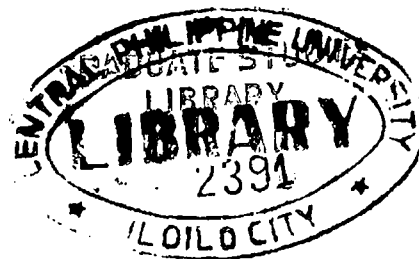


**OUTCOMES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM AT THE ILOILO PROVINCE  
PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICE NO.2**

**A SPECIAL PAPER**

**Presented to  
The Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences  
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MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**



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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### *Background of the Study*

In the field of Social Work Practice, the concept of self-reliance and self-determination are of primordial importance. The social worker is expected to provide numerous interventions to bring about changes in families, communities and the entire society. A social worker who works with offenders must have a repertoire of interventions that could effect change in the clientele. Among these interventions emerge the philosophy of restorative justice which is aimed at bringing about healing and reconciliation for concerned individuals and groups.

According to the National Association of Social Workers Social Work Code of Ethics, the 6 core values of social work are: 1) Service; 2) Social Justice; 3) Dignity and Worth of the Person; 4) Importance of Human Relationships; 5) Integrity; and 6) Competence. Social justice as a core value calls for more restorative methods of justice to be adopted. Restorative justice through a social worker's lens exists as an alternative to punitive methods of justice. It seeks peace and reconciliation.

This practice of restorative justice is not only applicable in western countries but also in the local setting. Actually, the principle of restorative justice is indigenous in the Philippine setting. The research report of Barrameda (2008), *Mainstreaming Bodong Through Matagoan*, discussed the mainstreaming of a restorative justice system being practiced by the Kalingas of Northern Cordillera and the problems such mainstreaming is encountering. Mainstreaming refers to the formal recognition of indigenous structures and principles by the local government and their promotion or incorporation in programs and policies.

The Parole and Probation Administration, abbreviated as PPA-DOJ, is an agency of the Philippine Government under the Department of Justice responsible for providing a less costly alternative to imprisonment of offenders who are likely to respond to individualized community-based treatment programs.

In the light of its mission of rehabilitating probationers, parolees and pardonees to promote their development as integral persons by utilizing innovative interventions and techniques which respect the dignity of man and recognize his divine destiny, PPA-DOJ has now adopted a community-based program with three major components. These are (1) Restorative Justice which serves as the framework of the program; (2) Therapeutic Community as the treatment modality; and (3) Volunteer Probation Aides as the lead community resource (Herradura, 2009)

Restorative Justice is a philosophy and a process whereby stakeholders in a specific offense resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offense and its implications for the future. It is a victim-centered response to crime that provides opportunity for those directly affected by the crime - the victim, the offender, their families and the community - to be directly involved in responding to the harm caused by the crime. Its ultimate objective is to restore the broken relationships among stakeholders. It provides a healing opportunity for affected parties to facilitate the recovery of the concerned parties and allow them to move on with their lives.

The Therapeutic Community (TC) is a self-help social learning treatment model used in the rehabilitation of drug offenders and other clients with behavioral problems. TC adheres to precepts of "right living" - Responsible Love and Concern; Truth and Honesty; the Here and Now; Personal Responsibility for Destiny; Social Responsibility (brother's keeper); Moral Code; Work Ethics and Pride in Quality. It is an environment that helps people get help while helping themselves. It operates in a similar fashion to a functional family with a hierarchical structure of older and younger members. Each

member has a defined set of roles and responsibilities for sustaining the proper functioning of the TC. There are sets of rules and community norms that members commit to live by and uphold upon entry. The primary “therapist” and teacher is the community itself, consisting of peers, staff/probation and parole officers (PPOs) and even Volunteer Probation Aides (VPA), who, as role models of successful personal change, serve as guides in the recovery process (Malaygay, 2015).

The Volunteer Probation Aide (VPA) Program is a strategy by which the Parole and Probation Administration may be able to generate maximum citizen participation or community involvement. Citizens of good standing in the community may volunteer to assist the probation and parole officers in the supervision of a number of probationers, parolees and conditional pardonees in their respective communities. Since they reside in the same community as the client, they are able to usher the reformation and rehabilitation of the clients hands-on (Herradura, 2009).

In short, the Volunteer Probation Aides assist the offenders towards rehabilitation while they are under supervision in their respective communities. In collaboration with the PPO, the VPA helps pave the way for the offender, victim and community to each heal from the harm resulting from the crime done. They can initiate a circle of support for clients and victims to prevent further crimes, thereby acting as participants in nation-building.

The outcomes of restorative justice interventions appear interesting in view of its major function of restoring the losses suffered by the victims of crimes, holding offenders accountable for the harm they have caused, and building peace within communities.

It is within the purview of this shift in paradigm in addressing the effects of crime that this study was conducted.

### *Statement of the Problem*

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The present study was an attempt to determine and describe the outcomes of the restorative justice program in Iloilo Province Parole and Probation Office No.2. To carry out this objective, three outcome variables were considered. These were: (1) losses suffered by the victims of crimes; (2) offenders' accountability for the harm caused; and (3) building peace within communities.

Specifically, the study attempted to find answers to the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of such variables as age, gender, level of education, length of supervision period, client type, residence and present living arrangement?
2. What are the outcomes of restorative justice in restoring the losses suffered by the victims?
3. What are the outcomes of restorative justice in defining offenders' accountability for the harm caused by the crime?
4. What are the outcomes of restorative justice in terms of building peace in the community?
5. Are there significant differences in the restoration of losses suffered by the victims when the respondents are classified according to age, gender, education, length of supervision and client type, residence and present living arrangement?
6. Are there significant differences in defining offenders' accountability for the harm caused by the crime when the respondents are classified according to age, gender, education, length of supervision and client type, residence and present living arrangement?
7. Are there significant differences in building peace in the community when respondents are classified according to age, gender, education, length of supervision and client type, residence and present living arrangement?