



## AN ASSESSMENT OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW IN ALBAY PROVINCE: BASIS FOR INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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### ABSTRACT

This study explores the factors influencing crimes committed by children in conflict with the law (CICL) in Albay, focusing on offenses against persons, property, and chastity. It seeks to identify crime types, examine socio-economic, familial, and environmental influences, assess stakeholders' awareness of intervention programs, and determine differences in awareness among key sectors. Employing a mixed-methods design, data were collected through surveys and interviews with representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay councils, and the community. Results indicate a strong correlation between socio-economic challenges, unstable family environments, peer pressure, and the prevalence of certain offenses. Awareness of rehabilitation initiatives—such as counseling, livelihood and skills training, and community-based support—was generally moderate but varied significantly across the four respondent groups. These differences were attributed to varying degrees of involvement in CICL case management and program implementation. The study highlights the need for a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach that actively engages families and communities in prevention and rehabilitation efforts. Strengthening information dissemination, enhancing stakeholder coordination, and improving access to intervention services are essential to address root causes, promote rehabilitation effectiveness, and ensure the successful reintegration of CICL into society.

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**Keywords:** *Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), Crimes against persons, Crimes against property, Crimes against chastity, Socio-economic factors, Familial influences, Environmental influences, Peer influence, Rehabilitation programs, Counseling, Livelihood training, Skills training, Community-based interventions*

## INTRODUCTION

The rising incidence of crimes committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay remains a pressing social concern despite the protective and rehabilitative intent of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 (RA 9344). Offenses range from petty theft and assault to robbery and drug-related violations, revealing gaps in law enforcement, child protection, and addressing deeper social, familial, and environmental causes. Globally, over half of the world's children face interpersonal violence annually, with low- and middle-income countries struggling to implement effective, context-specific interventions due to resource constraints (Pundir et al., 2020).

Parental involvement plays a critical role in CICL rehabilitation, influenced by parental burden, attitudes, and family relationships, highlighting the need for holistic, family-centered approaches (Donato, 2025). The rise in juvenile crimes is also linked to the internet's influence, making Restorative Justice and Diversion essential to protect children's rights and foster positive behavior (Comparative Study, 2025). In the Philippines, RA 9344 outlines age-based criminal liability exemptions, intervention programs, and alternatives to confinement (Zyre, 2024), but implementation challenges persist, especially in provincial areas.

Supreme Court guidelines emphasize the need to assess minors' discernment in criminal cases (SC, n.d.). Locally, juvenile delinquency in Albay—particularly in Legazpi, Ligao, and Tabaco—stems from factors such as mental health issues, poverty, peer influence, and family neglect, prompting proposed programs like "Harmony in Albay" for early intervention and community engagement (Padua, 2024). Local ordinances further mandate LGUs to

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establish diversion and rehabilitation programs (RA 9344; Municipal Ordinance No. 015-2021; Tabaco City Ordinance).

This study seeks to analyze the nature, patterns, and causes of CICL crimes in Albay to design a contextualized intervention program, aiming to reduce juvenile offenses and strengthen rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

## FRAMEWORK

This study adopts the Integrated Developmental-Relational Strain and Control Theory (IDRSCT), a synthesized framework combining Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, Agnew's General Strain Theory, and Hirschi's Social Control Theory to comprehensively explain juvenile delinquency among Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay. Bronfenbrenner's model emphasizes how layered environmental systems—from family and peers to societal and cultural forces—interact to influence behavior, while Agnew's theory links delinquency to strains such as poverty, family loss, and exposure to abuse, which generate negative emotions and may lead to crime without proper coping mechanisms. Hirschi's theory adds that weakened bonds to family, school, and community increase delinquency, whereas strong attachments, commitments, and involvement deter it. The integration of these perspectives highlights that CICL offending emerges from the interplay of environmental conditions, experienced stressors, and the strength of social bonds.

The study's conceptual framework applies the CIPP model—Context, Input, Process, and Product—to evaluate factors influencing Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay and guide the creation of a comprehensive intervention program. The Context phase identifies and categorizes crimes committed by CICL to establish the scope of juvenile delinquency. The Input phase examines personal, environmental, social, and economic risk factors through Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory and Agnew's General Strain Theory. The Process phase assesses the awareness, accessibility, and effectiveness of existing intervention programs, guided by Hirschi's Social Control Theory, using perspectives from social workers, families, and law enforcers. The Product phase integrates these findings to design a multi-

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sectoral intervention program based on the Integrated Developmental-Relational Strain and Control Theory (IDRSCT), aimed at reducing strains, strengthening social bonds, and promoting rehabilitation, with continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure long-term impact and adaptability.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to comprehensively examine the nature, causes, and intervention programs related to crimes committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in the province of Albay, with the end goal of proposing a comprehensive intervention program to reduce CICL cases in the region. Specifically, it sought to: (1) identify the crimes committed by CICL in Albay province in terms of crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against chastity; (2) determine the contributing factors of crimes committed by CICL along with personal factors, environmental factors (demographic location), social factors (relationship with family and peers), and economic factors; (3) infer the significant relationship between crimes committed by CICL and the contributing factors; (4) assess the awareness of intervention programs for CICL along with counseling, education, skills training, recreational activities, community involvement, and family support; (5) infer the significant difference in the awareness of the three groups of respondents on the intervention program for CICL; and (6) propose a comprehensive intervention program to reduce CICL cases in the province of Albay.

## METHODOLOGY

This study employed a multimethod research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to gain a comprehensive understanding of crimes committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay province. The quantitative component involved structured questionnaires distributed to 297 respondents—comprising residents, barangay officials, PNP personnel, and MSWD staff—selected through a combination of purposive and stratified sampling to ensure balanced representation across three key cities:

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Ligao, Legazpi, and Tabaco. The qualitative component included interviews and focus group discussions with key informants such as social workers, law enforcers, and family members, providing richer insights into the causes of juvenile offenses and the effectiveness of intervention programs. The research instruments consisted of two main parts: one measuring contributing factors to CICL involvement (personal, environmental, social, and economic) using a 4-point Likert scale, and another assessing awareness of intervention programs (counseling, education, skills training, recreation, community involvement, and family support) using a similar scale

Data collection followed a systematic process, starting with the preparation and expert validation of instruments, securing formal permissions from relevant local government and agency authorities, and coordinating with officials for respondent access. Questionnaires were personally administered and retrieved, and key informant interviews were conducted to complement survey findings. Data were analyzed using frequency distributions and percentages for crime classification, weighted means for assessing contributing factors and awareness levels, Pearson Product-Moment Correlation for relationships between variables, and Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance for determining agreement among respondent groups. These analytical methods ensured both the statistical rigor and contextual depth needed to formulate an evidence-based, comprehensive intervention program aimed at reducing CICL cases in Albay province.

## FINDINGS

This section presents the study's findings, based on data gathered from the selected respondents across Municipalities A, B, and C. The discussion integrates relevant insights to highlight significant patterns and implications of the findings.

### 1. Crimes committed by Child In Conflict with the Law in Albay Province

Crimes committed by children in conflict with the law (CICL) in Albay Province have become a pressing concern among communities, law enforcers, and child welfare advocates.

**a. Crimes against persons.** Crimes against persons committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay Province from 2020 to 2024, as shown in DSWD Field Office V data,

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reveal a persistent pattern of violent offenses, with physical injury being the most common, followed by rape and, less frequently, murder. Municipal B consistently recorded higher figures, peaking at eight physical injury cases in 2022, while Municipal A showed a notable spike in both physical injury (nine cases) and rape (eight cases) in 2021, indicating localized surges in violence possibly linked to social and environmental stressors. Municipal C had several years with zero reported cases, which may reflect either genuinely low incidents or underreporting. Literature supports these findings—Wise (2024) notes that 36% of juvenile crimes nationwide involve offenses against persons, driven by poverty, domestic abuse, and syndicate exploitation, while Estoro (2023) identifies parental neglect, peer influence, and social media as aggravating factors. Alibogha (2016) further associates high physical injury rates with urbanization and links them to substance abuse, explaining why more urban municipalities like B have higher case counts. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights underscores the need for child-sensitive justice processes, and 2020 U.S. trends reflect a pandemic-related crime decline, paralleling Albay's lowest figures in 2020. Overall, the data point to deep-rooted familial, social, and environmental issues that require a multi-sectoral approach—integrating education, mental health support, child protection, law enforcement coordination, and community engagement—to prevent and rehabilitate CICL involved in violent crimes.

**b. Crimes against property.** Crimes against property committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay Province from 2020–2024, based on DSWD Field Office V data, reveal theft and qualified theft as the most prevalent offenses, particularly concentrated in Municipal B, which reached a peak of nine cases in 2023 and 22 total property crimes in 2022—the highest single-year figure recorded. Municipal C also showed persistent theft cases, peaking at seven in 2024, while robbery, malicious mischief, carnapping, and snatching/shoplifting appeared less frequently but showed notable spikes in specific years, indicating shifts toward more opportunistic and organized crimes. The relatively low figures in 2020 parallel global and national pandemic-related declines in juvenile crime, but sharp increases thereafter suggest post-pandemic socio-economic pressures. These patterns align with Fonbuena's (2022b)

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findings that theft remains a leading juvenile offense in the Philippines due to economic hardship and limited educational access, and with Banaag et al. (2024) who highlight poverty, family breakdown, and social neglect as key drivers. Estoro (2023) further links such crimes to peer influence and parental neglect, underscoring the need for community-based prevention and intervention. The persistence and concentration of property crimes in certain municipalities point to structural gaps in youth engagement, poverty alleviation, and local crime prevention, reinforcing the call for a multi-sectoral approach—integrating R.A. 9344’s rehabilitative framework, community policing, educational support, and targeted diversion programs—to address the root causes and reduce CICL involvement in property-related offenses.

**c. Crimes against chastity.** Crimes against chastity committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay Province from 2020–2024, as recorded by DSWD Field Office V, include violations of RA 11930 (Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children), Acts of Lasciviousness, and Sexual Assault, with notable increases in RA 11930 cases in 2024 in Municipalities B and C, reflecting growing minor involvement in technology-facilitated sexual offenses. Acts of Lasciviousness appeared consistently over the years, peaking in 2021 and 2022, while Sexual Assault, though less frequent, emerged in select years and municipalities, suggesting persistent but often underreported sexual misconduct among minors. These patterns align with Branzuela et al. (2023), who found that such offenses, while less common, carry severe and lasting impacts, and with Association CAMELEON (2024) and the Disrupting Harm study (ECPAT, INTERPOL & UNICEF, 2022), which reveal widespread sexual abuse and high rates of online exploitation among Filipino children. The trends underscore systemic issues such as insufficient sex education, weak family and community supervision, and cultural barriers to reporting, reinforcing the urgent need for multi-sectoral interventions—including preventive education, victim protection under RA 8505, and robust enforcement of RA 11930—to address both the root causes and the digital dimension of these offenses.

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## 2. The contributing factors of crimes committed by Children in Conflict with the Law

This part of the study explores the underlying factors that contribute to the involvement of children in criminal activities.

**a. Personal factors.** Respondents moderately agree (overall AWM = 2.92) that personal factors contribute to crimes committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay, with low self-esteem leading to unlawful acts for peer approval (AWM = 3.05), poor impulse control (AWM = 3.01), and history of substance abuse (AWM = 3.02) emerging as the most influential, alongside risky behavior from poor awareness of consequences and unmanaged trauma, while untreated mental health conditions scored lowest, suggesting limited recognition of their role due to stigma. These findings echo Caltino et al. (2024) and Dymic (2021b), who stress peer influence, abuse, and poor moral guidance as drivers of delinquency, and align with Susas (2024), who links truancy and school disengagement to higher risk, as well as Ulla et al. (2020), whose Non-Violent Childhoods Action Plan calls for early, multidisciplinary intervention in trauma and mental health. Overall, results point to interconnected psychological, behavioral, and educational vulnerabilities that require coordinated family, school, mental health, and community action to prevent juvenile offending.

**b. Environmental factors (demographic location).** Respondents agree (AWM = 3.03) that environmental factors—particularly living in high-crime communities, frequent exposure to peers engaged in illegal activities (AWM = 3.27), and lack of adult supervision (AWM = 3.21)—significantly contribute to crimes committed by Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Albay, with additional influences including exposure to domestic violence and normalization of criminal behavior in the home, while lower ratings for inadequate recreational spaces (AWM = 2.86) and weak school interventions (AWM = 2.77) suggest these are perceived as less immediate triggers. These findings align with Abidi (2021), who links unsafe environments, poor governance, and normalized violence to increased juvenile vulnerability; Phillips (2021), who notes that poverty and unsafe living conditions impair cognitive control and promote

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aggression; and Abhishek & Balamurugan (2024b), who identify overcrowding, community violence, and lack of recreation as drivers of antisocial behavior. The PREDA study by Abella (2016) similarly emphasizes that environmental pressures—particularly peer influence and adverse community norms—interact with family instability to heighten delinquency risks, underscoring the need for community-based safety initiatives, stronger child protection enforcement, positive peer networks, and early institutional interventions.

**c. Social factors (relationship with family and peers).** Social factors such as peer pressure from friends involved in unlawful acts, social exclusion or discrimination, lack of positive role models, involvement in gangs, and poor family communication significantly contribute to crimes committed by CICL, with an overall AWM of 2.9 (Agree), indicating general consensus on their influence. Bullying, harassment, stigma, and distrust toward authority figures also emerged as key risks, while lack of involvement in productive activities further limits positive development. These findings align with Thomas (n.d.), who emphasizes that adverse home conditions, unstable family structures, and permissive or overly repressive parenting heighten delinquency risk, especially when compounded by poverty, poor education, and peer pressure. Abhishek and Balamurugan (2024b) similarly stress that supportive households lower delinquency rates, whereas neglect increases them, while Zhang (2025) underscores that negative family environments and low socioeconomic status are major drivers. Mohideen et al. (2016) add that public perception identifies family background, socioeconomic class, and especially educational experience as critical contributors. Overall, the data suggests that holistic interventions—integrating family support, community inclusion, positive mentorship, and accessible education—are essential to break the cycle of juvenile delinquency.

**d. Economic factors.** Economic hardship—marked by poverty, unemployment, limited access to education, and unstable housing—significantly contributes to crimes committed by CICL, with an overall AWM of 3.08 (Agree). Children from low-income households often face financial pressures that push them toward theft, illegal labor, or drug trade, while lack of affordable education and health services further traps them in cycles of deprivation and crime.

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Financial desperation not only limits legitimate opportunities but can also normalize crime as a perceived path to survival or material success, reflecting both personal and systemic vulnerabilities. These findings are consistent with Musa and Rais (2023), who found that financial incentives and peer influence drive youth crime, and Qiu et al. (2020), who highlight how socioeconomic hardship intensifies risky behaviors. Khan et al. (2019) further note that poorly managed economic growth can worsen inequality, sustaining conditions that foster juvenile delinquency, while Goncalves (2024) stresses the need for culturally sensitive, sustainable economic planning. Collectively, the evidence underscores the urgency of poverty alleviation, free education, family livelihood programs, and community safety nets to break the economic-crime cycle among vulnerable youth.

### **3. Significant relationship between crimes committed by Children in Conflict with the Law and the contributing factors.**

Among the crime categories, only crimes against persons have a statistically significant relationship with the identified contributing factors, as indicated by a computed t-value of 2.41 exceeding the tabulated value of 1.96 at the 5% significance level, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This means personal, environmental, social, and economic conditions—such as low self-control, poor moral guidance, exposure to violence, peer pressure, poverty, and unstable family structures—substantially influence violent offenses committed by CICL. In contrast, crimes against property ( $t = 0.39$ ) and crimes against chastity ( $t = 0.30$ ) showed no significant overall relationship with the aggregated factors, suggesting that these may require more targeted, context-specific analysis. These findings align with Silva et al. (2019), who identify peer pressure and repeated offenses as key crime drivers, and Garnier et al. (2018), who note that spatial and contextual risks shape certain offense patterns. The results also echo Swargiary's (2024) observation that education and socioeconomic conditions interact to influence crime rates, as well as Musa and Rais's (2023) evidence that economic hardship, limited opportunities, and peer influence often push youth toward violent behavior. Collectively, this underscores that crimes against persons among CICL are rarely isolated

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incidents but instead arise from the interplay of multiple vulnerabilities, requiring holistic, multi-sectoral interventions.

#### **4. Awareness of intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law**

Awareness of intervention programs for children in conflict with the law is essential for fostering a more effective and compassionate approach to juvenile justice.

**a. Counseling.** Awareness of counseling intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) is at the "Aware" level (AWM = 2.71), with Group B—likely professionals or stakeholders—showing the highest awareness, even reaching "Highly Aware" for some indicators (e.g., availability of counseling services, AWM = 3.28), while Group C—possibly parents or community members—consistently ranks lowest, remaining in the "Slightly Aware" category. While awareness exists regarding the general availability of counseling and its role in addressing behavioral issues, there are notable gaps in understanding specific mechanisms, such as professional roles, scheduled visits, and psychological assessments, which could hinder program utilization. These findings align with Alfehaid et al. (2024), who stress that mental health interventions require both accessibility and stakeholder engagement, and with Mangione et al. (2022) and Jackson et al. (2023), who highlight that counseling is most effective when recipients are informed and motivated to participate. Similarly, Atewologun et al. (2025) emphasize the value of community-based awareness, professional training, and technology integration to close service gaps. Collectively, this suggests that targeted information campaigns, parental orientation, and digital outreach are essential to strengthen counseling program uptake, enhance rehabilitation outcomes, and reduce recidivism among CICL.

**b. Education.** Awareness of education intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) is generally at the "Aware" level (AWM = 3.06), with the highest awareness for scholarship or sponsorship opportunities (AWM = 3.10) and vocational/academic programs (AWM = 3.06), while understanding of broader educational goals (AWM = 2.89) and bridging programs for out-of-school CICL (AWM = 2.95) is comparatively lower. This suggests that although stakeholders recognize the existence of such initiatives, their knowledge of specific

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objectives—such as literacy enhancement, reintegration, and psychosocial development—remains surface-level, with no “Highly Aware” ratings recorded. These findings align with Gomez (n.d.) and JED (n.d.), who note that transition education, vocational skills training, and academic support are crucial in rehabilitation, and with Taladtad (2025), who highlights the success of programs like the MIMAROPA Youth Center’s integration of education into rehabilitation. However, as emphasized in *Juvenile Justice: Rehabilitation vs. Disciplinary Action* (2024), program availability alone is insufficient without deep stakeholder engagement and clear communication of objectives. Thus, intensifying advocacy, clarifying goals, and ensuring CICL and their support networks understand how education fosters rehabilitation, skill acquisition, and reduced recidivism is essential for maximizing program impact.

**c. Skills training.** Awareness of skills training intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) is generally at the “Aware” level (AWM = 2.89), with Municipal B having the highest awareness (3.18) and Municipal A and C scoring lower but still within the same range. Respondents were most aware of the relevance and effectiveness of skills being taught, such as carpentry, dressmaking, and IT, and of success stories from CICL beneficiaries, but least aware of programs offering certifications for employability, indicating a gap in understanding the long-term value of these interventions. This aligns with literature underscoring that skills training—whether through programs like Project CRAFT by the Home Builders Institute, which provides pre-apprenticeship training and job placement (Hamilton & McKinney, n.d.), or initiatives like Job Corps and Youth Justice that reduce recidivism by up to 28% when paired with mental health support (Lee, 2025)—is vital for rehabilitation. Studies by Esmaeili & Latifian (2025) and Azkiya et al. (2025) further stress that integrating vocational education with life skills, psychosocial support, and interagency collaboration enhances mental health, social functioning, and reintegration outcomes. However, the absence of “Highly Aware” ratings suggests that program implementers, LGUs, and NGOs must intensify advocacy, promote certification pathways, and highlight employment linkages to maximize the rehabilitative and reintegrative impact of skills training.

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**d. Recreational activities.** Recreational activity interventions for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) is generally in the “Aware” range (AWM = 2.73), with Group B showing the highest awareness (3.1), Group A slightly lower (2.7), and Group C only “Somewhat Aware” (2.4), reflecting uneven exposure to or involvement in such programs. Respondents were most aware that sports, arts, and cultural activities are part of rehabilitation (AWM = 2.77) and that recreation helps reduce delinquent behavior, but less familiar with structured program details such as discipline-building activities, safe spaces, regular event schedules, and barangay-level participation. Literature underscores that recreational programs—anchored in the right to play under Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child—are essential for CICL rehabilitation by fostering discipline, social skills, emotional recovery, and community belonging (Glos, 2023; Winkler, 2024). However, these must be implemented with safeguards to prevent abuse (Aine et al., 2022) and be broad and inclusive to maximize developmental benefits (Esposito et al., 2024). The findings suggest that while general awareness exists, LGUs, social workers, and community leaders must enhance promotion, accessibility, and structured engagement in recreational activities to ensure that these programs fulfill their rehabilitative potential.

**e. Community involvement.** awareness of community involvement intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) is generally in the “Aware” range (overall AWM = 2.98), with Group B registering the highest awareness (3.08) and Groups A (2.9) and C (2.93) close behind, indicating broad but moderate recognition of stakeholder participation. Respondents were most aware of the involvement of barangays, LGUs, and NGOs (AWM = 3.06) and the role of livelihood and outreach programs in reintegration (AWM = 3.03), while awareness was slightly lower for barangay ordinances (2.94) and volunteer or religious group participation (2.97). Literature affirms that community engagement—through family support, peer mentoring, and multi-sector collaboration—strengthens rehabilitation and reduces recidivism (Donato, 2025), while addressing systemic inequities in juvenile justice requires community-based alternatives like wraparound services, which have been shown to enhance strengths, reduce needs, and lower reoffending (Gigante et al., 2022). The findings suggest

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that although respondents recognize community involvement as crucial, more targeted awareness campaigns and deeper stakeholder engagement are needed to maximize the potential of community-driven rehabilitation for CICL.

**f. Family support.** that respondents generally have a good awareness of family support intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) (overall AWM = 2.99, "Aware"), with strongest recognition for activities enhancing positive interactions, emotional regulation, and parental participation (AWMs 3.08–3.12), and slightly lower awareness for access to community resources and culturally responsive approaches (AWMs 2.92–2.97). These results affirm literature stressing that family support is central to rehabilitation, as strong parental involvement, improved communication, and culturally sensitive strategies foster stability, guidance, and healing (Kilkelly, 2025). A rights-based approach, as guaranteed under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, is essential to address CICL vulnerabilities and ensure dignity and reintegration. The Family Support and Well-Being Programme (FSWP) in Bengaluru, India, illustrates how psychosocial interventions can improve parenting skills, emotional regulation, and family engagement, leading to better behavioral outcomes and reduced recidivism (Jangam et al., 2022). Likewise, Smith (2025) advocates reframing family law to prioritize sustained relationship-building, aligning with holistic intervention models that promote long-term well-being. Overall, while awareness is positive, the findings suggest a need to further strengthen stakeholder knowledge, emphasize active parental participation, and integrate culturally grounded approaches to maximize rehabilitation and reintegration success.

## **5. Significant difference in the awareness of the three groups of respondents on the intervention program for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).**

Reveals significant differences in awareness of five out of six intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)—namely counseling, education, skills training, community development, and family support—across parents, educators, and community leaders, suggesting uneven access to information, training, and program engagement, while

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awareness of recreational activities shows no significant variation ( $T=1.65 < 1.96$ ), indicating either uniform recognition or uniform neglect. These disparities underscore the need for standardized, inclusive awareness campaigns and capacity-building efforts to ensure equal stakeholder knowledge and participation, which are vital for effective rehabilitation strategies. Comparative studies further stress that CICLs often exhibit lower emotional competence and regulation than peers without legal issues (Yadav & Pareek, 2025), highlighting the importance of integrating emotional development into interventions. Methodological insights from Roberts et al. (2025) show that remote qualitative data collection can be a viable approach for researching sensitive populations like CICLs, while Heath et al. (2024) emphasize the benefits and challenges of cross-country research collaborations, underscoring the value of culturally attuned, globally informed program development.

#### **6. Comprehensive intervention program to reduce Children in Conflict with the Law cases in the province of Albay.**

The **Albay Holistic Rehabilitation and Support Program for CICL (AHRs-CICL)** applies a multi-sectoral, family- and community-centered approach backed by evidence showing that coordinated interventions involving social workers, LGUs, NGOs, and families enhance rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes. Findings from Iloilo City and Bahay Pag-Asa highlight the effectiveness of vocational training, life-skills development, and spiritual support, alongside the need for individualized care, family counseling, and community engagement to address emotional, behavioral, and adjustment challenges (Bacusa et al., 2025; Urbano et al., 2023). Psychosocial studies further show that CICL often face school dropout, behavioral issues, and unstable family environments, reinforcing the program's focus on counseling, education, and legal compliance with RA 9344/10630 to reduce recidivism and achieve a targeted 20% decrease in CICL cases in Albay (N.F.H.K.P. et al., 2024; RA 9344/10630; JJWC, 2021)

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## CONCLUSION

This study revealed that children in conflict with the law (CICL) in Albay province primarily commit crimes against persons, property, and chastity, driven by a complex interplay of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors. A significant link between these factors and the offenses committed underscores the need for targeted, multidimensional interventions. While respondents generally demonstrated moderate to high awareness of rehabilitation programs such as counseling, education, skills training, and community involvement, variations in awareness among groups point to gaps in information dissemination. To address these issues, a comprehensive, family- and community-engaged intervention program is recommended to enhance equitable access, reduce CICL cases, improve rehabilitation outcomes, and support sustainable reintegration into society.

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