

# “Victimological Analysis of Former Child in Conflict With the Law”

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## ABSTRACT

Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) refers to a child who is alleged as, accused of, or adjudged as, having committed an offense under Philippine Laws. The purpose of this study was to elaborate the reasons such minor offenders commit crime, to determine the specific challenges that minor offenders faced in their lives following their involvement to crime, to determine strategies or coping mechanism applied by the minor offenders in overcoming challenges and to identify the realization of the participants after committing a crime. Many past researches had not thoroughly discussed the reasons these minors committed crimes, the challenges they faced after being involved in criminal activities, and how they managed to cope with those challenges in their lives. This was a descriptive qualitative research method that identified the influences and causes against former children in conflict with the law. The study conducted was mostly murder cases and few in theft, however it utilized themes to determine the specific background of each participant, such as family-driven motivation, lack of awareness of the gravity of crime, poverty and hunger, desire to regain what was lost, family and social support, religious engagement, self-reflection and rebuilding, regret and desire for redemption, commitment to prevent others from following the same path, and spiritual renewal. The challenges experienced by the participants include difficulty in finding jobs, humiliated, also psychological and emotional problems. Thus, it suggested that create programs that will help former CICL move forward, especially by providing job opportunities and addressing the stigma they faced.

**Keywords:** Children in Conflict with the Law, theft, murder, crime

## INTRODUCTION

Victimology may be defined as the scientific study of victimization, including the relationships between victims and offenders, the interactions between victims and the criminal justice system; i.e., the police and courts, the correctional officials. It also includes connections between victims and other social groups and the institutions such as the media, businesses and social movements. On the other hand, victimology experienced injury or hardship due to any cause. Such injury or harm may be physical, psychological, emotional or financial. (Shambhavi Mishra, 2024)

The foundation of a nation begins with the education of the children since they are considered one of the most important assets of the nation. Every effort should be made to promote their welfare and enhance their opportunities for useful and happy life. The molding of the child's character starts at the home. Consequently, every member of the family should strive to make the home a wholesome and harmonious place as its atmosphere and conditions will greatly influence the child's development (Villanueva, 2006). Crime happens anywhere in this world and it excuses no one, whether rich or poor, adults to youths and juveniles. The general public sees criminals as gruesome adults. But increasing number of youth getting involved in criminal activities alarms the society as a whole (Dr. Bocar Anna, 2009). Common felonious activities like riots, theft, robbery, carnapping, murder, homicide, rape, and others are committed by young adults and even mature persons, but through these days the youth are involved in most of these crimes (Dr. Bocar, A., 2009). This issue is not as big as the economic crisis the

society is experiencing right now; however, this has always been a perennial issue to the community and to the country as a whole. According to Villanueva (2006), juvenile delinquency refers to an anti-social act or a child/minor/youth's behavior which deviates from the normal pattern of rules and regulations, custom and culture which the society does not accept. The prevention of juvenile delinquency is an essential part of crime prevention in society. Guevara and Bautista (2008) quoted that, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure" this clearly manifest the importance of misbehavior deterrence among the youth.

There were already several studies and conducted about Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), which mostly focused on their offenses, rehabilitation programs, and how the justice system handled them. However, there were only few studies that gave attention to the experiences of former CICL as victims of their own actions. Many past researches had not thoroughly discussed the reasons why these minors committed crimes, the challenges they faced after being involved in criminal activities, and how they managed to cope with those challenges in their lives. Because of this, the researchers conducted this study to address the gap and to provide a deeper understanding of the experiences of former CICL, particularly their reasons for committing crimes, their struggles after the incident, and the coping strategies they used in order to overcome their difficult situations.

Victimology is a field of study that focuses on understanding the experiences of victims and how crime affected their lives. While many studies had been made about victims of crimes, most of these focused only on those who directly suffered harm from offenders. However, there were only few studies that discussed how offenders, especially former Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), could also be considered victims, not of physical harm but of their situations, environment, and personal circumstances. Some related studies failed to focus on how the background and life experiences of minor offenders became a factor in committing crimes. There was a lack of research that looked into the victimological aspect of former CICL, on how they suffered from the consequences of their actions and the challenges they faced afterward. For this reason, the researchers conducted this study to fill the gap by exploring the experiences of former CICL through the perspective of victimology. The study aimed to understand how these individuals became victims of their situations, the struggles they experienced, and how they were able to cope and recover from their past mistakes. Although significant research has been conducted on juvenile delinquency and its causes, there is a noticeable gap in the literature regarding the victimization experiences of former CICL and how their involvement in crime impacts their status as victims.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Studies suggest that individuals between the ages of 10 and 24 exhibit characteristics of adolescence, as their neurocognitive abilities continue to mature (Sawyer et al., 2018). Typically, children under the age of 12 have not developed the necessary par level of maturity to comprehend the concepts of competency and capacity as defined by the legal system. Additionally, they may not derive significant benefits from the treatment options not provided by juvenile justice interventions, particularly programs that are primarily designed for older juveniles.

Furthermore, there are variety of factors contributing to the delinquency of juveniles. Protective factors that helped juveniles resist delinquent behavior ranged from a supportive community, positive interaction with teachers, family support, pro-social peer relations and able to manage stress well. Similarly, families come in many different structures and sizes, therefore, it is critical to examine how families impact children. Empirical research has shown that a child's upbringing has the potential to influence delinquent behavior. However, existing literature using fragile families has not tested this association at the mist recent wave. (Glad, 2018).

Children's development is not simply determined by their inherent traits, but is also shaped by their environment. Everyday inter-actions among children, whether within their family, friendships, school, or society, have an impact on the formation of their social identity. They actively engage in the process

of acquiring knowledge and understanding by integrating their prior knowledge with new information. Juvenile offenders are considered to be influenced by both their personal characteristics and their surroundings. The environment has a substantial influence on individuals' cognitive and behavioral patterns, as well as their interpretation and acceptance of their experiences. Experience arises as a result of engaging in social interactions and employing language.

Research indicates that children have a deep understanding of societal rules that help them resist engaging in delinquent behavior through establishing strong connections with their parents and others (Villa Rendaje Jr., Ludivico, 2019).

In, comparison, delinquency has traditionally been viewed as a male phenomenon, often defined in androcentric terms, and neglecting females in studies regarding delinquent behavior. However, females are the fastest growing subpopulation of the correction population, which amplifies the importance of understanding the nature and cause of their offending (Nagle, 2019).

Juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon, and interest in comparative studies of juvenile offending and society's reaction to it has been steadily growing, despite the inherent difficulties of comparing juvenile justice processes across different regions. To know what constitutes a juvenile, or a delinquent act, requires detailed knowledge of a jurisdiction's social, political, cultural, and legal history. The United Nations surveys on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice system (UN-CTS) have the widest geographical reach, but lack transparency of definitions or verification.

Although it is true that juvenile delinquency is a significant issue in society, it is imperative that it be given the necessary and focused attention it deserves. Even individuals who are directly impacted are ultimately influenced by this matter due to the government's distribution of taxes and the overall security of communities (Saminsky, 2015).

Krohn et al. (2015) identify various societal factors associated with violence, such as concentrated poverty, housing mobility, high population displacement, family disorders, high housing and population density, weak local social organization, limited social resources, weak intergenerational bonds within families and communities, weak societal group control, low participation in community events and activities, and the likelihood of violence.

### Local Related Literature and Studies

In a local study by (Estoro, F., 2022) it was discovered that a typical Filipino delinquent is usually male between 14 to the prevalence of juvenile delinquency is primarily due to poverty, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP) considering that theft is the common offense committed by children. Some of the latest juvenile delinquency statistics include: In 2012, police arrested 182 violent juvenile offenders for every 100,000 juveniles. Attitude, legislation and litigation towards students, outline how legislation, policies and procedures. Child-refers to a person under 18 years of age.

Incarceration can expose them to abuse and criminal influence, causing long-term harm. Evidence suggests that punitive methods increase re-offending and harm young people's futures, highlighting the need for restorative justice approaches.

On the study that was conducted by Abella (2015) he found that external factors, including the environment outside the home, peer pressure, and community rule, greatly influence the lives of children in conflict with the law. Furthermore, it holds that there has been a strong positive relationship between the internal factors and the external factors identified, which thereby influence the participants to commit delinquent acts. On the study conducted by Ramos, et al. (2015) he found out that all the factors except external environment influence, which resulted in being not influential at all, are slightly influential in the committing of the crime.

R.A. No. 9344 features the diversion and intervention programs. During the diversion process, the responsibility and treatment of CICL will be determined on the basis of his/her social, cultural, economic, psychological or educational background without resorting to formal court proceedings. During the intervention programs on the other hand, they will undergo a series of activities to address issues that caused them to commit an offence. These may take the form of counselling, skills training, and education. The bigger the role these diversion and intervention programs play in child behavior development, the more acceptance and social legitimacy these programs are likely to enjoy in resolving problems with CICL.

In the Philippines, more than 3.3 million out of 3.8 million children and youth are not studying or out of school according to Philippines Statistics Authority's 2016 Annual Poverty Indicators survey. Some of these children become subjected to conflicts with the law. In the middle of 2012 and 2015, Philippine National Police recorded approximately 40,000 cases of juvenile delinquency (Prito Ria, 2018)

A total of fifty-eight (58) Social Workers and their co-partner social workers in the Barangay's took part in this study. A self-made guide questions was utilized to ascertain the challenges encountered in the implementation of the intervention program for CICL. Descriptive method of research was utilized to answer the objectives of the study. Results revealed that the main challenge in the implementation of the intervention program are the behavior of CICL and their parents towards the intervention program, hence, building rapport both with the CICL and the parents during the initial phase of the helping relationship should be established. (Atianzar, M.B., 2022)

As the analysis illustrates, by arguing with each other children refine the social and linguistic skills in their interaction repertoire and negotiate their respective identities and roles in the peer group. Thus, in the discussion it was argued that peer conflict entails significant opportunities for migrant children's social inclusion in the community, but it is also a locus where children might exclude other classmates. On the basis of these insights, the article outlines the pedagogical relevance of peer conflict and proposes few implications for teacher's professional practice. (Nicola, 2022).

The inter-parental relationship's quality is acknowledged to have a significant impact on the psychopathology of children and adolescents. In the past, clinically oriented research on this subject has tended to ignore the dimensional or qualitative aspects of the couple/inter parental relationship for youth (child and adolescent) psychopathology, focusing instead on the effects of parental divorce and family violence as the main inter parental relationship influences on child outcomes. Furthermore, disagreement between parents or caregivers has a negative impact on children's emotional, behavioral, social, academic, and future interpersonal interactions whether adults are cohabitating or not, according to new research (Gordon, 2018).

## **Objectives Of The Study**

1. To elaborate the reasons such minor offenders commit crime.
2. To determine the specific challenges that minor offenders face in their lives following their involvement to crime.
3. To determine strategies or coping mechanism applied by the minor offenders in overcoming challenges.
4. To identify the realization of the participants after committing a crime.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study used descriptive qualitative research method that identify the influences and causes against former Children in Conflict with the Law. Additionally, it utilized illuminative research that explained



the demographic characteristics of the participants being investigated, specifically focusing on former Children in Conflict with the Law from Quirino Province.

This study was conducted in Quirino Province, Philippines specifically in the municipalities of Nagtipunan and Aglipay. The province is located at the northern part of the country, particularly in Cagayan Valley, Region 2, Quirino consisted of six (6) municipalities, namely Diffun, Cabarroguis, Saguday, Aglipay, Maddela, and Nagtipunan.

The participants for this study were former children in conflict with the law in Quirino Province particularly in the Municipalities of Nagtipunan and Aglipay who have been involved in criminal activities. This choice was made because the research aims to explore the specific reasons of the offenders in committing such crimes, challenges encountered by the participants, coping mechanisms and realization of the participants after committing a crime.

Purposive sampling was employed to select participants which provided an insightful and relevant information. According to Jahoda and Cook 2014: "The basic assumption behind purposive sampling is the good judgement and appropriate strategy, one can hand-pick the class to be included in the sample and thus develops sample that are satisfactory in relation to ones need.

The use of purposive sampling allowed for a better alignment between the sample and the research aims and objectives, thus improving the rigor of the study and trustworthiness of the data and results.

An oral and face to face interview using guide questions was conducted to facilitate the discussions. It includes open-ended questions aimed at prompting detailed responses about the participants' experiences and feelings regarding their involvement in the crime. The researchers assisted the participants by explaining, for better understanding, and exploring their opinions, behaviors, experiences, and phenomena through this set of interview questions.

The participants, who are former Children in Conflict with the Law, has been interviewed in their houses or in any comfortable place of their chosen. The interview was conducted face-to-face to gather accurate and sufficient information. The researchers chose Quirino Province as the locale of the study for convenience and for the researchers to explore a victimological analysis of former children in conflict with the law.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A. Reasons of Minor Offenders in Committing Crimes

#### Theme 1: Family-Driven Motivation

Some participants were driven to commit crimes due to family issues, such as losing land or protecting family honor.

#### Participant 1 & 2:

"Naaramid mi dayjay gapo ti luksaw mi idi binastos da ni mamang ko ta naglako gamen suna daga mi kit ibaga tay nangatang nga agusap kami sa dulo ng baril ko tas madi napay binayadan tay daga nga inlako ni mama sunga ajay ti gapo na nu apay napanunot ko iti nagaramid ti madi.

*(We committed that crime because the buyer of our land insulted our mother. Moreover, the buyer told us that we will talk in his gun if we insisted on getting any payment for the land sold by our mother. That's why I did that crime.)*

This supports Pulido and Santiago's (2016) findings that family-related struggles, especially those involving land disputes and violence against loved ones, can push minors to commit as an act of emotional retaliation.

## Theme 2: Lack of Awareness of the Gravity of Crime

Other participants acted without realizing the seriousness of their actions.

### Participant 3:

“Awan kitde sir, tati panagkunak kit pangsarilik tay inaramid ko a krimen idi nga haan ko pay ammo idi a dakkil gayam a basol ajay.

*(No, sir. It was for my own good, and at the time, I didn't realize that what I did was wrong.)*

### Participant 4:

“Ti rason ko sir kit ajay dik ammo nga inaramid ko kit dakkil mit gayam a basol. Wen sir, adda impluwensiya ti sabali.

*(The reason, sir, for what I did is that I did not know the activity was inappropriate. Yes, there was external influence involved.)*

## Theme 3: Influence of Alcohol and Environment

Some offenses were committed under the influence of alcohol or peer pressure.

### Participant 5:

“Nakapatay nak idi gapo ti nalaus nga bartek ta kinursunada dak ijay maysa nga beer house sinalaknibak lang ti sarilik ta gandat dak nga patayin dagijay nabartek a pugaw”

*(I killed someone due to excessive intoxication of liquor. I just defended myself but ended up killing the man who provoked me.)*

## B. Challenges Faced by Minor Offenders Following their Involvement in Crime

### Theme 1: Poverty and Hunger

Economic hardship forced some participants to steal for survival.

### Participant 3:

“Ti panagtakaw ti makan tapno lang makapangan nak ta sobra ti bisin ko idin sir.”

*(I stole food just to eat, sir. I was extremely hungry back then.)*

### Participant 4:

“Adda sir isu tay innak panagtakaw idi ti maysa a kantinaan tapno lang adda apaggatang ko ti makan ko kin ipakan ko kadagijay adding ko ta awan trabaho nagannak ko sir.”

*(Yes sir. I once stole from a canteen just to buy food for myself and to share with my siblings because my parents didn't have work at that time.)*

### Theme 2: Desire to Regain What Was Lost

The challenge of regaining their rights or property pushed others to take drastic actions.

### Participants 1 & 2:

“Wen naaramid me ti pumatay duwwa kami kin adding ko tapno mabawi mi tay daga ni mamang kokin tapno maisubli me tay karapatan nga para kanyami.”

*(Yes, my brother and I killed someone in order to take back the land we had sold and to reclaim what we believed was rightfully ours.)*

This supports the finding of Edicts and Statutes (2023), which highlights that some youth crimes stem from attempts to restore justice or avenge family harm, especially in areas where legal remedies are hard to access.

### **Theme 3: Struggles with Addiction**

One participant highlighted substance abuse as a key challenge.

#### **Participant 5:**

“Gapo ti nalabis a bisyok naka aramidak ti krimen nga isu met gayam pakasagmakak.”

*(Yes, sir. Due to my excessive vices, I committed a crime that now I regret.)*

As noted by Revita (2018), addiction and escapism are common in youth offenders who lack support systems and find false relief in vices.

### **C. Coping Mechanisms Used by the Minor Offenders in Overcoming the Challenges**

#### **Theme 1: Family and Social Support**

Support from relatives helped the offenders cope with what they went through.

#### **Participants 1 & 2:**

“Nagdakkil nga tulong kanyak dagijay advise ti angel kin kakasinsin ko nga naka adal tapno malasatan agijay a anaaramid mi kin kasta mit ti pamilyak nga nangsuporta kanyami tapno malasatan mi ajay a pannubok. Nakatulong mitlang ti ingkami panaggimong ta iso pagal alan mi ti pigsa mi ti inaldaw aldaw.”

*(The advice from my uncle and relatives really helped me to overcome what we went through. Also, to my family who supported me, which made me stronger. Our faith also helped us to guide us daily.)*

Revita (2018), emphasized that familial support plays a key role in the process of desistance, as encouragement and emotional support guide minors toward change. Moreover, Daria et al. (2022) observed that strong parental support and communication mitigated negative outcomes in non-traditional families, emphasizing the protective role of supportive family dynamics in preventing juvenile delinquency

#### **Theme 2: Religious Engagement**

“Nakatulong mitlang ti ingkami panaggimong ta iso pagal alan mi ti pigsa mi ti inaldaw aldaw.”

*(Attending religious services helped us gather strength daily.)*

This is supported by the same study, which found that many youth offenders found moral reformation and peace of mind through religious faith, which helps reshape their worldview and actions. Also, Johnson & Jang (2021) found that participation in religious activities fosters a sense of purpose and reduces the likelihood of reoffending among youth by promoting internal moral regulation and a prosocial identity.

#### **Theme 3: Self-Reflection and Rebuilding**

Participants turned their experiences into lessons and changed their ways.

**Participant 3:**

“Inpakitak kanyada sir a nagbaliwak mula ijay a bandan sir a nariknak nga madi gayam jay inar aramid ko nga adu ti naisurak nga pagparit ti agsubli kin agkita ti pamilyak a kasla sa panggaw po tatta.”

*(I showed them, sir, that I have changed. I realized that what I did was wrong, and I've learned valuable lessons from my mistakes. Now, I'm doing my best to become a better person—for both my family and my community.)*

A study by Daria et al. (2025) found that strong family support and communication significantly mitigate negative outcomes in youth, including delinquency. The research highlights the importance of familial involvement in guiding adolescents toward positive behavior. Additionally, a study by Ando and Wong (2022) found that family bonding, prosocial role models, and religious connections are crucial in the desistance process among youth delinquents. Revived family bonds, in particular, help individuals overcome negative labeling and reclaim positive social identities.

**Participant 4:**

“Imbagak sir ti kakasinsin ko kin pamilyak a no kasano ti ar aramiden dagiti umili a kasapulan payen ti trabahok, ken kasapulan na agtalna.”

*(I told my relatives and family that people need to work hard and stay calm in tough situations, and that's what I've been trying to practice.)*

**Participant 5:**

“Nagkita kanyak sir a nnayunak metdi adi ngitngit panagmin malpas pero itigom kanyak nga agmahay ti biag ko nga paglingwan ko ti way ti katulagan da no adi ko insikap nanungtungan ti tala kin nawaywaya,”

*(I realized sir, that I didn't have to be angry anymore. Now, I regret my actions and I am trying to live my life differently, focusing on making better decisions and learning from my mistakes in the past.)*

These personal reflections align with research showing that self-awareness, emotional regulation, and support systems are key elements in the desistance process—helping individuals move away from harmful behaviors and toward constructive life choices. A study by LeBlanc & Loeber (2022) found that programs focusing on emotional regulation and anger management significantly reduce recidivism in justice-involved youth. Along with, research by Masten & Tellegen (2021) highlighted that resilience, particularly the ability to remain calm under stress, is a strong predictor of positive adaptation in youth who have faced adversity.

**D. Realization of the Minor Offenders After Committing Crimes****Theme 1: Regret and Desire for Redemption**

**They expressed remorse and wished they could undo what they did.**

**Participants 1 & 2:**

“No maikkan nak man gundaway sir ket isu atoy tay pinangtungpal ko kuma kas manong ni adeng ko haan mi kuma dijay nga naaramid no pinatek tay pammagbaga kanyak ni antek nga madi mi nga patayin dijay nga tao ta ipaubaya me lattan kuma kano nga ti batas ti agtignay ngrm anyan ta nailaw an kamin isunga tatta idawdawat mi nga mapakaan nakami ni Apo Dios ng auray naurnusini ijay mata ti batas ngim kin Apo madi. Isunga kanayun kami gim gimong ta kunana mit ijay sao ni Apo madi pay naladaw ti amin.”

*(If I were given the chance sir, I would do what my aunt told me to do. We shouldn't have done those wrong things, especially killing that person. We should have followed the law and trusted the justice system instead of taking matters into our own hands. We ask for forgiveness, and we hope that people will continue to guide us so that we don't repeat those mistakes.)*



### Participant 5:

“No maisubli kuma ajay nga oras madi nak lattan kuma nagbisyo ta tunggal bagbagaan nak ni tatang ko kin inang ko madik patpatchen isunga agbabbabawi ak ijay nga gundaway ngi uray nu kasta ado naadal ko nga isut isut iyad adal ko kadagitoy annak ko tatta nga ibagbagak kanayun kanyada agbisyo kayunto inton addan tu trabaho yun”

*(If I could go back sir, I wouldn't have fallen into vices. I would have listened to my father and mother, who kept reminding me not to commit those wrong actions. If I had that chance again, I would teach my children to avoid vices and guide them towards a good future, especially when they have a permanent and decent job soon.)*

According to Revita (2018), regret and guilt are clear indicators that juvenile offenders are moving toward change and redemption, often sparked by reflection or spiritual encounters. Survivors value offenders taking responsibility for their actions, which is crucial for healing and they need change over time, including acknowledgment of harm, validation, and community support (Natalie Hadar & Tali Gal, 2023).

### Theme 2: Commitment to Prevent Others from Following the Same Path

They wanted to use their experiences to guide the youth.

### Participant 3:

“Kayat ko itamak ajay inar aramid ko nga apan agtakaw sir, kin kayat ko nga ibaga ijay kabataan tatta nga haan da araramiden ajay a banag kin adu ti napidut ko ijay a banag sir.”

*(I want to correct my act of stealing, sir. I would like to tell the youth now not to do the things I did. I learned many lessons from my mistakes.)*

To strengthen the findings, the study conducted by Lud-ayen, Torres, and Vicente (2023) revealed that the majority of children committing theft were aged 15 to 17, predominantly male, and in their first or second year of secondary education. In connection with this, Philstar reported that, in the last quarter of 2023, 59% of the 347 complaints investigated by the Baguio City Prosecutor's Office involved minors. Theft was among the most common offenses committed by minors, highlighting the need for targeted interventions (2024).

### Participant 4:

“Siyak sir kayat ko itama tay naaramid ko nga krimen ta nagrigat ti paglabasan ti maysa a tao no nakaarmid ti madi isunga ti maibagak kadagijay kabataan tatta tungpalin yo kuma ti pammagbaga ti nagannak yo ta para kanyayo metlang ata.”

*(Yes sir, I want to correct the crime I committed because I know how hard life is for someone who commits a wrong. I want to tell the young ones to follow the teachings of their parents because it will help them to avoid mistakes like mine.)*

This mirrors the findings of the University of Portsmouth (2020), which state that moral development and empathy help former offenders internalize lessons and share them to prevent recidivism in others. Thus, the role of faith in helping youth navigate challenges and find meaning during difficult times (Fatima et al., 2020).

### Theme 3: Spiritual Renewal

Faith helped them process their guilt and move forward.

### Participants 1 & 2: (continued)

“Kanayun kami maki gimgimong ta kuna na met ijay sai ni Apo nga madi pay naladaw ti amin.”

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*(We constantly attend worship services because the word of God says all sins can be forgiven.)*

Religious coping is an important strategy that gives hope and emotional relief, as supported by Revita (2018), helping the youth move forward after painful experiences.

In line with this, individuals with higher levels of positive religious coping reported better mental well-being despite high perceived stress. The study underscores the importance of integrating religious coping strategies into mental health interventions in the Philippines (Del Castillo & Alino, 2022)

## Summary

This study generally aimed to describe the reasons, challenges and coping mechanisms encountered by the former children in conflict with the law in Quirino specifically in the municipalities of Aglipay and Nagtipunan.

To gather the needed data the researchers prepared their guide questions based on the statement of the problem and followed the data gathering procedure and ethical considerations in conducting research.

The researchers used qualitative descriptive method that utilized phenomenological research design. The participants of this study are five (5) former children in conflict with the law of the municipalities of Aglipay and Nagtipunan. To identify the participants of the study the researchers used purposive sampling technique. In addition, the researchers also used demographic profile of the participants and used thematic analysis to analyze the narrated experiences of the participants.

## CONCLUSION

Relative to the summary and results, the following conclusions were raised:

- 1.All participants are males, some was no read no write and the others was secondary and primary graduates; most of the participant belong to the age bracket between 10-17 years old; and majority was murder in their nature of offense and the others was theft.
- 2.The challenges experienced by the participants include difficulty in finding jobs, humiliated, also psychological and emotional problems.
- 3.The reasons such former children in conflict with the law commits crime was influenced by others, financially unstable, unemployment of their parents and no education.
- 4.The coping mechanisms encountered by the participants involve reaching out to the highest king of heaven, the participants realign their faith through expressing gratitude and love for self-reliant.
- 5.The realizations experienced by the participants was showing life that must always ensure reality with hope especially the advantage by the love and grace of our almighty heavenly God.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Strengthen community support by encouraging local initiatives that provide guidance and assistance to former CICL.
2. Improves access to education and vocational training, giving them the chance to build a better future and stay away from illegal activities.
3. Create programs that will help former CICL move forward, especially by providing job opportunities and addressing the stigma they face.

4. Strengthen laws and policies that protect former CICL from discrimination, ensuring that they are treated fairly and given equal opportunities.

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