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Case Study of House Parents of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL): Psychological Implication

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**CASE STUDY OF HOUSE PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH
THE LAW (CICL): PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATION**

A Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of
College of Graduates Studies and Teacher Education Research
Philippine Normal University
Taft Avenue, Manila

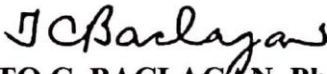
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Bachelor of Science –
Master of Arts in Psychology and Counseling

EUNICE FAYE M. MANZANILLO

December 2020

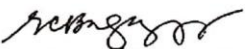
APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled "**CASE STUDY OF HOUSE PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW (CICL): PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATION**" prepared and submitted by **EUNICE FAYE M. MANZANILLO** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **Bachelor of Science-Master of Arts in Psychology and Counseling Straight Program**, is hereby recommended for approval and acceptance.


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DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my family who have a long patience and never get tired to understand and to believe in me. I also dedicate this study to all house parents, as well as volunteers who continue to guide and handle children in conflict with the law (CICL) despite all the challenges they were facing. I salute you for giving these children hope every single day.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Taking a long and tough journey will reach the beautiful destination in the end, and it is all worth it.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Philippine Normal University, who helped me to develop my skills in all aspect as a person, and taught me how to become professional. This serves as my second home and help me to reach my goal to graduate as a BSMA Psychology and Counseling student.

I can barely express my gratefulness to our Graduate Research Office for their constantly helping, assisting, and guiding us all throughout the development of my study. Thank you for extending your patience.

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and make the thought of this study more significant and relevant. Thank you for your sharing your expertise.

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Above all, to the Heavenly Father. You always give me hope and strength to continue despite of many challenges in my life. In your word you said, Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” You are truly the one great God.

ABSTRACT

Name: Eunice Faye M. Manzanillo

Title of the Study: Case Study of House Parents of Children in Conflict with the Law: Psychological Implication

Key concepts: Children in conflict with the law (CICL), lived experiences, rehabilitation center

Degree: Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts

Specialization: Psychology and Guidance and Counseling

Adviser: Dr. Tito C. Baclagan

Lived experiences of the house parents inside the rehabilitation center plays an important role in determining the implications and intervention to be provided to children in conflict with the law (CICL). This research case study gathered seven (7) house parents as the participants in the middle adulthood. The said participants were from Laguna, specifically from two (2) centers namely Pag-asa Youth Rehabilitation Center and the Women and Children Crisis Center that are both located in Barangay Sinalhan, City of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Purposive sampling technique was used to pay attention to the information that the participants would give through in depth interview. Semi-structured type interviews were conducted to the participants to gather the information needed for the study. Analysis of data discussed the problem of the study: (1) What are the Lived experiences of the person taking care of the Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)

inside the rehabilitation center?, (2) What are the challenges of the house parents in handling Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)?; and (3) What is the psychological implication of the findings to the profession of being a house parent? The emerged themes were categorized through thematic analysis. The study resulted that every house parents have their positive and negative experiences inside the center that also resulted with their opinion regarding the House Bill No. 505 or lowering the criminal age. The findings helped to emphasized that there is a need for more intervention for CICL inside the center and also revealed the implications regarding to guidance and counseling.

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CHAPTER I

Problem and Related Literature

Background of the Study

The United Nations of Asians and Far East Institute (UNAFEI), defined Children in Conflict with the Law or also known as CICL, as children under 18 years of age who are alleged as, accused of, or adjudged as, having committed an offence under Philippine laws. According to the United Nations Children's Fund or UNICEF, other members of CICL are those who have committed petty crimes such as begging, being homeless truancy, etc. On the other hand, it is obvious that not all CICL s done criminal acts. Sometimes CICLs who have manifested criminal acts have usually been coerced by an adult, or more often, are being used by syndicates to do illegal acts. The reason why these children continue to commit crimes, is because they has been neglected by their parents. Children tend to become dysfunctional, if the family and their parents are dysfunctional.

There are three types of offenses, namely; offences against property, drug-related offences, and sex-offences, among children who have been considered as another part of current trend in this study. Offences against property is considered as the most common offence of youth such as stealing cellular gadgets while in public places and shoplifting at the mall. Drug-related offences has been considered as the most common issue of the youth nowadays. Compared to the first type of offence, this offence continue to increase as years go by. Many individuals who have encountered many problem in life use drugs as an escape

for whatever misfortunes they have and to forget about their problems. In terms of sex-offences, the child may be considered as an offender, as well as the victim.

Providing interventions and programs for CICL has been considered as the best way to rehabilitate the individuals from their criminal acts. Institution and centers have been built for the children, not to be punished but rather to reorient them and expand their awareness of society. The purpose of providing centers for CICL is to facilitate their recovery and for the children to become a better version of themselves. There are thirty-five (35) centers that are operated by provincial governments, eight (8) by the highly-urbanized cities, three (3) non-government organizations also known as NGO, and twenty-one (21) centers have functioned in different municipalities and cities. The centers for children in conflict with the law are called as Bahay Pag-asa centers. (Republic Act 10630)

The Bahay Pag-asa centers were established for the children in conflict with the law (CICL) as well as for the Children-at-Risk (CAR) within the ages of twelve (12) to seventeen (17) years old who has committed crimes. These facilities are intended to provide transformational programs that give emphasis to the basic education, spiritual formation, and life and livelihood skills. With the help of interventions provided from the centers, it can protect the welfare of the children as well as help them to rehabilitate.

The roles of the Bahay Pag-asa has been expressed in the Republic Act 10630 or also known as “An Act Establishing a Comprehensive juvenile Justice and Welfare System, Creating the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council under the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Appropriating Funds Therefore, and for Other Purposes.” It has been indicated in Sections 20, 20-A and 20-B that offending children need to be placed in youth

care facilities. Section 49 requires that centers be established in every province as well as in the highly-urbanized cities.

According to RA 10630, Bahay Pag-asa defined as a 24 hour children caring institution, must be established funded, and managed by the local government units (LGU) and licensed or accredited non-government organizations (NGO). These facilities' role is to provide residential care for children in conflict with the law, above the age of fifteen (15) but below eighteen (18). The Bahay Pag-asa is to be composed of a multi-disciplinary team, composed of a social worker, a psychologist/mental health professional, a medical doctor, an educational/guidance counselor and a member of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). The team works in the individualized intervention plan with the child, as well as the child's family.

The Bahay Pag-asa centers are intended to cater to the needs of the children in conflict with the law (CICL) as well as for the child at risk (CAR). The centers provide different services and programs that will help children transform themselves from within themselves. The center provides interventions that can help the individual develop skills such as livelihood and life skills. Education is also provided which can help the individual in their holistic formation and development. The children are provided support given by the house parents, who serve as their parents inside the center. They are supported not just by the house parents but also by the other people who surrounds them, as well as their family.

Having a support system is one of the crucial things to consider for the individual who has been trying to rehabilitate and to improve him/herself. House parents are a big

help for every individual inside the center. Their guidance helps the individual to feel loved and realize their worth. House parents together with the social workers in the center provide the intervention plan for every individual brought to the center.

Another issues to be considered in this research named by Thompson and Newton (n.d). This issue regarding the prosociality and it includes the multidimensionality of the prosocial behavior, as well as, discovering the different developmental pattern in different forms of prosociality of every individual. Current issues also include a variety of methodological concerns, from task demands to social context to child characteristics, which need to be considered as operationalizing and characterizing early prosocial motives and behavior (Thompson and Newton, n.d).

In Bahay Pag-asa centers, prosociality/prosocial behavior has been introduced. Prosocial behavior is an individual's behavior that represents the individual's willingness to help other people. This act is performed by an individual who shows sharing, cooperation, and providing comfort among the members of the society. Showing concern for every individual and conducting those kinds of behavior have been accurately believed that they are beneficial to other people. There have been cases that in order to help other people, some people were willing to take risks even though the individual they were trying to help were strangers. With the help of the personnel inside the Bahay Pag-asa center, the CICLs as well as CAR taught them on how to show care to the other member. This is one of the intervention that has been provided from the center. In line with this, Bahay Pag-asa centers have been built to help rehabilitate children in conflict with the Law (CICL) as well as to develop skills of the individual, with the help of the intervention inside the center. These skills includes life skills such as being creative, cooperative, resilient, etc., as well

as livelihood skills including technical and vocational abilities such as gardening, weaving, and sewing.

Considering the perception of every individuals in different situations or acts has been an important matter to know how an individual interpret and organizes information within a phenomenon. Along with this, every house parent's perception is considered as important thing because their behavior and action will be based in it. This will also affect the way how they treat every children in conflict with the law inside the center. Perception refers to how the individual thinks, understands, and is aware of the happenings and issues that have been raised within a particular location. Through perception, we are able to gain information and creates experiences that can help the individual to identify how to act towards the environment. Perception can also be defined as the process by which individuals organize and interpret their sensory impressions in order to give meaning to their environments (S.P Robbins, n.d). Perception affects the individual's action and decision to make within the phenomenon.

There are some studies which have shown some of the current trends and issues about the prosocial behavior or how a prosocial behavior motivates the individual to engage in this kind of behavior. A study conducted by Ding Wan et al. (2018), showed how moral judgment, moral elevation, and moral identity have a big impact on prosocial behavior. As the moral judgment of an individual increases, the moral principle of an individual also develops, and their moral principle leads them to take action of doing well. However, according to Brickman's research in 1972, the relationship of moral judgment and prosocial behavior was considered weak. Moral elevation is considered a positive moral emotion that leads an individual to perform righteous acts. The motivations associated with moral

elevation had been the desire to become a better person and the wish to open one's heart to others. (Keltner and Haidt, 2003; Silvers and Haidt, 2008). Individuals who were more engaged in moral elevation have more tendency to help other people. Thus, moral elevation has been regarded as an important force driving the prosocial actions of individuals (Haidt, 2003; Schnall et al., 2010). Moral Identity is the identity of an individual of being a moral person and it is considered as an individual's important identity. Researchers have found that people with high moral identity reported greater tendency to engage in helping behavior (Hardy, 2006), and it has been stated also that we can use moral identity to explain the moral action of an individual based on what moral dilemma an individual has been encountering.

Prosocial behavior refers to the pattern of activity, wherein altruism as the motivation to do something good or to help other people in regard to their needs rather than the benefit of oneself. According to Eisenberg and Mussen (!989), prosocial behavior refers to voluntary actions that are intended to help or benefit another individual or group of individuals. This behavior covers wide-ranging activities such as comforting, sharing, and helping others. Prosocial behavior is very important during a child's development because prosociality is the beginning of an individual's social interaction with other people. In order for an individual to be prosocial or to be inclined to help others, individual should learn to interact with other people with other people, without any hesitations. Prosocial behavior can also contribute to a child's success, socially and academically.

Another intriguing issue in manifesting prosocial behavior has been the gender differences. One study focused on the role gender plays in prosocial behavior, not in the way of looking whether the male was able to perform more prosocially rather than female

or vice versa, but rather, the researchers analyzed how each gender reacts to treatment variations that focus on social framing and reflection enhancement. A study by Espinosa and Kovářík in 2015, it has been analyzed gender-specific treatment effects with a special focus on two aspects of the experimental design, social framing and reflection enhancement. The original studies either used aggregate treatment effects on prosocial behavior or not, and although they generally controlled for gender within treatments, they do did not typically explore differential treatment effects across the two sexes. The demographics can determined whether either the girl or a boy is was more likely to commit crimes and has had the higher percentage chance of going inside the rehabilitation center.

Another thing that was considered in the researches about prosociality, was genetics. Genetics was also one factor that was considered that contributes to prosocial behavior as well as the involvement of the environment. The relationship of the environment with the gene of an individual also showed the formation or the outcome to an individual when it comes to prosociality. Examples of this is whether or not the parents of use negative discipline with their children or whether or not the parents give attention or affection which their children deserves. This may lead to lessen the prosociality of the children. Knafo and Plomin (2006) has noted that the heritability of prosocial behavior tended to be higher in adolescence and adulthood than in childhood.

Due researcher's observation that people nowadays have become apathetic about their behavior, there is a need for this to be investigated. Since there have been many studies already about prosocial behavior, the researcher intends to find a different focus of this study. The researcher is interested in the lived experiences of the house parents inside the center in handling and guiding children in conflict with the law. The researcher wanted to

know the different challenges that house parents were facing, as well as how the house parents can be able to cope up with these challenges. The researcher were also interested on the psychological implication of the findings in accordance to their profession. The topic of the study has been considered as interesting one because it shows the patience of the house parents to CICLs, and how they can be able to overcome every challenges that they are facing. Due to the issue of lowering the criminal liability, the topic of the study became more interesting because it will show the difference between the actions of those children, this will show the perception of the house parents regarding the lowering of criminal liability in the Philippines. The participant's perception has been considered as one of the highlight of the study because knowing the opinion of the other people regarding the phenomenon has been considered as the most crucial part of the study, which depended on the prosocial behavior of the children nowadays.

Psychology has been concerned not only with the brain or the mental state of an individual, but also with the physical, emotional, and social state of the individual as s/he grows or develops. Prosocial behavior obviously has a big impact on the social concern for them and providing help to an individual without the individual asking for help or giving comfort when the individual is in need. Prosocial behavior also has an impact to the emotional and physical state of an individual, wherein if an individual has been engaged in helping others, an individual increases his/her well-being and happiness because it is believed that these two factors are correlated with each other. The relationship of prosocial behavior to well-being and happiness of an individual increases their positive vibes in everything that they have been doing or everything that an individual is about to do. Also, if an individual has been consistently performing prosocial behavior, this helps them to

diminish the negative outcome of stress in their everyday lives. Instead of having distress in life, an individual will possess eustress or the one determined as “positive stress”, which has been considered as one of the essential thing in life because it helps an individual to ameliorate performances within themselves and became a better person.

Prosocial behavior also plays an important role in guidance and counseling, most especially with the counselor. The counselor is the one who gives options to every student who seeks for help whenever the student has been is having a hard time in school, family, friends, or could be by helping themselves. Because of this, counselors should be hands-on with the student’s action. Every time that a student seeks his/her help, the counselor should let the client feel being respected as well as being understood in whatever they are sharing. The counselor should provide support the client in whatever concern or issued that s/he is facing. Family counseling, marriage counseling, and other types of counseling that shows support from the counselor. In general, it would be a great help to the counselee when a counselor possess prosocial behavior and applies it during the session with the client.

Other studies about prosocial behavior have shown its impact on culture, on gender, whether the female are more engaged in it than the male, while most studies focuses only on one areas or aspect such as empathy and altruism. Unlike the other studies, the study considered the experiences of the house parents inside the center of handling children in conflict with the law, with the ages of eighteen (18) and below that doesn’t possess or manifested prosocial behavior from the past. This study includes the issue about lowering the criminal age which says that the number of minors who engaged in crimes has been increasing. In line with this, this studies also includes participants who have been the house

parents of CICL and they will be asked about their perception and opinion of lowering the criminal liability in the Philippines, whether they are in-favor or against about it.

This study's design is qualitative, specifically case study was used. This design was used show the present condition of the phenomena about the experience of the house parents inside the center of handling CICL. The researcher used a set of questions related to the topic of the study. The participants asked by the researcher on their experiences inside the center, the challenges that they are facing and how they can be able to overcome those challenges, and perception about the lowering the criminal. It also includes the years of experiences of working as a house parent. The set of questions underwent a thorough validation by the experts. The sampling that was used in the study was purposive sampling technique. Before gathering the data, informed consent forms was provided to the participants before proceeding to the actual interview session of the study. The output of this research has been for the house parents to provide psychological implications regarding the findings of the study that has been based on the individual responses.

This study can also generate data that can help for counselors to have a continuous interaction with their clients to help their clients to set goals and implement action plans through the whole process. This can also help an individual to identify whether they have been helping the other people just for the benefit of themselves, for them to gain praise from other people, or helping because it is what they wanted to without expecting anything in return for they have been thinking for the good sake of others.

The study also applies to every situation in the everyday life of an individual. Different situations can identified wherein an individual has been engaged in helping

behavior or not, or maybe, the behavior of an individual could be based on the environment that a person has. The perception and opinion of every guardian of CICL is considered as valid, because it can help to provide ways to face challenges in the field of counseling as well as for the children who have been having difficulties in terms of behavior.

Literature Review

This section includes related literature, which aim to support the present study. The point of providing these related literatures in the present study is to discuss and gain an understanding to the present research and shows the relevant ideas particular topic. Synthesis was also provided to consolidate the previous literature to the main aim of the present study.

Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)

Children in conflict with the law or also known as CICL, are described by UNICEF as “persons under 18 years old who come into contact with the justice system as a result of being suspected or accused of committing an offence. Most children in conflict with the law have committed petty crimes or such minor offences as vagrancy, truancy, begging, or alcohol use.” UNICEF does not consider these children as offenders or criminals, rather, the UNICEF looks at these children as individuals who needs protection, assistance, and guidance in order to develop and improve themselves. The Philippine government built the Bahay Pag-asa centers for CICL to provide intervention programs that help children adjust to society’s demands while they are inside the center.

According to the National Crime Record Bureau, there were a total of 31, 396 cases of children in conflict with the law in the year 2015, and there were 2.1% rate of the crime

committed by CICL. On the other hand, majority of the crimes that were committed by these individuals, were petty crimes and could have been prevented, were they given proper guidance.

According to the Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities (2009), males between the ages of fourteen (14) to seventeen (17) years old, has the highest number who engaged criminal act in the justice system in the Philippines. Most of them were identified with low level of education being school drop-outs, and also from families with low income. Most of the children in conflict with the law engaged in drugs and alcohol. Using rugby was one of the bad habits of some children in conflict with the law. In the year 2010, 95% of those who became involved in justice system have been males. The Council for the Welfare of Children identifies a growing phenomenon of gangsterism in rapidly developing urban areas. Urban areas has been shown to have the highest number of crime rates.

Children who have committed petty crimes have been arrested and detained and put through the right process. Once a child committed a criminal act, this has been represented the fundamental failure to fulfil the rights to adequate child's care, as well as the individual's protection at their early age. Also, some of the parents do not guide their child. Some children also experience abuse in their own home. This may be the reason why a large number of children in conflict with the law are socio-economic victims, that is have been denied their rights to have an education, proper health, care, and protection. Some of them have had the opportunity to have an education but some of them have had little or no access to education at all. Many of them have been working children and some have even left their homes just to escape from violence and abuse they are experiencing from the hands of their own families.

According to a study of Amnesty International (2003), children who come into conflict with the law, tend to represent the most disadvantaged and marginalized sectors of society. Many are fleeing difficult home situations, often worsened by abuse and poverty and resulting in an interrupted education. These Filipino youths who are in conflict with the law have been examined as part of the groups involving street youths, drug addicts, and those who have lower chance of having education. Street youths has been identifies as vulnerable to arrest due to actual or suspected involvement in theft or glue sniffing, In addition, they were also experiencing the feeling isolation from support structure of their family, as well as the community.

Bahay Pag-asa Center

Most of the Bahay Pag-asa centers were inadequate to achieve their mandate to rehabilitate the youth offenders or CICL. As of 2018, the data from the Juvenile Justice Welfare Council showed that out of 63 Bahay Pag-asa centers, fifty-five (55) of them were operational but there were only eight (8) that have been accredited. These accredited centers are located in the cities of Pasig, Valenzuela, Mandaluyong, Laguna, Eastern Visayas, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, and Davao del Norte. Aside for the Bahay Pag-asa centers from all around the country, there were also reported 45 youth care facilities that are being handled by either the local government units (LGUs) or non-government organizations. These provide shelter temporarily for children with cases in local courts.

In Memorandum Circular 18 in the series of 2015 of the Department of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD), every Bahay Pag-asa centers has been is required to

operate with at least one (1) social worker for every 25 CICL with regular cases, and one for a maximum of 10 CICL undergoing intensive intervention. Unfortunately, some of the Bahay Pag-asa centers did not follow the standards. A social worker who also acts as head of the center handles almost 100 CICL cases.

As stated by the Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) Atty. Tricia Oco, from the article published by CNN Philippines (2019), most of the Bahay Pag-asa centers or House of Hope for children in conflict with the law, were worse than jail cells. She mentioned, that the condition of the children in conflict with the law inside the center was worse compared to jail cells because these centers do not have any programs. The executive director added that some operational Bahay Pag-asa lacks “Intensive Juvenile and Intervention Support Centers,” which refers to a special program that address the needs of the children. There were also some places where the officials thinks that the child who is below fifteen (15) years old and has committed a crime cannot be charged or imprisoned because of their age. On the other hand, these children should be put in detention and centers should provide programs for these individuals.

Prosocial Behavior

Prosocial behaviors represent a broad category of acts that have been defined by society as generally beneficial to other people and to the ongoing political system (Piliavin et al. 1981, p. 4). Prosocial behavior can be observed in a broad span of different people from different culture, different gender, and different ages.

As stated by Mitonga-Monga & Cilliers in 2016, these behaviors, also known as organizational citizenship behavior, has been habitually expressed in our everyday lives.

Thus, for many years, psychologists debated and examined whether prosocial tendencies have been stable across time and situations (Gergen, Gergen, & Meter, 1972; Piliavin, Dovidio, Gaertner, & Clark, 1981). There have been many factors to consider whether an individual has been prone or not to prosociality. Number one factor to consider are the parents. Prosocial behavior of an individual develops when his/her parents show him/her the support, love, and care, a child needs. On the other side as mentioned by Hasting et al. (2007), children who do not engage in prosociality or show less prosocial behavior are those had authoritarian and strict parents.

There are some researchers considered gender, personality, and individual's perspective about prosocial behavior as the focus of their study. In this study, the researcher considered the age of the individual who showed this kind of behavior. Even though there have been studies that have shown differences between different ages in the performance of prosocial behavior, such as the study of Van der Graaff et al. (2018), they only focuses on the adolescents and gender differences that has been linked with empathy.

Some studies showed that prosocial behavior change and develop from mid-adolescence up to early adulthood. There have been several conceptual reasons to expect prosocial tendencies to become stronger with age. First, investigators have found that Canadian adolescents tend to view mean and harmful behavior as immature (Galambos, Barrer, & Tilton-Weaver, 2003), and that about 75% of young adults in diverse American ethnic groups (age 18-29) believed that one criterion for the transition to adulthood was becoming less self-oriented and developing greatest consideration for others (Arnett, 2003).

To further explore prosocial behavior in various contexts in terms of age, a study conducted among children by Williams et al. in 2014, explored the thinking of young children in making decisions when they have been trying to help other people. Even if everyone knew that preschool children will share, little has been known about the mechanisms underlying such prosocial behavior also became the subject of a couple of exploration. It is known at what age prosocial behavior's occurs and manifests itself. Fabes and Eisenberg conducted a meta-analysis in 1996 about prosocial behavior. The study found out that prosocial behavior traditionally develops when the age increases. As an individual grows older, prosocial behavior tend to increase. Nevertheless, they did not distinguish if there have been differences between early and late adolescents period.

According to Andreoni & Bernheim (2009), even when we observe seemingly prosocial behavior, we cannot attribute it entirely too pure altruism. Self-image construction and warm glow has been considered as determinants of such behavior as reported by Carpenters and Myers (2010). In the study of Kuroishi and Sawada (2019), identifying the motivation behind prosocial behavior is critical, especially in developing countries, where market failures in providing insurance mechanisms are serious and the government has limited capacity to correct market failures.

Age

There were general characteristics to consider with the participants of this study. At the adolescent stage certain characteristics may more evident with them. They seem to be more conscious about their appearance. At this stage of development, they become more conscious about how they look. Next is the attraction to the opposite sex. The psychological

changes that happens to a boy or a girl lead to a strong feeling of attraction to the other, which lead them to build relationships with other people. At this stage, gender-role identity takes place. Also, during this stage, the impact of the peer group becomes strongest because they become more socially engaged. Peers are now considered as the greatest influence with each individual, the way they dress, the way they talk, their hobbies and the like. Adolescent period is easily influenced by their peers, considering the fact that they imitate those who have been active or has a good influence in the group.

Studies of criminal activity by age consistently found that rates of offending begin to rise in preadolescence or early adolescence, reach a peak in late adolescence, and fell during young adulthood (Farrington, 1986; National Research Council, 1986). At the adolescent stage some American children had experienced law breaking situation, even though most of these behaviors have been mild, as well as temporary. The same general pattern has been remarkably consistent over the time from different countries, also, for official and self-reported data even though the exact age of onset, peak, and the age of desistence, varies by the offense.

A study by Parackal and Panicker (2016) reveals that most adolescent criminal behavior is specific to adolescence period and will not continue into adulthood. Much like a toddler outgrows temper tantrums, most adolescents will outgrow deviant behavior. When entering kindergarten, most of the children have learned to use physical aggression, just for them to get what they want. Most children start manifesting these behaviors between the end of the first and second years. The peak level in frequency of physical aggression generally reached between 24 and 36 months, an age at which the consequences

of the aggression have been generally relatively minor (Goodenough, 1931; Sand, 1966; Tremblay et al., 1996a, 1999).

Gender

As stated in the study of Bañaga (2004) regarding age, there have been findings from other studies that showed that the number of boys has been greater than the number of girls when it comes to conflict with the law. Police records have shown in the study from Cebu City in the year 1991-2001 that 79% of those arrested were boys. In the year 2002 from the month of January to June, the majority (83%) of those arrested in Davao City were also boys. In Manila 89% of 706 CICL who were handled by the Family Court from the year 2001-2002 were boys.

Environment

A study conducted by Barrett and Yarrow in 1977 on the prosociality in children showed that the way children act depended on situational factors in their surroundings. The child's social inferential ability, specifically his ability to interpret others' behavior and change in behavior, and the child's interpersonal assertiveness has been investigated. Most of the studies considered has been focused on the personal characteristics of the children considering them as predictors of social behavior. Generally they have dealt with cognitive variable, but only for a few.

The growth of the child's ability to understand the perspectives of the other people, as well as to recognize their intentions and motives, has been interpreted as the cognitive basis of child's altruistic behavior. In the study of Barrett and Yarrow in 1977, it was hypothesized that if the children have high social inferential abilities, differences in

interpersonal assertiveness would be predictive of differences in prosocial behavior, while for children less capable of making inferences about others' behaviors differences in assertiveness would account for little variability in prosocial behavior.

Prosocial Behavior and Schooling

The prosocial behavior of the children within the school context should also be considered important. Schools provide chances for students to develop prosocial skills by engaging students to know how to interact with peers through group interactions or in the context of friendship. Being cooperative in school or during classroom activities can lead the students to develop prosocial behaviors.

Being engaged in prosocial behavior also helps the students develop academic skills because of having a positive relationship with teachers and peers inside the classroom. This also includes different competencies that support prosocial behavior namely perspective - taking and regulating emotions in oneself that supports the cognitive abilities of the individual. Thus, prosocial behavior can also have a big impact on children's cognitive ability and academic performance in school.

Teachers should also know how to provide emotional support to students inside the classroom by creating positive relationship and promoting positive interaction between the teacher and the students and the students among themselves. Different strategies should be provided by the teacher such as practicing authoritative discipline, efficient communication, and assurance of safety for the students. Reinforcement has been considered as one of the strategies used by the teachers inside the classroom that provides positive social skills and engagement in collaborative learnings among the students.

Positive behavior of the teachers provides big impact to every students inside the classroom.

Parenting skills

There are a lot of researches which show that having poor parenting management and disciplinary practices among their children corresponded with the development of the delinquent behavior of the child. Once the children do not receive the supervision and training that they need, then it may have a big impact on the development of the child's behavior. Failure to set clear expectations for children's behavior, inconsistent discipline, excessively severe or aggressive discipline, and poor monitoring and supervision of children predict later delinquency (Capaldi and Patterson, 1996; Farrington, 1989; Hawkins et al., 1995b; McCord, 1979).

Patterson (1976, 1995) indicated through his research that parents who nag or use idle threats are likely to generate coercive systems in which children gain control through misbehaving. Several longitudinal studies investigating the effects of punishment on aggressive behavior have shown that physical punishments have been more likely to result in defiance than compliance (McCord, 1997b; Power and Chapieski, 1986; Strassberg et al., 1994).

High parenting stress has been one of the environmental risk factor to be considered and has been associated with different possible unwanted outcomes such as parent depression, marital conflict, having poor physical health, ineffective parenting skills, and most importantly, increase in child behavior problem. Few studies investigated the relationship of the parenting stress and the behavior problem of the child, such as the study

of Neece et al. in 2012. Some studies about children's developmental delays found out that behavior problem arbitrate the relationship between the issue of the development of the child and the parenting stress. In 2003 from the study of Baker et al, limited longitudinal analyses suggested that the relationship between behavior problems and parenting stress is bidirectional—that many elevations in behavior problems lead to increases in parenting stress over time, and high parenting stress leads to increases in behavior problems in children.

There has been a difference between the relationship of the mother and father from their children. Fathers may have different relationship with their children. According to Phares (1996) fathers may have different opportunities when observing their children (Hay et al., 1999) and have different experiences and associated outcomes of parenting stress as stated by Roggman et al., (2004). This may show how the parents taught their children on how to possess or manifest prosocial behavior. Observing once own child is one way of how the parents handle their children, that depends on their behavior.

Family Factor

Perhaps the best grounds for believing that family interaction influences delinquency have been programs that alter parental management techniques and thereby benefit siblings as well as reduce delinquent behavior by the child whose conduct brought the parents into the program (Arnold et al., 1975; Kazdin, 1997; Klein et al., 1977; Tremblay et al., 1995).

Consistent discipline, supervision, and affection help to create well-socialized adolescents (Austin, 1978; Bender, 1947; Bowlby, 1940; Glueck and Glueck, 1950;

Goldfarb, 1945; Hirschi, 1969; Laub and Sampson, 1988; McCord, 1991; Sampson and Laub, 1993). Reductions in delinquency between the ages of 15 and 17 years appeared to be related to friendly interaction between teenagers and their parents, a situation that seems to promote school attachment and stronger family ties (Liska and Reed, 1985). In contrast, children who have suffered parental neglect show an increased risk level of delinquency, due to parent's lack of attention, love, and support that should be given to every teenager.

Widom (1989) and McCord (1983) both found that children who had been neglected are as likely as those who had been physically abused to commit violent crimes later in life. Many studies had been reviewed about investigating relationships in socialization between families and juvenile delinquency. It has been concluded by Loeber and Stouthamer-Loeber (1986) that parental neglect had the largest impact.

According to Tomasello et al., in 2005, social understanding, the ability to infer others' internal states such as goals, feelings, and desires, has its origins in the first year of life and gives rise to a variety of other-oriented behaviors at the beginning of the second year. For the reason that social cognition has been essential to the prosocial behavior of an individual, it is expected that individual differences in social cognition and individual differences in prosocial behavior may probably show a connection with each other. This has been undeniably shown to be the case for older children in whom both social cognition and prosocial behavior are well-developed (Eisenberg et al., 2015).

Family has been considered as one of the major factor of committing illegal acts of underage children, of children in conflict with law. In the study of Bañaga (2004), 47% of the children lived together with parents, 30% with mother alone and 5% with a non-

relative. In a Manila study, 20% of the CICL fathers were unemployed. This is one factor to consider why children has been committed to do criminal acts, and this shows that these individuals may lack proper guidance of their own parent or their own family.

Social Responsibility

Prosocial behaviors are of different types. This study focuses on four different types of prosocial behavior such as social responsibility, empathy, moral reasoning and self-reported altruism. These four types of prosocial behavior have been used to determine how an individual becomes socially engaged in helping other people. Antisocial youth also tend to show cognitive deficits in the areas of executive functions (Moffitt et al., 1994; Seguin et al., 1995), perception of social cues, and problem-solving processing patterns (Dodge et al., 1997; Huesmann, 1988). The association between cognitive deficits and delinquency remains after controlling for social class and race (Moffitt, 1990; Lynam et al., 1993).

Other studies showed that as the age increases, there are changes that might happen in the prosocial responding and the moral reasoning of an individual. Selman in 1980 found out that there is a linear increase towards the social perspective from childhood up to adolescent stage. This includes the advances of every individual from adolescence to adulthood. Likewise, 1991 Davis and Franzoi found out that in the mid-adolescence there is a big chance that an individual will takes the other's perspectives, knowing the importance of understanding others whereby they develop caring for other people's feelings, behavior, and cognition such as sympathy.

Among adults in the study of Aziz and Abid in 2018, social responsibility was defined as how an individual or group of individuals must act with kindness for the benefit

of the other people as well as for the benefit of their culture, social, environmental, and economical problems. This leads an individual to provide positive impact within the society. This social responsibility has been considered as the predictor of an altruistic personality as stated by Bierhoff in the year 2000. Social responsibility is considered as a personal variable that is connected to the willingness of an individual to act fairly concerning the expectations of others. Carlo in 2008, investigated how prosocial behavior could be significantly predicted in adults when they could easily escape from the situation without helping and when the desire for help is conditioned by social responsibility.

Impulsivity and hyperactivity have both been associated with later antisocial behavior (Rutter et al., 1998). The social behavior characteristics that best predict delinquent behavior has been considered as physical aggression and oppositionality (Lahey et al., 1999; Nagin and Tremblay, 1999).

Altruism and Empathy

According to Fehr & Fischbacher (2003), one of the things that has been considered as the most important aspect of humans, is the degree of helping, cooperation, and altruism among people. Children who have been more engaged in prosocial behavior, have been relatively well-adjusted and have the better peer-relationship than the other children with low prosocial behavior as stated in 2000 by Clark & Ladd.

Many studies have shown the empathic concern of an individual. Davis (1980) believed that empathy as the accepted behavior of an individual is a complex and multifaceted construct, which consists of variety of components including perspective taking, empathic concern, and personal distress. Empathic concern is obviously connected

with empathy, and this has been described by Davis in 1980 and 1983 as the individual's other oriented feeling of sympathy or showing concerns to someone in distress. Personal distress is experiencing an unpleasant feeling in oneself. Empathy emerges early on, with infants exhibiting simple forms of global empathy by responding with reactive or contagious crying to observed distress in others (Sagi and Hoffman, 1976). At this young age, however, children lack the ability to differentiate between their own and others feelings (Hoffman, 1975, 1977).

Those who have not learned, who have been oppositional and show few prosocial behaviors toward peers, were at high risk of being rejected by their peers, of failing in school, and eventually of getting involved in serious delinquency (Farrington and Wikstrom, 1994; Huesmann et al., 1984; Miller and Eisenberg, 1988; Nagin and Tremblay, 1999; Tremblay et al., 1992a, 1994; White et al., 1990)

Reflective empathy has been shown in early childhood based on their emotional and social development. Empathy has been considered as one of the important component of having a positive social behavior, along with their emotions. The development of the empathy of an individual depends on their cognitive and language development. As children first develop reflective empathy within themselves, they are overwhelmed because of the fact that they do not know how to show comfort with other people. Reflective Empathy has been a predecessor to pro-social as well as altruistic behavior, while altruistic behavior takes many years to develop.

Moral Reasoning

Another factor to consider in the moral behavior of an individual is puberty and its related characteristics. This leads an individual to decrease their prosocial and moral tendencies. It is because that in moral reasoning, an individual tends to feel that they are obligated to do something good for the other people, on the other hand, individuals feel shy when the puberty hits them. Moreover, there has been some evidence that link the hormonal changes associated with puberty with increased aggressiveness, irritability, and mood swings (Connolly et al., 1996; Susman, Nottelmann, Inoff-Germain, & Dorn, 1987).

Changes in the personal growth of an individual may inhibit an adolescent from helping other people, but evidence about these changes are considered inconsistent as stated by Petersen in 1987. There are also certain evidence that boys and girls are progressively different at the onset of adolescence period according to Balk in 1995, and Galambos, Almeida, & Petersen in 1991. As young adolescents' bodies mature and their interest in dating increases, it may become more important to act in ways that have been consistent with gender-role expectations. The idea that adolescents' gender-role behaviors and attitudes become more traditional in early adolescence has been referred to as gender intensification (Hill & Lynch, 1983).

House Bill No. 505 or Lowering the Criminal Age

Recently, a bill proposed in the Philippines became controversial, because this bill has been all about the lowering the criminal age in the country. House Bill No. 505 seeks to lower the age of criminal responsibility of the child to nine years old, from 15 years old. It has been stated here as the youngest age of juvenile delinquencies in different countries.

In this bill, it has been said that minors nowadays, have become braver and bolder, and the age of minors being involved in crimes are getting higher , with this, lowering the criminal age in the country has been believed that this is the restorative system of justice. Other people considered this bill as violence against children because lowering the age of criminal responsibility means children at a younger age will be punished with imprisonment.

Violence

Contradicting this bill, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) opposed the lowering of the criminal age, which is tantamount to act of violence among children. They also argued that according to scientific studies, an individual only reaches maturity at 16 years old. Proponents who want to lower the age of criminal responsibility argue that children as young as nine years old are criminally mature or being prone in doing criminal acts, as well as already capable of discernment. (Sylwander, 2019) The representative of the UNICEF also added that the children need a support program for them, as well as access to social services.

Child abuse and negligence have been indicators of the development of the delinquent behavior of the child. In three quite different perspective studies from different parts of the country, childhood abuse and neglect have been found to increase a child's risk of delinquency (Maxfield and Widom, 1996; Smith and Thornberry, 1995; Widom, 1996). Once a child with the age of nine years old commits a criminal act and gets involved in different crimes, the individual should not be penalized in this way, rather s/he should be given a second chance to rehabilitate.

Synthesis

Most of the researchers found out that there were several reasons why children manifest prosocial behavior, usually there were people who influence them whether an individual or a group of individuals who manifested prosocial behavior. The influence of the parents towards their children has a big impact on every individual because what the children see about how their parents interact with other people is the same thing that the children will do. Parenting skills also have a big impact on children. When parents fail to discipline their children, they encouraged the misbehavior of their children. This may lead the individuals to use maladaptive behavior which can also possibly lead them to do criminal acts. Other people are also considered as another factor why children possess maladaptive behavior. Children tend to imitate what others do, not knowing that is not good.

When it comes to gender and age, there was no particular point at which an individual will manifest prosocial behavior. These behaviors will develop among the individuals as they grow up. Manifesting prosocial behavior is not that hard when the individuals have a companion or model who is kind towards other people. Prosocial behavior is not just about doing good things towards the other, but also involves the emotional feelings of an individual.

The number of young individuals who manifest criminal behaviors nowadays is getting higher. Several factors have influenced this increasing trend, such as lack of parental guidance, being coerced by adults into criminal syndicates, and the social and economic status of these young children. The Juvenile Justice System assumes that a child

offender is a product of an unfavorable environment. Every child offender should not be given punishment but on the other hand, should be given individual treatment.

This research determined the opinion of the house parents on the importance of manifesting prosocial behavior to the children. The research aimed to explore the experiences of the house parents in handling children in conflict with the law, as well as how the house parents handled the challenges they were facing. The perspective and opinion of the respondents about the phenomenon which is the experiences of the house parents helped the researcher determine the benefits of the proposed law to lower the criminal age.

Research Problem

This study aimed to describe the experiences of the house parents inside the Bahay Pag-asa centers, as well as document the challenges the house parents face. Youth in today's generation, are usually engaged in criminal acts such as getting involved and being part of syndicates which have bad intentions. On the other hand, not all youth who were engaged in criminal acts are part of a criminal syndicate. In line with this, when youths are being engaged in different criminal act, prosocial behavior of the minor ages are probably not manifested at all. Thus, showing different kinds of good acts among generation is very unusual to see. The target of this study was the house parents of CICL who have experienced handling clients with the minor ages. Explicitly, this study aimed to explore the following:

1. What are the lived experiences of the house parents inside the center?

2. What are the challenges of the house parents in handling Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)?
3. What is the psychological implication of the findings to the profession of being a house parent?

Conceptual Framework

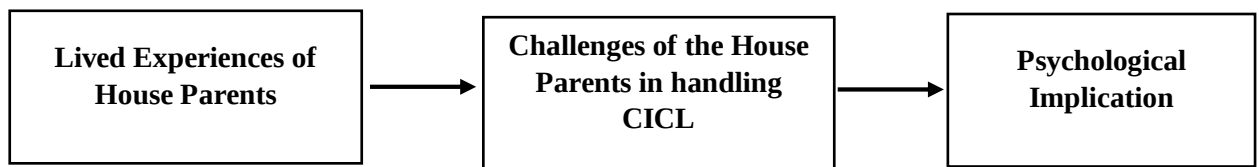


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study

Figure 1 shows the framework of the research, where the lived experiences of the house parents of handling and guiding children in conflict with the law (CICL) will be discovered. In line with this, highlighting the challenges experienced of every house parents inside the center and what are the psychological implication of the findings of the present study in profession of being a house parent discussed in the research.

Significance of the Study

The present study aimed to describe the lived experiences of the house parents in handling and guiding children in conflict with the law or CICL inside the center. Challenges and other issues encountered by the house parents were also described in the study. The result of the study led to the psychological implication that could benefit the following.

House Parents

House parents were the ones who took care of children in conflict with the law inside the rehabilitation center. They were the ones who served as the parents of the CICL, and the main goal of this research was to determine the lived experiences of the house parents inside the center. It is also important to know the different challenges of the house parents in handling children in conflict with the law, and in the end of this, psychological implication to the findings with this profession will be provided. On the other hand, prosocial behavior also has a great contribution to different benefactors such as teachers, counselors, students, parents, in education, even in social interaction. This present study also aimed to know whether the children ages nine and below nine years old manifest prosocial behavior based on how individuals react to every situation. The opinion and perception of the respondents about the lowering of the criminal liability, will be based on the behaviors of the children who are considered as the part of CICL inside the center.

Guidance Counselor

The study tried to determine if age would be a factor influenced the showing of prosocial behavior of the children who belong to these groups of children in conflict with the law based on the respondent's experiences when dealing with their clients whose ages were nine or below. The study will provide guidance counselors with different interventions for the CICL inside the center that can help the CICLs to rehabilitate by changing their behavior. The guidance could also implement these interventions with their other clients.

In counseling, the client should feel that they are loved and understood by the counselor. The counselor should act properly during the session, and it is inappropriate to act like the counselor is not interested in their client. One way also in helping students to become engage with the prosocial behaviors has been that the administrators should construct a school community, where they have been building a positive relationship with one another.

As the students can see those people around them having a positive relationship with one another, this will become their mindset that has been essential to build relationship with others and show that you have a care to them. This process serves as the guide for every children to make change and be a better version of themselves.

Teachers/Educators

A teacher who shows prosocial behavior towards their students has the bigger chance to establish positive relationship with their students. These will help them to have a positive interaction even if they are not inside the room. Since school has been considered as the second home of every student, teachers should flourish their relationship with the students and with this, the teacher and the student should be able to come-up with a sense of attachment which is important because teachers are the ones whose responsible with a child, considering the fact that they have been considered as the second parent of every student. The teacher can also be able to provide classroom management that keeps their students to focus on their task and become attentive when the teacher is delivering their lessons.

Students

Students with behavioral problems has have been one of the major concerns of the educators as well as the students themselves. The increase of the awareness of the students and the educators may become more observant about the happenings within the surroundings, and be more alert and attentive about what can be provided as intervention in increasing the prosocial behavior of the individuals. Positive views from the other people may help the individual to make change within themselves. Parents have been frequently models of showing prosocial behavior with their children and as an important role model of their children, they must show positive social attitudes and with this, their children will engage early on helping other people.

Community

The community will provide help to the children to make improvement and to avoid maladaptive behaviors that may lead in doing criminal doings of the children. With the help of the community, it can be the role model of every individuals in that belongs to it to possess and manifest prosocial behavior. The community can also build an organization for youths that may lead the individuals to become a good leader in the future.

Psychologists

The experts are considered as the one who can help the students in making change in whatever problem that individual's might experience. The counselors and the psychologist have been the one who can provide help with the individuals who suffers from possessing maladaptive behaviors. The experts have been the one who can provide services and interventions that may have changes with children who have problems in behavior.

These people always think of the way on how to face the challenges of the individual's conflicts and problems by helping the individuals of the different coping strategies not just for the clients as well as for themselves that help them grow in the field.

Scope and Delimitations of the Study

The qualitative research design was used in this study wherein it explored the phenomenon in the context of real-life. The information gathered from the participants were about their personal experiences in handling children in conflict with the law. The participants of the study will be selected through purposive sampling technique and will go through the respective authorities who will be involved in the study. The person taking care CICL who will be participating in the study must be in middle adulthood stage and needs to have more than two (2) years of experience being a guardian from either centers or institution residing from Laguna. There will be no particular gender as long as the individual who will be participating are qualified from the characteristics enumerated in this study. There will be also a profile sheet provided to the participants before proceeding to the interview session. The interview questions of the study will be a semi-structured type, wherein the questions asked during the interview to the participants will be beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, the extraneous not just only limit to the questions validated by the experts, hence, follow-up question will also be provided during the interview that are connected to the study and make the study more relevant. In line with this, the possibility that other variables or topic that will be raised during the interview that will be beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, the extraneous data or information that may be collected can serve as the source of conducting another study. The data that will be collected from the interview will be transcribed and will undergo thematic analysis. Ethical

principle will be observed all throughout the process of the study for the benefit of the respondent. Informed consent will be provided to the participants before proceeding to the actual interview session. Respondents will be informed that they have the right to participate or refuse to participate in this study. In line with this, asking for the consent of voice recording will be included and will ensure that the respondents agree about it, once the respondent disagrees with it, respect to the respondent's decision will be ensured. The letter of agreement will be signed by the transcriber of the data that will be transferred immediately to the researcher. Confidentiality will be ensured all throughout the process of the study. Getting rid of the data collected will be observed after finishing the study to ensure the privacy of the participant. The findings and conclusions are limited to the data gathered from the observations and interview of the respondents.

Definition of Terms

The study aimed to discover the experiences encountered by the house parents in handling children in conflict with the law as well as their challenges and other issues inside the center. Stated below are the variables and terms used in the study as conceptually and operationally elucidated:

Prosocial behavior – these actions are characterized by a concern for the rights, feelings, and welfare of other people. (Cherry, 2020)

Child In-Conflict with the Law (CICL) - refers to a child who is alleged as, accused of, or adjudged as, having committed an offense under Philippine laws. (Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006)

House parent – defined as an adult in charge of a dormitory, hall, hostel, or group residence (Merriam-Webster); the one acting as a parent of children in conflict with the law inside the center.

Bahay Pag Asa – defined as a 24 hour child-caring institution that has been established, funded, and being managed by the local government units (LGU) and licensed or accredited nongovernment organizations (NGO), where this facilities role is to provide residential care for children in conflict with the law, with the age of above fifteen (15) but below eighteen (18). (Republic Act No. 10630, 2013)

CHAPTER II

Methodology

Chapter II broadly explains the chosen research method of the present study. This chapter describes the different techniques and procedures that were used in the study, the number of participants and research instruments that were used and the processes by which the data were analyzed.

Research Design

Qualitative research method was used in this research to gain insight from the personal experiences and views of the participants about the phenomenon. According to several prominent qualitative scholars (Creswell 2002; Pope & Mays 1995; Denzin & Lincoln, 1994) Qualitative Research is intended to deeply explore, understand, and interpret social phenomena within its natural setting. This method is more on the discovery and exploration about the facts of a certain event from a specific person or group of people having the same qualities or classification who fits this study. The phenomenon which the participant encountered is the behavior of the clients and their lived experiences on handling and guiding the children in conflict with the law inside the center. Interviews were used to explore in-depth the complexity of the existing phenomenon.

There are different designs under qualitative research method and in this research, case study was used. A case study explores and discovers information through in-depth investigation of a certain phenomenon within a real-life context. This research strategy is more on empirical inquiry, wherein the participant's personal experiences as they live out a given phenomenon is one of the crucial things. The design is used to examine the

individual's related and significant events within themselves. This design was used because it helped to seek out information from an individual who was ready to tell and expressed his/her own feelings. The case study is the appropriate design for this study showed the experiences of the house parents inside the center about the behavior of the children. The information was collected based on the point of view of the respondent.

Research Setting

The data and the other information were gathered from the participants has been conducted from in the selected centers in Laguna, specifically from the City of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The name of the centers were Pag-asa Youth Rehabilitation Center and Women and Children Crisis Center in Barangay Sinalhan, City of Santa Rosa, Laguna. These rehabilitation centers provides services that gives interventions for children in conflict with the law. In line with this, the researcher guaranteed that the experiences shared by the respondents were based on their experiences in handling children in conflict with the law from the same centers. The participant's availability or their schedule were considered to avoid any conflicts with the duties of the respondents.

The participants of this study were the persons taking care of CICL from the above center and institution. The researcher conducted the interviews in private with good ambiance so that the participants were comfortable while the interview was going. The area chosen was accessible to both the researcher and the participants because Laguna is the place where the researcher lives. Looking for a conducive place to conduct the interview was an important to consider so that the participants would be comfortable while being interviewed as well as to keep the conversation private and confidential.

Research Population and Sampling Method

Table 1

Demographics of the Participants

Name	Years of Working Experience	Age
Adan	10 years	39 years old
Maeleen	3 years and 7 months	41 years old
Ruben	3 years	53 years old
Rosaida	2 years and 8 months	56 years old
Ricarte	5 years	51 years old
Sonny	10 years	57 years sold
Cosme	3 years	41 years old

The participants of this study were persons taking care of CICL who were called the house parents inside the center. The participant with ages thirty-five (35) years and above, with at least two (2) years of experience of being a house parent of the CICLs at the said center. As a guardian of CICLs for two years it was assumed that s/he would have already encountered different types of behavior of the CICLs. This would help the respondents to elaborate their opinion about the lowering of the criminal age.

In this study, purposive sampling technique was used. A purposive sampling is a technique used to gather detailed information from the respondents about a certain phenomenon. In this sampling technique, there was a specific characteristics of the participants that was looked for. This is also known as judgmental and selective sampling,

The researcher's participants in this study were persons taking care of CICL from centers around Laguna, who had experienced having clients with maladaptive behavior and their point of view about lowering the criminal age in the Philippines. The participants' consent was obtained presented and they were guaranteed of the confidentiality of the process.

Research Instrument

The researcher provided an information sheet or bio data (Appendix A) to be filled up by the participants to ensure that the individuals who would be participating in the study met the criteria of the participant the researcher was looking for.

Interview guide questions were provided (Appendix B) to the participants to get the information that was needed. These interview guide questions would help the researcher find the information she was looking for to solve the problem of the study. The interview guide questions that the researcher made underwent through the process of validation. The researcher also provided questions about the experiences of the house parents of having clients with maladaptive behavior and how these behaviors might affect their opinion regarding the propose law of lowering the criminal age. It also included questions about their belief on what the benefit of this bill would be regardless if they were against or in favor of the bill. The following are the sample questions asked during the interview: (1)

The data and information that were collected were transcribed by the researcher from the recordings made during the interview. After transcribing the recordings of the interview, it went through the process of thematic analysis, wherein the researcher looked for themes in the answers of the respondents.

Research Process

After the colloquium and before proceeding to the data gathering procedure, the researcher turned over the research paper to the Research Ethics Committee (REC). The validity of the interview questionnaires was checked by expert validators. A rating scale (Appendix C) was provided to the validators. The rating scale was composed of five columns. For the first column, it is included the interview questions of this study. The second, third, and fourth column were marked Accept, Reject or Revise, which the validators checked to indicate whether the question is accepted, rejected or would be revised. In the last column, the validators wrote their comments and suggestions regarding the interview question. During the validation method of the interview questionnaires, the expert validators looked into the validity and relevance of the interview questions whether it would reflect the phenomenon of the study and the experience of the participants in the said phenomenon. The researcher also provided the letter asking the permission of the validators to validate the instrument of the study (Appendix D).

The researcher composed a letter of intent (Appendix E) to be given to the participants. The letter of intent indicated that the respondents are the ones chosen to participate in the study. Informed consent (Appendix F) was also provided to the participants that included the confidentiality of the respondent's responses. Confidentiality of the profile of the respondents, as well as their responses was strictly maintained, to ensure the privacy of the data that were collected. The participants were assured that their identity would never be disclosed. Their safety would be ensured while the study was being conducted. There would be no harmful effect to the respondents.

The participants were informed that aside from the interviewer, there would be another person who would transcribe the recordings during the interview process. However, confidentiality will always be assured by providing an agreement letter of confidentiality (Appendix G) to be signed by the transcriber to ensure the confidentiality of the information that would be collected. The collected and transcribed data would be deleted right away from the recorder after the file is given to the researcher. The letter of agreement signed by the transcriber together with the informed consent was presented to the participants.

Data Gathering Process

In the data gathering process the researcher personally met the participants to conduct the interview. Before conducting the interview, the informed consent was presented to the participant. It was stated that no harm would happen towards the participants and the confidentiality of whatever information that will be gathered during the interview would be ensured. The participants were informed of the recordings during the session, and the participants were given the right to refuse to record the interview and the respondent's decision was respected when they refused to have the interview recorded. The participant would then be asked if they would allow the taking down of notes during the interview.

The interview session would start as soon as the respondents agreed to the terms and condition of the study. The researcher also explained that they were free to withdraw from the interview session if they want to. Individuals had the right to make their own decision would be respected.

Role of Researcher

The researcher is responsible for the data being collected for the present study. The researcher constructed an interview guide questions and rest assured to be validated by the experts. The researcher were also the one who went to the research setting and tht one who conducted the interview to the participants. Moreover, the information and data that was gathered were transcribed by the researcher. The data were also thematized and go through the process of interpretation by the researcher. In line with this, another role of the researcher is to present the findings of the present study.

Methods of Validation

The interview questions (see Appendix B) used in the study underwent to the process of the experts' validation. The researcher provided a rating scale (see Appendix C) for the interview guide question whether it was accepted, need revision, or it was rejected. The validators left a comment based on their judgment and pur a suggestions regarding the interview guide questions. The experts also revised the interview questions according to their understanding for the improvement of the interview guide.

Ethical Consideration

This research will not purely use archival research wherein the researcher will just rely on the previous documents or information. An archival research is a method where it will look and get for the previous information that can be documents, manuscripts, transcript, or other record that can be restored. This research will not be based on the publicly available materials or data in order to present the essence of this research. On the other hand, the researcher will look for related different related literature or articles that

can support every details of this research. Hence, those related literatures can help this research to show the importance and the relevance of this study. When looking for a publicly available files to support the study, this can also help the researcher to identify if the content and essence of the research is accurate. The searcher will look for a sources that can be trusted and will ensure that the access from it is reliable and must be up to date.

The data that were gathered by the researcher will remain private and confidentiality. This research does not deal with any of sensitive topics such as sexual activity or any kind of violence from the participants. The participants chosen are professionals who are taking care CICLs from centers in Laguna. The researcher will ensured that there was no harm and discomfort to the participants before and after gathering the data from the participants, or even in the actual interview session of the data gathering procedure together with the participants.

Respect

Respect is an ethical principle in research that every researcher should always consider. The concern of this ethical principle is that every respondents is an independent individual who has the right to make his/her own choice and decision. This ethical principle also covers the privacy of the participant. Privacy refers to the personal information of the respondents that the individual did not want to share. This also refers to in which the participants' choice to express selective facts.

Invasion of privacy occurs when the individual's private information that were gathered by the researcher is shared with other people. Individual should be treated as anonymous. A researcher should also respect the different beliefs, culture, tradition,

characteristics, and previous records (if any) of the participants. The researcher does not have the right to discriminate or judge the individual's identity. Also, researcher should respect the respondent's personal opinion and view. One way of showing respect to the respondents is that the researcher will present an informed consent to the participant that will indicate whether s/he is willing to participate in the said research.

The researcher showed respect to the participants also in a verbal manner. She avoided using words that would show disrespect to the participant. Respondent's decision were respected before, during, and after conducting the research. It will be ensured that in this research, the participants have the rights. The participants could choose participate in the research, disclose any information that were asked, and to withdraw anytime during the interview without any consequences. The researcher ensured confidentiality of whatever data or information were collected.

Beneficence

The ethical principle of beneficence refers to the philosophy that research is "to do good" also to the participants. The research should be also benefit the respondents. This includes the concept of doing no harm to the participants before, during and after conducting the research. In this research, the researcher made the participants aware of whatever risk they might encounter. The purpose of research is to gather information from selected participants. Thus, in finding new information, the participants should never be hurt or harmed by the researcher.

This ethical principle also includes maximizing the benefits to the participants as well as minimizing the risk to the participants. The researcher also ensured that the

interview questions prepared had their specific goals and would not affect the participants emotionally, physically, mentally, and socially.

Justice

The principle of justice in conducting a research refers to fairness and equality of the participants. Before conducting the research, the researcher considered what would fair in terms of the place and the participants who would be participating. The researcher dealt with the participants an equally and fairly regardless of the age, ethnicity, nature, culture, status, and disability of every participant.

This ethical principle also refers to the fair recruitment of the participants. Individuals who participated in this research were not selected simply because the respondents could easily be contacted. The participants were selected according to the qualification and characteristic needed for the research, and not just by the availability of the individual. The researcher knew the importance of treating the participants equally and fairly. This was also one way of building trust between the researcher and the respondents. The researcher ensured that the respondents would be treated equally in terms of the individual's different personality and characteristics.

CHAPTER III

Results and Discussion

Data were collected from two center for children in conflict with the law (CICL) namely the Pag-asa Youth Rehabilitation Center and the Women and Children Crisis Center that are both located in Barangay Sinalhan, City of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The Pag-asa Youth Rehabilitation Center houses male disadvantaged children who committed crimes and are in need of guidance and protection from their unsafe environment. Inside the center, the inmates undergo different intervention. On the other hand, the Women and Children Crisis Center houses girls. Some of the children in conflict with the law have no parents. These centers serve as temporary homes to rehabilitate the children in conflict with the law. The children inside the centers undergo various training and interventions to rehabilitate them. These centers have a home-like environment. The rehabilitation period of the children inside the center is at the maximum of 6 months.

The purpose of the centers is to help the children in conflict with the law to face the new challenges coming in their everyday living with full of courage and strength. The vision of the centers is to have a fully rehabilitated youth offender ready to face the challenges of his life with intelligence, conviction, integrity and faith. The foster parents are visibly committed towards helping the CICL attain a quality life whereby he becomes an effective and responsible role model for his community. On the other hand, the mission of the center is the provision of a variety of measures such as care, guidance and supervision orders, counseling, probation, education and other alternatives from prevention to rehabilitation for the reintegration of the Children in Conflict with the Law.

All of them have more than two (2) years of working experience and met the criteria of being thirty-five (35) years old and above. The lived experiences of the house parents helped the researcher discover the challenges that they were facing and how they overcame these challenges. In considering the age of the participants, it was supposed that the thirty-five-year olds and above would have more experience than those of a younger age in terms of experiences in real-life situations. In addition, the center does not consider those below 35 as house parents, but as volunteers.

Research problem 1: What are the lived experiences of the house parents inside the center?

There were five (5) themes were emerged to the research problem one (1), where the participants discussed their lived experiences in handling the children in conflict with the law of the house parents inside the center. The summary of the themes shows on the *Table 2*.

Table 2

Summary of the themes for lived experiences of the house parents in handling children in conflict with the law

Themes	Description	Participants
Laborious	This theme is about hardship of the house parents inside the center in handling and guiding the CICL.	Adan Maeleen Ruben Rosaida Ricarte
Fulfillment	The feeling of happiness and enjoyment of every	Adan Ruben

	house parents in handling CICL.	Rosaida
House parents as real parents	This theme is about the house parents inside the center as they feel that they are the real parents of the CICL.	Maeleen Ruben Rosaida
Feeling Imprisoned	Some of the CICL inside the center, feels like they are convicted, which is not.	Maeleen Ruben
Changes Occur	Some changes occur in CICL as they stay inside the Bahay Pag-asa Center.	Adan Maeleen Ruben Sonny

Laborious

The lived experiences of the house parents inside the center in handling, guiding and caring the children in conflict with the law is very challenging because of the behavior of the children inside the center. There are some instances when they do nothing but they have to understand the behavior of the children because of the situation that the children had encountered before entering the center. It is difficult for them sometimes to handle the children also because of the different ages and behavior that they exhibit. One of the house parents **Participant # 2** shared during the interview: *“Ay opo, nakaramdam po ako ng hirap.”* **Participant # 2** also added, *“Nung una talaga mahirap kasi andyan yung umiiyak na siyempre malayo sa magulang. Kung lalo't mama's boy yan. So lahat talaga gagawin mo. Bibigyan mo ng pagkain, lalaruin mo makikilaro ka. Ganiyan. Nung una talaga. Pero*

bilang isang parang ikaw yung nanay, alam mo yung trabaho mo na pinasok kaya mo imanage.”

An article from World Vision One for Children (2019), a house parent named Hayde works in CICL center from Estancia, Iloilo, being a house parent is very challenging, because she stated that sometimes she works beyond her duty hours and during weekends.

Another experience shared from **Participant # 5**: *“Ang maibabahagi ko tungkol sa karanasan ko sa pag-aalaga at pagbabantay sa loob ng center ay medyo mahirap at challenging. Noong una, hindi ko kabisado ang ugali ng mga bata dahil iba ang pag-uugali nila kaysa normal na mga bata, na lumaking disiplinado at may takot sa Diyos, dahil sila ay sanay na sa buhay na parang walamg iniisip na kinabukasan.”*

Being a house parent has a big impact on CICL’s process of rehabilitation. House parents were considered as the second parents of every child in conflict with the law inside the center. From the article of Philippine Information Agency (2017), the work of the staff from the centers were considered as difficult and highly critical, since the main goal of every house parents is to help the children inside the center to rehabilitate and recover from they have gone through.

In agreement with the article written by Maung (2019), one of the social workers in the Philippines, that despite on the challenges in their profession, seeing the transformation of every individual and as long as God is pleased and honored of what they were doing, it is already considered as their reward. Even though most of the house parents have had many years working inside the center, they still experienced difficulties in

handling these children. Years of experience was not their basis of how they handled the children because how they deal with each child would depend on the situation and the behavior of the children that they had encountered.

Fulfillment

Despite of the very challenging difficulties that every house parent encountered inside the center, they still enjoyed their work and were happy doing his/her job. As evidenced by **Participant # 3**: *“Hindi naman, mas nakakaenjoy kasi, sari-saring bata ‘yung ano e. ‘yung makakasalamuha, kasi iba’t-ibang ugali ba ganun. Kailangan ganitong ugali nito. Iba pala, a sige, iaadjust ko. Kailangan talaga makikilevel ka muna sa kanila ‘Yun ang ano naming.”*

Participant # 4 also said, *“Handling and guiding CICL, ay hindi madali. Sa una normal so al sa mga bata para maging emotional, minsan naman ‘yung iba, mapanakit at bayolente. Bilang houseparent, sinisigurado namin na ligtas ang aming kliyente, sa kahiit na anong circumstances na makakaharap naming. Mahirap, pero fulfilling ko idedescibe ‘yung experience ko.”*

As stated by Whitbourne (2010), fulfilment can be found by making a difference in the live of other, just like the house parents. Even though times were tough, this feeling of fulfillment that every house parents felt inside the center is when the time that the children shows changes in their behavior. From the article of the Manila Bulletin (2020), a house parent were inspired to help the children, most especially when they see them rehabilitate after they were admitted inside the facility.

Another study from Rosso, Dekas, and Wrzesniewski (2010), highlighted that finding meaning in work has been shown to increase motivation, personal satisfaction, career development, and personal fulfillment and on the other hand, to decrease stress from every individual. From the time that they enter the center and up to the time when they leave the center, the house parents felt that they are fulfilled in their job, because they can see some changes in their client. However, there were workers who finds actively not engaged when it comes to work. In the study by Gallup (2013), these workers who considered as unengaged are those who were spending time in work but without energy and passion.

House parents as real parents

The house parents shared that they need to act as real parents to show the love, support, and respect to the CICLs. **Participant # 2 said**, “*So, pero bilang isang nanay siyempre pinasok mo yang trabaho na yan, so alam mo. Parang iisipin mo na anak mo to e. So alam mo makakakuha ka na ng diskarte kung pano mo ihahandle. Nung una talaga mahirap kasi andyan yung umiiyak na siyempre malayo sa magulang. Kung lalo't mama's boy yan. So lahat talaga gagawin mo. Bibigyan mo ng pagkain, lalaruin mo makikilaro ka. Ganiyan. Nung una talaga. Pero bilang isang parang ikaw yung nanay, alam mo yung trabaho mo na pinasok kaya mo imanage...*”

In the article written by Pedrajas (2020) from Manila Bulletin, despite the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), it cannot stop the house parents from taking care and accepting abandoned children, most especially children in conflict with the law, from the two facilities from Malabon City, NCR Philippines. Pedrajas also added that despite the

ranging pandemic, they continue to open their shelters and provide hope for these children. Manila Bulletin also quoted Rosemarie Ramos the statement from the head of the two facilities saying, “Because this is our sworn duty as social workers. We need to report for work everyday because we need to help these children.” Ramos also added, “Kami po yung mga nanay at tatay nila dito.”

From **Participant # 4**, *“Sa bawat araw na lumilipas, narerealize namin ang main cause ng pag-uugali ng client. Ito yung love, respect, and fear. Kinakausap naming sila, at tinatrato naming sila bilang sarili naming mga anak.”*

On the other hand, an article from World Vision One for Children (2019), a house parent named Haydee works in CICL center from Estancia, Iloilo, she treated the children like they were her own kids. She also added that children from the facility lack affection and support from their family. Haydee also stated that CICL centers were no longer relevant in the future, but as of this moment, as long as there were children who needed help and hope, house parents do their job by showing parental care, guidance, and love to CICLs.

Feeling imprisoned

Some of the CICL inside the center felt like they were in jail, which is actually not. Maybe the reason why they felt that they were convicted, it is because they know that they have done something against the law. Two of the eight participants encountered children who feel like this and they shared this during the interview session. **Participant # 2** said, *“Kasi bawat, siyempre nababasa namin yung bawat vision ng mga bata kung ano yung mga problem nila tapos kung saang lugar. Tapos kapag nainterview mo at kung pano sila*

sumagot. Nandun yung alam mo na may takot kasi siyempre alam nila, kasi feeling nila makukulong sila diyan e. Kasi dahil malayo sila sa magulang nila e. Ano naman, maaano mo naman, makikita mo naman na yung bata is, meron din naman palang takot.”

From the Overview of Philippine Juvenile Justice and Welfare written by Sanchez from UNAFEI publications Resource Material series no. 101 (2017), the Bahay Pag-asa will be managed by the multi-disciplinary team including social workers, psychologist, guidance counselor, mental health professional, and a member of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). This shows that the children in conflict with the law were not imprisoned nor detained, but with the help of the Bahay Pag-asa and the members of it, they can help these children to rehabilitate.

From **Participant # 3**, *“Oo mga, ‘yung buwan din siguro bago sila makarecover kasi iniisip nila mas maganda sa labas. Akala kasi nila dito nakakulong. Sabi naming hindi kayo nakakulong, kita niyo naman nakakalabas kayo, minsan may activity kami sa labas, halimbawa dumadating ‘yung, unag-una kasi ‘yung victory naming na partner, ang mga bata dinadala naming sa robinson ‘yung church nila dun. Kaya hindi kayo maboboring dito.”*

An article from UNICEF (2019), stated that the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act led to many success stories shows that CICLs can be rehabilitated without going to imprisonment or being detained. On the other hand, from the article written by Pedrajas (2020), a house parent from Malabon expressed that they are giving services and activities to CICLs inside the center, such as spiritual development and counseling.

Changes occur

The house parents did notice that changes do occur in the CICLs during their stay inside the Bahay Pag-asa Center. During their stay inside the center, there were interventions that the center provided, with the help of the house parents. Patience and understanding were considered a huge help in the changes that were happening in the children. **Participant # 1** said, *“Meron talagang mga nagbago ‘yung sa hawak namin, hindi naman sa, pero nakita naming na habang nandito sila, kasi ako yung sa sayaw, sa sports, ako yung nagtutulong sa kanila na gumawa non. Talaga pong ano na, naano po sila, nakita ko na nagbabago sila. So parang napapaiwas na ganun. Meron talagang mga nagbabago.”*

Participant # 6 also said, *“Mayroon din iba na nagbabago at nasunod sa mga pangaral ng mga house parent. Ang iba naman pakitang tao lang. Magaling pag kaharap. Pag talikod wala na. Ang iba naman ay napakadaling magbago. Ang iba naman kahit anong gawin mong pangaral sa kanila wala parin. Pero pinagpipilitan parin namin na hindi magsawa sa papangaral sa kanila. Tiyaga lang at kaming mga house parent malay mo mag bago din sila pag dating ng araw.”*

From the article of Pedrajas (2020), there were changes happened to CICLs when they go outside, with the help of the services and intervention provided by the center. Otherwise, from the article of World Vision (2019), a house parent asked on how does she helps the CICLs in committing crimes again, she stated that *“When you give that to them and advise them about good values, there is always a big chance that they will change their ways.”*

The house parents could not tell whether these children could change their behavior or not for the reason that each child came from different situations that influenced s/he to commit illegal acts. As time goes by, perhaps after a month of staying at the center, each child has the chance to change and rehabilitate. The house parents realize that with the help of different interventions they are providing inside the center, as well as with their guidance, changes occur in the behavior of the children.

The themes that were created from the data gathered by the researcher were from the experiences of the house parents inside the center. They are not just about the challenges that they were facing, but also the other circumstances happening inside the center, which includes their observations about the behaviors of the CICLs, their emotional feelings towards the CICLs, the changes happening inside the center, and their experience of protecting and guiding the CICLs inside the center.

Research problem 2: What are the challenges of the house parents in handling CICL?

In the research problem two (2), there were seven (7) emerged themes discussed by the participants about the challenges encountered by the house parents in handling CICL. *Table 3* shows the summary of the themes for the research problem two (2).

Table 3

Summary of themes for challenges of the house parents in handling CICL

Themes	Description	Participants
Profanity Encountered	This theme is about the experiences of the house parents of being thrown foul words	Adan Cosme

Behavioral Differences	The differences among the behavior of the CICL inside the center.	Adan Maeleen Ruben Rosaida
Negative Behavior of CICL	This theme refers to the negative behavior of the CICL that the house parents encounter.	Maeleen Rosaida
Extensive Patience	This theme is about how long patience does every house parents need to have in order for them to handle the CICL.	Maeleen Ricarte Cosme
Disciplinarian	This theme refers on how does the house parents gives discipline to CICL.	Ruben Ricarte
Revert to Previous State	This theme refers to the children in conflict with the law, whenever their behavior changes, and still going back to their initial behavior.	Adan Ricarte
Lack of Parental Guidance	This is one of the main reason why some of CICL commits into crime, because of the lack of parental guidance of their real parents.	Ruben Sonny Cosme

Profanity encountered

Some house parents encounter profanity inside the center. This was one reason why being a house parent was challenging, as stated in the first theme of this study. The house parents were the ones who served as the parents of these children inside the center, and in

order for these children to feel that they were safe inside the center, and to avoid their feeling of lacking guidance, the house parents were the ones who adjusted every time that this happened. The house parents could not do anything about it but to simply understand them. As **Participant # 1** said, “*Para sa mga houseparent, talagang challenge. Hindi biro-biro e. nandun ‘yun kahit murahin ka na. wala kang magagawa. Kailangan mo pa rin siyang ituwid. Talagang napaka hirap.*” From **Participant # 7**, “*Sa bad sided naman, pag galit yung bata talaga, nagbabanta. Oo, nagbabanta. May mura pa nga e. T*ngina mo, pag nakalabas ako titirahin kita.*”

According to literature, profanity was considered a form of verbal aggression (Infante & Wigley, 1986; Jay, 2000). In the study of Kaye and Sapolsky (2004), the reason for children’s exposure to verbal profanity were introduced from watching television with vulgar speech uttered by young television characters. Words considered taboo come from any of the following categories: offensive words and phrases, insults or namecalling, clinical terms, and abusive expressions by Jay & Jay (2013).

Behavioral Differences

This theme is about the differences among the behavior of the CICLs inside the center. The age range of the children inside the center was from 15 years old and below. Because of this, the age of the children influenced the different behaviors that the house parents encountered. On the other hand, age was not the only reason why the behavior of the children inside the center changed. Sometimes, it was because of the peer influences. **Participant # 2** said, “*Ang behavior kasi ng bawat isang bata diyan hindi kasi parepareho e. Meron kasing bata na yung behavior niya is dala ng barkada. Na convince lang*

kaya nagawa yung ganun. Kaya napasama. Meron naman bata na, alam mo yung kulang sa pagkalinga ng pamilya. Na kahit anong paliwanag, kahit paano mo siya pangaralan. 'Yung mulat sa kanya na ito yung tama. Mali yung nagawa mo ganiyan. Is ang hirap nilang umintindi. So andun talaga. Iba iba talaga e." In the study conducted by Bañaga (2004), interview were conducted to CICL from Cebu. The CICLs says that they did not understand what was going on.

From **Participant #3**, *"Hindi naman, mas nakakaenjoy kasi, sari-saring bata 'yung ano e, 'yung makakasalamuha, kasi iba't-ibang ugali ba, ganun. Kailangan ganito ugali nito, iba pala. Ah sige i-aadjust ko. Siyempre, kailangan talaga makikilevel ka na muna sa kanila, 'yun ang ano namin."* From the article of World Mision (2019), as a house parent, you will be interacting with children who have different personalities. In the study of Templa et al. (2019), children in conflict with the law may be common in characteristics in terms of age and educational attainment.

Negative Behavior of CICL

This theme refers to the negative behavior of the CICL that the house parents encountered. House parents could not avoid these circumstances inside the center. These behaviors usually occurred when the children initially entered the center. Sometimes, some house parents observed children being violent. These are some of the shared experiences of the house parents inside the center regarding the negative behaviors of the CICL.

Participant #4

"Handling and guiding CICL, ay hindi madali. Sa una normal sa mga bata para maging emotional, minsan naman 'yung iba, mapanakit at bayolente. Bilang houseparent,

sinisigurado namin na ligtas ang aming kliyente, sa kahiit na anong circumstances na makakaharap namin,”

Several studies such as Rassin and Muris (2005) found that the expression of negative emotions is the strongest reason for swearing. Abella (2015), the factor that affects child's delinquent act were due to amilial antisocial behavior or values such as family history of criminal behavior, harsh parental discipline, and family conflict have been among the most consistently linked. She also added that biological issues such as abnormally high or low behavior, triggers into low response to the growth of the cognitive of children, as well as the abnormal emotional development, that can lead the children to to manifest bad juvenile behavior.

Extensive patience

This theme is about having a much patience and understanding as a house parent for every child. Not all the children have similar behavior. Most of the house parents have the stamina to guide these children, despite their changing attitude, or the differences in the behavior of each child due to their age. **Participant #5** said, *“May pag-asa pang magbago ang mga bata dito. Kailangan lang ng mahabang pasensya at gabay. Dahil sila ay hindi likas na masama. Sila ay biktima lamang, marahil sila ay napabayaan ng mga magulang at sila ay naimpluwensyahan lamang ng mga taong nasa paligid nila.”* From **Participant #7**, *“Ganito pala yung mga ano, sabi nga nung mga kasamahan ko na house parents na matatagal na dito, ahh, magready ready ka. ihanda mo ang pasensya, ihanda mo ang sarili mo. Habaan ang pasensya.”* The house parents indicated the need for much patience to handle these individuals because they feel these children will still change. An article

published from World Vision (2019), Haydee, a house parent from Iloilo, says that despite of the challenging role of being a house parent, she still brings her patience and understanding to these children. Winn (2017), explained the importance of being patient where it can help an individual to understand that consistent hard work and achieving your goal, will generate success in your life.

Disciplinarian

This theme shows how the house parents give discipline to every child inside the center. Disciplining each child inside the center as their second parent means that they are showing concern for him/her. For every wrong doing of the children, the house parents need to correct their mistakes. **Participant # 4** said, *“Kasi ang pagguide naming ditto ay tungkol lang sa mga bata e, tapos. Sila ay sa, ano namin, binibigyan naming sila ng mga disiplina. Pagdating dito, pinapangaralan namin.”* **Participant # 7** also said, *“Pero pinagpipilitan pa rin namin na hindi magsawa sa papangaral sa kanila. Tiyaga lang at kaming mga house parent malay mo mag bago din sila pag dating ng araw.”*

Seigler, Deloache, & Eisenberg (2006) further mentioned Parenting styles are defined as parenting behaviors and attitudes that set the emotional climate of parent child interactions. Larzelere, Gunnoe, Roberts, & Ferguson (2016), write about positive parenting which refers to the philosophy that parental attempts to influence their children should be limited to warm and supportive guidance. Wasserman et al., (2003) stated that parenting practices such as disciplining the child were more likely to engage in half as many positive interactions, and, often unintentionally, to reinforce negative child behavior (Gardner, 1987; Patterson and Stouthamer-Loeber, 1984).

Revert to Previous State

This theme refers to CICLs, whose behavior has changed, but has returned to their previous behavior because they adapt the behavior of those entering a new.

Larzelere et al (2016) addressed risk factors that emerge young children regarding their socialization. The Study Group focused on a social development model integrating insights from current theories that consider the influence of community and schools on child delinquents (Catalano and Hawkins, 1996; Farrington and Hawkins, 1991; Hawkins and Weis, 1985).

As **Participant # 1** said, “*Kasi ‘pag papasok sila, ganun ugali nila. Magbabago. Kapag may nakasama silang iba, nakukuha nila ‘yung ugali nung mga pumapasok.*” From **Participant # 5** “*Sila ay biktima lamang marahil sila ay napabayaang ng mga magulang at sila ay naimpluwensyahan lamang ng mga taong nasa paligid nila.*”

This includes the children’s opportunity to get involved in the activities and interactions with other people. Vaquera & Kao (2007) believed that peer pressure is one factor where it encourages and motivates other individuals. Lynn (2018) also stated that every authoritarian parent believes that every behavior of the children should be controlled as much as possible.

Lack of Parental Guidance

The house parents think that one of the main reasons why some of CICLs commit illegal acts is because of the lack of parental guidance from their real parents. The house parents believed that parental guidance is one of the important things that every child

should experience. With the help of the parents, the child will develop his/her personality as well as behave properly. Sample responses from the respondents were stated below.

Participant # 3 said, “....*kulang sila sa pagkalinga ng mga magulang nila. ng pamilya nila.*” And from **Participant # 6**, “*Bilang magulang, it is your responsibility para bigyan ‘yung mga anak niyo ng lahat ng bagay na kinakailangan nila.*”

In the study conducted by Derzon & Lipsey (2000), they showed that inadequate child-rearing practices, home discord, and child maltreatment are associated with early-onset delinquency. Inadequate parenting skills and practices considered as most powerful factor of early antisocial behavior Hawkins et al. (1998).

Participant # 7 also said, “*pinabayaan sila ng kanilang magulang sa lansangan kaya ganon ang ugali nila.*” Academic nature of many of the behaviors defined as parent involvement.

Lynn (2018), one factor of parental lack of control is neglect, which can lead the children to a variety of antisocial behavior. Neuroscientist name Sandra Aamodt from the article written by Madarang (2019) says that parental supervision has an impact on teenager’s activities.

Research Problem no. 3: What is the psychological implication of the findings to the profession of being a house parent?

The themes that were created based on the data of this research would also seem to have affected the participants’ emotional and personal well-being. In like manner, these seem to have affected also their perception about the interventions used as well as their perception regarding the lowering of the criminal age in the Philippines.

There were two (2) themes emerged regarding the psychological implication of the findings to the profession, based on the responses of the participants.

Table 4

Summary of the themes for Psychological Implication of the findings to the profession of being house parent

Themes	Description	Participants
Increasing Number of Bahay Pag-Asa Center	The hope of every house parents to increase the number of Bahay Pag-asa, to lessen the children who gets involved in doing crime.	Adan Sonny
Perception on Lowering the Criminal Age	This theme is about the responses of the house parents regarding their perception on lowering the criminal age and the possible effect once it is implemented as a law.	Adan Maeleen Ruben Rosaida Ricarte Sonny Cosme

Increasing Number of Bahay Pag-Asa Center

Two of the house parents recommended the increase in the number of Bahay Pag-asa centers because of the increasing number of children, ages 15 years old and below who have committed illegal acts or have been involved in crimes. Their hope is to increase the number of Bahay Pag-asa which will render programs so that less children will get involved in criminal activities. **Participant # 1** said, “*Kailangan natin ng maraming Bahay Pag-asa.*” **Participant # 7** also said, “*Sa tingin ko po ay yung madagdagan ang mga bahay*

pag-asa sa ating bansa. Sa iba't ibang parte ng ating lugar. Ng sa gayon, ay mabawasan na ang bilang ng mga batang nakagagawa ng krimen.”

The increase of the number of Bahay Pag-asa in the Philippines is one important thing to focus on, because this center provides intervention for the children in conflict with the law, and help them to change and become their better selves in the future. Bahay Pag-asa gives hope to every child who has taken the wrong path in his/her life to take the path that will lead him/her to a better life. According to Alonzo (2019), once a child has accomplished the intervention that has been given at the center, the child is released to an aftercare program that takes place in the home and community. Once completed, the case is considered closed and no criminal record would hound the child. The rehabilitation center gives hope and chance for every child to pursue his or her own goals, and start a new life. In an article written in Philstar (2019), Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, a human rights commissioner, advocates the strengthening of the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and that more Bahay Pag-asa centers be established across the country. Psychologists and Counselors in these centers should provide interventions and therapies to these children in conflict with the law. These professionals can give the CICLs inside the center hope for a brighter future to.

However, some of the Bahay Pag-asa in our country cannot afford to give all the needs of the children, in terms of food and the intervention that should be given to them. As stated by Tricia Oco, the executive director of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), in her article in Philstar (2019) some of the Bahay Pag-asa centers have subhuman conditions, lacking the minimum staff requirement as well as insufficient food for the children. Some also of these Bahay Pag-asa centers do not have programs and

interventions intended for the children. It behooves the government, therefore, to provide more funding for these centers.

Perception on Lowering the Criminal Age

This theme refers to the responses of the house parents about being against, in favor of, or have abstained regarding the proposed law of lowering the criminal age. The house parents shared their reason regarding their perception on this. Three (3) out of seven (7) participants were against the bill, f (4) of them were in favor, and one (1) abstained.

Participant # 1 who was against House Bill No. 505 (Lowering Criminal Age) said, *“Para sakin hindi, talagang magulang. Hindi na dapat ‘yun gawin, ganun din naman ‘yun. Kasi kung ibababa sayang din naman ang buhay ng mga bata. Matututukan lang din naman ng mga magulang nila, hindi magkakaganun ‘yun. Isabuhay na rin talaga siguro na, pero hindi na dapat pang babaan.”* **Participant # 2**, also against the bill said, *“Hindi ko... Hindi ako pabor ne, kasi nanay din ako e. Nanay din ako.. Lahat sakin gagawin ko yung pamamaraan para hindi kami dumating sa punto yung mga anak ko matulad sa ganiyang sitwasyon. So kung yan ay paiiralin ng gobyerno, e ano ba naman tayo, tayo lang naman ay isang mamamayan na bumuboto kung ano man yung inaano nila no. Pero dapat talagang magbigay ng pagdidisiplina sa mga batang katulad niyan is mauna talaga sa pamilya, sa bahay, sa tahanan.”*

On the other hand, he doesn't does not want this to be implemented, which indicates that this house parent is against the law. He believes that at the age of nine (9) years old, a child is too young when he/she got convicted. From the article written by Elemia (2019), critics were strongly opposes regarding the lowering the criminal age, for the reason that

there is no scientific evidence that this bill can lessen the criminal responsibility done by lower ages.

In the article of ABS-CBN news (2017), it was indicated the perception of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) executive director namely Tricia Clare Oco, where she emphasized that not all children who commit crime should go to jail, rather, interventions and programs should be provided for these children. One of the house parent from Iloilo, expressed in the article from World Vision (2019), regarding the lowering the criminal age. This house parent disagrees on the proposed law. She also mentions that not all parts of the country have proper and enough youth facilities.

According to Senator Bam Aquino from the article of Jazeera (2019), stated that he considers the bill immoral and doubted that this will pass the senate. He also added that lowering the criminal age to nine years old is completely out of bounds. In the same article, the non-government organization released their statement that lowering the criminal age was not in the best interest for the children, because this will only push them to further discrimination, abuse, and antisocial behavior.

The reason why they were against this proposed law is because they believed that children inside the center still have the chance to change their behavior with the help of the guidance and the interventions that the center is giving to them. These house parents seem to feel regret if this proposed law will be implemented. Being young children should be given a chance to change. Also, they think that parents should not let their children to commit in those illegal acts because they should know how to discipline, protect, and guide their children.

Participant # 4 who was in favor of House Bill No. 505 said, “*Yes. Kasi naniniwala ako na sa edad na 9 years old, aware na ang mga bata and they have enough knowledge kung ano man ang ginagawa nila, kung tama ba or mali. Choice na lang din nila kung gagawa sila ng masama, siguro dahil alam nila ‘yung proposed law na ‘yun, kung saan pinoprotekataan ‘yung mga bata na below 15 years old na makulong.*” **Participant # 4** also added, “*Sa palagay ko, kung maimplement man ‘yang batas na ‘yan, matatakot na ‘yung mga bata na gumawa ng pagkakamali kapag natuntun nila ‘yung edad na 9 years old.*” In like manner, **Participant # 5** said, “*Pwede ring pabor ako sa House Bill 505, o ‘yung lowering the criminal age, kaya lang ito ay dapat pag-aaralan ng gobyerno kung ito talaga ang solusyon sa problema ng mga kabataan*” **Participant # 5** also stated, “*Sa tingin ko kapag natuloy to, mababawasan na ang mga batang gumagawa ng krimen sa lansangan. Kasi magkakaroon sila ng takot na, makukulong na ako kapag ginawa ko to, mga ganun ba. Masosolusyunan na ang problema ng kabataan na sa murang edad ay nakakagawa sila ng pagkakamali.*” Another participant who is **Participant # 6** who was in favor with lowering the criminal age said, “*Opo pabor po ako kasi po bababa ang mga batang lalaboy sa lansangan. Matatakot silang makihalubilo sa mga masasamang elemento sa lansangan. Tulad ng mga batang pinabayaan ng kanilang magulang na doon na natutulog sa lansangan. May mga bata rin na natuto sa pag gamit ng drugs kaya sila nakaka pag nakaw para lang maidrugs.*” Lastly, **Participant # 7** also said, “*Pabor!*” “*Kaya hangga’t maaari kung seseryosohin talaga yan, pabor ako.*”

From the article written by Madarang (2019), it was stated there the perception of Panelo in lowering the criminal age to nine (9), where he said that nine (9) years old is fine, considering the modern technology, 9 is like the equivalent of 12 or 15 years old. For

Panelo, they already have discernment at the age of 9. According to House Justice Committee chairman Doy Leachon from the article of Jazeera (2019), he defended that the bill was brought due to alarming increase number of criminal syndicates involving minor ages that leads them to do criminal acts. On the other hand, President Rodrigo Duterte stated from the article of Jazeera (2019), that the Filipino youths should accept the responsibility for their actions.

Every house parents thinks that once this proposed law were implemented, they think that every children who commits sinful acts, they will think first that they can also be got convicted once they have done something against the law. In line with this, the number of children who commits criminal acts will be lessen.

The implication of these themes in the practice of Psychology and Counseling, shows the importance of these profession on how to cope up and help the children in conflict with the law to rehabilitate. The Psychologist will provide the therapies that these children needed, that depends to their situation. They can help the Bahay Pag-asa centers to assess and diagnose, as well as to treat children who have psychological problems. Psychologists plays an important role because they promote mental health, which is to have a healthy behavior. For the Counselors, they can help the children to guide them, with the help of the house parents, to know the right path they will take. With their guidance, they can lead these children to have a better and bright future. The expertise of these two professions can help these individuals to cope up with the issues that affect their mental health as well as their well-being. They develop programs, activities, interventions, and services in order for them to manage the behavior of these individuals.

The findings of the study shows the relevance for the house parents in coping the challenges inside the Bahay Pag-asa center by empowering and strengthen their individual's abilities and skills to manage and handle the children in conflict with the law. House parents can be more professional with the help of the Psychologist and Counselors. These experts do not just help the children inside the center, but also the staff and people inside the center, by helping them provide interventions for the children. These experts can also help them on how to properly handle these children, most especially when there are cases that they were diagnosed of having a problem with their behavior. This considered as one of the important things for them to know on how will they act and interact with children in this kind of situation. Being taught by the professionals can help the house parents develop their career, professionally, and in line with this, they can be able to cope up and overcome the challenges inside the center in their everyday lives of being a house parent.

CHAPTER IV

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of the Study

Inside the rehabilitation center, the treatment of the house parents is also the same from the parents of the children inside the center. The relationship inside the center between the house parents and the children, is the same from the relationship inside their home. The only difference from the two, inside the center, there are interventions and activities provided for every children.

Because of the lived experiences of the house parents inside the center their reason why they were in favor of just to lessen the number of the criminal age at the young age, is very convincing. House parents should think that the children need to rehabilitate. The point of all the law is to create a society where people respect each other and there is justice. The point criminal justice is to deter people from committing crimes. The reason of those house parents who are in favor of the lowering the criminal age, which is just to lessen the number of children who are involved in doing crimes, but not to rehabilitate those minors to change their lives, to become more useful citizens.

Summary of the Results

Based from the findings of the present study, the lived experiences of the house parents was expressed. There were five (5) themes emerged as mentioned by the respondents: (1) challenging, where this shows the hardship of being a house parent because of different challenge they encountered, (2) fulfillment, where it tackled about the

feeling of fulfillment of the house paren when they see changes from the children, (3) house parents as real parents, where it was discussed about the responsibility of the house parents and how they treat the children inside the center, (4) feeling imprisoned, house parents shared that some of the children in conflict with the law inside the center feels like they were in jail, lastly, (5) changes occur, house parents expressed that there were changes happened to every children after they were being detained to center.

Additionally, challenges of the house parents inside the center has been shared. There were six (6) themes emerged. (1) Profanity encountered, some house parents shared that they encountered profanity from the children inside the center, (2) behavioral differences, house parents considered behavioral differences as one of the challenges because it is not easy to handle and interact with children who have diffent characteristics and personality. (3) Negative behavior of CICL, house parents experienced the negative attitude of the CICLs inside the center, (4) extensive patience, where the house parents expressed that they need a long patience in handling CICLs, (5) disciplinarian, this shows that house parents in handling CICLs, they know how to discipline for they were the second parents of these children, (6) revert to previous state, where it shows that some CICLs returned to their previous behavior once it was changed, lastly (7) lack of parental guidance, where it was stated that lack of the parenting skills where considered as one factor of children committed to criminal acts.

Furthermore, there are two (2) emerged themes from the psychological implication of the findings of the perception. (1) Increasing number of Bahay Pag-asa, where the house parents were hoping to increase the number of Bahay Pag-asa centers for the children in conflict with the law, and the second (2) perception on lowering the criminal age, where it

was expressed in this section the opinion and reason of the house parents about the House Bill No. 505, which is the lowering the criminal age to nine (9) years old.

Limitation of the Study

The present study focused on the lived experiences of the house parents in handling the children in conflict with the law, who have been experienced working from rehabilitation center for more than two (2) years. The experiences and challenges were the focal point of the present study. The house parents who participated from the study were selected through purposive sampling technique. Letter of intent were presented to the institution before data were gathered. The setting of the study takes place from only one (1) rehabilitation center. Profile of the participants were house parents working for more than two (2) years from Bahay Pag-asa centers. Profile sheet were provided to the participants. The interview questions were semi-structured type, were the questions did not just limit from the interview questions that were validated by the experts. Follow-up questions were also be given, rest assured it was relevant to the present study. Data being gathered underwent through thematic analysis.

Conclusion

The lived experiences of the house parents is like a roller coaster ride. In the years of the house parents in handling the children in conflict with the law, their experiences of them were still not the same. A big time, effort, and patience in understanding should always be brought by them everytime they have a duty. Regardless of the toughness and difficulties they were experiencing inside the center, the feeling of fulfillment and

satisfaction is still priceless for them, everytime they observed that they were changes happened for these children.

In handling children in conflict with the law, the experiences of the house parents considered as very challenging because of the reason that every behavior is inconsistent. As a house parent, they are not giving up on whatever situations they might encounter, because as they enter this job, they should know what are the pros and cons of it. Understanding the situation can help them to handle the CICL in a polite way and having a long patience. House parents should also be aware of the past of the children because this may be the reason why their behavior is continue changing. With this, they will know on how they could handle those children inside the center.

Some of the house parents have the lack of professional training on handling children in conflict with the law (CICL). The basis of their perception regarding of being in favor on lowering the criminal age, is just because of the immediate that they observed inside the center, but there is a lack of observation regarding the psychological implication to those children. There are ways and means of helping these children to realize what a good life is. There is need for better training on handling the CICL inside the center, for them to know what are the pros and cons, and for them to know.

Recommendations

Failed to introduce prosocial behavior at the young age may lead individuals to become delinquent in the future. It has been important that at their early age doing well has been introduced to them and they will carry it as they grow bigger and older. These things cannot be done by the children itself at their age, with the help of the people that surrounds

them. Let the children feel that at their young age they already have their support system. School counselors, educators, and psychologist were considered as one of the great support to children or even with the adolescent and adulthood period, because they guide them in the path they are taking.

Professional training as a counselor and psychologist for the house parents is highly recommended for every house parents, for them to really understand what the situation of every children inside the children is. Some of the house parents from the center is not really a house parent, they are just volunteers. There is nothing wrong for being a volunteer most especially when your main goal is to help those children to rehabilitate, but as a volunteer, special trainings and seminars is highly recommended to attend.

Inside the center, there is a lack of therapy that are needed to provide for the children. Providing psychotherapy or can also be called as talk therapy, will be a great help for children because the benefits of a therapy can help the individuals to overcome their fear and pain they felt from the past. This can also help them develop their understanding regarding their own emotions, and help them to handle it properly. Having therapy can also help the children to reduce anxiety, avoid depression, and more importantly, the feeling of having support on whatever the individual feel. Having a support system increase the level of well-being of an individual and can help the individual decrease stress and be more positive. Psychotherapy can also help decrease the emotional difficulties. Therapies can be conducted as individual or in a group setting. In providing psychotherapy, there should be an expert that will be the one to conduct therapies for the children.

In order to manage a proper way of handling and taking care of the children in conflict with the law, the centers should also provide seminars and trainings for the house parents. Seminars can give the individual a lot of information that can help them develop their personal skills. Seminars doesn't last for five (5) to seven (7) days, it only last for two (2) days and during this given time, there is already a lot of learning and insights that the attendees can acquire in their jobs.

Some of the specific topics for the seminars to be conducted for the house parents is about on being a good, strong, and stable support system to the children in conflict with the law inside the center. Many of these children encountered lack of support from family members, other relatives, or from their friends, and this is one of the reason why individual lose their track and never look if there is hope for them. Providing a strong and stable support system is the first way for them to build their trust to the house parents, for the fact that these house parents will serve as their "parents" inside the center. Even though most of the house parents are working as "house parents" for more than a year, they should still know on how to provide a strong and stable support system, in order for the CICL to trust them.

Being a house parents is not just about guiding and handling children in conflict with the law in terms of developing the children's physical abilities and strength, but also, being emotionally stable and aware of the things that they are doing and might encounter. Promoting mindfulness is also a perfect topic for the house parents. Mindfulness is considered as the basic person's ability to become fully aware of an individual on what he or she is doing. Individual's mind considered as fully attentive. Promoting mindfulness to

the children in conflict with the law can be a way to reduce stress, develop their abilities, enhance performances, and become fully aware of everything that is happening.

Some of the children in conflict with the law may be suffering in mental health problems, but they were battling in silence. Maybe some of them has been diagnosed with such mental illnesses, and they need to receive proper way of handling these kind of situations. Psychoeducational trainings should also be given to house parents. The goal of Psychoeducation is to help people better understand mental health conditions, is considered to be an essential aspect of all therapy programs. Once an individual may heard the word “Psychoeducation”, it may be sounded highly specified which can be provided in many ways, but it has its four main goals in performing Psychoeducation: transfer of information, medication and treatment support, training and support in self-help and self-care, and the provision of a safe place to vent emotional frustrations. By providing this kind of training, the house parents will be able to understand different things. This will speaker will explain the impact of therapy to an individual, in ways a mental health condition might also have an impact in functioning. Formal classes designed to educate the population about both specific mental health conditions and mental health in general. Behavior management will also be provided during the training, wherein the proper management for the children in conflict with the law with behavioral concerns. Also, self-help and stable support groups were also designed to encourage every individual with mental health concerns to share everyone’s strategy with each other.

To be able for the center to make the seminar and trainings happened as part of their program for the house parents, the center should have linkages on schools that really provide trainings, with the help of the knowledgeable speakers from different schools and

institutions that are considered as professional experts of their designed positions and can give broad and clear explanation of the information regarding the specific topic.

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APPENDIX A

Personal Information Sheet

Information Sheet

Name: _____ Gender: _____

Contact number: _____ Age: _____

Occupation: _____

Name of center currently working at _____

Name of center previously worked (if applicable):

Number of years working at CICL centers: _____

APPENDIX B

Sample of Interview Guide Questions

1. Describe your experience handling and guiding children in conflict with the law (CICL).
2. Tell me your realizations regarding the behavior of the children inside the center.
3. Are you aware of the proposed law in the Philippines which is the House Bill number 505?
4. Are you okay with the lowering the criminal age?
5. Share your perception regarding the proposed law in the Philippines which is the House Bill number 505 or commonly known as lowering the criminal age from 15 years old to 9 years old.
 - 5.A What do you think will be the implications of this proposed law children in conflict with the law (CICL) once it is implemented?
6. Describe any intervention to correct or manage the behavior of children in conflict with the law (CICL) aside from lowering the criminal age.

APPENDIX C

Rating Scale for Validation of Interview Questions

Interview Questions	Accept	Revise	Reject	Comments
1. Describe your experience handling and guiding children in conflict with the law (CICL).				
2. Tell me your realizations regarding the behavior of the children inside the center.				
3. Share your perception regarding the proposed law in the Philippines which is the House Bill number 505 or commonly known as lowering the criminal age from 15 years old to 9 years old.				
3.A What do you think will be the implications of this proposed law children in conflict with the law (CICL) once it is implemented?				
4. Describe any intervention to correct or manage the behavior of children in conflict with the law (CICL) aside from lowering the criminal age.				

APPENDIX D

Letter to Validators

January __, 2020

Greetings!

I, Eunice Faye M. Manzanillo the 5th year student of Philippine Normal University – Manila currently taking up Bachelor of Science – Master of Arts in Psychology and Counseling Straight Program, would like to respectfully ask your permission to conduct a validation on my study entitled “Lived Experiences of Person Taking Care of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)”, as a partial fulfilment for my thesis. The purpose of the study is to know whether the lived experiences of these persons who serves as guardians of CICL inside the center and to know the realizations of these people regarding the behavior of the children inside the center.

In line with this, I would like to ask your permission to validate the instrument that serves as interview guide questions for my participants.

Interview guide:

1. Describe your experience handling and guiding children in conflict with the law (CICL).
2. Tell me your realizations regarding the behavior of the children inside the center.

3. Share your perception regarding the proposed law in the Philippines which is the House Bill number 505 or commonly known as lowering the criminal age from 15 years old to 9 years old.

3.A What do you think will be the implications of this proposed law children in conflict with the law (CICL) once it is implemented?

4. Describe any intervention to correct or manage the behavior of children in conflict with the law (CICL) aside from lowering the criminal age.

I am earnestly looking forward for your thoughtful consideration and cooperation with us, for your outstanding knowledge and expertise will be a great help for us to successfully accomplish my study. We are hoping for your positive response regarding this matter, and such will be deeply appreciated.

I hope this letter merits your kindest approval. Thank you and God bless!

Respectfully yours,

Eunice Faye M. Manzanillo

V-1 BSMA Psychology

Noted by:

Dr. Tito C. Baclagan, RGC

Thesis Adviser

APPENDIX E

Letter of Intent

To,

Dear _____,

Good Day! I am a student from Philippine Normal University and I am from the Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences under the program of BSMA Psychology. This letter is to convey my interest of you being my participant for study entitled "*Lived Experiences of Person Taking Care of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)*" as a partial fulfilment for my thesis. The purpose of the study is to know whether the lived experiences of these persons who serves as guardians of CICL inside the center and to know the realizations of these people regarding the behavior of the children inside the center.

In line with this, I would like to ask your permission to become my participant of the study. I will ensure that there will be no harm and confidentiality of the study will always be observed.

I hope this letter merits your kindest approval. Thank you and God bless!

Respectfully yours,

MANZANILLO, EUNICE FAYE M.

manzanillo.efm@pnu.edu.ph

+639-082-096-665

Noted by:

Dr. Tito C. Baclagan, RGC

Thesis Adviser

APPENDIX F

Informed Consent

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I, _____ being over the age of 18 years old (legally independent) hereby consent to participate/be a respondent in this project titled: “Lived Experiences of Person Taking Care of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)”. The purpose of the study is to know whether the lived experiences of these persons who serves as guardians of CICL inside the center and to know the realizations of these people regarding the behavior of the children inside the center.

I am aware that I should keep a copy of the Letter of Introduction and Consent Form for future reference;

I understand that:

I may not directly benefit from taking part in this research.

I am free to withdraw from the participation in this research at any time and I am free to refuse to answer particular questions

While the information gained in this study will be published as explained, I will not be identified, and individual information will remain confidential.

I may ask the audio recording be stopped at any time, and that I may withdraw at anytime from the interview without disadvantage.

Participant's signature: _____

Date: _____

I certify that I have explained the purpose of research to the participant and consider that she/he understands what is involved and liberally consents to participate.

Researcher
(Signature over printed name)

Date

APPENDIX G

Letter of Agreement

Date

Dear (*Transcriber's name*),

This letter will serve as an agreement between the researcher and transcriber. The data that will be collected during the interview process will remain its confidentiality by not sending files to other people. The collected transcribed data will be deleted right away after the file will be given to the researcher and the researcher will ensure that there will be no file that can be restored.

Looking forward for your positive confirmation regarding the letter.

Respectfully yours,

MANZANILLO, EUNICE FAYE M.

manzanillo.efm@pnu.edu.ph

+639-082-096-665

APPENDIX H

Sample of Thematic Analysis of the Responses

Main theme	Sample responses
LABORIOUS - This theme is about hardship of the house parents inside the center in handling and guiding the CICL.	P1: <i>"Mahirap, 'pag may problema.... talagang challenge."</i> P2: <i>"ay opo, nakaramdam po ako ng hirap."</i> P3: <i>"yun ang mahirap."</i> P4: <i>"Handling and guiding CICL, ay hindi madali"</i> P5: <i>"Ang maibabahagi ko tungkol sa karanasan ko sa pag-aalaga at pagbabantay sa loob ng center ay medyo mahirap at challenging."</i>
FULFILLMENT -The feeling of happiness and enjoyment of every house parents in handling CICL.	P1: <i>"pero masaya naman, habang nakikita mo, napagbabago mo siya."</i> P3: <i>"Hindi naman, mas nakakaenjoy kasi"</i> P4: <i>"Mahirap, pero fulfilling ko idedescibe 'yung experience ko."</i>
HOUSEPARENTS AS REAL PARENTS - This theme is about the house parents inside the center as they feel that they are the real parents of the CICL.	P2: <i>"pero bilang isang parang ikaw yung nanay, alam mo yung trabaho mo na pinasok kaya mo imanage."</i> P3: <i>"Ang mga batang naliligaw ng landas dahil dito kung sila ay napabayaang ng kanilang magulang, dito sa bahay pagasa narito ang kanilang pangalawang magulang."</i> P4: <i>"Sa bawat araw na lumilipas, narerealize naming ang main cause ng pag-uugali ng client. Ito yung love, respect, and fear. Kinakausap naming sila, at tinatrato naming sila bilang sarili naming mga anak."</i>

FEELING OF IMPRISONED - Some of the CICL inside the center, feels like they are convicted, which is not.	P2: <i>“kasi feeling nila makukulong sila diyan e.”</i> P3: <i>“Akala kasi nila dito nakakulong.”</i>
CHANGES OCCUR - Some changes occur in CICL as they stay inside the Bahay Pag-asa Center.	P1: <i>“pero masaya naman, habang nakikita mo, napagbabago mo siya.”</i> <i>“Talaga pong ano na, naano po sila, nakita ko na nagbabago sila”</i> P2: <i>“nay, tay paglabas ko talagang magbabago na po talaga ako kasi naaawa po ako kay mama kay papa sa mga kapatid ko.”</i> P3: <i>“hindi pa huli ang lahat para magbago, pwede pa kayong maging mabubuting tao kung gusto niyo.”</i> P7: <i>“Mayroon din iba na nagbabago at nasunod sa mga pangaral ng mga house parent.”</i>
PROFANITY ENCOUNTERS - This theme is about the experiences of the house parents of being thrown foul words.	P1: <i>“nandun ‘yun kahit murahin ka na.”</i> P7: <i>“May mura pa nga e. T*ngina mo, pag nakalabas ako titirahin kita.”</i>
BEHAVIORAL DIFFERENCES - The differences among the behavior of the CICL inside the center.	P1: <i>“Paiba-iba kasi e.”</i> P3: <i>“Ang behavior kasi ng bawat isang bata diyan hindi kasi pare-pareho e.”</i> P4: <i>“Sari-saring bata ‘yung ano e. ‘yung makakasalamuha, kasi iba’t-ibang ugali ba ganun.”</i> P5: <i>“dahil iba ang pag-uugali nila kaysa normal na mga bata”</i>
NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR OF CICL - This theme refers to the negative behavior of the CICL that the house parents encounter.	P3: <i>“tapos yung awra ng mukha nila. ano ba to, sanggano ba talaga to.”</i> P5: <i>“Sa una normal sa mga bata para maging emotional, minsan naman ‘yung iba, mapanakit at bayolente.”</i>

EXTENSIVE PATIENCE - This theme is about how long patience does every house parents need to have in order for them to handle the CICL.	P2: <i>"hangga't makakaya naming mabago yung pag-iisip at pag-uugali ng mga bata."</i> P5: <i>"May pag-asa pang magbago ang mga bata dito. Kailangan lang ng mahabang pasensya at gabay. Dahil ay hindi likas na masama . Sila ay biktima lamang marahil sila ay napabayaang ng mga magulang at sila ay naimpluwensyahan lamang ng mga taong nasa paligid nila."</i> P7: <i>"ihanda mo ang pasensya, ihanda mo ang sarili mo. habaan ang pasensya."</i>
DISCIPLINARIAN - This theme refers on how does the house parents gives discipline to CICL.	P3: <i>"binibigyan naming sila ng mga disiplina. Pagdating dito, pinapangaralan namin."</i> P6: <i>"hindi magsawa sa papangaral sa kanila"</i>
REVERT TO PREVIOUS STATE - This theme refers to the children in conflict with the law, whenever their behavior changes, and still going back to their initial behavior.	P1: <i>"Kasi 'pag papasok sila, ganun ugali nila. Magbabago. Kapag may nakasama silang iba, nakukuha nila 'yung ugali nung mga pumapasok."</i> P5: <i>"Sila ay biktima lamang marahil sila ay napabayaang ng mga magulang at sila ay naimpluwensyahan lamang ng mga taong nasa paligid nila."</i>
LACK OF PARENTAL GUIDANCE - This is one of the main reason why some of CICL commits into crime, because of the lack of parental guidance of their real parents.	P3: <i>"..kulang sila sa pagkalinga ng mga magulang nila. ng pamilya nila."</i> P6: <i>"Bilang magulang, it is your responsibility para bigyan 'yung mga anak niyo ng lahat ng bagay na kinakailangan nila."</i> P7: <i>"pinabayaang sila ng kanilang magulang sa lansangan kaya ganon ang ugali nila."</i>
IINCREASING NUMBER OF BAHAY PAG-ASA CENTER - The hope of every house parents to increase the number of Bahay Pag-	P1: <i>"Kailangan natin ng maraming Bahay Pag-asa"</i> P6: <i>"Sa tingin ko po ay yung madagdagan ang mga bahay pag-asa."</i>

asa, to lessen the children who gets involved in doing crime.	
PERCEPTION OF LOWERING CRIMINAL AGE - This theme is about the responses of the house parents regarding the possible effect of lowering the criminal age once it is implemented as a law.	P4: <i>“Eh palagay ko naman e, siguro mababawasan.”</i> P5: <i>“matatakot na ‘yung mga bata na gumawa ng pagkakamali kapag natunton nila ‘yung edad na 9 years old.”</i> P6: <i>“Sa tingin ko kapag natuloy to, mababawasan na ang mga batang gumagawa ng krimen sa lansangan.”</i>

APPENDIX I

Sample of Transcript

Participant # 1

Pwede pong pakidescribe ng pag-aala at pag hasandle ng mga cicl sa loob ng center?

-“Mahirap, ‘pag may problema, pero masaya naman, habang nakikita mo, napagbabago mo siya. Para sa mga houseparent, talagang challenge. Hindi biro-biro e. Nandun ‘yun kahit murahin ka na. Wala kang magagawa. Kailangan mo pa rin siyang ituwid. Talagang napaka hirap.”

Ano po ‘yung mga realizations niyo sa mga behavior ng mga bata sa loob ng center?

-“Paiba-iba kasi e. Hindi lang kami basta sa isang ano e.”

Ayun po sir, ano-ano po ‘yung realizations niyo sa behavior po ng mga bata? Sa pagpasok po nila, tapos, habang nasa center?

- “Hindi ko kasi maano ‘yung mga ano ng mga bata e. Kasi ‘pag papasok sila, ganun ugali nila. Magbabago. Kapag may nakasama silang iba, nakukuha nila ‘yung ugali nung mga pumapasok.”

Bali na-aadopt pa rin po nila kahit nagbago na sila?

- “Oo. So ayun ‘yung pinaka mahirap sa amin. ‘yung sa amin kasi dalawa lang ‘yung room. So hiwalay ‘yung bata sa ‘yung mga may edad na talaga. E hindi naman naming pwede isama ‘yung malaki sa bata. Sama-sama sila. So ‘yung ugali nung isa na ano, nakukuha nila. Kaya talagang nahihirapan kami.”

Bali gano katagal po ‘yung, parang interval kung nagbago na po sila. Sa pagpasok nila.

-“Hindi rin masasabi e. Talagang sa tuwing nakikita naming na nagbabago sila, eto na naman sila sa tuwing may ano, may bago sa kanila.”

Aware po kayo dun sa proposed law na ilolower po ‘yung criminal age? ‘yung sa pagkulong sa mga bata

- “Para sakin hindi, talagang magulang. Hindi na dapat ‘yun gawin, ganun din naman ‘yun.

Bali hindi po kayo pabor dun?

-“Hindi”

Bakit po?

-“Kasi kung ibababa sayang din naman ang buhay ng mga bata. Matututukan lang din naman ng mga magulang nila, hindi magkakaganun ‘yun. Isabuhay na rin talaga siguro na, pero hindi na dapat pang babaan. “

Pwede niyo poi share 'yung perception niyo regarding dun sa poroposed law na 'yun? Parang, ano pong, nung narinig niyo po 'yun or napakinggan 'yung balita na ibababa daw, ano po 'yung naisip niyo?

-“Dito pinag-uusapan din namin 'yan na, hindi kami pabor. Kasi sa akin talaga, hindi na talaga para ibaba pa 'yung, itong age para, kasi, sayang lang 'yung mga kabataan. So kahit ano man talaga, kung matututukan nang maayos.”

Ano po 'yung tingin niyo na magiging implication kung sakaling maipatupad man ang law na 'yun? Ano po sa tingin niyo ang kahihinatan nun?

- “Kailangan natin ng maraming bahay pag-asa.”

Sa tingin niyo po, meron po bang other intervention para mamana po 'yung behavior ng mga bata. Kasi diba, kaya po nila gusto ipropose 'yung law na 'yun, na ibababa 'yung criminal age na ikukulong ng below 12 years old, kasi nga po marami na pong tumataas na krimen ng mga bata. Sa tingin niyo po, ano po 'yung other intervention bukod po sa pagbaba ng criminal age? Or pagkulong kaagad sa kanila ng ganitong edad.

-“Mga bata nga kasi e, talagang nakaka encounter naman kami dito, nakikita namin na mga, talagang mga ano 'yung bata pa talaga wala pa isip e.. Meron talagang mga nagbago 'yung sa hawak namin, hindi naman sa, pero nakita naming na habang nandito sila, kasi ako yung sa sayaw, sa sports, ako yung nagtutulong sa kanila na gumawa non. Talaga pong ano na, naano po sila, nakita ko na nagbabago sila. So parang napapaiwas na ganun. Meron talagang mga nagbabago. Kaya hindi naman na po talaga kailagan, ilower yung criminal age, ayun lang naman palagay ko yun sakin.”

Participant # 2

Pwede pong pakidescribe yung experience niyo po sa paghandle niyo po ng mga cicl?

-“First na dumating ako dito sa cicl. Nandun yung takot na siyempre, kasi hindi mo alam kung ano ugali ng mga bata. Tapos yung different sizes nila. May malaki may maliit. Tapos yung awra ng mukha nila. Ano ba to, sanggano ba talaga to. Ano ba ang naging problema nito. Ano ba ang ginawa nitong kasalanan sa labaa ganiyan. So later on naman nung tumagal, at nabasa ko yung mga. Kasi bawat, siyempre nababasa namin yung bawat vision ng mga bata kung ano yung mga problem nila tapos kung saang lugar. Tapos kapag nainterview mo at kung pano sila sumagot. Nandun yung alam mo na may takot kasi siyempre alam nila, kasi feeling nila makukulong sila diyan e. Kasi dahil malayo sila sa magulang nila e. Ano naman, maaano mo naman, makikita mo naman na yung bata is, meron din naman palang takot. Dahan nga lang kaya nila nagawa yung mga ganung sitwasyon, is talagang makikita mo na talagang kulang sila sa pagkalinga ng mga magulang nila. Ng pamilya nila.”

Para po sa inyo, sa experience niyo po, nakaramdam din po kayo ng parang hirap sa paghahandle sa kanila?

- "Ay opo, nakaramdam po ako ng hirap. Gawa nung mga bata na mga 7, 8. Ganiyan. Tapos meron pa kaming mga maliliit. Mga 5 years old. Ganiyan. Depende kaai sa sitwasyon. Meron kaming mga ganun baby na dumadating. Mahirap kasi, hindi mo parang, hirap, iisipin mo kung paano mo ihahandle yung halimbawa baby na mga 4 years old 5 years old. Tapos meron kang 7, meron kang 9, meron kang 11 ganiyan. So, pero bilang isang nanay siyempre pinasok mo yang trabaho na yan, so alam mo. Parang iisipin mo na anak mo to e. So alam mo makakakuha ka na ng diskarte kung pano mo ihahandle. Nung una talaga mahirap kasi andyan yung umiiyak na siyempre malayo sa magulang. Kung lalo't mama's boy yan. So lahat talaga gagawin mo. Bibigyan mo ng pagkain, lalaruin mo makikilaro ka. Ganiyan. Nung una talaga. Pero bilang isang parang ikaw yung nanay, alam mo yung trabaho mo na pinasok kaya mo imanage."

Pwede po pakisabi yunh realizations niyo regarding sa behavior po ng mga bata sa loob ng center?

- "Ang behavior kasi ng bawat isang bata diyan hindi kasi pare-pareho e. Meron kasing bata na yung behavior niya is dala ng barkada. Na convince lang kaya nagawa yung ganun. Kaya napasama. Meron naman bata na, alam mo yung kulang sa pagkalinga ng pamilya. Na kahit anong paliwanag, kahit paano mo siya pangaralan. 'Yung mulat sa kanya na ito yung tama. Mali yung nagawa mo ganiyan. Is ang hirap nilang umintindi. So andun talaga. Iba iba talaga e. Pero ang ano talaga niyan, pinaka buod talaga is. Kaya ang bata nasa sitwasyon na ganiyan is talagang, pamilya talaga e. Pamilya talaga yung may pagkukulang."

Meron naman po kayong nakikitang pagbabago sa kanila, sa pagpasok po nila sa center hanggang sa ngayon na nasa loob po aila ng center?

- "Meron. Kasi nagkakaroon kami diyan ng, 'pag alam namin na yung bata is nauunawaan nya yung sitwasyon. Yung bawat dalaw ng magulang nila nakikita nila kung ano yung pahihirap yung luha ng magulang nila. Yung pakiusap. Namumulat ang bata. Tapos sila na din mismo yung magbibigay na. "nay, tay paglabas ko talagang magbabago na po talaga ako kasi naaawa po ako kay mama kay papa sa mga kapatid ko." naandun. Yung mga sitwasyon na ganun."

Aware po kayo dun sa proposed law ng, natin na ano po, lowering the criminal age? 'yung house bill 505?

- "Kung isinasabatas 'yan ng gobyerno, wala naman tayong magagawa e. Kasi sila yung nakaupo e. Pero bilang sa isang bawat pamilya. Hindi mo na hihintayin na mapatupad yan e. Ikaw na mismo yung magpapa disiplina sa anak mo para 'wag dumatig sa puntong ganun na bumaba 'yung edad ng anon ng batas sa mga bata na 15, oo sa pagkulong, yung 9 to 15 years old. Dapat mag ano e, pamilya na talaga e. Para hindi na siya mai, ma-implement ba."

Bali hindi po kayo pabor don?

- "Hindi ko... hindi ako pabor ne, kasi nanay din ako e. Nanay din ako.. Lahat sakín gagawin ko yung pamamaraan para hindi kami dumating sa punto yung mga anak ko matulad sa ganiyang sitwasyon. So kung yan ay paiiralin ng gobyerno, e ano ba naman tayo, tayo lang naman ay isang

mamamayan na bumuboto kung ano man yung inaano nila no. Pero dapat talagang magbigay ng pagdidisiplina sa mga batang katulad niyan is mauna talaga sa pamilya, sa bahay, sa tahanan.”

Ano po sa tingin ninyo yung magiging implication niya, kung sakaling maipasatupad po yung batas na iyon?

–“Kung sa batang malawak ang pag-uunawa, kahiit sabihing lack yung kanilang pag-aaral. Hindi man sila ganong tapos, kapos sa pag-aaral, sa edukasyon, siguro maiintindihan nila yun e, may takot sila. Pero kung katulad ng sa isang bata na nakagisnang mundo e yung magulo. Walang pagmamahal, wala ng takot yan e. Parang sasabihin lang din nila, oh ganun din naman e. Kasi nga, diba nangyari nga kahit na may edad sa atin hindi rin nabibigyan ng pagkakataon na magkaroon ng hanap-buhay. Kasi nga ex-convict kung tawagin diba. So bakit pa nating hihintaying maimplement yan kung dapat mismo sa pamilya, sa tahanan, gawin na yung dapat para sa mga anak, disiplinahan para hindi na sila mapunta sa maling tinatahak na landas.

Itong proposed law po na ito, ay isinasatupad nila dahil ang dahilan po nila ay marami na pong krimen nakakasagot yung mga batang underage. Sa tingin niyo po, may other intervention po ba bukod dun sa law na yun na pwedeng mapabago yung behavior ng mga bata?

–“Tingin ko kami dito sa center, hangga’t makakaya naming mabago yung pag-iisip at pag-uugali ng mga bata. Ginagawa naming e. Hinuhuli naming kung saan ‘yung kiliti ng mga bata. Kung saan sila, alam nila na mababago ‘yung pananaw nila na hindi habang panahon ganun lang sila. So binibigyan din naming sila ng pagkakataon na, binibigyan ng pagkakataon ng opisina na makapag-aral sila. Magkaroon ng livelihood, kung pano ba yung magkaroon ng simpleng pag-uumpisang hanap-buhay. Para just in case tumanda sila or dumating sila sa tamang edad. Pwede din nilang gawin sa magandang hanap-buhay ‘yung ganun. So ayun yung ginagawa naming sa ano. Kaya ang bata, hindi kami nag-aano sa bata na walang pag-asa. Ang bata kahit anong sama binibigyan naming ng pag-asa. Minumulat naming sa ganun.”

Participant # 3

–“Kasi ang pagguide naming ditto ay tungkol lang sa mga bata e, tapos. Sila ay sa, ano namin, binibigyan naming sila ng mga disiplina. Pagdating dito, pinapangaralan namin. Tapos pag may sport, pinapa ano namin. Pinagbabasketball, pinaglalaro namin. Tsaka meron kaming trusty, tuturuan naming kung paano pagluluto. Kasi depende sa shift ko e, halimbawa 2-10, may trusty ako halimbawa dalawa. O halikayo. Eto ganito pagluluto, paglilinis ng mga kusina. Tsaka bago magluto, malinis lahat muna. Tsaka isa pa, minsan kasi mga bata hindi natin alam ang bawat isa sa kanila e, pagdating ditto. Kailangan, ano sila e. Makikilevel muna kami sa kanila kung ano yung gusto nila. Kung ano yung ginagawa nila sa labas kasi dinadala nila dito e. ‘yun ang mahirap.”

May part po sa inyo na nahirapan po kayo sa paghandle?

- “Hindi naman, mas nakakaenjoy kasi, sari-saring bata ‘yung ano e, ‘yung makakasalamuha, kasi iba’t-ibang ugali ba, ganun. Kailangan ganito ugali nito, iba pala. Ah sige i-aadjust ko. Siyempre, kailangan talaga makikilevel ka na muna sa kanila, ‘yun ang ano namin.”

Pwede po pasabi ng realizations niyo regarding sa behavior ng mga bata sa loob ng center?

-“Yung mga bata? Kung paano, ‘yung ugali nila? O ‘yun nga neng kasi, minsan ‘yung ugali nila, dinadala rin nila dito ‘yung ugali nila, siyempre pagsasabihan naming, pangaralan naming, ganito yan sabi namin, minsan kayo, matagal kayo sa labas, kung ano-ano ginagawa niyo. Sana ‘yung ugali niyo naman sa labas, ‘wag niyo na dadalhin dito, kami din ang magbabago, sa pamamagitan lang ng pangagaral sa inyo, magbibigay lang ng mga activity, ganun. Pag halimbawa, halika, mag gardening ka sa labas. Maglalabas ng ano, kasi neng, ‘yang mga bata na ‘yan hindi naming hawak ang mga utak nila, pwede silang tumakbo. May mga trusty kami dito na tinatakbuhan kami.”

May pagbabago naman po kayo na nakikita once na ipinasok na po sila dito?

-“Oo mga, ‘yung buwan din siguro bago sila makarecover kasi iniisip nila mas maganda sa labas. Akala kasi nila dito nakakulong. Sabi naming hindi kayo nakakulong, kita niyo naman nakakalabas kayo, minsan may activity kami sa labas, halimbawa dumadating ‘yung, unag-una kasi ‘yung victory naming na partner, ang mga bata dinadala naming sa robinson ‘yung church nila dun. Kaya hindi kayo maboboring dito.”

Aware po kayo dun sa proposed law na lowering the criminal age? ‘yung pagbaba po ng edad na ikukulong from 15 to 12 or 9 years old?

-“Ah oo, oo.”

Aware po kayo dun?

-“E mahirap din desisyunan neng e, kasi hindi pa yata approve ‘yan, approve na ba?”

Hindi pa po, house bill pa lang po siya, pero alam niyo po ‘yun sir?

-“Oo, alam na namin. Kasi sabi namin, mahirap naman yan e.”

Okay po ba kayo dun? Pabor po ba kayo dun?

-“Pwedeng hindi, pwedeng oo. Kaso nga lang..”

Sa personal niyo pong ano..

-“Kasi, sa batas na ngayon, ‘yung 9 hindi pa pwede talaga kasuhan e. 9 hanggang 14, ‘yun ang ano ko. Kasi wala pa naman talagang... kasi ‘yang batang ‘yan hanggang 14, ay siyang, biktima lang din siya e, as a victim siya. ‘diba?”

Pwede pong pa-share po ng perception niyo regarding dun? Sa pagbaba po ng criminal age? Ano pong masasabi niyo dun?

-“Eh kailangan talaga, kakausapin ang mga magulang. ‘yun. E kaso nga lang, hindi ba ipapatupad ‘yunng batas na ikukulong ‘yung bata. So parang nasa magulang talaga ‘yan, kung бага kakausapin nya kasi ‘yang mga ‘yan, ano pa sila e car, children at risk pa sila. Hindi pa sila pwedeng kasuhan ‘diba?”

Sa tingin nyo po, ano po 'yung kalalabasan niya kung maipatupad man po 'yung batas na iyon? Kung matuloy po? Ano pong implications nito sa mga bata, pati sa behavior nila?

-“Kung ganung age pwede na ikulong?”

Opo. Kung ipapatupad po 'yung batas na 'yun.

-“Eh palagay ko naman e, siguro mababawasan. Hindi po rin mababasa e, pero mag-iisip sila. “aba pwede na pala akong kasuhan niyan, na 9 years old pa lang ako. ‘diba?”

Bali mababago po 'yung sa ano, sa ugali?

-“Oo naman.”

Ano po 'yung sa tingin niyong intervention 'yung pwede sa mga bata bukod po sa pagbaba ng criminal age...

-“Oo, unang-una ginagamit sa mga drugs, neng, diba? Kasi unang-una, bata pa sila, hindi pa pwedeng makasuhan. Kasi, kasi 'yun din ang kailangan talaga magkaroon muna sa mga barangay, ng, merong, halimbawa nagkaano 'yung bata. Meron silang half room na isang kwarto na pagtutulugan mo ng within 1 week, ganun. Tapos kung ano man 'yung activity ng barangay, ayun ang ipapatrabaho sa kanila, magwawalis,, maglilinis, kasi 'yan, kasi ang cicl kailangan ang ano dapat e, ang kakasuhan talaga 15 hanggang 20, ‘diba?”

Ano po sa tingin niyo 'yung magiging implication nung pagbaba ng ano criminal age? Kung matutuloy man? Ano po 'yung magiging epekto niya?

-“Kasi ang magiging epekto nun e, 'yung ano e. Baka 'yung ibang kabataan, mag-iisip na siguro, na.. Ay hindi na ako pwedeng gagawa ng ano kasi makakasuhan na ko. Pwede ding ganun.”