BATA, BATA... BAKIT MO IYOM HAGAWAS, PHYSICAL PSYCHOSOCIAL CONDITION, COPING MECHANISM, AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW (CICL)

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

CASAMAR, IVY CHARINA E., DAGTA, SHAIMIE ANN M., MALIMBAN, ANGELICA MAE P. Bata, Baia... Bakit Mo Iyon Nagawa?: Physical-Psychosocial Condition, Coping Mechanism, and Future Aspirations of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). Undergraduate Thesis. Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite. April 2016. Prepared under the supervision of Ms. Josephine P. Manapsal, MP, RP.

This study was about the physical-psychosocial condition, coping mechanism, and future aspirations of children in conflict with the law in Bahay Kalinga at Dasmariñas City. Cavite and Strike Halfway House at Bacoor City, Cavite. It explored the reasons why children were able to commit unlawful offenses. It also described how children cope with their everyday struggles in life and their aspirations on the near future.

The study originally involved 10 CICL, but six children were in denial about their cases and so were not able to answer the main problem of the study. Therefore, the researchers decided to get only four participants. A self-made story guide questions was used by the researchers. Narrative analysis was utilized as the research design, using semi-structured face-to-face interview to a few participants and key informants.

Based on the results, children's ways of taking care of themselves were greatly influenced by the involvement of their parents. More so, their mentality was focused on the money and stuffs that they can get out of their delinquent actions. They were highly influenced by their sensitivity and emotions and just did whatever comes to mind, not thinking of the possible consequences. Sense of guilt and remorse only emerged after they were institutionalized. Furthermore, spiritual involvement does not affect delinquency. The absence of proper parental guidance and dysfunctional family pushed them to seek

affection from others which led them to be acquainted with those who were engaged in delinquency. Witnessing criminal acts at a young age eventually taught them to adapt.

All of the children used emotion-focused coping mechanism where they reduced their negative emotional responses associated with their stresses. However, they differ in the techniques used. The findings also revealed that most of the participants have a positive outlook in life and see themselves becoming professionals someday. Nevertheless, there were still some who were uncertain if they could totally renounce from delinquency.

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INTRODUCTION

"The teenage brain is like a car with a good accelerator but a weak brake. With powerful impulses under poor control, the likely result is a crash; and perhaps, a crime."

- Laurence Steinberg (2007)

Children were perceived as angels by many. Being innocent, they were considered as a gift from above that should be cherished and nurtured with right values. However, there were some children who crossed a wrong path and were engaged to delinquency. They were turned to fallen angels which we commonly known as the children in conflict with the law. They were perceived to be violent and dangerous, but what did really turned them to be delinquents? What was the story behind the cases that was filed against them? What were their reasons why they became children in conflict with the law?