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Diverse Sectors' Role in the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency: Revisiting and Strengthening the Juvenile Welfare Framework

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ABSTRACT

This quantitative study systematically assessed the adherence level of various sectors (the Filipino family, educational system, mass media, Local Councils for the Protection of Children, and Local Social Welfare and Development Officers) in preventing juvenile delinquency. Employing a descriptive survey design, data were gathered via convenience sampling from community residents and sector representatives in delinquency-prone barangays of San Pablo City, Laguna. Data analysis utilized frequency percentage, weighted means, and a one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that all evaluated sectors are "Fully Adherent" to their mandated roles. However, the ANOVA revealed a statistically significant difference in adherence levels across these different sectors ($F = 5.702, p = 0.000$). The Filipino family achieved the highest mean score of 3.71, serving as the critical primary buffer against adolescent deviance, though exhibiting a minor vulnerability in active recreational supervision. Conversely, the LSWDO obtained the lowest mean score of 3.54, highlighting the complex operational challenges and resource constraints inherent to localized institutional case management and physical facility oversight. The study concludes that while general compliance is robust, a cohesive multisectoral approach is required to bridge localized multi-agency operational gaps. Recommendations include developing community-led parental monitoring programs, institutionalizing specialized school-based restorative justice frameworks, strictly enforcing media privacy guidelines for minors, and expanding local government logistical support to enhance institutional regulatory monitoring and facility inspections.

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency poses a significant threat to social stability, community safety, and national development (Zai & Wani, 2020). The issue is multifaceted, with myriad interconnected factors contributing to a young person's risk of engaging in criminal behavior, including family dynamics, peer influence, socioeconomic status, and mental health (Zai *et al.*, 2022). The importance multi-pronged strategies for prevention of delinquency were established in vast body of literature, highlighting that youth thrive in supportive environments with consistent guidance (Sharma, 2024). However, communities face challenges in its prevention strategies such as high population density (Chitereka *et al.*, 2025), economic deprivation (Atrey & Singh, 2024), and weakened social relations (Armstead *et al.*, 2021), which can heighten the risk of juvenile offenses. In response, governments and organizations worldwide have enacted juvenile welfare policies aimed at rehabilitation over punishment, recognizing that children in conflict with the law are often victims of their circumstances (Nazim *et al.*, 2024; Sahni, 2025).

While existing literature and policies emphasize the need for multi-sectoral approaches, a significant gap remains in the practical implementation and coordination of these efforts (Maskay, 2025; Kanwel, 2024; and Andaya, 2025). Research has shown that even well-intentioned juvenile justice laws are not always fully or effectively implemented

at the local level due to issues such as financial constraints (Case & Haines, 2021), lack of personnel (Elrod & Ryder, 2020), and insufficient training (Elliott *et al.*, 2020). The conventional model often relies on fragmented and under-resourced services, failing to provide the individualized, comprehensive programs required for effective rehabilitation and reintegration (Sato, 2024; Behrmann, 2025; Ikk, 2025). Moreover, analyses of existing policies, such as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in the Philippines, reveal a tendency to adapt adult-oriented processes rather than fully embrace a child-centric, restorative approach (Forones, 2017; Gonzales *et al.*, 2023; and Ciedelle *et al.*, 2024). There is a need to move beyond identifying risk and protective factors and evaluate how different sectors can collaboratively and effectively implement prevention strategies (Edrolin, 2013; Gonzales *et al.*, 2023; and Pei, 2025).

This study aims to address this gap by investigating the current and potential roles of diverse sectors; Filipino family, educational system, mass media, local councils for the protection of children, and the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer, in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Specifically, it seeks to identify the barriers and opportunities for collaboration among these sectors and assess how existing juvenile welfare policies can be strengthened to facilitate a more cohesive and impactful multi-sectoral response. By revisiting and analyzing policy

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implementation from a holistic, inter-sector perspective, this research intends to offer empirically supported recommendations for enhancing prevention efforts and improving outcomes for children at-risk and those in conflict with the law.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Rationale

Nowadays, numerous incidents of law-breaking activities involving minor-aged individuals were reported by mainstream media and even made viral in the social media (Santos, 2023; Abelgas, 2019; Soberano, 2019; Jimenez, 2018; & Cagayan Provincial Information Office, 2016). Even though the number of juvenile delinquencies reported declined from the year 2015 to 2018 (Philippine National Police, 2020), the current trend is still considered alarming, and the decreasing statistics of such occurrences was only based on a report of a single agency. In short, the reports lack the verification and confirmation of the other entities or groups engaged by the law in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency as provided under Chapter 1, Title III of Republic Act No. 9344 or otherwise known as the “Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006”. The said provisions provided the roles of the different sectors towards the prevention of juvenile delinquency such as the Filipino family (sec. 12), the educational system (sec. 13), the role of the mass media (sec. 14), the local councils for the protection of children (sec. 15), and Local Social Welfare and Development Officer (sec. 16).

In the fulfillment of the stated policy to recognize the vital role of children and youth in nation building and promoting and protecting their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; and likewise, the inculcation of patriotism and nationalism to the youth, and encouraging their involvement in public and civic affairs (Sec. 2, Chap. 1, Title I, RA No. 9344; and Sec. 13, Art. II, 1987 Philippine Constitution), it is therefore imperative to revisit and re-evaluate the juvenile welfare policies of the state in concerting the efforts of the abovementioned entities and institutions towards the prevention of juvenile delinquencies. Hence, the proponents took interest on the topic ‘Diverse Sectors’ Role in the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency,’ aimed to assess the implementation and effectiveness of certain provisions of RA No. 9344, and develop strategies and programs that will be able to strengthen the juvenile welfare framework on the prevention of delinquent behaviors among children and youth.

Juvenile Delinquency

An individual who has not reached the age of majority is referred to as a juvenile. Specifically, the engagement of minors who are below 18 years of age in criminal activity that undermines public laws and order is referred to as juvenile delinquency. However, each state around the world varies in that definition. When a child engages in anti-social behavior, it is being assumed that their mental

faculties are not yet fully developed and decision making to be involved on such behavior is with the absence of malice (Bidya, 2023).

Nonetheless, minor infractions are increasingly alarming but sometimes minors are also considered victims with multifaceted needs that lead to a public wellbeing approach requiring a balance of welfare and justice models. Delinquency in third world countries varies and lacks legal outlines, likewise insufficient specialists. Yet the incorporation of legal, psychiatric, and developmental approaches has already been established in the United Kingdom and other economically advance countries. This is known as the evidence-based therapeutic intervention philosophy. It is further implicated by Mwangangi (2019) stating that a multi-sectorial engagement in offering solutions to juvenile crime such as the community, schools, the religious communities, and government authorities, other than the justice system, is very crucial and impeccable.

The Role of the Family

Families, especially the parents, complies with the programs and intervention strategies that are design to provide parental training programs, family therapy programs, and integrated approach programs. The programs target the risk factors linked to the families; and the youths who are identified as at risk of developing delinquent behavior or those already involved in delinquent activities (Public Safety Canada, 2022). It can be noted that family factors correlatively contributed to juvenile delinquency, and likewise the family performs a vital role toward the prevention of minor infractions in the society. A study noted that there are numerous family-related factors that impact on child crime including parental attitudes, the degree of family cohesion, physical violence, and uninvolved parenting (Mwangangi, 2019). This supported by an article from the “The Rising Panjab”, stating that juvenile delinquency is a complex issue, and many factors can contribute to it, such as poverty, family dysfunction, peer pressure, substance abuse, and mental health problems.

The roles of the family in the prevention of delinquency is rooted from different factors, thus requiring individualized prevention strategies to address various factors to delinquency. Like in the study of Papakitsou (2024), it highlights that dysfunctional parenting, such as harsh discipline or neglect, is a major driver of delinquency, consequently demanding early family-focused interventions to reduce tendencies of youth violence. It advocates for integrated family therapies and community support programs as key, evidence-based tools for prevention and rehabilitation. Likewise, Rathi & Dhariwal (2025) suggest that effective parental monitoring, strong family cohesion, and emotional openness significantly reduce the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. Family breakdown significantly impacts child well-being, underscoring the vital role of a stable family unit in mitigating social issues and preventing

juvenile delinquency (Almesemari, 2022). Coşkun & Sarica (2025) propose counseling, health, educational, and care services as protective measures against delinquency. However, they also mentioned that the high volume of juvenile delinquency and significant individual differences currently limit the success of preventive efforts such as post-delinquency support programs.

When it comes to prevention models, Nijhawan (2023) provides a stable and supportive home environment, parents as a model of positive behavior, open and honest communication, monitoring of children's activities, and seeking professional help in case of signs of delinquent behavior. While Coşkun & Sarica (2025) propose to examine the causes and services related to juvenile delinquency through a developmental framework. This perspective could offer crucial insights for designing effective interventions tailored to youth at different life stages. In addition, Rathi & Dhariwal (2025) propose family-based therapies or multi-systemic approaches as interventions to combat the family origins of delinquency, thereby guiding the development of effective prevention and support measures for vulnerable youth.

Role of Educational System

Educational institutions play a critical and multifaceted role in the prevention of juvenile delinquency by serving as protective factors and implementing intervention strategies (Aazami *et al.*, 2023; Alias *et al.*, 2024). Schools are primary socialization agents, second only to the family, and their influence can either mitigate or exacerbate risk factors for delinquent behavior (Lenzi *et al.*, 2019; Milašiūnaitė & Goštautaitė, 2023). Positive relationships between students and caring teachers or mentors are associated with a lower likelihood of delinquent behavior (Wilkinson *et al.*, 2019; Obsuth *et al.*, 2023). Moreover, after-school programs offer a safe, structured environment during peak hours for juvenile crime, providing academic support and opportunities for positive social interaction, which is linked to decreased delinquency rates (McDonald, 2019; Robinson, 2023; Vincent, 2025).

Schools are in a unique position to identify “at-risk” youth and may implement targeted programs. Teachers and staff can detect early signs of maladjustment or behavioral problems and should establish clear referral lines for serious cases (Owoniye, 2022; and Ofori, 2023). Further, low academic achievement and learning challenges are known risk factors for justice system involvement (Gubbels *et al.*, 2019; Kennedy-Turner *et al.*, 2021). Therefore, schools must adjust programs to meet the individual needs of children with problems and address basic needs and learning disabilities (Kovaleski *et al.*, 2022; and Shutaleva *et al.*, 2023). One of those evidence-based frameworks is Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which emphasizes that teaching and reinforcing appropriate behaviors significantly reduce disciplinary referrals and suspension factors known to heighten the risk of justice system involvement (Gage

et al., 2020; Cason-Clemons, 2020; Valentine, 2024; and Mitchell, 2025).

Another school-based prevention method is developing non-criminogenic attitudes and life skills that is crucial for prevention through promoting social-emotional competencies of youth. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs teach students to understand and manage their emotions, develop empathy, and maintain positive relationships (LaBelle, 2023; Gimbert *et al.*, 2023; and Martinez & Gomez, 2024). Participation in SEL programs is associated with improved behavior and lower delinquency rates, especially if reinforced with other techniques (Hicksa, 2024; Robinson, 2024; Muser, 2025). Other specific SEL enhancing method is Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice. Restorative justice practices focus on resolving conflicts through dialogue and repairing harm rather than solely punitive measures. These practices can reduce recidivism and improve school community relationships by reinforcing accountability (Ward-Seidel, 2022; Hendricks & Smith, 2025).

Some authors also suggest that collaboration and systemic change are effective prevention strategies that require schools to look beyond their own walls and engage with other stakeholders. A Home-School-Community Cooperation considers working closely with parents and community agencies (Ryan & Lannin, 2021; and Scully, 2025); although it also ensures a coordinated, comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of a child subjected to juvenile justice system, and delinquency prevention targets (Evans *et al.*, 2021; Jieli & Ying, 2023; and Spiteri & Cin, 2025). Further, integrating risk-awareness education into school curricula is vital for mitigating high-risk youth behaviors like gambling that contribute to juvenile delinquency (Bilegera, 2025). Moreover, school exclusion practices such as suspension and expulsion are associated with increased involvement in the juvenile justice system (Novak, 2019; Sanders *et al.*, 2020; Gerlinger *et al.*, 2021). Hence, schools must re-evaluate exclusionary discipline policies and, when needed, provide quality education and transition support for detained youth to promote positive outcomes upon release (Valdebenito *et al.*, 2019; Novak, 2022).

Role of the Mass Media

Just like the family and school, the mass media plays a crucial role in the prevention of crime and juvenile delinquency, serving as both a platform for positive intervention and, at times, a source of negative influence (Näsi *et al.*, 2021; and Sani *et al.*, 2024). Exposure to violence in movies, video games, and on the internet is linked to an increased risk of aggressive and violent behavior in youth (Chang & Bushman, 2019; and Ybarra, 2022). This is explained by psychological theories like observational learning and desensitization of emotional processes (Khadka, 2024; Bisht, 2025). Media portrayals of crime are often inaccurate, biased, and sensationalized, which can lead to inappropriate public policy and the stigmatization of certain groups include the youth. This

can create a false public fear, leading to more repressive criminal justice policies rather than focusing on complex, long-term prevention strategies (Djurić & Saleem, 2022; Milićević & Drndarević, 2023; and Anand & Taneja, 2024). In addition, social media specifically introduces new venues for risks of amplification of delinquent behavior, as it can be used by youth to stimulate criminal motivation, facilitate cyberbullying and other offenses, and recruit members, which has led to real-world violence (Faust & Tita, 2019; Cheng, 2023; and Navarro, 2024).

On the other hand, the positive roles of mass media including television, radio, print, and social media, can be strategically utilized to support juvenile delinquency prevention programs through education, mobilization, and promotion of pro-social behavior (Näsi *et al.*, 2021; Zandi & Bahmehei, 2023). Community notifications, like public awareness and education campaigns through mass media is highly effective for disseminating accurate information about the causes, nature, and extent of juvenile delinquency and victimization (Prescott, 2019; and Sani *et al.*, 2024). In disseminating positive values and role models, media can be a powerful tool for socialization, influencing behavior through the reinforcement of certain actions and the discouragement of delinquencies (Kearney & Levine, 2020; Dunaway & Graber, 2022; and Ramasedi, 2025). Further, the media can encourage public participation in crime prevention efforts and help mobilize communities. It can inform the community and help them access local resources, such as programs, support networks, and community policing initiatives (Walsh & O'Connor, 2019; Hofmann & Feltes, 2020; Sani *et al.*, 2024). As a “watchdog,” media can report on criminal activities and expose areas with high crime incidents, holding authorities accountable to take action (Oyedokun, 2022).

Role of Local Councils for the Protection of Children

The US Federal government established the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Council) via the JJDP Act to coordinate federal juvenile delinquency agendas, programs for solitary youth, and initiatives for missing and exploited children (Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2024). At the state level, Oregon’s Youth Development Council (YDC) approves crime prevention plans and funds services like academic assistance, substance abuse treatment, case management, and basic needs support for at-risk youth (Oregon.Gov, 2022). Similarly, the Philippines established the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) as the primary agency to coordinate and assist Local Government Units (LGUs) in adopting a comprehensive local delinquency prevention plan (Sec. 15, Chapter 1; Republic Act No. 9344).

The LCPC was established as a pivotal and multi-layered body in the protection of children and the prevention of juvenile delinquency. They serve as the primary platform for implementing community-level strategies, focusing on both child protection and developmental prevention of

delinquencies (Sanchez, 2020; Roche & Flynn, 2021; and Gonzales *et al.*, 2023). In rural areas of Sierra Leone, there are established local councils to address the root causes of delinquency that can tailor programs to the specific needs and dynamics of their community (Wessells, 2015). Greece has formed Groups for Protection of Minors (GPMs) in all boroughs, dedicated to addressing juvenile crime and victimization through localized prevention and treatment efforts (Gioti & Kranidioti, 2024). While Uzbekistan’s state and local authorities took a proactive approach to policy, relying on a robust legal framework to ensure children’s rights and promote their all-around development as to physical, intellectual, spiritual, and moral welfare (Qizi *et al.*, 2024). Meanwhile, China is still coping to supplement its reformatory work-study programs by constructing a full education support system through a non-profit organization focused specifically on preventing children from offending through education (Mo & Wan, 2020).

Local councils are responsible for formulating and executing policies and programs that enhance safety and diminish crime within their communities (Mawere & Tshamano, 2023). Such as in the Philippines, they typically formulate a Local Plan of Action for Children and ensure its integration into the overall Municipal/ City Development Plan. This involves identifying local risk and protective factors like poverty, poor school performance, or lack of recreational spaces which they call it Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) (Reyes *et al.*, 2021; and Reyes, 2022). After which, resources are being allocated to support localized prevention and intervention efforts. Local government units (LGUs) allocate a percentage of their budget for the strengthening and implementation of children’s programs and the LCPC under Republic Act 9344 (Pamposa & Besa, 2025). Councils provide community resources that promote Positive Youth Development (PYD) such as, recreation centers and parks, after-school programs and structured recreational activities, job training, vocational skills programs, and employment assistance for older youth, and mentoring initiatives (Janke, 2021; Kimiecik *et al.*, 2021; Buenconsejo & Datu, 2022; and Pasiona & Lapitan, 2023).

Role of the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer

Social welfare approaches to juvenile delinquency prevention vary internationally. In Georgia, USA, effective programs utilize engaging, collaborative methods to build skills and values in juveniles, but their impact is hindered by the limited visibility of social workers (Tamriko, 2021). Meanwhile, the Social Welfare Department in Indonesia focuses on adolescent empowerment to foster youth independence and work skills, yet faces significant challenges related to funding, human resources, shelter, parental engagement, and public awareness (Suryaningsi *et al.*, 2022). In the Philippines, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) indicates a

strong commitment to child protection and to the full implementation of Republic Act No. 9344, towards the minimization of juvenile delinquency and the protection of children (Oppus, 2019; and Sanchez, 2020).

The DSWD's Local Social Welfare and Development Officer (LSWDO) plays a central and statutory role in juvenile delinquency prevention, acting as the key implementer of child protection and youth welfare programs at the community level. Their function focuses on early intervention, rehabilitation, and social integration (Cortel, 2020; Villamartin, 2022). The LSWDO is often the first point of professional contact for a child considered "child at-risk or CAR" or a "child in conflict with the law (CICL)." First is the identification of CAR, wherein they conduct social case studies to identify children and families facing extreme poverty, neglect, abuse, or those exhibiting early signs of anti-social behavior. Second is the provision of support services in which they manage and deliver direct support services, such as counseling, psycho-social intervention, parental effectiveness seminars (PES), and educational support to stabilize the family environment and reduce risk factors. Finally, the conduct of intensive case management for high-risk youth by involving coordinated review and monitoring, linking the child and family to necessary resources like food, shelter, mental health care, or substance abuse treatment (Ministry of Social Services and Development, n.d.; Villamartin, 2022; and Palafox, 2025).

The LSWDO is crucial in implementing strategies to keep children out of the formal juvenile justice system through diversion and rehabilitation programs. They are responsible for implementing the diversion program for children who commit minor offenses. For the diversion program implementation, it involves supervising the child's compliance with conditions like community service, payment of fines, or participation in life skills training, as an alternative to formal court proceedings. For the rehabilitation services, youth who have been adjudicated undergo community-based or residential rehabilitation and reintegration programs. These aim to help the youth acquire skills, complete their education, and eventually rejoin society as productive citizens (Juvenile Justice and Welfare System; Title V, R.A. No. 9344)

The LSWDO often holds a leadership or technical position within the local government's child protection mechanisms. He/she often serves as a key officer of the LCPC. In this capacity, they provide the technical expertise necessary for the LCPC to draft and adopt a comprehensive local plan on delinquency prevention (Sec. 15, Chapter 1; Republic Act No. 9344). The LSWDO also coordinates with other government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), schools, and faith-based groups to create a cohesive multi-sectoral response to protect children and prevent crime. This ensures that prevention efforts are holistic and community-based. In essence, the LSWDO is the primary service delivery engine for social protection, translating national child protection laws and local council policies into tangible services that

protect children from harm and steer at-risk youth away from criminal activity (Cortel, 2020; Villamartin, 2022; Tongson, 2023; Palafox, 2025). Nonetheless, not only social welfare officers but an intersectoral collaboration among local councils, social welfare officers, is vital in protecting vulnerable street children from risks associated with juvenile delinquency (Perena & Hapin, 2023).

Objectives of the Study

The general objectives of this proposed study aimed to assess the preventive role of the various sectors in the prevention of juvenile delinquency by revisiting to strengthen the juvenile welfare policies of the state.

To attain the general objectives mentioned herein, the following objectives specifically outlined to:

1. Assess the adherence of the various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency under R.A. No. 9344 in congruence with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 603, in terms of the roles of (a) Filipino families, (b) educational system, (c) mass media, (d) local councils for the protection of children, and (e) Local Social Welfare and Development Officer.

2. Recommend a program that strengthens the existing measures implemented by various agencies and institutions in the prevention of juvenile delinquency in the community.

Significance of the Study

Significant beneficiaries of the current research into diverse sectors' roles in preventing juvenile delinquency may directly or indirectly include young people, families, communities, and various government and private institutions.

Child at Risk and Child in Conflict with the Law

These young people are the most direct beneficiaries. The research can lead to more effective interventions and rehabilitative programs that support their reintegration into society, enhance their social skills, and provide educational and employment opportunities.

Families and Parents

Findings can assist families by informing them about protective factors, such as positive relationships and parental monitoring, that reduce the risk of delinquency. Family support and training programs can improve family stability and communication, which are crucial in preventing delinquent behavior.

Victims of Juvenile Delinquencies

Through the restorative justice principles often explored in such research, victims can find resolution and healing. The focus on prevention also reduces the overall incidence of crime, benefiting potential victims.

Policymakers and Government Agencies

This includes legislative bodies, juvenile justice and welfare councils, and other government entities. The

research provides an evidence base for creating and updating juvenile welfare policies and laws, as well as for funding effective prevention programs.

Educational Institutions

Schools and educators benefit from insights on early intervention programs, truancy reduction, and classroom management techniques. The research can lead to school-based initiatives that promote a positive school climate and help students develop crucial life skills.

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Professionals

Police, prosecutors, court personnel and intervention or diversion providers can use the research to inform their interactions with youth, emphasizing restorative and therapeutic approaches over solely punitive ones.

Social Workers and Human Services Providers

Social workers and counselors gain a better understanding of the risk and protective factors affecting vulnerable youth. The research helps them offer holistic, wrap-around services that address the complex issues confronting young people.

Community Organizations

Local and national non-profits, faith-based organizations, and community action groups can use the findings to develop and improve their outreach, mentoring, and after-school programs for at-risk youth.

The Business Sector

The business community can be engaged in supporting and funding youth programs, providing employment opportunities, and offering vocational training for teenagers to help them transition into a productive workforce.

General Public and Taxpayers

Effective prevention is more cost-effective than incarceration and reduces crime rates, benefiting the public through increased safety and lower taxes associated with the justice system.

Research Framework

Legal Framework

The legal framework for this study primarily revolves around laws that define juvenile justice and the protection of children in the Philippines, especially those concerning the responsibilities of various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. Chapter 1, Title III of Republic Act No. 9344 or otherwise known as the “Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006” as amended by R.A. No. 10630, is the primary legal basis for this study. It establishes a comprehensive juvenile justice and welfare system, focusing on restorative justice and the principle of minimum intervention. The said provisions provided the roles of the different sectors towards the prevention of juvenile delinquency such as the Filipino family, the

educational system, the role of the mass media, the local councils for the protection of children, and Local Social Welfare and Development Officer. (1) The role of the Family explicitly states the responsibilities of parents/guardians in the development of the child and includes provisions for parental involvement and accountability (Section 13). (2) The role of the Educational System mandates the integration of values education and children’s rights into the school curriculum, and emphasizes the role of schools in addressing child development issues (sec. 14). (3) The role of the Mass Media, calls for the media to observe ethical standards in covering children, particularly those involved in conflicts with the law, to protect their identity and future (sec. 15). (4) The Local Council for the Protection of Children or LCPC’s role in the prevention and intervention of juvenile delinquency at the barangay and municipal/city levels. (5) The Local Social Welfare and Development Officer (LSWDO), in its Initial Contact with the Child, has a critical role in the initial assessment, intervention, and disposition of children in conflict with the law (CICL) (Section 25).

In addition, Republic Act No. 7160 or otherwise known as “The Local Government Code of 1991” is relevant as it grants local government units (LGUs) the power and responsibility to promote the general welfare of their inhabitants, which includes the well-being of children. In its general welfare clause, this law obligates LGUs to ensure the safety and general welfare of their constituents. Further, Presidential Decree No. 603 otherwise known as the “Child and Youth Welfare Code”, although largely superseded or amended, it remains a foundational document on child welfare in the Philippines. It enshrines fundamental rights and duties of the child and youth, stressing the Filipino family as the basic social institution. Moreover, this study also considers the substantial bearing of the following laws in the prevention measures of juvenile delinquency, such as (a) R.A. No. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002), which is relevant when juvenile delinquency is linked to substance abuse; and (b) R.A. No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) ensures children’s protection from various forms of abuse, which can be root causes of delinquency.

Theoretical Framework

This study, which focuses on the diverse roles of various sectors in delinquency prevention, aligns well with ecological and social process theories of criminology. The primary framework of this study is the Ecological Systems Theory by Urie Bronfenbrenner (Cherry, 2025). This theory posits that human development is influenced by the different environmental systems that interact with each other. Juvenile delinquency is therefore not seen as solely an individual failing but as a result of complex interactions within the child’s environment. In the (a) Microsystem, the child’s immediate environment, including direct interactions with family, friends, teachers,

and peers; (b) The Mesosystem established connections between different microsystems, such as the relationship between a child's home and their school, or how a parent's stress affects their interactions with their child; (c) The Exosystem or external systems indirectly affect the child, like the parent's workplace, the community's resources, or local policies; (d) the Macrosystem overarches the cultural context, including the society's values, beliefs, laws, and customs, which shapes how the other systems are structured; and finally (e) Chronosystem includes the dimension of time, accounting for how changes over time, such as moving, divorce, or historical events, can impact child development. This theory is a powerful tool for analyzing the level of compliance across diverse sectors, as it provides a structure to understand how each sector's function and their interconnectedness contribute in the prevention of delinquency. It also directly informs the development of a program by suggesting multi-level, systemic interventions.

Another foundation of this study that was expounded in the study of Costello & Laub (2020) is Social Control Theory, originally by Travis Hirschi, which suggests that delinquency occurs when an individual's bond to society is weak or broken. The "bond" is composed of four elements: (a) Attachment to significant others such as family, friends, community members. (b) Commitment to conventional lines of action such as educational and occupational factors. (c) Involvement in conventional activities such in school, sports, hobbies. (d) Belief in the moral validity of society's rules. The roles of the sectors in this study are essentially mechanisms of social control that reinforce these bonds such as the Family that is the primary source of Attachment and Belief; Educational System fostering commitment to conventional goals and provides Involvement; LCPC, LSWDO, and SK represent the community and social institutions that enforce rules (Belief) and provide opportunities for Involvement. The

effectiveness of these sectors in fulfilling their roles determines the strength of the child's bond to society, thereby preventing or enabling delinquency.

Research Paradigm

The paradigm of this study is grounded in a comprehensive framework that delineates the relationships among independent, moderating, and dependent variables.

The independent variables of this study were based particularly from the various roles of sectors toward the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Chapter 1, Title II of Republic Act No. 9344). Specifically, the said provision outlines the roles of the Filipino family, the educational system, the mass media, the local councils for the protection of children, and the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer. While other hand, the community residents' participation on this study act as the moderating variable by assessing the compliance of these various sectors in the prevention of juvenile delinquencies in accordance with the juvenile welfare policies.

In realization of the compliance level of the various sectors involved in juvenile delinquency prevention, the researchers chose to incorporate the revisitation and strengthening of the juvenile welfare policies on the prevention of juvenile delinquency as the dependent variable of the study. The moderators of the study are of legal age household members residing in the juvenile delinquency prone areas in selected barangays in San Pablo City, Laguna. The proposed output of this study is a program formulated to strengthen the existing measures implemented by various agencies and institutions towards the prevention of juvenile delinquency in the community, based on the results of the study.

This study will be able to produce an output that is foreseen to benefit the Filipino community especially the children and youth sector. Juvenile delinquency brought too much cost to our society, and a huge threat to the

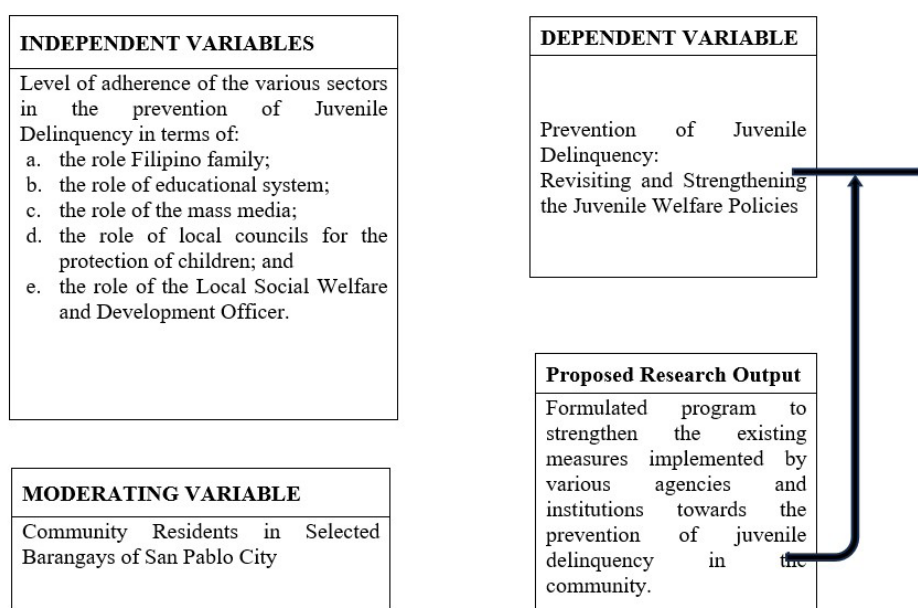


Figure 1: Paradigm of the Study

future of our country. In response, this study will be proposing a measure that helps create an impact through an enhanced strategy of juvenile delinquency prevention. Thus, establishing a juvenile prevention strategy that will not only meet the minimum standard but can also exceed the quality of services expected from the mandated institutions and agencies.

Research Problems

This study aimed to address the compliance level of the various sectors in the prevention of juvenile delinquency by revisiting to strengthen the juvenile welfare policies of the state. Specifically, it sought to answer the following sub-questions:

1. What is the level of adherence of the various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in terms of:
 - a. The role Filipino family;
 - b. The role of educational system;
 - c. The role of the mass media;
 - d. The role of local councils for the protection of children; and
 - e. The role of the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer?
2. Is there a significant difference on the level of adherence of the various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in terms of:
 - a. The role Filipino family;
 - b. The role of educational system;
 - c. The role of the mass media;
 - d. The role of local councils for the protection of children; and
 - e. The role of the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer?

Null Hypothesis

There is no significant difference on the level of compliance of the various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in terms of various roles of the agencies and institutions mentioned under Republic Act No. 9344.

3. What program may be formulated to strengthen the existing measures implemented by various agencies and institutions towards the prevention of juvenile delinquency in the community?

Definition of Terms

For better understanding the study, the following terms used in the research were operationally defined to refer to the following:

Juvenile Delinquency

This is the core issue of this study that is being aimed to be prevented and addressed by strengthening welfare policies. It means the participation by a minor, usually under the age of 18, in illegal or anti-social behavior. Under R.A. No. 9344, this is related to violations of penal laws by minor offenders or termed as Child in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

Prevention

This is the primary focus of the research to be assessed such as the preventive roles of various sectors. In the context of the study, it refers to implementing measures to deter minors from engaging in delinquent behavior.

Diverse Sectors

These are the entities whose compliance and roles in prevention are being assessed by the current research such as the family, schools, mass media, Local Council for the Protection of Children, and the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer.

Diverse Sectors' Role

This is the central variable being measured in terms of compliance in the research objectives and questions. These are the specific functions, responsibilities, and actions expected of these different groups to proactively prevent juvenile delinquency as mandated by R.A. No. 9344 and P.D. No. 603.

Juvenile Welfare Framework

These are the existing legal framework of the study such as R.A. No. 9344 and P.D. No. 603), and which the study also seeks to revisit and strengthen.

Filipino Family

One of the specific sectors whose role and compliance in prevention is being assessed. It is the basic social unit whose role includes providing care, values formation, and guidance for their children to prevent delinquency.

Educational System

One of the specific sectors with preventive role and compliance, referring to the schools responsible for the formal instruction, socialization, and development of children and youth.

Mass Media

One of the specific sectors with preventive role and compliance, referring to the means of communication, such as television, radio, internet, that reach a large audience, which can influence public opinion, youth behavior, and awareness of child protection issues. In this study, it also includes social media platforms used by mass media groups.

Local Council for the Protection of Children

A local government-based structure in San Pablo city mandated to plan and initiate programs and projects for the promotion of children's rights and welfare at the barangay, municipal, city, and provincial levels.

Local Social Welfare and Development Officer

The local government official in San Pablo city responsible for the planning and implementation of social welfare and development programs, including services for children in conflict with the law within the setting of the study.

Sangguniang Kabataan

The local youth council, responsible for addressing youth-related issues and promoting the welfare and development of young people in their respective barangays. It also enjoins the functions of the SK Federation President in San Pablo city.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

The proposed study utilized a descriptive survey design within the framework of quantitative research. This research aimed to measure and describe the status, attitudes, perceptions, and roles of various stakeholders concerning juvenile delinquency prevention and policy. It focused on the compliance of various sectors, as established under proper legal measures, in the prevention of juvenile delinquency, all of which were important to the survey of this study. In addition, the nature of juvenile delinquency and its prevention measures affects almost every member of society. Furthermore, the perception of the community residents as indirect beneficiaries of the prevention programs of the government is material to the compliance of those sectors working on delinquency prevention.

Respondents

Hence, convenience sampling method was utilized in choosing the respondents of this study from community residents of selected barangays of San Pablo City, Laguna. In the selection of the locale of this study,

juvenile delinquency prone areas of San Pablo City were identified through available public records requested from San Pablo City Police Station.

Hence, the data gathering of the current study was focused in those areas identified ensuring that relevant and firsthand responses were extracted along the process. A hundred percent of questionnaire retrieval was made out of 270 Respondents who replied to the invitation to participate on this study.

Research Instrument

The main data-gathering instrument used in this study is a self-structured Survey Questionnaire that was substantially formulated primarily based from the legal provisions of Republic Act No. 9344 and Presidential Decree No. 603. Some of the sub-indicators were taken from literatures and experts' statements during informal interviews, which was later sub-divided to consist the three comprehensive parts of research questions. The first part of the survey instrument inquired into the profile of the respondents, which has an important impact into the analysis of the results of the study. The second part measured the compliance level of the various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency under R.A. No. 9344, in terms of the roles of (a) Filipino families, (b) educational system, (c) mass media, (d) local councils for the protection of children, and (e) Local Social Welfare and Development Officer. In measuring the compliance level of the various sectors in their preventive role, a Fourth-point scale in Table 1 below was utilized:

Table 1: Four-point Likert Scale used in the Study

Numerical	Statistical Limit	Description Interpretation	Remarks
4	3.26-4.00	Fully Adherent (FA)	Exceeding the minimum adherence
3	2.51-3.25	Mostly Adherent (MA)	Attained the minimum adherence
2	1.76-2.50	Less Adherent (LA)	Below the minimum adherence
1	1.00-1.75	Non-Adherent (NA)	No adherence at all

Data Collection Procedure

The proponents presented this study during an in-house review of proposed studies for preliminary evaluation, after which, it was presented in an en-banc review for the approval of this proposal.

The survey instrument used on this study was coordinated and validated by the social workers, representatives of the local councils, educators and teachers, and media practitioners. The gathering of firsthand data from the respondents of this study was ensured by the researchers by personally distributing the survey questionnaire to the respondents for data gathering. The data gathered were the personal responses of the intended respondents and concerns were addressed relative to the instrument of the study. The responses were retrieved, tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted using appropriate statistical tools. With this, the objectivity and confidentiality of the responses of the participants is not compromised by any means.

The researcher continuously submits quarterly report before the University Research Committee for monitoring of this study.

Ethical Consideration

The researchers sought the approval of the University Research and Development Office, and acquired a Notice to Proceed after the study undergone the In-house Proposal critiquing at the Laguna State Polytechnic University- San Pablo City Campus. The instrument was validated and approved by various sectoral representatives to ensure inclusivity of the content and substance. Further, the responses retrieved were treated as confidential and compliant to the requirements of the data privacy law. Moreover, the consent and voluntary participation of the respondents were solicited after explaining to them the purpose of this study. Finally, the conduct of the study was properly documented and supplemented with sufficient references.

Data Analyses

The researchers utilized data treatment tools such as percentage, weighted mean and analysis of variance (Anova) in treating the data of the study. The raw data were treated using Frequency Percentage and Weighted Mean in the first stated problem of the study. A four-point Likert scale will be used for the interpretation of the statistical outcomes. On the other hand, Anova was used to treat the test of significant difference on the level of adherence of the various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in terms of various roles of the agencies and institutions mentioned under Republic Act No. 9344. From the results, the researchers formulated an action plan with strategies to strengthen the existing measures implemented by various agencies and institutions towards the prevention of juvenile delinquency in the community.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presented the results and discussion of the gathered data on the study of the 'Diverse Sectors' Role in the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency: Revisiting and Strengthening the Juvenile Welfare Framework.' Likewise, it also presents the general findings of the study and their corresponding analysis, as well as the interpretation derived from the treatment of data. The research's premises focused on the following: (a)

The role of the family, educational system, mass media, local councils for the protection of children, and the local

social welfare and development officer; and (b) the test of significance.

Level of Adherence of the Various Sectors in the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

The coordinated adherence of the family, educational system, mass media, local child protection councils, and social welfare officers is essential for creating a holistic support system that addresses the diverse root causes of juvenile delinquency. By fulfilling their respective mandates, these interconnected sectors provide the vital moral foundation, positive societal reinforcement, and targeted community interventions needed to divert at-risk youth from crime and guide them toward becoming responsible, productive members of society.

The Role of the Family

Table 2 indicates that the family sector has an overall weighted mean of 3.71, which corresponds to a descriptive interpretation of "Fully Adherent" (FA) in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. It generally suggests that the Filipino family plays a highly active and compliant role in juvenile delinquency prevention. Families excel primarily in foundational support, such as acting as role models and providing basic adequacy for the child's needs. However, the slightly lower score in supervision indicates a minor gap where parents and guardians might need to focus more on directly monitoring their children's recreational activities to further strengthen their preventive role.

Table 2: Level of compliance of the family in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Sub-indicators	WeightedMean	DI
Shows affection, companionship and understanding to the child.	3.75	FA
Provides the benefits of moral guidance, self-discipline and religious instruction.	3.70	FA
Supervise the child's activities, including his recreation.	3.62	FA
Inculcate the value of industry, thrift, and self-reliance.	3.68	FA
Stimulate child's interest in civic affairs, teach him the duties of citizenship, and develop his commitment to his country.	3.68	FA
Advise the child on any matter affecting his development and well-being.	3.73	FA
Family always set as a good example.	3.78	FA
Provide the child with adequate support.	3.77	FA
Administer the child's property, if any, according to his best interests.	3.70	FA
Allow the child to participate in the discussion of family affairs, especially in matters that particularly concern him.	3.69	FA
Overall Weighted Mean	3.71	FA

Legend: Fully Adherent (FA); Mostly Adherent (MA); Less Adherent (LA); and Not Adherent (NA)

The highest-rated indicator is the family setting a good example, scoring a weighted mean of 3.78. It implies that families are highly successfully fulfilling their foundational and emotional roles in youth development. By consistently acting as good examples and offering adequate affection, families are establishing a positive, supportive psychological environment that steers children away from delinquency. Conversely, the lowest-rated sub-indicator, though still fully adherent, is the

supervision of the child's activities, including recreation, which scored 3.62. This slightly lower score points to a potential vulnerability in active parenting. While parents are emotionally and morally supportive, they may be less involved in directly monitoring their children's free time or peer interactions. This gap implies that modern families might struggle with the time or resources needed for continuous supervision, potentially leaving youth susceptible to external negative influences during

unmonitored recreational periods.

The high adherence to providing affection and moral support aligns closely with recent literature, which emphasizes that strong parental attachment serves as a fundamental protective factor against youth delinquency. Research confirms that providing youth with positive relationships and a strong emotional foundation significantly mitigates delinquent urges and fosters social conformity (Aazami *et al.*, 2023). Furthermore, the data highlighting that families prioritize being a good example reflects findings that children raised in supportive and affectionate environments exhibit healthier psychological development and are less likely to engage in criminal behavior (Zakaria *et al.*, 2022).

However, the comparatively lower score in supervising children's recreational activities highlights a critical area of concern recognized in recent juvenile justice studies. Poor parental monitoring and a lack of adult supervision are established risk factors that increase the likelihood of adolescents engaging in deviant behavior, particularly through negative peer pressure (Zakaria *et al.*, 2022). Addressing this gap is vital, as an overall positive family climate must be coupled with active communication and supervision to effectively regulate youth anger and lower their propensity for deviance (Saladino *et al.*, 2024).

Limitation of the study includes self-report bias, wherein the data measured may have been subjected to social desirability bias if respondents rated familial roles more favorably than reality dictates. Likewise, the findings do not account for critical demographic variables such as socioeconomic status, parental work hours, or family structure which heavily influence a family's physical capacity to supervise children. To address this, further qualitative or mixed-methods studies may be conducted to explore the specific barriers preventing parents from more actively supervising their children's recreational activities and digital or online recreation.

Role of Educational System

The educational system demonstrated an overall weighted mean of 3.61, indicating it is "Fully Adherent". Schools and the broader educational system are successfully fulfilling their roles in preventing delinquency, particularly by ensuring physical facilities are adequate and by offering alternative educational pathways for CICL. Despite the overall positive adherence, the results imply a need for educational institutions to prioritize the formal creation and institutionalization of specific committees dedicated to handling CICL cases, which currently reflects the system's weakest point of compliance.

Table 3: Level of adherence of the education system in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Sub-indicators	Weighted Mean	DI
1. Work together with families, community organizations and agencies in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.	3.67	FA
2. Work together with families, community organizations and agencies in the rehabilitation and reintegration of child in conflict with the law.	3.65	FA
3. Provide adequate, necessary and individualized educational schemes for children who are manifesting difficult behavior, children-at-risk and children in conflict with the law.	3.55	FA
4. Provide the opportunity among CICL to continue their learning under an alternative learning system with basic literacy program or non-formal education accreditation equivalency system.	3.68	FA
5. Establish a committee which shall handle cases involving CICL.	3.53	FA
6. Develop primary and secondary intervention programs for CAR.	3.59	FA
7. Participate in the implementation of tertiary intervention programs for CICL.	3.60	FA
8. Train school personnel with regard to juvenile and restorative justice.	3.57	FA
9. Local school officials and local government officials shall see to it that school children and students are provided with adequate schoolrooms and facilities including playground, space, and facilities for sports and physical development activities.	3.69	FA
10. All necessary assistance possible shall be given to parents, specially indigent ones or those who need the services of children at home, to enable the children to acquire at least an elementary education.	3.56	FA
Overall Weighted Mean	3.61	FA

Legend: Fully Adherent (FA); Mostly Adherent (MA); Less Adherent (LA); and Not Adherent (NA)

The highest adherence level (3.69) was recorded for providing adequate schoolrooms, facilities, playgrounds, and spaces for sports and physical development. Providing opportunities for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) to continue learning via alternative learning systems (ALS) or non-formal education scored

heavily (3.68). Working alongside families and community organizations for delinquency prevention (3.67) and the rehabilitation/reintegration of CICL (3.65) also ranked among the strongest indicators. This implies that the educational system is highly capable of providing broad, structural support, such as physical facilities and

formal alternative education pathways, while actively collaborating with external community stakeholders. However, schools appear to struggle more with micro-level, specialized interventions.

Areas with lower adherence includes, “Providing individualized educational schemes for children exhibiting difficult behavior or those at risk scored relatively low (3.55); Assisting indigent parents to enable their children to acquire at least an elementary education received a score of 3.56; and Training school personnel in juvenile and restorative justice scored 3.57.” The lower scores in establishing dedicated CICL committees and providing highly individualized educational schemes suggest a gap in localized case management. Schools may be well-equipped to serve general populations but face administrative or resource barriers when tailoring interventions for the unique psychological and academic needs of at-risk youth. Furthermore, the lag in restorative justice training implies that educators may not be fully equipped to handle delinquent behavior through a restorative framework, potentially defaulting to unstructured measures.

The educational system’s high adherence to collaborating with families is strongly supported by recent literature. Studies confirm that familial ties and school community bonds are critical protective factors against juvenile delinquency, as family dysfunction remains a primary risk factor (Aazami *et al.*, 2023). Additionally, the prioritization of physical school environments and facilities remains highly relevant, as poor school engagement and dropout rates are established predictors of later criminal behavior (Schroeders *et al.*, 2023).

However, the gap in restorative justice training and individualized educational schemes represents a critical area for systemic improvement. Contemporary research emphasizes that restorative justice in educational and community settings, which focuses on healing, accountability, and relationship restoration rather than

punishment, is highly effective at lowering recidivism among juvenile offenders (Aisyah & Fahrudin, 2024). Addressing these gaps is paramount, as targeted school-based interventions, particularly those involving cognitive-behavioral skills and specialized training, have proven to be highly effective in reducing antisocial behavior and youth offending (Farrington *et al.*, 2022).

A primary limitation of this data is its reliance on weighted means derived from self-reported adherence levels. This quantitative approach may introduce social desirability bias, where respondents overestimate their compliance to align with institutional expectations. Furthermore, the numerical data does not capture the qualitative, lived realities of educators, nor does it identify the specific financial, administrative, or systemic barriers preventing schools from achieving higher adherence in individualized care and committee formation. Thus, future research should utilize qualitative methodologies to explore the specific barriers preventing schools from establishing dedicated CICL committees and individualized educational programs. Additionally, longitudinal studies measuring the impact of comprehensive restorative justice training for school personnel on actual student recidivism and behavioral outcomes would provide actionable insights for policy enhancement.

Role of the Mass Media

The mass media sector achieved an overall weighted mean of 3.62, denoting it is “Fully Adherent” to its expected role. The mass media effectively champions general child rights, showcasing a strong commitment to broad advocacy. However, the data reveals a critical area for improvement regarding journalistic protocols. Media practitioners need to enhance their strict adherence to reporting guidelines and prioritize the privacy and confidentiality of children involved in media coverage, as these specific regulatory standards scored lower than general advocacy efforts.

Table 4: Level of adherence of the mass media in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Sub-indicators	Weighted Mean	DI
1. Promote child rights.	3.74	FA
2. Promote delinquency prevention by relaying consistent messages through a balanced approach.	3.60	FA
3. Maintain the highest professional standards in reporting and covering cases of children in conflict with the law.	3.62	FA
4. To be consistent with the Guidelines for Media Practitioners on the Reporting and Coverage of Cases Involving Children	3.57	FA
5. All news and publicity materials concerning children, the best interest of the child and the child’s right to privacy and confidentiality should be the primordial, paramount and overriding consideration.	3.57	FA
6. Media practitioners shall not disclose any information that may reasonably identify the child or will lead to the identification of the child.	3.63	FA
7. Portray the positive contribution of children to society;	3.61	FA
8. Provide children with age-appropriate information and material for their development; and	3.62	FA

9. Disseminate information on the existence and the procedures for availing of services, facilities and opportunities for children in society.	3.63	FA
10. Help concerned institution gather data on the delinquent activities of children.	3.63	FA
Overall Weighted Mean	3.62	FA

Legend: Fully Adherent (FA); Mostly Adherent (MA); Less Adherent (LA); and Not Adherent (NA)

The highest-rated sub-indicator is the mass media's effort to "Promote child rights," which scored a weighted mean of 3.74 (Fully Adherent). The lowest are the indicators concerning consistency with Guidelines for Media Practitioners (3.57), and ensuring news materials consider the best interest of the child as a paramount concern (3.57) yet they also show full adherence. The findings suggest that the local mass media acts as a responsible and constructive stakeholder in the juvenile justice system rather than a sensationalist entity. By prioritizing the promotion of child rights and maintaining strict privacy standards, the media actively mitigates the risk of stigmatizing minors. This implies a media landscape that is highly conducive to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of youths. When the media focuses on portraying the positive contributions of children and disseminating helpful information, it shifts the public narrative from punishment and fear to welfare and community support.

The highly adherent media practices found in this data strongly align with the contemporary rights-based frameworks emphasized in recent academic literature. Current research frequently underscores the necessity of moving away from punitive, stigmatizing labels toward recognizing the vulnerability and complex needs of "children in conflict with the law" (Limantè *et al.*, 2021). The media's strong performance in promoting child rights (3.74) acts as a critical countermeasure to the widespread issue noted by Dyer *et al.* (2022), who highlight that deep-rooted societal and professional attitudes often lead to the peripheralization and erosion of the rights of children in conflict with the law. By safeguarding identities and portraying positive contributions, the media fulfills

the essential mandate of protecting the child's dignity and fostering an environment that supports individual assessment and child-friendly interventions, rather than societal rejection (Limantè *et al.*, 2021; Dyer *et al.*, 2022). Some limitation of this data is that it relies on a self-reported or perceived quantitative rating of adherence, which may not capture the qualitative nuances of specific news articles, broadcasts, or digital media framing. Additionally, the data does not distinguish between different types of media such as traditional print vs. rapid social media, which often operate under different editorial standards. Future studies should employ Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) on actual published media content over a longitudinal period to verify if the high adherence scores match the semantic framing used in daily reporting. Furthermore, research could explore how the rise of unregulated social media platforms impacts the privacy and stigmatization of children in conflict with the law, comparing it against the high standards currently upheld by the institutional mass media.

Role of Local Councils for the Protection of Children

Local Councils generated an overall weighted mean of 3.65, translating to a "Fully Adherent" status. Local councils are highly effective in their community-level mandates, heavily prioritizing educational support and basic child rearing guidance for parents. While they excel in educational and protective measures, the discussion highlights that councils could dedicate more resources and policy efforts toward regulating and promoting wholesome community entertainment, ensuring that the media consumed within local bounds supports delinquency prevention.

Table 5: Level of adherence of the Local Councils in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Sub-indicators	Weighted Mean	DI
1. Foster the education of every child in the barangay.	3.73	FA
2. Encourage the proper performance of the duties of parents, and provide learning opportunities on the adequate rearing of children and on positive parent-child relationship.	3.70	FA
3. Protect and assist abandoned or maltreated children and dependents.	3.64	FA
4. Take steps to prevent juvenile delinquency and assist parents of children with behavioral problems so that they can get expert advice.	3.59	FA
5. Adopt measures for the health of children.	3.67	FA
6. Promote the opening and maintenance of playgrounds and day-care centers and other services that are necessary for child and youth welfare.	3.63	FA
7. Coordinate the activities of organizations devoted to the welfare of children and secure their cooperation.	3.67	FA
8. Promote wholesome entertainment in the community, especially in movie houses	3.58	FA

9. Assist parents, whenever necessary in securing expert guidance counseling from the proper governmental or private welfare agency.	3.68	FA
10. Local Councils for the Protection of Childre coordinates with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in the formulation and implementation of juvenile intervention and diversion programs in the community.	3.61	FA
Overall Weighted Mean	3.65	FA

Legend: *Fully Adherent (FA); Mostly Adherent (MA); Less Adherent (LA); and Not Adherent (NA)*

The findings reveal that the local councils are most compliant in areas concerning education and foundational family support. The highest-rated sub-indicators include: “Foster the education of every child in the barangay,” which received the highest weighted mean of 3.73. While still categorized as “Fully Adherent,” the lowest-scoring sub-indicators relate to environmental monitoring and direct behavioral interventions: “Promote wholesome entertainment in the community, especially in movie houses,” which yielded a mean of 3.58. This means that the Local Councils treat their delinquency prevention mandate primarily through a developmental lens rather than a strictly punitive or crisis-management one. The results imply a highly supportive community infrastructure for early childhood development. However, to maximize delinquency prevention, LCPCs might need capacity-building initiatives focused on active behavioral counseling and the modern regulation of digital and physical entertainment. Without specialized protocols, children currently exhibiting at-risk behaviors might not receive the same robust support as the general population. The LCPC’s robust emphasis on proper parenting duties and the parent-child relationship strongly aligns with contemporary evidence regarding delinquency. Recent systematic reviews confirm that family dynamics, specifically conflict, neglect, and parental involvement, are primary predictors of juvenile delinquency (Aazami *et al.*, 2023). By maintaining a high adherence to encouraging proper parenting duties, LCPCs serve as a critical protective factor against youth offending (Aazami *et al.*, 2023). Furthermore, relying on a localized, community-based council to spearhead these efforts reflects global best practices. Community-level child protection interventions are highly recommended in low- and middle-income countries because community ownership enhances the sustainability of the outcomes and effectively addresses the socio-ecological risks

children face (Ellermeijer *et al.*, 2023). In the Southeast Asian context, community structures like the LCPC are integral in translating the international “Best Interests of the Child” standards into actionable, culturally relevant juvenile justice practices (Agcaoili, 2024).

The primary limitation of this data is that it relies on a weighted mean of perceived or self-reported adherence. High adherence levels do not automatically equate to practical effectiveness; the data measures whether the LCPCs are performing their roles, not necessarily if those roles are actively reducing local crime rates. Future research should focus on a longitudinal analysis comparing these high adherence scores with actual community juvenile crime statistics over time. Additionally, qualitative studies are recommended to investigate the specific barriers LCPCs face regarding the lower-rated indicators, such as why councils find it comparatively more difficult to promote “wholesome entertainment” or manage active behavioral problems. Assessing how the LCPC physically coordinates intervention programs with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) would also provide deeper insights into youth-to-youth peer mentoring approaches.

Role of the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer

The LSWDO sector’s overall weighted mean is 3.53, which also signifies a “Fully Adherent” level of compliance. The LSWDO is fully compliant overall, showing a strong focus on the collaborative implementation and monitoring of intervention programs for children. However, the results indicate that physical oversight of facilities is comparatively lacking. To maximize their effectiveness in the juvenile justice and welfare system, LSWDOs must improve the frequency and rigor of their inspections within detention and rehabilitation centers to ensure these environments meet required standards.

Table 6: Level of adherence of the LSDOs in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Sub-indicators	Weighted Mean	DI
1. The LSWDO implement and monitor the intervention program with the child in coordination with the BCPC, the school, SK Council or youth organizations, other existing support organizations and community volunteers.	3.64	FA
2. LSWDO monitor the effectiveness of the intervention program.	3.50	FA
3. Monitor the compliance by the child and the parents or guardians, with the terms and conditions of the intervention program.	3.57	FA

4. To formulate and recommend policies and strategies in consultation with children for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the administration of justice.	3.53	FA
5. To formulate and recommend policies and strategies for the treatment and rehabilitation of the children in conflict with the law.	3.53	FA
6. To conduct regular inspections in detention and rehabilitation facilities and to undertake spot inspections on their own initiative in order to check compliance with the standard.	3.47	FA
7. To initiate and coordinate the conduct of trainings for the personnel of the agencies involved in the administration of the juvenile justice and welfare system and the juvenile intervention program.	3.52	FA
8. To periodically develop a comprehensive 3 to 5-year national juvenile intervention program, with the participation of government agencies concerned, NGOs and youth organizations.	3.52	FA
9. To coordinate the implementation of the juvenile intervention programs and activities by national government agencies.	3.53	FA
10. To collect relevant information and conduct continuing research on all matters relating to juvenile justice and welfare.	3.56	FA
Overall Weighted Mean	3.53	FA

Legend: Fully Adherent (FA); Mostly Adherent (MA); Less Adherent (LA); and Not Adherent (NA)

Table 6 shows that LSWDO's implementation and monitoring of intervention program with the child in coordination with the BCPC, the school, SK Council or youth organizations, other existing support organizations and community volunteers got the highest Weighted Mean of 3.64 interpreted as "Fully Adherent." The data suggests that LSWDOs function primarily as direct case managers and systemic planners. Their exceptionally high scores in family compliance monitoring and research/policy formulation imply a strong focus on community-integrated rehabilitation and data-driven social work. The lowest mean score among the indicators is 3.47, which pertains to conducting regular and spot inspections in detention and rehabilitation facilities to check for compliance with standards. Although this is the lowest score, it still falls within the "Fully Adherent" category. It suggests that direct regulatory oversight of physical institutions may be more difficult to execute, potentially due to logistical constraints, geographical distances, or prioritization of direct human intervention over facility auditing.

Since LSWDOs excel in family and youth compliance tracking, Local Government Units (LGUs) should heavily invest in community-based diversion programs that capitalize on these strengths. However, to address the relative gap in institutional oversight, LGUs must provide LSWDOs with dedicated transportation or reduce bureaucratic workloads so that social workers have the capacity to conduct frequent, unannounced physical inspections of detention centers, ensuring safe environments for detained youth.

The LSWDOs' high adherence to monitoring youth and parental compliance within intervention programs reflects a broader international shift towards family responsibility and diversionary programs over pure institutionalization

(Syed Nong *et al.*, 2020). The high engagement in policy formulation, research, and family monitoring exemplifies the integrated social work approach. This approach requires social workers to implement multi-context interventions that target both individual behaviors and the broader environmental and family dynamics influencing the child (Jamir Singh & Azman, 2020). The relatively lower adherence to conducting regular spot inspections at physical detention facilities can be understood within the context of widespread systemic burdens. Social service providers frequently face significant barriers, such as overwhelming caseloads, burnout, and a lack of necessary resources that limit their ability to prioritize every required monitoring protocol equally (Caddle *et al.*, 2022).

The results strictly measure the level of adherence but fail to measure the actual quality or effectiveness of these interventions in improving the lives of children in conflict with the law. Future studies should employ qualitative methods to explore the specific logistical, financial, or administrative barriers that lead to lower adherence rates in physical facility inspections among LSWDOs. Future researchers should also evaluate whether the "Fully Adherent" execution of family compliance monitoring and continuous policy research effectively translates into statistically significant reductions in juvenile recidivism rates over a 5- to 10-year period.

Significant Difference on the Level of Adherence of the Various Sectors in the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

A one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted to examine if there is a significant difference in the level of adherence of the various sectors in the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. The results indicated that there is a statistically significant differences in sectoral adherence.

Table 7: Summary of Descriptive Statistics

Sector	Mean	Std. Deviation
Filipino Family	3.71	0.372
Educational System	3.61	0.412

Mass Media	3.62	0.422
Local Councils for the Protection of Children	3.65	0.422
Local Social Welfare and Development Officer	3.54	0.509

Table 8: One-Way ANOVA

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	0.977	4	0.244	5.702	0.000
Within Groups	11.197	261	0.043		
Total	12.174	265			

The computed F-value of 5.702 with a significance value (p-value) of 0.000 indicates that there is a significant difference in the level of adherence among the various sectors involved in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Since the p-value is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, firmly indicating that there is a statistically significant difference in the adherence levels across the different sectors. Among the sectors, the Filipino Family obtained the highest mean score of 3.71, while the Local Social Welfare and Development Officer obtained the lowest mean score of 3.54. Nevertheless, all sectors were verbally interpreted as Fully Adherent, indicating that the sectors generally demonstrate strong compliance with their respective roles in preventing juvenile delinquency.

The result underscores that the family unit serves as the most critical primary buffer against adolescent deviance. Strong familial structure and active parental involvement are directly associated with higher moral competence and a reduced likelihood of conduct disorders among Filipino Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) (Mariano, 2019). Because systemic and family-focused interventions consistently yield the most effective rehabilitation outcomes, the family's adherence is essential in mitigating the foundational risks of antisocial behavior before external interventions are required. While recent cross-cultural research spanning multiple countries demonstrates that external risk factors, such as adverse peer support and environmental opportunities for aggression, consistently and strongly predict delinquent behavior during adolescence (Lansford *et al.*, 2020). Because local social workers and councils must actively counteract these pervasive community risks while simultaneously navigating resource limitations and family coordination hurdles, their roles are uniquely complex. Therefore, their adherence, though scoring slightly lower than the family unit, remains a critical component of the multisectoral approach required to effectively prevent juvenile delinquency.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the roles of the different sectors in the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency:

All sectors adhere to their juvenile delinquency prevention roles, though a one-way ANOVA reveals statistically

significant compliance differences: Filipino families rank highest, whereas LSWDOs rank lowest.

The families provide strong emotional affection and positive role modeling, but demonstrate vulnerability in actively supervising children's recreational activities and peer influences.

The schools offer adequate physical facilities and alternative learning pathways for CICL, but lack micro-level interventions such as dedicated CICL committees, individualized education schemes, and restorative justice training for educators.

The Local Mass Media prioritizes child rights advocacy over sensationalism to mitigate youth stigmatization, but exhibits minor deficiencies in strictly upholding privacy and confidentiality guidelines.

LCPCs support education and parenting duties well, but struggle with crisis-management functions, specifically in administering active behavioral interventions and regulating wholesome community entertainment.

LSWDOs excel as case managers and policy researchers, but fall short in conducting regular physical inspections of detention and rehabilitation facilities due to logistical or bureaucratic constraints.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen the role of each sector in preventing juvenile delinquency, the study recommends the following measures:

1. Parents and Guardians: Directly monitor recreational activities and peer interactions, supported by community parenting programs.
2. Schools: Mandate dedicated CICL committees, allocate resources for individualized educational schemes, and train staff in restorative justice frameworks.
3. Media Group: Strictly enforce privacy and confidentiality reporting guidelines to prevent minor stigmatization.
4. LGUs: Train councils in behavioral counseling, regulate community entertainment, and provide LSWDOs with logistical support for unannounced facility inspections.
5. Future Researchers: Use qualitative methods to identify compliance barriers, longitudinal studies measuring recidivism impacts, and critical discourse analysis on media coverage.

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Action Plan: Strategic Juvenile Welfare Framework Strengthening (Sectoral Implementation Matrix)

Target Sector & Gap	Strategies to Take	Who Will Do It	When & How Long	Where to Implement	Indicators for Implementation	Rationale (Based on the Research Findings)
Filipino Family Gap: Recreational & Peer Monitoring	• Conduct localized “Active Parenting” workshops focusing on digital safety and physical recreational tracking • Roll out community-led youth peer pressure management seminars.	- o Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) - o Barangay Child Protection Council (BCPC) - o Local Social Welfare and Development Officers (LSWDO)	- o Frequency: Quarterly sessions - o Duration: Continuous/Ongoing across the year	- o Barangay halls - o Community day-care and youth centers	- o Number of parents/guardians trained. - o Measurable increase in parental engagement surveys.	• Families scored lowest in supervising children’s free time and recreational activities (3.62), exposing youth to external negative influences and peer pressure.
Educational System Gap: Case Management Committees & Restorative Justice	• Institutionalize dedicated school-level committees to manage Child in Conflict with the Law (CICL) cases. • Implement mandatory training for school personnel on restorative justice frameworks. • Design tailored individualized education plans (IEPs) for Children at Risk (CAR).	- o DepEd Division Office - o School Principals & Guidance Counselors - o LSWDO (as technical trainers)	- o Committee Setup: First 2 months of the school year - o Personnel Training: Semestral intervals (3-day intensive clinics)	o Public and private primary and secondary schools	- o 100% of target schools with active, functioning CICL committees. - o Number of school personnel certified in restorative justice. - o Count of active IEPs implemented.	• The educational system faces gaps in micro-level interventions, scoring lowest in establishing CICL committees (3.53) and training educators in restorative justice (3.57).
Mass Media Gap: Ethical Reporting & Digital Privacy	• Convene ethical journalism orientations highlighting the Guidelines for Media Practitioners on the Coverage of Cases Involving Children. • Draft local protocols to prevent identity leaks on rapid digital/social media platforms.	- o Local Press Clubs - o LGU Information Officers - o Media regulatory Bodies	- o Frequency: Bi-annual workshops - o Duration: 2-day intensive media clinics	- o Local press centers - o Online journalism forums/webinars	- o Compliance handbooks distributed to local media outfits. - o Zero recorded child privacy or confidentiality breaches in local news.	• Mass media scored its lowest points (3.57) in consistency with child reporting protocols and prioritizing the overriding right to privacy and confidentiality.

LSWDO Gap: Regulatory Oversight & Resource Allocation	Local Councils (LCPC) Gap: Entertainment Regulation & Expert Counseling
- Secure and allocate a dedicated LGU transport/logistics budget for field monitoring. - Schedule and execute frequent, unannounced spot inspections at youth facilities. - Streamline administrative workloads to combat social worker burnout.	- Enact and strictly enforce local ordinances regulating digital/physical entertainment hubs (e.g., gaming lounges, internet cafes). - Establish an active referral network connecting parents to expert behavioral counselors.
- LGU Executive Office (Mayor/Governor) - LSWDO Department Head - Local Budget Officers	- LCPC Members - Barangay Legislative Council - Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Council
- Budget Allocation: Annual planning cycle - Inspections: Monthly unannounced facility audits	- Ordinance Drafting: 3 months - Enforcement & Monitoring: Continuous monthly compliance audits
- Youth detention centers - Rehabilitation centers (e.g., Bahay Pag-asa)	- Commercial entertainment zones - Barangay multi-purpose centers
- Number of documented spot inspections conducted per facility per quarter. - Logistical/travel funds officially institutionalized - Complete compliance audit logs.	- Approved local ordinances monitoring community youth recreation spaces. - Number of at-risk youth successfully referred to behavioral counseling
LSWDO recorded the lowest overall mean (3.53) among all sectors, with facility compliance/spot inspections emerging as its weakest link (3.47) due to systemic workloads.	LCPCs lagged most in promoting wholesome community entertainment (3.58) and assisting parents with expert advice for children with behavioral problems (3.59).

Strategic Sustainability Directives

Inter-Agency Synergy

To offset the significant differences highlighted by the ANOVA, the LSWDO and LCPC must transition from acting as siloed entities into co-facilitators of school and family-level interventions.

Shifting to Qualitative Quality

Future monitoring metrics should move beyond evaluating whether a sector is simply “performing its role” (adherence) to measuring whether these activities statistically lower local juvenile delinquency and recidivism rates over a multi-year period.