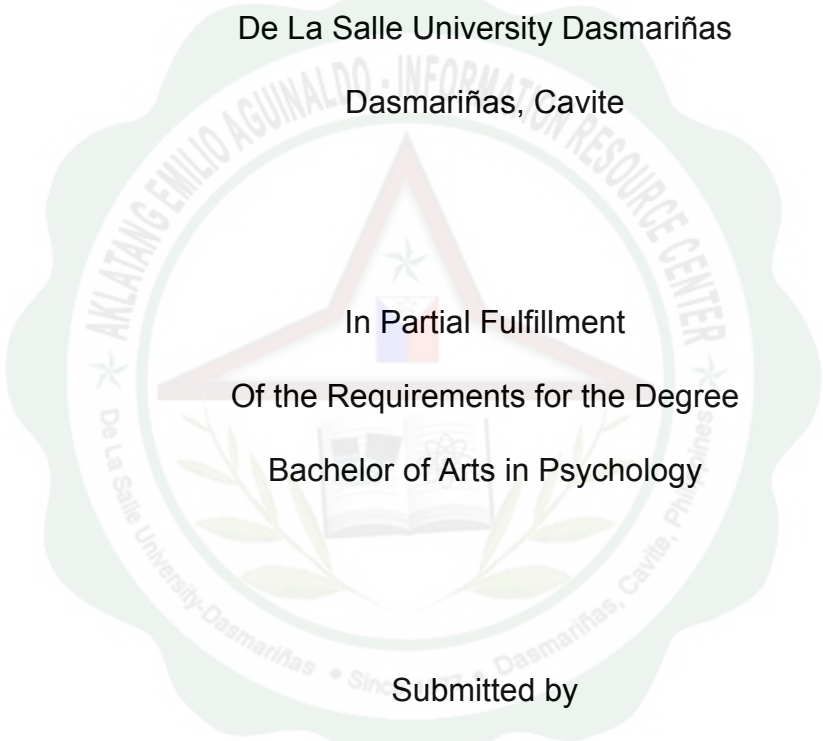


**“Value System of Incarcerated Mothers  
And their Adolescents”**

An Undergraduate Thesis Presented to  
The Faculty of College of Liberal Arts  
De La Salle University Dasmariñas  
Dasmariñas, Cavite



In Partial Fulfillment  
Of the Requirements for the Degree  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Submitted by

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## ABSTRACT

**Name of Institution:** De La Salle University- Dasmariñas

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### **Objectives of the study:**

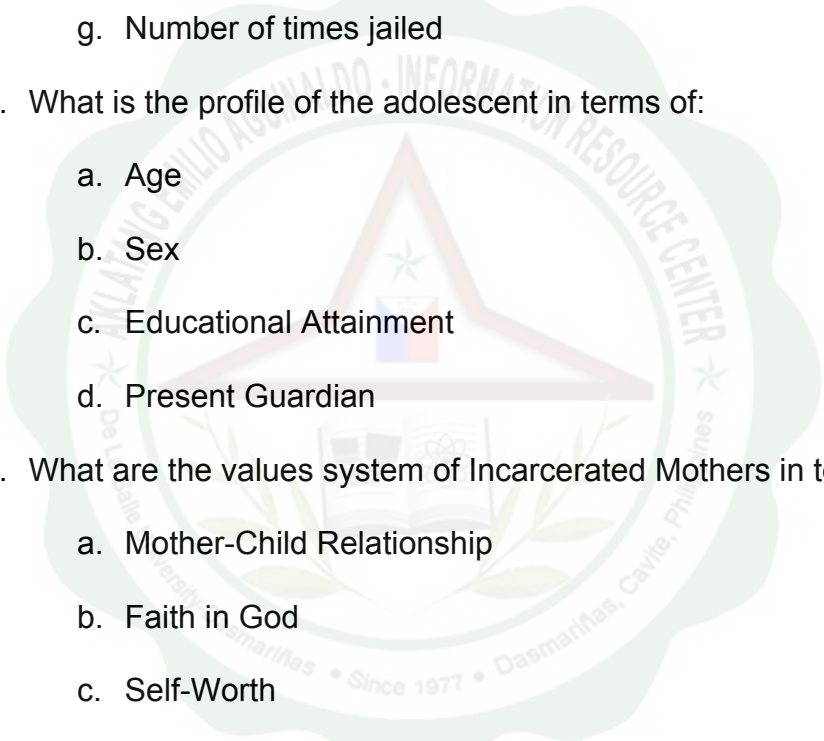
#### A. General

The study aimed to link the value system between and among the incarcerated mothers and their adolescents

#### B. Specific

1. What is the profile of the incarcerated mothers in terms of:

a. Age

- 
- b. Educational Attainment
- c. Marital Status
- d. Economic Status
- e. Number of children
- f. Number of years spent in jailed
- g. Number of times jailed
2. What is the profile of the adolescent in terms of:
- Age
  - Sex
  - Educational Attainment
  - Present Guardian
3. What are the values system of Incarcerated Mothers in terms of:
- Mother-Child Relationship
  - Faith in God
  - Self-Worth
4. What are the values system of the adolescent children of incarcerated mothers in terms of:
- Mother-Child Relationship
  - Faith in God
  - Self-Worth
5. What are the similarities and differences in the value system between and among incarcerated mothers and adolescents children?

## **Scope and Delimitation**

The study focused on the value system of incarcerated mothers from Cavite Provincial Jail Trece Martires Cavite and their adolescent children; however the adolescent children of incarcerated mothers are not detainees. There were six (6) incarcerated mothers and six (6) adolescent children with a total of twelve (12) participants, chosen by the researchers according to the qualification. Originally there should have been twenty (20) respondents, ten (10) from incarcerated mothers and ten (10) from adolescent children; however it happened that the Cavite Provincial Jail can only provide six (6) incarcerated mothers that met the qualification of the researchers according to their demographic profile. Furthermore, both set of participants interviewed by the researchers in accordance to their availability and willingness to participate for the study, since the study used the convenience sampling.

## **Methodology**

The research design used in this study is the qualitative descriptive design which relies on words rather than numbers for the data being collected only focused on self-reports personal narratives, and expression of ideas, memories, feelings, and thoughts (Rennie, Watson, & Monteiro, 2002). Hence, this study focused on the insights and values of the respondents through projective test. This study utilized the convenience sampling in getting the respondents, which is obtained by using any group/individual that happens to be available. The said kind of sampling was used because the

researchers had no control to the respondents and had just relied on their availability and willingness to participate.

### **Respondent of the study**

The study involved ten (10) incarcerated mothers and ten (10) adolescent children; only one adolescent child from each of the incarcerated mothers. The first set of respondents of the study is the detained mothers from the Cavite Provincial Jail in Trece Martires City and they are said to be have stayed in the said institution for about two (2) years and above. Their children that are also part of this research are in their adolescent years and are living outside apart from their incarcerated mothers.

### **Conclusions**

Based from the data collected, the following results have been considered:

1. From the findings on the incarcerated mothers' relationship towards their child, they tend to express only positive feelings and longingness towards their child and it really proves that a mother will always be a good mother to their children in spite of their mistakes they still want the best for their children and hope to rear up their children to be a good person and do not imitate and be like them. On the other hand the adolescent children participants 2, 3, & 5 resulted just like their mothers in which they express only positive feelings and longing towards the mothers. Therefore, even these adolescent children have

their relatives or significant others who took care of them they still acknowledged the good deeds of their mothers and still craving for mothers affection despite of their present situation. While, the adolescent children participants 1, 4, & 6 resulted differently between their mothers which they see mother's fault but accept and tolerate their differences, these children are aware of their mothers' fault and against with what their mothers mistakenly did but still they still accept them and gave another chance to their mothers and the respect to their mother is still there. Their good relationship towards their mother is not totally destroyed even their mother committed mistakes that bring them inside the prison. Having the good relationship of adolescent children towards their incarcerated mothers is not also affected by having their mothers separated from their legal father and for having their new partner. Also having quiet plenty of children does not affect with the relationship of mother to their adolescent children and vice versa. It means that the mothers equally or can still provide each of them an equal affection and in return their adolescent children does not also feel unloved even they have lot of siblings, that is also why they have mutual good relationship to one another. Having a good relationship with both side of participants is also contributing factors that the adolescent children are mostly female which is bonding with the mother-daughter are more compelling or permanent than the bond

between father and child (Andrews, 1989), and despite conflicts and complicated emotion, the mother and daughter bond is so strong. That is why the good relationship between the incarcerated mothers and their adolescent children affirm with one another.

2. As for the findings in the values in terms of faith in God the incarcerated mothers appears to have a high faith in God where all of them give all the praises and glory to God. It also an indication that with this area of values, incarcerated mothers were not also influenced to doubt God or to loose their faith with God inspite of happened to them or for committing mistakes. Rather incarcerated mothers strengthen more their faith with God because of their situation to ask and beg for forgiveness and another chance for them. There is also a high in Faith in God with the adolescent children the findings indicate that they were not also affected by having an incarcerated mother to doubt God or weaken their Faith in God. Additionally a factor that these adolescent children remain with their faith with God is the fact that they are studying which still uplift their faith in God. Also a contributing factor that results with the findings of adolescent children to have a high faith with God is they still believe that God would give their mothers another chance to change and hear their prayers to get their mothers out from the jail.

3. For the self-worth findings of incarcerated mothers it was seen that incarcerated mothers that attained college and high school level turned to be low in their self-worth and for those who just attained elementary appears to have high in self-worth. Actually there were three incarcerated mothers who reached college level, one reached high school and only two just reached elementary. It is actually because the incarcerated mothers who attained further educational attainment really feel the humiliation that does not boost their self-esteem after what happened to them when they were incarcerated, that is why their self-worth results to poor or low on their self-esteem or self-worth. While the other incarcerated mothers who just attained elementary appears to have high values in self-worth, for the reason that they are not that affected of what happened to them as for being incarcerated, it did not actually made them totally in vain compared to those who acquire higher education the moment they were incarcerated. For these educated people, it was a humiliation, failure, and frustration to their selves to think that they are educated people with a case of being drug offenders are also a contributing factor that really hits their pride that made them results from the findings that they have poor or low self-worth. Findings with the self-worth of adolescent children of incarcerated mothers shown that they are high in the values of self-worth. It means that they were not really affected of having



incarcerated mothers as drug offenders; they believe that they can do something to help their mothers to change and to make things that should be right.

4. The value system of incarcerated mothers have high or it results positively in the relationship towards their child and as well as to their values of faith in God. Only in the area of self-worth of the incarcerated mothers where as they result differently, in which the incarcerated mothers participants 2 & 4 are high in self-worth and participants 1, 3, 5, & 6 has a low or poor in their self-worth. It is an indication that those incarcerated mothers with have a consistency positive value system is not actually affected in regards to their present situation. On the other hand the incarcerated mothers who are only have a low value system in the area of their self-worth, it means that they were affected to their situation as being incarcerated and it was actually observe also to their responses on the Sentence Completion Test. Value system of adolescent children of incarcerated mothers are majority high in each three areas such as with the relationship between adolescents children and their incarcerated mothers, faith in God and self-worth. Therefore it is an indication that despite of their real situation as having incarcerated mothers their value system are not actually affected; in fact they still have their positive value system based form the findings. Contributing factors that made the adolescent children appears to have

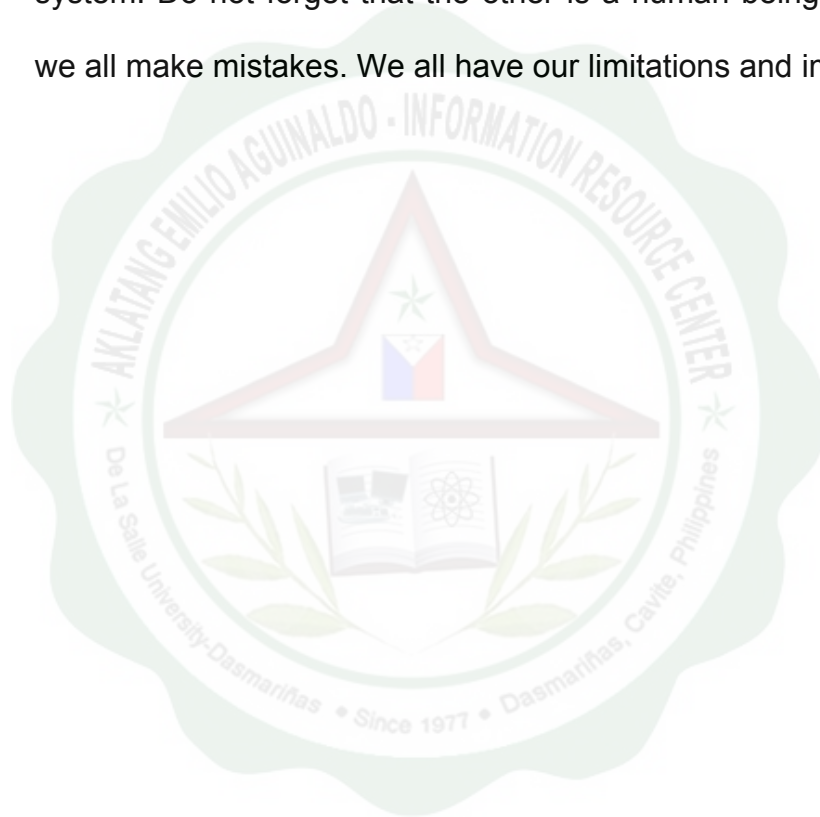
a high in value system is with the help of teachings in schools of having a good value system. Their educational attainment really played a big part to maintain the positive value system of these adolescent children of incarcerated mothers.

### **Recommendations**

In the light of the various findings and conclusions the following are recommended:

1. **Incarcerated People / Children with Incarcerated Parents** - The study has shown the relationship of value system of incarcerated mothers and their adolescent children in terms of relationship of mothers and their child and child to their mothers, faith in God and to their self-worth. Each individual must be responsible for himself on how they would maintain positive values in spite of their unwanted situation.
2. **Institutions (Municipal, Provincial, City and National)** - Jail Institutions should provide teachings/lecture programs, inside the jail/prison that would maintain or uplift the positive value system of incarcerated individuals not just the mothers. They still have the right to have good value system even they commit mistakes. Through this regular lectures this could make them realize to change for better.
3. **Future Researchers** - Further research with the same subject or topic can be conducted also to other settings to verify, amplify or negate the findings of the study.

4. **People** - Those who would correct, rehabilitate educate or otherwise help incarcerated mothers and their adolescent children needs to first understand them and don't discriminate them. Continued delinquent behavior apparently has a negative impact upon the individual's value system. Do not forget that the other is a human being and remember we all make mistakes. We all have our limitations and imperfections.



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