

Motivating Factors that Influences Delinquency in Molino II City of Bacoor, Cavite

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Abstract:- This study was conducted to determine: First, the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, and order in the family. Second, is the motivating factors that influence delinquency in terms of family problems, environmental/neighborhood, personal interest, academic performances and peer pressure. Third, is the significant difference on the common factors by the respondents pertaining to their demographic profile in terms of sex.

Based on the results of the study, recommendations were formulated. The youths of Molino II should undergo a personal development seminar in coordination with the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) under the Barangay of Molino II and Bacoor Government Center (BGC) for them to have knowledge about establishing behavior in a positive way and how to evade such occasion like they were being controlled by their peers to do some delinquent acts. Giving sufficient aid or financial aid to the youth to prevent delinquent acts causing by the discontentment of the youth and small business grant by the local government by qualified member. The parents should supervise the schooling of their children and have a regular consultation with the school/teacher. Lastly, the barangay should have a program that will strengthen the family bond in every home and strict curfew hour for the minors and barangay ordinance on selling liquor and cigarettes to the minors. Also, additional CCTV's and streetlights should be installed in the entire barangay. Every child should learn how to follow the rules of society; they should penalize those children who violates such ordinances in the barangay.

Keywords:- *Delinquency, Juvenile Delinquency, Delinquents, Child in Conflict with the Law, CICL*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Philippines, similar to many nations, grapples with a multitude of social challenges exacerbated by poverty and the persistent divide between social classes. Factors such as inadequate access to quality education and high unemployment rates contribute significantly to the ongoing fluctuations in crime rates. Among the most urgent concerns facing the Philippines is juvenile delinquency. The annual statistics on juvenile offenders are often linked to poverty; however, advocates and analysts argue that the core issue stems from the government's inadequate response to the needs of "Children in Conflict with the Law" (CICL). (Business Mirror, 2022).

To add, Modequillo (2019) mentioned the idea that contemporary adolescents are significantly vulnerable to behavioral issues, which, if not intervened upon during the formative years, may severely jeopardize their holistic development. Research indicates that atypical behaviors in teenagers frequently culminate in delinquent activities. It is well-established that juvenile delinquency adversely impacts both the individual involved and the broader community. And this behavioral problems of teenagers when in starts to appear are often first felt at home resulting to problematic teenagers that are more often in conflict with their parents, as well as with their siblings. Little matters become the cause of big arguments and lingering bad blood among family members.

On the other hand, The citizen living in Molino 2 City of Bacoor, especially the young ones has been more prone to do some delinquent acts like using some prohibited drugs and knowing to drink alcohol in such an early age without knowing that this can destroy their lives with a mentality of "living young and wild and free". Due to this scenery, the motivating factors of youth to delinquency has been a problem to the barangay/parents on how does the youthful/adolescent has been involved to many crimes or delinquency and being feared by other citizen residing in the area.

A recent news on GMA network (2020), “there's a 2 group of youth on Bacoor City, Cavite in area of Barangay Molino 2 has rumbled due to the hatred of each other because of the posting in social media attacking one another, at the brawl that happen, 4 of them has been hurt according to Barangay Captain, Michael Saquitan”.

Olowo (2020), stated that “because of their age, adolescents are vulnerable to their peers. They appear to be convinced. More than their parents, they value their classmates. This could be since they spend so much time with their children, peers. As a result, they are primarily delinquent. As a result, they are in the chilly hands of It is their peers who determine their behavior patterns. Socialization is influenced by peer groups on juvenile delinquency and peer influence is among the adolescent behavior determinants”.

However, according to Laursen, et. Al. (2017), postulated that the impact of peer influence is more challenging to articulate than to measure quantitatively. And so, influence manifests when a person behaves or contemplates in manners that they might not typically engage in, a phenomenon that can be linked to interactions with peers and associates. To agree, peer influence can be characterized as situations in which an individual impacts, or is impacted by, one or more peers of comparable age.

Moreover, Adolescents are particularly susceptible to peer pressure within the school environment. This phenomenon can be categorized into four distinct areas: social belonging, curiosity, cultural-parenting orientation, and educational influences. The research employed a descriptive correlational design, wherein a survey was administered to Senior High School students. A total of 96 respondents completed the survey, and the quantitative data were analyzed using chi-square statistical methods. The findings are anticipated to reveal the relationship between the perceived levels of peer pressure across the dimensions of social belonging, curiosity, cultural-parenting orientation, and education. It is generally expected that students will adopt an optimistic perspective when confronting the challenges posed by peer pressure, thereby mitigating its adverse effects on their academic performance. Students may respond to peer pressure in either a constructive or detrimental manner, and educators are encouraged to provide guidance and support to help them navigate these challenges (Ezzarooki, 2016).

Byrom (2018) further posited that peer support consists of assistance offered by individuals who share similar experiences. As students seek mental health support from their peers, this form of support can facilitate informal engagement and help circumvent certain obstacles associated with seeking professional help. The study's participants were primarily female and had been dealing with anxiety or depression for over a year. A majority had already sought assistance from professional services. Notably, at least 57% of participants attended multiple sessions, while 34% successfully completed the course.

Those students exhibiting lower levels of mental well-being were more inclined to finish the program. Additionally, returning students demonstrated a significant improvement in their mental well-being.

In the research conducted by Umair Ahmed and Azka Murtaza (2016), it was revealed that a multitude of socioeconomic and psychological elements significantly influence juvenile delinquency in Punjab, Pakistan. A considerable number of participants indicated that the family environment—characterized by restrictive behaviors, neglect, inadequate supervision, and the delinquent actions of parents—plays a pivotal role in fostering juvenile delinquency. Additionally, some respondents noted that peer influence, whether through encouragement to engage in deviant behavior or through experiences of peer rejection, serves as both a motivating force and a contributing factor to delinquency. Furthermore, issues such as poverty, illiteracy, subpar academic performance, and a deficiency in moral education can steer individuals toward unlawful conduct. The study also highlighted that a deteriorating neighborhood, along with direct exposure to violence and the portrayal of fighting in media, are recognized as significant risk factors that contribute to delinquent behavior among youth.

In the Philippines they promulgated R.A 9344 where juvenile or children between 15 and 18 of age shall correspondingly be free from criminal liabilities to be put through an intervention program. This is systematically followed unless he or she has acted with discernment, in this case, such child should be dealt with the proper proceedings in accordance with this act.

Bellair and Roscigno (2015) contribute to the study of adolescent delinquency by presenting a theoretical framework that combines insights from labor-market and social stratification research with family and criminological studies. Their analysis uses local labor-market data and a nationally representative longitudinal survey of adolescents, applying methods that account for clustering in hierarchical structures. The results indicate that a high concentration of low-wage service jobs and unemployment significantly increases the chances of fighting and drug use among adolescents. They also highlight that these effects are partly influenced by family income, family stability, and the adolescents' connections to their parents and school. Notably, the impact of low-wage service jobs and unemployment on delinquency remains significant even when considering these mediating factors. The study concludes by exploring the lasting effects of these factors and their broader implications.

Allen (2016) mentions that educational activities are designed to help students achieve their learning objectives. In schools, the extent to which these objectives are achieved is influenced by factors such as peer pressure and time management, as students' academic performance reflects their success.

Research indicates that parenting stress is linked to early delinquency, while a sense of belonging in school is associated with lower rates of early delinquency, even when considering individual and family factors. The article wraps up with a discussion on how these findings can inform school social workers in their early prevention and intervention strategies. This discussion focuses on ways to reduce parenting stress and improve school belonging for young children at risk of delinquent behavior (Lucero, Barrett & Jensen, 2015).

Moffitt (2016) notes that a larger number of young people have faced arrest by their early 20s compared to previous years, although some researchers believe this may be due to stricter criminal justice policies rather than actual changes in youth behavior. Additionally, juvenile delinquency can include minor offenses like underage smoking and drinking, as well as more serious property and violent crimes.

Reynolds (2016) studied 1,500 low-income youths to see how early education interventions and various peer and family factors influenced delinquency rates. They found that preschool interventions led to the most significant decrease in both the severity and frequency of delinquent behavior by age 18.

In the research by Bocar et al. (2014), four key factors contributing to juvenile delinquency were examined: family, environment, school, and government agencies. The study also explored which of these factors consistently encourages or discourages youth from engaging in illegal activities. The perceptions of 227 respondents were analyzed using four qualitative categories: never, occasionally, and so on.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study employed quantitative methods, focusing on objective measurement and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data gathered from polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by processing existing statistical data with computational techniques. The researchers specifically utilized descriptive research, which looks at the details of participants and describes the relationships between variables instead of determining cause-and-effect (Apuke, 2017). It does not explore how, when, or why these characteristics happened; instead, it answers the "what" question.

III. DISCUSSION

The result below reveals the motivating factors that influences delinquency in the selected area as follows;

A. *What are the Motivating Factors that Influence Delinquency in Terms of:*

➤ *Family Problems*

It reveals that most of the respondents agreed that having favoritism in the family is the main cause that motivates youth into being delinquent and has evaluated with the highest mean of 2.76. This implies that the youth of Molino II is more likely to become a delinquent when they can't get affection or favoring over one child to one another. This is supported by Williams (2018) on which he stated that "favoritism can lead to a child's anger or behavior problems, increased despair, a lack of self-confidence, and a refusal to communicate properly with others. "The non-favored child will experience low self-worth and value, feelings of rejection and inadequacy, and a sort of "giving up" due to feeling like they can never be worthy of the same attention, love, and affection that the favored child receives".

Supporting this Andrea Brant (2023) who points out that when a parent shows favoritism to one child or relative, other children can notice it. This can make them feel less loved or valued, which may affect their behavior and their relationships with you, other adults who show favoritism, and the favored relative. Favoritism harms not only those who feel overlooked but also those who are favored. It can lead to anger, behavior issues, loneliness, higher depression levels, low self-esteem, and a reluctance to engage with others. These problems can arise in both the favored child and those who are not favored.

➤ *Environmental/Neighborhood*

Youth in Molino II exhibit a consensus regarding the first indicator, stating, "In my neighborhood, delinquent acts seem to be more compelling," which received the highest mean score of 2.74. This suggests that the environment in Molino II significantly contributes to delinquent behavior, influenced by the surrounding neighborhood and its associated delinquent activities. Supporting this observation, Tompsett et al. (2015) argue that adolescents are at an increased risk for engaging in delinquency when they live in neighborhoods characterized by low collective efficacy, diminished perceived prosocial norms and values, and a high availability of substances and firearms. As adolescents mature, however, they tend to travel more independently in their daily lives, which may dilute the impact of their home neighborhood as they interact with different communities.

Furthermore, research conducted by Connolly et al. (2015) highlights the importance of delinquent peer associations as a significant environmental risk factor for delinquency, particularly during adolescence. While prior studies have established moderate to strong correlations between exposure to delinquent peers and various delinquent behaviors, there has been comparatively less focus on the genetic underpinnings of this relationship throughout the adolescent years.

➤ *Personal Interest*

The youth respondents in Molino II assessed the statement, "I feel uncomfortable when I desire something," which received the highest mean score of 2.60, interpreted as "Agree." This finding suggests that the youth experience a significant level of discomfort related to their desires, potentially leading them to engage in delinquent behaviors to fulfill their wants. This observation aligns with Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1954), which posits that individuals are driven to satisfy specific needs, with some needs taking precedence over others. The most fundamental need is for physical survival, which serves as the primary motivator for behavior. Once this basic level is satisfied, individuals are motivated by higher-level needs. Physiological needs, including air, food, water, shelter, clothing, warmth, sex, and sleep, are essential for human survival. If these needs remain unmet, optimal functioning of the human body is compromised. Maslow emphasized the primacy of physiological needs, asserting that all other needs become secondary until these foundational requirements are fulfilled.

➤ *Academic Performance*

The presence of friends significantly altered their attitudes and conduct within the school environment, as evidenced by their assessment of the sixth indicator, which received the highest average score of 2.74. This finding suggests that the youth in Molino II are particularly susceptible to the influence of their peers.

This observation aligns with the research conducted by Steinberg and Monahan (2007), who noted that as children transition into adolescence, peer groups acquire a notable capacity to shape their behaviors. This influence is partly attributed to developmental changes that underscore the importance of acceptance among peers. Friend groups establish specific social norms, and adherence to these norms is often met with approval and support, while deviation may result in disapproval or exclusion. When these norms encourage positive behaviors, such as academic achievement, the influence of peers can be advantageous. Conversely, some peer groups may adopt antisocial norms that promote delinquent behavior. Consequently, during the middle school years, educators may observe clusters of students engaging in substance use or other risky activities. Once such negative behavioral norms take root, they can prove challenging to alter.

➤ *Peer Pressure*

One of the respondents says that being with their friends doing delinquent acts changed them. According to him he was influenced by his friends by cutting classes and spending time with other friends. He also added that his studies are being neglected because of his friends that can't he say no to them.

For the indicator, "They have a friend with delinquent behavior" respondents agreed with the highest mean of 2.72. This implies that youth of Molino II are easily get influenced to do some delinquent acts when they are interacting with their peers just to be able to belong to the group they wanted to, and they adopt the negative behavior when they are with peers that causes them to become a delinquent one. The presence of friends significantly altered their attitudes and conduct within the school environment, as evidenced by their assessment of the sixth indicator, which received the highest average score of 2.74. This suggests that the youth in Molino II are particularly susceptible to the influence of their peers. This observation aligns with the findings of Steinberg and Monahan (2007), who noted that as children transition into adolescence, peer groups acquire a notable capacity to shape their behavior. This influence is partly attributed to developmental changes that underscore the importance of acceptance among peers. Friend groups create specific social norms, where adherence to these norms is often met with approval and support, while deviation may result in disapproval or exclusion. When these norms encourage positive behaviors, such as academic achievement, the influence of peers can be advantageous. Conversely, some peer groups may adopt antisocial norms that promote delinquent behavior. Consequently, during the middle school years, educators may observe clusters of students engaging in substance use or other risky activities. Once such negative behavioral norms are established, they can prove challenging to alter. According to one of the respondents, they have a friend that has a delinquent behavior. He is also spending time with his friend. He added that sometimes his friends encourage him to do smoking and drinking liquor. He just says yes to them just to fill into the group. He stated that he would do delinquent acts just to be with that group of youth.

IV. CONCLUSION

On the above findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The analysis of the responses revealed that a majority of the participants were male. Consequently, the researchers inferred that males are more likely to be primary offenders compared to females.
- The findings suggest that peer pressure ranks as the most significant motivating factor influencing delinquent behavior. As a result, the researchers concluded that peers often encourage delinquent actions in ways that lead individuals to perceive that engaging in such behavior enhances their social status and rewards,

thereby increasing the likelihood of participation in these activities.

- The results indicate a notable difference in the demographic profiles concerning sex and the motivating factors that drive youth delinquency. Thus, the researchers concluded that consistent with previous studies on gender differences in criminal behavior, adolescent males are more prone to engage in antisocial and delinquent acts and are more likely to commit serious offenses than females. While the proportion of female delinquents has risen over the past decade, they still engage in delinquent behavior at a significantly lower rate than their male counterparts.

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