

A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE LIVED EXPERIENCES
OF SEXUALLY ABUSED GIRLS

THESIS

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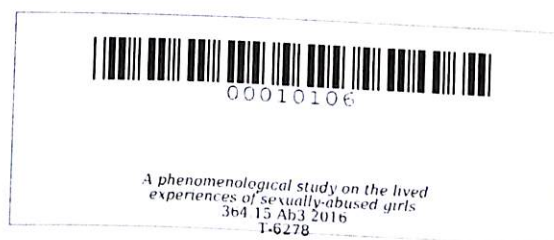
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**A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF
SEXUALLY-ABUSED GIRLS**

Undergraduate Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty of the
College of Arts and Sciences
Cavite State University
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In partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree
Bachelor of Science in Psychology



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ABSTRACT

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This study aimed to determine the life experiences of sexually-abused girls. Specifically, it aimed to determine the lived experiences of sexually-abused girls after the abuse; determine how the sexually-abused girls perceive their future; and how the sexually-abused girls cope up the traumatic experiences inside the institution. The study was conducted from July 2015 to January 2016 in Marillac Hills (National Training School for the girls) Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The study utilized a semi-structured interview guide and interviewed five out of ten girls who got very high resiliency and also experienced sexual abused by incest and residents of Marillac Hills. Child sexual abuse and incest affects a child's development in numerous ways, either at the time of the incest or later in life. This study used Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis as an approach to qualitative analysis with a particularly psychological interest on how they cope up to make sense of their experiences.

The study used purposive sampling according to the participants' availability for the interview. Generally, findings showed the lived experiences of sexually-abused girls after the abuse in terms of their freedom, trusting issues, longing for real family, comfortable inside the institution and reminiscing traumatic experiences. Findings also revealed how they perceive their future in terms of valuing education and family, goal oriented, responsibility to deal with their future, responsibility towards the family and low-self concept. Emotional resiliency of the participants was found to have still positive outlook in life.

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INTRODUCTION

“A victim of rape can run home, but a victim of incest cannot.”

—Legarda

Today's children who are socialized in a safe and healthy environment are the adults of tomorrow and the bases for the future development of a country unless children are improperly socialized. There is a chance to become challenging for their personal and societal development. In this regard, family is entrusted with the responsibility of providing children with healthy environment and basic information, primary socialization that is essential for the healthy continuation of the social harmony and their own personal, physical, emotional, social and cognitive development.

Sexual abuse refers to sexual exposure or contact by a person older than a child for the purpose of sexual stimulation or exploitation regardless of the use of force or any accompanying physical injury. However, in definitions of the term given in scientific literature, there are considerable variations in terms of criteria and specificity. In common use, the term “sexual abuse” is sometimes mistakenly used interchangeably with sexual