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## APPRAISAL OF THE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS FOR HIGH PROFILE INMATES IN THE PHILIPPINES

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**ABSTRACT:** *This study on the assessment of the intervention programs of the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) aimed to determine the degree of implementation and the common problems encountered in the implementation of the intervention programs for the violent extremist inmates in the same correctional facility. This study was participated by 55 SICA personnel, 205 SICA VEIs, and 25 SICA visitors totaling to 285 respondents. This study made of the mixed methods combining quantitative and qualitative approaches of research but descriptive in nature. This study was conducted in June to October 2018 at SICA, Camp Bagong, Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City. It was found out that the SICA personnel and the VEIs relatives/visitors similarly perceived that the SICA intervention programs are “very highly implemented” as shown in the area means of 3.58 and 3.59 respectively while on the other hand, the VEIs perceived that these intervention programs are “highly implemented” as shown in the area mean of 3.04. The computed F-ratio of 2.020 is less than the tabled F-ratio of 4.260 at 5 percent level of significance, thus, the null hypothesis is accepted. As to the challenges encountered in the implementation of the SICA intervention programs includes the insufficient fund for the programs on ALS and livelihood activities and insufficient number of SICA personnel, non-sustainability of intervention programs, conduct of simple and suited ALS for inmates; interruptions of ALS implementation, and rare dialogue between personnel and inmates. It was found out that only selected intervention programs are implemented; On the other hand, the relatives/visitors of the inmates has limited knowledge on what are the intervention programs and how these programs are implemented; the Alternative Learning System or ALS was perceived to be the most important intervention programs among those that are implemented inside the SICA. As perceived by the participants, the ALS needs enhancement as a tool for deradicalization of the Violent Extremist Inmates. Thus, the following are recommended: the ALS program should be strengthened by partnering SICA with a certain school that will draft a program of instructions based on the needs of the inmates; the religious activities inside the SICA must be maintained in order to continuously build the foundation of the spiritual being of the inmates regardless of religious affiliations; the sports and recreational activities should be conducted regularly in order to build friendship and*



*camaraderie between and among personnel and co-inmates; the livelihood program should be implemented in a way that the working inmates can earn to help themselves and their respective families; and to adopt the Literacy De-radicalization Program based on the major findings of this study. This program would augment the Alternative Learning System of the SICA in a form of practically addressing the literacy of the selected inmates.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Special Intensive Care Area, intervention program, alternative learning system, literacy de-radicalization program, violent extremist inmates, bureau of jail management and penology, Republic Act 6975*

## INTRODUCTION

Violent extremism is an affront to the purposes and principles of the United Nations (UN). It undermines peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. No country or region is immune from its impacts ... Violent extremism is a diverse phenomenon, without clear definition. It is neither new nor exclusive to any region, nationality or system of belief ... Definitions of "terrorism" and "violent extremism" are the prerogative of Member States and must be consistent with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law ... Violent extremism undermines our collective efforts towards maintaining peace and security, fostering sustainable development, protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and taking humanitarian action.

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) was established as a line bureau of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) by virtue of Republic Act 6975 which took effect on January 02, 1991. The BJMP is mandated to direct, supervise and control administration and operation of all district, city and municipal jails nationwide. Jails are facilities located in provinces, cities and municipalities used to confine offenders who received short term sentences or sentence of three years and below and individuals awaiting trial and final judgment. A district jail is a cluster of small jails with less population located within the vicinity of the court. Jail clustering is a strategy which has been adopted by the bureau to save on administrative and operational expenses.



The BJMP has clear and comprehensive statements of objectives in undertaking its legal mandate which includes the explicit adoption of the norms, standards and principles captured in the UN conventions/treaties and instruments. These objectives are as follows: (1) improve the living conditions of offenders in accordance with accepted standards; (2) enhance the rehabilitation and reformation of offenders in preparation for their eventual reintegration to the mainstream of society upon release; and (3) to provide and develop professionalized jail services

Intervention programs for VEIs are created by correctional facilities by all nations in the entire world. These intervention programs are intended to restore an inmate's normal life in the community by being a responsible citizen in a society/community. All prisons and jails have the purpose of securing the community by incarcerating the criminals but providing them services that would possibly change their life after service of sentence.

Across the world, intervention services are playing an increasingly pivotal role in preventing and countering the spread of violent extremism and terrorism. As the number of criminal prosecutions and convictions of terrorism offenders increases, including as a result of returning foreign terrorist fighters, prison services operate on the frontlines of the counterterrorism and countering violent extremism (CVE) challenge. They carry responsibility for managing the potential risks posed by violent extremist inmates (VEIs) and for preventing the radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism of other inmates (Cole, 2016).

The Global Center developed the Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons (CVE-P) Program, which encompasses a series of targeted trainings, technical assistance, and ongoing support to prison authorities, to improve the management of VEOs and to effectively identify and address radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism in prisons. Established in 2015 in cooperation with the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Detention and Reintegration Work



Group, the program is founded on the latest, evolving best practices, knowledge, and expertise from correctional services around the world. Key thematic areas include the management of terrorism-related offenders, violent extremism risk identification and assessment, risk reduction and rehabilitative interventions, prison culture, and multi-stakeholder engagement. The Global Center draws on an international, multidisciplinary team of forensic psychologists, former prison officials, CVE practitioners, and academic experts (Cole, 2016).

The Criminal Justice System (CJS) is the machinery which society uses in the prevention of crime as well as intervention programs through rehabilitation and reformation services. It operates by preventing the commission of crimes, and helps in the apprehension, prosecution, sentencing, and rehabilitation of those who cannot be deterred from violating the rules of the society. Its pillars are composed of the police, prosecution, court, corrections, and community. The rehabilitation system is a sub-component of the corrections pillar (Victor, 2014).

In the Philippines, jails are part of the overall intervention program. They are in fact, penal institutions. Like other correctional institutions, they hold many prisoners who are serving sentences; they have a responsibility for their care. In the past, the emphasis of most jails was on detention. In recent years this tradition role has been redefined and now the courts and the community in some locales are working to see that their jails develop intervention and rehabilitative programs (Tradio, 2016).

The Philippine jails are filled to the rafters. The sheer number of offenders confined in jails and prisons have risen despite the lackadaisical performance of the country's law enforcers, prosecutors, courts simply because the sheer volume of crime has reached alarming proportions (Foronda, 2017).



The intervention programs, however, only about 5 percent of national prisoners were enrolled in educational programs of the BJMP and BuCOR because of lack of schoolrooms and teachers. This is a low enrollment figure considering that 78 percent of the inmates are high school undergraduates (Foronda, 2017). However, not all the intervention and development programs are applicable inside the SICA due to the nature and profile of inmates. Though some rehabilitation/development programs are applicable such as education and sports related programs.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution in Section 19, Article III, mandates that the punishment to be imposed upon a convicted accused should not go beyond the borders of humanity. Thus, excessive fines shall not be imposed, nor cruel, degrading or inhumane punishment be inflicted. The employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any inmate or the use of sub-standard or inadequate penal facilities under sub-human conditions shall be dealt with by law (De Leon, 2015).

The intervention goal of correction has been criticized as unjust on two principal grounds: (1) individualized (2) predictive restraint. If a sentence is seen as instrument of treatment, then the amount of punishment require depends on the individual offender's need, rather than character of the crime. It is therefore likely that two people who have committed the same crime will have different levels of treatment. Under the rehabilitation model, predictive restrained centers on the fact that correctional officials are given discretion to determine when it is possible for a prisoner's future behavior to be free of crime. Such predictions are looked upon as unjust because in the absence of methods that would permit accurate predictions, persons who will nor repent their offenses are often held longer than is necessary in jail (Foronda, 2016).

According to Bestre (2016), he identified some problems in the implementation of intervention programs for VEIs are the following: (1) Lack of funds in the implementation of rehabilitative programs such as vocational seminars; (2) Lack of reading materials that



would help inmates in their everyday life and (3) lack of programs on literacy classes for inmates. These problems accordingly are serious but did not hinder the implementation of the rehabilitation programs.

Prisoners should be allowed to pray, to read approved religious books and to meet other relevant requirements, e.g. those related to diet and hygiene. The VEIs of the same religion may be allowed to gather to celebrate special days or collectively worship, taking into account individual risk assessments. Appropriate facilities, such as prayer rooms, should be provided. Prisoners should also have the opportunity, if they so wish, to be visited by qualified representatives of their own religion in private or in group services.

In order to facilitate the above, prison administrations should establish agreements with religious denominations, and religious representatives should be properly trained on how to exercise their functions in a prison environment. The number of religious officials in each prison should reflect the numbers of prisoners of each faith in that prison. Religious officials may be hired directly by the prison or prison officials when permitted by law. Alternatively, respected religious leaders from the local community may be allowed to hold services within the prison. In any case, prison authorities have the right to screen religious representatives entering prisons in order to prevent violent extremist views from being disseminated among prisoners. Some prison administrations have developed competency profiles to use when selecting spiritual counsellors. All groups and individuals must be subjected to the same screening and review process.

According to Siegel (2016), in the early twentieth century was a time of contrasts in the United States prison system. Prison reform groups proposed better intervention programs for VEIs, an end to harsh corporal punishment, and the creation of meaningful prison industries and educational programs. Prisoners should not be isolated from society; rather, the best elements of society – education, religion, meaningful work, self-governance should



be brought to prison. But was opposed by conservative prison administrators and state officials, who believed that stern discipline was needed to control dangerous prison inmates.

The jail, like SICA serves as gateways to the criminal process. The history of jails in both England and later in America is a story of neglect, brutality, and debasement. Although jails have improved substantially in the twentieth century, they are still operated in a manner of which governments cannot be proud of (Gahar, 2013).

Prisons and SICA like jails are sometimes interchangeably used, basically they are the same as to their main purposes of establishment. They are both places for restricting liberty or for detention. Specifically as to the size, jails are usually smaller in areas or structures with cells, wherein persons under investigation for being suspects in committing crimes or violations, awaiting trial, undergoing trial, and awaiting promulgation of decisions are being detained. While, prisons are usually huge or big structures composed of dormitories where convicted persons are serving sentence of imprisonment or persons awaiting the finality of judgment or decision on their cases are being detained (Caparas, 2015).

Across the country, prisons have tried different methods to provide intervention programs for their prisoners and prepare them for a successful release. Many prisons are using education as a tool for rehabilitation and reformation. For example, prisons now offer general equivalency diploma accreditation, English as a Second Language studies, and job readiness training. Some prisons even offer certifications and college credits (Francisco, 2015). This justifies that correction is a system and process for the reformation and rehabilitation of persons with criminal instinct and tendencies to be transformed into desirable personalities through development programs while in prison or jail (Marcos, 2015).

Contemporary criminal punishment seeks to provide intervention programs to correct criminals and transform their behavior, rather than merely penalize wrongdoers. Prison deprived inmates of virtually all liberty and control over their lives. Many prison offer self-



help educational and counselling programs. In some prisons, inmates may be able to work at different trades to acquire vocational and technical skill. However majority of inmates do not utilize these rehabilitation-oriented programs because the programs typically are not compulsory. Instead, prisons often function a long-term warehouse where offenders are merely housed and forgotten (Cadiz, 1994).

The lifestyle of VEIs was controlled by the principle of least eligibility applied in the society to all forms of welfare programs. This principle limits the kinds of food, housing, care, and treatment afforded to inmates to levels common to the poorest, least eligible free citizen. In short jail conditions were not permitted to exceed bare necessities. Both structurally and in their internal programs, jails were austere, stark, and uniform, providing minimum caloric diets and minimum standards of heat, light, education, training and recreation (Nicolas, 1995).

Therefore, considering jails and prisons in the international community, they offer similar intervention programs for inmates and VEIs in particular but only vary on the strategies used in the implementation. Intervention programs and services of jails worldwide, generally, is similar with Philippine's programs for inmates.

In the Philippines, The BJMP envisions itself as a dynamic institution highly regarded for its sustained humane safekeeping and development of inmates. This is indeed a very noble vision which has guided the institution over the last 20 years. With this, the Bureau aims to enhance public safety by providing humane safekeeping and development of inmates (Nunez, 1995).

In line with the vision, the Bureau endeavors to formulate policies and guidelines in the administration of all district, city and municipal jails nationwide, provide for the basic needs of inmates, and conduct activities for the development of inmates to ultimately improve their living conditions in accordance with the accepted standards set by the United Nations (Sannad, 2002).

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The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under the Preamble declares that of the major goals of the government is to establish a more enlightened and humane correctional system. This will promote the reformation of offenders and reduce the incidence of recidivism. It also recognizes the fact that the confinement of all offenders in prison and other institutions with rehabilitation programs constitute an onerous drain on the country's financial resources and, accordingly, the need to provide a less costly alternative to the imprisonment of offenders who are likely to respond to individualized community-based treatment programs (De Leon, 2015).

Our Constitution provides that any person accused of committing a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Thus, a person charged with a crime should not be denied of his freedom to choose and live at par with other innocent people who are not incarcerated, unless there is a good reason. In connection to this, the government is a party to several Geneva Conventions such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to name a few. Our government's formal commitment to principles of human rights and international humanitarian law has been translated into various local laws and foremost is the 1987 Philippine Constitution which has often been referred to as the Human Rights Constitution. However, in spite of all these international and local laws, the government is still unable to comply with its obligations because of very limited resources. As a result, most of our jails are unpleasant and dehumanizing. It dwells stress, boredom and can even harm the individuals and their visiting families in countless ways (De Leon, 2015).

Philippine jails and prisons are part of the overall correctional program. They are in fact, penal institutions that are tasked to provide intervention programs for inmates, VEIs are included. Like other correctional institutions, they hold many prisoners who are serving sentences; they have a responsibility for their care. In the past, the emphasis of most jails was on detention. In recent years this tradition role has been redefined and now the courts



and the community in some locales are working to see that their jails develop correctional and intervention/rehabilitative programs (Gahar, 2013).

The Philippine government's goal of the prisoner's intervention programs is to reform the VEIs from committing crimes and assisting them in starting normal lives without any criminal activities. Rehabilitation of VEIs helps greatly in reducing the number of repeat offenders who return to jail after not being able to settle into a normal life outside the jail.

Management of correctional institution is an exact and complex task. The formal structure of a coercive organization does not begin to describe the actual management of prison. Although the wardens, administrators, guards have the formal authority of the state behind their actions, the idea that they have total power is wide on the mark. The relationship between the managers and the prisoners is much more fragile than what the organizational chart indicates (Aromin, 2001).

The jails are usually not equipped in providing various development programs for the VEIs. For the reasons that they are asking assistance from the local government units or non-government organization purposely to attain to the needs of the VEIs, particularly for the skills development program (Flora, 2015).

The major problems of jail facilities today could not just be attributed to one single reason cause. Problems include among other lack of budget, contagious diseases, hunger, among inmates, and others (Mercado, 1998).

These problems were proven by the former Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Puno (2010) by stating that the biggest problem of detainees like the VEIs of SICA is the lack of support especially financial support from the government both national and local. This is self-evident on the stringed up budget. Another is the penitentiary for the indecently low priority given for their improvement. The lack of resources is the mother of all problems for it breeds a lot of other problems: congestion which in the city jails of Metro Manila is



nothing but inhumane, commission of different crimes in jails, for the formation of gangs that promise protection, the establishment of invisible governments that are run for profit, criminal bosses corrupting some prisoner officials who run the penitentiaries as if they are their private kingdoms, the prevalence of sickness and diseases among detainees, hunger on the part of the VEIs (Santos, 2000).

It is undeniable that incarcerating a person for a long period of time is considered inhumane and is already a form of punishment. The detention will naturally disrupt human relationship even if the jail or prison is in good condition. This affects relationship to his or her family as a consequence, who are likewise an innocent victims of incarceration. Likewise, a symbol of failure on the part of the government as several persons will be affected and not only the offender. This can only be corrected if development programs in jails or prisons will be implemented and willingly absorbed by the inmates as their stay in jail will enhance development which they can apply upon their release (Soliba, 1995).

There are problems why intervention programs cannot be implemented in jail, such as the lack of space, the jail is usually overcrowded or congested. It is but logical that if space is available then the area will be conducive for learning and therefore all means will be initiated by the jail authorities to implement intervention programs for the VEIs. Second, is lack of personnel, undermanned jail will naturally practice mostly close confinement of VEIs. Whereby, inmates will always be inside their cells. Third is jail conditions, VEIs will not be allowed outside their cells if the jail is dilapidated which causes security risk, and lastly non-cooperation of the inmates. Regardless of how valuable a development project is, if the VEI does not like to participate or merely participate just to comply with jail authorities will be in futile. Inmates cannot be forced to join any development project as they claimed that they are merely detainees or suspects and under trial as compared to a convicted inmate who is already serving his sentence (Versoza, 1999).

The BJMP as of October 3, 2011 is managing a total of 411 jails in different cities and municipalities nationwide, with a total of 12 provincial jails have already been transferred

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into the authority of the BJMP, with the recent addition of the Iloilo rehabilitation center, as of the first quarter of 2011 (Vicente, 2007).

Appropriate safekeeping and guaranteed custody of the VEIs should be prioritized before any activities for the IWDP can be implemented. Since, no matter how successful the implementation of the IWDP in any jail if escape occurred then it will be a total failure of jail management, not only to the jail alone but to include the BJMP in general (Bestre, 2006).

Financial support for the implementation of intervention programs for VEIs in jails is very dim, and needs assistance from the local government, who have their own priorities. The success and status of a certain province, city or municipality can be gauged by merely visiting and seeing their jail facilities. That is, if the needs of the VEIs are being attended accordingly then the locality is in good financial standing. Even though these jails are under the direct control and supervision of the BJMP, the local government should subsidize by providing financial support for the IWDP for the benefit of their constituents who are in jail. Since it is a known fact that jails or prisons are not income generating and a liability entity as compared to other agencies who can contribute to increase the coffers of the government (Villalobos, 2010).

Other factor is the lack of uniformed intervention programs to be implemented due to several agencies operating the various jails or prisons nationwide (Marcos, 2015).

As such, the Philippine Correctional set-up is fragmented. There are actually three departments under the Executive Branch of the Government supervising and controlling jails/prisons nationwide, namely: the Department of Justice, under which is the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) with seven prison and penal farms, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) having their lock-up cells as detention facilities and the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) for the confinement or detention of undesirable or questionable foreign nationals. Second, the DILG under which are the BJMP supervising district, city and municipal jails; Provincial Government supervising provincial and sub-provincial jails, and



the PNP having their lock-ups cells and other municipal jails not being manned by the BJMP and the third is the Department of Social and Welfare and Development (DSWD), particularly the Bureau of Child and Youth Welfare who is in charge of the Regional Youth Rehabilitation Centers (RYRC) nationwide. To include stockades as detention cells in Military Camps and at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City. And lastly, we have also the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) under the Office of the President having detention centers for drug dependents or those involved in drug related cases (Bestre, 2016).

The BuCor is in-charge of the seven national prison and penal farms namely: 1) San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm in Zamboanga Del Sur was constructed in 1847 and opened by a Royal Decree on 1865. 2) Iwahig Penal Colony, Puerto Princesa, Palawan was created in 1904, with four sub-colonies namely; a) Central Sub-Colony, b) Montible Sub-colony, c) Sta. Lucia Sub-Colony and d) Inagawan Sub-colony. 3) Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong City was established in 1931. 4) Davao Penal Colony in Tagum, Davao del Norte was established in 1932. 5) New Bilibid Prison (NBP) was created pursuant to Proclamation No. 414 series of 1931. 6) Sablayan Penal Colony, San Jose, Mindoro Occidental was established in 1954, with sub-colonies namely; a) Central Sub-colony, b) Pasugui Sub-colony c) Pusog Sub-colony d) Yapang Sub-colony, and 7) Leyte Regional Prison, Abuyog Leyte, was established on 16 January 1973 (Mercado, 1998).

The NBP has three security compounds which are all located at Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, namely the Maximum Security Camp known as the NBP main compound, the Medium Security Camp which is the Camp Sampaguita, where the Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC) is also located and the Minimum Security Camp referred to as Camp Bukangliwayway. While the other prison and penal farms located outside metro manila are classified as medium security camps (Bestre, 2016). These correctional facilities also houses other VEIs. These are the convicted VEIs.



Several moves to improve the program have been carried out, but failed for one reason or the other. It was only until recently that a decision to resolve the viability of the program has once and for all been set out through the process of benchmarking by interdisciplinary approach. During the seminar-workshop, which was held from September 3 to 19, 2001 at the BJMP Central Office Conference Room, a resolution has been upheld that the rehabilitation program could not in any way be successfully implemented in a condition where the subjects are transient and the facilities and atmosphere are non-conductive. The participants, who are professionals in diverse schools of thought and fields of specialization in related behavioral sciences, have by and large subscribed to this claim. Having common orientation in jail management, they believed that the implementers have no full control of the situation in the present set up. The prescribed interventions could not be implemented as programmed; thereby, the outputs are comprised Mariano, 2017).

Studies have shown that normalizing the prison experience through the offering of education programming, vocational training, and work for pay, along with transitional skill building reduces recidivism exponentially. Prison should not be - for the inmate - a life of leisure with no sense of responsibility to the larger society. Prison should however, be a place where the inmate can make amends, find societal redemption, and learn skills allowing him to live in the larger society as a positive force instead of a liability (Cadiz, 1994).

The creation of the BJMP can be traced out legally from Republic Act No. 6975 (The DILG Act of 1990) that promulgated that the task of the jail management and penology shall be the responsibility of the BJMP. Based on this mandate, the BJMP defined its vision, mission, powers, functions, values, objectives, and principles as an institution, in a consultative and participative strategic planning session. Subsequently, Republic Act No. 9263, also known as the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and BJMP Professionalization Act of 2004, and its implementing rules and regulations strengthened the provisions of RA 6975, redefined many of the BJMP's existing policies and restructured the Bureau's organization (BJMP Manual Revised, 2010).



The BJMP was created January 2, 1991 pursuant to republic Act 6975, replacing its forerunner, the Office of Jail Management and Penology of the defunct Philippine Constabulary/Integrated National Police. The BJMP has jurisdiction over all district city and municipal jails. It is a line bureau of the DILG. To ensure the establishment of secured, clean, adequately equipped, and sanitary facilities and provision of quality services for the custody, safekeeping and development of district city and municipal inmates and VEIs, any fugitive from justice, or person detained, awaiting or undergoing investigation or trial and/or transfer to the National Penitentiary, and/or violent mentally ill person who endangers him/her or the safety of others as certified by the proper medical or health officer, pending transfer to a mental institution (BJMP Manual Revised, 2010).

As of September 2010, 62,556 are detained in the facilities of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology nationwide. These people fit the official definition of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) such as; detainees, prisoners, probationers, parolees, and conditional pardonees or people under the custody and supervision of an institution by order or judicial, administrative or any other authority because of crimes or legal offenses (Flora, 2015).

It is worthy to note that of these 62,556 inmates, 58,669 or 94 percent are detainees or those awaiting final judgement from our courts. Thus, an overwhelming majority of those imprisoned in jails are not serving sentences but simply awaiting them. The average congestion rate in the country stands at 292 percent. Region 10 posted the highest with congestion rate of 621 percent followed by region 4-A at 533 percent. NCR is third at 410 percent. Of our 17 regions, only region 13 posted a congestion rate of below 100 percent (Mercado, 1998).

With such over population in our jails, it is easy to see how poor and difficult the living conditions of VEIs. The solution to this equation, however, can be simple. While this problem is primarily lodged with the correctional system, the other four pillars of the



criminal justice system are equally responsible for solutions that are comprehensive and sustainable (Nunez, 1995).

Aromin (2001) manifested that no other could be more understanding of the plight of the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) than us who are inherently tasked by virtue of our employment to look after their welfare in consonance with the requirements of law. They are like a child to us – babysitting them for the government – so that their welfare lies so much in our hands because of the responsibilities. And, being such as they are to us, we have known so much about them – what makes them cry or laugh; that which they crave for, or simply dream about; and, most of all, how they first thirst about someone’s showing deep concern for them.

Correction among the penal institutions consists of rehabilitation, reformation and providing treatment program and any other welfare for the VEIs. This is the primary concern of the BJMP, only was that on its mission it was transformed into safekeeping and development of VEIs. Safekeeping refers to the humane treatment of VEIs, as they should be treated with respect and dignity, while development refers to the VEIs welfare and development programs being implemented in every jail. This mission has been undertaken as the BJMP continues to grow and evolve and so does to its needs and responsibilities (Sannad, 2002).

To affirm the mission of the BJMP, Jail Director Rosendo Moro Dial, Chief, BJMP and Honorable Marius Corpus, Undersecretary for Peace and Order (USPO) of DILG recommended which was approved on January 22, 2010 by Honorable Reynaldo Puno, then Secretary, DILG for the activation of three newly restructured Directorates which are the Directorate for Investigation and Prosecution, Directorate for Intelligence and most especially the Directorate for Inmates Welfare and Development (DIWD).

The IWDP is a breakthrough in the relentless pursuit towards the attainment of the vision and mission of the BJMP. It is a living witness of commitment to truly develop inmates,

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including VEIs in custody and to help promote public safety. Through the IWDP, provide clientele with effective and efficient jail services by implementing enhancement program the smarter way and thus be able to lay VEIs back to the mainstream of society as law-abiding and productive citizens (Soliba, 1995).

The following are IWDP and other services: provision for basic needs, health services, livelihood services, educational services, sports and recreation services, visitation services, paralegal services, religious services and the latest is the therapeutic community modality.

The act and process of keeping a person in prison is a deprivation of one's liberty which is punishment intended by the law to compensate for the crime committed. He is therefore, imprisoned not for punishment but for rehabilitation (Nicolas, 1995).

Mondejar (1993) emphasized that rehabilitation of VEIs is a cozy home for offenders who, even under confinement, also desired as much as anyone else to enjoy the comfort of an ideal abode. It is a place where offender spent the hour with optimum assurances of freedom from the inroads of natural elements and environment discomfort. A rehabilitation center should be a dwelling place where an offender can rest while undergoing rehabilitation in preparation for his rejoining the mainstreams of the society after release. Sustaining the effect of their rehabilitation in jail through tangible assistance and social acceptance upon release should be the community's vital correction. By treating rehabilitated offenders not as social outcasts but with open arms and hearts, the community can make them feel that they are welcome and part of it.

The current set-up of the jail or penal system brought about problems in enhancing the living conditions of the VEIs in various aspects whose needs cannot be shouldered alone by the agencies managing jail or penal institution.

According to Flora (2015) The "National Summit on Collaborative Partnership Towards Enhancing the Dignity of Persons Deprived of Liberty" cannot be less expressive of the intent



on our part to show them concern, like how they would want to know that government and society have not left them to their fate alone. And, that out of their cloistered nooks are people like us who still care and bent on exploring ways and ideas to fit them well to a dignity they may have once partially lost but not altogether as belonging to the race.

BJMP under the DILG takes custody of around 68,900 detainees with an appropriated budget of P4.47 billion for 2010. Under the 2011 budget, the Department of Budget Management (DBM) proposed P5.15 billion for BJMP, or an increase of about P677 million. These amounts include the P50-a-day subsistence allowance and P3-a-day medicine allowance per detainee (Versoza, 1999). With this situation, every jail institution is properly allotting its budget to deliver the proper services to the inmates, including VEIs in accordance to the availability of budget. Jail management is also doing their part to implement the programs in order for them to raise funds to benefit the inmates/VEIs and jail institution as a whole.

While the BuCor under DOJ, takes custody of around 35,700 prisoners with an appropriated budget of P1.37 billion for 2010. Under the 2011 budget, the Budget Department proposed P1.15 billion for BuCor or an increase of about P142 million. These amounts also include the P50 and P3 a day subsistence and medical allowances (Bestre, 2016).

At this point, the seven penitentiaries under the BuCor at present are not just merely composed of detention facilities for income-generating agricultural and industrial projects. Prisoners working in these projects are given an allowance of not less than P300 per month from the income of these projects.

There might be questions if the P50 per day subsistence allowance is enough. It is certainly still well above the average poverty threshold in the country of around P15, 000 per year or P41 per day; and above the international “extreme poverty” line of \$1 per day. If these figures would be the benchmark, then it would seem that: PDLs are actually living a little better than their free but poor counterparts (Bestre, 2016).

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Interested citizens both within and outside the criminal justice system have become increasingly alarmed at the failure of our traditional correctional institutions to “correct” and are waging to campaign to encourage the adoption of alternative means for dealing with some VEIs. They are using public reaction, such as the New York Times survey showed that 69 percent of Americans had lost confidence in the ability of prisons to rehabilitate offenders as a means to encourage correctional administrators to seek out other alternative programs for VEIs (Hagan, 2016).

To achieve a long range implementation of goals for successful reintegration of offenders into society, Pursley (2016) cited considerations in the concept of institutional corrections. Prisons, jails, and juvenile institutions need to introduce changes that will make conditions in a free society. It does not mean that within the need for necessary security and requirements for discipline, inmates be confined under conditions conducive to developing more self-generated control rather than induced and forced control through discipline and regimentation. This will permit the observations of behavior under conditions more similar to the natural environment to which all items will someday return. Second, there must be a link to the community assistance agencies. Intervention efforts and resources are limited (Peak & Glensor, 2015). A wide variety organization, public and private, offer services to people who need help. Many inmates need these same types of service and assistance. Third, there should be civic engagement and participation, both by means of formal organizations and through the assistance of individuals; there is increasing recognition that volunteer citizen participation offers tremendous potential for working with offender reintegration programs. Traditionally, this civic participation has come from established religious, social services, and employer groups. The correctional field needs to learn more effective methods of encouraging these resources and applying their help (Sannad, 2002).



Aromin (2001), in his dissertation on the over-all Status of the Rehabilitation for VEIs of the NCR Jails is moderate. The extent of implementation of rehabilitation programs is moderately implemented and the level of implementation is moderately effective. This is affirmed by the research of Bestre (2016) where there is a moderate implementation of the jail programs for VEIs. However, according to some inmates, the programs are not enough for them to have additional income inside jail.

Research shows that harsh treatment in detention facilities can play a disconcertingly powerful role in the recruitment of a large number of individuals who have joined violent extremist groups and terrorist organizations. Several factors have been identified as spurring prisoners to seek protection by joining groups, including inhumane prison conditions and inhumane treatment of inmates, corrupt staff and security officers, gang activity, drug use, lack of security and proper facilities, and overcrowding (Bryans, 2016).

According to Bryans (2016), all prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings. No prisoners shall be subjected to, and all prisoners shall be protected from, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment, for which no circumstances whatsoever may be invoked as justification. The safety and security of prisoners, staff, service providers and visitors shall be ensured at all times.

While this absolute prohibition is arguably the most fundamental aspect of the respect for the human dignity of prisoners, the principle of humane treatment encompasses many other aspects of prison management.<sup>10</sup> Respecting prisoners' dignity as human beings also means that prison authorities must ensure that their conditions of detention meet at least their basic needs, which include their accommodation, bed, bedding and clothing, drinking water and nutrition, access to open air and exercise, natural and artificial light, a temperature appropriate to health as well as personal hygiene, sanitation facilities and



access to health-care services. All prisoners, including violent extremist prisoners, are entitled to the general living conditions addressed in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The Nelson Mandela Rules states “ “General living conditions addressed in these rules, including those related to light, ventilation, temperature, sanitation, nutrition, drinking water, access to open air and physical exercise, personal hygiene, health care and adequate personal space, shall apply to all prisoners without exception.”

In some City Jails like the Taguig City Jail (TCJ), the inmates’ intervention programs are implemented by the jail management. The TCJ has tried and is trying to enhance its strategies to deliver its services to the inmates. But some problems encountered along the way includes lack of health officers, congestion and lack of space. These problems are observed due to lack of budget.

Nunez (1995) emphasized that the State is mandated to provide resources required from the arrest of a suspect, to actual imprisonment of a convicted criminal, to probation and parole and then to actual freedom. Anecdotally known about how resources are lacking in the penal system, having seen images of a hundred inmates/VEIs squeezing into a cell; or heard stories of how a poor suspect’s case has taken years, to the point of him staying in jail more than his prospective convictions actual imprisonment term. But even with meagre resources, the government is not abandoning our persons deprived of liberty. To account for the resources being provided by the government for persons deprived of liberty, the first is to look at the budget provided yearly maintenance of jails.

Marco (1998) likewise stated that trying to discipline the condition of inmates/VEIs, we would be able to feel that there is indeed a great need to improve the conditions of the inmates. They must be accorded with outmost attention for they still are not feckless in the world. As proven in the study of Aromin (2001) that even for limited space and congested



cells intervention program could still be perceived and could still give a benefit result to the inmates/VEIs.

According to Dr. Ricardo F. De Leon, President of the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC), there is the vision for strong Filipino nation in the next decade of this century calls for a strategic framework on security and development. To secure our homeland, there is a need for a strategy that must be founded on the theme of building up our internal capacity and resiliency. This is the platform for projecting a country's agential power in domestic society as well as in the regional community.

De Leon (2015) written in his book entitled Public Safety Review that the opportunity for crafting a homeland strategy that will promote and protect national values and interests in most wanting at this time and changes of uncertainties. In a move to confront non-traditional security threats at the local, national and regional levels, the Philippine administration is behooved to come up with adaptive and proactive courses of action on the security and development of our motherland. This is to ensure the safety and welfare of the citizens, the peace and order in the democratic society, sanctity of social justice and the rule of law, the continuity of economic gains, the sustainability of the ecological government, and on the whole, the empowerment and resiliency of the Filipino nation in the midst of a complex and vulnerable environment.

Champion (2016) observed that the goal of modern correction is not only to protect members of the society, but also the returning offender. Sound re-integration programs can only achieve this goal and rehabilitation measures, which ensure that VEIs will not revert to his criminal ways. Criminal correction specialist view crime as a symptom of the failure not only of the offender to internalize approval social norms and values but also the failure of society to provide the proper environment where the offender is encouraged to engage in crime by offering him resources to enable him to pursue productive legal activities and lead a law-abiding life.



Cole (2016) also mentioned in his study that the objective of corrections is the permanent regeneration of the VEIs' attitude towards the end capacity for law observance. It is not possible however, to isolate an individual incentive towards violating the law from the total picture of his characteristics and social relationship. It is inevitable therefore that corrections treatment should be conserved with the total configuration of the VEIs' personality in relation to family, community and society.

Foronda (2016) noted that the goal of intervention programs is towards the offender rather than the offense. Thus, a sentence should promote the offender's re-socialization and the offender can only return to the society when his disease is cured based from the concept of the medical model of corrections. According to this model of corrections, the VEIs are to be treated as sick persons thereby preparing treatment programs before releasing them to the community.

Stated in the work of Sannad (2002), Fox and Stinch comb observed that intervention programs advocates maintain that criminal sanctions should be used as an opportunity to make some type positive change in the offender. As George Bernard Shaw pointed out, "if you are going to punish man retributively, you must injure him. If you are to reform him, you must improve him. And men are not improved by injuries.

Brockway, also claimed that "The effect of education is reformatory, for it tends to dissipate poverty by imparting intelligence sufficient to conduct ordinary affairs, and puts into the minds, necessarily habits of punctuality, method and perseverance, xxx if culture, then has refining influence it is only necessary to carry it for enough in combination always with due



religious agencies, to cultivate the criminal out of his criminality, and to constitute him a reformed man.”

The work of Santos (2000) and Soliba (1995) emphasized that no truly effective implementation of implementation’s goal of rehabilitating and re-integrating the VEIs into society will succeed without the support of the community. It is only with such community support, especially from the elements of the established power that community-based corrections have a real chance for success. Such support is in a form of variety of service, manpower development, education, employment, recreation and other services including drug abuse treatment and prevention programs (Nicolas, 1995).

As stipulated by Caparas (2015), dealing, interacting and working with offenders/VEIs is not an easy task. The jail officers work with offenders of different values, beliefs, norms and social culture and to be efficient in the discharged of their duties and responsibilities.

Cadiz (1994) conferred that the biting reality is that jails are running out of space. The combined total cell area of all jails and facilities under the supervision of the BJMP is about 59,000 square meters, which should carry an ideal capacity of about 20,000 inmates.

There are now 68,900 inmates as of end of March 2017. That is about 40,000 more than the ideal capacity, or about 300 percent higher. The more painful reality is that seven regions are worse off than the national average for jail congestion. Our standard is- for each inmate to have a reasonable living space of at least 4.7 square meters. But with the actual capacity increasing thrice as much as the ideal capacity, each inmate is now squeezed into a cell area or less than 1 square meter. The total number of BJMP personnel is only 7,076 whereas its ideal number is pegged by the bureau at 41,361 or a staggering want of about 83 percent. Therefore the ratio of a jail officer per inmate is 1:64 when the ideal ratio is 1:7 (Bestre, 2016).





The above cited related literatures and studies are very important to support the conceptual framework of the study. As observed in the given literatures of study, there is the commonality on the purposes of the correctional system whatever the country is. Just like any other correctional institutions of other countries, the main purpose of incarcerating offenders is to prepare them for re-integration in the community. While the community is protected during the inmates' incarceration, the VEIs are also offered with intervention programs by the government particularly the SICA in Taguig City.

The book of Siegel (2016), prisoners should not be isolated from society; rather, the best elements of society – education, religion, meaningful work, and self-governance should be brought to prison. But was opposed by conservative prison administrators and state officials, who believed that stern discipline was needed to control dangerous VEIs, however, Gahar (2013) stated that jails have improved substantially in the twentieth century, they are still operated in a manner of which governments cannot be proud of.

The different researches conducted revealed that the different jails and prisons in the country have almost the same purpose, and that is to reform, rehabilitate the inmates. In the Philippine correctional set-up, there are several authorized agencies and government sectors that were given responsibility to run certain correctional facilities. The BuCor for example is governing the seven (7) prisons and penal farms nationwide, the city jails, municipal jails, and selected provincials are under the care of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and the provincial jails are under the administration and control of the provincial government, though as mentioned above, there are some provincial jails that are turned over to the BJMP through Memorandum of Agreement. One more that is common to the different correctional institutions in the country is the rehabilitation programs that are offered to their inmates. As to the rehabilitation programs, the bases are still on the BUCor Manual and BJMP Manual. In this study, the SICA house the inmates who committed violent extremism related crimes and are required to be given special attention and control because of their status.



The BJMP is one of the tri-bureaus of the Department of the Interior and Local Government that was given the mandate to rehabilitate inmates and prepare them for their community integration. The National Capital Region (NCR) is the regional capital of the Philippines that has the most number of jails and prisons as to location. One of the jails is located in Taguig City where the inmates are suspected terrorists, allegedly members of the different lefty groups in the country. These inmates are being taken cared of at the SICA. This situation requires special and separate programs that need to be conducted for these kinds of inmates in a jail institution.

The challenge for SICA is to effectively handle the VEIs at the same time carrying out the mandates of the Bureau to rehabilitate and reform while undergoing trials.

The nation was awakened by horrors when inmates belonging to the ASG at the SICA 1 of Metro Manila District Jail inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City initiated a hostage taking last March 15, 2005. This was after their escape plot failed to materialize. During the said incident, 23 detainees, 3 BJMP personnel, and one (1) SAF member were killed. Another incident was in Makati City Jail. In February 2016, the inmates claimed to have been beaten up by jail guards and were reportedly injured following the noise barrage that escalated into a riot. In separate incidents, at least 200 members of the Batang City Jail Gang inside Manila City Jail staged a noise barrage in September 2016 over a new policy that would segregate its inmates with cases related to illegal drugs. While in October 2016, another noise barrage was staged by more than 800 inmates at Navotas City Jail in protest to the ‘Cashless System’ policy of the jail.

As of May 31, 2018, the following are the inmates of Special Intensive Care Area 1 in Camp Bagong Diwa, in Taguig City.

According to one of the inmates of SICA, a detainee due to the Lamitan Siege, many are recruited to join the extremist groups because they don’t understand English. The group of people who are recruiting among the residents are usually using English and Filipino languages. Some of these are foreigners who are there at the ground to conduct strategic



recruitment. Since most of the residents do not understand English and Filipino languages, most of them join the group because they want to earn money and not solely on ideology.

This was supported by another VEI in SICA, a commander of the NPA who said, the members of the NPA (in their command), are usually illiterate who cannot write or read. They have joined the NPA because of several reasons: wanted persons in their community, wanted to hold rifles and grenades, and some are fighting for what they believe is correct such as their ideology towards a certain issue against the government. The recruitment process in general includes the use of English and/or Tagalog that sounds good for the target members.

Thus, with these considerations, the conduct of this study is necessary in order to determine what appropriate program may be conducted inside the jail as an intervention for deradicalization of the said inmates.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This study aimed to evaluate the intervention programs of the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) for its Violent Extremist Inmates (VEIs). Specifically, it sought answers to the following research questions:

1. What is the degree of implementation of the SICA intervention programs for VEIs as perceived by SICA personnel, VEIs and visitors in terms of:
  - a. Alternative Learning System (ALS);
  - b. Interfaith Program;
  - c. Sports and Recreation Program; and
  - d. Livelihood Program?
2. Is there a significant difference on the perceptions of SICA personnel, VEIs and visitors on the intervention programs in terms of:
  - a. Alternative Learning System(ALS);
  - b. Interfaith Program;



- c. Sports and Recreation Program; and
  - d. Livelihood Program?
3. What are the challenges encountered in the implementation of the SICA intervention programs for the VEIs?
  4. What appropriate de-radicalization programs can be developed for the VEIs?

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study made use of the mixed methods applying both qualitative-quantitative approaches of research which is descriptive in nature. This method involved the collection of the data that answered the questions on the intervention programs offered by the SICA in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City. According to Gibbs (2017), descriptive method of research is a process of gathering, analyzing and tabulating data about the prevailing conditions, practices, beliefs, processes, trends and cause and effect relationships and then making adequate interpretation about such data. It also includes studies that seek to present facts concerning the status of anything, group, acts, conditions and any other phenomenon. Therefore, this method is absolutely appropriate the descriptive approach is used mainly to describe contemporary events, and that the research questions and problems are rooted in the past and may affect the future. Qualitative approach was utilized for research problems no. 2 and 3. The participants were subjected to Key Informant Interview and Focus Group Discussion.

Secondarily, the researcher made used documentary analysis in order to get more information for the purpose of corroborating the research findings. Informal interviews were made among key officers of the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA), selected Violent Extremist Inmates (VEIs) and visitors available during the visit in the place of study.

## **PARTICIPANTS AND SETTING**

This study made use both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data came from the duly accomplished questionnaires of the respondents and documents gathered by



the researchers from SICA while the secondary data came from books, periodicals and other sources used by the researcher as guide to support their findings in the presentation of results and findings.

The study was conducted at the SICA, a correctional facility that was specially created to house the inmates who were charged of crimes related to violent extremism such as members of the following extremist groups: Maute Group, Moro-Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Moro-National Liberation Front (MNLF), Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Bangsamoro Freedom Fighters (BIFF), Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA) / Alex Bongcayao Brigade (ABB), New People's Army (NPA). The SICA is located inside the Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City. The administration and control of this is under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

**Table 1**

***The Affiliations of Inmates of Special Intensive Care Area***

Affiliation of Inmates of SICA	Total
• Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)	155
• Moro-Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)	18
• Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)	1
• Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF)	5
• Revolutionary Proletarian Army / Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA/ABB)	13
• New People's Army (NPA)	30
• Maute Group (MG)	2
Total	224



**Table 2**

**Population of the Study**

Group of Participants	Population	Sample Size	P
SICA Personnel	60	55	92.00
SICA VEIs	224	205	92.00
SICA Visitors/Relatives	30	25	83.00
Total	314	285	91.00

As gleaned in Table 2, the respondents who participated in the study includes 55 (92%) out of 60 SICA personnel, 205 (92%) out of 224 SICA VEIs, and 25 (83%) out of 30 visitors/relatives of the VEIs per day. It was the target of the researchers to include all the SICA personnel and VEIs but some were not available during the floating of questionnaire. According to records, some personnel were on official leave and on official business during the duration of administering the questionnaires. Likewise, some of the VEIs attended their court hearing and were outside the jail facility during the administration of the questionnaires.

**Table 3**

**Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Population of the Study According to Sex**

Groups of Respondents	Male	P	Female	P	Sample Size
SICA Personnel	36	66.00	19	44.00	55
SICA VEIs	205	100.00	0	0.00	205
SICA Visitors/Relatives	8	32.00	17	68.00	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>87.00</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>285</b>

According to sex, the respondents are composed of 249 or 87% male and 36 or 13% female. The respondents are dominated by male, except in the SICA relatives/visitors where 17 or 68% outweighs 8 or 32 % female to male ratio. Table 3 shows the population of the study according to sex.

**Table 4****Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Population of the Study According to Highest Educational Attainment**

Groups of Respondents	Elem	P	HS	P	Coll	P	MS/PhD	P	Sample Size
SICA Personnel	0	0.00	0	0.00	52	95.00	3	5.00	55
SICA VEIs	103	50.00	78	38.00	20	8.00	4	4.00	205
SICA Visitors/Relatives	0	0.00	16	64.00	9	36.00	0	0.00	25
Total	103	36%	94	33.00	81	28.00	7	3.00	285

Table 4 presents the population of the study according to highest educational attainment. It shows that the SICA personnel has 52 or 95% college graduates and has 3 or 5% graduates of masters and doctorate degree. The SICA VEIs has 103 or 50% elementary graduates, 78 or 38% are high school graduates, 20 or 8% college graduates, and 4 or 4% are masters/doctorate degree holders. This shows that majority of the respondents are basic education graduates.

**Table 5****Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Population of the Study According to Age**

Groups of Respondents	30 & Below	P	31-50	P	51 & above	P	Sample Size
SICA Personnel	33	60.00	22	40.00	0	0.00	55
SICA VEIs	36	18.00	136	66.00	33	16.00	205
SICA Visitors/Relatives	2	8.00	17	68.00	6	24.00	25
Total	71	25.00	175	61.00	39	14.00	285

Table 5 shows the population of the study according to age. There are 33 or 60% SICA personnel who belong to 30 and below bracket of age, 22 or 40% belong to 31-50 age brackets. The SICA VEIs is composed of 36 or 18% who belong to the 30 and below age bracket, 136 or 66% belong to 31-50 age bracket, and 33 or 16% belong to 51 and above.



The visitors/relative of inmates are also composed of 2 or 8% (30 and below), 17 or 68% (31-50), and 6 or 24% (51 and above). The table shows that majority of the respondents' age belong 31-50.

## STATISTICAL TREATMENT AND ANALYSIS

In analyzing and evaluating the data that were obtained from the survey, the statistical data analytical tools utilized the following: 1) percentage distribution method, 2) weighted mean, and 3) reference to a verbal interpretation scale, the five-point scale used, 4) Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) through F-test considering that there are 3 groups of participants of the study.

**Percentage Distribution.** This was used in analyzing the data pertaining to the demographic profile of the respondents, in computing the sample size among others. The formula is as follows:

$$\% = \frac{f}{N} \times 100$$

Where:

*% - Percentage of responses*

*f - number of responses falling under a given category*

*100 – Constant*

*N – Total number of responses for the given category*





**Weighted Mean.** This was utilized for problem no. 1. A measure of central tendency was used in determining the advantages such as the mean. The obtained weighted mean is an advantage of all the scores by the three groups of participants. The formula for the computation of weighted mean is as follows:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum f(w)}{N}$$

N

Where:

X – Computed weighted mean

$\sum$  - Summation

f – frequency or number of responses

w – weight point in a given scale/assigned points

N – Total population or total number of responses

**Descriptive Evaluation Scale.** A 5-point scale patterned after the Likert’s scale was used as a tool in making a descriptive evaluation of the quantitative data obtained from the survey results.

The scale is presented below:

Value	Rating	Adjectival/Verbal Interpretation
4	(3.26 – 4.00)	Highly Implemented (HI) Very Serious (VS)



3	(2.51 – 3.25)	Implemented (I) Serious (S)
2	(1.76 – 2.50)	Least Implemented (LI) Least Serious (LS)
1	(1.00 – 1.75)	Not Implemented (NI) Not a Problem (NP)

In order to triangulate the findings from the quantitative part of the study, the researchers conducted Key Informant Interview (KII). This was not used to answer the research problem but was used to add more triangulations. The researchers analyzed the transcript of the interviews and made use of Thematic Analysis (TA) whereby the themes of the answers were identified by the researchers. This became the source of discussion that would reveal the significant findings of study. Pseudonyms were used to hide the identity of each respondent/key informant especially for the VEIs.

According to Gibbs (2017), Thematic Analysis (TA) by coding involves recording or identifying passages of text or images that are linked by a common theme or idea allowing a recorder to index the text into categories and therefore establish a “framework of thematic ideas about it.”



In this study, the approach to TA that was used were the following: 1) Familiarization with the data wherein in this phase involves reading and re-reading the data, to become immersed and intimately familiar with its content;

Coding where it involves generating succinct labels (codes) that identify important features of the data that might be relevant to answering the research question. It involves coding the entire dataset, and after that, collating all the codes and all relevant data extracts, together for later stages of analysis;

Searching for themes that involve examining the codes and collated data to identify significant broader patterns of meaning (potential themes). It then involves collating data relevant to each candidate theme, so that you can work with the data and review the viability of each candidate theme;

Reviewing themes. This phase involves checking the candidate themes against the dataset, to determine that they tell a convincing story of the data, and one that answers the research question. In this phase, themes are typically refined, which sometimes involves them being split, combined, or discarded;

Defining and naming themes. This phase involves developing a detailed analysis of each theme, working out the scope and focus of each theme, determining the 'story' of each. It also involves deciding on an informative name for each theme; and

Writing up. This final phase involves weaving together the analytic narrative and data extracts, and contextualizing the analysis in relation to existing literature. Although these



phases are sequential, and each builds on the previous, analysis is typically a recursive process, with movement back and forth between different phases. So it's not rigid, and with more experience (and smaller datasets), the analytic process can blur some of these phases together (Gibbs, 2017).

**Degree of implementation of the SICA intervention programs for VEIs as perceived by SICA personnel, VEIs and visitors in terms of Alternative Learning System (ALS); Interfaith Program; Sports and Recreation Program; and Livelihood Program**

This section presents the answers for the first research problem on the degree of implementation of the SICA intervention programs for the VEIs at the SICA located at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City.

**Table 6**

**Degree of Implementation of the SICA Intervention Programs for VEIs as Perceived by SICA Personnel, VEIs and Visitors in Terms of Alternative Learning System (N=285)**

	SICA Personnel (55)		SICA VEIs (205)		SICA Visitors (25)		Overall Mean (285)	
	WM	VI	WM	VI	WM	VI	WM	VI
<b>A. Alternative Learning System</b>								
1. Basic education (elementary and high school) is offered by SICA ( <i>Ang saligang edukasyon o elementarya at sekondarya ay meron sa SICA at inaalok sa mga preso</i> ).	3.45	HI	3.10	I	3.35	VHI	3.19	I
2. SICA is affiliated with a school that provides resources for its ALS program ( <i>Ang SICA ay kasapi sa paaralan na may ALS na programa</i> ).	2.34	LI	2.40	LI	3.56	HI	2.49	LI
3. Make up classes are conducted for illiterate VEIs inside SICA ( <i>May mga espesyal na klase para sa mga hindi nag-aral</i> ).	3.29	HI	2.10	LI	3.44	HI	2.45	LI



4. SICA personnel are conducting special lectures and/or short seminars on basic literacy ( <i>Ang mga empleyado ng SICA ay nagtataguyod ng mga seminar at kasanayan para sa mga hindi nag-aral</i> )	3.85	HI	2.38	LI	3.58	HI	2.77	I
5. SICA inmates are trained by SICA to facilitate informal literacy teachings among illiterate inmates ( <i>Ang mga preso ng SICA ay sinasanay upang sila ay magturo sa mga kapwa nila preso na hindi nakapag-aral</i> )	3.81	HI	2.10	LI	3.28	HI	2.53	I
<b>Area Mean</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>LI</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>I</b>

### Alternative Learning System

Table 6 presents the summary of findings on the degree of implementation of the SICA intervention programs for VEIs as perceived by the groups of respondents in terms of Alternative Learning System.

The Alternative Learning System of the BJMP was perceived *implemented* as shown in the area mean of 2.69. This means that the respondents observed that the Alternative Learning System-Acceleration and Equivalency Test or ALS, the inmates' moral have been given a boost.

It was observed that Basic education is offered by SICA gaining the highest weighted mean of 3.19, interpreted as *implemented*. On the contrary, make up classes are conducted for illiterate VEIs inside SICA was perceived least implemented evidenced by the area mean of 2.45.

In Baguio City, Journalism and other literary lectures and seminars are also being conducted by private NGOs like the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club (BCBC), while the



Bishop Carlito J. Cenzone Foundation Incorporation (BCJCFI) supports and conducts the annual ALS program for any interested inmate who wants to give advancement in their education (Dacawi, 2014). .

Keith (2016) in the article “Baguio inmates finish ALS program,” it was mentioned that six female and three male wards received their diplomas for passing the Alternative Learning System 2 Accreditation and Equivalency (A and E) test for the secondary level at the Baguio City Jail multi-purpose hall recently. Arthur Tiongson, Department of Education-Baguio ALS supervisor, said the graduates attended their classes and took the accreditation and equivalency test while in detention, making them eligible for college. He paid tribute to the parents and relatives of the graduates for attending the commencement ceremonies at the jail court yard. One of the graduates narrated that she did not finish her high school education because of financial problems that were further aggravated by vices. She said she was grateful to finish high school inside the jail. The non-formal education A&E test is a paper and pencil test designed to measure the competencies of those who have neither attended nor finished elementary or secondary education in the formal school system.

According to the international standards, correctional intervention programs for VEIs are created by correctional facilities by all nations in the entire world. These intervention programs are intended to restore an inmate’s normal life in the community by being a responsible citizen in a society/community. All prisons and jails have the purpose of securing the community by incarcerating the criminals but providing them services that would possibly change their life after service of sentence. By educating the inmates, they can be reformed and rehabilitated.

**Table 7**

**Degree of Implementation of the SICA Intervention Programs for VEIs as Perceived by SICA Personnel, VEIs and Visitors in Terms of Interfaith Program (N=285)**

	SICA Personnel (55)		SICA VEIs (205)		SICA Visitors (25)		Overall Mean (285)	
<b>B. Interfaith Program</b>								
1. All religious affiliations are respected ( <i>Lahat ng relihyon ng mga preso sa SICA ay respetado</i> )	4.00	HI	3.20	I	3.45	HI	3.38	HI
2. A secured place for worship during religious activities is maintained ( <i>May ligtas na lugar para sa mga preso na puwedeng magtaguyod ng kanilang misa</i> )	4.00	HI	3.78	HI	3.90	HI	3.83	HI
3. The faith of inmates is strengthened through conduct of interfaith activities such as bible study, prayer meeting and group sharing ( <i>Ang paniniwala ng bawat preso ay pinapatibay sa pamamaraan ng mga "bible study" at iba pang pamamaraan</i> )	3.79	HI	3.28	HI	3.77	HI	3.42	HI
4. Regular counseling are conducted to inmates by religious leaders ( <i>Ang mga lideres ng ilang simbahan ay nagbibigay ng payo o sanngunian sa mga preso ng SICA</i> )	3.24	I	3.68	HI	3.80	HI	3.61	HI
<b>Area Mean</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>3.49</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>3.73</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>3.56</b>	<b>HI</b>

### Interfaith Program

Table 7 presents the summary of findings on the degree of implementation of the SICA intervention programs for VEIs as perceived by the three groups of respondents in terms of one of the SICA's intervention program called Interfaith Program.



The interfaith programs of the BJMP were likewise perceived by the respondents *highly implemented* as shown in the area mean of 3.56. This means that the interfaith programs were recognized by the respondents as healing programs of which they could be used for them to contemplate on what were done and what should be done to remedy on what was done.

It was likewise mentioned that a secured place for worship during religious activities is maintained (3.83); and regular counseling are conducted to inmates by religious leaders (3.61). These interfaith programs of the BJMP were *highly implemented*, however, the programs that all religious affiliations are respected (3.38) were observed lowest of the *highly implemented* programs of the interfaith programs of the BJMP may be because of the difficulty of coordinating with the different leaders of the different affiliations for regular interfaith activities as bible studies, prayer meetings, worship services, and group sharing

Smith (2004) mentioned that prison contemplative programs are classes or practices (which includes meditation, yoga, contemplative prayer or similar) that are offered at correctional institutions for inmates and prison staff which could benefit them from ease or relief from stress. Some inmates or organizations have used religious freedom provisions as a way to secure programs in prisons. He further stressed that in the United States, prisoners are allowed to hold any religious practices that may be offered in their prison cells.

According to Cole (2016), across the world, intervention services like religious related programs are playing an increasingly pivotal role in preventing and countering the spread of violent extremism and terrorism. As the number of criminal prosecutions and convictions of terrorism offenders increases, including as a result of returning foreign terrorist fighters, prison services operate on the frontlines of the counterterrorism and countering violent





extremism (CVE) challenge. They carry responsibility for managing the potential risks posed by violent extremist inmates (VEIs) and for preventing the radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism of other inmates.

**Table 8**

**Degree of Implementation of the SICA Intervention Programs for VEIs as Perceived by SICA Personnel, VEIs and Visitors in Terms of Sports and Recreational Program (N=285)**

	SICA Personnel (55)		SICA VEIs (205)		SICA Visitors (25)		Overall Mean (285)	
<b>C. Sports and Recreational Program</b>								
1. Good camaraderie and oneness of inmates is maintained through conduct of sports activities ( <i>May mga palaro na itinataguyod para sa pagkakapatiran ng mga preso</i> )	4.00	HI	3.95	HI	3.90	HI	3.96	HI
2. Leadership skills of inmates are developed through conduct of physical exercises and recreational activities ( <i>Ang pagiging lider ng mga preso ay binubuo sa pamamagitan ng mga aktibidades katulad ng mga palaro at iba pang Gawain</i> )	3.67	HI	3.80	HI	3.85	HI	3.78	HI
3. Programs that serve as entertainment activities to inmates are organized by SICA personnel ( <i>Ang SICA ay nag-oorganisa nga mga programang pang-libang/pang-aliw para sa mga preso</i> )	3.86	HI	3.78	HI	3.95	HI	3.81	HI
4. Good physical, mental and well-being of inmates is maintained through conduct of sports activities ( <i>Ang maganda at malusog na pangangatawa ng mga preso ay namimintinar sa pamamagitan ng mga</i>	4.00	HI	3.29	HI	3.86	HI	3.48	HI



<i>palaro ng SICA)</i>								
<b>Area Mean</b>	<b>3.88</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>3.89</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>HI</b>

**Sports and Recreational Program**

Table 8 presents the perceived degree of implementation of the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) for its Violent Extremist Inmates (VEIs) by the respondents in terms of Sports and Recreational Program.

As gleaned from the table, the respondents perceived that the SICA for its VEIs are *implemented* as shown in the overall area mean of 3.19. This means that the SICA for the VEIs are *implemented*, however, there are still several areas not much implemented of which the BJMP had not fully customized the objectives of the rehabilitation services as provided in its legal mandate.

The Sports and Recreation Program of the Special Intensive Care Area was perceived *highly implemented* as shown in the area mean of 3.76. This means that the sports and recreation programs of the Bureau of Jail and Penology were perceived *highly implemented* and it further demonstrates that sport and physical activity programs of the jail inmates can provide a meaningful vehicle through which personal and social development in inmates can be positively affected and positive social changes, skills development and rehabilitation/reintegration can be achieved.

It was likewise shown in the table that Good camaraderie and oneness of inmates is maintained through conduct of sports activities (3.96) and the programs that serve as entertainment activities to inmates are organized by SICA personnel (3.81) were perceived by the respondents as programs *highly implemented* by the SICA. However, among the sports and recreation programs, the inmates perceived that the good physical, mental and well-being of inmates is maintained through conduct of sports activities was perceived the



lowest of the *highly implemented* sports and recreation programs of the Baguio City Bureau of Jail Management and Penology for the jail inmates.

Moreover, the World Health Organization (2003) and Emily (2002) mentioned that sports can be considered as a viable method of promoting good health; particularly, regular physical activity reduces anxiety and stress, increases self-esteem, helps to control weight and has a positive impact on other health risks. Generally speaking, inmates have few opportunities to practice sport regularly; they can be considered as a population presenting a high risk of hypokinetic diseases such as heart diseases, obesity, hypertension, osteoporosis and diabetes. Due to the incarceration, movement and occasions to practice sport are very limited with a consequent impossibility for inmates to enjoy the good effects of physical activities: in such a kind of situation, those who are imprisoned retain their fundamental right to enjoy good physical and mental health (Coyle, 2002). Therefore, the BJMP can assist to a huge number of health problems and, consequently, to a reduction of quality of life in prison and to a parallel increase in the cost of health assistance.

The experience of prison should help inmates to maintain and improve their health, mental and social situation and sport based programs are cost-effective way to tackle health problems and foster a general well-being: particularly, physical activity has positive effect for the general mental health of inmates and it can contribute to achieve higher level of general wellness (Scottish Prison Service, 2002).

Therefore, due to the difficult conditions that inmates experience, it seems necessary to help them in dealing with daily problems (for instance: stress control and emotions management) and a direct involvement in sport activities can offer suitable results in this direction. In addition to the discussed non-medical function, sport presents other two relevant features for the well-being of those who are imprisoned. Firstly, playing sport and taking part in physical activity offers a unique occasion to relax and fight against boredom and had resulted in a positive effect for inmates due to its reported links to depression, distractibility and loneliness (Coalter, 2001).



Secondly, taking part in sports activities enables inmates to express their needs movement and their rights to take part in educational and cultural activities. From this perspective, sports activities can have double effects: from the one hand they can contribute to develop a positive well-being and offer creative and relaxing activities; from the other hand they can be part of a wider approach concerning the use of sport as a means to foster education and achieve social goals.

**Table 9**

**Degree of Implementation of the SICA Intervention Programs for VEIs as Perceived by SICA Personnel, VEIs and Visitors in Terms of Livelihood Program (N=285)**

	SICA Personnel (55)		SICA VEIs (205)		SICA Visitors (25)		Overall Mean (285)	
<b>D. Livelihood Program</b>								
1. Work programs are offered to help inmates earn to augment one's family necessities ( <i>May mga pa-trabaho ang SICA para sa mga interesading preso sa gayun ay magkaroon ng dagdag kita para sa pamilya</i> )	2.20	LI	1.80	LI	3.10	I	1.99	LI
2. Inmates are trained to be efficient ( <i>Ang mga preso ay inihahanda para maging mabisa sa mga trabaho</i> )	3.88	HI	2.56	I	3.45	HI	2.89	I
3. Inmates are trained to be responsible and wise in the use of their profits/earnings ( <i>Ang mga preso ay inihahanda para maging responsible sa kanilang mga kita sa loob ng SICA</i> )	3.61	HI	2.67	I	3.18	I	2.90	I
4. Inmates are being equipped with skills to be productive in the community upon their release ( <i>Ang mga preso ay inihahandang maging produktibo sa</i>	3.74	HI	2.95	I	3.10	I	3.12	I



<i>komunidad kapag siya ay napalaya na)</i>								
5. Inmates are trained to save a part of their income for their family ( <i>Ang mga preso ay tinuturuan upang magtabi ng kita para sa pamilya</i> )	3.23	I	2.67	I	3.59	HI	2.86	I
<b>Area Mean</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>2.53</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>I</b>

**Livelihood Program**

Table 9 presents the perceived degree of implementation of the Livelihood Programs of Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) for its Violent Extremist Inmates (VEIs) by the respondents.

The livelihood related programs and activities of the SICA were observed *implemented* as evidenced by the area mean of 2.75. It was likewise observed that the inmates are equipped with skills to be productive in the community upon release (3.12). However, work programs are offered to help inmates earn to augment one’s family necessities was perceived *least implemented* as shown in the area mean of 1.99.

Moreover, in the Philippines, the Bureau of Correction offers a variety of inmate work programs. The purpose of the inmate work program is to keep the inmates busy, and to provide them money for their personal expenses and their families as well as help them to acquire livelihood skills in order that they may become productive citizens once they are released and assimilated back into the mainstream of society (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Manual, Revised, 2007).

It was further stressed that these programs have the potential for successful transitioning inmates from prison to the world of work.



In the article “Inmates making time worthwhile through livelihood programs,” of Cañizares (2016), it was mentioned that to make detention time more productive, the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC) launched its bag-making program last Friday. A brainchild project of Gov. Hilario Davide III and his wife Jobel, tarpaulins used in campaign posters are recycled by turning them into grocery bags. It was also mentioned by one of the inmates that the income may not be big, but at least, they earned something which we can use for buying our basic needs such as soap. With six electric sewing machines, the CPDRC tapped the help of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to teach inmates on how to sew tarpaulins into grocery bags. The inmates turned campaign billboard tarpaulins into tents. Moreover, CPDRC had three existing livelihood programs: A bakery and automobile repair and maintenance shop as well as a facility for making house ornaments. Decorative items are made of materials from discarded cardboard and papers hardened by mixing them with leftover rice. Colored plastic bottles and soft drink straws were also used for building miniatures.

In a similar article, “ALS, livelihood programs enrich lives of Baguio’s female inmates,” of Fabian (2017) in the Manila Bulletin, she mentioned that for the female inmates at the Baguio City Jail, various livelihood and educational advancement programs are elevating their self-esteem despite being put away from mainstream society.

During the recent program on Women’s Month, Jail Senior Inspector April Rose Ayangwa allowed The Manila Bulletin to take a peek into the daily lives of female inmates which is filled with so much more worthwhile activities than, perhaps, many in the free world had ever tried doing. Ayangwa has kept on stressing the need to be constantly reminded that life could be productive.

And through the various income-generating skills and livelihood programs such as baking, jewelry making (Rhinestone jewelries and crafts), sewing and tailoring, cross stitching are all activities made available to them –female inmates’ moral have been given a boost.



She said the more important part of the penal system is not punishment but to make the inmates more productive and prepare them for reintegration to the society once their prison terms had been served.

Relative to the findings above, the global center developed the Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons (CVE-P) Program, which encompasses a series of targeted trainings, technical assistance, and ongoing support to prison authorities, to improve the management of VEOs and to effectively identify and address radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism in prisons. Established in 2015 in cooperation with the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Detention and Reintegration Work Group, the program is founded on the latest, evolving best practices, knowledge, and expertise from correctional services around the world. Key thematic areas include the management of terrorism-related offenders, violent extremism risk identification and assessment, risk reduction and rehabilitative interventions, prison culture, and multi-stakeholder engagement. The Global Center draws on an international, multidisciplinary team of forensic psychologists, former prison officials, CVE practitioners, and academic experts (Cole, 2016).

**Significant Difference on the Perceptions of SICA personnel, VEIs and Visitors on the Intervention Programs in Terms of Alternative Learning System(ALS), Interfaith Program, Sports and Recreation Program; and Livelihood Program**

This section presents the answers to the second research problem on the significant difference on the perceptions of the three groups of respondents.



**Table 10**

**Test of Significant Differences in the Degree of Implementation of the SICA intervention programs for Violent Extremist Inmates As Perceived by the Respondents**

Sum of Variation	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F-Value		Decision	Interpretation
				Computed	Critical		
Between Groups	2	0.792	0.396	2.020	4.260	Accept Ho	There are no significant differences
Within Groups	9	1.762	0.196				
Total	11	2.554	0.592				

**Level of significance – 0.05;**

As shown in Tables 6-9, the SICA personnel and the visitors similarly perceived that the SICA intervention programs are very highly implemented as shown in the area means of 3.58 and 3.59 respectively while on the other hand, the violent extremist inmates perceived that these intervention programs are *implemented* as shown in the area mean of 3.04.

This means that the personnel of SICA believe that they are carrying out all the objectives and purpose of the different intervention programs for the SICA inmates. Though the perception of the VEIs is *implemented*, this is still considered the lowest among the perceptions of the three groups of respondents. This is due to how the programs are being carried out.

However, in the F-test, shown in table 10, the computed F-ratio of 2.020 is less than the tabled F-ratio of 4.260 at 5 percent level of significance, thus, the null hypothesis is *accepted*. This means that there are no significant differences in the perceived level of implementation of the degree of implementation of the SICA intervention programs for violent extremist inmates as perceived by the respondents considering group.





In the Philippines, the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is the machinery which society uses in the prevention of crime as well as intervention programs through rehabilitation and reformation services. It operates by preventing the commission of crimes, and helps in the apprehension, prosecution, sentencing, and rehabilitation of those who cannot be deterred from violating the rules of the society. Its pillars are composed of the police, prosecution, court, corrections, and community. The rehabilitation system is a sub-component of the corrections pillar (Victor, 2014).

According to Tradio (2016), jails are part of the overall intervention program. They are in fact, penal institutions. Like other correctional institutions, they hold many prisoners who are serving sentences; they have a responsibility for their care. In the past, the emphasis of most jails was on detention. In recent years this tradition role has been redefined and now the courts and the community in some locales are working to see that their jails develop intervention and rehabilitative programs.

Based on the 1987 Philippine Constitution in Section 19, Article III, mandates that the punishment to be imposed upon a convicted accused should not go beyond the borders of humanity. Thus, excessive fines shall not be imposed, nor cruel, degrading or inhumane punishment be inflicted. The employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any inmate or the use of sub-standard or inadequate penal facilities under sub-human conditions shall be dealt with by law (De Leon, 2015).

### **The Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the SICA Intervention Programs for the Violent Extremist Inmates (VEIs)**

This part of the paper presents the answers to the research problem no. 3 on the challenges encountered in the implementation of the intervention programs of SICA for the inmates. The researchers made use of thematic analysis (TA) by using coding schemes to come-up with categories and axial codings.



## SICA Personnel

**Insufficient Fund for ALS and Livelihood.** This was identified by the SICA personnel as one of the most common challenges encountered in the implementation of the intervention programs. The insufficiency of fund for the implementation of ALS and Livelihood affect the quantity and quality of the programs that are delivered to the inmates.

According to one of the personnel of SICA *“I think one of the challenges encountered by the SICA is the shortage of funds that will support the mods for the ALS program and livelihood.”* This indicates factors affecting the implementation and maintenance of the program. It was also understood that ALS program is carried out at SICA but one SICA personnel stated *“Other persons deprived of liberty or PDLs are lazy to join the classroom discussions.”* When the inmates were asked, they gave a common answer, that the teachings is not suited for them. According to one inmate *“Gusto lang naming matuto kung paano magsulat at magbasa para magamit naming paglabas na.”*This line presupposes a practical conduct of education or literacy program that would uplift the skills of many inmates in reading and writing.

According to Bestre (2016), she identified some problems in the implementation of intervention programs for VEIs are the following: (1) Lack of funds in the implementation of rehabilitative programs such as vocational seminars; (2) Lack of reading materials that would help inmates in their everyday life and (3) lack of programs on literacy classes for inmates. These problems accordingly are serious but did not hinder the implementation of the rehabilitation programs.

Aside from the findings above, the intervention goal of correction has been criticized as unjust on two principal grounds: (1) individualized (2) predictive restraint. If a sentence is seen as instrument of treatment, then the amount of punishment require depends on the



individual offender's need, rather than character of the crime. It is therefore likely that two people who have committed the same crime will have different levels of treatment. Under the rehabilitation model, predictive restrained centers on the fact that correctional officials are given discretion to determine when it is possible for a prisoner's future behavior to be free of crime. Such predictions are looked upon as unjust because in the absence of methods that would permit accurate predictions, persons who will nor repent their offenses are often held longer than is necessary in jail (Foronda, 2016).

#### **Insufficient number of SICA Personnel.**

This is the second most encountered challenge as perceived by the SICA personnel. The insufficiency in the number of personnel affects the implementation of the SICA. According to one of the SICA personnel on duty during the conduct of the FGD, he stated that one of the problems encountered in the implementation of the intervention programs activities is *"Lack of personnel to monitor the activities and lack of facilities especially multi-purpose hall for livelihood and other activities."* Similarly, another personnel said *"We encountered problems such as scheduling of these activities, lack of materials needed with this activities."* This is an indication that resources really affect the operationalization of the intervention programs.

Relative to the insufficient number of SICA personnel as one of the problems, the nation was awakened by horrors when inmates belonging to the ASG at the SICA 1 of Metro Manila District Jail inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City initiated a hostage taking last March 15, 2005. This was after their escape plot failed to materialize. During the said incident, 23 detainees, 3 BJMP personnel, and one (1) SAF member were killed. Another incident was in Makati City Jail. In February 2016, the inmates claimed to have been beaten up by jail guards and were reportedly injured following the noise barrage that escalated into a riot. In separate incidents, at least 200 members of the Batang City Jail Gang inside Manila City Jail staged a noise barrage in September 2016 over a new policy that would segregate its inmates with cases related to illegal drugs. While in October 2016, another noise barrage



was staged by more than 800 inmates at Navotas City Jail in protest to the ‘Cashless System’ policy of the jail. These situations of correctional facilities will affect every intervention program that is being implemented.

### **SICA VEI Inmates**

There are two themes that came up based on the responses of the participants during the conduct of the FGD.

**Non-sustainability of Intervention Programs.** This is the common problem that was identified by the SICA VEI inmates. It was observed by the key informants that the intervention programs that are being implemented at SICA are generally not being maintained especially the conduct of the ALS program. It has been observed that ALS is implemented at SICA but it is not regularly conducted. The implementation is dependent on the availability of the providers usually coming from partner universities near Taguig City. Since the programs are not sustained, there are a lot of non-continuity of the programs. This results to confusion on the part of the beneficiaries due to the fast turn over of implementers or partners in the implementation of the programs.

According to one inmate, *“Paiba-iba ang mga nagtuturo sa amin kaya minsan paulit ulit ang mga tinuturo, hindi tuloy namin napapakinabangan ng husto.”* This confirms the findings wherein the implementation of the intervention programs are not sustained. Another inmate stated *“Paiba-iba ang mga tinuturo minsan kaya kami, hindi na umaatend ng mga klase naming. Gumagawa nalang kami ng rason.”* This statement of the inmate is an indication of just compliance that may defeat the purpose of the program.



Similarly, pursuant to the BJMP's Comprehensive Operations Manual (Revised 2015), and in line with its mission, the bureau endeavors to perform the following functions to wit; to enhance and upgrade organizational capability on a regular basis, thus, making all BJMP personnel updated on all advancement in law enforcement eventually resulting in greater crime solution efficiency and decrease inmate population; to implement strong security measures for the control of inmates; to provide for the basic needs of inmates; to conduct activities for the rehabilitation and development of inmates; and to improve jail facilities and conditions.

#### **Conduct of Simple and Suited ALS for Inmates.**

This is another theme that came up after the conduct of FGD and KII among the VEI inmates at SICA in Camp Bagong Diwa. In general, according to majority of the inmates, most of the intervention programs especially the ALS's program of instruction or curriculum is not suited with the kind of inmates inside SICA.

According to one of the inmates, *"Ang mga tinuturo sa mga kasama naming sa ALS ay maganda ngunit kelangan siguro na magkarroon muna ng survey kung ano ang kailangan ng mga preso at iyon ang bigyan ng pansin."* This comment and suggestion was made by not only one but few inmates during the conduct of the interview. This would mean that re-alignment of the topics/contents in teaching the ALS should be in accordance with the needs analysis that maybe conducted by the SICA administration. This strategy would scientifically provide the concern that will be addressed.

According to one of the inmates of SICA, a detainee due to the Lamitan Siege, many are recruited to join the extremist groups because they don't understand English. The group of people who are recruiting among the residents are usually using English and Filipino languages. Some of these are foreigners who are there at the ground to conduct strategic



recruitment. Since most of the residents do not understand English and Filipino languages, most of them join the group because they want to earn money and not solely on ideology. Thus, this implies that language barrier is a crucial factor in the recruitment process.

### **SICA Inmates Relatives/Visitors**

The following were the answers of the SICA inmates' relatives and/or visitors who participated during the FGD conducted by the researchers.

### **Interruptions of ALS implementation.**

According to the relatives and/or visitors of the SICA inmates, they have pointed out that the ALS program is irregularly conducted among participants of the program at SICA.

The constant interruptions of the implementation of the intervention programs may dismay the inmates to participate. According to one inmate's relative, *"Ang sabi na aking asawa, meron daw ALS na ginagawa sa loob pero minsan hindi na pumapasok ang asawa ko kasi, hindi niya maintindihan ang mga tinuturo kasi gumagamit ang guro ng English na hindi maintindihan."* Teaching English as a second language is very crucial, it needs to start with the very basic ones. The audience needs to be known too as to their educational background, culture and status.

Similarly, according to the key informants, *"Sana magfocus ang mga ibang programa sa mga no read, no write."* The ALS program is intended to all interested inmates who want to know how to read and write. This program targets those who want to further their basic education too from elementary to high school. But according to the Warden *"We are not offering in SICA basic education due to fast turn-over of inmates. Inmates come and go."*



*Because these are all detainees. No convicts here. Nevertheless, we offer some programs that maybe useful for the inmates.”*

Some of the religious programs and activities of SICA inmates are being interrupted due to some scheduled activities. In this reason, the prison administrations should establish agreements with religious denominations, and religious representatives should be properly trained on how to exercise their functions in a prison environment. The number of religious officials in each prison should reflect the numbers of prisoners of each faith in that prison. Religious officials may be hired directly by the prison or prison officials when permitted by law. Alternatively, respected religious leaders from the local community may be allowed to hold services within the prison. In any case, prison authorities have the right to screen religious representatives entering prisons in order to prevent violent extremist views from being disseminated among prisoners. Some prison administrations have developed competency profiles to use when selecting spiritual counsellors. All groups and individuals must be subjected to the same screening and review process.

#### **Rare Dialogue Between Personnel and Inmates.**

This was pointed out by the inmates’ relatives/visitors to be one of the mostly encountered problems in the implementation of the SICA intervention programs. Dialogue is very instrumental in solving small problems in the implementation of the intervention programs.

According to one of the relatives of an inmate, *“Palagi akong sinasabihan ng aking asawa na wala masyadong dialogue na ginaganap sa SICA.”* Added by one of the visitors, he said *“Hindi naibibigay ang mga kailangan ng mga inmates kase wala naman kasing pag-uusap sa pagitan ng mga personnel at mga preso.”* This is the belief of the relatives/visitors of the inmates.



Based on the international standards in correctional treatment, prisoners should be allowed to pray, to read approved religious books and to meet other relevant requirements, e.g. those related to diet and hygiene. The VEIs of the same religion may be allowed to gather to celebrate special days or collectively worship, taking into account individual risk assessments. Appropriate facilities, such as prayer rooms, should be provided. Prisoners should also have the opportunity, if they so wish, to be visited by qualified representatives of their own religion in private or in group services. These can be done through dialogue between implementers and beneficiaries.

### **Action Plan on De-radicalization through Literacy Program of Violent Extremist Inmates of Special Intensive Care Area at Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City**

#### **ACTION PLAN**

This part of the paper presents the action plan with its rationale, intents, program components, evaluation, monitoring and assessment, and support system and procedure.

#### **I. Rationale**

The radical inmates will continue to radicalize others even when inside jail/prison facilities if there is no systematic and research based intervention program that will be implemented.

With the growing concern and effort of our government in preventing and countering violent extremism, there is a need to have a rehabilitation service specifically designed in handling VEIs in SICA to address the radicalization in jails which will be implemented and institutionalized upon approval by the BJMP higher authority.





Language is very significant in all forms of communication. Understanding the meaning and implication of a certain idea is essential. Thus, if people have different languages, it is possible that some, if not all, cannot understand each other but would rather presume some meaning based on personal interpretation.

Learning a new language uses the skills one have from learning to read in the first language. If one cannot read or write in the first language, it may be difficult to learn to read in a second language. In this case, one may take an English **literacy program in your first language** before you start learning English. This is the very reason why this program was created to equip the inmates with basic literacy particularly focused in English language.

Renewed interest on how and why extremists ends has emerged in parallel with increased visibility of some new and innovative approaches to counter violent extremism. These are collectively known, whether for good or bad, as “de-radicalization programs.” However, and despite their popularity, data surrounding even the most basic of facts about these programs remains limited.

This action plan presents the overview of the result of a study conducted in the PPSC NPC by the PS OSEC students. This action plan is not merely a compliance but rather a research based initiative to help the BJMP particularly the SICA to come-up with literacy program for its inmates as a tool for deradicalization.

### **Intents (Objectives/Purposes)**

The purpose of this study was to come-up with a responsive “*Deradicalization Program for the VEIs Through English Literacy*” at the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). As per result of the preliminary survey conducted by the researchers at the SICA and was confirmed by the findings of the study, there is a need to create a deradicalization program that would address deradicalization particularly on English Literacy. The English Literacy Program will be a tool for the inmates to understand



the basics of English language. English language is being used during recruitment in the fields.

It is the objective of this program to educate the inmates on the basic English language as a means of deradicalization.

**Program Components/Processes (Manpower, Logistics, tools/equipment, funds, etc)**

Program Component/ Process	Strategy of Delivery	Manpower	Tools/ Equipment	Fund
I. Program Overview	The teacher shall conduct orientation among participating inmates of SICA on what the program is all about.	Researchers  SICA personnel  Trained teacher	Projector  Laptop  Portable Speaker  Blackboard/ Whiteboard  Chalks/White board markers	N/A
II. Program Outline: A. Phonetic Awareness B. Vocabulary C. Fluency D. Comprehension E. Writing	The program outline will be delivered using words, ideas, sentences related to violent extremism.  The researchers will look into a trained teacher in English as a second language who is also acquainted with extremism terms and concepts.	Researchers  SICA personnel  Clients  Teacher	Projector  Laptop  Blackboard/ Whiteboard  Chalks/White board markers	2,000



	<p>The delivery is interactive and communicative style of teaching.</p> <p>A trained teacher maybe one of the inmates inside. This teacher inmate must be briefed before engaging with his co-inmates.</p>			
Monitoring of Students' Development	There shall be evaluation activities that will be administered by the teacher to the clients in order to determine progresses.	<p>Researchers</p> <p>SICA personnel</p> <p>Clients</p> <p>Teacher</p>	<p>Projector</p> <p>Laptop/s</p> <p>Blackboard/ Whiteboard</p> <p>Chalks/White board markers</p> <p>Yellow pad papers</p>	N/A
Program Culmination	<p>A simple graduation ceremony shall be conducted among successful clients (student inmates). This shall be organized by the researchers in cooperation with the SICA personnel.</p> <p>The researchers will administer and collect the evaluation form to the students.</p>	<p>Researchers</p> <p>SICA personnel</p> <p>Clients</p> <p>Teacher</p> <p>Invited Guests</p>	<p>Hall/Room</p> <p>Sound system</p> <p>Laptop</p> <p>Projector</p>	7,000



## **Descriptions of the Program Outline (Components)**

### **1. Phonemic Awareness**

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear that a spoken word is made up of a series of discrete sounds. This is not just important in English, but phonemic awareness is critical for any language that has an alphabetic writing system. Phonemic awareness is an important component of a good literacy program for a few reasons:

- Teaching phonemic awareness allows for greater printed word recognition.
- Teaching phonemic awareness teaches inmate students to identify, understand, and manipulate sounds in spoken words.
- Teaching phonemic awareness helps teachers recognize if inmate students will have trouble with reading and spelling.

This program asserts that the amount of phonemic awareness that an inmate student has been exposed to before the start of school is a strong factor in how well that inmate student will read by the end of the program.

Phonemic awareness is also the precursor to phonics instruction. Phonemic awareness is a necessary component for phonics instruction to be effective because the inmate students need to connect the units of the written word to the sounds in the spoken word. Phonemic awareness is also a vital component in an inmate student's success in learning how to read. This program suggests that including phonemic awareness is a necessary component in the process of teaching inmate students how to read. The program states that those who promote the use of phonemic awareness believe that including phonemic awareness as a component in literacy programs may finally prevent the massive rehashing that English instruction.

### **2. Vocabulary**

Vocabulary can be defined as the knowledge of words and their meanings. The purpose of teaching vocabulary is for the inmate students to understand words and to use them to acquire and convey meaning. Vocabulary is an important component of a literacy program

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because the more words that an inmate student knows and understands the more the inmate student will comprehend when reading. Vocabulary is an important component in a successful literacy program because:

- Vocabulary knowledge increases comprehension, which is vital to an inmate student's ability to do well in school.
- A greater vocabulary increases an inmate student's ability to read and write with fluency.

A few ways to increase an inmates student's reading vocabulary is to have them learn high frequency words and have them read from a wide range of sources of both fiction and non-fiction.

### **3. Fluency**

Fluency is an inmate student's ability to effortlessly and correctly read, speak, and write English. Fluency in reading should include consistent speed, accuracy, and the use of proper expression. Fluency is achieved when an inmate student is no longer focusing on how to read. Helping inmate students read fluently is very important to a successful literacy program. Fluency is linked directly to comprehension, and once it is achieved, an inmate student can start focusing on the meaning of what they read. Fluency can be achieved by using a literacy program that combines phonemic awareness and vocabulary. This program suggests that there is a commonality in fluency research, stating that fluency develops through lots of reading practice.

### **4. Comprehension**

Comprehension refers to the inmate student's understanding of what they are reading. This not only includes reading, but also what is written. Having students attain comprehension of what they are reading and writing is very important. Comprehension is an important component of an effective literacy program for a few reasons:

- Comprehension is important to understand related terms on violent extremism.
- Comprehension is important to success in academic and personal learning.



- Comprehension is important to becoming a productive member of society.
- Comprehension is important in obtaining and maintaining a job and being successful in life.

The program believes that that reading comprehension is not only important for academic learning, but for learning in all other areas of an inmate student's life.

## **5. Writing**

Writing is the process of inmate students generating text, whether on paper or on a screen. Some studies suggest that reading and writing are interconnected although they have been taught separately for years. Writing is an important part of a literacy program:

- For not much literate persons, writing helps to reinforce phonemic awareness.
- For other inmate students, writing can help them understand the kinds of styles of text they read.
- Writing about what an inmate student has read helps develop their reading comprehension skills.
- Writing and reading strengthen and support each other, actively combining all the other components of a literacy program together.

## **Evaluation, Monitoring, Assessment, (What periodically, routinely) and SWOT Analysis**

The program will be run once or twice. Impact assessment will be done among the inmates. After the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of implementation of the program, we shall evaluate what part/s of the program that needs revision/enhancement/maintained.

This program must be implemented, monitored, and assessed for improvement. Once the program was launched, it must be scientifically analyzed to determine possible lapses, if



any. The shortcomings of the implementation of this program should be addressed in order to enhance its implementation.

The monitoring and evaluation of the program should be done with documents that will in turn be used for future references for upgrades and enhancement of the program.

### **Support System and Procedures (Policies, Rules, SOP, Partnership, etc.) and Intervention**

For the effective implementation of this program inside SICA, the researchers requested the cooperation and participation of the Warden of SICA and its personnel. The SICA administration is of great help to identify the inmates that are qualified to undergo the program.

A request letter was sent to the Warden of SICA for the implementation of this program. It was the SICA admin that identified the beneficiaries of this program. The inmates who are qualified undergone the orientation, they have consented to the program. All inmates who agreed to undergo the said program were required to finish the duration of the program.

Since it was found out that most of the inmates are not attending the Alternative Learning System (ALS), this program was developed to address such problem. Most of the inmates who were interviewed and who responded in this study, they have said that they were radicalized by lefty groups because they were not able to understand English language during the recruitment process. This made them part of many radicalized groups in the southern part of the country. With such premise, the researchers came up with a program that contains scientific program of instruction but will be delivered in the level of illiterate



people to understand terms and concepts of English Literacy that is focused in violent extremism.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following are the summary of findings of the study:

### 1. As to the Degree of Implementation of the SICA Intervention Programs.

The SICA personnel and the VEIs relatives/visitors similarly perceived that the SICA intervention programs are “*highly implemented*” as shown in the area means of 3.58 and 3.59 respectively while on the other hand, the VEIs perceived that these intervention programs are “*implemented*” as shown in the area mean of 3.04.

### 2. As to the Significant Difference on the Perceptions of SICA Personnel, VEIs and Visitors on the Intervention Programs.

The significant difference in the perceptions of the groups of respondents was done through an F-test. The computed F-ratio of 2.020 is less than the tabled F-ratio of 4.260 at 5 percent level of significance, thus, the null hypothesis is accepted. This means that there are no significant differences in the perceived level of implementation of the degree of implementation of the SICA intervention programs for violent extremist inmates as perceived by the respondents considering group.

### 3. As to the Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the SICA Intervention Programs.

As perceived by the SICA personnel, the challenges that are encountered in the implementation of the intervention programs includes the insufficient fund for the programs on ALS and livelihood activities and insufficient number of SICA personnel who are in-charge in the implementation of the intervention programs; As perceived by the SICA VEIs, the challenges includes the non-sustainability of intervention programs and conduct of simple and suited ALS for inmates; and as perceived by the VEIs’ relatives/visitors, the





challenges in the implementation of the intervention programs are interruptions of ALS implementation and rare dialogue between personnel and inmates.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Only selected intervention programs are implemented at the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) for the Violent Extremist Inmates (VEIs). This is due to the nature of the cases of the inmates inside the correctional facility.
2. Considering the implementation of the SICA intervention programs, the perceptions of the SICA personnel and VEIs' relatives/visitors came out similar due to the fact that personnel are the implementers of such programs. On the other hand, the relatives/visitors of the inmates has limited knowledge on what are the intervention programs and how these programs are implemented.
3. The Alternative Learning System or ALS was perceived to be the most important intervention programs among those that are implemented inside the SICA. As perceived by the participants, the ALS needs enhancement as a tool for deradicalization of the Violent Extremist Inmates.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are forwarded:

1. The ALS program should be strengthened by partnering SICA with a certain school that will draft a program of instructions based on the needs of the inmates;
2. The religious activities inside the SICA must be maintained in order to continuously build the foundation of the spiritual being of the inmates regardless of religious affiliations;
3. The sports and recreational activities should be conducted regularly in order to build friendship and camaraderie between and among personnel and co-inmates;
4. The livelihood program should be implemented in a way that the working inmates can earn to help themselves and their respective families;



5. To adopt the Literacy De-radicalization Program based on the major findings of this study. This program would augment the Alternative Learning System of the SICA in a form of practically addressing the literacy of the selected inmates; and
6. Further study to be conducted that will focus on the ALS and Livelihood Programs of the SICA.

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