

ABSTRACT

Child poverty is a prevalent issue in the Philippines despite its growing economy; thus, poor children go to the streets and beg for alms to survive and provide for their families. The Anti-Mendicancy Law was implemented to control and eventually eradicate widespread street begging in the Philippines. However, one of the known first-class cities in the Greater Manila Area, Dasmariñas City in Cavite province, experiences economic development but still has existing problems of child begging. This study analyzed the effectiveness of the policy implementation in Dasmariñas City in the perspective of the Local Government Unit (LGU), Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs), and former child beggars. By using statements from selected respondents and narrative analysis and document analysis for the data gathered, it has been realized that the government provides programs and services to address the problem, nonetheless insufficient to cause long-term development to the children at risk on the street and their families. It is also discovered that there is an ignorance on the part of the law enforcement unit on the issue, and an unconscious child abuse within the facilities of the local government that is caused by the biases of the workers towards the children. The study recommends to further improve the implementation of the Anti-Mendicancy Law in Dasmariñas City by stressing that child poverty and child mendicancy is a serious problem in the city and to improve their approach when dealing with the children at risk. Future researchers should further investigate the everyday situation of children in the shelters of the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and the habilitative programs of the agency on the impact of the lives of the children at risk on the streets and their families.

Keywords: Child Exploitation, Child Abuse, Child Beggars, Dasmariñas City