



ABSTRACT

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Title: **Program Enhancement for Street Children in Selected Provinces of Southern Tagalog Region, Philippines**
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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The study ventured to enhance appropriate programs of the organizations involved with street children in selected provinces of Southern Tagalog Region, Philippines.

Specifically, this study answered the following questions:

1. What is the profile of organizations in the Southern Tagalog Region (STR) working with street children as to the following:
 - 1.1 Date of establishment;
 - 1.2 Type of the organization;



- 1.3 Accreditation with the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD);
 - 1.4 Number of street children served;
 - 1.5 Age of street children served;
 - 1.6 Number of personnel employed; and
 - 1.7 Number of volunteers?
2. What are the various programs/services of the said organizations in the areas of:
- 2.1 Health;
 - 2.2 Education;
 - 2.3 Livelihood;
 - 2.4 Psychosocial program; and
 - 2.5 Spiritual program?
3. What is the perception of the street children as to the different programs/services provided by organizations with regard to:
- 3.1 Health;
 - 3.2 Education;
 - 3.3 Livelihood;
 - 3.4 Psychosocial program; and
 - 3.5 Spiritual program?



4. What are the mechanics of coordination in the implementation of programs/services for street children in selected provinces of the region in the areas of:

- 4.1 Administration;
- 4.2 Budget, funding sources and resource generation;
- 4.3 Hiring, training and developing professionalism to street educators or community workers;
- 4.4 Law enforcement and other government policies;
- 4.5 Response and monitoring mechanisms; and
- 4.6 Management of information and data system?

5. Based on the assessment, what are the appropriate programs to be enhanced for the street children in the selected provinces of Southern Tagalog Region, Philippines?

SCOPE AND COVERAGE:

This study covered eight Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and a Local Government Unit (LGU) working with street children in Southern Tagalog Region, Philippines, namely: (a) The Salvation Army, Joyville Children’s Home in Tanay, Rizal, (b) Bukid Kabataan Center in General Trias, Cavite, (c) Mission to the World-Ang Bahay Parola 2 in San Pedro, Laguna, (d) Felicisimo-Aurora Bahay Kalinga, Inc. in Baras, Rizal, (e) Stairway Foundation, Inc., in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro,



(f) Batangas Reception and Action Center in Capitol Site, Batangas City, (g) St. Martin de Porres Street Children Home, Inc. in San Pablo City, Laguna, (h) Virlanie Foundation, Inc. (Buhay Kalikasan Project) in Balayan, Batangas, and (i) Mission to the World-Ang Bahay Parola 3 in Molino 2, Bacoor, Cavite. This study included nine (9) heads/coordinators of the organizations, 95 street children and 25 employed personnel respondents.

METHODOLOGY:

The study used the descriptive qualitative research design. It made use of self-made survey questionnaires for the profile of organizations involved with street children, services/programs rendered by the organizations, perception of the street children on the different services/programs provided by the organizations, and perception of NGO/LGU personnel on the needs/problems of the street children's programs in the organization. The statistical methods applied were mean and percentage.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

1. Profile of Organizations Working with Street Children in the Selected Provinces of Southern Tagalog Region

1.1 Date of establishment. There are nine identified organizations working with the street children in selected provinces of



Southern Tagalog Region. The earliest established organization was in 1986 and the latest to be organized was in 2003.

1.2 Type of the organization. The types of the organizations of the nine identified organizations concerned with street children in selected provinces of Southern Tagalog Region are Local Government Unit (LGU) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

1.3 Accreditation with the DSWD. Most of the organizations working with street children are accredited by the DSWD.

1.4 Number of street children served. The total number of street children being served by the nine identified organizations is 313.

1.5 Age of street children served. The youngest age of street children being served is six years old while the oldest age is 22 years old.

1.6 Number of personnel employed. A total of 62 personnel are being employed by the organizations.

1.7 Number of volunteers. A total of 32 volunteers serve the street children in the nine organizations. Both professionals and students are working with street children.

2. The Services in the Programs Offered by the Organizations Working with Street Children in Selected Provinces of STR



2.1 Health Program. The Health Program services given by the nine organizations are proper nutrition awareness; good grooming practices; proper hygiene; dental check-up; and avoiding bad vices.

2.2 Education Program. In Education Program services, only the rights of children are focused on by all the identified nine organizations.

2.3 Livelihood Program. There are seven organizations give gardening service in Livelihood Program.

2.4 Psychosocial Program. The given Psychosocial Program services are human/value formation program; peer interaction; educational tour; counseling; and assessment/diagnosis of each child.

2.5 Spiritual Program. In terms of services in Spiritual Program, personal prayers and bible study and sharing are given by the eight identified organizations.

3. The Perception of the Street Children on the Different Programs/Services Provided by the Respondent Organizations

3.1 The street children perceived the services in Health Program of the organizations as very satisfactory with a computed mean of 3.85.

3.2 The perception of the street children on the services in Education Program is satisfactory with a computed mean of 3.42.

3.3 The street children perceived the services in Livelihood Program as fair with a computed mean of 2.24.



3.4 The perception of the street children on the Psychosocial Services is very satisfactory with a computed mean of 3.72.

3.5 The perception of the street children on the Spiritual Services is very satisfactory with a computed mean of 3.65.

The general perception of the street children served by the institutions in health, education, livelihood psychosocial, and spiritual services is satisfactory with a computed mean of 3.38.

4. The Mechanics of Coordination on the Implementation of Programs for Street Children

4.1 Administration. The management style most suitable in coordinating with other organizations involved with street children is networking.

4.2 Budget, Funding Sources and Resources Generation. The work of the organizations could be realized through the funding coming from individual donors, churches, friends of the organizations and foreign sponsors, and other organizations dealing with street children.

4.3 Hiring, Training and Developing Professionalism. Hiring efficient and effective personnel who can manage the center and trained staff in dealing with the street children is necessary.

4.4 Law Enforcement and Other Government Policies. As part of Street Education Strategy concerning the street children courtesy calls to



the local DSWD have to be undertaken. The policemen, traffic enforcers, and barangay chairpersons were among the government personnel being informed.

4.5 Response and Monitoring Mechanism. To monitor the existence of the street children, the organizations approach the local authorities, municipal DSWD, and the barangay office.

4.6 Management of Information and Data System. Information gathered by the organizations about the street children are through referrals or recommendations from DSWD, Municipal Mayor, co-pastor/officers, and other concerned citizens.

5. Based on the assessment, the appropriate programs/services to be enhanced for the street children in selected provinces of Southern Tagalog Region, Philippines are the following:

- o In Health Program, the services for drug rehabilitation and common communicable diseases are to be enhanced.
- o In Education Program, electrical training, computer literacy, non-formal education, courtship/dating education, ecology, vocational studies, and agri-business training services need to be enhanced.
- o In Livelihood Program, the gardening activity is the only one to be continued while the other services need to be enhanced.



- In Psychosocial Program, the music therapy service is the only service that needs to be enhanced.
- In Spiritual Program, the daily Holy Rosary, religious-related seminars, and religious pilgrimage are to be carried out.

Conclusions

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

1. The nine identified organizations working with street children in selected provinces of Southern Tagalog Region started responding to the needs of the street children since 1986, and almost all of the established organizations are accredited by the DSWD. Sixty-two (62) employed personnel plus other personnel hired with 32 volunteers both professionals and students are working with street children.

2. In Health Program, all the services are given by all organizations while in Education Program, only rights of children were given attention. In Livelihood Program, all organization provided gardening service. In Psychosocial Program, almost all services were given except for the social situation awareness. The services in Spiritual Program, personal prayers and bible study and sharing are given by eight organizations.

3. Health Program is perceived by street children as very satisfactory. Education Program is perceived as satisfactory. Livelihood



Program, fair. Psychosocial Program, very satisfactory, and Spiritual Program, very satisfactory. The general perception of the street children on the programs and services given by the organizations is satisfactory.

4. In the mechanics of coordination on the implementation of programs, networking is the most suitable management style in coordinating with other organizations involved with street children. Funding comes from individual donors, churches, friends of the organizations and foreign sponsors, and other organizations dealing with street children. Hiring efficient and effective personnel who can manage the center and trained staff in dealing with the street children is necessary. Courtesy calls to the local DSWD have to be undertaken. The information about the street children are known through media reports and organizational meetings for street children organizations. The information about the street children are gathered from referrals from DSWD and other concerned citizens.

5. In Health Program, the appropriate programs/services to be enhanced for the street children are drug rehabilitation and common communicable diseases. In Education Program, the programs to be enhanced are electrical training, computer literacy, non-formal, courtship/dating education, ecology, vocational/furniture studies, and agri-business training. In Livelihood Program, candies vending, pottery, candle,



basket, stationery and doormat making, simple accounting/book keeping, painting, rosary and card making has to be improved. In Psychosocial Program, music therapy is to be enhanced while in Spiritual Program are the daily Holy Rosary, religious-related seminars, and religious pilgrimage.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

1. the DSWD must assess constantly the motivation in founding an organization for street children. Encouragement for the organizations to be authentic and genuine in serving the clientele must be inculcated.
2. an accredited organization must be opened in welcoming desirous volunteers in serving the street children as there is a constant increase of street children to be attended to.
3. in terms of the psychological needs of street children, a professional psychologist must be employed for the total rehabilitation and recovery of the clientele. Attention on the awareness of AIDS/HIV, drug rehabilitation, common communicable disease, STDs (Sexually Transmitted Disease), pulmonary prevention, and gender sensitivity is also necessary in order that the basic health needs of the children are well provided.
4. it is so meaningful in the life of the street children if personal prayer and bible study and sharing were practiced continuously to develop



open-mindedness for the exploration of one's faith.

5. the NGOs and LGUs need to strengthen their alliance and increase venues for linkages and sharing of resources.

6. the comments of the personnel employed must be taken as one of the best ways to improve the service to the street children.

