

**ROLES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF MEDICAL
SOCIAL WORKERS IN HANDLING HIV/AIDS CASES
IN SELECTED AREAS IN CAVITE**

THESIS

**REY-AN P. ABUNDA
ALMIRA R. TORRE**

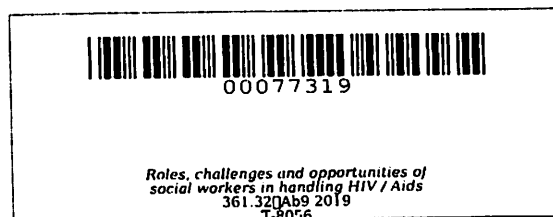
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**REY-AN P. ABUNDA
ALMIRA R. TORRE**

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ABSTRACT

ABUNDA, REY-AN P. and TORRE, ALMIRA R. Roles, Challenges and Opportunities of Medical social worker in Handling HIV/AIDS Cases in Selected Areas in Cavite. Undergraduate Thesis. Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Cavite State University, Indang Cavite. June 2019. Adviser: Mrs. Merlie C. Nahilat, RSW, MSSW.

This study entitled, “Roles, Challenges and Opportunities of Medical Social Worker in Handling HIV/AIDS Cases in Selected Areas in Cavite”. Generally, this study aimed to 1.) determine the demographical profile of the medical social workers working with HIV/AIDS cases in terms of: age, sex, number of years of working with persons living with HIV/AIDS, and identify the number of HIV/AIDS cases handled by the medical social workers in selected areas in Cavite; 2.) enumerate and describe the roles of medical social workers working with persons with HIV/AIDS; 3.) enumerate and describe the challenges of medical social workers working with persons with HIV/AIDS and 4.) enumerate and describe the opportunities of medical social workers working with persons with HIV/AIDS.

This study utilized descriptive narrative qualitative research design and used purposive sampling method and snowball sampling technique in order to come up with five (5) participants who are the Medical Social Workers directly handling HIV/AIDS cases and work in two (2) different hospitals in General Emilio Memorial Hospital and Pagamutan ng Dasmarinas including one (1) Clinical Setting in coordination with City Social Welfare Development office Dasmarinas, City (CSWDO). The researchers conducted an interview through the use of interview guide questions. The participants age ranges from 25-63 years old and they were all females.

The results of the study were discussed and analyzed in a narrative form. The roles of medical social workers are Broker, educator, case manager, counsellor, partner, and advocate. These roles present how the medical social workers play different tasks in dealing with the HIV/AIDS cases. The challenges of medical social workers identified in the study are difficulty in counselling, do multi-tasking, experienced emotional and professional distress, getting a hard time in setting an emphatic relationship, stigmatism, and building rapport. These challenges helped the social workers to extend their patience and deepen their thoughts of dealing with HIV/AIDS cases. The opportunities identified in this study are exploration, education, building rapport, building network, and empowerment. These opportunities set as venue for developing the knowledge, attitude, skills, and values in line with the social work profession.

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**Rey-An P. Abunda
Almira R. Torre**

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INTRODUCTION

"We live in a completely interdependent world, which simply means we cannot escape each other. How we respond to HIV/AIDS depends, in part, on whether we understand this interdependence. It is not someone else's problem. This is everybody's problem."

- Bill Clinton

HIV/AIDS is one of the common issues when it comes to human health around the world. It is a critical social problem affecting many individuals. Aside from this, it is also one of the moral issues in humanity due to its commonly known cause - sex (Ndinda, Chimbwete, Mcgrath, Pool, & Group, 2007). This issue is known around the globe because of the different beliefs of the people and interpretation on how this disease are being acquired and become contagious that served as a warning for people everywhere. Nowadays, professionals and even civilians have their own stigma and understanding about