

Barangay Councils' Knowledge and Capability in Handling Cases of Children in Conflict with the Law

Kimberly Gonzales*, Zyree D. Numbanal, Grelie P. Lim-ang, Cyrene Joy N. Dulnuan, Jefferson B. Bistol, Sandryne L. Tagtag, Deiniel I. Ballitoc, Glenn Paulo K. Labasan
Ifugao State University, Nayon, Lamut, Ifugao, Cordillera Administrative Region, Philippines

*Corresponding Author Email: kimberlygonzales297@gmail.com

Date received: September 10, 2025

Date revised: September 30, 2025

Date accepted: October 14, 2025

Originality: 99%

Grammarly Score: 99%

Similarity: 1%

Recommended citation:

Gonzales, K., Numbanal, Z., Lim-ang, G., Dulnuan, C. J., Bistol, J., Tagtag, S., Ballitoc, D., & Labasan, G. P. (2025). Barangay councils' knowledge and capability in handling cases of children in conflict with the law. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, 3(11), 32-44. <https://doi.org/10.69569/jip.2025.662>

Abstract. This study assessed the knowledge and capability of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) in handling children in conflict with the law (CICL) at Lamut, Ifugao. The research recognizes the roles of BCPC members as key workers in implementing the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and protecting children's rights at the barangay level. It aimed to evaluate their understanding of legal frameworks and barangay protocols, as well as their practical skills in handling CICL cases through duties, intervention, and diversion programs. Using a quantitative, descriptive-correlational design, data were collected via a researcher-developed Likert-scale questionnaire from 53 BCPC members in barangays with high CICL incidence. Results revealed that the respondents demonstrated high levels of knowledge (composite mean = 3.08, SD = 0.58) and capability (composite mean = 2.75, SD = 0.68). Pearson's correlation further showed a significant positive relationship ($r = 0.610$, $p < 0.01$) between knowledge and capability, indicating that greater knowledge is associated with a greater capacity to handle CICL cases. However, gaps were identified between capability and council position, underscoring the need for continuous training. The study highlights the importance of capacity-building programs in ensuring that BCPC members adhere to restorative justice principles and provide suitable support to CICL, thereby enhancing reintegration outcomes and child protection at the community level.

Keywords: Barangay protocols and duties; Diversion programs; Intervention programs; Juvenile justice and welfare act; Legal frameworks

1.0 Introduction

Across the Philippines and globally, cases of children in conflict with the law (CICL) represent not only legal concerns but also urgent social and developmental issues, as they expose minors to disrupted education, family separation, stigma, and risks of reoffending. Children in conflict with the law (CICL) are defined as minors accused, charged, or convicted of a criminal offense under Republic Act 9344, also known as the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act of 2006. Globally, approximately one million children are detained each year, although the actual number may be higher due to inconsistent record-keeping (*Children in conflict*, 2022). Beyond detention, these children often experience disrupted education and family separation, as well as stigma that hinders their reintegration into society. Recent studies highlight that such experiences can leave lasting harm; for example, Chamdani et al. (2024) and Subakade and Lawani (2022) found that CICL are at risk of social exclusion, while Molina-Lingvall et al. (2024) revealed that detention can expose them to abuse and negative influences that worsen behavioral problems. Because of this, organizations like UNICEF are actively involved in supporting

these children, focusing on protecting their rights, which promotes rehabilitation and reintegration rather than punishment. In fact, studies suggest that while barangay officials are broadly aware of legal frameworks, as many as 40–60% demonstrate gaps in applying diversion protocols and child-sensitive approaches (Roche & Flynn, 2021). Such weaknesses can lead to inappropriate detention, missed opportunities for rehabilitation, and higher risks of recidivism, undermining the protective intent of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

In the Philippines, the problem is evident. The Philippine National Police reported 15,892 apprehensions of CICL for offenses such as theft, possession of weapons, physical injury, acts of lasciviousness, and even more serious crimes (Aguilar & Gumiran, 2020; Sigue, 2020). These trends underscore the significance of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), which enforces the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act at the community level. As Catalino Cuy of the Department of the Interior and Local Government emphasized, BCPC members are frontline public servants. They must be knowledgeable and discerning when dealing with CICL and children-at-risk (DILG, 2017)

The BCPC undertakes a wide range of duties, including promoting education, preventing juvenile delinquency, advocating for child-friendly facilities, and monitoring children's welfare (DSWD-NCR, 2016). However, despite these responsibilities, several studies report that BCPC members often lack the knowledge and capability to handle CICL cases effectively. Subakade and Lawani (2022) noted that this lack of understanding of protocols hinders proper case handling. Similarly, Laro (2021) found that punishment is still applied more often than rehabilitation, while Roche and Flynn (2021) noted that insufficient preparation contributes to the failure of restorative justice goals.

Community-based diversion programs offer an alternative by emphasizing mediation, counseling, and rehabilitation rather than formal court proceedings (JJWC, 2017). However, research shows persistent gaps in practice. For example, Naynes et al. (2022) observed that although BCPCs are aware of protocols, many are unable to apply them effectively. Pidlao-Palitayan (2023) likewise reported difficulties in monitoring repeat offenders, indicating a gap between knowledge and actual application. Addressing this requires sustained and structured training. Ancho et al. (2022) emphasized the importance of consistent capacity-building programs, while Roche and Flynn (2021) demonstrated how regular updates on legal and intervention strategies enhance outcomes for CICL.

Given these issues, this study aims to assess the knowledge and capabilities of BCPC members in Lamut, Ifugao, in handling CICL cases. Identifying these gaps will help strengthen their role in promoting restorative justice and protecting children's rights. The findings will benefit BCPCs by improving their understanding of juvenile justice laws and enhancing their capacity to implement effective interventions. The study will also guide local government units in addressing challenges at the barangay level. It will provide future researchers with insights for developing more substantial community-based rehabilitation and child welfare programs. While international and national studies recognize the importance of community-based interventions, recent Philippine literature provides limited empirical evidence on the actual capacity of barangay-level councils to implement restorative justice, track outcomes of diversion programs, and sustain community-based rehabilitation. This gap highlights the need for a systematic assessment of BCPC knowledge and capability to inform both policy and practice.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Research Design

This study employed a quantitative approach, specifically a descriptive-correlational method, which helps the researchers analyze and describe the population, circumstance, or phenomenon. According to Miksza et al. (2023), researchers in this type of study have no control over the primary area of interest; instead, they observe and analyze relationships as they naturally occur. Descriptive and correlational research typically employs surveys and observational methods to gather data systematically from participants. Additionally, the researchers utilized a descriptive-correlational approach to describe the level of knowledge and capability of the BCPC and to determine the relationship between their knowledge and capability.

2.2 Research Participants and Locale

This study was conducted in Lamut, Ifugao, a 4th-class municipality situated in the Cordillera Region of the Philippines. It consists of 18 barangays: Ambasa, Bimpal, Hapid, Holowon, Lawig, Lucban, Mabatobato,

Magulon, Nayon, Panopdopan, Payawan, Pieza, Poblacion East, Poblacion West, Pugol, Salamague, Sanafe, and Umilag. Moreover, this focused on the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in Barangay Salamague, Pugol, Poblacion East, and Payawan.

A sample size of 53 was considered distributed as follows: Salamague (14), Pugol (12), Poblacion East (13), and Payawan (14). To select the specific participants based on set characteristics, such as being a member of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children and having experience in handling Children in Conflict with the Law, the researchers used purposive sampling. These individuals provided accurate and relevant data in accordance with the study's purpose. This approach helps ensure that the findings provide valuable insights about the knowledge and capability of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in handling Children in Conflict with the Law.

2.3 Research Instruments

The researchers used a researcher-designed survey questionnaire as the primary data-gathering tool, specifically tailored to meet the study's needs and ensure reliability. The instrument used a four-point Likert scale with options ranging from (4) Strongly Agree to (1) Strongly Disagree, and was divided into three parts. The first part covered the demographic profile, focusing on participants' exposure to CICL cases and their roles in the council. The second part assessed the knowledge of BCPC members in handling CICL through 20 items: 8 items on Republic Act 9344 and children's rights, and 12 items on barangay protocols for managing CICL and CAR cases. This section underwent expert validation and was pilot-tested with 30 respondents from three barangays: Ambasa, Panubtuban, and San Fernando. The results of this process yielded a Cronbach's alpha of .921, indicating strong internal consistency and reliability.

The third part of the tool measured the capability of BCPC members in handling CICL cases. It included 25 items grouped into three domains: performance of duties (10 items), intervention programs (7 items), and diversion programs (8 items). This section likewise underwent expert validation and was pilot-tested with the same group of 30 respondents from Ambasa, Panubtuban, and San Fernando. The reliability test yielded a Cronbach's alpha of .931, indicating excellent internal consistency. Altogether, the instrument provided a comprehensive and reliable measure of both the knowledge and capability of BCPC members in fulfilling their functions.

2.4 Data Gathering Procedure

The study employed criterion-based purposive sampling, a type of purposive sampling in which participants were selected based on specific characteristics essential to the study (Etikan, Musa, & Alkassim, 2016). In this case, only individuals who were current members of the BCPC and had prior experience handling CICL cases were included. This ensured that the data collected were relevant, credible, and provided depth of insight into actual practices, as respondents were directly exposed to juvenile justice processes at the barangay level. The researchers conducted a survey involving fifty-three (53) members of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children from different barangays, including Salamague, Pugol, Poblacion East, and Payawan in Lamut, Ifugao, from April 29, 2025, to May 9, 2025. A courtesy call was made to the Barangay Captain to formally introduce the researcher's purpose in conducting the study and to obtain their approval to participate in the study. Before the distribution of the questionnaire to the participants, it was reviewed and verified by three (3) experts. The researchers provide a brief introduction to the study's objectives and obtain informed consent from participants who are willing to participate. The surveys were distributed and completed in person to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data. Once collected, the responses were tallied, tabulated, and analyzed using statistical tools to accurately interpret the findings and draw conclusions regarding the level of knowledge and capability of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in handling cases of children in conflict with the law.

2.5 Data Analysis

This research study employed both descriptive and inferential statistical methods to analyze the data collected from respondents. Descriptive statistics included the use of frequency counts and percentages to present the demographic profile of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) members, such as the number of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) they had encountered and their positions in the council. In addition, measures of central tendency (mean) and measures of variability (standard deviation) were applied to summarize and interpret the Likert scale responses on knowledge and capability. The composite means were then interpreted using the scale of interpretation presented in Table 2 to ensure consistency and clarity of results.

For inferential analysis, a t-test and the Kruskal-Wallis test were used to examine significant differences in knowledge and capability among respondents grouped by their demographic characteristics. Furthermore, the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient (r) was used to determine the strength and direction of the relationship between the knowledge and capability of BCPC members in handling CICL cases. All statistical computations were conducted using SPSS version 26, which facilitated accurate processing and interpretation of the data.

2.6 Ethical Considerations

In this study, the researchers prioritized ethical considerations from the outset of the research. They ensured informed consent was obtained from all participants before data collection. It was imperative that the participants fully understood the study's objectives and what their involvement would entail, to prevent confusion and misunderstanding. In this way, the researchers clarified each person's role and the purpose of the study, thereby establishing transparency and upholding ethical standards. The researchers also ensured that participants' privacy rights were respected and their confidentiality was secured, guaranteeing that their identities would not be compromised and that their responses would remain anonymous. They assumed the responsibility of preventing any potential harm to participants throughout the research process, taking measures to mitigate risks and address any issues that might arise. Furthermore, they adhered to ethical principles designed to protect both the participants and the integrity of the study. Lastly, sensitive data were handled with great care, particularly in disposal. Records were destroyed using methods such as burning, pulping, pulverizing, and shredding to prevent retrieval, thereby protecting the information from misuse or unlawful access. All these measures reflect the researchers' commitment to secrecy, privacy, and the ethical handling of information.

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the BCPCs, including the number of CICLs handled and the positions they held on the council.

Table 1. Demographic Profile of Participants

Profile	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No. of CICL Handled		
1-3	47	88.70
4-6	4	7.50
7-9	2	3.80
Total	53	100.00
Position in the Council		
Barangay Captain	3	5.70
Chief Tanod	6	11.30
Secretary	3	5.70
Barangay Kagawad	10	18.90
Child Development Worker	7	13.20
Parent Representative	2	5.70
Daycare Worker	3	9.40
Brgy. Nutrition Worker	5	1.90
VAWC Desk Officer	1	5.70
Barangay Health Worker	3	9.40
Barangay Midwife	2	1.90
Committee in PIO	1	5.70
Barangay Treasurer	1	3.80
Committee in SS	1	1.90
School Representative	1	1.90
Child Representative	1	1.90
Barangay Tanod	2	3.80
Chairman of Women and Family	1	1.90
Total	53	100.00

Regarding the number of CICL cases handled, the majority of respondents (88.7%) had only handled 1 to 3 CICL cases, with a few having managed more. This implies limited exposure to juvenile justice cases at a particular community level. It aligns with the reported data of CICL cases, where only 29 cases from 2020 to 2024 were handled by the four barangays that participated in this study. Such distribution supports Banaag et al. (2024),

who emphasized that many juvenile offenses are non-repetitive and driven by situational factors such as poverty and family conflict. About the position, the highest representation came from Barangay Kagawads (18.9%), followed by Child Development Workers (13.2%) and Chief Tanods (11.3%). These roles are critical in case handling and community protection efforts, and their presence aligns with findings by Pablo (2025), who stressed the significance of these positions in implementing RA 9344. They are more likely to be actively involved in studies on the CICL administration, given their firsthand experience with juveniles through child protection or juvenile justice, which makes them more interested in such matters.

The results suggest that direct exposure to Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) cases may be limited; however, they have extensive and varied participation in child protection work, rather than at the barangay level. The number of stakeholders involved in responding to CICL cases helps in developing a more holistic intervention. It is crucial to incorporate other industries such as social services, education, health, law enforcement, and community organizations. Such a partnership at the local level is essential, meaning that no child should be left unplugged, as their rights and overall welfare can be promoted through strengthened and organized community interventions. This aligns with the presentation by Pamposa & Besa (2025), which highlights the importance of collaboration among Barangay officials, school guides, healthcare experts, and unpaid community volunteers in achieving the goal of helping and protecting children.

3.2 Level of Knowledge of BCPC

In Terms of Legal Framework

Table 2 presents the level of knowledge of BCPC regarding the legal framework for managing cases of CICL and car.

Table 2. *Level of Knowledge of BCPC in Handling Cases of CICL in Terms of Legal Framework*

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. I understand that children below 15 years old are exempt from criminal liability.	3.00	0.89	Agree
2. I know that children aged 15 to 18 may be held liable only if they acted with discernment.	2.92	0.90	Agree
3. I am aware that RA 9344 promotes rehabilitation rather than punishment for CICL.	3.19	0.83	Agree
4. I understand that BCPC is legally required to assist in handling CICL cases.	3.28	0.79	Strongly Agree
5. I understand the roles and responsibilities of local government units under RA 9344.	3.19	0.74	Agree
6. I am aware that RA 9344 mandates that CICL be released to their parents or guardians unless referred to a youth care facility like “Bahay Pag-asa”.	3.25	0.68	Agree
7. I understand that failure to implement provisions of RA 9344 at the barangay level may lead to gaps in protecting juvenile rights and welfare.	3.09	0.74	Agree
8. I understand that RA 9344 provides legal protection for children in conflict with the law (CICL).	3.21	0.82	Agree
Composite Mean	3.14	0.65	Agree

Regarding the legal framework, the respondents obtained a composite mean score of 3.14 (SD = 0.65), indicating “Agree,” suggesting a high level of knowledge of RA 9344 and related provisions. The highest-rated indicators included the recognition that the BCPC is legally mandated to assist in handling CICL cases (M = 3.28, SD = 0.79), awareness that CICL should be released to their parents or guardians unless referred to a youth care facility such as “Bahay Pag-asa” (M = 3.25, SD = 0.68), and understanding that RA 9344 provides legal protection for children in conflict with the law (M = 3.21, SD = 0.82). These findings suggest that BCPC members are most confident in their understanding of broad legal mandates and responsibilities, which reflects the effectiveness of orientations conducted at the local level. However, lower ratings were observed in more nuanced areas of legal application, such as the provision that children aged 15 to 18 may only be held liable if they acted with discernment (M = 2.92, SD = 0.90). This gap is critical, as the misunderstanding or inconsistent application of discernment could lead to the improper handling of juvenile cases, thereby undermining the rehabilitative intent of RA 9344. This finding resonates with Oppus (2015), who also observed that barangay officials tend to be more familiar with general provisions of RA 9344 than with its technical or conditional requirements.

The pattern reflects Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory, which emphasizes that knowledge underlies competent behavior. Without a clear and detailed understanding of key legal distinctions, such as discernment, BCPC members may lack the confidence or accuracy to apply child-sensitive procedures in practice. Practically, the results highlight that while BCPC members possess adequate baseline knowledge of their duties, targeted training on technical provisions, especially those requiring interpretation and discretion, remains necessary. At the policy level, this underscores the importance of institutionalizing continuous legal education and capacity-building programs for barangay officials to prevent misapplication of the law and to strengthen restorative, rather than punitive, approaches to CICL cases.

In Terms of Barangay Protocols

Table 3 presents the level of knowledge of BCPC in handling CICL, including the barangay protocol for managing cases of CICL and car.

Table 3. *Level of Knowledge of BCPC in Handling Cases of CICL in Terms of Barangay Protocols*

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. I am knowledgeable about the procedure for handling cases involving children in conflict with the law.	3.04	0.65	Agree
2. I am aware that the BCPC must ensure that all CICL cases are documented in compliance with RA 9344 provisions.	2.98	0.64	Agree
3. I understand that the barangay has a specific protocol for handling cases involving CICL and CAR.	2.98	0.67	Agree
4. I understand that CICL must not be detained in barangay detention facilities under barangay protocol.	2.94	0.80	Agree
5. I know that the barangay protocol requires that parents or guardians be immediately informed when their child is defined as CICL.	3.08	0.70	Agree
6. I am knowledgeable about how to prepare the necessary documents for incident reports of CICL cases.	3.04	0.65	Agree
7. I am aware that diversion programs are part of the barangay protocol for managing cases involving CICL who committed minor offenses.	2.96	0.76	Agree
8. I know that BCPC must ensure that all stakeholders involved in managing CICL cases are adequately trained on barangay protocols.	3.06	0.66	Agree
9. I understand that follow-up meetings with families are mandatory after a child has undergone intervention programs under the barangay protocol to know the progress of the child's behavior.	3.02	0.82	Agree
10. I am aware that cultural sensitivity is important when handling cases involving diverse populations of children under barangay protocol.	2.98	0.72	Agree
11. I know that BCPC still has a part in handling CICL cases who are repeat offenders.	3.04	0.73	Agree
12. I know the importance of clarifying to the CICL about the reason why he/she is taken into custody, the offense allegedly committed, and his/her constitutional rights.	3.04	0.76	Agree
Composite Mean	3.01	0.58	Agree

According to barangay protocols, the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children demonstrated a high level of knowledge in handling cases of Children in Conflict with the Law and Children at Risk. Respondents consistently rated items as "Agree," with a mean score of 3.01 and an *SD* of 0.58. The high average scores indicate that council members have a good understanding of basic procedures, responsibilities, proper documentation, parental notification, and follow-up interventions. This is likely due to the Municipal Social Welfare Office's orientation sessions, particularly given their responsibility for training and workshops for the BCPC. Another reason is their exposure to handling child cases, which helps enhance their knowledge in dealing with them. However, they scored lower on the detention part, indicating a possible gap in their ability to avoid detaining a child. One reason for this is their low score in the legal framework regarding minors' liability. This means that their low score in that area may indicate a lack of knowledge of detention rules. This is concerning because improper detention practices contradict restorative justice principles ("Use manual for", 2017). Another area where they have limited knowledge is that diversion is part of the protocol; this suggests they might still be operating under a punitive rather than a rehabilitative lens.

Overall, the level of knowledge obtained means a score of 3.08 with a standard deviation of 0.58, which is interpreted as “Agree”. This implies that they have a high level of knowledge in handling children in conflict with the law. However, despite the high results obtained, there are still areas that need improvement. Meanwhile, Subakade and Lawani (2022) also observed that many community-level implementers have a general awareness of laws but lack a comprehensive understanding of application procedures, leading to improper case handling. Therefore, they require ongoing training in handling cases effectively, particularly in areas where they received low scores.

3.3 Level of Capability of BCPC In Terms of Duties

Table 4 presents the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children's level of capability in handling children in conflict with the law, based on its duties.

Table 4. *Level of Capability of BCPC in Handling Cases of CICL in Terms of Duties*

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. I can provide immediate assistance to CICL when necessary.	2.77	.82	Agree
2. I can coordinate effectively with law enforcement and other agencies in handling CICL cases.	2.85	.89	Agree
3. I can effectively monitor the progress of CICL cases from start to finish.	2.75	.81	Agree
4. I can offer educational and skills training programs for CICL.	2.79	.77	Agree
5. I can collaborate with social workers and psychologists for the well-being of CICL.	2.75	.83	Agree
6. I can maintain confidentiality when handling sensitive information related to CICL.	2.87	.96	Agree
7. I can create an ordinance to be implemented at the barangay to prevent children from becoming involved in legal issues.	2.66	.81	Agree
8. I can collaborate with families to ensure the effective reintegration of CICL into their communities.	2.85	.84	Agree
9. I can advocate for adequate budget allocation from LGUs for juvenile justice programs.	2.64	.76	Agree
10. I can actively participate in workshops or training sessions related to managing CICL cases under the barangay protocol.	2.75	.81	Agree
Composite Mean	2.77	.74	Agree

Regarding the duties of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, the respondents demonstrate a high level of capability in performing their roles, with a total mean score of 2.77, interpreted as “Agree”. The relatively high score suggests that the council members feel confident in fulfilling their duties, particularly in maintaining confidentiality, providing basic assistance, and working with families and social workers. This result is likely due to their exposure to case management, which has enhanced their service delivery capabilities. However, they scored lower on policy-related tasks, such as drafting ordinances and budget advocacy. This finding aligns with Pamposa and Besa (2025), who observed that members of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children are highly competent in providing in-service training; however, the allocation of budget for child protection programs at the barangay level received low ratings. This indicates that while they are capable of in-service delivery, they lack the capability in administrative and legislative responsibilities. As Yang (2015) emphasizes, without sufficient resources and continuous professional development, the implementation of laws may fall short, and new provisions such as diversion may be used less frequently.

Furthermore, Abueva et al. (2020) highlight that adequate funding is crucial to ensure that essential services, including rehabilitation, legal assistance, psychosocial support, and reintegration programs, are accessible to CICL. One factor contributing to this is the limited budget available at the barangay level. In contrast, another factor relates to the varied professional backgrounds of the council members, which may affect their ability to perform specific duties. Nevertheless, despite these circumstances, they share a common goal: to implement restorative justice for children in conflict with the law. These results suggest that while many barangay workers are confident in their day-to-day roles, they may need additional support for larger tasks, such as budget advocacy. This highlights the need for training and capacity-building programs that help barangay officials not

only respond to CICL cases but also contribute to the development of better systems and policies.

In terms of Intervention Programs

Table 5 presents the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children's capability in handling children in conflict with the law, specifically regarding intervention programs.

Table 5. *Level of Capability of BCPC in Handling Cases of CICL in Terms of Intervention Programs*

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. I can identify the specific needs of each CICL for effective intervention.	2.72	0.79	Agree
2. I can ensure that all intervention programs are designed with the child's best interest in mind.	2.74	0.81	Agree
3. I can assure that intervention programs are holistic, addressing physical, emotional, and social aspects of the CICL's well-being.	2.81	0.81	Agree
4. I can provide life skills training for CICL to promote their social reintegration.	2.60	0.69	Agree
5. I can ensure that intervention is designed to prevent reoffending by addressing underlying issues.	2.70	0.72	Agree
6. I can ensure that the community is involved in supporting the CICL's rehabilitation through awareness programs.	2.68	0.83	Agree
7. I can ensure that intervention programs include follow-up services to ensure the continued well-being of CICL after the case is resolved.	2.74	0.76	Agree
Composite Mean	2.71	0.70	Agree

In terms of intervention programs, it also indicates a high level of capability with a total mean score of 2.71 (Agree). The data suggest that BCPC members generally feel confident in intervention activities, particularly in holistic approaches ($M = 2.81$, $SD = 0.81$), follow-up services ($M = 2.74$, $SD = 0.76$), and child-sensitive interventions ($M = 2.74$, $SD = 0.81$). These findings support the evaluation of holistic intervention programs in Bahay Pag-asa conducted by Urbano et al. (2023), which demonstrate the positive behavioral changes in children, indicating that the council members are capable of delivering effective intervention programs. The implication of this is probably due to coordination with other agencies involved in handling CICL. Coordination with other agencies, especially the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, is crucial for implementing interventions, as they are better equipped with technical guidance and are the primary partners of BCPC in implementing restorative interventions. Without the support of other agencies, BCPC cannot stand alone in delivering juvenile justice, given its complex nature. On the other hand, they scored lower in providing life skills training to CICL ($M = 2.71$, $SD = 0.70$), indicating a significant gap in implementing the most critical part of the intervention program. According to Suerte et al (2023), community-based and multi-sectoral intervention programs are emphasized as crucial. Therefore, this result highlights the need for BCPC to undergo targeted and structured training to address this gap and ensure the long-term effectiveness of the intervention. This aligns with the study by Fabre et al. (2016), which recommends using layered intervention models that range from early prevention to long-term support to ensure better outcomes for children and reduce recidivism.

In Terms of Diversion Programs

Table 6 presents the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children's capability in handling children in conflict with the law, specifically in terms of diversion programs.

Table 6. *Level of Capability of BCPC in Handling Cases of CICL in Terms of Diversion Programs*

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. I can ensure that diversion programs are offered to all eligible CICL.	2.77	0.89	Agree
2. I can help to determine the appropriate community service activities as part of diversion programs.	2.68	0.78	Agree
3. I can ensure that diversion programs prioritize rehabilitation over punishment.	2.70	0.80	Agree
4. I can help to monitor the CICL during their participation in diversion programs.	2.83	0.78	Agree
5. I can ensure that diversion programs are compliant with legal requirements for CICL.	2.83	0.67	Agree
6. I can help reintegrate CICL into the community after			

completing a rehabilitation process.	2.85	0.69	Agree
7. I can regularly review and improve diversion programs based on outcomes.	2.75	0.68	Agree
8. I can evaluate the effectiveness of diversion programs in reducing the chances of being a repeat offender among CICL.	2.81	0.83	Agree
Composite Mean	2.78	0.68	Agree

As for diversion programs, BCPC consistently scores high ($M = 2.78$, $SD = 0.68$) in this area, suggesting that it is generally capable of conducting them. They assessed themselves as capable of integrating a child into the community after completing a diversion program, with the highest score ($M = 2.85$, $SD = 0.69$), as well as in monitoring and evaluating diversion programs and prioritizing diversion over punishment. This data aligns with the Guidelines in the Conduct of Diversion for Children in Conflict with the Law, which outlines the necessary process for the proper implementation of diversion programs (DSWD, 2008).

Despite scoring high overall, they performed poorly at identifying appropriate community service activities, which are essential tools for conducting diversion programs. This could reflect the limited community programs available in a barangay. Another reason is the lack of clear guidance from partner agencies. According to Cortel (2020), diversion is a collaborative effort done by the BCPC and the Local Social Welfare and Development Office. Therefore, a lack of assistance could lead to the provision of intervention activities that do not align with the child's actual needs, contradicting RA 9344's legal mandate, which requires diversion activities to consider the child's best interests. Additionally, an overall score of ($M = 2.75$, $SD = 0.68$) suggests a high level of capability for the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in handling children in conflict with the law, which is interpreted as "Agree". These responses paint a picture of barangay officials who are committed and engaged, but who would likely benefit from ongoing training and support to improve the quality and long-term impact of diversion programs.

3.4 Significant Difference Between the Level of Knowledge and Their Respective Demographic Profile

Table 7 presents significant differences in the level of knowledge of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, grouped by the number of CICL handles and the position held in the council, as determined by the Kruskal-Wallis test.

Table 7. Difference Between the Level of Knowledge and Its Respective Demographic Profile	
Variables	Value
Number of CICL Handled	
<i>N</i>	53
<i>t</i> Statistic	0.94
<i>df</i>	2
Asymptotic Sig.	.625
Position	
<i>N</i>	53
<i>t</i> Statistic	21.59
<i>df</i>	17
Asymptotic Sig.	.201

Results indicate that there is no significant difference in the knowledge of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) members based on the number of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) cases they have handled. With a p -value of .625, which is greater than .05, the study retained its null hypothesis, suggesting that experience alone is not sufficient to increase knowledge. This finding is supported by Beck et al. (2007), who state that the number of experiences does not affect a person's ability to carry out a task. Instead, the study emphasizes that standardized training from organizations like the MSWDO ensures that all members have access to the same information and procedures, regardless of their case history. This aligns with the findings of Esquinas (2025) and Naynes et al. (2022), who highlight the importance of structured training for barangay personnel.

The study also found that a BCPC member's position—whether Chairperson, Kagawad, or Youth Representative—did not result in a significant difference in knowledge, with a p -value of .201 (higher than .05).

This suggests a shared understanding of juvenile justice laws and processes across the entire council, which is a positive indicator that training and information are being successfully disseminated. Banaag et al. (2024) and Esquinas (2025) both support this notion, stressing the importance of widespread training and legal awareness. While this shared knowledge is beneficial, the study notes a potential concern: those in frontline leadership roles, who deal with CICL cases most directly, should ideally have enhanced knowledge. The findings align with Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory, which posits that learning occurs through observation and structured training, rather than solely through direct experience. Therefore, while shared knowledge is a strength, there is a need to enhance the skills of those most exposed to cases to ensure they are not only knowledgeable but also effective in their roles.

3.5 Significant Difference Between the Level of Capability and Its Respective Demographic Profile

Table 8 presents the significant differences in the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children's capability, grouped by number of CICL handles and position, using the Kruskal-Wallis test.

Table 8. *Difference Between the Level of Capability and Its Respective Demographic Profile*

Variables	Value
Number of CICL Handled	
N	53
t Statistic	0.76
df	2
Asymptotic Sig.	.686
Position	
N	53
t Statistic	27.663
df	17
Asymptotic Sig.	.049

With a p -value of .686 (greater than .05), the number of CICL cases handled did not show a significant difference in the capability of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). This suggests that relying solely on case-by-case experience is insufficient to improve members' skills. Instead, formal education and institutional support are more crucial for capability development. This finding is supported by Tabano et al. (2025), who emphasize that capability is best developed through systematic training, consistent policy implementation, and strong legal awareness, which are more valuable than mere case experience.

In contrast, the study found a significant difference in the capability of BCPC members when grouped by their position, as indicated by a p -value of .049 (lower than .05). This suggests that members in specific roles, particularly leadership or specialized positions, tend to be more capable due to role-specific expertise and greater opportunities for training and decision-making. This aligns with the findings of Gonzales et al. (2023) regarding the challenges barangays face in implementing the juvenile justice system. However, this contradicts Pamposa et al. (2025), who found no significant relationship between BCPC functionality and available resources. The text emphasizes the importance of role-specific training to ensure that all members are adequately prepared, regardless of their position. Collaboration among different duty-bearers and regular training, as highlighted by Cortel (2020) and Roche & Flynn (2021), are essential for continuous capacity-building and keeping all council members updated on the latest legal requirements and intervention strategies.

3.6 Pairwise Comparison in the Level of Capability According to Their Position

Table 9 presents the pairwise comparison of capability levels when grouped by position in the council.

Table 9. *Difference Between the Level of Capability and Its Respective Demographic Profile*

Variables	Test Statistic	SE	Std. Test Statistic	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Brgy. Tanod – Brgy. Nutri. Scholar	28.75	12.85	2.24	.025	1.000
Brgy. Tanod – Parent Representative	29.25	15.35	1.91	.057	1.000
Brgy. Tanod – Child Dev. Worker	29.61	12.31	2.41	.016	1.000
Brgy. Tanod – Brgy Midwife	31.50	15.35	2.05	.040	1.000
Brgy. Tanod – Chairman of Women and Family	-41.25	18.80	-2.19	.028	1.000
Brgy. Tanod – Child Representative	42.25	18.80	2.25	.025	1.000

Brgy. Tanod – VAWC Desk Officer	43.25	18.80	2.30	.021	1.000
Daycare Worker – Chief Tanod	47.25	18.80	2.51	.012	1.000
Daycare Worker – Brgy Nutri. Scholar	-26.00	11.21	-2.32	.020	1.000
Daycare Worker – Child Dev. Worker	26.86	10.59	2.54	.011	1.000
Daycare Worker – Brgy. Midwife	-28.75	14.02	-2.05	.040	1.000
Daycare Worker – Chairman of Women and Family	-38.50	17.73	-2.17	.030	1.000
Daycare Worker – School Representative	-39.50	17.73	-2.23	.026	1.000
Daycare Worker – Child Representative	-40.50	17.73	-2.29	.022	1.000
Daycare Worker – VAWC Desk Officer	-44.50	17.73	-2.51	.012	1.000
Chief Tanod – Brgy. Nutri. Scholar	-21.50	9.30	-2.31	.021	1.000
Chief Tanod – Child Dev. Worker	-22.36	8.54	-2.62	.009	1.000
Chief Tanod – Chairman of Women and Family	-34.00	16.58	-2.05	.040	1.000
Chief Tanod – School Representative	-35.00	16.58	-2.11	.035	1.000
Chief Tanod – Child Representative	-36.00	16.58	-2.17	.030	1.000
Chief Tanod – VAWC Desk Officer	-40.00	16.58	-2.41	.016	1.000

Results indicate a potentially significant difference among the 18 categories, as evidenced by p -values < 0.05 . This may be attributed to variations across the diverse categories, with some groups exhibiting distinct patterns, as observed in the unadjusted significance analysis. However, after adjusting the pairwise comparison values, the differences did not reach statistical significance, as the p -values exceeded the significance threshold, suggesting that the differences may not be robust. Therefore, initial results from unadjusted p -values indicate that most group comparisons fell below the 0.05 threshold, suggesting potentially significant differences in capability between certain groups. However, after adjustment for multiple comparisons, a statistical correction was carried out to avoid incorrect results.

Meanwhile, after conducting many pairwise comparisons, it is observed that no group has a significant difference. This means that the earlier results are not that strong, and this may be due to chance. What this merely implies is that the BCPC members have a uniform level of capability across different positions. Although some individuals believe they are more capable than others, the evidence is not statistically strong enough to confirm a significant difference. Based on Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory, these results could be attributed to shared experiences, such as training, group conferences, and other activities where expertise was shared, regardless of one's specific position.

3.7 Level of Knowledge and Capability of Handling Children in Law Conflict

Table 9 examines the relationship between Barangay Council members' knowledge levels and their ability to handle children in conflict with the law.

Table 9. Difference Between the Level of Capability and Its Respective Demographic Profile			
Variables	R	p -value	Decision
Knowledge to Capability	0.610	.001	Statistically Significant

Note: R-Value: Greater than .5 (Strong, Positive), Between .3 and .5 (Moderate, Positive), Between 0 and .3 (Weak, Positive), 0 (None).

The correlation between the two variables is statistically significant ($r = 0.61$, $p = .001$), indicating a strong positive relationship. Additionally, the observed positive correlation is unlikely to have occurred by chance, thereby rejecting the null hypothesis of this study that there is no significant relationship between Barangay Council members' level of knowledge and their capability to handle children in conflict with the law. With a p -value of .001, this supports and strengthens the conclusion that higher levels of expertise among barangay council members are associated with greater capability to protect children in conflict with the law.

The data revealed a significant relationship between the Barangay Council members' level of knowledge and capability in handling Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). As council members' knowledge increases, their ability to manage CICL cases improves significantly. When officials and service providers receive proper training – whether through formal education, workshops, or ongoing professional development – they acquire the skills necessary to apply policies and fulfill their responsibilities with confidence and effectiveness. Supporting this, a study on the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in Lucena City found that enhancing council members' knowledge and competency through targeted training leads to better handling of CICL cases (Naynes et al., 2022), confirming the relationship between knowledge and capability. In addition,

Molina-Lingvall et al. (2024) illustrate how BCPC members actively monitor CICL cases through coordinated interventions, case conferences, and follow-ups. Their ability to implement rehabilitation programs and legal guidelines effectively depends largely on their understanding of the juvenile justice system, further supporting the link between knowledge and capability.

This implies that members with a higher understanding of RA 9344 and barangay protocols are also more capable of implementing duties, intervention, and diversion programs. In practical terms, this suggests that sustained and structured training programs on legal frameworks and child-sensitive protocols can directly improve barangay councils' ability to manage CICL cases effectively. Strengthening knowledge is not merely academic—it translates into more competent frontline responses, reduced reliance on punitive measures, and improved reintegration outcomes for children.

4.0 Conclusion

The results indicated that BCPC members from selected barangays in Lamut, Ifugao, generally possess a high level of understanding of both the legal framework and barangay protocols required by the Juvenile Justice System, particularly in handling CICL cases. This high level of knowledge was evident in all members, regardless of their position or the number of CICLs handled. This suggests that information is distributed evenly among members. However, despite the high level of knowledge, differences emerged in members' practical capabilities, especially when grouped by position. Individuals in leadership positions or those who work directly with children, like Barangay Kagawads or Child Development Workers, are observed to demonstrate greater proficiency in performing their responsibilities, particularly in implementing intervention and diversion programs. This means that your job in the BCPC affects how involved and skilled you are in these activities. The results also showed that while many members understand the theory, some struggle with real-life tasks, such as creating policies or ordinances, and need proper support and training to learn how to apply it in practice. The observed positive relationship between knowledge and capability further supports the idea that ongoing education enhances professional competence. Nevertheless, knowledge by itself is not enough. Role-specific training and hands-on experience are essential for translating understanding into effective practice.

5.0 Contributions of Authors

All researchers actively contributed to the writing, editing, data collection, and overall direction of the study.

6.0 Funding

No funding.

7.0 Conflict of Interests

No conflict of interest.

8.0 Acknowledgment

The researchers express their sincere gratitude to Almighty God for His guidance and strength throughout this study. Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Jesrael B. Tucli, statistician, and to the expert validators Ms. Nieves P. Balajo, Mrs. April Joy P. Kindipan, and Mrs. Gloria U. Depago, as well as Mrs. Tita A. Tagtag, for their valuable contributions. The researchers also acknowledge the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Lamut, Ifugao, for their support, as well as their families and friends for their unwavering encouragement.

9.0 References

- Abueva, A., Bitaña, H. J., Sims, R., Dela Cruz, I., Copino, F., Abayan, L. I., & Arban, A. K. (2020). Public budgeting for children's rights in the Philippines. UNICEF Philippines, Plan International, Save the Children, 42 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), & 15 Government Agencies/units. <https://tinyurl.com/2mxbmpmp>
- Aguilar, M. V. G., & Gumiran, A. C. S. (2020). On lowering the age of criminal responsibility: Perspectives from Philippine local government officials. *Journal of BIMP-EAGA Regional Development*, 6(1), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.51200/jbimpeagard.v6i1.3116>
- Ancho, I., Hibanada, R., Dayuta, B., Cataquan, K., & Karen, A. (2022). Training needs analysis of Filipino community officials: Evidence from university extension project. *Journal Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat*. <https://tinyurl.com/msknr7i5>
- Banaag, R. V., Nolas, Z. E., & Obefias, E. B. (2024). The demographic distribution and experiences of children in conflict with the law (CICL): An analysis. *International Journal of Research Studies in Management*, 12(13). <https://doi.org/10.5861/ijrsm.2024.1283>
- Beck, G. L., Matache, M. T., Riha, C., Kerber, K., & McCurdy, F. A. (2007). Clinical experience and examination performance: Is there a correlation? *Medical Education*, 41(6), 550–555. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2923.2007.02764.x>
- Chamdani, N., Indradjaja, N., & Nurhandy, F. (2024). Diversion as the case resolution for children in conflict with the law within the perspective of legal psychology. *Awong Long Law Review*, 6(2), 478–482. <https://doi.org/10.56301/awl.v6i2.1199>
- Cherry, K. (2024, July 16). How social learning theory works. *Verywell Mind*. <https://tinyurl.com/495a4nhy>
- Children in Conflict with the Law. (2022). International bridges to justice. <https://tinyurl.com/y2ryxumt>
- Cortel, E. D. S. (2020). A rights-based approach to juvenile justice: Exploring the diversion of children in conflict with the law in the Philippines (master's thesis). International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam. <https://tinyurl.com/3u9k4mn8>
- Department of Social Welfare and Development. (2008). *Guidelines in the conduct of diversion for children in conflict with the law* (administrative order no. 7, Series of 2008). Department of Social Welfare and Development. https://dswd.gov.ph/issuances/AOs/AO_2008-007.pdf/
- Department of the Interior and Local Government. (N. D.). DILG to LCES: Use manual for handling child-related cases in barangays. <https://tinyurl.com/4fpaf4d9>
- Department of the Interior and Local Government. (2017). Use manual for child-related cases in barangays. <https://tinyurl.com/2ddbtax>
- Esquinas, A. M. (2025). Assessment on the barangay council for the protection of children (BCPC) programs in addressing children's welfare in Calamba City, Laguna. *International Journal of Research Publications*, 173(1). <https://doi.org/10.47119/ijrp1001731520257862>
- Fabre, P., Barrero, B., Amay, C., Mansueto, G., Dayta, B., & Vedra, A. (2016). Intervention programs for children in conflict with the law (CICL): Gearing towards sustainable development. *American Journal of Social Sciences, Arts and Literature*, 3(3).

- Gonzales, I. T., Gonzales, R. U., Capoy, P. S., Osop, A. D., & Bustamante-Paster, A. (2023). Evaluation and enhancement of existing intervention programs for juvenile delinquency. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Analysis*, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.47191/ijmra/v6-i1-46>
- Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council. (N. D.). Barangay protocol in managing cases of children in conflict with the law and child at risk. <https://tinyurl.com/3u5mdhxy>
- Juvenile Justice Reform Commission. (2007). The rights of children in conflict with the law. UNICEF. <https://tinyurl.com/yfhhddm2>
- Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, Ramirez, M. G. R., & Feliciano, M. S. (2017). Legal research on RA 9344 as amended. In compilation of Philippine supreme court decisions and jurisprudence on the juvenile justice and welfare act (RA 9344) from 2006 to June 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/ye8daj6w>
- Laro, A. (2021). Handling children in conflict with the law: From the journal of field instruction students. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 5(8). <https://tinyurl.com/82ew4sr8>
- Miksza, P., Shaw, T., Richerme, L. K., Hash, M., Hodges, A., & Parker, E. C. (2023). 12 Quantitative descriptive and correlational research. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197639757.003.0012>
- Molina-Lingvall, M., Cruz, M. T., & Segundo, R. P. (2024). Restorative justice for children in conflict with the law: A community-based solution. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 8(7), 2988–3003. <https://doi.org/10.47772/ijriss.2024.807233>
- Naynes, L. M. T., Bello, L. Q., & Rey, H. M. T. (2022). The knowledge and competency of barangay council for the protection of children in handling cases of children in conflict with the law. *Philippines E-Journals*. <https://ejournals.ph/article.php?id=22419>
- Online Resource on Local Governance. (2024, October 4). Barangay council for the protection of children (BCPC) – Online resource on local governance. Ministry of the Interior and Local Government, Laman City Field Office. <https://tinyurl.com/kvt8pv8e>
- Oppus, A. M. (2015). Level of awareness and perception of elected officials on the juvenile justice and welfare act of 2006 (RA 9344). *International Journal of Business and Management Studies*, 9(2).
- Pablo, M. C. (2025). Barangay desk officers capability in handling violence against women and children incidents. *Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences*, 23(1). <https://doi.org/10.57239/pjss-2025-23.1.00543>
- Pamposa, M. A., Besa, A. S., & Sultan Kudarat State University. (2025). Barangay council for the protection of children, their four core rights and its contribution to barangay good governance. *Ignatian International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research*, 3(3). <https://tinyurl.com/yknexer>
- Pidlao-Palitayan, B. M. (2023). Rehabilitation services for children in conflict with the law in Baguio City. *International Journal of Advance Research*, 11(7), 804–824. <https://doi.org/10.21474/ijar01/17288>
- Republic Act No. 9344 – An act establishing a comprehensive juvenile justice and welfare system, creating the juvenile justice and welfare council under the department of justice, appropriating funds therefore and for other purposes –Supreme Court E-Library. (n.d.). <https://tinyurl.com/bdfjmaxm>
- Roche, S., & Flynn, C. (2021). Local child protection in the Philippines: A case study of actors, processes and key risks for children. *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, 8(3), 367–383. <https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.332>
- Sigue, J. B. (2020). RA 9344 or the juvenile justice and welfare act of 2006: A case study on its implementation in Bacolod City. *Philippine Legal Research*. <https://tinyurl.com/4esn7huv>
- Subakade, K., & Lawani, B. T. (2022). Psycho-social problems among children in conflict with the law: An exploration and social work intervention study in Pune City. *Scholarly Research Journal for Humanity Science and English Language*, 10(52). <https://doi.org/10.21922/srjhsel.v10i52.11513>
- Suerte, K. C. M., Tigoy, R. I. P., Zulita, A. G., Valmorida, F. M. S., Ferrater, R. R. J., Salvacion, R. R., & Aspacio, D. C. (2023). Describing the practices of social workers in handling children in conflict with the law. *Canadian Journal of Educational and Social Studies*, 3(4), 167–184. <https://doi.org/10.53103/cjess.v3i4.169>
- Tabanao, E. G. V., Salindo, P. P., Salindo, J. K. B., Ubat, J. T., Pelletero, V. B. M., & Mahalay, R. S. (2025). Leadership and resilience: Evaluating rural development training for barangay officials. <https://ejournals.ph/article.php?id=25708>
- UNICEF Philippines. (2019, May 20). Implement the juvenile justice law fully and effectively. <https://tinyurl.com/5x3v26h8>
- Urbano, S. W., Arcangel, J. C., Cordosoc, T. M. M., Gonzales, C. F., Pascua, A. T., Cabantac, M., Quilang, J. A., & Lagasca-Hiloma, C. M. (2023). Assessing the impact of holistic intervention program for children in conflict with the law (CICL) after rehabilitation in bahay pag-asa in Cauayan City, Isabela. *Spring Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(12), 24–36. <https://doi.org/10.55559/sjahss.v2i12.188>