

# Status Of Social Welfare Services For Children In Conflict With The Law (CICL): Its Implication To Educational Program Of Bahay Pag-Asa

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study generally aimed to assess the status of social welfare services for children in conflict with the law (CICL), which serve as basis to formulate an educational program of Bahay Pag-Asa. The study used the descriptive research survey. Data were gathered from the forty (40) respondents and analyzed using the frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean, and correlation coefficient  $r$  test in determining the adequacy, efficiency, and satisfaction level of the Bahay Pag-Asa personnel in the provision of social welfare services for children in conflict with the law (CICL).

Findings of the study concluded that the Bahay Pag-Asa offered limited educational and social welfare services for the youth offenders. The Bahay Pag-Asa “Sometimes” provides Fairly Efficient social welfare services to children that Moderately Satisfied the Bahay Pag-Asa stakeholders. The Bahay Pag-Asa encountered serious problems along the provision of social welfare services for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). The more frequent are social welfare Services provided for the youth reformists, the more efficient are the social welfare services tended to become for children in conflict with the law (CICL). The more efficient are the social welfare services rendered for children in conflict with the law (CICL), the higher is the degree of satisfaction level of Bahay Pag-Asa stakeholders. The Education Program of Bahay Pag-Asa is strongly proposed as effective intervention program for children in conflict with the law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa, thereby, contributing to the holistic personality development of youth offenders.

**Keywords:** Status Social Welfare Services Bahay Pag-Asa Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) Educational Program

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Researchers have, over the course of the last decade, developed intervention strategies and program models that minimize delinquency in order to enhance psychological, social, and educational development [8] [2] [19]. In point of fact, preventing juvenile delinquency not only saves young lives from being lost, but it also stops the beginning of adult criminal

careers. As a result, this scenario lessens the burden of crime on those who have been victimized as well as on society as a whole to apprehend, prosecute, imprison, and treat young offenders [6].

In accordance with Republic Act No. 9344, as amended by Republic Act No. 10630, the Bahay Pag-Asa was constructed in order

to protect and assist children who were in conflict with the law or the CICL [14]. This was accomplished by establishing funding and management by the Local Government Unit of Bahay Pag-Asa [4], wherein it is considered a favorable measure to undertake as a provision of a short-term residential care for children who were in conflict with the law

As a direct result of this, the Local Government Unit (LGU) designs a local juvenile intervention program for children who are at risk or who are Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). As a result of the observation that children are susceptible to a variety of forms of abuse [1] [20], such a law was developed. As a result of this, it is essential for the body responsible for making policy to keep the best interests of children who come into contact with or are in conflict with the law in mind [8]. For this reason, the Republic of the Philippines has given the Department of Social Welfare and Development the mandate to undertake full responsibility for the protection of social welfare rights of every Filipino citizen, most especially the children, and to promote social development in a way that would make them a mature citizen of our society [7]. This was done in order to ensure that children receive the care and attention they need to grow up to become productive members of our society.

Recognizing that every child in conflict with the law or the CICL upholds human dignity and worth, the National Crime Prevention Center [10] teaches to instill in the child respect for the fundamental rights and freedom of others according to law, known as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 or RA 9344. This law was passed in response to the fact that every child in conflict with the law or the CICL upholds human dignity and worth. [15]. In this line of thinking, Senator Francis Pangilinan asserts that no child under the age of 15 can be charged with committing a criminal act, and that minors older than fifteen (15) but younger than eighteen (18) can only be held criminally liable if it can be

demonstrated that they acted with discernment [12]. [Citation needed] [Citation needed] [11] The law serves as the basis for giving the resources for the rehabilitation and intervention programs for children who have engaged in criminal behavior. Youth offenders who fall under the purview of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 [21] are the types of people that stand to benefit from the education program.

The notion that has been discussed up until this point has a solid history behind it and serves as the foundation for Bahay Pag-Asa. As a result, the Bahay Pag-Asa was constructed on the basis of the principle that it is essential to provide children who are in violation of the law with quality educational and social services [24]. This was done as a direct response to the mandate of the law in accordance with Republic Act No. 9344, as amended by Republic Act No. 10630, and in light of the considerations that were made by lawmakers [14]. According to the aforementioned law, juvenile offenders have the right to special protection and assistance from the state. Furthermore, the law strengthens the Juvenile Justice System in the Philippines by establishing funding and management of Bahay Pag-Asa by the Local Government Units for the provision of a short term residential care for children who are in conflict with the law [24]. As a direct result of this, the Local Government Unit (LGU) prepares a local juvenile intervention program for children who are at risk or who are in conflict with the law [11], [2].

Children who get into legal difficulty are eligible for educational and social rehabilitation as part of the community support systems that are in place to assist them. These mechanisms are in place to help them (CICL). This necessary step would probably stop or prevent children from re-offending [4], as it would involve a series of educational and social activities designed to address possible issues that caused the child to commit an offense [5]. This would promote

the physical and social well-being of children, which is necessary to prevent juvenile delinquency from occurring. Recognizing the support system that could be brought about by the intervention program, it was recognized the significance of a series of educational and social activities designed to address possible issues that caused the child to commit an offense [5]. [5] This led to the conception of the significance of a support system that could be brought about by the intervention program.

In this way, the intervention program is divided into three levels: the primary intervention level, the secondary intervention level, and the tertiary intervention level. Primary interventions are interventions that include measures to promote social justice for the root cause of the commission of crimes such as: Early childhood care and development; Creation of youth resource centers in every municipality; Institutionalization of activities for children and youth; Health services/education; Access of children to organizations; and Values formation activities [5]. Primary interventions are defined as interventions that include measures to promote social justice for the root cause of the commission of crimes.

The Bahay Pag-Asa developed the aforementioned programs with the intention of serving as models for other rehabilitation facilities to follow. In the event that Bahay Pag-Asa, which is situated in Sitio Manalpaac, San Pablo, Cauayan City, Isabela, were to take into consideration the programs described above [5], the situation would be as follows: Because the demands of young offenders were high but frequently unfulfilled, the program as a whole incorporates various educational activities that significantly contribute to the overall growth and development of the youth offenders' personalities [13]. In a nutshell, this emphasizes the importance of the social welfare services program identified as urgent needs to rehabilitate the youth offenders and prepare them for integral life in the

community. As a result, continuing psycho-social and educational formation becomes a necessary intervention program that requires a continuity of care for the juvenile delinquents [13]. In addition, this highlights the importance of the social welfare services program identified as urgent needs to rehabilitate the youth offenders and prepare them for integral life in the community.

However, it is important to note that in the almost seven years that Bahay Pag-Asa has been in operation, the City Social Welfare & Development Office has managed and supervised the organization, and the Bahay Pag-Asa [24] still has a long way to go before it can provide the best possible services to the people who are supposed to be using the facility. This is something that should be mentioned. Even though the City government provides full support of its human, material, and financial resources, according to observation, the operation of Bahay Pag-Asa and the implementation of its educational program for children in conflict with the law (CICL) could still hardly be felt. This may be due to the fact that young offenders have a great deal of needs [24]. As a result, it was shown that young offenders have high levels of educational and social demands in a variety of different areas, such as problems related to their mental health, human resources, and other issues depending on the specifics of the situation [13]. This finds that many Bahay Pag-Asa Reform Centers are unable to adequately fulfill their mandate to rehabilitate children in conflict with the law (CICL) or youth offenders aged twelve to seventeen (12 to 17), as the author of the study stated in the Manila Times [7]. This finding confirms the findings of the study. Isabela State University, in its capacity as an educational institution, formed a partnership with Bahay Pag-Asa in order to meet the educational requirements of juvenile offenders who had to abruptly stop their basic education as a result of the offenses they committed. This was done in response to the fact that Bahay Pag-Asa was the institution

in charge of implementing the rehabilitation programs for the children in conflict with the law (CICL) who were participating in the reformation program designed by Bahay Pag-Asa. Therefore, the purpose of the research was to determine the current status of educational and social welfare services for children who are in conflict with the law (CICL), as well as to design and propose an action plan based on the educational needs of the youth offenders at Bahay Pag-Asa in order to propose an intervention and educational program.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The study utilized the descriptive-qualitative and quantitative methods of research to gather data as regards assessment of social welfare services provision for children in conflict with the law or the (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa as

regards its adequacy, efficiency, and satisfaction level of Bahay Pag-Asa stakeholders.

The study involved the forty (40) respondents broken down as follows: (7) seven social workers, (8) eight stakeholders (10) ten barangay leaders, and (15) fifteen youth offenders to assess the social welfare services provided at Bahay Pag-Asa. Data were analyzed using the frequency and percentage counts, arithmetic mean and correlation coefficient r-test.

In describing the frequency, efficiency of providing social services and satisfaction level of stakeholders on the social services at Bahay Pag-Asa, presented hereunder are the scale, arbitrary level and descriptions.

Scale	Arbitrary Level	Frequency	Efficiency	Level of Satisfaction
5	4.20-5.00	Always	Very Efficient	Very Much Satisfied
4	3.40-4.19	Often	Efficient	Much Satisfied
3	2.60-3.39	Sometimes	Fairly Efficient	Moderately Satisfied
2	1.80-2.59	Occasional	Least Efficient	Less Satisfied

1	1.00-1.79	Never	Inefficient	Not Satisfied
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## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Educational and Social Welfare Services offered for children in conflict with the law (CICL)

As shown in Table 1, the educational and social welfare services offered for children in conflict with the law (CICL) reveal that the educational services provided by Bahay Pag-Asa for its clientele include physical exercises, values education/counseling, alternative learning system, livelihood education, religious services, clean and green program, and bible service. However, the following social services were provided by the Bahay Pag-Asa: recreation/sports, indoor

games, and TV viewing. Finding concludes that Bahay Pag-Asa offers limited educational and social services for children in conflict with the law or (CICL). In line with the findings of the study on hand, it was confirmed that the young offenders were found to have high levels of educational and social needs in a number of different areas including mental health with (31%), education/work (36%) and social (31%), education/work (36%) and social relationships (48%). In relation herewith, the young offenders in the community had significantly more needs than those insecure care and needs were often unmet. In fact, one in every five young offenders was also identified as having a learning disability [13].

**Table 1. Educational and Social Services offered for the CICL**

<b>Social Welfare Services</b>	<b>Frequency (n=40)</b>	<b>Percentage (100)</b>
<b>Educational Services</b>		
Physical Exercises	39	97.50
Values Education/Counseling	37	92.50
Alternative Learning System	36	90.00
Livelihood Education	35	87.50
Religious Services	32	80.00
Clean and Green Program	31	77.50
Bible Service	31	77.50
<b>Social Services</b>		
Recreation/Sports	39	97.50
Indoor Games	38	95.00
TV Viewing	32	80.00

### **3.2. Assessment on Frequency, Efficiency, and Satisfaction Level on the Social Welfare Services at Bahay Pag-Asa**

As indicated In Table 1, the assessment on frequency, efficiency, and satisfaction level of Bahay Pag-Asa stakeholders on the provision of Social Welfare Services, which includes personnel services, housing services, recreational services, food services, and counselling services, at Bahay Pag-Asa for the children in conflict with the law (CICL) revealed that respondents assessed the frequency, efficiency, and satisfaction level on social welfare services as Sometimes Provided, Fairly Efficient, and respondents are Moderately Satisfied, having the general mean of 3.11, 3.18, and 3.03, respectively.

The grand mean of social welfare services, with is 3.07 implies that Bahay Pag-Asa “Sometimes” provides Fairly Efficient social welfare services to children that Moderately Satisfied the Bahay Pag-Asa stakeholders.

Findings confirmed the observation of an author who published an article in The Manila Times, claiming that there were some gaps in the implementation of the existing law namely, low compliance of LGUs, lack of awareness on the programs and system of juvenile justice welfare, and insufficient personnel in monitoring the implementation of the law, particularly on the provision of social welfare services [7].

**Table 2. Assessment on Frequency, Efficiency, and Satisfaction Level of Social Welfare Services at Bahay Pag-Asa**

<b>Social Welfare Services</b>	<b>Mea n</b>	<b>Frequenc y</b>	<b>Mea n</b>	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Mea n</b>	<b>Satisfaction Level</b>
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1. Personnel Services	3.29	Sometime s	3.33	Fairly Efficient	2.70	Moderately Satisfied
2. Housing Services	3.02	Sometime s	3.25	Fairly Efficient	3.30	Moderately Satisfied
3. Recreational Services	3.19	Sometime s	2.95	Fairly Efficient	3.03	Moderately Satisfied
4. Food Services	3.20	Sometime s	2.98	Fairly Efficient	3.07	Moderately Satisfied
5. Guidance Services	3.04	Sometime s	2.91	Fairly Efficient	3.03	Moderately Satisfied
<b>General Mean = (3.07)</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>Sometim es</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>Fairly Efficient</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>

**Legend:** FE = Fairly Efficient; MS = Moderately Satisfied

### 3.3. Problems Encountered Along the Provision of Social Welfare Services for Children in Conflict with the Law or (CICL) by the DSWD at Bahay Pag-Asa

The problems encountered along the provision of social welfare services for Children in Conflict with the Law or (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa as presented in Table 2 reveals that the general mean of 4.07 implies that the problems encountered along the provision of social welfare services for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa is “Serious.”

The serious problems encountered at Bahay Pag-Asa can be attributed to the encountered

problems such as: The management seldom visits the children in conflict with the law (CICL); The management provides limited activities for children in conflict with the law (CICL); and the social workers in charge for youth offenders rarely report at Bahay Pag-Asa.

The study on hand confirmed the findings made in a study indicating that in almost all the programs, the lack of training affects the efficiency of the social workers in which financial resources aside from the human resources are quite stretched in the programs visited [22].

**Table 3. Problems Encountered Along the Provision of Social Services for the CICL**

<b>Problems Encountered</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. The management seldom visits the children in conflict with the law (CICL)	4.31	Very Serious
2. The management provides limited activities for children in conflict with the law (CICL)	4.22	Very Serious
3. The social workers in charge for youth offenders rarely report at Bahay Pag-Asa	4.24	Very Serious
4. The CICL got easily bored due to lack of sports activities conducted to ease their boredom	3.89	Serious
5. Food served is not enough to satisfy the physical needs of the CICL	3.76	Serious
6. There are no provision of enough activities that hone the skills of children in conflict with the law or CICL	3.48	Serious

7. The activities being conducted by the cooperating agencies at Bahay Pag-Asa are seldom conducted	4.34	Very Serious
<b>General Mean</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>Serious</b>

### 3.4. Significant Relationship Between the Adequacy and Efficiency of Social Services at Bahay Pag-Asa

The test of correlation of frequency and efficiency of Social Services as provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa which is reflected in table 4 indicates high and positive correlation between the frequency and efficiency of social services provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

Finding means that the more frequent is the Social Services provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), the more it becomes efficient in the delivery of its social services for the youth reformists or Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). This conforms to a similar study which recognized the necessity of extending frequent intervention activities for the youth offenders or children in conflict with the law [5].

**Table 4. Correlation Between Frequency and Efficiency of the Educational and Social Welfare Services for Children in Conflict with the Law or (CICL)**

Variables	Mean	Computed r-Value	Interpretation
Frequency of Social Services	3.11	0.922*	Significant
Efficiency of Social Services	3.08		

\*Significant at .05 Level

### 3.5. Significant Relationship Between the Efficiency and Satisfaction Level at Bahay Pag-Asa on Social Welfare Services

The test of correlation of Efficiency of the Social Services and Satisfaction level derived from the Social Services provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa as presented in Table 4 reveals high and positive correlation between the efficiency of social services and respondents' satisfaction level on the social services provided for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

This means that the more efficient are the social welfare services rendered for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), the higher is the respondents' satisfaction level on the delivery of the social welfare services for CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa. Such finding confirms the article published in The Manila Times, (2019) which recommends that authorities should also give notice to the local social welfare and development officer in determining appropriate programs for children in conflict with the law or CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa to meet the stakeholders' expectation and satisfaction level [7].

**Table 5. Correlation Between Efficiency and Satisfaction Level Bahay Pag-Asa Stakeholders on the Social Welfare Services**

Variables	Mean	Computed r -Value	Interpretation
Efficiency of Social Welfare Services	3.08	0.958*	Significant
Satisfaction Level on Social Welfare Services	3.03		

\*Significant at .05 Level

### 3.6. Proposed Educational Program for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa

Inasmuch as that the Isabela State University at Cauayan City entered into partnership and forged a Memorandum of Agreement with the City Social Welfare & Development through the Bahay Pag-Asa Reformation Center, the faculty extensionists of the Isabela State University at Cauayan City through the initiative of the proponents and implementers coming from the School of Arts & Sciences initiated to design relevant educational program to address the needs of children in conflict with the law (CICL).

Such educational program for the Bahay Pag-Asa Rehabilitation Center conforms with a study affirming that the Alternative Learning System (ALS) programs and projects are considered effective education programs that contributed to the improvement of the ALS learners in terms of their educational attainment, family monthly income, employment status, and job nature/characterization [16]. The ALS or the Accreditation and Equivalency program was found out to be very effective in nurturing the life skills of the learners. The program indeed improved the quality of living of the

respondents or the learner-passers as compared to how they lived before ALS engagement. It was further confirmed that life-long learning is also best acquired beyond the formal school [16].

In this case, therefore, the DepEd Cauayan City Division through the Local Government Unit and Isabela State University at Cauayan City and stakeholders committed themselves to support the sustainability of ALS programs and projects implementations at Bahay Pag-Asa. The success of ALS cannot only be equated to the quantity of its enrolment, completers and passers but more importantly to how it changes one's life. ALS is in the right track and context towards realizing its vision and fulfilling its mission. Thus, it may be recommended to intensify the advocacy and social mobilization of the ALS and to strengthen its connections to and supports from LGU and other stakeholders, since the Alternative Learning System created a great impact in the lives of the out-of-school-youth, kasambahay, Indigenous Peoples, and even the Children in Conflict with the Law. This suggests therefore that the livelihood programs and projects may be increased, diversified and depoliticized [16].

**Table 6. Proposed Educational Program for Bahay Pag-Asa**

<b>INTERVENTION PROGRAM</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>INSTITUTION/PERSONS RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>BUDGET COST</b>	<b>EXPECTED OUTPUT</b>
<b>1. COUNSELING SERVICES</b>	To extend counselling services to the youth offenders based on the result of the psychological test conducted	ISU-SAS G. Hoggang L. Villaluz G. Luna	2,000.00	Extended counselling services to the youth offenders based on the result of the psychological test conducted



<b>2. ELECTRONICS SERVICES</b>	To equip the CICL with skills in repairs of electronic gadgets and appliances	ISU-PS F. Tagle R. Canceran W. Aguinaldo	2,000.00	Equipped the CICL with skills in repairs of electronic gadgets and appliances
<b>3. PARALEGAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH OFFENDERS</b>	To conduct paralegal activities with the CICL for them to amend the offenses they committed for reformation	ISU-SAS/CCJE J. Quilang L. Quilang C. Galiza	2,000.00	Conducted paralegal activities with the CICL for them to amend the offenses they committed for reformation
<b>4. SPORTS CUM DANCE EXERCISES</b>	To play sporting events and execute dance exercises that promote CICL's physical fitness	ISU-CEd I. Alejandro H. Agustin A. Mateo	2,000.00	Played sporting events and executed dance exercises that promote CICL's physical fitness
<b>5. VALUES FORMATION PROGRAM</b>	To inculcate and reform the CICL with values as they become responsible citizens of the state	ISU-SAS G. Luna C. Torres	2,000.00	Inculcated and formed the CICL with values as they become responsible citizens of the state
<b>6. HANDICRAFT AND FOOD PRODUCTION CUM LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS</b>	To enhance the skills of the CICL in making handicrafts and food products for sustainable livelihood	ISU-CBM C.H. Bartolome R. Isidro S. Natividad	2,000.00	Enhanced the skills of the CICL in making handicraft and food products for sustainable livelihood

<b>7. VEGETABLE PLANTATION AND PRODUCTION (IAT)</b>	To enhance the skills of the CICL through planting vegetables for their consumption and production for consumers to gain profit	ISU-IAT I. Dela Pena S. Agbanlog C. Ferrer	2,000.00	Enhanced the skills of the CICL through planting vegetables for their consumption and production for consumers to gain profit
<b>8. FOOD INNOVATION AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT(CBM)</b>	To train the CICL how to innovate raw materials used for product development	ISU-CBM R. Bautista R. Elumbra R. Isidro	2,000.00	Trained the CICL how to innovate raw materials used for product development
<b>9. PHYSICAL FITNESS (CCJE)</b>	To perform physical exercises for the promotion of a healthy body	ISU-CCJE A. Verzon N. Ramirez	2,000.00	Performed physical exercises for the promotion of a healthy body
<b>10. ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (DepEd)</b>	To increase knowledge and skills in the basic 3 Rs through the Alternative Learning System	DepEd N. Galiza D. Luna	2,000.00	Increased knowledge and skills in the basic 3 Rs through the Alternative Learning System
<b>11. SPIRITUAL FORMATION (Religious Organizations)</b>	To increase the faith of the youth offenders and become closer to God	Bible Baptist Church Pastor Tuazon C. Torres	2,000.00	Increased the faith of the youth offenders and become closer to God
<b>12. HEALTH SERVICES</b>	To promote a healthy life-style for children in conflict with the law (CICL)	Medical & Dental Clinic of ISU-CC	2,000.00	Promoted a healthy life-style for children in conflict with the law (CICL)

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based from the foregoing findings, the study

concluded that the Bahay Pag-Asa offered limited educational and social welfare

services for children in conflict with the law (CICL). It Sometimes” provides Fairly Efficient social welfare services that Moderately Satisfied the Bahay Pag-Asa stakeholders. The Bahay Pag-Asa encountered serious problems along the provision of social welfare services for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

The more frequent are social welfare Services provided for the youth reformists, the more efficient are the social welfare services tended to become for children in conflict with the law (CICL). The more efficient are the social welfare services rendered for children in conflict with the law (CICL), the higher is the satisfaction level derived from the delivery of the social welfare services offered for the CICL at Bahay Pag-Asa. The Education Program of Bahay Pag-Asa is strongly proposed as an effective intervention program for children in conflict with the law (CICL) at Bahay Pag-Asa, Sitio Manalpaac, thereby, contributing to the holistic and personality development of the youth offenders. In the light of the conclusions of the research, this paper recommends that the City Social Welfare and Development of the Local Government Unit of Cauayan City should forge and establish more linkages with the Non-Government agencies, government agencies, and religious sectors that provide social services for children in conflict with the law or CICL. Regular monitoring of the activities and programs at Bahay Pag-Asa, especially the needs and problems or status of children in conflict with the law (CICL) should be conducted. A study along this line should be considered in the conduct of the study in a wider scope to include other related variables to obtain excellent delivery of social services for children in conflict with the law (CICL).

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