



COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN: AN ASSESSMENT

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ABSTRACT

The BCPC was established to establish order and social protection within the community with a focus on children. However, there are still numerous problems despite its legal structure. The objectives of this research were to ascertain the adherence level to BCPC's activities at Barangay A, assess the implementation of BCPC policies, find out issues faced during implementation, and suggest a program design to address these challenges. For this study, a descriptive research design was used along with an adapted questionnaire from DSWD. The respondents of the study include women and child protection desks (WCPD), social workers, PNP officers, barangay officials as well as other stakeholders in Daraga Albay Province. From what has been studied so far it can be deduced that BCPC functions are generally observed and policies implemented although there are some barriers associated with them. Therefore, this calls for programming initiatives like workshops geared towards improving the implementation of BCPC as well as dealing with the identified shortcomings.

Keywords: *Community Council, Adherence, Implementation, Hindrances*

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INTRODUCTION

According to the Council of Europe, Child Protection is a regional driver in promoting a culture of zero tolerance of any form of violence against children underlined by the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The Children's Rights Division and the PACE, jointly with Wilton Park, organized an international assembly in protecting children from violence. The occurrence brought together 50 parliamentarians and senior stakeholders from local to international level in 18 countries to ventilate the strategic focus of actions needed to protect children from violence. In addition to taking stock of advances made in combating violence against children in the past 10 years and compensation of challenges ahead, discussions included the extensive spectrum of the Organization's actions in the area It also bear the identification of eminent challenges, opportunities and the strategic focus of else actions to make fast the implementation of pledge at state level. The Council of Europe has developed close synergies and co-operation at global level. The Organization supports in many ways the high time spearhead to end violence against children, which offers at global level one tribune for governments, organizations, institutions, children and adults to reveal their pledge to children's liberty from violence and support initiatives to preclude and respond to violence (Stanley, 2017).

Due to the increasing number of children exposed to child abuse and neglect, both the private and non-government sector of Australia, together with the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing, implemented a wide-range national approach. It aims to protect Australian children from abuse and neglect. The National Framework of Australia outlines an aiming long term national approach to specify the safety and well-being of Australian children. Further, it aims is to serve a genuine and persistent response in levels of child abuse and neglect over time. It has crafted National Framework with series of action plans. The four key antecedence of the Fourth Action Plan are: (1) to regulate development for native and Torres Strait Islander children who are at risk of entering or in contact with child protection systems, (2) improve prevention and early intervention through link service outline and interest, (3)

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improve outcomes for homeless children by increase placement firmness through reunification and other permanent care options, and (4) improve organizations' power to keep children and young people safe from abuse (Australian Government and Department of Social Services, 2018). ISABELA CITY, Basilan, Jan 30 (PIA)-- The Isabela City Council for the Protection of Children (CCPC) is figuring better child protection programs for 2019 in order to maintain the Ideal level of functionality.

The pressure is high for the community to sustain all activities especially in generating support from various organizations and institutions directly implementing programs for children, like the social welfare department, Child Fund Philippines, the Department of Education, labor department, and the city police office, among others.

During the recent meeting, Arnel Alvarez of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) reminded the council to create a task force that would monitor the functionality of the Community Committee for the Protection of Children (BCPC).

To fully evaluate the functions of BCPC, Child Fund Philippines suggested that the task force must seriously look into the different programs and activities implemented as well as to document how the BCPC responds to current issues affecting children in their communities.

Aside from checking on the community commitment on the welfare of children, the council also looks to increasing the documentation and formulation of policies on child survival, development, protection, and participation, and to submit the same for resolution to the Sangguniang Panlungsod. It is also gathering documents and accomplishment reports for the upcoming assessment in April, this year (Philippine Information Policy, 2019). In cooperation with DILG and other authorities concerned, the City of Iloilo, organized a some workshops for the BCPC. In cooperation with the authorities involved, the workshops seek to enhance the function of BCPCs in addressing the necessities of Children in Conflict with the Law and Children at Risk cases in all stages. In the community level, the council members are guided on how to respond and to manage cases. They are also taught on manage the one

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percent allocated fund of the community for the full implementation and full usage of budget intended for programs, projects and activities of children. Nevertheless, there are communities that do not know how to operate their funds. The activity also serves as venue to inform the community level on related policies. With this, they would like to institutionalize reporting and management mechanisms to focus on initiatives of local communities. According to the Ms. Gizon, the focal person of Child and Youth Welfare Program of the City Social Welfare and Development, the role of the BCPC is significant since there are cases involving children in the city. She agreed that the role of the BCPC is significant since there are cases involving children in the city. The Iloilo City BCPC is composed of the Community Chairman, chairman of the Committees on Health, Education and Family, Community Secretary, a child representative and concerned government agencies. (Lena,2018) The local government of Magallanes manage a seminar workshop on ratification and capability building, chaired by Hon. Mayor Augusto Manuel M. Rragio. The said activity aims to enhance the technical assistance and functionality of the BCPC. The discussions focused on the presentation of the situational analysis of children phase thru the Comprehensive Local Juvenile Intervention Program re-orientation of RA 9344 and the roles and responsibilities of BCPC. The BCPC members were facilitated in making their situational analysis of children in their own barangay as well as in making their development investment plan for children. Meanwhile, school heads and teachers in charge and coordinators of schools' Child Protection Committee was involved for the same cause such as a meeting-dialogue on Strengthening Linkages and Coordination System towards the goal of achieving a child-friendly municipality of Magayagayang Magallanes (Ortega, 2019).Market Area Poblacion, formerly Dist. 1, is a community in the municipality of Daraga, in the province of Albay. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 2,681. This represented 2.12% of the total population of Daraga. Combining age groups together, those aged 14 andbelow, consisting of the the young dependent population which include infants/babies, children and young adolescents/teenagers, make up an aggregate of 27.64% (741). Those aged 15 up to 64, roughly, the economically active population and actual or potential members of the work force, constitute a total of 66.54% (1,784). Finally, old

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dependent population consisting of the senior citizens, those aged 65 and over, total 5.82% (156) in all (PhilAtlas, 2021).

In the present situation, Market site has juveniles commonly involve in crime. Mostly are simple crime but needs to be given such intervention and monitoring. Parents are called by the MSWD since the total custody are in their hands. According to the MSWD there are a lot of problems and hindrances in term on the implementation of said BCPC that affects the delivery mode of functions. This was the reason for the researcher to study and assess the implementation of BCPC in Market Site Daraga Albay.

Routine Activity Theory believes that crime is committed due to the presence of opportunity and not because a person is experienced in criminal activities. According to Miller (2004), opportunity for crimes emerge if the target is unguarded or vulnerable. Hence, the increasing number of unguarded properties or homes, the growing number of susceptible targets and possibilities of direct contact between the target and offenders increase the chance of crime opportunities. The mentioned environment and situation decrease the capable guardians in preventing criminal activities.

Another theory that this study considered is the Systems Theory. The theory helps in understanding the components and dynamics of clients to effectively interpret the problems. It provides organizing conceptual model for understanding events that aims to develop balanced intervention strategies. It is an organizational theory that looks at interactions between systems (ResearchGate, 2017)

The System Theory represents the BCPC wherein this should develop a balance intervention strategy in the community. Children in conflict with the law will be protected and will help to develop in a positive way and will be accepted by the 15 community if all the functions of BCPC are successfully implemented and fully acted. System theory guides in developing balanced intervention. Children who are not being protected because of absence of capable guardian are the suitable target. If these program of BCPC will be fully implemented

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and all the hindrances will be addressed, children will be protected, becomes productive and enjoy their childhood. No children will live miserable. Instead of fear, chaos, hunger and malnutrition they will live happy. As they grow, these programs and advocacies will be their guide to share with others. System Theory is covered by the Routine Activity Theory to prevent, develop and enhance the ability of parents to guide their children in times of conflict.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher's used the descriptive research design. The respondents of the study came up with 8 Community officials, 2 social workers, 15 from PNP Women's desk, and 50 stake holders. Instrument used was an adopted questionnaire from the DSWD Manual. The survey questionnaire has four parts. The first part is about determining the level of adherence on the functions of BCPC in Community A, Daraga, Albay. The second part is the evaluation of the implemented BCPC policy followed by the third part which is examining the hindrances or the issues encountered. The fourth and last part is soliciting suggestions from the respondents to address the perceived problem. A 4-point Likert's scale was used to determine adherence of functions and implementation of BCPC. Simple statistical tool was utilized such as frequency count, percentage, weighted mean and ranking were used.

The research locale in the study is Community A of Daraga, Albay. The researchers first sought approval to conduct the study in the site. After the permission was granted, the researchers conducted a visit to the Municipal Social Welfare Development Office, Women and Children Protection Desk, Community Officials and distributed informed consent forms to the target respondents. The significance of their participation and their rights as respondents were explained. As part of ethical consideration, confidentiality of responses was kept. Preliminary interviews were conducted regarding the Community Council for the Protection of Children in effect to the Community.

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The researchers used the weighted mean and ranking to describe the data set. It was used to answer the first and second research objectives such as determining the level of adherence of BCPC and the implementation of the BCPC policy in the community, respectively.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Level of adherence of BCPC in Barangay A. Daraga, Albay

Adherence of community council for the welfare of children must lead to development of systems and mechanisms that could safeguard all children in the long run as well as strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to protect children.

Based on the result there were 2 functions that were very much adhered. These are (1) ensuring the delivery of the basic service for children specially on health and nutrition, early education and psychological programs for children 0-6 years old and monitoring situational report on children, prepare quarterly updates. This implies that the BCPC has a strong compliance with regards to their function but it is perceived that they are not following fully the mandated function. These particular functions are very important to give full support not only physically but psychologically healthy for children. Proper interventions and monitoring will able to lessen such problem that may 23 affect the growing of children. According to Yinka Awobo Pearse learning is also artistic a child adopts the language, customs and manner of living. Education is interlinked with culture, Learning is intellectual; the brain flourished and figure understanding before adjustment and concept happens. When the children in early childhood they will learn through interactions with the environment, intelligent adults, teachers, parents who respect their uniqueness, invigorate, uplift and challenge them in suitable ways that will support their natural development. It takes everyone playing their role for learning to occur. Home and environment must support the children's natural disposition for movement, language development and freedom of independence. The teacher must also use his/her knowledge of child progress to support each child in the classroom and in this way the child will learn (Pearse, 2019).

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In general, much adhered is the result in level of adherence. Based on these result it must be improved and prioritize because health, nutrition, education psychosocial programs need to provide proper plan and advice in terms of proper nutrition given to the child and proper education needed by the child. The community should have a project that there must be playgrounds for the wholesome entertainment of children. Since this will help to develop children's learning and also if they will interact to other children their confidence to be sociable will enhance and it makes them active to participate to the programs of BCPC.

2. The implementation of the BCPC policy in Community A, Daraga, Albay

Based on the responses of the four respondent, as result of this survey, the researchers selected five (5) most implemented policy and these are: (1) ensuring the delivery of basic services for the children (health and nutrition, early education and psychosocial programs, children 0-6-year-old) ;(2) performing child related law especially (child and parent education, health and entertainment); (3) protecting and assisting the children in need of special protection, and refer case filed against child abusers; (4) advocating for the passage for the child related resolutions/ordinances and executive agenda and (5) conduct capability building projects such as establishment and maintenance play grounds, day care centers and other 27 child and youth development facilities. This implies that the BCPC in community A, has adequate compliance with regards to their implementation but are not fully following the mandated implementation.

Parenting education is very important to impart by the DSWD. This will help parents to be educated on rearing good attitude and moral aspect of children. Warmth and comfort by the parents to their children can become a positive healthy relationship. Saint Joseph Parenting Center provides free parenting education and support for parents of at-risk families in a community-based group setting. The center's task is to toughen families who are at risk of neglecting or abusing their children through parenting education. The center targets to equip parents through education to change unwholesome parenting patterns, instead, nurture healthy ones in an effort to decrease the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect. It

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encourages responsible fatherhood and positive outcomes for their children. It is essential to recognize the risk factors that put individuals at risk of abandoning or abusing their children. By identifying common risk factors, early mediations can be implemented with at-risk residents in an effort to prevent child maltreatment before it becomes an issue for that family (O'Rourke, 2014)

Alternative learning gives delinquent children a second chance. They are encouraged to participate in the department education's alternative learning system. This will lessen turning away children in conflict with the law but instead give them a right direction and perspective. In cases where delinquent children are taken into custody or detained in rehabilitation centers, they should be provided by the opportunity to continue learning under an alternative system. (Cabildo, 2016). They ascertain the basic health services provided that they are able to practice proper hygiene and child friendly sanitation and hygiene facilities. They are given age appropriate learning materials and constantly improving by the teachers' guidance. This includes precise health nutrition, information and train teachers on developing them. They are provided with protective environment for children to learn and play. Services and transmissions are funded to insure uninterrupted learning at all times including psychosocial support and building a flourishing environment towards the attainment of child's holistic development. Teachers are being capacitated to call for policies and programs and use services to respond several interests and needs of children in every stage of development (Forsyth, 2016).

3. Hindrances or the issues encountered by BCPC in Community A, on the implementation on the said policy

The most common encountered problems of the BCPC policy that got ranked 1 is the Uncooperative parents on learning opportunities on positive parent child relationship because some parents are scared to attend seminars about parenting 31 education or cooperating in

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every learning opportunity given to them, lack of education, knowledge understanding regarding on learning opportunities offered to them. The other reason they prioritize working or other thing that they think must better important than attending or cooperating that the said function. This implies that parents are not properly giving their care and supervision over the welfare of their children. It is the moral responsibility of a parent to look after the welfare of their children. It seems that majority of parents are neglected to their family, moral and social obligation over their children.

Positive relationship between the parent and child is important because it nurtures the holistic development of the child. It is irreplaceable bond that every child and parent can enjoy and nurture.

The relationship between parent, family and child is awfully important because the closeness of the parent-child linking throughout life results from how much parents connect with their babies, right from the beginning. Warmth and comfort in parenting can lead to a supportive child who is well developed social and emotionally (<http://internationalcreativeconsulting.com>, 2017) .

Indeed, positive parent-child relationship further results to positive outcomes. Lack of resolution ordinance that is responsive to child related issues and concerns is the least in terms to the problems encountered by the BCPC. This implies that there are some resolutions/ordinance concerning child related issue but because of Community officials in this institution they will provided an effort to actualize their duties in the community. Support of government is vital in the success of BCPC policy through comprehensive resolution or ordinance to address concerns that needs immediate attention for the protections of juvenile delinquency

4. Proposed Program to Addressed the Problem

The buoyant neighborhood of New Community Council for the Protection of Children arranged recently, a very stimulating series of talks meant to strengthen parents and protect

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their children’s future. The program consisted of comprehensive sessions on Parenting Education, Juvenile Delinquency Prevention, Health Education, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programs. Each session sought to address different issues regarding child welfare: ranging from good parenting practices and healthy lifestyles to citizenry as well as economic self-reliance. By making substantial investments in each sector, this was aimed at ensuring that parents acquired theoretical understanding and practical skills essential for maintaining safe homes.

CONCLUSIONS

Community A in Daraga, Albay has mainly followed the child protection initiatives that have shown a strong desire to watch over and follow up. Nevertheless, there are difficulties in saving vulnerable children as well as including parents. The major setback is when parents fail to cooperate positively with their children hence reducing the efficacy of community programs. Past efforts at addressing these challenges have included parent education programs and livelihood support aimed at improving family welfare. Henceforth, extensive educational campaigns stressing the importance of education for all and increased government assistance would be necessary for the realization of child welfare goals and effectiveness in wider program terms.

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