

From Rehabilitation to Reintegration: Examining Social Functioning Among Children in Conflict with the Law

John Rey S. Resoco, RSW¹
1 – Universidad de Sta. Isabel de Naga, Inc.

Publication Date: May 4, 2026

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.20023770](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20023770)

Abstract

This research aimed to explore how the rehabilitation process influenced the social functioning of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions: (1) How do CICL describe their experiences during the rehabilitation process? (2) What component of the rehabilitation program was perceived to influence their social functioning? (3) How does participation in rehabilitation affect the social relationships of CICL? (4) What changes in behaviors, skills, and attitudes were observed among CICL? (5) Based on the findings of the study, what recommendations may be proposed to CICL?

This research examines how rehabilitation influences the social functioning of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) at the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (RRCY). Framed based on Social Functioning, Ecological Systems, and Restorative Justice theories, this qualitative case study involved ten (10) residents and four (4) social workers. Data from interviews and case files evaluated how interventions facilitate the functional transformation and readiness required for community reintegration.

Findings suggest rehabilitation is a transformative journey from a survivalist mindset toward personal accountability. Initially perceived as punishment, the center's humane environment provides a sanctuary for healing trauma. Guided by the Bicolano philosophy of "Pagus-pagus" and the Therapeutic Community Modality Program, residents move from denial toward moral discernment. This structured ecosystem, utilizing daily rituals, spiritual growth, and departmental hierarchies, replaces impulsivity with self-regulated maturity.

The program facilitates a profound shift from relational volatility to structured stability. The Social Functioning Indicator validates micro-level improvements in self-care and vocational skills, leading to deep character development. By internalizing discipline and restorative learning, residents reclaim their identities and prioritize family reconciliation. These individuals emerge as life-ready citizens defined by reparative character rather than past mistakes. The RRCY successfully transforms marginalized youth into disciplined, law-abiding members of society ready for purposeful reintegration.

Keywords: *Children in Conflict with the Law, Rehabilitation, Social Functioning, Intervention, Social Worker, Reintegration*



I. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) is viewed not as a matter of simple delinquency, but as a complex intersection of socio-economic vulnerability, systemic inadequacy, and fractured family structures. Adopting a humanistic and restorative lens, this research prioritizes the lived experiences and inherent dignity of the youth over traditional narratives of criminality. Central to this perspective is the concept of social functioning, which is the interplay between a child's internal capacity and their social environment, where successful rehabilitation is defined by the ability to reconstruct relationships and transition into productive citizenship.

The study aligns with the global paradigm shift from retributive to restorative justice, which recognizes that unlawful activities are often byproducts of systemic poverty and trauma. In the Philippine context, this is institutionalized through the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, supported by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through Regional Rehabilitation Centers for Youth (RRCY). These facilities serve as social laboratories where structured interventions, such as the Therapeutic Community Modality Program (TCMP) and vocational training, facilitate a shift in identity from offender to mentee or leader.

Despite these frameworks, the research acknowledges that rehabilitation is often threatened by social stigma and systemic hurdles that can lead to recidivism. By exploring indicators of emotional stability and interpersonal competence among residents in Region 5, the researcher aims to humanize this marginalized population and provide empirical evidence for the efficacy of compassionate, science-based interventions. Ultimately, the study advocates for robust support systems that uphold the moral imperative of a second chance, bridging the gap between a child's past mistakes and their future potential as purpose-driven citizens.

II. MATERIALS and METHODS

A qualitative multiple case study was designed to conduct a multidimensional exploration of the social functioning of Children in Conflict with the Law within the bounded system of the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth. By treating the center as a social workshop, the research moved beyond superficial observations to examine the interplay between the institutional environment and the developmental trajectory of each child. The methodology centered on narrative inquiry and the process of restorying, which reorganized lived experiences into a structural pattern consisting of a beginning, middle, and end. This approach allowed the researcher to capture the emotional growth and behavioral shifts of the participants, providing a holistic case narrative grounded in both personal accounts and professional observations.

Primary data gathering instrument was a semi-structured interview guide developed to mirror the narrative arc of a child's transformation. This tool was organized into three phases: Perception of the Rehabilitation Process, Social Functioning and Relationships, and Identity and Future Orientation. These phases tracked the child's progress from their initial entry to their eventual readiness for community reintegration. To ensure data triangulation, a complementary professional interview guide was used for social workers, focusing on objective indicators such as physical health, emotional regulation, and vocational readiness. The design of these



instruments was integrated with a preliminary review of case files and rehabilitation plans, ensuring that the interviews were grounded in the documented history and actual progress of each participant.

Data analysis followed the Clandinin and Connelly framework, using a three-dimensional theme generator to examine temporal, social, and situational lenses. The research applied the R.E.A.L. Order strategy, which involved revealing the theme, providing evidence through restoring, analyzing how the story answered the research objectives, and linking the findings to existing literature. To maintain professional rigor and mitigate individual bias, the insights from the four social workers were synthesized into a single, collective professional voice. This analytical approach treated their responses as a unified institutional stance, highlighting shared practices and operational standards of the center to provide a cohesive understanding of the rehabilitation process.

III. RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Description of Children in Conflict with the Law on their experiences during the Rehabilitation Process

The collective narratives of the ten CICLs within the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (RRCY) and their social workers provide a comprehensive map of the restorative journey, transitioning from systemic instability to internal evolution. This process is categorized into three developmental phases, the transition from the streets to the center, the shift from isolation to social integration, and the cognitive leap toward self-evolution.

The first phase, *The Child's Life Outside vs. Inside of Rehabilitation*, illustrates that delinquency is frequently a survivalist response to the breakdown of primary social anchors. Domestic trauma, paternal loss, and systemic poverty created a void that was initially filled by high-risk peer associations and hyper independence. The study finds that while entry into the RRCY is often met with resistance due to perceptions of state sponsored punishment, the transition to a structured environment provides a necessary sanctuary. This shift from the chaos of the streets to institutional stability aligns with the restorative mandates of Republic Act No. 9344 (2006), where the center functions as a surrogate structure that replaces survival based aggression with physical and emotional security.

The second phase, *From Isolation to Social Integration*, details the psychological defense mechanisms, such as aloofness and passive aggressive behavior, that CICLs employ upon admission. These behaviors reflect a period of adjustment where the child processes the stigma of their legal status. However, the study identifies that the quality of interpersonal interactions, facilitated by interactive social work methods, serves as a critical bridge. By replacing the perceived hostility of the outside world with a supportive micro community, the CICLs reconstruct their social identity. Integration is achieved when the child moves from a mindset of exile toward a state of communal belonging, viewing the facility and its residents as an alternate family unit.

The final phase, *Pagug-pagug para sa pag-babago: A Journey to Self-Evolution*, marks the internal and cognitive transformation where residents move beyond mere rule compliance toward



genuine personal growth. This study bridges a significant gap in current literature by integrating the Bicolano concept of Pagus-pagus, the persistent and difficult plodding toward a goal, as a localized psychological anchor. While standard psychosocial frameworks often focus on standardized programmatic steps, this study demonstrates that cultural values provide the mental fortitude necessary to overcome learned helplessness. By reframing socioeconomic vulnerabilities as catalysts for perseverance, the CICLs reclaim their *loob* (inner self), shifting their trajectory from reactive delinquency to proactive, visionary goals such as education and legal advocacy.

This synthesis suggests that successful rehabilitation is not merely a product of institutional confinement but a profound evolutionary process. It requires the replacement of street-based survivalism with a culturally grounded, restorative identity, allowing the CICLs to emerge as life-ready individuals capable of sustained social functioning.

Components of the Rehabilitation Program that Influenced Social Functioning

The analysis of the rehabilitation program at the DSWD-RRCY reveals a highly intentional, multi-layered intervention system designed to reconstruct the social functioning of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). This process is driven by three key pillars: the practical application of the Therapeutic Community Modality Program (TCMP), the institutionalization of a structured daily life, and a dual-layered governance system comprising formal and informal rules.

The first pillar, TCMP in Action for CICL Rehabilitation, functions as the operational backbone of the facility. By utilizing a peer-led approach and a hierarchy of departmental functions, the program moves the child from being a passive recipient of discipline to an active stakeholder in a community. The study demonstrates that when residents move from maintenance tasks to leadership roles, they internalize mutual accountability. This reformative approach effectively bridges the gap in existing literature by providing a granular, micro-level blueprint of how administrative hierarchies ranging from Housekeeping to the Expediting Department serve as a psychological ladder for maturity and social de-skilling reversal.

The second pillar, Structured Way of Living for the Reconstruction of Life, emphasizes the transition from street-based chaos to institutional predictability. This reconstruction is facilitated by a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) that tailors interventions based on specific social functioning indicators. A critical finding is that the rehabilitation of the child is inextricably linked to the functionality of their family and local government systems, ensuring a holistic transition upon release. This systemic reform aligns with contemporary juvenile justice research, which advocates for addressing environmental impairments and social functioning through a four-component framework: spiritual, educational, productivity, and behavioral.

The final pillar, The Written and Unwritten Rules of RRCY, establishes a sophisticated governance model. While formal House Rules provide essential boundaries against external risks, the unwritten philosophies of the TCMP (consisting of 21 core rules) integrate life lessons into daily routines. This study highlights the role of social workers as catalysts for change, using these unwritten rules and intact case folders to track longitudinal behavioral changes. By



documenting every movement and internal process, the center provides the court with a clear, empirical basis for judicial release. This governance model proves that institutionalized philosophies can supplement missing parental anchors, fostering long-term moral accountability and disrupting criminal narratives through a sense of communal belonging.

These components work in harmony to transform the RRCY from a custodial facility into a therapeutic sanctuary. The synergy of structured routines, peer-led leadership, and documented accountability ensures that the CICL's journey is not merely about serving time, but about achieving a sustainable evolution of the self.

Impact of the Program on the Social Relationships of the CICL

The rehabilitation process at the RRCY functions as a transformative journey that redefines how Children in Conflict with the Law or CICL perceive and navigate their social connections. This objective is achieved through two primary developmental milestones: the attainment of cognitive and emotional clarity, referred to as the Enlightenment, and the navigation of a structured social ladder through the Hierarchy of Roles. Together, these elements facilitate a shift from volatile, peer driven associations toward stable, purpose driven social bonds.

The first component, The Enlightenment, marks a pivotal transition from blind compliance to moral competence. Narratives from residents like Richard and Jeremy reveal a profound shift where guilt is replaced by a conscious understanding of the harm caused to victims and families. This stage aligns with the development of moral competence as a critical milestone in Filipino juvenile psychology, allowing the youth to move beyond reactive behaviors rooted in domestic or systemic neglect. By reclaiming their social agency, the CICLs begin to rewrite their personal stories, replacing a survivalist mindset with a reparative identity. This internal breakthrough is manifested in clear visions for the future, such as pursuing professional careers or seeking reconciliation with family members, effectively disrupting previous pathological crime narratives.

The second component, Hierarchy of Roles for the Maturity of CICL, provides the practical laboratory where this newfound enlightenment is tested and refined. The organizational structure of the center, which moves residents from entry level tasks to leadership roles like Big Brother, mirrors the complexities of real-world social responsibilities. This hierarchy requires the consistent practice of discipline, mentorship, and emotional regulation. A critical innovation in this process is the use of the Learning Experience, which replaces retributive punishment with restorative sanctions. By linking behavioral violations directly to symbolic labor, such as scrubbing soot from pots to reflect on physical aggression, the center fosters a cognitive connection between actions and consequences.

Program's impact on social relationships is characterized by an evolution from reactive defiance to proactive leadership. The synergy between internal enlightenment and institutional hierarchy ensures that the youth do not merely follow rules but internalize a sense of communal accountability. This study bridges a significant gap by detailing how these micro level institutional roles and localized unwritten philosophies serve as psychological anchors for the



personology of Filipino children. Therefore, these programmatic components ensure that the child is not only legally processed but socially and emotionally prepared for a productive life after rehabilitation.

Transformations in the Behaviors, Skills, and Attitudes of the Child in Conflict with the Law

The final stage of the rehabilitation journey is defined by a holistic transformation where Children in Conflict with the Law or CICL transition from maladaptive, reactive behaviors to a state of self-regulation and functional readiness. This evolution is encapsulated in the themes *Ang Paglakad sa Bagong Daan* and Life-Ready, which collectively describe the internal moral restructuring and the external manifestation of specialized competencies. By shifting the focus from the street-oriented mindsets of the past to a future-oriented sense of accountability, the rehabilitation program facilitates a profound change in the child's temperament and social outlook. This process is rooted in a newfound sense of hope, often bolstered by spiritual faith and the humanitarian treatment provided by the center's staff, which allows the youth to replace defiance with gratitude and a desire for familial reconciliation.

The internal evolution of the CICL mirrors critical executive function milestones where impulsivity is replaced by reflection and discipline. This shift aligns with the mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act or JJWA, emphasizing that restorative justice must prioritize humanitarian care over punitive measures. The narratives of the youth suggest that feeling loved and treated with dignity provides the emotional security necessary for them to acknowledge their discernment—the legal and psychological understanding of their actions. This realization acts as a catalyst for residents to seek amends, particularly with elderly guardians, transforming their previous criminal trajectory into a narrative of desistance and moral competence.

The culmination of this transformation is the Life-Ready phase, where internal changes are translated into observable social and vocational skills. The center utilizes the Social Functioning Indicator or SFI to meticulously monitor progress across six dimensions: physical, emotional, social, spiritual, educational, and economic productivity. This data-driven approach ensures that the 98% success rate reported by social workers is grounded in documented character development. Behavioral shifts, such as the transition from resisting personal hygiene to practicing autonomous self-care, serve as micro-level indicators of the child's readiness to function as a productive member of society.

The sustainability of these transformations is ensured through integrated reintegration frameworks like *Buklod Pag-laom*. By conducting intensive case conferences involving the family and Local Government Units or LGUs, the center bridges the gap between institutional care and community life. This collaborative strategy ensures that the support system the child returns to is prepared to maintain the progress achieved during rehabilitation. This research thus provides a concrete blueprint for success, demonstrating how a structured, high-resource environment can foster the rule of law at a personal level, turning previously aloof or disrespectful youth into confident, disciplined, and life-ready citizens.



The Proposed Innovative Program based on the Results of the Study

The Anchored in Hope initiative is built on the belief that rehabilitating Children in Conflict with the Law is a journey from initial resistance to lasting resilience. By treating the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth as a social workshop, the program blends strict discipline with humanitarian care to help youth trade survivalist habits for personal accountability. This framework ensures that every resident has the opportunity to unlearn delinquent behaviors and reconstruct their identity in a supportive, structured environment.

The project operates through several specialized tracks designed to address the whole child. It starts by anchoring their identity in spiritual and cultural roots, allowing them to lead rites and map their family history. From there, the Aspirant's Track and Social Workshop Forums move them toward professional ambition and peer resilience, using mock courts and mediation to replace street-level conflict with intellectual growth. As they mature, youth enter the Leadership Forge, where they take on roles like Child Protection Officers to mentor others, proving they are ready for the responsibilities of a law-abiding citizen.

Therefore, the goal is a successful and stable return to society. This is achieved through socio-economic training that teaches workplace discipline and financial literacy, paired with pre-release conferences that involve both the family and the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children. By aligning institutional growth with community support, the program ensures that when a child leaves the center, they are not defined by their past mistakes but by their new role as a disciplined and productive member of the community.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

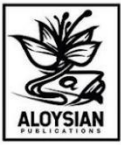
Relevantly, the following conclusions were drawn from results and findings of this research:

Conclusion 1

To describe the experience of CICL in the rehabilitation process, were capture through these themes: Ang Paglakad sa Bagong Daan: The Evolution of CICL, The Enlightenment, and Life-ready: The observable manifestation of Rehabilitation.

Conclusion 2

The institutional mechanisms driving social functioning are captured through the following three themes: TCMP in action for CICL rehabilitation, Structured way of living for reconstruction of life, and The Written and Unwritten Rules of RRCY: the Guide for Re-authoring Lives.



Conclusion 3

The impact of program participation on the social relationships of the CICL is captured through the following three themes: TCMP in action for CICL rehabilitation, The Enlightenment, and Hierarchy of Roles for the Maturity of CICL.

Conclusion 4

The transformations in behaviors, skills, and attitudes are captured through the following two themes: Ang Paglakad sa Bagong Daan: the Evolution of CICL and Life-ready: The observable manifestation of Rehabilitation.

Conclusion 5

The Anchored in Hope initiative is the direct product of the study's findings, transforming the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth into a social workshop where discipline and humanitarian care turn initial resistance into lasting resilience. By replacing survivalist habits with personal accountability, the program allows children to unlearn delinquent behaviors and reconstruct their identities.

Based on the research, the initiative guides youth through specialized tracks that anchor their identity in spiritual roots, foster professional ambition, and build social resilience. As they mature, residents take on leadership roles as Child Protection Officers, practicing the civic responsibilities required for life outside the facility.

The study further highlights that a stable return to society requires vocational training and family reconciliation. By synchronizing institutional progress with community support through the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, the proposed project ensures that youth emerge as disciplined, productive citizens defined by their future potential rather than their past mistakes.

Acknowledgements

The researcher would like to express her sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to those who made significant contributions to the success of this study.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the generosity of Dr. Cesar C. San Jose, Dean of the Graduate School, whose expertise and encouragement provided a strong foundation for this endeavor.

Deepest gratitude is extended to Dr. Maria Teresa B. Javier, research adviser, for her patience, continuous support, and manifold assistance in ensuring the completion of this work. Special thanks are also due to Dr. Nathalie Theresa C. Ranin, Dr. Randy B. Bacares, Dr. Sherry E. Belmor, and Dr. Aldrin A. Alcantara the chairperson and panel members, for their fruitful



comments, timely suggestions, and the immense knowledge they imparted for the improvement of the study.

The researcher also wishes to recognize Dir. Norman S. Laurio, and Ms. Marissa Paeste for their approval to conduct the study in DSWD Field Office 5 - RRCY, as well as Ms. Marietta Regidor for her diligent recording of the panel's recommendations. Appreciation is also extended to Ms. Lydia Montero and Ms. Jossa Marie of the Office of the Dean at the USI Graduate School for their constant assistance and support. This study would not be complete without the RRCY Social Workers, Multi-Disciplinary Team, and RRCY clients, who served as respondents, sharing their time and cooperation during the data-gathering process.

Most importantly, heartfelt thanks go to his family, Salve, his mother for great love, and continuous encouragement, and to his siblings, Ralph, Jelly, Joya, Raymond, Richard, Jane, and Joan, for being his source of strength and happiness, providing unconditional love, and precious support.

Above all, the researcher offers this beautiful journey to Almighty God for providing protection, wisdom, strength, and courage. Your love never fails.

REFERENCES

Abdullah, M., & Ferdousi, N. M. (2024). Child protection and juvenile justice: A comparative study of Bangladesh and Malaysia. *International Journal of Children's Rights*, 32(1), 88–104.

Aguilar, F. (2020). Lowering the age of criminal responsibility: Perspectives from Philippine local government officials. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 51(3), 412–435.

Aguinaldo, R. M., Dili, R. M., Alejandrino, D. C. A., Evasco, R. R., & Rivero, D. E. D. (2025). House of hope: The Bahay Pag-asa Youth Rehabilitation Center in ensuring efficient delivery of services of the Local Government of Valenzuela City. *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT)*, 13(2), 312-325.

Banzon-Librojo, L. A. (2023). Narrative identities of center-based Filipino children in conflict with the law. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 38(6), 1022–1045.

Banzon-Librojo, L. A. (2024). A glimpse inside: Examining loob from the life stories of center-based Filipino children in conflict with the law. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 33(4), 1102–1115.

Baxi, R. (2021). Opinions of student social workers about male children in conflict with the law in India. *International Social Work*, 64(2), 189–204.

Bronfenbrenner, U. (2025). *The ecology of human development: Experiments by nature and design (Updated Anniversary Edition with Commentary)*. Harvard University Press.

Bulatao, A. R. (2023). Exploring the concept of hope and aspirations of children in conflict with the law (CICL). *Philippine Social Science Journal*, 1(1), 45–59.

BusinessMirror. (2025, February 10). Understanding the mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA). *BusinessMirror News*.

Cabato, L. (2024, June 10). 34 children in conflict with law finish elementary, high school — DSWD. *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.

Celis, S. (2025). Case analysis of Bahay Pag-Asa as a partner for community child protection [Research Report]. Ateneo de Manila University.

Chandel, R., & Prasad, V. (2023). Rehabilitation of children in conflict with law: A reformative approach. *Asian Journal of Criminology*, 18(2), 123–135.

Cliffe-Tautari, R. (2024). Disrupting pathological Indigenous crime narratives: Māori youth classified as serious offenders, cultural identity, and cultural connectedness. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 27(4), 412–429.

Cortel, J. (2020). The impact of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on Philippine juvenile justice. *Journal of Southeast Asian Law*, 9(3), 201–215.

Cruz, M. T., & Alampay, L. P. (2020). Child protection and the juvenile justice system in the Philippines: A situational analysis. UNICEF Philippines.

Deepa, V., Jacob, R., & Manalan, K. (2024). Exploring the Juvenile Justice Act: Legal framework and psychosocial interventions for children in conflict with the law. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 75, 101604.

Department of the Interior and Local Government. (2020). Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and Local Council (LCPC) guidelines. DILG Memo Circular 2020-045.

Department of Social Welfare and Development. (2022). Manual on the management of Bahay Pag-asa. DSWD Central Office.

Department of Social Welfare and Development. (2024, February 15). DSWD underscores holistic healing in the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*.

Department of Social Welfare and Development. (2025). Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (RRCY) social functioning indicator assessment tool [Unpublished assessment tool]. Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth, Field Office V.

Docena, L. (2022). Life after rehab: Experiences of discharged youth offenders with crime desistance. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 51(5), 1023–1035.

Dominguez, J. N. (2020). Case research of personology of Filipino children in conflict with the law (CICL). *Psikodimensia*, 21(1), 35–48.

Donato, T. (2025). Parental influence in the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. *Social Work Review*, 22(1), 77–89.

Embornas, J., & Solmayor, A. (2024). Lived experience of reformed children in conflict with the law. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Behavior*, 12(3), 215–228.

Fargas, A. (2024). The role of the Family Court Judge in balancing opposing sides to ensure the rights of children in conflict with the law (CICL). *Journal of Social Work and Social Development*, 33(2), 98–112.

Fiveable. (2024). Social functioning and social control in juvenile delinquency. Fiveable Academy.

Gigimon, A. (2025). Rehabilitation of the children in conflict with law involved in substance abuse. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 58, 45–53.

Good Neighbors Philippines. (2025a). Community-based child protection mechanisms: The role of the BCPC. Program Brief.

Good Neighbors Philippines. (2025b). The Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC): Composition and mandate.

Juance, R. D. (2025). Deconstructing criminal characteristics: A study on youth offenders. *Journal of Criminology and Social Theory*, 14(2), 45–59.

Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council. (2020a). Comprehensive report on children in conflict with the law (2014–2018).

Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council. (2020b). Situational analysis on children in detention facilities in the Philippines. JJWC Publications.

Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council. (2023). 2023 National progress report on the implementation of Republic Act No. 9344. JJWC Publications.

Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council. (2024). Protocol on the initial investigation and custody of children in conflict with the law. JJWC Publications.

Kosasih, A., Maslihah, S., Shaleha, R., & Wulandari, E. (2023). Executive function and self-regulation of children in conflict with the law. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 64(6), 789–800.

Lee-Mendoza, T. (2022). *Social work with individuals and families* (Revised ed.). Central Book Supply.

Mariano, G. L. (2025). Conduct disorder and moral competence among Filipino children in conflict with the law. *Philippine Journal of Psychology*, 58(1), 112–130.

Molina-Lingvall, M., Cruz, M. T.-D., & Segundo, R. P. (2024a). Effectiveness of community restorative justice system in rehabilitating CICL. *International Journal for Restorative & Integrative Social Sciences (IJRISS)*.

Molina-Lingvall, M., Cruz, M. T.-D., & Segundo, R. P. (2024b). Restorative justice for children in conflict with the law: A community-based solution. *International Journal for Restorative & Integrative Social Sciences (IJRISS)*, 8(7), 2988–3003.

Morales, A. T., & Sheafor, B. W. (2020). *Social work: A profession of many faces* (Updated 13th ed.). Pearson.

National Institute of Justice. (2022). *Juvenile delinquency intervention: Evidence-based evaluations of treatment and awareness programs*. U.S. Department of Justice.

Nicewicz, K. (2025). The home environment and the cycle of violence in youth offenders. *Journal of Youth Economics*, 12(4), 233–245.

O'Reilly, J., & Pass, S. (2024). The historical evolution of juvenile justice: Prioritizing rehabilitation and well-being in youth courts. *Journal of Adolescent Education*, 45(2), 112–124.

Orlando, M., & Farrington, D. P. (2024). Prevention of youth offending and recidivism. In M. Orlando & D. Farrington (Eds.), *Handbook of Juvenile Justice* (pp. 45–67). Springer.

Patalinghug, R. (2021). The life changer: Social workers in rehabilitation facilities for children in conflict with the law. *Philippine Social Work Review*, 18(1), 27–39.

Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2023, October 20). Beyond basketball: Empowering the Sangguniang Kabataan in juvenile intervention and diversion programs. *Inquirer Opinion*.

Psychology Writing. (2024). *Identity formation and self-concept: Addressing the unique challenges of adolescent counseling*. Educational Resource.

Rappler. (2022, May 12). The silent crisis: How pandemic lockdowns stunted the social development of Filipino adolescents. *Rappler News*.

Rendaje, M. A., et al. (2024). Factors affecting the children in conflict with the law in SOCCSKSARGEN, Philippines. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research*, 5(8), 3233–3240.

Republic Act No. 7610. (1992, June 17). *Special protection of children against abuse, exploitation and discrimination act*. Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines.

Republic Act No. 9344. (2006, April 28). An act establishing a comprehensive juvenile justice and welfare system. The LawPhil Project.

Salih, H. A. (2024). Phenomenology of juvenile delinquency: Lived experiences of CICL in the Bicol Region [Unpublished manuscript]. Regional Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility.

Sbeglia, G. C., Randolph, K. A., Cavanagh, C., & Cauffman, E. (2024). Parental legal culpability in youth offending: A psychological perspective. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 30(1), 45–62.

Secure Teen. (2024, May 15). The ripple effect: Understanding the consequences of juvenile delinquency on mental health and social relationships.

Shukla, R. (2025). Environmental and systemic layers of juvenile delinquency. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 39(1), 56–68.

Solmayor, A., & Embornas, J. (2024). Journey through transformation: Qualitative study of reformed CICL in General Santos City. *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*.

Suerte, R., et al. (2023). Describing the practices of social workers in handling children in conflict with the law. *Journal of Social Work Practice*, 37(2), 145–158.

Susila, I., & Yonar, F. (2024). Protecting children's rights through the juvenile criminal justice system in Indonesia: Issues and challenges. *Asian Social Work and Policy Review*, 18(3), 234–246.

Taladtad, R. F. (2025). Effectiveness of the rehabilitation programs implemented by MIMAROPA Youth Center. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation*, 1(1), 96–108.

UNICEF Philippines. (2020). Situation analysis of children in the Philippines: Summary report.

UNICEF Philippines. (2022). Building back better for children in the justice system: Technical updates on diversion and family-inclusive therapy.

UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, & WHO. (2020). Technical note: Interrelation between violence against women and violence against boys and girls. United Nations.

United Nations. (2025). World youth report 2025: Juvenile delinquency and economic decline. United Nations Publications.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2023). Global study on children's rights in the justice system: Focus on rehabilitation and reintegration. UNODC.

United Nations Secretary-General. (2025). Strengthening the rule of law and justice institutions for human rights. United Nations General Assembly Report.

Valdez, M. (2024). Role of interactive social work methods applied to children in conflict with the law in the Philippines [Unpublished study]. University of the Philippines Diliman.

Yulia, R., Setiadi, B., Sofian, I., & Johar, F. (2024). Diversion as a form of restorative justice for child offenders in Indonesia. *Asian Journal of Criminology*, 19(1), 67–80.

Zastrow, C. H. (2020a). *Introduction to social work and social welfare: Empowering people* (13th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Zastrow, C. H. (2020b). *The practice of social work: A comprehensive worktext* (11th ed.). Cengage Learning.