently met, fostering personal growth and skill development among the youth. Despite some challenges faced during the program's implementation, these issues are promptly addressed, and immediate solutions are applied, ensuring minimal disruption to the rehabilitation process. Overall, the programs are highly effective in achieving their goals of rehabilitation and reintegration, contributing to the long-term success of the youth and benefiting the wider community.

The study on Juvenile Delinquency Programs at the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Region 1 highlights the program's strong adherence to established protocols. Both clients (youth offenders) and staff consistently follow the program's guidelines, ensuring a disciplined and structured environment that supports rehabilitation. The center-based delinquency rehabilitation programs, including various interventions and services, have proven to be highly effective in assisting youth in their development and preparing them for reintegration into society.

Despite encountering some challenges during the program's implementation, the center has shown resilience by promptly addressing and resolving issues as they arise, preventing any major disruptions to the rehabilitation process. This adaptability, combined with the well-structured nature of the programs, ensures that the goals of rehabilitation and reintegration are consistently met. Overall, the juvenile delinquency programs in Region 1 are successfully achieving their objectives, significantly contributing to the personal growth of youth offenders and their reintegration into society.

RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Measures to Improve Juvenile Delinquency Programs in Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth Region I.

Challenge	OBJECTIVES	Proposed solution	Responsible Parties
Limited consistency in daily routines	To address the concerned with the client's development process, knowledge and skills, talent, and consistently guiding and encouraging them in learning from their practices)	Sustain the performance of the clients performance, especially in supervising the clients' activities needs to improve in concerned with the client's development process.	DSWD Administration and Clients
Incomplete coordination of team efforts	To promote social awareness to enhance meaningful behavioral change, increased growth, and satisfaction	Maintain social awareness, significant behavioral change, enhanced growth, and satisfaction, establish clear and consistent house rules, administer sanctions, and discourage wrongdoing, among other things.	DSWD Administration Clients Parents
Limited availability of healthcare professionals	To support Basic needs such as food clothing, shelter and development of values and appropriate social and life skills	Sustain the raise funds, propose budget proposals and solicit donations so that these help raise finances to purchase important resources to support livelihood services	DSWD Administration Clients Parents Government agencies

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Limited resources for learning environment	To address their personal, social, and psychological concerns (individual counseling, group workshops, assessment and consultation).	DSWD administration maintain sponsorship, health agencies, or submit a budget to higher level agencies to meet, fill and provide adequate needs. Clients in their need for psychological and other counseling programs of concern.	DSWD CLIENTS Government agencies Health Professionals Parents
Limited resources for livelihood support	To provide formal and non-formal and special education in preparation for independent living after the youth offender will be discharged from the center.	DSWD administration shall maintain budget proposals and solicit donation so that it will help the financial resources to purchase important resources to support educational program	DSWD Admin Clients Government agencies

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