

**ROLES AND CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT
(RA 8972) IN SELECTED AREAS OF CAVITE**

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

CORTEZ, CELESTINA JOY A., SAMBAJON, MARY JOY S. Roles and Challenges of Social Workers in the Implementation of Solo Parents' Welfare Act (RA 8972) in Selected Areas of Cavite. Undergraduate Thesis, Bachelor of Science in Social Work, College of Arts and Sciences, Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite. June 2019. Adviser: Ms. Imelda R. Filart, Rpm.

The study titled Roles and Challenges of Social Workers in the Implementation of Solo Parents' Welfare Act (RA 8972) in Selected Areas of Cavite aimed to determine the roles of social workers in the implementation of Solo Parents' Welfare Act (RA 8972); determine the challenges of social workers in the implementation of Solo Parents' Welfare Act (RA 8972); and identify the social workers' suggestions in addressing the problems while implementing the Solo Parents' Welfare Act (RA 8972). This study utilized thematic analysis method, which was used to answer the problems of the study. The research was conducted in eight selected cities and municipalities in the province of Cavite, namely: Dasmariñas City, General Trias City, Imus City, Trece Martires City, Maragondon, Carmona, General Mariano Alvarez and Indang, with eight participants who were social workers (with or without license), and who had one year of experience in handling sector of solo parents.

The results showed that most of the participants' role include being advocate, provider, evaluator, counselor, organizer, implementer, organizer, and general manager in handling sector of solo parents. Participants responded to the questions with the general concepts of their role and responsibility. They agreed that for solo parents, a different approach is considerably effective more than the other. They bridge the gap between the children and their families, while seeking understanding from the community. They uphold

their roles, to make sure that every individual, regardless of their circumstances, are able to walk with dignity and be treated as such.

Likewise, the social workers consider their tasks as challenging. Some of the solo parents were difficult to handle and most of them were unaware about the Solo Parents' Welfare Act. The challenges they encountered include subversive claimant, communication with claimant, empowerment, evaluation of documents, unresponsive of solo parents, struggle, availability of solo parents, budget, and fraud.

On the other hand, the social workers' responses in suggestions addressing the problems in the implementation of RA 8972 was about the additional budget or fund for the sector of solo parents in order to implement more programs and clear guidelines of the law.

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An undergraduate thesis manuscript submitted to the faculty of the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, Cavite State University Indang, Cavite in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work with Contribution No. _____. Prepared under the supervision of Ms. Imelda R. Filart, RPh.

INTRODUCTION

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance well-being”. This definition is the revised global definition of social work as a profession published on July 2014 in Australia by the International Federation of social workers (IFSW).

One of the sectors that social workers handle is the group of solo parents. This sector consists of either a solo mother or father supporting their dependent child or children. It also includes those who are separated, unwed, widows, and those whose partners are incarcerated. In connection with this, according to Ongpico (2007), these individuals carry