



Institutionalizing the Anti-Drug Support Program of the Local Government towards the Effective Rehabilitation and Reintegration of the Drug Dependents in Valenzuela City

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Abstract: The paper presents a study on the institutionalization of an anti-drug support program of the local government towards the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents in Valenzuela City. This study seeks to address the addiction crisis that has long been a challenge for many communities in the Philippines. The research focuses on the development of the anti-drug support program, which aims to provide comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration support to drug dependents. The paper discusses the importance of institutionalizing the program to ensure its continuity and sustainability over time. The study proposes that the program is integrated into the city's health system so that it becomes a regular part of the city's health services. This institutionalization ensures that the program will continue regardless of any changes within the local government. The research also explores the challenges in implementing the program and provides recommendations for overcoming them. These challenges include limited resources, cultural barriers, and stigma surrounding drug dependence. Strategies for overcoming these barriers include partnership development with the private sector, community engagement, and advocacy efforts to reduce stigma surrounding drug dependence. The study highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to addiction that includes prevention, intervention, and recovery. Through the institutionalization of the anti-drug support program, the local government of Valenzuela City can address the drug dependence crisis in a comprehensive and sustainable way. By overcoming challenges in implementation, and building partnerships and community engagement, the program will have a lasting impact on the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents in the city.

Index Terms – Anti-Drug Support Program, Drug Addiction, Drug Dependence, Effectiveness, Institutionalization, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Valenzuela City.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the Philippines, drug cases arise from time to time. These cases pertain to drug trafficking, manufacturing, selling, and illegal use that leads to drug addiction. Many Filipinos are known to be engaged in this kind of activity because of the money they get and the effects it brings to the person. Drug addiction refers to a chronic or relapsing disorder that disrupts the normal and healthy functioning of an organ in the body with serious harmful effects (NIDA, 2020). People are becoming addicted to illicit drugs due to the pleasurable feeling it gives them.

With the increasing number and percentage of drug dependents every year, the Philippine Government utilizes different drug treatment modalities or approaches in the treatment of drug dependents. The administration of the Former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte implemented the War on Drugs which aims to eradicate the use of illicit drugs in the country. Moreover, the ramped-up drug war is in line with the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, also known as Republic Act 9165, which requires drug dependents to undergo a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months' confinement, treatment, and rehabilitation in an authorized rehabilitation center. This law served as the framework of the Drug War that was implemented under the Duterte Administration.

The Local Government of Valenzuela City followed suit by implementing its own response to eradicate drug trade and use by signing the Ordinance No. 369, Series of 2017, also known as an Ordinance that Institutionalized Valenzuela City Cares Plus. The aforementioned program is one of the city's best practices that provides complete support and care to identified drug suspects and accommodates them through the Valenzuela Anti-Drug Abuse Council (VADAC) (Valenzuela City, 2020). Additionally, the initiative caters to the community-based wellness program, livelihood packages, and a six-month long rehab program.

This study determined whether the programs that were initiated in the first Drug War remained effective and efficient in solving drugs at present. By examining and comparing the statistics of those that were affected and benefited during the first introduction of the Anti-Drug Support Program, versus the current statistics, the study identified the areas where program implementation could be further enhanced, what aspects must be changed or retained, in order for the program to cope with the present needs of the society. This study helped to improve the program implementation and had a broader reach in solving drug use in the city.

This study analyzed the effectiveness of the Anti-Drug Support Program, whether the implementation of the program bore fruit as the years passed by, and if there were provisions that can be improved with regards to the implementation of the Valenzuela City Cares Plus, especially in the areas of rehabilitation and reintegration. The findings aided in evaluating the implementation of the program of the Local Government, identifying ways to further enhance the program, and adapt the practices so that it can be implemented throughout the whole country since the program shows to be helpful to the community. Lastly, the researchers developed a framework to be recommended to enhance the effectiveness of the program.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized the mixed-method in data gathering procedures, as well as in analyzing and interpreting the data gathered. The study earnestly believes that utilizing the mixed-method will give a much more comprehensive analysis of the data, as this can be presented both numerically and non-numerically, given that the study aims to identify the views of the beneficiaries of the program, the satisfaction of the participants in the drug implementation, as well as the challenges that the program faced, which will be gathered through a combination of both survey and a semi-structured interview.

First, as the study answers the different challenges and problems in implementing the Anti-Drug Support Program, Focal Persons from the LGU and Anti-Drug Support Agencies have been interviewed with the use of the Semi-Structure Interview Questionnaire where the respondents answered specific questions, yet are free to share their thoughts freely. Data from the Government Documents and Records have been examined with the use of Data/Document Review since Data presented in the records are in numerical form. Secondary Data from various sources were attained with the use of Literature Review, where the researchers identified valuable opinions from third-party point-of-view, in the form of different literatures like journals or news articles.

Second, as the study examines the experiences of the beneficiaries regarding the effectiveness of the program, the thoughts of the beneficiaries were attained through a survey, where the respondents answered specific questions, and their answers were tallied and presented in a numerical format. Additionally, the beneficiaries also undergo a Semi-Structured Interview, where their personal insights regarding the effectiveness of the program are attained. The respondents were selected from the Top 5 Barangay with the highest number of graduates from the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program, which are the following barangays: (a) Malanday, (b) Karuhatan, (c) Ugong, (d) Gen. T de Leon, and (e) Arkong Bato.

Third, as the study measures the effectiveness of the program to the rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents, LGU Focal Persons were interviewed using Semi- Structured Interview Questionnaire, where respondents discussed different approaches in the "after-care" program of drug rehabilitation. Also, Government Data and Records were examined using Data Review, where valuable data regarding the rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents were attained.

Lastly, as the study develops recommendations on the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Anti-Drug Support Program, opinions from the LGU Focal Persons were attained with the use of Semi-Structured Interview Questionnaires, supported by the data presented from the Government Records, which the researchers attained with the use of Data Review.

By utilizing this methodology, the researcher aimed to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the issue under investigation. The collected data will be carefully analyzed and interpreted to provide insights into the effectiveness of the Anti-Drug Support Program's implementation, particularly in terms of rehabilitating and reintegrating drug dependents within the Local Government of Valenzuela. The interviews conducted allowed for a deeper exploration of the experiences and viewpoints of community members, providing valuable qualitative data. Additionally, the examination of published and unpublished documents provided a broader context and a wider perspective on the topic being studied. Moreover, these research methods will contribute to a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the Anti-Drug Support Program.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Implementation of the Anti-Drug Support Program, and the Challenges encountered during the implementation

In response to the first research question on how the local government of Valenzuela City implements its Anti-Drug Support Program, as well as the challenges encountered during the implementation, the Government Data that contains the number of graduates of the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program has been analyzed, along with the interview data from the policy implementers and stockholders involved in the implementation of the program. Also included in the analysis are the insights of the beneficiaries when it comes to the challenges they have encountered in the course of their enrolment in the program. This is to determine how the program was aimed to be implemented according to the instructions set up by the policy makers, and how the program is being implemented in the field.

3.1.1 2016 Drug War

The term of Duterte Administration has seen intensive measures targeted at resolving drug problems that is prevalent in the Philippines. Laws were enacted to strengthen the pre-existing legislations like the National Anti-Drug Plan of Action (2015) which presents problems relating to drugs, that includes trafficking, the increasing HIV cases in relation to Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs), and the treatment and rehabilitation program for drug dependents. The Policy Maker, represented by the principal author of the Ordinance No. 369, shared that before, no city ordinance exists which directly answers to the drug problems prevalent in the city. Only the Republic Act No. 9165, or the National Anti-Drug Program, was being implemented in the Local Government. He shared that it is only during the time of Duterte Administration that the Local Government of Valenzuela started drafting policies to respond to the rampant drug problems. He added that memorandum circulars from the Department of Interior and Local Government, mandates LGUs to formulate Anti-Drug Support Programs to be implemented in their locality, of which he said *"Yung RA 9165 tapos may mga memorandum circular ang mga DILG, panahon ni Duterte na kayong mga government dapat gumawa kayo ng programa sa Anti-Drug kasi si Duterte priority ang Anti-Drug"* (The RA 9165, and we also have the memorandum circulars released by DILG

during the time of former President Duterte, that the government should have a program about Anti-Drug, because Anti-Drug is the focus of Duterte that time), emphasizing that the National Government is the one who pursued to have this kind of policy.

Same sentiments were heard from the Policy Implementer, represented by the psychometrician from the Valenzuela Anti-Drug Abuse Office (VADAO), the NGO, represented by the City Coalition of Anti-Drug Advocates, as well as the Barangay Coordinators from Barangays Karuhatan and Arkong Bato. According to them, Local Government units were asked to formulate policies that will tackle, handle, and operate drug enforcement operations, and they are mandated to be responsible for the rehabilitation of drug dependent individuals in their locale. NGO representative reiterated that *“It is the national policy that being followed by the local governments. All local governments sa Pilipinas, lahat ng city and municipalities and even barangays ay may Anti-Drug Abuse Program dahil ayun ang programa ng national government. Kailangan nila sumunod at kailangan isunod ng mga nasa ibaba ang programa ng finoformulate ng nasa itaas”* (It is the national policy that is being followed by the local governments. All local governments in the Philippines, all cities and municipalities, and even barangay, have their own Anti-Drug Support Program, because that is the program of the national government. They have to follow, and they have to pattern it according to the directives formulated from the higher ups). He also added that President BBM's policy revolves around preventive education, treatment, and rehabilitation. This strongly encourages the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP), and moreover, the CBDRP program receives full support. Barangay Coordinator from Arkong Bato supported and said, *“Siguro, isa sa ano yung panahon ni Pangulong Duterte, pangalawa, nakakabahala na yung pagdami ng mga drug dependent. Siguro yun ang nag-udyok sa City of Valenzuela para maaksyunan”* (Maybe one [factor] is during the time of President Duterte, second, the rising number of drug dependents is concerning), of which Barangay Coordinator from Karuhatan backed stating, *“Unang-una siguro, pangunahing dahilan, yung mga kadahilanan kasi is alam mo na yung nangyayari sa community natin, parang pangunahing kadahilanan ngayon sa krimen eh regarding sa illegal drugs. So, kaya ito siguro yung tinutukan ng programa ng ating Local Government”* (Firstly, the primary reason is, as you observed what is happening in our community, prime reason considered in [the existence of] criminality is illegal drugs. That might be the reason why the Local Government focused on this program). Both of which agrees that the high number of drug dependents and the cases of crime due to the usage illegal drugs is a pressing issue the LGU seeks to resolve.

The Academics, represented by the Prefect of Discipline of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela, pointed out the growing concern of the community against illegal drugs, of which the LGU seeks to resolve by means of creating policies that are targeted to address these concerns. It is supported by the Experts represented by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), of which he claims that the LGU is always up to the best interest of its people. He added, *“One of the biggest problems facing the city is the problem of illegal drugs which leads to the LGU to draft policies concerning the Anti-Drug Support Program especially to the youth to prevent the illegal drug problem of the city”* where he gives emphasis on the vulnerability of the youth as a major factor in formulating laws for Anti-Drug Support. All shareholders agree that drug problem is a prevalent problem that needs solution, and that the Drug War has been pivotal in the formation of policies that will directly answer drug problems in the locale.

3.1.2 Implementation in the Eyes of the Government

The Local Government Code of 1991 mandates the local executives to ensure safety and security of communities under their jurisdiction (Gamboa, et.al., 2018). Living with this mandate, local executives started drafting policies about the Anti-Drug Support Program that would directly answer drug related problems in Valenzuela City. Shareholders were asked about the initial aims of the program when it was first created. The Policy Maker shared three main goals the program envisions to achieve. That is for the drug trade to be suppressed, to save the patients, and to imprison the peddlers of drug, which according to him, all happened and was achieved during the Duterte Administration. Experts from the PDEA supported this claim, and he gives focus on the suppression of illegal drug problems in the city. In line with this, representative from CICADA also gives emphasis on saving the patients, in terms of rehabilitation efforts that was spearheaded under the Aquino Administration. He shared, *“During the time of President Noyonoy, isa lang ang rehabilitation. Nung naging presidente si Digong, ang ginawa niya nagkaroon ng national policy, isa yung in-house rehabilitation yung dadalhin sila [sa rehabilitation centers], and this one, the*

Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program dito sa community/barangay. Yun nga yung sinasabi na Anti-Drug Support Program, in-implement lang yan noong panahon ni Duterte, noong ginawang holistic yung approach at tsaka ang essence of that program, para daw magkaroon ng participation ang community and the family sa pagre-rehab noong victim/kliyente or person who used drugs (PWUD)” (During the time of former President Noynoy, rehabilitation is the sole [approach]. When Digong became the president, what he did was he drafted a national policy, one is the in-house rehabilitation where they will be brought [to the rehabilitation. center], and this one, the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program, [it will be conducted] here in the community or barangay. This Anti-Drug Support Program we are talking about, it was only implemented during the time of former President Duterte, when the approach [to rehabilitation] was made holistic and the essence of the program, to create an avenue for the community, and the family, to participate in rehabilitating the victim or the client or the Person Who Used Drugs [PWUDS]). He highlighted that while the Aquino Administration initiated the rehabilitation efforts, it was during the Duterte Administration that these efforts were strengthened. The Community Based Drug Rehabilitation Program was introduced to engage the community in rehabilitating drug dependents, aiming for a more holistic approach within the Anti-Drug Support Program. In the community level, this holistic approach is being implemented in such a way that every aspect of the live of the client is given emphasis, and that they are given care and focus, as well as support, in their efforts to reintegration. Barangay Coordinator from Karuhatan shared *“Siguro para matulungan yung ating mga nasa grassroot, yung mga nalulong sa bisyo. Siguro pangunahin natin tulungan doon yung gustong kumawala sa bisyo na kinasadlakan nila, layunin nito yung kailangan maihahon natin sila doon sa kinasubuan nilang bisyo”* (Maybe, to help those in the grassroots, those that have been addicted to the vices. Maybe, one of our main objectives is to help them get out of their vices. Our goal is we need to get them out of the vices they have been put into), expressing that it is the wish of the program to help those who have fall trap into drug dependence, and to help them recover and reintegrate themselves into the community.

The insights shared by the key informants are a testament to the continued effort of the government into perfecting the Anti-Drug Support Program.

3.1.3 Preventive Education

The National Anti-Drug Plan of Action 2015-2020 calls for the promotion of public awareness on the evils of dangerous drugs (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2016). As mandated by RA 9165, Local Governments were asked to raise awareness on the negative effects of drugs in the life of every person, as well as the negative effects of drug presence in the life of the community. The Policy Maker emphasized that preventive education stands among the five strategies utilized in the program. Students actively participated in an awareness campaign, leading to the establishment of the Student Anti- Drug Abuse Councils. These councils are dedicated to conducting seminars for students across all schools in Valenzuela City. For the implementing agency, they also focus on areas which have records of drug related crimes or incidents. VADAO Psychometrician shared that *“Actually, other than that, ang target din natin dito is yung the general... the general public kasi part ng ating programa ang preventive education din. So we talked sa mga bata, sa mga schools, communities and especially doon nga rin sa mga at risks areas na merong malaking ratio ng mga naitatala or nagkakarecord na mga drug related crimes or incidents.”* (Actually, other than that, our main targets here are the general public because part of our program is the preventive education. So we talked to the kids, we cooperate with the schools, the communities, especially those that are considered as high risk areas that has a high record of drug related crimes or incidents), where he gives emphasis on the awareness of the general public of the adverse effects of using drugs in their life and the well-being of the community.

Representative from the Academic field gives emphasis on the importance of making the youth aware of the damages and negative impact of drugs in their lives. He noted that the youth is considered as the most vulnerable sector when it comes to drugs. He added, “one of the primary goals is often to prevent the initiation of drug use, particularly among vulnerable populations such as youth...” saying that preventive education that is targeted to the youth is the main focus of the program. He added that efforts were made to enhance awareness among the community of the negative consequences of drugs. Among the efforts that he highlighted are: (1) educational program in schools to inform students about the risks of drug abuse, and conduct community outreach campaigns to raise public awareness about the dangers of drugs, as well as the utilization of media and newspaper campaigns to raise public awareness about the consequences of drug abuse and promote available resources for prevention and treatment.

When it comes to the NGO, they gave emphasis on the awareness of those Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUDs), of which he states *“Ang strategy is through education and information, where to educate the*

PWUDS on the effects of drug use and how can they get rid of it, paano maaalis sa system nila. We're talking of support program, the CDBRP" (Our strategy is through education and information, where to educate the PWUDS on the effects of drug use and how can they get rid of it, how they can remove it from their systems. We're talking of support program, the CDBRP). He emphasized that the main focus is on understanding the effects of drugs on the body and exploring ways to cease drug use.

3.1.4 Holistic Approach in Rehabilitation

In 2014, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as referenced by Hechanova et al. in 2018, calls for a holistic approach in solving illegal drug problems in the country. In this, the psychometrician from VADAO also discussed the strategies and interventions being employed to address drug abuse and addiction issues, of which he pointed out some mandates such as preventive education, focused on the avoidance of the general public from being exposed to drugs, providing awareness drives on the negative effects and impacts of drugs in their health and life as an individual. Second, he also pointed out rehabilitation as the main focus of the Anti-Drug Support Program, which is divided into three according to the severity of the drug dependence of the client: (1) general intervention, which is focused on the mild patients, (2) community-based intervention, which is focused on the moderate patients, and (3) Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers which accommodates severe cases of drug dependence. Individuals identified as PWUDs are assessed in their severity of dependence, and they are assigned which intervention program they would undergo. He also added that it is the responsibility of the local government to convince the drug dependent individual, and its family, to undergo rehabilitation. He added that the current focus of the Anti-Drug Support Program includes Community Based Drug Rehabilitation Program, and preventive education.

Expert from PDEA gave emphasis on the Community-Based Rehabilitation Program (CDBRP), and its holistic effort of involving the community in the rehabilitation program of the drug dependents in the Barangay. He added that the CDBRP "gives the chance of those drug personalities to re-integrate in the society" as the Community-Based Treatment can be a perfect medium, as this can "mobilize additional resources such as volunteers' time, local knowledge, and community confidence and trust" (Department of Health, 2016), which, if these resources were utilized, will benefit greatly the dependents that are undergoing the program.

For the Barangay Coordinators, they ensure that every aspect of the life of the clients is being given emphasis, including their religious life. Barangay Coordinator from Karuhatan said "*Una, ang ginagawa ng aming team sa program, yung layunin natin sa ating mga clients ay yung mapabalik loob natin sila sa Panginoong Diyos, yun yung unang-una na nakita natin na effective*" (Firstly, what our team does in the program, is we lead our clients to have themselves reconciled to God, that is the first [factor] we see that is effective). It is further elaborated that reconciling and attending church activities have helped them to avoid the use of illegal drugs. Respondents also supported this, as they testified that activities incorporated in the wellness program are significant to alleviate the urge for relapse. They said that these activities divert their attention from their cravings of drugs, which deemed effective in terms of rehabilitation.

To sum up, applying holistic approach is an effective tool in ensuring that every facet of the rehabilitation is met, every needs is responded upon, and that it fosters complete recovery and well-being.

3.1.5 Challenges in the Rehabilitation Efforts

Both the key informants and respondents shared some insights with the struggles they have encountered in their road to rehabilitation. Most of the respondents shared that they experienced financial struggles, and the lack of support from their family and friends, which impacted their efforts to recovery. Psychometrician from VADAO also shared that he encountered families that does not want to be involved in the rehabilitation efforts of the drug dependents. He shared that the family members of drug dependent individuals are ashamed to admit that their relative is a drug dependent individual, and that they want to leave the rehabilitation effort to the VADAO alone. He reiterated that the rehabilitation is a mutual understanding and effort between the VADAO, the individual, and their families. However, families continue to refuse to take part in the rehabilitation program of their family members, which also presents challenges to the implementers and the client themselves.

Ackermann in 2023 pointed the importance of having support system in the road to recovery. She added that lack of support system can put a client into a greater risk of relapse. Relapse serves as another challenge into the effort of rehabilitation. The lack of support for the clients discourages them to continue finishing the program, which leads them to relapse in using the drugs. Furthermore, negative peer pressure frequently triggers relapses, with individuals striving for recovery often subjected to ridicule or exclusion from their social circles (The Cedar Group, 2023). According to the NGO representative, negative peer pressure presents the most significant hindrance for clients to successfully complete their rehabilitation effort. He

added that these peers often put negative pressure to the clients, which leads them to have relapse to being a drug dependent. In this he said, *"Still, we do believe that the number 1 reason why people use drugs is because of peer pressure. Kapag nag-undergo sila ng mga programa, still, once they finish it, it still peer pressure, yan ang problema yung pagbalik sa community barkada na naman andon na naman ulit, back to zero at isa yan sa obstacles"* (Still, we do believe that the number 1 reason why people use drugs is because of peer pressure. When they undergo the program, [and] once they finish it, peer pressure [is still there]. That is where the problem lies, when they go back to the community, their peers are still there, so we go back to zero again, and that is a major obstacle [we have]). This also reflects in the responses of the graduates, as they also specified that there are negative influences from their community, which presents challenges to their recovery efforts. *Pambubuyo*, or persuasion from their peers and friends, often tempts them into trying the drugs again, which often leads to relapse.

Overall, these challenges continue to impede rehabilitation efforts, which presents the need for a comprehensive approach, emphasized support system, and a continued effort to resolve different facets of the obstacles to successful rehabilitation.

3.1.6 Stigma and Discrimination

Alibudbud in 2023 pointed out the negative view of criminality in connection to the illegal drugs that continues to give a detrimental impact to the drug dependents, and also to the efforts of the government in implementing its anti-drug efforts. Stigma is one of the challenges the psychometrician has pointed out, which impedes the implementation of the program. He pointed out how stigma and discrimination continues to plague the work of anti-drug enforcement. He said *"...Yung dalawa na iyan ang isang humahadlang sa pag-iimplement ng ating programa kasi nga sa totoo lang, sa aking propesyon, bihira ang pumapasok na empleyado or staff na nakatutok sa substance use or sa anti-drugs kasi nga, the word itself, drugs, akala nila nga magraraid kami rito, magiging operatiba kami rito, so if you, yun yung point eh na mayroong stigma pagdating sa drugs"* (Those two factors is what impedes us in the implementation of the program because, if I will be honest with you, very few entered this profession as employee or staff, that is focused on the substance use or drugs, because, from the word itself, drugs, they thought that we would always be conducting raid operations. So the point is, there is a stigma when it comes to drugs). He expressed his frustration about the under-appreciation, and the stigma that the profession is receiving from the society. He stated that this stigma results to low number of practitioners applying for the job. This adds challenge to them on how they can put solution to a widespread problem with a scarce human resource. He also added that the general stigma of the society when it comes to drugs, affects negatively the effort of the government to reach out to the drug dependent individuals. He added that politicians avoid the issue of drugs, and that the family members of drug dependent individuals are ashamed to admit that their relative is a drug dependent individual, and that they want to leave the rehabilitation effort to the VADAC alone. He reiterated that the rehabilitation is a mutual understanding and effort between the VADAC, the individual, and their families. He concluded, *"...So yun yung mga ba... balakid, yung family system, yung stigma and discrimination, yung lack of practitioners tapos yun nga siguro ang pinaka key factor nga is yung, yun nga, siguro yung stigma lang din since yun yung tema talaga namin, stigma and discrimination, stigma yun lang, stigma and discrimination"* (So, those where the challenges, factors like family system, stigma, and discrimination, and lack of practitioners, and if we would consider the key factor, it is the stigma since it is the main theme, stigma and discrimination, the stigma, stigma and discrimination).

Both the representatives from the experts and the academics also expressed concerns to the stigma and discrimination that is present in the society today. According to them, these challenges often impede the full recovery effort. Respondents also testified, as they pointed out discrimination and stigma they receive from the community discourages them to continue finishing the program.

As the stigma and discrimination continues to plague the drug issue, an echoing call for societal change and a raised awareness continues to be heard in the society today. If we would consider, it is one of the reasons why there is a call for the community to participate in the rehabilitation efforts of the Anti-Drug Support Program, that is to eliminate societal judgements, prejudice, and discrimination among the drug dependents. Additionally, treating the drug dependents as criminals would not aid their recovery. It would only discourage them to undergo, and complete the program. As the main aim of the program is to find ways to treat drug dependents as humane as possible, the psychometrician from VADAO gives emphasis on this saying, *"Ang unang unang kinonsidera talaga rito is yung kung paano nga ba itatrato ng humane at ng mas may sistema yung drug crimes or yung mga personalities kasi by that time nga ang kinokonsidera kasi is kung paano mababawasan yung cirme dahil nga napakataas ng crime at ang crime ay inaasociate niya dahil nga doon sa paggamit ng mga ipinagbabawal na droga"* (What we consider here primarily is how we can treat drug personalities as humane and as systematic as possible, because at that time, we are also considering on how to lower the crime rate, because during that time, the crime rate was high, and it was being associated with illegal drugs), as drugs were associated with crime, drug dependents are being treated

as criminals, which becomes problematic according to Alibudbud (2023). VADAC pointed out that the drug personalities were also victims, and should be treated humane, and not as criminals. CICADA also heeds the call to better treatment for the graduates of the CBDRP. *“Kapag ang isang tao napunta sa watchlist tapos nag-undergo siya ng CBDRP yung interventions ay natapos niya, maaalis na ba sila sa watchlist? Hindi pa rin, andon pa rin e. I don’t know how it will help, kasi andon na sila para bang parusa ba na habang buhay na nakalista ka, para kang may sakit na TB, diba yung TB laging nakalista don yung DOTS laging nakarecord don kasi baka mamaya ginamot na sa DOTS nagka-TB ulit iba naman ang procedures non, so parang ganon ang sistema andon pa rin”* (When a person has been included in the watchlist, then he undergoes CBDRP, and he finished the intervention, was his name removed from the watchlist? No. Their names are still there. I don’t know how it will help, because it is almost a lifetime sentence that your name will forever be included [in the watchlist]. You are almost treated as if you have tuberculosis, those with tuberculosis, their names are always listed in the DOTS, because they might have tuberculosis again, and they would undergo another treatment. So the system is similar, it’s [their names are] still there), expressing concerns that the graduates were being treated by the government as if they have a contagious disease that is terminal. In this, he expressed his wishes that the graduates will be treated with respect, both by the government and by the society in which they belong, stating *“...Siguro darating yung panahon there will be a system to delist or the system of delisting, pero so far wala akong alam. Kaya madaling hanapin yung tao, kunware nasama sa watchlist and nag undergo ng CBDRP, ang problema ay hindi pa naaalis yung pangalan niya sa watchlist, I don’t know if we can consider that a problem, di naman siguro but ano ba stigma ba yun. Hindi ko alam kung kelan maaalis, siguro dapat alisin pagka-okay na siya, hindi naman pwedeng ano...parusa ba yun. Bakit walang system of delisting, hanggang kailan nakalista ron yung pangalan ng nasa watchlist”* (One day we will have a system to delist or the system of delisting, but so far, I don’t have any idea. That is the reason why we can easily track the person, for example his name was included in the watchlist, and he underwent CBDRP, the problem is, his name was never removed from the watchlist. I don’t know if we can consider that a problem, maybe not, but it might be [considered] a stigma. I don’t know when [their names] will be removed, I suggest [it will be removed] when they are already okay. It is not right to... is that a life sentence? Why is there no system for delisting, until when will their names be listed in the watchlist?) as he expressed his wishes that individuals who graduated from the CBDRP may be removed from the watchlist, as he thinks that the stigma that the society puts to the graduates impedes them from completely reintegrating into the society.

3.1.7 Challenges in the Implementation Efforts

Various challenges have been seen in the implementation of the Anti-Drug Support Program. Mattedi (2022) pointed out that the vague approaches in the illegal drugs campaign may lead to inconsistency. Policy Maker on his end, presented challenges he had observed on the implementation of the Anti-Drug Support Program, which includes funding from the government, mismanagement of the project, and the failure to monitor the progress of the program. He stated *“Hamon? Eh kung hindi nga priority ng gobyerno. Number 2, mismanagement ng pondo. Number 3, ah kung hindi mo minomonitor ng mataas yung tao at tsaka yung programa, o nag ooverspending sa isang programang hindi naman priority o kaya sumobra ng programa kulang ng pera”* (Challenges, if [the program] is not the priority of the government. Number 2, mismanagement of funds. Number 3, if the implementors are not monitoring the progress of the program, if there is overspending in a program that is not supposed to be a priority, or if we have too much [that we want to implement] in the program, but we have scarce funding).

Further, Barangay Coordinators testified that they, too, experience challenges in the field, that directly concerns the implementation of the program. Barangay Coordinator from Karuhatan shared, *“Actually, medyo masalimuot iyang tanong na iyan, kasi kung yung realidad ang gusto mong malaman, ito bihira mong makuha sagot ito, pero tahasan kong sasabihin. Ang pinakabalakid talaga natin doon sa programa is yung, kagaya nito, yung larangan kasi ng drugs, kakaiba iyan eh. Minsan, may mga clients tayo, may mga personality tayo na protektado. Protektado ng politiko, protektado ng mga makapangyarihan, protektado ng mga men-in-uniforms”* (Actually, that question is really hard to answer. You would seldom hear this response, but I would be very blunt and honest with you. The biggest challenge we have in the program is, like what we see right now, drugs is a very complicated issue. Most of the time, we have clients that are protected by personalities, protected by politicians, protected by powerful personalities, protected by those men-in-uniforms [police]). It is very unfortunate truth that it is the enforcement agents who protects those individuals involved in the drug trade. This impedes the implementation of the program itself, and devoid it of its purpose. This contradicts mainly the goal of the program to completely eradicate the drug problems in the locale.

3.2 The Views of the Beneficiaries

The result of the second part of the survey questionnaire aims to know the insights of the graduates when it comes to the service, activities, and rehabilitation support that the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program provided to them during the course of their enrollment in the program. A total of 100 respondents from the Top 5 Barangay in Valenzuela City, took part in this survey. The responses of the graduates are summarized through a table below:

Table 3.2.1 Service Provided by the Program

Service Provided by the Program		Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1	The services offered by the professionals helped me to understand my situation while undergoing the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program.	3.71	Strongly Agree
2	The activities provided by the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program have helped me with regard to my personal growth.	3.64	Strongly Agree
3	The duration of the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program was enough for my rehabilitation.	3.61	Strongly Agree
4	The Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program met my needs to fully recover from being dependent on illegal drugs.	3.65	Strongly Agree
5	The Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program has helped to improve my health.	3.74	Strongly Agree
OVERALL		3.67	Strongly Agree

Table 3.2.1 shows that the responses gathered have produced an average weighted mean of 3.67, which is verbally interpreted as Strong Agree, basing the interpretation on a 4-point scale with a 0.75 interval designation. Of these results, the graduates agree that the services that the program had provided to them are sufficient and that they earnestly believe that the time frame, and the program intervention when it comes to the urge to take drugs, health, and drug addiction recovery, is sufficient for them. The statement, “The Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program has helped to improve my health”, got the highest weighted mean of 3.74 with a verbal interpretation of Strongly Agree. However, the statement, “The duration of the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program was enough for my rehabilitation”, got the lowest weighted mean of 3.61 with a verbal interpretation of Strongly Agree, which can also be interpreted that this factor needs improvement.

Table 3.2.2 Activities of the Program

Activities of the Program		Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1	The methods used by facilitators have helped to enhance the activities provided by the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program.	3.69	Strongly Agree
2	The rehabilitation provided by the Community- Based Drug Rehabilitation Program was appropriate for me to curb my desire to use illegal drugs.	3.67	Strongly Agree
3	The administrators of the Anti-Drug Support Program have great skills and deep knowledge.	3.66	Strongly Agree
4	The information on what to do while undergoing the Anti-Drug Support Program was properly disseminated.	3.59	Strongly Agree
5	The monitoring and progress report used by the program has helped to ensure that I will finish the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program.	3.64	Strongly Agree
OVERALL		3.65	Strongly Agree

Table 3.2.2 shows that the responses gathered have produced an average weighted mean of 3.67, which is verbally interpreted as Strongly Agree, basing the interpretation on a 4-point scale with a 0.75 interval

designation. Of these results, the graduates do agree that the activities the program presented to them have helped them recover, the treatment method is accurate, the Community Service Coordinators have expertise in their work, there is an orderly dissemination of information from coordinators to the clients, and that the monitoring and progress report has helped them to continue the whole duration of the program. The statement, “The methods used by facilitators have helped to enhance the activities provided by the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program”, got the highest weighted mean of 3.69 with a verbal interpretation of Strongly Agree. However, the statement, “The information on what to do while undergoing the Anti- Drug Support Program was properly disseminated”, got the lowest weighted mean of 3.59 with a verbal interpretation of Strongly Agree, which can also be interpreted that this factor needs improvement.

Table 3.2.3 Rehabilitation Support

Activities of the Program		Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1	The help and support received from my family and friends have been a positive influence on my recovery.	3.64	Strongly Agree
2	After I underwent the program, I became active in supporting the development of the Anti-Drug Support Program.	3.54	Strongly Agree
3	I am satisfied with the level of support provided by the Barangay Community Service Coordinators and Pastors.	3.76	Strongly Agree
4	A massive government campaign has helped me to know about the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program.	3.51	Strongly Agree
5	The support given to me by the government through the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program was a great help for my rehabilitation.	3.56	Strongly Agree
OVERALL		3.602	Strongly Agree

Table 3.2.3 shows that the responses gathered have produced an average weighted mean of 3.602, which is verbally interpreted as Strongly Agree, basing the interpretation on a 4-point scale with a 0.75 interval designation. Of these results, the graduates do believe that receiving enough support from different aspects such as support from family, support from the coordinators and pastors, and the support from the government, helped them to recover. The statement, “I am satisfied with the level of support provided by the Barangay Community Service Coordinators and Pastors”, got the highest weighted mean of 3.76 with a verbal interpretation of Strongly Agree. However, the statement, “A massive government campaign has helped me to know about the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program”, got the lowest weighted mean of 3.51 with a verbal interpretation of Strongly Agree, which can also be interpreted that this factor needs improvement.

3.3 Effectiveness of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program

This part aims to answer the third research question, which is to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the program especially to the rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents in Valenzuela City. The key informants were interviewed, and the respondents were surveyed to know their insights with regards to the outcome of the program. The data gathered through the interview are analyzed through the use of Content Analysis.

3.3.1 Monitoring

Barangay Coordinator from Barangay Karuhatan shared how essential continuous monitoring is for the graduates. He emphasized in his statement that even after the beneficiaries graduate from the CBDRP, the care and the love that they have shown towards their clients will never cease. They continue to visit their clients, provide support to their families, and closely monitor them through their efforts to reintegrate into the society. In the interview, he emphasized the efforts his team exerts to the monitoring, saying “*Siguro yung ginagawa kasi namin sa team ng Anti-Drug Abuse Council, ito yung sa pamamagitan ng tamang pag-aruga doon sa ating mga kliyente na nagnanais na mabago yung sistema ng pamumuhay nila. At, yung program kasi natin, yung pag-aarugang sinasabi dito ay yung may pagmamalasakit, mayroong pagmamahal. Nilalagyan natin ng pagmamahal, at napapalakas natin sa pamamagitan nito yung presensya ng monitoring team, yung aftercare programs nila*” (What we do in our team of Anti-Abuse Council, it is the right treatment to our clients who wishes to renew their way living. And our program, the treatment we are talking about here, is a treatment [incorporated] with care, with love, and through this, we strengthen

the presence of our monitoring team, and their aftercare program), securing a future where graduates steer clear of relapse and steadfastly evade the temptation to revert to their former vices. Respondents all agree that the care and the support the coordinators have shown them encourages them to continue finishing the program. Respondents from Barangay Karuhatan applauded their coordinators for the effort they have exhibited, and the support they have extended to their clients, even after they finished the program. They all testified that the love and support they felt from their coordinators made a positive impact to their recovery. This also proves that a good support system also influences one's recovery efforts.

3.3.2 Continuation of the Program

The respondents all echoed support to the continuity of the program. They all affirmed the good effects the program has imparted to them on their journey towards rehabilitation and reintegration. They also expressed their continued support to the goals and aspirations of the program, citing the profound impact of the program to their personal development and spiritual growth. They also expressed that they aspire to continue supporting the program in terms of being involved in the rehabilitation process of the new batches, even after they graduate, as they show their appreciation to the opportunities that the program presented to them.

3.4 Policy Framework Development

As the term of the former President Duterte called for an intense action and intervention against illegal drug presence in every locality, the Local Government of Valenzuela City heeded the call of the administration to create an Anti-Drug Support Program that is targeted into putting a long-term solution into a persisting problem of illegal drug use and trade in the city. The primary focus of the ordinance is to provide a service that will cater drug dependent individuals who wish to renew themselves, undergo rehabilitation, and reintegrate themselves in the society. It aims to provide a much accessible means to rehabilitation, without the judgment that the society might put to them.

The proposed framework is based from the recommendations gathered, both from the key informants and the beneficiaries, that have a first hand experience when it comes to the intricacies of the program. The recommendation of the researchers that are based on the insights shared and gathered by the beneficiaries and the key informants, are incorporated to form a comprehensive action plan that will serve as a guide for the VADAC in its implementation of the Anti-Drug Support Program. This framework aims to further strengthen the scope of the implementation of the program, and is targeted to provide a long-term recommendation, to ensure the longevity of the good effects of the program.

The proposed framework is based on the Valenzuela City Cares Plus Program, that is being implemented under the Ordinance No. 369, which is the Institutionalization of the Valenzuela City Cares Plus Program, a Comprehensive Anti-Drug Support Program of the Local Government, that is based on the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, or the Republic Act No. 9165, that aims to provide an avenue for an intensive and unrelenting campaign against the use and trade of illegal drugs in the country, through the use of the anti-drug support programs, policies, and projects. By these, the government aims to provide effective mechanism and measures to reintegrate into the society those that have fallen victims to drug abuse and addiction. It is with these frameworks that different local governments were able to formulate their own anti-drug support program that will be implemented in their own locality.

However, despite the fruitful results the program has produced in its implementations, challenges continuous to plague the program that impedes it into showing and exhibiting its full potential. Barangay Community Service Coordinators being co-terminus with the administration of the Barangay Chairman, is a downfall to the program, as trainings would be regularly needed every time a Barangay Coordinator would need to leave its post because a new administration would now take the lead. Trainings and Seminars, and the transfer of database is another challenge that is being seen in the implementation. There is no continuity because every time a Barangay Chairman would leave its post, the Barangay Community Service Coordinators would also need to leave its post, thus, finding it hard to continue the program as new trainings and seminars, and databases would need to be provided to yet new Barangay Community Service Coordinators who would take the post. This can be addressed through passing some policies that would make the post of the Barangay Community Service Coordinators as a permanent post that would not be affected by the political circus that is happening in the barangay. To sum up, to ensure the longevity and to strengthen the implementation of the program, it is essential to tackle the challenges that have been identified.

The study has uncovered several issues regarding the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents. One of the issues is the program's insufficient prioritization by the government, reflecting a gap in recognizing the urgency of addressing substance abuse. Financial mismanagement poses a significant obstacle, diverting resources away from the intended rehabilitation efforts. The lack of a robust monitoring

system further compounds these problems, making it difficult to gauge the program's impact and identify areas for improvement. Stigma and discrimination exacerbate the struggles faced by drug dependents, hindering their acceptance into society and impeding their recovery journey. Additionally, a shortage of qualified practitioners and the need for sustained program maintenance present obstacles to providing comprehensive and consistent support. The intertwined challenges of poverty incidence and unemployment further complicate the rehabilitation process; as economic instability can contribute to the cycle of substance dependence. Lastly, the willingness of individuals to change, particularly those with convictions, poses a complex psychological barrier that requires targeted interventions for successful rehabilitation and reintegration. Addressing these multifaceted issues is crucial for fostering an environment conducive to the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals grappling with substance dependency.

3.4.1 Problem Identification

To effectively address the identified problems in the study, a comprehensive set of recommendations is crucial. Firstly, advocating for increased government prioritization is paramount, involving sustained efforts to raise awareness about the urgency of addressing substance abuse as a public health concern. Implementing transparent financial management practices and conducting regular audits will help curb mismanagement, ensuring that resources are directed towards rehabilitation efforts. Developing and implementing a robust monitoring system is essential to track progress, evaluate impact, and identify areas for improvement. To combat stigma and discrimination, public awareness campaigns and educational programs should be initiated to foster understanding and empathy. Addressing the shortage of qualified practitioners can be achieved through targeted training programs and incentives to attract professionals to specialize in addiction rehabilitation. Sustaining the program requires a dedicated funding model, potentially involving public-private partnerships to ensure a stable financial base. Concurrently, addressing poverty and unemployment necessitates collaboration with economic development agencies to provide vocational training and employment opportunities for program participants. Finally, tailored interventions, including counseling and support services, should be designed to address the psychological barriers and willingness to change, particularly for individuals with convictions. By implementing these recommendations, the rehabilitation and reintegration program can overcome its challenges and create a more supportive and effective environment for individuals seeking recovery from substance dependence.

3.4.2 Implementation of the Proposed Policy Enhancement

Implementing the proposed developments and enhancements to the rehabilitation and reintegration program for drug dependents requires a strategic and collaborative approach. To address the insufficient prioritization by the government, a multifaceted advocacy campaign should be initiated, involving partnerships with the academe, NGOs, and community leaders. This campaign could utilize various media channels, community events, and educational programs to raise awareness about the critical importance of addressing substance abuse and the positive impact of effective rehabilitation.

Transparent financial management practices can be implemented by establishing clear guidelines for fund allocation, conducting regular audits, and ensuring accountability through oversight committees. Training sessions for program administrators on these new financial management protocols are essential to cultivate a culture of transparency and responsibility. Concurrently, a robust monitoring system can be developed in collaboration with technology experts, incorporating real-time data collection and reporting mechanisms. This system should be periodically evaluated and adjusted based on feedback to ensure its effectiveness in tracking program progress and identifying areas for improvement.

To combat stigma and discrimination, public awareness campaigns and educational programs should be initiated to dispel myths and misconceptions about drug dependence. Collaboration with schools, workplaces, and local community organizations can help foster understanding and empathy, creating a more inclusive environment for individuals in recovery. The shortage of qualified practitioners can be addressed through targeted training programs, scholarships, and incentives to attract healthcare professionals to specialize in addiction rehabilitation. Collaboration with academic institutions and professional organizations is crucial for the success of these initiatives.

Sustaining the program necessitates the establishment of a dedicated funding model. This can be achieved through a combination of government allocations, private donations, and potentially engaging in public-private partnerships. Clear guidelines for fund allocation and periodic reviews will ensure financial stability and long-term sustainability. Addressing poverty and unemployment requires collaboration with economic development agencies to create vocational training programs and employment opportunities tailored to the needs of program participants. Finally, tailored interventions for individuals with convictions should be developed, including counseling, mentorship programs, and employment support services, to address the psychological barriers to change.

Continuous evaluation, feedback mechanisms, and flexibility in adapting to evolving needs will be crucial throughout the implementation process. Regular communication with stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, and the community, is vital to maintain transparency and build support for these initiatives. By incorporating these recommendations, the rehabilitation and reintegration program can evolve into a more holistic, inclusive, and effective system for individuals seeking recovery from substance dependence.

3.4.3 Stakeholders/ Offices Involved in the Implementation

The proposed enhancements necessitate a collaborative effort between various national and local entities. At the national level, the Department of Health (DOH) plays a central role in formulating and executing policies. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is vital for conducting cost-benefit analyses, while the Department of Education (DepEd) ensures the integration of preventive education into school curricula. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) focuses on poverty alleviation, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) collaborates with local government units (LGUs) for grassroots implementation.

At the local level, LGUs, health offices, education departments, community-based organizations, and various local offices collaborate to adapt and implement the policies. The Valenzuela Anti-Drug Abuse Council (VADAC), as the main implementer of the program, is responsible for supervising and guiding the coordinators of every Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) to ensure that the program will be further enhanced.

3.4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Valenzuela Anti-Drug Abuse Council, comprised of experts and stakeholders, will play a pivotal role in scrutinizing the implementation of the proposed framework, assessing its impact, and identifying areas for improvement. Through a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process, the council will guide the enhancement of the framework, ensuring its continued relevance in addressing the challenges posed by substance abuse and related issues within the community. By acknowledging challenges and addressing potential gaps, the council endeavors to refine strategies, introduce innovative solutions, and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the Anti-Drug Support Program in Valenzuela City. To facilitate the effectiveness of the proposed policy framework, the following developments are recommended:

- *Establishing a Monitoring Plan:* Monitoring involves establishing a detailed plan about specific timelines. The monitoring process encompasses tracking the activities implemented by VADAC to every barangay, as well as monitoring the number of drug-related incidents, arrests, and rehabilitation outcomes. This diligent monitoring ensures the program's effectiveness, addresses challenges promptly, and supports evidence-based decision-making for ongoing improvements in Valenzuela's anti-drug initiatives.
- *Budget Review and Tracking:* Reviewing the budget allocation for the anti-drug support program is essential to enable the implementation and sustainability of comprehensive initiatives, including prevention, intervention, rehabilitation, and community preventive education efforts. Implement a robust budget tracking system to ensure that funds allocated for the Anti-Drug Support Program are used efficiently.
- *Reporting and Documentation:* Develop a reporting mechanism to provide regular updates on the progress of the policy framework. Maintain detailed documentation of all activities, findings, and outcomes for future reference.
- *Enhanced After Care Program Implementation:* To fortify the efficacy of post-rehabilitation support, it is essential that stakeholders and pertinent agencies proactively prioritize the establishment of a comprehensive aftercare program. The aftercare program should be designed, not only to monitor graduates and provide them with therapeutic assistance but also to integrate beneficiaries into the workforce seamlessly. This involves collaborating with businesses and organizations willing to provide employment opportunities to individuals who have successfully completed rehabilitation.
- *Training and Seminars of the BADAC Facilitators:* With the findings of the study, it was revealed that there is a critical gap in the professional development of many BADAC facilitators, as a substantial number have not received adequate training and participation in seminars. Providing trainings and seminars for Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) facilitators is essential for enhancing their effectiveness in coordinating with law enforcement and addressing drug-related challenges within communities. These facilitators, as local leaders, should undergo specialized training and seminar

programs encompassing legal and procedural knowledge, community engagement strategies, collaboration with law enforcement, identification and intervention techniques, and data management. By undergoing these professional development, BADAC facilitators are positioned as influential catalysts, fostering resilience and gathering community support in the face of drug-related issues.

- *Watchlist Delisting Initiatives:* In light of the research findings, a crucial recommendation emerges regarding the establishing of a structured national policy for watch list delisting, specifically for individuals who have completed the rehabilitation process and successfully reintegrated into society after overcoming substance abuse. By implementing a systematic delisting process, the aim is to recognize and validate the efforts of those who have undergone rehabilitation, to alleviate the lingering stigma attached to these individuals and emphasizing their successful reintegration and discouraging the perpetuation of negative perceptions. This initiative contributes to the broader societal goal of providing rehabilitated individuals the opportunity for a fresh start, free from the burdensome weight of past indiscretions.

- *Longer Duration of After Care Program:* The findings of the study highlight the extended duration of the aftercare program, emphasizing the need for a more thorough and enduring approach to support recovery. Proposing an extension to 18 months for the After Care Program is aligned in evidence-based knowledge, recognizing that prolonged support plays a pivotal role in fostering the enduring success and stability of individuals on the path to recovery from substance abuse.

- *Review the Policy:* It is imperative to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing policy as it helps identify sections that may no longer be applicable or effective in the current context. Furthermore, it opens the door to necessary amendments, ensuring that the policy remains relevant, aligns with current needs, and continues to serve its intended purpose effectively. Therefore, a thorough examination and, if required, modification of the policy are essential steps to maintain its relevance and efficacy over time.

- *Action Plan:* The action plan will be made to significantly enhance the anti-drug support program. The structured plan serves as a comprehensive guide, providing a roadmap for coordinated efforts. Its positive impacts extend across academic institutions, communities, and the local government of Valenzuela, empowering each entity to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of anti-drug initiatives.

Evaluation helps determine the effectiveness of the proposed framework in achieving the goals of the anti-drug support program. Through evaluation, the local government can assess whether the proposed framework is adaptable and flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances and emerging challenges in the context of anti-drug initiatives. The evaluation of the proposed framework development for an anti-drug support program is fundamental to ensuring its success, improving its efficiency, and contributing to the overall well-being of the community in Valenzuela. It serves as a continuous feedback loop.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This research analyzed the effectiveness of the implementation of the Anti-Drug Support Program, or Ordinance No. 369, specifically in the areas of the Community- Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP), an intervention of the program being conducted in the community, targetting the moderate cases of drug dependence, to assess whether the program bore fruits in its years of implementation, and to provide recommendations to further enhance the implementation of the ordinance. The conclusions that are presented are derived from the insights of the key informants that are gathered through the use of interviews, the survey questionnaire, and the open-ended questions answered by the beneficiaries as respondents.

Based on the data gathered and presented in Chapter 4, the research concludes that the Anti-Drug Support Program has been successful in its implementation, and the program has produced good results in its years of implementation. This is despite various hurdles and challenges the beneficiaries and the implementers have encountered while undergoing and implementing the program.

Further, the research can suggest some improvements to the implementation of the program, as supported by the suggestions gathered from the beneficiaries. This is to further improve the good implementation of the program and to ensure the longevity of the good results the program has produced. Through the process, the research has uncovered some loopholes in the implementation of the program in Barangay, through the insights given by the key informants. These loopholes seek to be resolved and improved through the recommendations provided by the research.

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