



POLICY BRIEF

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Strengthening Management Programs for Children in Conflict With The Law

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Key Findings and Policy Implications

- The study found that respondents had varying assessments of each variable. Ten (10) of the programs were often implemented, four (4) programs were sometimes implemented, and two (2) were always implemented. The test of difference in the assessments of the respondents showed a non-significant result.
- The study also revealed that lack of community participation in CICL management programs was the most significant challenge faced by the respondents. The respondents highly recommended promoting community engagement in managing CICL.
- The findings of the study have direct implications for policy decisions and practices. It emphasizes the need for policies that encourage and facilitate greater community involvement. Decision-makers can use these insights to design strategies that promote public engagement, allocate resources for community outreach initiatives, and implement policies that require participatory approaches in the management of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). In the long run, integrating community participation into these programs could enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.

Background

Individuals who are below a certain age, as defined by the legal system of a particular jurisdiction, and who have committed actions that are considered offenses or crimes under the law, are known as children in conflict with the law. It is essential to recognize that children in conflict with the law are a vulnerable and distinct group within the criminal justice system. Their age, cognitive development, and life experiences can significantly influence their understanding of the consequences of their actions and their ability to make informed decisions. The legal treatment and handling of children in conflict with the law must consider their unique circumstances, focusing on rehabilitation, reintegration, and addressing the underlying factors that may have contributed to their involvement in criminal activities. In Aparri, Cagayan, Philippines, minors who have engaged in criminal activities or violated laws fall under the category of "children in conflict with the law." While this issue is not unique to Aparri, it is a concern in many communities worldwide. Efforts to address this issue in Aparri, Cagayan may involve a combination of legal, social, and educational interventions. This has sparked the interest of the researcher to investigate children in conflict with the law management programs in the area.



Research Objective

This study was conducted to investigate the implementation of Children in Conflict with the Law management programs in Aparri Cagayan and develop interventions to improve their implementation.



Figure 1. Aparri MSWD Officer MOA Signing.



Figure 2. MSWD Officer Corazon Cabauatan Discusses the CICL Management Programs of Aparri.



Methodology

The study employed a descriptive research design, and the primary tool for gathering data was a questionnaire-checklist. The respondents of the study included the MSWD officer of Aparri, the Chief of Police, the Women and Children Protection Desk officer (WCPD) of Aparri Police Station, and selected Barangay officials of Centro Barangays of Aparri.

Table 1. Respondents of the Study.

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
MSWD officer	1	2.33%
Chief of police and WCPD officer	2	4.7%
Barangay officials	40	93.02%
Total	43	100%

This study used questionnaire based from research article of Fabre et al., 2016 with few modifications as a tool of gathering data from the respondents. Interview was also adopted by the researcher to ensure the reliability of the data gathered.

The CICL management programs in Aparri, Cagayan was treated with weighted mean using Five-point Likert scale. Five (5) being the highest and one (1) as the lowest in terms of implementations.



Key Findings

Summary assessment of the respondents in the CICL management programs in the municipality of Aparri, Cagayan, Philippines.

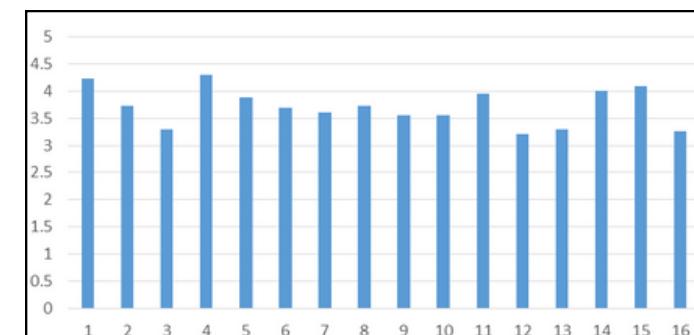


Figure 3. Implementation of CICL Management Programs.

The analysis of the Children in Conflict with the Law management programs in Aparri, Cagayan, Philippines indicates that these programs are functional, but their implementation varies. Some programs are implemented occasionally; some are implemented often, while only a few are implemented consistently. Overall, the results suggest that there is room for improvement in ensuring the effective and consistent implementation of these programs.





Recommendations

1. To enhance consistency in CICL management programs, it is crucial to establish standardized guidelines and procedures for their implementation, ensuring consistent and effective execution.
2. Aparri MSWD officer in collaboration with Aparri Police Station is encouraged to foster active community participation in CICL management programs through close coordination and communications with Barangay officials of Aparri to enhance community engagement in the implementation of CICL programs. Communities can play a pivotal role in rehabilitating and reintegrating CICL by providing them with a supportive environment and opportunities for personal growth.
3. Investing in training and capacity building for the personnel responsible for implementing these programs is highly encouraged. Equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills will enhance the quality and effectiveness of the programs.
4. Implementation of a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress and outcomes of CICL management programs. Regular assessments will help identify areas for improvement and measure the impact of these programs over time.
5. Partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders with expertise in child welfare and rehabilitation is encouraged. These collaborations can bring additional resources, knowledge, and support to the CICL management programs.



Conclusions

After analyzing the discussion's findings, it is evident that the Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) management programs in Aparri, Cagayan are operational, but their execution varies. While some programs are implemented frequently, others are only occasionally implemented, and only a few are consistently implemented. The respondents' evaluations of these programs do not significantly differ across groups. However, a major obstacle faced by respondents is the lack of community participation in the CICL management programs. To overcome these implementation challenges, the respondents highly recommend promoting community engagement in managing CICL.



Figure 4. Dissemination of Research Findings.



Regulatory and Legislative Agencies/ Organizations Benefiting from the Results



Aparri Police Station

The findings of the study will enhance the management of the PNP Aparri Police Station in handling children in conflict with the law in Aparri, Cagayan, Philippines.



Cagayan State University Aparri, College of Criminal Justice Education

The result of the study may serve as additional input for instructional material development particularly in Criminology Professional subjects like Juvenile Delinquency and Crime Prevention. The study also provide collaborations among concerned agencies for possible extension projects.



Municipal Social Welfare and Development of Aparri

The results of the study may serve as additional information for the department in addressing the issues and concerns involving juveniles in Aparri, Cagayan, Philippines.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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