

Management of Youth Care Facility (Bahay Pag-asa) in Cabanatuan City in the Enforcement of R.A. 10630 on Diversion and Intervention Programs for Children in Conflict with the Law

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the management and implementation of diversion and intervention programs at the Youth Care Facility (Bahay Pag-asa) in Cabanatuan City. It employed a quantitative descriptive research design supplemented by documentary analysis. Total enumeration included 24 personnel directly involved in facility operations. A validated structured questionnaire using a four-point Likert-type scale measured planning, actual implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and the management of diversion and intervention programs. Descriptive statistics summarized the assessments, while the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test examined the difference between diversion and intervention management. Planning ($M = 3.5792$), actual implementation ($M = 3.7042$), and

monitoring and evaluation ($M = 3.7750$) were rated to a Very Great Extent. Diversion program management ($M = 3.6667$) and intervention program management ($M = 3.8000$) were likewise rated to a Very Great Extent. A statistically significant difference was found between diversion and intervention management ($W = 17.000$, $z = -2.994$, $p = .003$, $r = .611$), with intervention receiving the higher rating. Documentary records showed educational, psychosocial, spiritual, livelihood, recreational, health-related, family, case-management, and reintegration services. Facilitating factors included staff teamwork, institutional support, and family and community participation, while weak family cooperation, behavioral and adjustment challenges, resource constraints, specialist staffing limitations, and operational barriers constrained implementation. The study proposes policy directions emphasizing personnel welfare and professionalization, legal compliance, multidisciplinary governance, child-centered rehabilitation, family involvement and aftercare, holistic development, and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

Keywords: *Bahay Pag-asa, children in conflict with the law, diversion, intervention, juvenile justice, rehabilitation, restorative justice*

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile justice has increasingly moved from purely punitive responses toward rehabilitation, restorative justice, protection of children's rights, and successful reintegration. In the Philippines, Republic Act No. 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, as amended by Republic Act No. 10630, establishes a child-sensitive juvenile justice and welfare system that promotes diversion, intervention, rehabilitation, reintegration, and the best interests of the child. Bahay Pag-asa functions within this system as a 24-hour child-caring institution for qualified Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

Management is central to translating these legal and rehabilitative principles into actual services. Planning determines needs, objectives, responsibilities, resources, and individualized interventions; implementation converts plans into educational, psychosocial, livelihood, spiritual, recreational, health, and

family-related services; and monitoring and evaluation provide information on resident progress, program delivery, and areas requiring adjustment.

In Cabanatuan City, the Youth Care Facility is funded, managed, and operated by the local government and provides residential and developmental services for CICL. The study was anchored on Social Learning Theory, Ecological Systems Theory, and the Restorative Justice perspective, which collectively frame rehabilitation as behavioral development, environmental support, accountability, restoration, and reintegration.

This study assessed the extent of management and implementation of diversion and intervention programs in terms of planning, actual implementation, and monitoring and evaluation; compared respondents' assessments of diversion and intervention program management; documented existing initiatives; identified facilitating and limiting factors; and used the findings as the basis for policy directions intended to strengthen child rights-based rehabilitation.

METHODS

Research Design

The study employed a quantitative descriptive research design supplemented by documentary analysis. The descriptive survey determined respondents' assessments of the management and implementation of diversion and intervention programs. Documentary materials were used only to contextualize the quantitative findings and were not treated as a separate qualitative component or subjected to thematic analysis.

Research Locale

The study was conducted at the Youth Care Facility (Bahay Pag-asa) in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. The facility is managed and supported by the Local Government Unit of Cabanatuan City and provides residential care and rehabilitation-related services for CICL.

Respondents and Sampling Technique

The respondents were 24 personnel directly involved in facility operations: three Bahay Pag-asa administrators, three social workers, 17 house parents, and one respondent classified under another position. Total enumeration was employed because all qualified personnel comprising the accessible population were included.

Research Instrument

A structured survey questionnaire assessed planning, actual implementation, monitoring and evaluation, management of the diversion program, and management of the intervention program using a four-point Likert-type scale. The instrument underwent expert validation and reliability testing. Reported Cronbach's alpha coefficients ranged from 0.659 to 0.890 across the tested scales.

Data Gathering and Ethical Considerations

Approvals were secured before data collection. Participation was voluntary, confidentiality and anonymity were maintained, and institutional records were reviewed only with permission. Special care was observed in handling information involving CICL because of its sensitive and protected nature.

Statistical Treatment

Frequency and percentage described respondent characteristics. Means and standard deviations summarized management and implementation ratings. The Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test examined the difference between paired diversion and intervention ratings because the paired difference scores did not satisfy the normality assumption. The significance level was .05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Management and Implementation of Programs

Table 1. *Summary of Management Dimensions*

Management Dimension	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Planning	3.5792	0.38105	Very Great Extent
Actual Implementation	3.7042	0.22550	Very Great Extent
Monitoring and Evaluation	3.7750	0.20054	Very Great Extent

All three management dimensions were assessed to a Very Great Extent. Monitoring and evaluation obtained the highest overall mean, followed by actual implementation and planning. The pattern indicates that the strongest assessed management component was systematic monitoring of resident progress, documentation, case review, and the use of evaluation information in decision-making.

Within planning, clearly defined program goals and adherence to juvenile justice laws were among the highest-rated indicators, while community stakeholder participation received the comparatively lowest rating. In actual implementation, protection of CICL rights and compliance with legal standards received the highest ratings. Monitoring and evaluation was particularly strong in regular monitoring of children's progress, while feedback from children and parents and post-program follow-up were comparatively less consistently rated.

Diversion and Intervention Program Management

Table 2. *Diversion and Intervention Program Management*

Program	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Diversion Program	3.6667	0.28993	Very Great Extent
Intervention Program	3.8000	0.25538	Very Great Extent

Both diversion and intervention programs were managed to a Very Great Extent, although intervention management obtained the higher mean. Within diversion management, performance assessment and monitoring were highly rated, while records and documentation received the comparatively lowest rating. Within intervention management, educational interventions, spiritual formation, and overall intervention management received the highest ratings, while psychological interventions received the lowest mean.

Table 3. *Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test for Difference in Management Ratings*

Comparison	W	z	p-value	Effect Size r	Decision
Diversion vs. Intervention	17.000	-2.994	.003	.611	Reject H_0

The Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test showed a statistically significant difference between respondents' ratings of diversion and intervention program management ($W = 17.000$, $z = -2.994$, $p = .003$), with a reported effect size of $r = .611$. Intervention services received the higher overall rating. The dissertation relates this pattern to the more structured and institution-based nature of intervention services, whereas diversion requires broader coordination with families, local government units, schools, and community stakeholders.

Documented Diversion and Intervention Initiatives

Documentary records supported the presence of multidimensional rehabilitation services, including spiritual and religious formation; core social, home-life, and educational services; livelihood, agriculture, and skills development; sports, recreation, and sociocultural activities; health and psychosocial services; community participation and external partnerships; case management, counseling, monitoring, and preparation for reintegration. Educational continuity was illustrated through school coordination and modular learning, while livelihood activities included gardening, animal rearing, rug-making, craft activities, and digital-literacy training.

The documentary evidence was interpreted as supplementary rather than causal. Participation in programs and subsequent positive circumstances reported in selected success stories were not treated as proof that particular interventions directly caused later outcomes; rather, the records illustrated how program components assessed quantitatively were translated into actual services and experiences.

Facilitating and Limiting Factors

Table 4. *Major Facilitating and Limiting Factors*

Facilitating Factors	Frequency	Limiting Factors	Frequency
Staff teamwork and multi-agency coordination	9	Family noncooperation/weak coordination	9
Family and community participation	7	Client behavior/noncompliance/adjustment	9
LGU/government and institutional support	7	Insufficient budget/resources/specialist staffing	8
Planning, staff commitment, program development	7	Operational barriers	5

Implementation was facilitated by staff teamwork, multidisciplinary and inter-agency coordination, family and community participation, institutional support, planning, and staff commitment. Conversely, family noncooperation or weak coordination, behavioral and adjustment difficulties among CICL, limited financial and material resources, shortages of specialist personnel, and operational barriers constrained implementation.

Policy Directions

The proposed policy framework synthesizes the study's findings around personnel welfare and professionalization; legal compliance and protection of CICL rights; multidisciplinary governance and monitoring; child-centered rehabilitation and behavior management; family involvement and structured aftercare; holistic educational, livelihood, and life-skills development; and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

CONCLUSION

Bahay Pag-asa Cabanatuan City was assessed as managing planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, diversion, and intervention programs to a Very Great Extent. Monitoring and evaluation emerged as the highest-rated management dimension, while intervention program management received a significantly higher rating than diversion program management. Documentary records showed that rehabilitation was implemented through educational, psychosocial, spiritual, livelihood, recreational, health-related, family, case-management, and reintegration-oriented services. Effective program implementation was shaped by staff teamwork, institutional support, family and community participation, available resources, specialist services, and operational coordination. The resulting policy directions

emphasize an integrated governance approach that protects CICL rights while strengthening personnel capacity, family involvement, multidisciplinary collaboration, holistic development, aftercare, and continuous evaluation.

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