



PUSH FACTORS AMONG CHILDREN TO COMMIT THEFT IN BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

Theft committed by children is not a standard norm and should be addressed legally and strategically. The study is qualitative descriptive, assessed the factors and present intervention programs of the Baguio City Social Welfare Department Office regarding the push factors among children in committing theft in Baguio City. The study investigated the profile of the children committing theft in terms of age, gender, educational attainment, and type of family; factors that influence those children to commit theft in terms of personal, family, peers, and social factors. As the output of the study, an intervention program was crafted. The participants of the study were five police investigators from the Women and Children Protection Desk Center; one Baguio City Social Welfare and Development Office social worker; two Children in Conflict with the Law. A validated survey questionnaire, supported by interviews, was used to gather the data. The study revealed that the age of those committing theft in Baguio ranged from 15-17, most are males, freshmen, and sophomores in the secondary level. The children belong to a broken family and/or separated parents. The desire for possession of gadgets, for survival, having a broken family, lack of communication, the influence of peers, to attain the status of friends, and to sustain craving for online games were among the factors of theft among children. The intervention program named “Ang Pagkakamali Ng Anak, KayangItama Ng Magulang” is offered for adoption to address the findings of the study.



KEYWORDS: Theft, Children-in-Conflict with the Law, Intervention Programs, Social Welfare and Development, Baguio City

INTRODUCTION

Internationally, theft is the generic term for all crimes in which a person intentionally and fraudulently takes personal property of another without permission or consent and with the intent convert it to the taker's use which could apply to any gender and age due to the different factors that have experience in their life (Myers, 2010). Theft among children is third among crimes committed by children in the world (Leach, 2002).

As provided by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which was the international humanitarian system recognizes child protection is a life-saving priority by protecting them through prevention of violence and abuse, and to give displaced children access to protection service, by establishing or supporting national and community - level protection system. There are four (4) objectives in order to ensure that children will not involve in crime, specifically theft, namely: to ensure that children are safe where they live, learn and play; to strengthen the capacity of children to participate in their own protection; to give children's child-friendly access and other legal procedure and to essential documents; and to ensure that children with specific needs receive targeted support because we know that some forms of child abuse are also a criminal offense. The literature relative to the study are grouped below based on the objectives of the study.

Theft of Gadgets by Minors. Violent crimes were often committed by young delinquents in public places, schools, or near school facilities. Mostly, the objects of their interest were money or other items such as mobile phones, computers, and other gadgets (Hullova, 2015). The Nigdi police recovered at least 29 stolen cellphones, an



autorickshaw, a car, a laptop and a motorcycle following the arrest of a 19-year old youth and the detention of three minors in separate incidents (“Three minors detained”, 2018). Police investigation revealed that the children had received “special training” on how to steal a mobile phone in a crowded area. A police team arrested four children (“Mumbai thieves recruit”, 2018). A college student and his juvenile accomplice were arrested in connection with a serial theft of gadgets and six mobile phones were recovered from the duo. The managed to buy a new Yamaha FZ BIKE with the money got by selling the stolen mobiles (“College student juvenile”, 2016). According to Marquez (2019), two minors were taken under police custody after allegedly snatching the cellphone and wallet of two foreigners in Manila.

Broken Family of Minors. A broken home can disrupt and confuse a child’s world (Saikia, 2017). A rising numbers of children grow up in unstable family homes. In Netherlands, 20% of children under 16 years old have divorced parents (Sillekens&Notten, 2020).

According to Gosztyla (2015), modern dysfunctionality is not understood as merely orphanhood or half-orphanhood but more as a deep crisis of educational family values. Most researchers put a top priority on the feature of family life which can be called “an emotional bond of child with its family”. A lot of research proves that there is a minimal number of human need’s which must be fulfilled, among which the need of safety and the need of love are most frequently listed. This is why the role of family in child’s life is so important.

A substantial fraction of youth experienced not just a single change in family structure, such as divorce, but multiple changes in parents’ marital or romantic relationship status. The instability and change perspective recognizes that the loss or addition of a parental figure can disrupt a child’s sense of security and create ambiguity in household rules, family relationships, and parental expectations about



behavior (Cavanagh & Fomby, 2019). The Central European studies on juvenile offenders reveal many similar characteristics in their profiles. They typically come from lower class, and often broken families (Klaus, et.al, 2016).

Minors Commit Theft to Survival. According to Sulejmani (2018), poverty is considered as an objective factor of criminality, which undoubtedly affects the coming into existence of criminal behavior. Economic crisis directly affects the increase of crime rates in general, and in particular the delinquency of minors

Youth offenders also experience great difficulty becoming integrated into the educational system, which will limit their achieving an adequate academic and professional education. This means that they will be rejected by the labour market or left working in poorly qualified jobs, making it impossible for them to obtain the necessary economic resources to survive and maintain their families, and will result in their involvement in criminal activities (theft, small robberies, assault, blackmail, etc) (Campoy & Parra, 2016).

Young homeless people are often unable to support themselves, ineligible for benefits, and unlikely to find employment. Consequently, they may engage in survival behaviors – begging, theft, drug dealing and prostitution – to earn income for food and shelter (Stewart & Hurren, 2017).

Similarly, child neglect and other forms of maltreatment are common in families living in poverty and among parents who are teenagers and who abuse drugs or alcohol. Signs and symptoms of abuse include school failure, extremely passive or aggressive behavior, big appetite and stealing food among others (“Child abuse and”, 2015). Kids jump off onto cargo trucks, sometimes moving, to steal goods to feed their families. When asked why they do this, one answered; “because our family is short of money” and it also became addictive “fun”, he admitted (Ng, & Lachica, 2019).



Broken Family of Minors. A dysfunctional family environment played a significant role and might have been the cause of the commission of the crime (incomplete families, living in foster homes, bad social situation, etc.) (Hullova, 2015).

On the other hand, Klaus & Wozniakowska-Fajst (2016), wrote that juvenile offenders coming from broken families are often denied the opportunity to be properly socialized, as their families are poorly educated and have a poor attitude to work. Such families do not encourage their children to develop properly, as they do not see the need or do not know how to go about it. Theft is the most common offense. They commit offenses out of boredom or a desire to do something exciting

A study conducted in Benin reveals that the proportion of juvenile offenders coming from broken family was 30.8%. Theft (46.2%) and rape (19.7%) were the main offenses committed (Djidonou et al, 2016).

Study found that juvenile shoplifters are more likely to be apprehended in groups as a result of direct, or even indirect peer pressure, for others, shoplifting is just a way to act out and rebel from their parents or society (Arenas, 2018). One negative result of parental divorce is a higher likelihood that offspring will “act out”, that is show externalizing problem behavior (EPB). EPB is not only distressing to the individual and family, it also poses risk to society, such as in crime and in high healthcare costs (Sillekens & Notten, 2020).

One of the factors that caused the children to steal is the treatment of the parents, which could trigger the children to do wrong, or it could also be the environment. It is usual for a very young child to take something which excites his or her interest. This should not be regarded as stealing until the youngster is old enough, usually three to five years old, to understand that taking something which belongs to another person is wrong. Parents should actively teach their children about property



rights and the consideration of others. Although they have learned that theft is wrong, older children or teenagers steal for many reasons. A youngest may steal to make things equal if a brother or sister seems to be favored with affection or gifts. Sometime, a child may steal as a show of bravery to a friend, or to give presents to family or friends or to be more accepted by peers. Children may also steal because they might now want to depend on anyone, so they take what they feel they need. Parents should consider whether the child has stolen out of a need for more attention. In these cases, the child may be expressing anger or trying to "get even" with his or her parents; the stolen object may become a substitute for love or affection. The parents should make an effort to give more recognition to the child as an essential family member (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2019).

Having Upgraded Gadget Like Other Friends. According to the research findings, friend influence is the most important factor affecting game addiction among undergraduate students. It also plays an intermediate role in the relation between family relationship, friend influence, social environment, and stealing behavior (Nukham&Kulachai, 2018).

Other kids might have personal problems that lead them to steal. They may feel jealous of what others have (Lyness, D. 2015). The so-called benefits of stealing are that it is a way to get something you want quickly without much work. A person with little education or skills can suddenly seem wealthy to his friends. Kids may be under peer-pressure from their friends to steal something in order to belong to the group (Kurtusm 2018).

According to Sprague (2018), it is peer pressure that often influences teenagers how they should think, dress, or act. If a close friend is pressuring them into shoplifting, they might feel the need to follow along

Having Gadgets for Online Games. Young people have shown preferences for using



the internet for gaming, chatting, and social networking. Overuse of technology more generally might be linked to poorer outcomes in adolescents including physical, behavioral, attentional, and psychological issues (Gottschalk, 2019).

In the study of Sundus (2018), it revealed that child shows aggression or appears tense when they can't get online and this feeling magically goes when their devices are given back. Child gets upset or shows anger by small things and when they get online, they become calmer

Addiction to both online and offline games result in psychological consequences. Addicted people may perform aggressive behavior, cannot themselves, obtain money from illegal means, and have poor relationship with their family members. Addiction to game leads to stealing behavior (Kulsiripunyo, 2015). Boy steals money from parents, he had used the money to buy expensive smartphones for his friends to play the PUBG mobile game ("PUBG mobile boy", 2020).

The Crime Survey of England and Wales, an official measure, estimates that 11 in every 100 children aged 10 to 15 are a victim of crime, around 700,000 offenses a year. The two largest categories of crime experienced by children are low-level violence, such as assaults linked to bullying and gangs, and theft, typically things like bikes, phones, or other belongings at school. The CSEW data says that fewer children are victims of crime than seven years ago - although the picture has been complicated by recent rises in crimes recorded by the police (Jeffrey, 1965). Their perceptions of crime are broadly similar to the rest of the population. Survey after survey in recent years has indicated that people very often think that crime nationally is far higher than it is close to them. The last survey carried out by the official statisticians found that the three main sources influencing the public's perceptions of crime were news programs, word of mouth, and tabloid newspapers



(Casciani, 2001).

According to the recorded statistics, considering that theft is the common offense committed because of the following reason: peer group pressure, peer involvement in problem behavior, a high proportion of unsupervised time with peers, parental criminality, poor parental discipline and supervision, low family income, family conflict, troubled home life, poor educational attainment, lack of skills, unemployment, lack of social commitment, a high percentage of children in the community, community disorganization, drug or alcohol misuse, social exclusion, availability of drugs, and deprivation such poor housing homelessness. These are factors that parents should be aware of and talk about the activity of the children as part of communication between them, for them to be opened handed to build good rapport while the children are growing (American Academy of Child and Adolescents Psychiatry, 2019).

Based on the data provided Baguio City Police Office, there was 166 committed theft from January to October 2019 with a population of 357,349. From the statistic that was provided from BCPO theft were decreased comparing from CY 2015 to CY 2018. For the comparison in CY 2018, there were 178 while in CY 2017, there was 322 theft committed. Furthermore, in CY 2017, there were 1,385, and 2,414 in CY 2015 were theft committed. Based on these statistics, there is a need to conduct a criminological study to present data that can be used to address the findings (City Investigation Division Management Unit Statistics (CIDMU), 2015-2019).

According to the records of CIDMU of BCPO from 2015-2019, the findings from the given statistical data show that the numbers have been dramatically decreasing from 2015 to 2018, thus, to address this finding, what is needed is an explanation why it is decreasing. Does it mean then that the existing intervention



program/s is/are effective? If so, then maybe what you want to do is to conduct a strategic audit of this program/s? When was the intervention program implemented? Did its implementation contribute to the decline in numbers? If this is the direction of the research, then you can make changes/amendment/enhancements to the existing program considering or by including the profile and/or personal, social, peer & family factors that came out from dissecting/analyzing the data gathered. (This was part of my comment for version 3. Has this been addressed?- Atty AMF Togade)

Several theories and concepts were culled from books, journals, magazines, other related studies, and other printed materials to help in the interpretation of the findings of the study.

The first theory related to the study is the theory of differential association. This puts forth by Edwin H. Sutherland. This is a learning theory that formulates the process as one whereby criminal behavior is learned in association with those who have criminal attitudes and values, as compared to associations with those who have noncriminal attitudes and values (Waters, 2017).

Similarly, the learning theory has revolved around the concept of conditioning, wherein behavior (responses) which is related to the environment in which it occurs (stimuli). The Pavlovian type of classical conditioning is based upon a stimulus eliciting a response, the stimulus occurring before the response. Such conditioning procedures are of minor importance to sociologists since the behaviors involved are usually eye blinks, salivation, and galvanic skin responses. Much more important are operant behaviors, those behaviors emitted in the presence of given stimulus conditions and maintained by their consequences, that is, the changes they produce in the environment. The concept of operant behavior is vital to sociologists because most social behavior is of an operant nature. The effect maintains social interaction it has on other people.



Another theoretical basis of the study was the rational choice theory, which was based on the fundamental tenets of classical criminology, which hold that people freely choose their behavior and are motivated by the avoidance of pain and the pursuit of pleasure. Individuals evaluate their choice of actions following each option's ability to produce advantage, pleasure, and happiness (Waters, 2017). Rational choice provides a micro perspective on why individual offenders decide to commit specific crimes; people choose to engage in crime because it can be rewarding, easy, satisfying, and fun. The central premise of this theory is that people are rational beings whose behavior can be controlled or modified by a fear of punishment. In this way, it is believed offenders can be persuaded to desist from offending by intensifying their fear of punishment. In terms of setting the quantum of punishment, according to this theory, sanctions should be limited to what is necessary to deter people from choosing crime (Siegel & McCormick, 2006).

The routine activities theory, which requires three elements be present for a crime to occur: a motivated offender with criminal intentions and the ability to act on these inclinations, a suitable victim or target, and the absence of a capable guardian who can prevent the crime from happening. These three elements must converge in time and space for a crime to occur. Further supporting the situational nature of offending, Campbell et al. (2002) found the concept of opportunity to be predictive of both violent and property school-based offenses.

Similarly, Gouvis (2002) found that schools act as a social milieu for violence, with social disorganization and routine activities influencing block-level violent crime rates. During the after-school period, blocks near schools that are categorized by resource deprivation experienced higher rates of violence than neighborhoods near schools with more resources. This finding suggests that a lack of resources results in less supervision of youth, which creates more opportunities for offending.



Hummer (2004), however, did not find support for the situational nature of offending, as it was found that these factors were insignificant in reducing violent or property crimes on campuses.

At last, the Game Theory was pioneered by Princeton mathematician John Von Neumann. In the early years, the emphasis was on games of pure conflict (zero-sum games). Other games were considered in a cooperative form. That is, the participants were supposed to choose and implement their actions jointly. Recent research has focused on games that are neither zero-sum nor purely cooperative. In these games, the players choose their actions separately, but their links to others involve elements of both competition and cooperation.

It attempts to determine mathematically and logically the actions that “players” should take to secure the best outcomes for themselves in a wide array of "games." The games it studies range from chess to child-rearing and from tennis to takeovers. But the games all share the common feature of interdependence. That is, the outcome for each participant depends on the choices (strategies) of all (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2019).

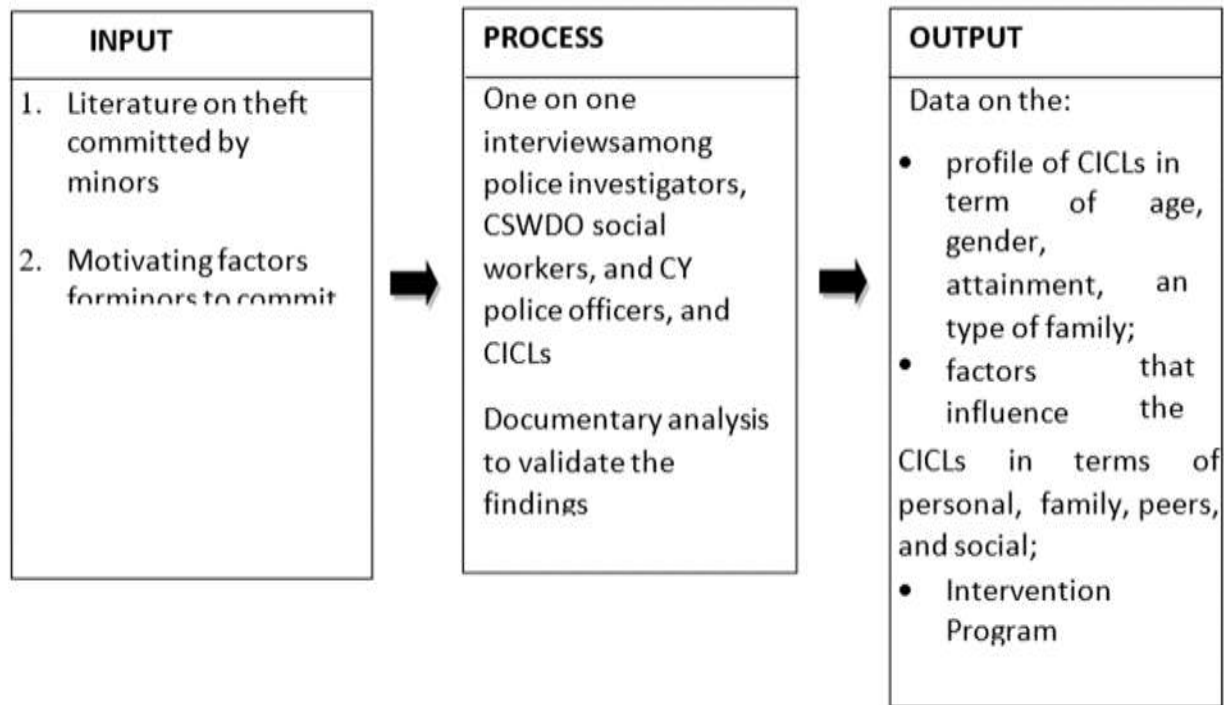
In so-called zero-sum games, the interests of the players conflict totally, so that one person's gain always is another's loss. More typical are games with the potential for either mutual benefit (positive-sum) or mutual harm (negative sum), as well as some conflict. Games are fundamentally different from decisions made in a neutral environment. Like the general, a game player must recognize his interaction with other intelligent and purposive people. His own choice must allow both for conflict and for possibilities for cooperation (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2019).

Neglect, as used in this study, refers to persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including



cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development including non-organic failure to thrive. Physical refers to a physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented. Sexual the sexual exploitation of a child or young person for an adult's or another young person's own sexual gratification, the involvement of children or young people in sexual activities of any kind (including exposure to pornography) which they do not understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate normal family roles. Emotional persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejections, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioral development of a child. Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in school. All staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the child/children. Parents of all children involved will be personally contacted immediately after bullying behavior is identified. Any complaint by a parent that their child is, or maybe, bullied will be fully investigated by the designated teacher for child protection, and team action will be taken to protect the child. A parent making a complaint about bullying will have a personal response from the designated teacher within one week of making the complaint, indicating the investigation which has been carried out and the action being taken. Thus, with these experiences of the children, they tend to commit theft (Cornwall, 1995).

From the legal perspective, the following are the elements of theft: 1) that there be taking of personal property; 2) that said property belongs to another; 3) that the taking be done with intent to gain; 4) that the taking be done without the consent of the owner; 5) that the taking be accomplished without the use of violence against or intimidation of persons or force upon things (Reyes, 2014).



Objectives of the Study

This study on theft committed by children in Baguio City, specifically sought answers to the following problems:

1. What is the profile of those children committing theft in terms of:
 - a. age;
 - b. gender;
 - c. educational attainment; and
 - d. type of family?
2. What are the factors that influence those children to commit theft in terms of:
 - a. personal;
 - b. family;
 - c. peers; and
 - d. social?
3. What intervention program can be proposed to address the findings of the



study?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study made use of a qualitative - descriptive survey of research. The researchers gathered the needed data through the conduct of one-on-one interviews among the key informants. The responses were properly documented and were treated to come up with the story to answer the objectives of the study.

The participants of the study include five (5) police investigators from the Children and Youth Center of Baguio City Police Office and one (1) Baguio City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) social worker and two CICLs. The police investigators are the ones handling cases of minors. These are the trained investigators of the office who underwent schooling relative to handling cases of minors. They are in-charge in processing the cases of arrested CICLs. The social worker who participated in the study is the focal person-in-charge in dealing with the cases of CICLs who were referred to in their office.

The primary tool used in gathering the needed data is a validated interview guide by the University of Baguio Research and Development Center (UBRDC). The contents of the tool were also validated by the members of the panel when the study was presented among the pool of examiners during academic meetings. The researchers, in their capacity as Registered Criminologists, made use of their professional capacity to analyze the findings and came up with results that were inferred from the data gathered.

The request letter was prepared and approved by the Dean of the School of Criminal Justice and Public Safety of the University of Baguio. Similar letters were also prepared and approved by the BCPO and CSWDO in Baguio City. The researchers sought an appointment with the key informants setting the specific date



and time for the conduct of one-on-one interviews. The consent of the parents of the CICLs was done through the CSWDO social worker. The primary data were gathered using the interview guide. The findings were validated by the documents issued to the researchers that contain the statistics. The observation of the researchers was used to strengthen the findings of the study.

The gathered data were treated using Thematic Analysis (TA). This method of analyzing the data includes coding and identification of themes based on the responses of the informants. Using the TA, the answers were carefully examined, wherein the researchers' identified themes. These themes are the common responses among the statements of the key informants. These themes were discussed, given its implications, and corroborated with other related literature.

The data that were gathered were treated in consonance with the ethical standards of research. The identities of the participants of the study were kept confidential. In the case of the key informants, their consent was asked if they were willing to participate and that their names may be written in the manuscript. This was documented by writing their names and signature on the interview sheet. Before the CICLs were interviewed, a request was made to the social worker; the tool was evaluated by the CSWDO social worker and accompanied the researchers during the conduct of the interview. The informed consent form was used to get the consent of the participants. The conduct of the one-on-one interview was properly coordinated to ensure the success of the gathering of data and the compliance to the protocol of research. The respondents were given enough time to answer the questionnaires. The findings of the study shall be given to the CSWD for their information and action.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of those children committing theft



The age of the CICLs who committed theft in Baguio ranged from 15-17 years old. Most of the CILs are males, freshmen, and sophomores in the secondary level but were considered out of school youth during the conduct of study since they already stopped going to school. These CICLs either belong to a broken family and/or separated parents.

Factors that Influence Those Children to Commit Theft

Below, contains the answers to the factors that influence the children in committing theft in Baguio City according to categories.

a. Personal Factors

The desire for possession of gadgets. Based on the interviews conducted by the researches, the children who were involved in theft wanted to have the latest gadget, just others. These children wanted to have their gadgets like mobile phones, iPods, and others to attain a certain status of being some-one with upgraded gadgets. This was supported by the statement of the CSWDO social worker who said, "Haangga poverty tirason, ngemkayat da lang agkarroniti gadget dagitaubbing" (The reason of the children in committing theft is not poverty but these children just wanted to possess the latest gadget." This response of the CSWDO social worker was based on the cases of the children she handled in the past few months. According to one CICL, "nagmamayat gamin dagijay cellphone tikakadwakisunganagtakawak met tibagik" (My friends have the latest gadgets, I wanted to have one too.) However, according to one of the police investigations, poverty is a factor. This was negated by the answers of the **CSWDO and BCPO informants**.

For survival. The second theme that emerged from the responses of the informants is for survival because the children are usually outside their homes. These children are lazy to go home to eat their meals. As a result, they commit theft, given



the opportunity in the community. These children belong to middle-class families that can provide their needs but because of unhealthy relationships between and among family members. According to a police investigator, "The children who were involved in theft just wanted to have something to eat." This was similar to the statement of the CSWDO office, who said, "Dagijaydadduma, kayat da lang nga ag-survive, isungaagtakaw da" (The other children commit theft for them to survive.)"

b. Family Factors

Broken Family. It was found out that a broken family is one of the family factors why the children commit theft in Baguio City. This includes separated parents, and the children are staying either with their father or mother. The family is also considered broken even the marriage is legal, but the parents are separated bed and board. This was supported by the statement of the CICL when he said "nagsina da tatang ken nanang ko. Ni mama lang kadwakijay boarding house mi" (My parents are separated. I live with my mother in a boarding house." It was found out that the children adopt moral and ethical values from his/her parents and other family members. It goes out with the saying that the family plays a vital role in shaping the children's behavior and grooming his/her personality. However, one police investigator stated, "The children commit crimes if they are facing disturbance at home. They don't go home, so they face challenges to survive." This is an indication of broken family ties that could lead to a worse family loss of values.

Lack of Communication. This theme was identified because the informant's manifested loss of discipline among the children who are involved in the theft. According to one police investigator, one of the reasons children commit theft is when their parents are not paying attention to their welfare. Often lack of discourse in the family can lead to find solace other than homes. The informant from CSWDO said "nu awantimayatnga relationship ti family, haan da makaplanotinapintas" (If



planning is not done well, family relationship can be destroyed.") If children are not having their communication with their parents or other family members at home, they may lose unity, trust, and understanding, which can eventually lower their self-esteem or self-confidence. In contrast with the learning theory, which has revolved around the concept of conditioning, wherein behavior (responses), which is related to the environment in which it occurs. The stimulus occurring before the response. Such conditioning procedures are of minor importance to sociologists since the behaviors involved are usually eye blinks, salivation, and galvanic skin responses.

c. Peers-Factors

Influence of Peers. This theme was identified by the researchers because most of the informants said it is the most common factor why the children of the same age group commit crimes like theft. One police said, "one cause the children to commit theft is because of the influence of friends and members of the gang." The CICL, during the interview said "gaputibarkada, nagaramidak met timadi. Nagtakawak" (Due to peer pressure, I committed theft.) This is an indication of the strong influence of friends even in a negative way. Also, according to the CSWDO officer, the reason the children commit theft is just for fun, not because of poverty or whatsoever. Another factor is curiosity about the use of the gadget of peers. To operate one, others need to have similar ones. The findings show a connection to the theory of differential association, which formulates the process as one whereby criminal behavior is acquired through the influence of different groups in the society.

To attain the status of friends. This shows that the jealousy of other group members is a factor in committing theft. Based on the findings, the children commit theft because they also wanted to possess the same or similar gadget owned by their peers. As one CICL said "dagijaykakadwak, adda smartphones da, us-usaren da agay-ayam, siyakaman, isunganagbirukak" (My friends have smartphones, they use it



in playing games, so I aspired to have one too.)

d. Social Factors

To Sustain Craving for Online Games. The findings show that the children who were involved in theft are addicted to online games. These children are good at online games. These games can be installed in smartphones and can be run and used offline. These children steal money to buy smartphones. Sometimes, they steal money to buy food for survival, as well as to have loaded for other online activities. The children also utilize social media to connect with friends sharing their experiences in online gaming. According to one CICL “adda cellphone ko idingagamamitekto Mobile Legends ngemnapirdi. Kayat ko ituloy jay status ko ijay ML isunganagtakawakti CP” (I have a smartphone before, I use it in playing ML, I wanted to sustain my status in that game.” Similarly, the other CICL said “Maki us- usarak gamin ti CP tanumaka-ay-ayamti ML, isunganagbirukak ta adda kumatisariliknga CP” (I usually borrow the phone to play ML so I tried to steal to have my own.”

According to the CSWDO social worker in Baguio City, “Dagito yubbingnganatiliw, haan da nganapobre. Nabay-bay-an da lang isungaagbirok da tiar-aramiden da, dagita ML-ML ngadagita isutimaysangarason nu apay agtakaw da” (These rescued children are not poor, they were only neglected. Playing the so-called ML led them to commit theft to sustain their addiction to online games.”

To support vices. This theme supports the first theme that was identified but this theme would like to emphasize that the children who were involved in the study were already addicted to ML, one of the latest online games. Relative to these findings, the routine activities theory requires a motivated offender with criminal intentions and the ability to act on these inclinations, a suitable victim or target, and the absence of a



capable guardian who can prevent the crime from happening for a crime to happen.

Intervention Program

Based on the findings of the study, the CICLs had committed theft due to personal, family, and social factors. The specific factors include the broken family to addiction to online games. All over, these are due to family members' lack of supervision and guidance. Thus, this intervention program named “Ang Pagkakamali Ng Anak, KayangItama Ng Magulang.” This program includes the full participation of parents and their children/child who was involved in theft or other property crimes.

Activities	Strategies	Persons Involved	Success Indicators
Dialogue and orientation	All the persons involved identified in the program shall convene to talk about the personalized intervention program that can be applied to the CICL.	CSWDO social worker Police Investigator Barangay Council for Protection of Children (BCPC) Parents CICL	The participants agreed to have common activities for the CICL.



Community Service	This phase is optional, and it will always depend on the decision of the majority handling the case.	CSWDO social worker BCPC Parents CICL	The CICL is cooperative; The CICL is remorseful
Monitoring Phase	The participants will agree on what kind of monitoring system should be implemented. It may include but not limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Counseling; 2. Life-skills training; 3. Support services to parents or guardians; 4. Involvement of CICL to youth organizations; and 5. Psychological and therapeutic programs. 	CSWDO social worker BCPC Parents	The CICL is responsive to the program. The parents are regularly reporting the development of the CICL.

In summary, the CICLs belong to age ranging from 15-17, mostly are males, out of school youth, and they belong to a broken family. The personal factors that drive the CICLs in committing theft are their desire for possession of gadgets and survival. The family factors include broken family and lack of communication. As to peers-factors, the identified themes are the influence of peers and to attain the status of friends. The last is the social factors, including sustainability of the CICLs' craving for online games, which is also associated with supporting vices.

CONCLUSIONS

The CICLs who are involved in theft is nearly to attain the age of maturity. The factor why the children commit theft is due to very loose supervision and guidance of parents/guardians to their children. This led to their gadget addiction



and eventually pushing them to commit theft to sustain their online addiction to games.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following are recommended:

1. The parents should:
 - a. teach their children to be contented with what they have by regularly taking time to do short bonding lectures;
 - b. closely monitor their children's activities by getting feedback from barangay officials, school employees, accompanying them in their other activities; inculcate in the minds of children to always select their friends and not to mingle with other youth belonging to gangs and fraternities; and
 - c. properly explain to their children their economic status;
2. Future researchers to explore the life experiences of the CICLs involved in theft and their parents who nurture these CICL;
3. For the barangay, school, or NGO to adopt the intervention program entitled "Ang Pagkakamali ng Anak, Kayang Itama Ng Magulang."

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