



ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY: BASIS FOR INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes juvenile delinquency in the province of Albay, focusing on Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco City. The objectives include assessing the status of juvenile delinquency through case numbers, types of crimes, and case statuses; analyzing contributory factors (personal, family, economic, and social); identifying intervention programs by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO); and proposing a new intervention program. A qualitative research design with thematic analysis was adopted, using semi-structured guides and open-ended questions. The purposive sampling technique selected ten participants from the PNP-WCPD and CSWDO, directly responsible for juvenile cases. Findings show that from 2019 to 2023, Legazpi had the highest number of juvenile cases (269), followed by Ligao (87) and Tabaco (65). The most common crimes included physical injury, theft, shoplifting, reckless imprudence, rape, and sexual molestation. The case statuses were cleared, amicably solved, settled, or dismissed due to no criminal liability. Contributory factors included misguided minors, mental health issues, substance use, poor academic performance, and impulsive decision-making. Family-related factors involved disconnected relationships, parental conflict, neglect, and poor parenting. Economic factors such as poverty and lack of opportunities were significant, as were social factors like peer pressure and social media. The study proposes the "Harmony in Albay: Crafting Futures, Breaking Chains" program, which includes early intervention, community engagement, education, family support, restorative justice, and mental health services.

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Keywords: *Juvenile Delinquency, Contributing factors, Intervention programs, Philippine National Police, City Social Welfare and Development Office*

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon, and interest in comparative studies of juvenile offending and society's reaction to it has been steadily growing, despite the inherent difficulties of comparing juvenile justice processes across different continents. Globally, juvenile delinquency affects communities and is a serious issue that crosses national borders (Neissl & Singer, 2020).

According to the North Carolina Courts, juveniles are defined as everyone under eighteen. This phrase may be defined more broadly in some states or more narrowly in others. A minor is a juvenile; a child who commits an offense that would be considered a criminal if done by an adult and is at least six but under eighteen is regarded as a "delinquent juvenile" (Chughtai et.al 2023).

(CNN,2023) details a troubling case in Las Vegas where eight youths, ages 13 to 17, are accused of killing 17-year-old Jonathan Lewis by beating him brutally; the incident appears to have been related to stolen headphones and a vape pen.

In recent statistics in the USA, it has been found that the crimes committed by persons under 18 years old are getting at high risk, and juvenile delinquency is an ongoing social issue in most of the countries around the world (Young & Giller, 2021).

According to the United Nations Children's Foundation (UNICEF), there has been an increase in the number of juvenile crimes in the Philippines, with over 50,000 young Filipinos arrested for crimes such as robbery, theft, solvent misuse, and murder being the most common (Estoro, 2023).

Juvenile delinquency poses as a societal challenge that needs to be taken action and develop effective prevention and intervention strategies (Sanchez, 2020). Thus, this study

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aims to explore the ongoing issue of juvenile delinquency in Ligao City, Legazpi, City, and Tabaco City, and understand the reasons why the cases of juvenile delinquency in the areas mentioned above continuously rise up despite the efforts to prevent such actions. This study also seeks to identify the current intervention programs run by agencies such as the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), focusing on whether these efforts adequately address the personal, familial, economic, and social factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency in these cities in Albay. Forever, this study aims to propose an intervention program that will be able to support the existing efforts of the inter-agency departments that are combatting juvenile delinquency.

The complexity of juvenile delinquency as a societal challenge necessitates a localized and comprehensive examination to develop effective prevention and intervention strategies (Sanchez, 2020). This study aims to explore the ongoing issue of juvenile delinquency in Ligao City, Legazpi City, and Tabaco City, examining why young people in these areas continue to engage in criminal or harmful behaviors despite efforts to prevent such actions. Year after year, cases of juvenile delinquency persist, with records showing incidents from 2019 to 2023, raising concerns about whether current government interventions are sufficient. The alarming rise in juvenile offenses, including physical injury, theft, shoplifting, reckless imprudence, rape, and sexual molestation, highlights a troubling trend that poses significant risks to both individuals and the broader community. This situation concerns the researcher, who worries that without effective intervention, the youth we hope to nurture may instead contribute to an increasingly chaotic future. This study seeks to identify the current intervention programs run by agencies such as the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), focusing on whether these efforts adequately address the personal, familial, economic, and social factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency in these cities in Albay.

In addition to understanding why juvenile delinquency persists, this research aims to propose an intervention program that not only prevents delinquency but also supports and strengthens the existing efforts of the PNP, CSWDO, and other agencies in Ligao City, Legazpi

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City, and Tabaco City. The study will advocate for a collaborative approach, calling on stakeholders such as the PNP-WCPD, CSWDO, barangay officials, local communities, schools, LGUs, and other partners to work together. By fostering this united collaboration, the program can gain greater support and effectiveness, offering a stronger, more comprehensive response to the complex issue of juvenile delinquency across these key areas in the province of Albay.

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to analyze juvenile delinquency in the province of Albay. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions: (1) To determine the status of juvenile delinquency in Albay by examining the number of cases from 2019 to 2023, the types of crimes committed, and the case statuses. (2) To analyze the contributory factors of juvenile delinquency, focusing on the personal, family, economic, and social aspects that may influence the behavior of young individuals in Albay. (3) To identify the intervention programs implemented by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) in addressing juvenile delinquency in the region. (4) To propose a comprehensive intervention program aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency in Albay, based on the findings and gaps identified in the current programs and services available to youth at risk.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employed a qualitative research design utilizing thematic analysis that provided an in-depth understanding of juvenile delinquency in the Province of Albay. Qualitative research is characterized by its focus on understanding phenomena in their natural settings and interpreting them through the meanings people bring to them (Korstjens & Moser, 2018).

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This design was chosen to investigate the complex and contextual nature of juvenile delinquency in Albay. This allowed the researcher to get a good look at the importance of the similarities and differences of the participants. Thus, it enhanced the study by revealing underlying themes and variations within the narratives, providing a deeper understanding of commonalities and differences across participants.

Research Instrument

This study utilized semi-structured interview guides with open-ended questions to analyze juvenile delinquency cases in Albay with each question designed to bring out detailed insights from the respondents. The questions focused on potential strategies that can help reduce juvenile delinquency in the province. The guide was divided into two parts. The first part focused on the personal, family, economic, and social aspects that contribute to delinquent behavior. The second part centered on intervention programs implemented by the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), both of which handle juvenile cases in Albay. Additionally, the research instrument was carefully created highlighting the inputs of the research adviser and was validated by several experts in the field such as a social worker, which makes it an appropriate instrument for complex issues.

Each question was designed to elicit detailed insights into personal experiences, family dynamics, social influences, and economic factors associated with juvenile delinquency. Additionally, the questions sought to uncover effective intervention strategies that could potentially reduce juvenile crime. The research instrument was carefully crafted with input from the researcher's adviser and validated by a registered social worker, ensuring it was suitable for examining these complex issues. The scheduling of the participants of the study took 26 working days from December 14, 2023, to January 18, 2024.

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Data Gathering Procedures

The data collection process for this study was organized to gather information from respondents in Ligao City, Legazpi City, and Tabaco City, focusing on the City Social Welfare and Development Offices (CSWDs) and the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Formal requests for data and interviews were submitted to the heads of these offices, and the researcher traveled by motorcycle to facilitate the process.

Data gathering began with a formal request sent to the Chief of Police of each city. According to the data collection protocol, all data must be coordinated confidentially and with the approval of the respective office heads. The same protocol was followed for the CSWDs in each city. Once approval was granted and informed consent was secured, the interviews took place.

In Ligao City, data was collected from the PNP in seven days, the quickest response of all the cities. However, scheduling the interview took an additional 16 days due to the unavailability of participants, bringing the total duration for data collection with the PNP in Ligao to 23 working days. For the CSWDO of Ligao, data was gathered via email, which took approximately 15 days, followed by the interview. In total, the data collection process in Ligao City took 23 days.

In Legazpi City, it took nine days to obtain data from the PNP. The interview was scheduled 17 days after the data was collected, while the interview with the CSWDO in Legazpi was set nine days after the approval of the interview request letter. This resulted in a total of 26 days for the entire data collection process in Legazpi City.

In Tabaco City, challenges were encountered in obtaining data due to the unavailability of some PNP personnel, the collection of the data was sent via Gmail, while the CSWDO was busy with year-end workload pressures. Despite these obstacles, a data request was made, and it took a total of 26 days to collect the necessary information.

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The complete data collection process across all three cities took 26 days, which included several follow-ups and a commitment to maintaining ethical standards, such as ensuring confidentiality and obtaining informed consent from all participants.

Participants of the Study

This study engaged a total of ten (10) participants, comprising six (6) members from the Philippine National Police (PNP) - Women and Children's Protection Desk (WCPD) Unit, and four (4) social workers from the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) of Albay province.

The sample size for this study was set at ten participants, a number that is both appropriate and justified given the study's specific objectives. The participants were selected based on their official roles within the PNP-WCPD and CSWDO, ensuring that everyone had direct involvement with juvenile delinquency cases and was authorized to manage or intervene in such cases. All selected participants had extensive, firsthand experience in handling juvenile delinquency cases in the region, specifically from 2019 to 2023, and were also active in intervention programs conducted by the PNP and CSWDO.

The inclusion criteria for participants focused on individuals with relevant authority, responsibility, and expertise in managing juvenile cases. This ensured that the data gathered would be both specific and reliable, coming from professionals who possess direct knowledge and hands-on experience. Conversely, individuals who did not hold positions directly responsible for juvenile delinquency cases or lacked the required experience were excluded from the study. This selective approach ensures that the study's findings are grounded in practical, real-world insights from individuals with the necessary qualifications to discuss juvenile delinquency issues in depth.

Ten participants are well-suited to the study's objectives because qualitative research, especially when examining complex and specialized topics like juvenile delinquency and intervention programs, benefits from a smaller, focused sample. In this case, the goal is not to achieve statistical generalizability but to gain in-depth, localized perspectives that can offer

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rich insights into the contributing factors of juvenile delinquency, as well as the effectiveness of intervention programs. These ten participants, being key decision-makers and practitioners in their respective roles, are uniquely positioned to provide the relevant, detailed information needed for a thorough analysis of the issue.

By limiting the participants to ten, the study avoids collecting extraneous data from individuals who may not be directly engaged in the issues at hand, allowing for a more focused and meaningful analysis. This approach aligns with the study's goal of providing actionable, context-specific recommendations that are based on the experiences of professionals who are actively involved in juvenile delinquency cases and intervention efforts. The smaller sample size also ensures that the data collection process remains manageable and that each participant's insights are given the attention they deserve in the analysis phase. Ultimately, this approach ensures that the study produces findings that are not only relevant and reliable but also deeply rooted in the realities of the local context.

Sampling Techniques

This study employed purposive sampling, a non-probability sampling method, to select participants based on their direct involvement and expertise in juvenile delinquency cases. Purposive sampling, also known as judgmental or selective sampling, is commonly used in qualitative research where the goal is to gather in-depth, context-specific insights from individuals who possess particular characteristics or knowledge relevant to the research objectives. According to Stewart (2024), this method allows researchers to exercise their judgment in choosing participants who will best contribute to the study's aims. In this case, participants were deliberately selected from the PNP-WCPD and CSWDO units, ensuring that they had hands-on experience in managing juvenile delinquency cases in the three cities of Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco. This targeted approach was essential to gathering accurate, relevant, and first-hand data from those directly responsible for handling juvenile cases.

While purposive sampling is a useful technique for ensuring the selection of knowledgeable and relevant participants, it does present certain limitations. One limitation is

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the potential for researcher bias, as the selection of participants relies on the researcher's judgment, which may influence the variety and scope of perspectives gathered. To manage this limitation and ensure data reliability, the study focused on clear and specific inclusion and exclusion criteria, selecting only those participants who had direct responsibility for juvenile cases and had participated in intervention programs. This careful delineation of who qualified for the study minimized the risk of bias and ensured that the data was derived from a consistent group of individuals with the necessary expertise.

Another limitation of purposive sampling is that it limits the generalizability of the findings, as the sample is not randomly selected. Since the goal of this study was to explore the specific context of juvenile delinquency in three cities, generalization to broader populations was not a primary concern. Instead, the study aimed to provide in-depth insights that are highly relevant to local intervention programs and policies. By focusing on key professionals from the PNP-WCPD and CSWDO who have direct experience and authority in managing juvenile delinquency cases, the study was able to generate rich, localized data that directly address the research objectives.

To further enhance the reliability and validity of the data, the study incorporated multiple perspectives by selecting participants from two key organizations PNP-WCPD and CSWDO ensuring a broader and more balanced view of the challenges and successes related to juvenile delinquency in the region. This triangulation of sources helped mitigate potential biases and provided a more comprehensive understanding of the issues under investigation.

Study Site

This study was conducted in the Province of Albay, Philippines, focusing on three key urban centers: Ligao City, Legazpi City, and Tabaco City. These cities were chosen due to their significant number of recorded juvenile delinquency cases, along with their unique socio-economic profiles and demographic diversity. Each location provides a distinct context, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of the factors contributing to juvenile delinquency and potential intervention strategies.

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This study highlights the main focus on juvenile delinquency in Ligao City, which has recorded a total of 87 cases from 2019 to 2023. Ligao City has a wide range of rural landscapes and people have a close relationship with one another. However, there is an emphasis on the challenges encountered by the residents such as poverty, and limited educational resources which increase the risk of juvenile delinquency. Despite its challenges, Ligao is committed to addressing youth-related issues through local initiatives that promote youth development and family support. This agricultural setting is highly different from the urban settings of Legazpi and Tabaco.

It was found through the data gathered that juvenile delinquency cases in Legazpi City recorded a total of 269 cases. The results presented in the discussion highlight the top three types of juvenile offenses. As the capital and largest city of Albay, Legazpi serves as the province's economic, educational, and administrative center. Still, the city faces challenges related to urbanization, economics, and limited access to youth programs, all of which contribute to juvenile delinquency. However, Legazpi's established infrastructure and community organizations provide a solid foundation for implementing effective interventions, making it a key focus of this study. In Tabaco City a total of 68 juvenile cases were recorded, with the top three cases discussed in detail in the results and discussion. Tabaco City is situated along the northeastern coast. Even when it benefits from its agricultural and fishing industries, which foster a strong sense of community, the city also faces socio-economic challenges among its youth, increasing the risk of juvenile delinquency. Despite these obstacles, local government and community organizations have made significant strides in engaging young people through education and skills training programs. This proactive approach positions Tabaco as a vital site for examining community-driven preventive measures.

This study examines juvenile delinquency across three cities in Albay Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco each facing distinct socio-economic challenges. It highlights the factors contributing to juvenile delinquency, such as poverty and limited educational resources in rural areas, as well as the pressures of urbanization and economic difficulties in urban centers.

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Despite these challenges, the study emphasizes the resilience of local communities and government organizations in addressing these issues through targeted, community-based interventions and youth development programs. The findings underscore the need for tailored solutions that reflect the unique characteristics of each city. This research provides valuable insights for local policymakers and practitioners, offering a foundation for future initiatives aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency and enhancing youth development and crime prevention in Albay.

Data Analysis

This study employs a thematic approach to comprehensively examine juvenile delinquency in the Province of Albay, utilizing both documentary analysis and thematic analysis. Documentary analysis focuses on the number of cases, types of crimes committed, and case statuses, while thematic analysis explores the contributory factors discussed by participants. Thematic analysis, as highlighted by Caulfield (2019), is essential for uncovering recurring themes and insights, allowing for an in-depth exploration of the complexities surrounding juvenile delinquency.

The process began with a thorough review of collected data, including interview transcripts and relevant documents. The researcher generated codes to identify and categorize key elements related to delinquent behaviors, contributing factors, and intervention strategies. Themes were systematically refined to ensure they accurately represented the data and aligned with the study's objectives. Data was organized into thematic categories, utilizing charts and descriptive summaries to facilitate comparisons across different data points. Thematic maps were also constructed to visualize connections and enhance the analysis of patterns.

Validation processes were crucial, incorporating feedback from participants and experts on juvenile delinquency in Albay. This iterative process bolstered the reliability and credibility of the findings, allowing for adjustments that reflected local realities. The results

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were ultimately presented in a structured narrative, addressing the research questions while providing nuanced insights into the specific context of juvenile delinquency in Albay.

By employing this dual methodology, the study effectively highlighted the contextual factors influencing juvenile delinquency, cross-referencing participant perspectives while adhering to ethical considerations, including informed consent and confidentiality. This thematic approach enabled a comprehensive understanding of the topic, revealing significant insights that enrich the overall analysis of juvenile delinquency in Albay.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section presents the findings from the analysis of juvenile delinquency in Albay Province from 2019 to 2023. The study assessed trends in juvenile delinquency, identified contributing factors, and documented intervention programs by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the City and Social Welfare Development Office (CSWDO). It proposed preventive practices to address juvenile delinquency, offering proactive strategies for societal improvement. Visual aids such as tables and graphs were used to enhance data interpretation.

1. Status of Juvenile Delinquency in the Province of Albay

The data obtained from the Philippine National Police and City Social Welfare and Development Office regarding juvenile delinquency in Ligao City, Legazpi City, and Tabaco City from 2019 to 2023 provides valuable insights into the trends, types of crimes, and case statuses within these cities. Below is a detailed analysis of the number of cases, types of crimes committed, and case status, highlighting the implications for each city.

a. Number of Cases

The number of juvenile delinquency cases in Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco varied between 2019 and 2023, displaying distinct trends in each city. These fluctuations may reflect the impact of local interventions, changes in law enforcement practices, or broader socio-economic factors that influence youth behavior. The data is shown below.

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Table 1

Year	Number of Cases		
	Ligao	Legazpi	Tabaco
2019	40	120	19
2020	13	39	2
2021	11	37	7
2022	11	34	7
2023	12	39	14

The juvenile delinquency data from Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco cities between 2019 and 2023 shows distinct trends, reflecting the unique challenges each city faces. Legazpi's consistently high cases suggest underlying socio-economic issues like poverty and limited opportunities, which contribute to juvenile crime, as noted in global studies by Gupta et al. (2022) and Estoro (2023). Ligao's sharp decline may be due to effective interventions, though ongoing monitoring is necessary. Tabaco's fluctuating trends indicate the need for adaptable interventions, as external factors such as local governance or the COVID-19 pandemic may influence these patterns. The data reinforces the need for tailored, localized approaches that address the root causes of juvenile delinquency, including socioeconomic factors, family instability, peer influence, and the impact of modern influences like social media.

b. Types of Crimes Committed

From 2019 to 2023, the types of juvenile crimes committed in Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco City revealed distinct patterns, with certain offenses recurring year after year.

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Table 2

City	Types of Crimes Committed
Ligao	The types of crimes committed are as follows: Slight Physical Injury, Theft and Reckless imprudence resulting to damage to property and Rape
Legazpi	Physical Injury, Theft, Shoplifting, and acts of lasciviousness.
Tabaco	Physical Injury, Shoplifting, illegal possession of deadly weapon, stealing, illegal gambling, sexual molestation and child abuse.

The analysis of juvenile crime data from Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco City between 2019 and 2023 reveals notable differences in the types of crimes committed. Ligao showed a prevalence of property crimes and reckless behavior, while Legazpi reported higher instances of physical harm and sexual offenses. Tabaco had a broader range of offenses, including violence, theft, and child abuse. These differences likely reflect the influence of local socio-economic factors, cultural norms, and community dynamics, highlighting the need for tailored interventions in each city to address specific issues.

The trends identified in the U.S. Department of Justice study (2020) and Gupta et al. (2022) align with similar patterns in Albay, where socio-economic challenges such as poverty, family instability, and peer pressure contribute to juvenile delinquency. As noted by Estoro (2023), physical injury, theft, and drug abuse are prominent among Filipino juveniles, with poverty and lack of proper guidance being major contributing factors. These findings emphasize the necessity of localized, comprehensive approaches to address the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency and prevent further escalation.

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c. Case Status

The case statuses of juvenile delinquency cases in Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco cities from 2019 to 2023 highlight varying trends in the resolution of offenses.

Table 3

City	Case Status
Ligao	The case statuses in Ligao City are as follows: some have been settled, others amicably resolved, and cleared, while there are still cases currently on trial.
Legazpi	The case statuses in Legazpi City are as follows: some have been settled and cleared.
Tabaco	The case statuses in Tabaco City are as follows: cleared, settled and solved amicably.

The juvenile delinquency case status data from Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco cities between 2019 and 2023 reveals varying resolution outcomes, with Ligao showing a mix of settled, amicable, and ongoing cases, Legazpi seeing a higher resolution rate, and Tabaco demonstrating significant success in clearing and settling cases. These differences highlight the role of judicial processes, law enforcement practices, and the availability of social services and interventions in case outcomes. To improve the juvenile justice system, Ligao should focus on expediting trials and enhancing legal access, while Legazpi could refine case processing and intervention strategies. Tabaco may continue fostering amicable resolutions and explore alternative dispute mechanisms. These findings, aligned with global studies such as those by the U.S. Department of Justice (2020) and Gupta et al. (2022), emphasize the importance of tailored interventions and addressing root causes such as family instability and socio-economic factors. The Estoro (2023) study further supports this view, indicating that poverty and lack of guidance are key contributors to juvenile offenses in the Philippines. Together, these studies stress the need for data-driven decisions and comprehensive

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approaches to improve the juvenile justice system, ensuring fair and timely outcomes for all juveniles.

2. Contributory Factors of Juvenile Delinquency

This section presents a comprehensive analysis of the factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in Albay, based on insights from PNP-WCPD officers and CSWD social workers handling juvenile cases in Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco cities. The study explores the key personal, family, economic, and social factors influencing delinquent behavior among youth, shedding light on the complex challenges faced by juveniles and their communities. The findings reveal a multifaceted relationship between individual circumstances, family dynamics, socio-economic conditions, and broader societal influences, all of which contribute to juvenile delinquency in the region.

To maintain confidentiality and facilitate consistent data analysis, the study employs a coding system, assigning identifiers (WCPD1-WCPD6 for PNP-WCPD officers and SW7-SW10 for CSWD social workers) to the participants. This approach allows the researcher to track responses, identify trends, and draw conclusions about the various factors influencing juvenile delinquency in Albay, without compromising privacy. The information gathered from the study is categorized into personal, family, economic, and social influences, providing a clear understanding of how these different aspects interact and contribute to delinquent behavior among youth in the province.

a. Personal Aspect

In examining the personal aspect affecting juvenile delinquency, the responses from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and City Social Welfare Development (CSWD) personnel highlight various contributing factors. These themes provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying issues predisposing youth to engage in delinquent behaviors.

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Misguided minors prone to delinquency

Minors who grow up in challenging environments, such as exposure to domestic violence and parental neglect, are prone to delinquency. WCPD1 explained that these factors can lead children to commit crimes, such as theft, as they seek attention and care. SW8 supported this by noting that a lack of emotional support, even when financial support is provided, can cause children to display negative behaviors. SW10 added that minors, being highly vulnerable and easily influenced, often engage in bad behavior to seek attention and recognition.

According to WCPD1, "Ang hindi angkop na paligid ay maaaring magdulot sa isang bata na gumawa ng krimen. Tulad ng kanilang karanasan ng domestic violence, kawalang-interes ng magulang, at mga masamang gawi, minsan ang mga kabataan ay nagiging sanhi ng pagkakamali dahil sa karanasan nila ng domestic violence. Dahil dito, nagagawa nilang gumawa ng mga pagkakamali o hindi tamang mga kilos, gaya ng paminsan-minsan na pagnanakaw, na isa sa mga pinakamadalas na ginagawa ng mga kabataan. Naaapektuhan din sila sa mga away-away dahil parang hinahanap nila o naghahanap ng pansin at kalinga". (Improper surroundings may cause a child to commit a crime. Like their experiences of domestic violence, parental indifference, and bad habits, sometimes youth make mistakes because of their experiences with domestic violence. As a result, they may engage in wrong actions, such as occasional theft, which is one of the most common things young people do. They are also affected by fights because they seem to be seeking attention and care).

This statement was supported by SW8, "A child can be easily influenced, especially when the family is absent, struggling, or even fully supporting the child financially but lacks emotional support. In some cases, even when the family is present, the absence of attention can lead to breakdowns, mental problems, and negative behaviors, just to seek attention".

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SW10 added, "Ang aki nakakagibo ki maraot dahil sa paghahanap ning attention pag aki baga attention seeker iyan, maski maraot magibo yan para mapansin, ang mga minor baga very vulnerable, madali maimpluwensyahan". (A child who engages in bad behavior is often seeking attention. a child is an attention seeker, they might do anything, even bad things, to be noticed. Minors are very vulnerable and easily influenced).

Minors raised in environments marked by domestic violence, parental neglect, and emotional neglect are especially prone to delinquent behavior, often seeking attention through negative actions like theft. This vulnerability is linked to their developmental stage, where emotional needs are unmet, and they may resort to delinquency as a coping mechanism. The research emphasizes the importance of a supportive and emotionally nurturing environment to reduce the likelihood of delinquency, highlighting the need for interventions that provide emotional and psychological support while addressing underlying family issues. Community and family-based programs that promote positive engagement, communication, and attention are critical in preventing delinquency. These findings are aligned with studies on juvenile delinquency in Albay, where personal factors like emotional instability and impulsivity are identified as key contributors, supporting theories by Song et al. (2022) and Badasa et al. (2019) that unresolved internal struggles can lead to delinquent behavior.

Mental Health Issues Among Youth

Mental health problems among youth are increasingly recognized as significant contributors to juvenile delinquency. Adolescents experiencing issues such as depression, anxiety, and other psychological conditions are more vulnerable to engaging in delinquent behaviors. These actions often stem from a desire to cope with their struggles or seek attention, especially when emotional support is lacking.

As noted by WCPD2, "Isa sa factors are mental health issues kasi may mga youth kasi na nakakaexperienced ng mental health problems, like

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depression and anxiety, so, youth experiencing mental health issues engage in delinquent behavior to seek attention while substance abuse can impair judgment and increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent acts. (One of the factors is mental health issues because some youth experience mental health problems, like depression and anxiety. Youths experiencing mental health issues engage in delinquent behavior to seek attention, while substance abuse can impair judgment and increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent acts).

WCPD6 reinforces this by emphasizing that, "Mental Health Problems, if this problem is not properly addressed it will surely made a negative impact to juvenile."

Similarly, SW7 highlights that, "Sometimes issues with mental health contribute to juvenile delinquency. That is the major risk factors for delinquency because they have a wide range of negative outcomes."

The findings emphasize the importance of targeted interventions to address mental health issues among youth, highlighting the need for mental health education and counseling services within schools and community programs supporting youth facing such challenges. Key strategies include training teachers, law enforcement officers, and social workers to identify early signs of mental health struggles and substance abuse, promoting early intervention, and fostering supportive environments that tackle the root causes of delinquent behavior. Collaboration across sectors like education, health, and social services is crucial to developing holistic approaches to preventing juvenile delinquency and promoting mental well-being in Albay. This is in line with studies such as Le et al. (2023), Maloku (2021), Badasa et al. (2019), and Song et al. (2022), which connect delinquent behavior to mental health struggles, emotional regulation issues, and psychosocial factors, emphasizing the need for proactive measures to address these underlying causes.

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Minor Vulnerability and Substance Use

Minor Vulnerability and Substance Use is crucial for understanding the pathways to delinquency, focusing on how the challenges faced by adolescents can increase their likelihood of engaging in substance use, which often leads to delinquent behavior. During this important developmental phase, minors deal with heightened emotional and social difficulties that influence their decision-making. The Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) highlights that substance use significantly raises the chances of engaging in harmful actions and can have destructive consequences on minors' lives (WCPD3). Additionally, WCPD4 notes that substance abuse undermines self-control and impairs judgment, particularly when influenced by illegal drugs. These insights underscore the need to address the vulnerabilities of minors and the adverse effects of substance use.

As noted by WCPD3, "using substances, minors have more chances of doing wrong, it can also destroy their lives."

According to WCPD4, "Substance abuse contributes to juvenile delinquency because it results to poor self-control, not in their right mind especially if under the influence of illegal drugs."

The analysis reveals that substance abuse plays a significant role in juvenile delinquency by impairing judgment and self-control, leading to risky or illegal behavior. WCPD3 and WCPD4 highlighted that substance abuse not only increases the likelihood of delinquency but also negatively impacts education, health, and future prospects. These findings stress the need for targeted substance abuse prevention and intervention programs for youth, including early education within schools about the dangers of substance use, as well as community-based support systems offering counseling and rehabilitation. Collaboration among law enforcement, social services, education, and families is essential to create a comprehensive support network for youth. This aligns with studies by Le et al. (2023), Agus Sarwanto et al. (2023), and Song et al. (2022), which link substance abuse to delinquent

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behavior and emphasize the importance of emotional regulation and decision-making in addressing this issue.

Poor Academic Performance that Contributes to Juvenile Delinquency

Poor academic performance poses a significant risk factor for juvenile delinquency, as it can lead youth to cope with their frustrations through confrontational behavior. This statement underscores the link between academic struggles and aggressive behavior, particularly when students feel unsupported by their peers.

As noted by SW9, "Sometimes, the reason kung bakit ang sarong aki nakakagibu ki sala dahil maluya ang siya sa academic, to cope up with that problem which is the poor performance in academic, ang gigibu, mang-iiwal, kapag Dae pinapaarug ng kaklase, yaon na so iabangan sa luwas so kaklase, tatakuton, igwa kaming reklamo na naencounter na arug kaiyan". (Sometimes, the reason why a child commits an offense is due to poor academic performance. To cope with this issue, they might resort to fighting. If classmates do not offer help, they may end up confronting them outside, even intimidating them. We have received complaints about incidents like this).

Poor academic performance is a key risk factor in juvenile delinquency, as it can lead to frustration and isolation, pushing students to engage in negative coping behaviors like aggression or bullying. As noted by SW9, minors may use intimidation to regain control, reflecting deeper struggles and perpetuating a cycle of delinquency. The implications of this finding highlight the need for targeted interventions in schools, such as tutoring, mentorship, and counseling, to support students with academic challenges. Integrating social-emotional learning programs can help students manage emotions, build relationships, and reduce confrontational behaviors. Additionally, fostering peer support, parental involvement, and community collaboration can create a supportive educational environment, addressing both academic and socio-economic factors that contribute to delinquency. This aligns with Agus

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Sarwanto et al. (2023), who discuss how both internal and external factors contribute to academic struggles and delinquent behavior.

Impulsive Decision-Making

Juveniles frequently display impulsive behavior because their cognitive and emotional maturity is still developing. During this phase, they may have difficulty fully understanding the consequences of their actions, which increases their tendency to act on impulse. This impulsivity, coupled with a lack of proper guidance, can result in risky behaviors and delinquency, as emphasized by the participants.

As noted by WCPD5, "Ang mga bata baga dina man natin alam kung anong pagkatao meron siya, once na walang guide from parents or any concerned person na may mainfluence Saiya ning karahayan, syempre hindi pa fully develop yung mind niya wala pa sa, kumbaga wala pa sa right mind, kaya Madali siyang makagibo o maimpluwensyahan na gumibo ki maraot. Pag young kasi Ma'am, marupok, mapusok, mahina, maligalig, aggresibo andiyan lahat, pero kung ikaw isa sa nagdedeteriorate sa isip ng bata, tusok ka ng tusok, ataki ka ng ataki wala din, pero unlike yung ano, nagpopromote ka ng positive, positive vibes lang matutulungan yung bata." (Children, we may not fully understand their personalities, but when there is no guidance from parents or any concerned person who can influence them positively, their minds are not fully developed; they are not in their right minds, making them easily swayed or influenced to engage in negative behavior. When young, Ma'am, they are fragile, impulsive, weak, restless, and aggressive all these traits are present. However, if you are deteriorating the child's mind, constantly poking and attacking them, it won't help. Unlike when you promote positivity, just positive vibes can help the child).

Impulsive decision-making is a crucial factor in juvenile delinquency, as adolescents often act without fully considering the consequences, due to their evolving cognitive and emotional

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maturity. According to WCPD5, without proper guidance and positive role models, youth are more susceptible to impulsive behaviors such as aggression and poor decisions. The implications suggest the need for interventions like mentorship, counseling, and community support to promote healthy decision-making and mitigate impulsivity. Educating parents about their influence on their children's decisions can also help curb impulsive actions. Studies like those by Maloku (2021), Song et al. (2022), and Agus Sarwanto et al. (2023) reinforce the connection between impulsivity, emotional management, and delinquency, highlighting the importance of fostering better self-regulation and decision-making skills in adolescents to prevent delinquent behavior.

b. Family Aspect

Examining the family aspect influencing juvenile delinquency, insights from PNP and CSWD personnel shed light on various factors within the family structures.

Weak Parent-Child Relationships

Weak parent-child relationships contribute significantly to juvenile delinquency. When there is a lack of emotional connection, communication, and support in the family, minors may turn to delinquent behavior as a way to seek attention or cope with feelings of rejection. This study highlights the crucial role of strong family dynamics in preventing delinquency and meeting the needs of at-risk youth.

According to WCPD1, "Along family naman, yung juvenile delinquency along family, kung minsan nirereject sila ng parents nila, minsan sa influence din ng environment yun, kaya nagagawa nilang gumawa ng mga kasalanan" (Regarding the family aspect, juvenile delinquency within the family context sometimes happens because the parents reject them, and sometimes it's also due to environmental influences, which leads them to commit offenses).

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WCPD3 added, "The reasons why 10% out of 20% are involved in juvenile delinquency is because family members did not rely on or nor even ask how their child felt, what happened for their day in other words, they are not connected".

Similarly, WCPD5 observed, "Children rejected by Family are among the most likely to become delinquent. A troublesome child or adolescent is more likely to be rejected by parents".

Weak parent-child relationships are a significant factor contributing to juvenile delinquency, as the absence of emotional connection, communication, and support can drive minors to seek attention through negative behaviors. WCPD1, WCPD3, and WCPD5 emphasize that emotional neglect and parental rejection are key contributors to delinquent actions. These findings underline the importance of family-focused interventions, such as parenting workshops, family counseling, and strengthening communication and emotional support within families to prevent delinquency. Research by Mahalili (2021), Khuda (2019), and others supports the link between family dysfunction, lack of supervision, and increased delinquent behavior, highlighting how children from broken or unstable families are more vulnerable to antisocial behavior. To reduce delinquency, fostering positive family dynamics and addressing both internal family issues and external challenges, like poverty, is crucial.

Parental Conflict led to Delinquent Behavior

Parental conflict is widely recognized as a significant factor contributing to juvenile delinquency, as it creates an unstable and emotionally turbulent environment for children. When minors are repeatedly exposed to family disputes, it disrupts their emotional well-being and leaves them more vulnerable to negative influences outside the home. This section explores how parental strife, and violence can act as a catalyst for delinquent behaviors, based on the insights provided by law enforcement and social workers involved in juvenile cases.

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WCPD2 noted that "Constant exposure to parental conflict can create a stressful and unstable environment for a child. This can contribute to feelings of anger, frustration, and a limited ability to cope with emotions effectively. A juvenile may resort to delinquent behaviors as a way to release or express their pent-up emotions."

SW7 highlighted, "I think parental violence is the major risk factor for juvenile delinquency because parental violence has a negative influence on later delinquency, directly or indirectly that is mediated through or assassinated with other crime elements. Also, family problems broken families, and ineffective parents who lack parenting skills encompass deviant parents behavior which was adopted by the children."

Parental conflict and violence significantly contribute to juvenile delinquency by creating emotionally unstable environments that increase children's vulnerability to delinquent behaviors as a coping mechanism. WCPD2 and SW7 highlight the detrimental effects of family strife on emotional regulation, pushing minors toward negative external influences. Addressing this issue requires interventions aimed at reducing family conflict, promoting conflict resolution, and offering parental education to create a supportive and stable home environment. Research by Mahalili (2021), Khuda (2019), Gomes, Maia, and Farrington (2020), and Trinidad et al. (2020) supports the connection between family dysfunction, insufficient supervision, and increased risk of delinquency, emphasizing the need for improved family dynamics and emotional control to prevent juvenile misbehavior.

Disoriented Family Responses to Juvenile Behavior

The role of the family is critical in the successful reintegration of juveniles after undergoing intervention programs. However, when a juvenile returns to a dysfunctional or disoriented family environment, where issues like substance abuse and infidelity persist, the chances of reoffending increase. This section delves into how a chaotic home environment

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undermines the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts, based on insights from law enforcement and social workers.

According to WCPD4, "kung disoriented ang family, halimbawa si juvenile tapos na sa mga interventions/ diversion programs na pinagaconduct ng CSWD/PNP tapos ibabalik na siya sa family, tapos si family niya drug addict ngay, si Nanay o si tatay may kalaguyo si tatay may lalaki si nanay yun na naman ang nakikita nung aki mabalik ta mabalik yan sa paggibo ki krimen". (If the family is disoriented, for example, if a juvenile has completed the interventions/diversion programs conducted by the CSWD/PNP and is then returned to their family, but the family members are still drug addicts, the father or mother has an affair, the child sees these things again, they will just keep going back to committing crimes).

According to SW10, "After reintegration kana ki, after niya sa facility, if the same pa din ang babalikan kang akin may possibility pa din na magcommit siya." (After reintegration, after they leave the facility, if they return to the same environment, there is still a possibility that they will commit offenses again).

The insights from WCPD4 and SW10 emphasize the importance of family dynamics in the rehabilitation of juveniles, highlighting that without addressing dysfunctional family environments, the risk of reoffending remains high. WCPD4 points out that ongoing issues like substance abuse and infidelity can undermine the positive effects of intervention programs, leading juveniles to revert to negative behaviors. SW10 further stresses that without change in the home environment, recidivism is likely. The analysis suggests that effective reintegration requires family-centered interventions such as family therapy, parenting education, and substance abuse support. Studies by Gomes, Maia, and Farrington (2020) and Mahalili (2021) support these findings, underscoring the critical role of a supportive home environment in reducing juvenile delinquency.

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Impact of Parental Neglect Due to Work Commitments

The impact of parental neglect due to work commitments plays a crucial role in the development of juvenile delinquency, as highlighted by both WCPD6 and SW8. These perspectives collectively emphasize the importance of parental presence and engagement in preventing delinquent behavior, stressing the need to balance work and family responsibilities to foster a supportive environment for children.

WCPD6 says that, "Sa family kung working ang mga magurang dae naasikaso ang aki, so dae natatawanan ki atensyon, saro yan sa factor na ang aki magibo ki maraot para matawanan siyang atensyon kang magurang niya."
(In the family, if the parents are working, they are unable to attend to their child, so the child doesn't receive attention. This is one factor that can lead the child to engage in negative behaviors to gain attention from their parents).

According to SW8, "the parental conflict, neglect or abuse it influence a lot of juvenile delinquency because they are not given enough guide for right and wrong."

The insights from WCPD6 and SW8 highlight the significant impact of parental work commitments and family dynamics on child development and behavior. Children who experience emotional neglect due to parents' work-related absences may seek approval through harmful behaviors like delinquency. Additionally, parental disagreements, abuse, or neglect can distort a child's understanding of right and wrong, contributing to criminal behavior. The implications suggest that parents need to balance work with active involvement in their children's lives to prevent neglect and foster supportive family environments. Research supports these findings, showing that children from unstable family environments, such as those with divorced or single parents, are more prone to emotional and behavioral problems, increasing their susceptibility to delinquency (Mahalili, 2021; Khuda, 2019; Estoro, 2023; Gomes et al., 2020).

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Poor Parenting as a Form of Family Dysfunction

Poor parenting severely inhibits a child's ability to grow socially and emotionally, which increases the likelihood that the child will become delinquent. Children who get subpar parenting lack structure and essential support, which leads to instability in dysfunctional households. Children struggle to deal with puberty when they don't receive the right guidance, which makes them more susceptible to negative influences and risky behavior. To create effective intervention techniques that encourage happier, healthier households and better outcomes for young people, it is imperative to comprehend the relationship between family dynamics, parenting styles, and juvenile delinquency.

SW9 mentioned, "Ang una, poor parental doon muna, nasa family nstart due to dysfunctionality, dysfunction ng family o conflict, then parental skills, then yung discipline tapos yung mga vices ng parents, time-time management ng parents. Kaya nakakagawa ng masama ang bata". (First, there is poor parenting; it all starts with the family due to dysfunctionality, family dysfunction or conflict, then parenting skills, then discipline, and the parents' vices and time management. That's why children end up committing wrongdoings).

SW9 highlights that family disintegration, including issues like disagreement, inadequate parenting, and lax discipline, is a major cause of adolescent crime. Dysfunctional family dynamics create an unstable environment, leaving children without the necessary guidance and supervision for healthy development. As parents struggle with their own issues, such as substance abuse or poor time management, they are less able to provide moral direction, increasing the likelihood of delinquent behavior in their children. This underscores the need for interventions focused on improving family dynamics and parenting skills. Studies support this, showing that a lack of parental supervision and support leads to higher rates of delinquency, emphasizing the importance of addressing family dysfunction to reduce juvenile crime (Gomes, Maia, & Farrington, 2020; Mahalili, 2021; Khuda, 2019).

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c. Economic Aspect

Examining the economic aspect influencing juvenile delinquency reveals insights from both PNP and CSWD respondents.

Poverty led to Criminal Activity

Poverty is a pervasive social issue that significantly influences juvenile delinquency, creating a complex interplay between economic hardship and youth behavior. The insights from various law enforcement and social work professionals reveal that financial struggles, unemployment, and the resulting feelings of exclusion and hopelessness can lead minors to engage in delinquent activities.

According to WCPD1 "In economic aspect naman, the factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency like poverty and unemployment it increases the likelihood of juveniles running away from home, an activity that significantly increases their likelihood to engage in delinquency. Some may seek to escape from their conditions, kung halimbawa, syempre kung minsan sawa na sila sa kahirapan kaya nagagawa nila na gumawa ng mga maling bagay". (In the economic aspect, the factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency are poverty and unemployment it increases the likelihood of juveniles running away from home, an activity that significantly increases their likelihood to engage in delinquency, some may seek to escape from their conditions, like for example, of course sometimes they are fed up with poverty so they can do wrong things).

This statement was supported by WCPD2, "Poverty and Unemployment, kasi, it can result in feelings of exclusion, marginalization and a lack of social support, kung ano, kung mahirap diba minsan sa employment din, hindi rin agad-agad binibigyan ng chance, tinitingnan nila minsan yung status ng tao, this factors can contribute to frustration, anger, and sense of hopelessness among youth, yung nagkakaroon sila ng frustration kasi nga, tiningnan yung status nila sa society, nalabel din sila." (Poverty and unemployment, because it can result in feelings of exclusion, marginalization and a lack of social support, it is difficult

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sometimes in employment, they are not immediately given a chance, they look at the status of the person, these factors can contribute to frustration, anger, and a sense of hopelessness among youth, that they are now frustrated because they look at their social status, they are also labeled).

According to WCPD4, "Poverty contributed a lot, poverty is one of the reasons why minors committed theft and robbery."

According to WCPD6, "Ang sarong aki kaya nakakagibo ki krimen usad sa factor so pagtios, so Daeng napoprove ang mga needs, so mga dae sa harong ninda nailing nya sa ibang harong kaya nagkukua ning daeng saiya". (The child commits a crime because of poverty, there's no one they see others have, so there are children who take things that do not belong to them).

SW7 mentioned, "It is more likely to result from poverty as one of the main reasons for juvenile or CICL",

According to SW8, "Poverty continues and increases, this is the reason why most young people especially minors are running away from home".

SW10 connote, "Yes, definitely, poverty, Eu ang pinakaenot na factor kung bakit ang sarong aki migibo ki salang bagay". (Yes, definitely, poverty is the primary factor why a child engages in such behavior).

The influence of poverty on juvenile delinquency is a complex issue, where socioeconomic disadvantage exacerbates feelings of exclusion, hopelessness, and frustration among youth, leading them to delinquency as a means of escape or a way to regain control. Poverty increases the likelihood of minors running away, engaging in theft, robbery, and other crimes, and fosters alienation due to a lack of social support and opportunities, making them vulnerable to negative peer pressure. Insights from WCPD1, WCPD2, WCPD4, CSWD6, SW7, SW8, and SW10 emphasize how unemployment and financial instability further alienate youth from positive influences, pushing them towards delinquent behavior. The implications for addressing juvenile delinquency are clear: targeted interventions must address poverty's root

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causes by providing economic support, job training, educational opportunities, and fostering community engagement to reduce feelings of isolation. Studies like those by Boabeng et al. (2022), Shong and Bakar (2019), and Narvey et al. (2020) reinforce that economic hardship significantly influences adolescent behavior and decision-making, making it crucial for interventions to include both economic and familial support to break the cycle of poverty and delinquency.

Lack of Access to Opportunities

WCPD3 and WCPD5 further underline the impact of the lack of economic opportunities on juvenile delinquency. WCPD3 specifically mentions that the absence of economic opportunities is a reason for many, especially minors, to commit crimes, particularly those against property as uttered

WCPD3 mentions "Lack of economic opportunities was the reason why many are committing crimes, especially minors, especially if that minor was ordered to commit crimes against property."

WCPD5 expressed "Economic hardship often results in limited opportunities for youth in terms of education, employment, and recreational activities. This lack of access to legitimate opportunities can push some individuals towards engaging in delinquent activities to obtain basic needs or material possessions."

The connection between a lack of economic opportunities and juvenile delinquency is evident in the perspectives shared by WCPD3 and WCPD5, who emphasize that financial hardship and limited access to resources drive youth, especially those involved in property crimes, to criminal behavior as a substitute for legitimate means of achieving their goals. WCPD3 highlights how the absence of viable economic options can push young people toward unlawful actions, while WCPD5 points to the broader impact of financial hardship, which limits access to essential resources like education, work, and recreational activities, exacerbating

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delinquency. These findings underscore the need for targeted intervention programs that provide job training, educational support, and mentorship to help youth pursue lawful careers. Policy reforms that prioritize economic development in low-income areas, promote access to quality education, and create social and recreational opportunities can reduce delinquency by giving young people alternatives to criminal activity. Studies by Narvey et al. (2020), Orlando et al. (2021), O'Neill (2020), and others further support the link between economic deprivation and delinquency, emphasizing the importance of addressing these economic gaps to prevent youth from engaging in criminal behavior and to foster healthier social outcomes.

The Impact of Parents on Youth Development Beyond Poverty

The relationship between parental engagement and youth delinquency is a critical area of exploration, particularly in economically disadvantaged contexts. While it is commonly believed that poverty serves as the primary catalyst for delinquent behavior among youth, insights from social workers, such as SW9, highlight a different perspective.

According to SW9, "Actually hindi naman poverty, hindi naman talaga poverty ang talagang factor, yung family talaga na walang guidance ang parents". (Actually, it's not really poverty, poverty isn't the main factor; it's really families lacking parental guidance).

The insights from SW9 emphasize the vital role of parental guidance in shaping teenage behavior and preventing delinquency, arguing that the absence of emotional support, supervision, and moral guidance from parents is a key factor in driving youth toward criminal activity, rather than economic hardship alone. This perspective suggests that improving parental involvement and family relationships should be central to efforts aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency. Programs promoting parental education, counseling, and support networks are essential for providing emotional stability and resilience to teens. Studies by Boabeng et al. (2022), Shong & Bakar (2019), O'Neill (2020), and others support SW9's view, highlighting the importance of strong family supervision and guidance in mitigating the effects

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of economic challenges on adolescent behavior. Together, these findings suggest that both familial and economic factors must be addressed to effectively reduce juvenile delinquency. Additionally, PNP officers and CSWD social workers agree on the significant impact of poverty and limited opportunities on youth, though they differ on the relative weight of economic hardship versus parental guidance in contributing to delinquency.

d. Social Aspect

Analyzing the social aspect of juvenile delinquency based on the responses from PNP and CSWD provides valuable insights into the influence of social factors on the behavior of young individuals.

Lack of Recreational Activities Results in Serious Consequences

WCPD1 emphasizes the absence of recreational activities as a significant factor in juvenile delinquency. Without structured and positive outlets, youth may turn to destructive behaviors such as drug use, violence, or criminal activities to cope with emotional distress or boredom. WCPD1 notes that the absence of recreational activities may lead to serious consequences, including youths becoming susceptible to drugs, violence, or other negative practices as an outlet for their frustrations as stated.

According to WCPD1 "In social aspects naman like, lack of recreational activities may lead to serious diseases, emotional distress or this may make them an easy prey for drugs, violence or any other negative practices that they might resort to just to steam out. Kung minsan, halimbawa ngaya hindi sila masyadong napapansin sa ano nila, sa bahay nila kaya ito yung nagiging way nila gumamit ng droga, naiinvolve sila sa mga violence and negative activity". (In social aspects, like, lack of recreational activities may lead to serious diseases, emotional distress or this may make them easy prey for drugs, violence or any other negative practices that they might resort to just to steam out. Sometimes,

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for example, they don't pay much attention to what they are in their home so it's the way they use drugs, they get involved in violence and negative activities).

The absence of recreational activities plays a crucial role in the development of maladaptive behaviors in adolescents, as highlighted by WCPD1. Without structured outlets for their energy and emotions, youth are more likely to turn to harmful behaviors like drug use or violence to cope with boredom and emotional distress. Recreational activities offer not only a distraction from negative influences but also opportunities for socialization, skill-building, and positive peer interaction. The lack of these opportunities increases the risk of delinquency, as youth may resort to unsupervised, unorganized activities that foster negative peer associations and deviant behavior. This underscores the need for communities and policymakers to invest in youth programs that provide safe, engaging, and constructive activities, as well as the importance of fostering supportive home environments that prioritize such pursuits. Research by Alanazi (2019), Wang, Zhang, & Liu (2019), Bandzeladze & Arutiunov (2020), and Kaur (2020) further emphasizes the importance of organized recreational opportunities and positive peer associations in reducing delinquent behavior.

Influence of Associating with Delinquent Peers and Peer Pressure

The influence of socializing with delinquent friends and the pressures exerted by peers a critical factor contributing to juvenile delinquency. Insights from WCPD2, WCPD4, WCPD5, WCPD6, SW7, SW8, and SW10 reveal how these friendships can foster negative behaviors through manipulative tactics such as peer pressure, intimidation, and coercion. The vulnerability of youth during certain developmental stages heightens their susceptibility to these adverse influences, leading them to engage in delinquent activities. Participants articulate this concern, illustrating the profound impact that peer relationships can have on a young person's choices and behavior.

According to WCPD2, "Socializing with delinquent friends, delinquent friends can manipulate individuals by exploiting their emotions, so yun

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nagayaan na, so mga delingkwente na friends nya eh, magkakayayaan na, tawag nito, gagawa na ng ganito, so may mga times na lugmok din yung bata, madadala, nasa stage sya ng vulnerabilities, vulnerable sya, di niya alam, kung ano gagawin, kaya sumasama, this can include tactics such as peer pressure, so yun, napepressure na sya nung ano eh, ng mga delinquent friends nya eh, intimidate or coercion, whiuch can significantly impact a youth's decision-making. Nakakapagdesisyon sila ng basta-basta kasi nga yung peer pressure ng mga delinquent friends, minsan malakas ang ano nyan eh convincing power ng mga ganyang tao eh, eh kasi sinasamantala rin nila yung times na ano, kung baga, nasa low state din sila". (Socializing with delinquent friends, delinquent friends can manipulate individuals by exploiting their emotions. , he is in the stage of vulnerabilities, he is vulnerable, and he does not know what to do, so he joins in, this can include tactics such as peer pressure, so that, he is already under pressure from, his delinquent friends, intimidate or coercion, which can significantly impact a youth's decision-making. They can make random decisions because of the peer pressure of delinquent friends, sometimes the convincing power of such people is strong, because they also take advantage of the times when, as it were, they are also in a low state).

This sentiment is echoed by WCPD4, "Peer Pressure has a great impact to the behavior of youth because they are influencing to one another".

WCPD5 further highlights that, "Saro Ma'am na factor pagdating sa social or in social aspect so impluwensya sang peer so syempre kapag nagluwas ang aki sa harong ninda kung nakisalamuha siya sa saiyang mga kaedadan, barkada na may maraot na gibo, madadamay siya, maaadopt niya yun." (One factor, Ma'am, when it comes to the social aspect, is the influence of peers. Of course, when a child goes out of their home and interacts with their peers or friends who engage in negative behaviors, they will get involved and adopt those behaviors).

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WCPD6 points out that, "Peer Pressure and influence of delinquent friends may pressure into doing illegal such as shoplifting, doing drugs or drinking or worst sexual assault cases."

SW7 elaborates on this by, "Peer Pressure and the influence of delinquent friends can have a significant impact on the behavior of youth adolescents are more susceptible to peer pressure because of their lack of social maturity, poor decision making and risky behavior that easily attack with negative peer influence."

Similarly, SW8 discusses, "Sa social aspect, maski fully supported ang aki kang magurang o kang family kundi exposed na din sa barkada napabaya na kang magurang na working nakabwelo, sa internet shop dahil makwarta nakahihiling ki pornographic materials or palabas kaiba ang barkada kaya nakacommit ning maraot like rape, So dakula ang impluwensya kang barkada lalo kung ang mga kaiba niya talgang Daeng marahay na kaibanan." (In the social aspect, even if a child is fully supported by their parents or family, once they are exposed to friends and are left unsupervised because their parents are busy working, they might end up in internet cafes with money, watching pornographic materials or shows with their friends. This can lead them to commit harmful acts like rape. Therefore, the influence of friends is substantial, especially if those they associate with are not good influences).

Finally, SW10 emphasized, "kung ang sarong aki, nakikibarkada sa mga may maraot na gibo, dakula ang tansy ana maging arug siya din sa saiyang barkada, lalo kung may pinag-aagihan ang akin a problema sa pamilya, magakua yan ki kusog sa barkada, maski sala magibo yan." (If a child associates with friends who engage in negative behaviors, there is a high chance they will also become like their friends, especially if they are experiencing family problems. They will draw strength from their friends, even if it leads them to do wrong).

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As highlighted by WCPD2, WCPD4, WCPD5, WCPD6, SW7, SW8, and SW10, peer pressure, intimidation, and coercion play a significant role in shaping adolescent behavior, especially for those in vulnerable stages. Many youths lack the resilience and maturity to resist negative influences from peers, making them more likely to engage in delinquent behaviors, even if they come from stable homes. Delinquent peers often manipulate emotional vulnerabilities, leading youths to participate in harmful activities. These findings emphasize the importance of preventive measures that extend beyond family support, such as programs focused on fostering resilience, decision-making skills, and social maturity to help youths resist peer pressure. Aligning with research by Kaur (2020) and Carter (2019), this analysis advocates for community and school-based interventions that provide constructive outlets and alternative peer groups to mitigate the risks of juvenile delinquency.

The Impact of Social Media on Youth Behavior

On the other hand, WCPD3 and SW9 introduce the role of social media as a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency, enabling individuals to harass and bully others online. This sheds light on the modern challenges posed by digital platforms in shaping the behavior of young individuals as uttered.

WCPD3 stated "social media is also one of the factors that minors commit crimes. Social media enable individuals to harass and bully others online."

SW9 emphasizes that "Social media madalas, mabilis isang click ng ano, diyang na yung mga friends, yun din ang isang factor, tapos drugs, mga substance, yung drug-related, yan social media, sa mga internet mahiling ninda so palabas diyang, kaya ngonyan pinapareactivate me, so ordinance na ano, so internet cafe, na dapatdi paanuhon ninda ang mga aki during school hours, unless na may I.D sinda." (Social media often, a quick click of something, friends are there, that is also a factor, then drugs, substances, drug-related, that is social media, on the Internet they can see it, what post in there, so now we're

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reactivating the ordinance about internet cafes, which children must not be allowed to enter during school hours unless they have an I.D).

The analysis of social media as a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency reveals the significant challenges posed by digital platforms in today's society. As noted by WCPD3 and SW9, social media provides a space for bullying, harassment, and exposure to inappropriate content, which can influence adolescents toward delinquent behaviors. The ease of accessing harmful content, such as drug-related material, further exacerbates these issues. The findings emphasize the need for stricter regulations on internet cafe usage during school hours and comprehensive digital literacy programs to educate young people on responsible social media use. This approach can mitigate online risks and promote safer digital habits, reducing the likelihood of delinquency. These insights align with studies by Boabeng et al. (2022), Shong and Bakar (2019), and others, highlighting the role of social media in normalizing deviant behaviors and emphasizing the importance of positive peer influences. Overall, addressing juvenile delinquency requires a multifaceted approach that includes both offline and online interventions to foster healthier environments for youth development.

3. Intervention Programs Conducted by the PNP-WCPD Unit and CSWDO Social Workers to the Juvenile Delinquency Cases in the Province of Albay

The PNP-WCPD Unit and CSWDO Social Workers in Albay implement various intervention programs to address juvenile delinquency. Intervention programs and diversion initiatives play a crucial role in addressing juvenile delinquency by providing tailored support and rehabilitation to at-risk youth. These programs, developed through collaboration between law enforcement and social service agencies, aim to address the underlying issues contributing to delinquent behavior while promoting positive outcomes for individuals and families involved. Intervention programs focus on counseling and treatment for youth and their families, emphasizing the importance of identifying underlying issues contributing to delinquent behavior. Participants emphasize the necessity of conducting individual assessments to create

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personalized intervention plans, which may include regular counseling, therapy sessions, and protective custody as needed. Various strategies such as home visits, group sessions, and community service initiatives are employed to engage youth actively and monitor their progress.

Counseling and Support Services

Counseling plays a pivotal role in addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency. Participants emphasized the importance of providing counseling not only to the youths but also to their families, helping them navigate challenging dynamics and issues that may contribute to delinquent behavior.

According to WCPD1 "The intervention programs implemented by the PNP to address the juvenile delinquency in Albay, were giving counseling to the youth and their parents knowing what the reasons were and why they commit such offenses, help parents and youth to identify and explore challenging family issues and providing treatment and services to the youth who have committed crimes. Minsan palagi namin silang binibisita kung kumusta na ba, kung okay na ba si ganito, kaya minsan yun din parang nafefeel din nila na importante sila sa PNP, yung iba, meron nga kaming iba na CICL na ngabago na tlga, yun lang." (The intervention programs implemented by the PNP to address the juvenile delinquency in Albay, were giving counseling to the youth and their parents knowing what were the reasons and why they commit such offenses, help parents and youth to identify and explore challenging family issues and providing treatment and services to the youth who have committed crimes, Sometimes we always visit them to see how they are doing, if this is okay, so sometimes they also feel that they are important to the PNP, the others, we do have others who are CICL who have changed, that's all).

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SW7 mentions, "Juvenile delinquency intervention and treatment programs have the broad goals of preventing crime and reducing recidivism by providing treatment and services to the youth who have committed crimes including their family, we conducted awareness programs, intellectual behavior therapy, serious supervision of juveniles, confinement-based therapeutic community for juveniles and also barangay and home visitation".

Counseling and support services are essential in addressing juvenile delinquency by targeting its root causes, including family dynamics and environmental factors. Providing counseling for both youth and their families helps identify underlying issues and fosters resolution through regular check-ins and therapy. The importance of involving families in the process is highlighted, as it strengthens the support system for the youth, reducing the likelihood of recidivism and promoting positive behavioral change. Research, including studies by Singh & Azman (2020), emphasizes that comprehensive interventions incorporating counseling, family support, and community engagement are effective in preventing delinquency and improving youth outcomes by addressing both individual and environmental challenges.

Diversion Programs

Diversion programs are designed to redirect young offenders away from the formal justice system, focusing instead on rehabilitation and community service. This approach aims to provide alternative solutions to legal consequences, fostering personal development and accountability.

WCPD2 emphasizes, "Sa PNP we have the diversion programs, collaboration din yan sa CSWD-City Social Workers Development, it aims to divert young offenders away from the formal justice system. Instead of facing

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criminal changes, kasi di naman sila pwedeng kasuhan nga, ito ang binibigay sa kanila na diversion programs, nag-aano sila, inooperan sila ng community service, counseling, educational programs, or restorative justice practices to address their actions, kadalasan dito, community service, dati meron kaming ano, dito mismo sa station pinapaano ng community service inaano ng CSWD, kasi wala namang ibang place na madaling imonitor, counseling naman nagcoconduct nyan yung social workers, pinapatawag sila, nagkaron sila ng home visit". (In PNP we have the diversion programs, collaboration with CSWD-City Social Workers Development, it aims to divert young offenders away from the formal justice system. Instead of facing criminal changes, because they can't be prosecuted, they are given diversion programs, they are doing what they are doing, they are being operated by community service, counseling, educational programs, or restorative justice practices to address their actions, usually here, community service, we used to have what, right here at the station where community service is being treated by the CSWD, Since there is no other place to monitor, counseling is conducted, social workers are called, they are now home visiting).

SW8 states, "As for the intervention program being implemented per LGUs, I can say that we had different strategies applied as far as RA 9344 is concerned, sometimes it varies depending on the available resources that the community can provide. But some of the programs, we conducted home-visit, counseling, group sessions, case conference, community service under diversion program, capacity building to stakeholders-BCPC and DepEd, Provision of financial/ Medical assistance, provision of livelihood assistance, payment to daily subsistence of CICL in rehabilitation center, referral and organization of peer support group for children and parents."

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The analysis of diversion programs underscores their effectiveness in reducing recidivism by offering personalized solutions to address individual needs. These programs, which involve social workers, community services, and educational initiatives, create a supportive environment that encourages behavioral change and rehabilitation. The involvement of families and local resources further enhances the program's impact. Continued investment and collaboration among stakeholders, including social workers and local government units, are vital for their success. Research by Singh & Azman (2020) and Alston (2019) highlights that a multifaceted, supportive approach, focused on early intervention and community involvement, is more effective than punitive measures in addressing juvenile delinquency and promoting positive outcomes.

Community Engagement and Education

Engagement with the community is essential for effective intervention. Participants noted the significance of school and barangay visitations, which help raise awareness and foster dialogue about juvenile delinquency, enhancing community involvement in preventive measures.

WCPD3 mentions, *"The PNP conducts school-based visitation and dialogue, also conduct visitation to the juvenile."*

According to WCPD4, *"We conduct school visitation, barangay visitation, and dialogue and distribution of IEC materials/flyers."*

WCPD5 adds, *"School visitation, and barangay visitation."*

Community engagement and education are essential in addressing juvenile delinquency, as highlighted by WCPD3, WCPD4, and WCPD5. These initiatives, which focus on school and barangay visitations, raise awareness, foster dialogue, and promote collective responsibility for youth behavior. By engaging schools and local

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communities, these efforts help identify at-risk youth early and provide opportunities for timely intervention before delinquency escalates. The implications of such community-based approaches are significant, as they involve families, schools, and local authorities in a comprehensive strategy for prevention and rehabilitation. This collaborative approach, supported by studies such as Singh & Azman (2020) and Alston (2019), reinforces the importance of early intervention, tailored strategies, and the active role of social workers in addressing juvenile delinquency effectively.

Comprehensive Assessment and Tailored Intervention

Participants stressed the necessity of conducting thorough assessments to tailor interventions to the specific needs of each youth. This individualized approach ensures that the diverse circumstances and backgrounds of children are appropriately addressed.

WCPD6 notes, "Actually ang intervention programs bago an pigtatao sa aki kaipuhan maassess yan ki tama, ta iba-iba ang aki, dae man pararyo ang intervention na dapat itao, digdi gaconduct kami ki regular counseling, interview and assessment of discernment, protective custody/temporary shelter, assist/escort during court hearings, intervention program, diversion programs, catechism sessions, therapy session, voluntary community service coordinated to Barangay BCPCs for monitoring of the activities, after-care program, family counseling, referral to other agencies (DSWD, PSWD) for other support services like financial, medical and livelihood assistance." (Actually, the intervention programs, before giving to the child, the child must be given an assessment first because all child are different, we conduct regular counseling, interview and assessment of discernment, protective custody/temporary shelter, assist/escort during court hearings, intervention program, diversion programs, catechism sessions, therapy session, voluntary community service coordinated to Barangay

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BCPCs for monitoring of the activities, after-care program, family counseling, referral to other agencies (DSWD, PSWD) for other support services like financial, medical and livelihood assistance).

SW10 mentions, "Actually, sa intervention na ginigibo me digdi sa CSWD tabaco, igwa kaming facility na pigdadarahan sa aki na nakacommit ki krimen, pero ang pigdadara lang duman, so repeat offender, nakacommit heinous crimes, saka so ongoing ang kaso. Duman sa facility, gaconduct kami counseling, group sessions, case conference, skills training, gatao ki psychosocial support, nagpoprovide ki financial or medical assistance, after kang aki sa facility ibabalik sya sa family nya gatao kaming livelihood assistance para sa magurang, therapy, nagvivisit kami sa house nila, we also conducted home, life that includes the like skills training, leadership, health, decision-making, problem solving." (In the intervention we are doing here at CSWD Tabaco, we have a facility where we bring the children who commit crimes, the facility is only for repeat offenders, who commit heinous crimes, as well as the case is ongoing. In the facility, we conduct counseling, group sessions, case conferences, skills training, psychosocial support, and provide financial or medical assistance, after you go to the facility we will return the child to his family we will provide livelihood assistance for the elderly, therapy, we visit their house, we also conducted home, a life that includes the like skills training, leadership, health, decision-making, problem-solving).

The analysis of comprehensive assessment and tailored interventions underscores the importance of individualized programs for addressing juvenile delinquency. WCPD6 and SW10 emphasize the need for thorough assessments to understand each youth's unique circumstances, allowing for more effective interventions such as counseling, skills training, therapy, and family support. These personalized programs address the root causes of delinquent behavior, reducing the

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risk of repeat offenses and aiding rehabilitation. The implications highlight the importance of a holistic approach, considering not only the child’s behavior but also their family and social environment. This aligns with broader strategies discussed in studies by Singh & Azman (2020) and Alston (2019), which emphasize early identification and targeted interventions tailored to each youth's specific needs for long-term success and reintegration into society.

Skills Training and Rehabilitation

The focus on skills training and rehabilitation underscores the goal of equipping youths with the necessary life skills to prevent future delinquency. Participants highlighted various programs conducted inside the Tabaco Youth Home that aimed at fostering personal development and integration into society.

SW9 highlights, "We have a rehabilitation facility through Tabaco Youth Home, in the facility we have intervention/diversion programs, we conduct skills training, psychological support, referral to legal counseling, legal support, therapy, we conduct life-skills training for the minor, leadership, health, also we have training in decision-making, problem-solving."

The initiative programs at the Tabaco Youth Home aim to equip young offenders with vital life skills to foster personal growth and smooth reintegration into society. These programs, which include life-skills training, leadership development, decision-making, problem-solving, and psychological and legal support, are tailored to address the root causes of delinquent behavior and empower youth to make better life choices. By focusing on both practical and emotional skills, the programs seek to reduce recidivism and promote long-term prevention by tackling underlying emotional, social, and educational challenges. This approach aligns with research by Singh & Azman (2020), Golan-Nadir (2019), and Chopin & Beauregard (2021), which emphasize the importance of early intervention and personalized support, as

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well as studies by Kokoravec et al. (2022) and Abreu (2020), highlighting the creation of supportive environments. Additionally, Wolle (2023) underscores the importance of mentoring and active participation in fostering positive behavior change, reinforcing the effectiveness of holistic, skill-based rehabilitation in reducing juvenile delinquency.

The intervention programs conducted by the PNP-WCPD and CSWDO in Albay offer a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to addressing juvenile delinquency by combining counseling, diversion initiatives, community-based support, skills training, and family involvement. These programs focus on understanding and addressing the root causes of delinquency, offering alternatives to formal legal proceedings through diversion, and promoting rehabilitation over punishment. Family engagement and community service foster a supportive environment, reducing recidivism by encouraging positive behavior and reintegration. The approach is cost-effective and emphasizes the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and social welfare agencies, highlighting the need for sustained, tailored interventions to address the unique challenges of at-risk youth. If sustained, these programs have the potential to create safer communities, reduce reoffending, and contribute to long-term improvements in juvenile justice practices.

Conclusion

The study on juvenile delinquency in Albay from 2019 to 2023 reveals a shifting landscape of offenses, including theft, shoplifting, physical harm, and sexual harassment, with varied resolutions such as cleared, settled or amicably solved, and some were on-trial, and cases were refused to file.

Key contributing factors include misguided minors, mental health issues, minor vulnerability turns to substance use, poor academic performance and impulsive decision making contributes delinquency, and family challenges like weak parent-child relationship, parental conflict, disoriented family responses, impact of parental neglect due to work commitments and poor parenting as a form of family dysfunction leads to delinquency. Economic struggles unemployment, poverty, and limited job prospects drive some youth

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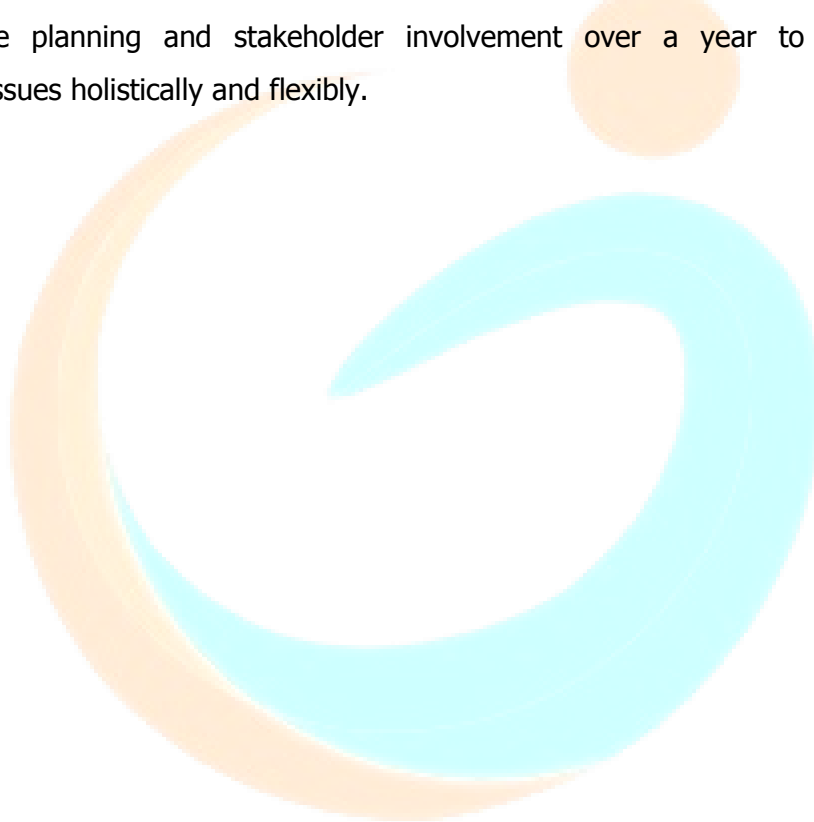
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toward criminal activity, while social factors, including peer influence, social media, and limited recreational options, further compound these risks.

Collaborative interventions by the PNP-WCPD Unit and CSWDO Social Workers involve therapy, diversion programs, community service, and customized support addressing individual needs, aiming to divert young offenders from the judicial system.

In response, the proposed "Harmony in Albay: Crafting Futures, Breaking Chains" initiative encompasses counseling, community engagement, education, and skill-building, with comprehensive planning and stakeholder involvement over a year to address these multifaceted issues holistically and flexibly.



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