
Balay Silangan Reformation Needs Assessment: Basis for Community Extension Program

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ABSTRACT

Rehabilitation is medical assistance that can help you regain, maintain, or increase the abilities you need to function in daily life. These skills could be cognitive, mental, or physical (thinking and learning). You might have lost them as a result of an illness, an accident, or a side effect from medical treatment. Rehabilitation can improve your daily life and functioning. This study entitled “Balay Silangan Reformation Needs Assessment: Basis for Community Extension Program was conducted to assess the needs of the surrenderees in Balay Silangan Reformation Center in Tangub City and to come up with a possible community extension program. The 50 participants were surrenderees in Balay Silangan Rehabilitation who were considered as participants in this study through checklist questionnaire and interview guide questions. This study was used a concurrent mixed methods of research design. A researcher-made questionnaire and survey questionnaire was used as a data gathering instrument. The results in Balay Silangan Reformation needs assessment revealed that lecture on R.A. 9165 was in the education and health, personal and life skills in psychological, spiritual and physical activities, and lastly, green revolution program (gardening) in livelihood or employment education. On the contrary, the researchers discovered that the predominant feeling experienced inside the Balay Silangan Rehabilitation Center was happiness. The surrenderees viewpoints about the program were good. It was good enough for their evaluation of the said program. Indeed, they looked for a good job, and love and support from the family were their needs for reformation. Moreover, illegal drug users should enter or stay in Balay Silangan for rehabilitation.

KEYWORDS: *Rehabilitation, Balay Silangan, Surrenderees, Green Revolution Program, Illegal Drug User, Education and Health*

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, drug addiction is a major problem, particularly in the Philippines, where Rodrigo R. Duterte is the president and has declared war on drugs. Majority were apprehended and sent to treatment facilities. Regardless of how long they have been dependent, drug addicts can find lasting relief from the ravages of chemical dependency with inpatient treatment and a thorough aftercare program. Drug addiction may shatter hopes, dreams, and lives. The Balay Silangan Reformation Centers are one of the PDEA's (Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) efforts aimed at helping drug offenders become self-sufficient, law-abiding citizens.

Balay Silangan was conceptualized to serve as an instrument for the reformation of drug personalities who avail of plea bargaining in light of the Supreme Court in the case. This serves as an alternative intervention for drug personalities who are not eligible to be admitted in Treatment and Rehabilitation facilities supervised by the Department of Health (DOH). Aquino [1] noted that, general interventions, like continuing education and health awareness, and psychological/spiritual/physical activities such as counseling, moral recovery, values formation, personal and life skills, among others, are provided under the program. Livelihood and skills training programs which include soap making, massage training, basic carpentry, welding, hair cutting, etc., are likewise provided to give drug reformers employment opportunities.

In Tanguib City, Balay Silangan was also built where the Oplan Tokhang surrenderees underwent reformation process. This establishment and operation of drug reformation program in the city ensures that the surrenderees will be assisted in their quest to change or reform their lives. It is in this context that the researchers conducted this study in order to determine the needs of the surrenderees in Balay Silangan. The result of the study will be the basis of the community extension services or programs to be facilitated by the School of Criminal Justice Education.

METHODS

This study used concurrent mixed methods research design. This study was conducted in Balay Silangan Rehabilitation Tanguib City. The participants of this study were the 50-drug users surrenderees of Rehabilitation in Balay Silangan. They were selected randomly. The researchers utilized a questionnaire checklist as well as an interview guide which was formulated based from the City Ordinance as instruments to gather the needed data. The said instruments assessed the needs of the surrenderees. The questionnaire and the interview guide were submitted to the research adviser and research editor for validity and reliability. After that, suggestions and comments were integrated prior to the distribution to the respondents. The researchers informed the respondents about the purpose of their study and to assured them the information which was gathered from them was confidential. The qualitative tool was used in analyzing and summarizing the data. It was used to determine the response on the needs of the surrenderees in Balay Silangan Rehabilitation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The table shows the needs of the respondents as to education on illegal drugs. As shown, Lecture on RA 9165 has the highest rate of 78% which means that 39 out of the 50 participants agree to undergo lecture on RA 9165. RA 9165 or the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002" is the policy of the State to safeguard the integrity of its territory and the well-being of its citizenry particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs on their physical and mental well-being, and to defend the same against acts or omissions detrimental to their development and preservation. On the other hand, it can be noticed that majority of the respondents really wanted to undergo education on illegal drugs.

Table 1. *Education on Illegal Drugs*

Indicators	Yes		No	
	f	%	f	%
1. Knowledge on illegal drugs	36	72	14	28
2. Ill effects of illegal drugs	37	74	13	24
3. Lecture on RA 9165	39	78	11	22

The table depicts psychological, spiritual and physical activities as needed by the respondents. As illustrated, it can be observed that 45 or 90% of the respondents answered that they want to undergo personal and life skills activities. These activities may enhance their abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable humans to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life.

Table 2. *Psychological/Spiritual/Physical Activities*

Indicators	Yes		No	
	f	%	f	%
1. Counseling/Consultative meeting	31	62	19	38
2. Moral Recovery Activities	33	66	17	34
3. Values Formation	33	66	17	34
4. Personal and Life Skills	45	90	5	10
5. Community Service	31	62	19	38
6. Exercises and Sports Activities	38	76	12	24
7. Family Visitation	31	62	19	38

The table presents livelihood and education program. As observed, Green revolution program has the highest rate of 94% which means the 47 out of the 50 participants wanted to be part of this program which is the gardening. By the Philippine Proclamation No. 1619, s. 1977, the Green Revolution Project is a necessary corollary to the Nutrition Program encouraging the backyard planting of nourishing vegetables and fruits.

Table 3. *Livelihood or Employment Education*

Indicators	Yes		No	
	f	%	f	%
1. Green Revolution Program (Gardening)	47	94	3	6

2. Soap Making	29	58	21	42
3. Massage Training or Reflexology	31	62	19	38
4. Basic Carpentry	42	84	8	16
5. Basic Welding and Electrical	45	90	5	10
6. Basic Hair cutting	26	52	24	48
7. Food Processing	31	62	19	38
8. Mushroom Culture	30	60	20	40

RESULTS ON THE INTERVIEW

The researchers conducted the interview to the 50 surrenderees of Rehabilitation in Balay Silangan. They answered the questions from the interview guide.

Theme 1: The Feeling of Being Happy

True happiness is more about having a sense that life matters in some way. This can emerge from things like doing work that we value, making an impact in the world, or building stronger connections with others. Based on the participants' responses, eleven out of fifty Balay Silangan Surrenderees answered that the feeling inside the rehabilitation was being happy. The other feelings are great, worried, bored, shame, loneliness and sadness. This implies that being happy is the majority feelings during the time when they are in Balay Silangan Rehabilitation.

Participants 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 16, 18, 19, 23, 35 and 47 shared this:

I was happy when I was inside the Balay Silangan and I have changed a lot, I see the difference when the time that I have vices, and when I'm inside I see that I must let go of my vices.

Participants 13, 14, 20, 21, 29, 31, 38, 42, 43, 44 and 46 also shared

It's great because I have given the chance to change.

Based on the study of Haybron [2], psychological condition of being happy is best understood as a matter of a person's emotional condition. I elucidate the notion of an emotional condition by introducing two distinctions concerning affect, and argue that this "emotional state" view is probably superior on intuitive and substantive grounds to theories that identify happiness with pleasure or life satisfaction.

Theme 2 : Good

Based on the responses of the participants, 19 out of 50 surrenderees said that Balay Silangan Rehabilitation program was good. Rehabilitation program for visually impaired persons are designed to provide the individual with the skills necessary to regain independence in functioning following a significant loss of sight. Other viewpoints are great program, nice program or some said it was awesome program.

Participants 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 16, 18, 19, 23, 35 and 47 shared this:

For me, the program is good.

Participants 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 16, 18, 26, 27, 39, 40, 44 and 46 also shared

This program was a great help.

Based on the study of Taxman and Blasko [3], rehabilitation and treatment programming requires a comprehensive set of measures to describe the clients in the program, the program features, and the organization setting where the program operates. The features of the program include phases, target activities, continuum of care, and incentives. Proximal outcomes occur at the client level such as initiation, engagement and retention in programs and at the organizational level such as procedural justice, therapeutic alliance and fit.

Theme 3 : Good Enough

Out of fifty surrenderees in Balay Silangan who answered the guide question, there were 42 of them shared that the program was good enough. The other viewpoints are betterment and satisfying.

Participants 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, 48 and 49 shared this:

For me, this program was good enough because I realized my wrong doings but it's up to the person if they want to change or not.

Participants 38 and 39 also shared

I'm already satisfied with this program.

According to Grindle [4], the concept of good enough governance provides a platform for questioning the long menu of institutional changes and capacity-building initiatives currently deemed important (or essential) for development. Nevertheless, it falls short of being a tool to explore what, specifically, needs to be done in any real-world context.

Theme 4 : Look for a Good Job

Out of fifty surrenderees in Balay Silangan who answered the guide question, twenty-seven of them shared their opinions about looking for a job as their need for reformation. Others also said that support from family, counseling values formation, and to be part of spiritual group or association

Participants 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 40, 41 and 50 shared this:

I need to have a good job so that I wouldn't be tempted by using illegal drugs.

Participants 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 44 and 39 also shared

The love and support of my family

According to Blicq [5], job seeker who tailors each resume and application letter to capture the interest of a particular employer is far more likely to elicit a response than a job seeker who simply sends copies of a standard resume and letter to every employer. In a highly competitive job market, careful orchestration of the whole employment-seeking process is essential, from resume preparation to personal presentation during an interview.

Theme 5 : Illegal Drug Users Should Enter Balay Silangan

As seen in the participants' responses above, it can be perceived that eleven of the surrenderees who answered the guide questions said that all illegal drug users should enter Balay Silangan for them to be transformed. Some said that have alliances with government and non-government agencies for the linkages in business industry.

Participants 1, 5, 6, 7, 33, 34, 36, 38, 42, 43 and 44 shared this:

For the development of this program, all illegal drug users should enter Balay Silangan for them to be transformed.

Participants 21 and 23 also shared

Have partners in business industry and have linkages in government agencies who can help to have job as source of living.

The international consensus to end compulsory drug treatments and close forced rehabilitation facilities needs urgent transformation to country policies. In the Philippines, as with other countries in Asia, rehabilitation can be compulsory and is seen as the humane alternative to the “war on drugs.” It presents the landscape of rehabilitation and narrate the ways in which people who use drugs are forced to undergo treatment (Lasco & Yarcia) [6].

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings, the following conclusions are drawn. The researchers believe that there is room for substantial improvement in surrenderees and that some immediate changes are needed in programs, information, and attitudes. These changes are recommended, in part, in response to Balay Silangan Reformation needs assessment as basis for Institute of Criminal Justice Education Community Extension Program. Nevertheless, lecture on RA 9165, activities on personal and life skills and green revolution program (gardening) should be the focus of the community extension programs.

The following recommendations are offered based on the findings and conclusion of this study. The school should make a project proposal for the enhancement of the extension program; one that is sustainable and research-based. On this study, the surrenderees would want to engage into green revolution program (gardening) and the basic on welding and electrical skills they must have partnership with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to enhance and develop the skills of all drug surrenderees. Second, must have a partnership with Philippine National Police and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. Qualified or credible speakers in any of these two agencies would be the resource speaker to address the issues on R.A. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) [7]. Recommendation about the resource person should be coming from the mentioned agencies. Personnel from school must coordinate to the specific law enforcement agency to be the implementor and facilitator in conducting personal and life skills activities. Concerned

partner industries should always be tapped in whatever extension programs that the school must have in order to establish a stronger alliance with them so as to come with a sustainable partnership and program.

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