

**AN EVALUATION STUDY OF MARILLAC HILLS' PROGRAMS
ON CHILD PROSTITUTION**

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APPROVAL SHEET

This undergraduate thesis entitled **An Evaluation Study of Marillac Hills' Programs on Child Prostitution**, prepared and submitted by Rhocelle Anne C. Bernardo, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, Major in Area Studies, has been examined and is recommended for acceptance and approval.



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ABSTRACT

Children are the weakest and most vulnerable members of a society. They are supposed to be well taken care of, well-fed, properly schooled, and taught moral values. They should be seen in a scenario where their growth and development are given emphasis, where they are protected from any harm, danger, abuse, maltreatment, exploitation, and discrimination, where they are given privileges because they are children, and where their rights are properly delivered and enforced.

However, this scenario does not match the situation and condition of some Filipino children. Many Filipino children today are suffering from child labor, many have become street children, some are in situations of armed conflict, and some have become lured into sexual exploitation or prostitution. The agony of these children seems not heard by the concerning people such as primarily the parents, the government, and even the ordinary people.

Among these difficult situations, child prostitution or commercial sexual exploitation among children could be the most difficult one. Aside from physical and sexual abuse, they also experience moral and psychological problems due to the situation they are being indulged in. They are being traumatized by the experience of doing things and being in an environment where they are not really supposed to be. These experiences put these children in a situation where they almost lose self-worth, trust in people, and importance in life. It becomes very hard for these children to forget their painful experiences and to look for opportunities where they can go back again to a normal living.

In this light, the researcher is perplexed on how these children, at their very young age, are being engaged in prostitution, how they become affected by the situation, and how the government is exerting efforts in combating this problem. It is a problem because the children are not supposed to be in this kind of hazardous environment. They should be in school and they should be enjoying the leisure of being a child.

To answer the questions in mind, the researcher decided to pursue a study on child prostitution in the Philippines, particularly in Metro Manila, and to determine if the government's programs on this problem is already implemented. In relation to this, the researcher tried to find out special programs of the government for the so-called child prostitutes. She was able to locate one rehabilitation center for child prostitutes. It is under the mandate of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. This center is called Marillac Hills which runs for almost three decades now, providing special services and programs for the rehabilitation of girls who have been sexually abused and sexually exploited.

The main goal of the study is to determine the effectiveness of such rehabilitation programs on child prostitutes. Its specific objectives are to describe the conditions of these children under the custody of the DSWD-Marillac Hills; to determine if they have recovered from the trauma which will eventually lead to their rehabilitation; and to identify some non-governmental organizations and how they coordinate with the DSWD programs regarding this matter.

The study discusses the origin of child prostitution in the Philippines that could be traced back in the colonial period, particularly during the Spanish colonization. It also

discusses special laws that covers the issue of child sexual exploitation or child prostitution. It also has a chapter about the child prostitutes, on how they become lured in prostitution, and how they were rescued and brought to Marillac Hills.

This study has also given special emphasis on the programs of Marillac Hills as the national center for sexually abused and exploited girls. It utilized data gathering methods like interviews and surveys on the 20 respondents or clients of the center to establish the basis of evaluation.

Through the interviews and survey, the researcher has found out that among the 20 respondents, or the representatives of the clients of Marillac Hills, most of them come from provinces, illegally recruited, and come from low-income families. Most of them insisted in coming to Metro Manila to find better jobs and to help their parents sustain the needs of their families. But when they have already arrived in Manila, they found out that good-earning jobs would be like selling and capitalizing on their young bodies.

Fortunately, their pain and suffering inside prostitution establishments such as bars, clubs, and brothels, could be ended. The police rescue operation would save these young girls' lives from being totally destroyed. After the rescue, these girls are brought to Marillac Hills to be provided services such as social service, homelife service, educational service, health service, psychological service, spiritual service, and practical skills service that would help them recover from their experiences in prostitution and make them normal, sociable, responsible and productive individuals again.

Throughout the study period, through visits, observations, and interviews, the researcher has come up with the conclusion to her initial questions. She has now concluded that although child prostitution is a very concerning issue because it deals

about children, there are still some efforts that try to combat it. It is the government's effort through its programs in Mariilac Hills and with the coordination of some non-governmental organization that makes the possibility of reducing the incidence of child prostitution, and at the same time, rehabilitating some child prostitutes and providing them opportunities to be normal individuals again. The respondents even confirmed that the services offered to them in Marillac Hills helped them a lot.

Therefore, I conclude that the programs, though sometimes inevitably falling short, are basically and effectively meeting the center's objectives that are to help the clients recover from trauma and stress; and to tap their potentials of becoming productive citizens.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

This study is basically an evaluation of Marillac Hills' programs for the victims of child prostitution. The researcher is about to find out the effectivity of its programs in dealing with the victims and in providing necessary services. The researcher also wants to know the system of the center, its organizational structure and its operations, as a field branch of the Department of Social Welfare and Development –National Capital Region.

Background of the Study

Child prostitution in the Philippines, particularly in Manila, has been a very important concern of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. In 1998, there was about 32 million children population, which comprises 45 percent of the total population in the Philippines during that time. From that 32 million, about 60,000 were prostituted at a very young age ranging from 11-18. It is very alarming that this figure has been increasing since 1998.¹

The Department of Social Welfare and Development or DSWD took its way to prepare programs and to coordinate with some Non-governmental Organizations dealing with child prostitutes. It has also created centers or temporary shelters to provide protection for children from all forms of neglect and abuse. A lot of child prostitutes are

¹ "The Situation of Filipino Children", www.childprotection.org.ph/factsfigures/index.html

in the custody of DSWD all over the Philippines, particularly in Marillac Hills and some are in the non-governmental organizations.

Knowing that the DSWD and some NGOs are really exerting extensive efforts, I could never help but always ask why there are still rampant instances of child prostitution in the Philippines, particularly in Metro Manila. I would like to know how serious and efficient the government programs are to combat this social problem. I would also want to find if these programs are efficient through its clients' evaluation.

This issue of child prostitution is very important because it is dealing with children abuse and exploitation. Children are one of the fragile and weak members of the population that should be well taken care of. One night, along Pedro Gil, I saw a girl, maybe aged 11-14, going out with a foreigner. This is undeniably an incidence of child prostitution. At a very young age, she is already working and what is worst is she is capitalizing on selling her young body. After seeing this, I felt stabbed. Pity on that girl. I asked myself why do these girls have to be prostitutes. I just thought, maybe due to poverty and that is absolutely very true. However, given that it is poverty that pushes these children to be prostitutes, is the government doing something about this? I just got so curious what are the government programs being offered, even just to lessen the incidence. This curiosity and concern for these children led me to decide on working a paper about the subject.

Statement of the Problem

How effective is DSWD-Marillac Hills' program for child prostitutes in Metro Manila?

Objectives

- 1.) To determine the effectiveness of DSWD –Marillac Hills’ programs on child prostitution in the Philippines in general and in Metro Manila in particular
- 2.) To describe the conditions of child prostitutes under the custody of DSWD – Marillac Hills
- 3.) To determine if the children have recovered from the trauma
- 4.) To identify some non-governmental organizations and how they coordinate with the DSWD programs on this issue

Review of Related Literature

In preparing for my research, I have to look for some related studies, books and articles that will help me have a background about my topic. I have already had a preliminary search for some. I have found books, theses, primers and on-line references that will surely provide me some related information about my paper.

Books:

Aquino, Emilio. “Tourism and Child Prostitution in Pagsanjan”, Pagsanjan, Laguna: ROAD, 1987

This book is about tourism and prostitution of children in Pagsanjan, as the title implies. The author tries to put in picture the real situation of children in Pagsanjan, as being abused and prostituted by people who are supposed to take care of them. Even if shame and anger conquers him while writing the book, he still manages to write it well.

It will help me to have a view and understanding of the children's real condition under prostitution.

Hofman, Cecilia. "Questions and Issues on Prostitution: what we need to know", Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

This book, as published by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, lays down basic terms and issues on prostitution. It defines prostitution, children in prostitution, trafficking, and other important terms that I think will help me in preparing my paper.

Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines. "Looking after Filipino Children: A Compendium of Philippine Laws and International Declarations, Conventions and Covenants" 1998

This book is a list of laws and declarations, both in the national and international scene, on the protection and rights of children from abuses, maltreatment and discrimination.

Theses:

Concepcion, Carmina. An evaluation of the rehabilitation program for sexually exploited children of CRIBS New Beginning. 1987

This study is basically an assessment of CRIBS New Beginning Program on the rehabilitation of sexually abused children. Its methodology is descriptive, using interviews and documents from CRIBS. It has also evaluated the performance of children under CRIBS' custody studying the socio-psychological development of each child.

Fernandez, Susan Vidal. *Child Prostitution in the Philippines: an exploratory study on child labor and exploitation.* 1984

This thesis is about child prostitution in the Philippines, with some particular areas. The study presents the child prostitute, his or her family, ways of his or her entry into prostitution and the values and attitudes of child prostitutes. The author has also looked into some Philippine laws and programs, and agencies concerning child welfare.

Song, Vo-Kyung. *Effectiveness of Non-Government Organizations: the case of South Korea.* 1983

This thesis is written as an evaluation of the effectiveness of NGOs in South Korea. This was written by a Korean who had her Master's Degree from the University of the Philippines. The author particularly assessed the organizational effectiveness, characteristics and programs using Max Weber's theory of bureaucracy which has influenced the development of the modern organizational theory. Her objectives are to identify and analyze the factors which determine the effectiveness of NGOs, and to examine NGOs role and limitations of their effectiveness in rural development.

This study, in particular gives me an idea of assessing the effectiveness of a certain organization or institution. Although not directly relevant to my research, the point or way of evaluation may still guide me in preparing my paper.

The Filipino Children: 2000 and Beyond, Philippine Plan of Action for Children.
Council for the Welfare of Children. April 1993

This is an executive summary of the visions and plans of the government through the Council for the Welfare of Children. This is called the National Plan for Filipino Children, in the 1990s and beyond. This plan includes its commitment to the Filipino

children, their goals and targets to realize their commitment and their operational strategies.

Framework

Theoretical Framework

Upon reviewing other similar studies, I was able to come up with some theories to guide me in my study. I have found one study on the rehabilitation of the sexually exploited children. It is from a study of the International Labor Organization on Prostitution and Trafficking of Children. In this study, different approaches are laid down to combat and prevent prostitution among children. One of these is the rehabilitative approach. In this approach, rehabilitation would mean “action that puts children, who have suffered from the work performed, back on their normal development path. This may include medical care, counselling and special educational and vocational preparation programmes. Rehabilitation efforts should always lead to the provision of a meaningful alternative activity, usually the attendance of school”². This approach would help to recover the victims and be able to have normal lives again, in short be rehabilitated through providing them medical care, counselling, and education.

In this study, it discusses that sexually exploited children often experience post-traumatic stress symptoms such as depression, aggression, heavy violence, and loss of self-respect.

² “Prostitution and Trafficking of Children”,
www.ilo.org/public/english/comp/child/conf/oslo/act_bg.htm#prostitution

To rehabilitate them is “extremely difficult because they lose trust in others, particularly adults”³ They may be extremely abused, emotionally or psychologically that makes them find it very hard to go back to their normal lives. Some may be hopeless and may resort to ending up their lives.

It is said that rehabilitating former child prostitutes is a very long process. Institutions on cases like these, must foresee or consider the hindrances or obstacles in attaining the results. The study suggested that “the right methodology coupled with an appropriate training of rehabilitation personnel is often the key to success. The priority of any measure should be to reduce the child victims’ vulnerability in the future so that they do not fall back into the grips of exploiters. It could consist of the provision of shelter and food, legal aid, medical care, counselling, and social and economic reintegration. The latter may include education and vocational training to give the children a means to earn their livelihood and develop marketable skills. In this process, access to child-friendly services should be promoted. For victims of HIV/AIDS, support facilities, subsidies, medical care and accommodation could be provided”⁴.

This approach guided me in pursuing my study to evaluate the effectiveness of an institution that provides rehabilitative services. It served as my guideline in confirming if the center uses this rehabilitative approach such as providing education, vocational, livelihood, medical, counselling, and social services that would eventually make them normal individuals as the study mentioned above suggested.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

Conceptual Framework

The variables of my research are the child prostitutes which is my independent variable and the effectiveness of the programs on child prostitution which is my dependent variable. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs depend on the clients or child prostitutes. The concepts that will be defined in this paper are child, child prostitution, child prostitute, DSWD, rehabilitation, programs, effectiveness, Marillac Hills, and clients.

Definitions:

Child – any person below eighteen years of age

Child prostitution – refers to the sexual exploitation of children in exchange of money for the child prostitutes themselves and also for the procurers

Child prostitutes – are children below eighteen who have been employed in a brothel or club as dancers, entertainers and sexual -service girls

Rehabilitation – the action or manner where the victims are provided opportunities to recover and be normal individuals again through the services offered by an institution

DSWD – Department of Social Service and Development, a department of the government which ensures the welfare of the children in abuse and neglect

Marillac Hills – the national center providing temporary shelter for children in abuse and neglect particularly those who have been sexually exploited and sexually abused

Programs – offered by the center to its clients which include social, homelife, health, psychological, educational, spiritual and socio-cultural services, and practical skills and productivity trainings.

Effectiveness – being able to derive or get the desired result

Clients – these are the girls who have already been admitted to the center

Methodology

My research used a descriptive method. I have used a combination of qualitative and quantitative means of collecting data. I have used interviews, focus group discussions in the qualitative method and surveys (questionnaires) in the quantitative method. I gathered both primary and secondary data. My primary data are from the interviews, focus group discussions and surveys while the secondary data come socio-historical documents of both the independent variable (child prostitutes or clients of the program) and the dependent variable (institution and its programs) and some statistical documents and personal records. For the secondary data, I have utilized the resources of the DSWD libraries - Main Library and the NCR Library; the National Library; and U.P. Libraries- the Main Library and the Center for Women's Study Library. I have also resorted to internet sources for some additional information.

In the preliminary survey and interviews, I preferred to administer them in Tagalog. I knew that I would basically be dealing with children and that they would easily understand the questions if they are written and asked in Tagalog although most of them are not native Tagalog speakers.

In administering both the survey and interviews, I have used the non-probability Sampling, although the staff of Marillac Hills gave me a copy of the respondents. They have also picked the names in random order. Both the survey and interviews are applied on the same sample population or respondents.

Chapter 2

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

History of Child Prostitution in the Philippines

The history of child prostitution can be divided into periods: the colonial years which is further subdivided into Spanish (1521-1899) and American periods(1899-1945), the Post-War period from 1946-1965, the Marcos years from 1965-1986, the Aquino regime from 1986-1992, and the Ramos years from 1992-1998.⁵

The term prostitution is also referred as child prostitution because most of the prostitutes are children or girls below eighteen. The history of prostitution is of the same beginning as in child prostitution.

Spanish Period

Child prostitution in the Philippines, otherwise known as commercial sexual exploitation of children, was traced to have started in the Spanish colonial period. The terms “puta or prostituta (prostitute), mujeres publika or mujer libre (free oor public woman, dama de noche (woman of the night), mujerzuela (cheap woman), and ramera (whore)” came from the Spanish language. These terms were used to call and identify girls and women who would have their bodies flaunted and used by the Spaniards. They were basically called sex workers. There were four categories of prostitutes during this period. First are those who were kept in a house of prostitution under the supervision

⁵ PARTCO, “Situation Analysis of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the Philippines”, Deceber 1997, p. 34

of a master or “amo”. Second are those who plied their trade by posting themselves in streets. Third are those who went to the residence of their client. Lastly, are those who serviced clients in their own homes. ⁶

Nonetheless, giving sexual services for the remuneration in cash or in kind, has been stigmatized during the Spanish period. We can trace back that feudal system was predominant in the Philippines. The tenant-landlord relationship was institutionalized as the *encomienda* system was practiced. The landlord would exact absolute obedience and would almost control the tenants’ lives. Due to this system, young daughters of farmers serving as hand-maidens and servants experienced sexual exploitation. Also during this period, there was widespread poverty as caused by forced labor and heavy taxes levied on the Filipinos. Filipino women are forced to prostitution to support their families. A policy issued allowing Chinese to stay in the Philippines to cultivate farms also contributed to the incidence of prostitution. The absence of Chinese wives made the Chinese men look after Filipino women for their sexual needs. ⁷

Urbanization in the 18th century also increased the incidence of prostitution. Trade and commerce were essentially focused in Manila. There were foreigners coming in. Poverty in the rural areas and even in urban centers such as in Manila, pushed women and young girls to give sexual services to these foreigners for money and some material things. ⁸

⁶ Ofreneo, Rene, et.al, “The Sex Sector: The Economic and Social Bases of Prostitution in Southeast Asia”, Geneva: ILO, 1998. p.101

⁷ PARTCO, pp. 20-21

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp.21-22

American Period

If there is a period that we could consider the height of prostitution in the Philippines, it is definitely the American period. When the Americans came in the late 19th century and early 20th century, commercial sex in the Philippines increased and flourished. The concept of prostitution was openly accepted by the society. Filipino girls and women were demanded to give service to the American soldiers. About 60,000 American soldiers came to the Philippines in the early 1900s and would need women and girls for sexual satisfaction. In exchange of the services, these girls would receive payments either in cash or in kind. The girls and women, hopeful of economic mobility and stability, were becoming so lured into prostitution because of the prospect of marrying an American.⁹

The Partco study on commercial sexual exploitation of children cited one author whose study revealed that in a 1932 report on the Philippines by the Commission on Enquiry into the Traffic in Women and Children in the East of the League of Nations it was disclosed that there was an internal traffic in young girls native girls through employment agencies. Those poor and ignorant girls were brought to the cities, deceived to be employed as servants but eventually were forced to work in “dance-halls and houses of prostitution and were turned over to pimps.”¹⁰ Therefore, it is in this period where many girls especially, and women were openly lured into prostitution unlike in the Spanish period where this kind of transaction was still bounded by social limitations.

⁹ PARTCO, pp.23-24

¹⁰ Ibid., pp.23-24

Post-War Period

More even, during the Post-War period from 1946 to 1964, commercial sex or prostitution was in very high demand when the United States had almost total control of the country. Americans could freely come and go out of the country for commercial sex. During the Vietnam War in 1960s, prostitution was further encouraged by the establishment of U.S. military bases. Just like in Thailand where the highest incidence of prostitution is recorded, the Philippines also welcomed the establishment of these bases. This opened opportunities for girls and women to engage in prostitution and eventually earn from it. There was this “rest and recreation (R&R)” agreement between the Philippines and United States that these women would give these kinds of services to the American servicemen. This would include services in the massage parlors, hotels and motels, resorts, restaurants, nightclubs, and karaoke bars which eventually became centers for commercial sex.¹¹

The largest bases were in Clark and Subic. Olongapo and Angeles were among the cities which catered to the so-called “rest and recreation” services to these bases therefore employing many women and girls. Olongapo, a small fishing village, was converted into a naval base and transformed into a city of hotels, saunas, massage parlours, and prostitutes. While Angeles, a town of flourishing furniture manufacturing industry, served as a landing base for the US Cavalry during the Philippine-American War, and eventually became the largest US airbase outside the United States.¹²

The data collected in 1990 revealed that in Olongapo, there were 615 registered R&R establishments with 11,600 registered entertainers or prostitutes and about twice as

¹¹ Ibid., pp.24-25

¹² Ofroneo, pp.102

many unregistered workers. While in Angeles City, there were 1,567 R7R establishments and 5,642 registered entertainers. If combined, these figures would total 17,000 entertainers or prostitutes in both cities.¹³

Clubs, bars, hotels, massage parlours, and other R&R establishments increased in number thus making prostitution to reach a “very commercialized scale” and making R&R business to become “organized and institutionalized exploitation of sex for money”. This demanded to bring more and more children into sex trade.¹⁴

Marcos' Years

When President Marcos got into the position, one of his national plans was to stabilize the economy. He targeted to improve all sectors sustain the economic viability. With the adherence to the Intenational Monetary Fund and the World Bank prescriptions, he implemented policies such as liberalization, export-oriented industrialization, and opening to foreign investment. To realize this further, he gave special emphasis on tourism as a tool in projecting an image of a desirable destination of both of foreign investments and foreign tourists, as potential sources of dollar earnings.¹⁵

President Marcos issued Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 189 which created the Department of Tourism. It was followed by another decree, P.D. No. 535, the Tourism Incentive Projects that further enhanced the development of hotels and tourist spots. These efforts seemd that the government was extensively promoting the tourism industry.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Partco, p.25

¹⁵ Ibid., p.26

It was reported that from 166,431 in 1972, it increased to 1,008,158 in 1980 thus made the tourism industry the second biggest source of dollars. ¹⁶

Along with the increasing number of foreigners coming in was the increasing demand and supply of prostitutes, either adults or children. The tourists spots that were promoted and opened, encouraged the number of prostitutes who would give services to the coming foreigners. Tourism did not only anchor on tourist destinations but also on the sex industry. Therefore, tourism in the Philippines became sex tourism. More and more foreigners were coming in the Philippines, not anymore focused on the business side, but to see and visit prostitutes, more particularly the child prostitutes.

Due to increasing promotions of tourism, the sites of prostitution was no longer confined to Ermita, Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic in Olongapo, but also in the areas of Puerto Galera, Pagsanjan, and Boracay. Between 1974 and 1975, commercial sex formed a new package. Male and female children were not only victims of prostitution, but also of child pornography and trafficking. In Pagsanjan, more and more boys aged 8 to 14 were encouraged to give sexual satisfaction to the foreigners. They were called "pom poms" or male prostitutes. Many pedophiles, majority were foreigners, came in to Pagsanjan to visit and see these "pom poms", giving gifts and appliances to the parents, and offering other privileges to the pompoms. The town during this time, became alive. Because of the benefits the town and the people were getting from this, prostitution in the area was generally accepted. ¹⁷

The effort of the Marcos government to boost the economy by promoting the tourism industry just put the country into a more difficult situation. Instead of putting the

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 27

country into a more stable condition, in terms of economy and politics, the projects of the government seemed to have ignored and neglected another sector that could be an asset which is the youth. Upon pursuing and implementing these economic policies, the government had overlooked the condition of these youths and children, that they could be affected physically and morally by these policies, and that these policies could be detrimental to their growth and development.

Aquino Years

After the disposition of Marcos in 1986, Corazon Aquino replaced him as the President through a democratic means, as reflected by the EDSA Revolution. This meant the end of martial law and would also mean the stabilization of the country. Because of this, the confidence of the foreign world was regained. The economic performance was turning good. More and more foreign investments came in.

However, the economic growth and stability was not sustained due to calamities and coup d'états. There were fiscal deficits in 1990s that brought the government to incur more debts amounting to 37.2 billion. This has brought the phenomenon of rural to urban migration and out-migration. Many rural job-seekers migrated to urban areas such as Metro Manila, Cebu, and Davao. While some even went abroad, particularly to Japan.¹⁸

It was during the Aquino period where the phenomenon of domestic helpers, "japayukis", or OCWS became so known. The mail-order bride schemes were also visible. These things could aggravate the incidence of prostitution in the country and even outside the country.

In Partco study, it laid down the argument of De Stoop, an author, who says that the mail-order bride arrangement was about the sale and trafficking of young women because these women ended up as sex slaves in the brothels of Northern Europe and Australia. Some of these young women may include children under the United Nation's definition.¹⁹

Ramos Years

It is said that the government of Ramos was no longer different from the previous ones. The economic condition was ill. There were insurmountable debts and economic deficits. The power crisis during Aquino was given emphasis to be resolved. The incidence of poverty even increased. Majority of the population were below the poverty threshold. Low wages and high unemployment furthered the economic crisis.²⁰

These situations pushed President Ramos to launch his development program, the Philippines 2000. Under this agenda, the attainment of a newly-industrialized country (NIC) status was the major thrust. Like President Marcos, Ramos anchored his program on free-trade or globalization. This would open the economy for foreign investment thus giving employment to many Filipinos and would eventually increase their living.

The basic components of this agenda was to boost tourism and export of labor force as potential sources of dollar earnings²¹. Again, like in Marcos regime where tourism is promoted, commercial sexual exploitation or prostitution became active. It became very inevitable to have children as prostitutes. While the export of labor further

¹⁸ Ibid., p.29

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 30

²⁰ Ibid., p. 31

²¹ Ibid.

aggravated the number of women and children to be sent abroad as domestic helpers and eventually as sex slaves.

Another autor was cited by Partco who revealed that “Filipinas have described their treatment in Hongkong as an endless source of housemaids and whores, but the Philippine government continues to encourage the exodus of women who bring in precious foreign exchange”²².

The history of prostitution or child prostitution in the Philippines could be traced four centuries ago. If we are to think of it, this issue could never be totally eradicated because of its deeply rooted origin. Until now, the practice of exploiting women and children especially is still very common in our society. We can see that our desire to attain economic stability through foreign assistance could be realized but at the expense of these young women and children.

Philippine Laws on Child Prostitution

There are major legislations or laws that have been passed relative to children. Three of these laws are specifically formulated to protect children, the “Special Protection Act” or R.A. 7610, the Child and Youth Welfare Code, and the 1965 Revised Penal Code.

There are specific provisions from these laws that particularly deal with the children under the condition of sexual exploitation.

²² *Ibid.*, p.33

“An act providing for stronger deterrence and special protection against child abuse, exploitation and discrimination, providing penalties for its violation, and for other purposes.” This act shall be known as the “Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act”.

On Child Abuse and Exploitation

Under section 3 of this act, a child is defined as every person below eighteen years of age or those over but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or conditions. Also here, child abuse refers to the maltreatment, whether habitual or not, of the child which includes any of the following:

- a.) psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment;
- b.) any act by deeds or words which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a human being;
- c.) unreasonable deprivation of his basic needs for survival such as food and shelter; or
- d.) failure to immediately give medical treatment to an injured child resulting in serious impairment of his growth and development or in his permanent incapacity or death.

²³ Copy of the Fifth Regular Session, Congress of the Philippines, 1991. Republic Act No. 7610, Article 1.

Definition of a Child Prostitute and the Corresponding Penalties for the Promoter of Child Prostitution such as parents, owner of establishments, managers, and recruiters

In Section 5, a special emphasis is given to child prostitution and sexual abuse. That, children, whether male or female, who for money, profit, or any other consideration or due to the coercion or influence of any adult, syndicate or group, indulge in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct, are deemed to be children exploited in prostitution and other sexual abuse.

That, the penalty *reclusion temporal* in its medium period to *reclusion perpetua* shall be imposed upon the following:

a.) those who engage in or promote, facilitate or induce child prostitution which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1.) acting as a procurer of a child prostitute;
- 2.) inducing a client to a child prostitute by means of written or oral advertisement or other similar means;
- 3.) taking advantage of influence or relationship to procure a child as a prostitute;
- 4.) threatening or using violence towards a child to engage him or her as a prostitute; or
- 5.) giving money consideration, goods or other pecuniary benefit to a child with the intent to engage such child in prostitution.

b.) those who commit the act of sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct with a child exploited in prostitution or other sexual abuse, given that the victim is under twelve (12) years of age and that the perpetrators shall be prosecuted for rape or lascivious conduct;

- c.) those who derive profit or advantage therefrom, whether as manager or owner of the establishment where prostitution takes place or of the sauna, disco, bar, resort, place of entertainment or establishment serving as a cover or which engages in prostitution in addition to the activity for which the license has been issued to said establishment. (Copy of the Fifth Regular Session of Congress, 1991)

Child and Youth Welfare Code²⁴

Under this code, the care, custody, education and property of a child, his or her welfare shall also be of paramount considerations, just like in R.A.7610.

Definition of a Neglected Child

A neglected child is one whose basic needs have been deliberately unattended or inadequately unattended. The Code defines two types of neglect. Physical neglect happens when a child is malnourished, ill, and without proper shelter. Emotional neglect occurs when a child is maltreated, raped or seduced, over-worked, or made to work under conditions not conducive to good health, or to beg in the streets or public places, or when a child is in moral danger or is exposed to gambling, *prostitution*, or other vices.

Protection of Neglected Children

It is mandatory for every individual, particularly to those of in hospitals, clinics, and other institutions, even private physicians who provide treatment to the child, to

²⁴ Initial Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Phils. p.38

report a neglected child within forty-eight (48) hours from the knowledge of the case, to the city or provincial fiscal, to the local Council for the Protection of Children, or to the nearest unit of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. But the records pertaining to the case should be in confidentiality²⁵

This Code also provides that the Department of Social Welfare and Development is given authority to take into protective custody those children who are sexually abused, exploited, or lured into prostitution and to provide them appropriate services for his or her rehabilitation.

Also, under this Code, the Council for the Welfare of the Children has been created with functions such as to coordinate the implementation and enforcement of all laws relative to the promotion of child and youth welfare so as to formulate and evaluate policies, programs and services relative to the development of the general welfare and protection of the best interests of children and youth. That, this Council, shall be headed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.²⁶

1965 Revised Penal Code²⁷

Article 340, known as Corruption of Minors,

This article states that any person who shall habitually work with abuse of authority or confidence, promote or facilitate the prostitution or corruption or person under age to satisfy the lust of another shall be punished by correctional imprisonment in

²⁵ Ibid., p. 39

²⁶ Child and Youth Welfare Foundations of the Phils, Manila, 1991. P. 29

²⁷ Ofronco, p. 120

its minimum and medium period, and if the culprit be a public officer, he shall also suffer the penalty of temporary absolute disqualification.

Article 341, known as White Slave Trade

It is stated here that the penalty of correctional imprisonment in its medium and maximum periods shall be imposed upon any person who, in any manner, or under any pretext, shall engage in the business or shall enlist in the services of women for the purpose of prostitution.

History of Legislations Related to Child Prostitution

According to the Partco study, legislation on child prostitution could be traced from the legislation of child labour in 1913. During the early 1990s, children from 10 to 16 were found to have already been working in factories such as in cigareete, bottle, candle, and lumber factories. Due to this the government convened the First Congress of Labor relative to the regulation of child labor. This was the precursor of the Act No. 3071 of the Philippine Legislature in 1923 on child labor.²⁸

By 1952, the campaign on the regulation of children in labor conditions was further stressed out by the passing of the Republic Act 679, known as the “Woman and Child Labor Law”. This act was about the regulation of women and children from working in shops, factories, industrial, agricultural, and mercantile establishments. Also in this act included was the penalty for the violation of this act.²⁹

From 1973-1985, the laws were still about child labor. These laws were “referred to as Child Welfare Legislation” as they were “designed to promote the welfare of child

²⁸ PARTCO, p.53

labourers by improving working conditions, regulating the minimum employable age and prohibiting their discrimination and exploitation”³⁰. This Child Welfare Legislation paved the way for the formulation of the Child And Youth Welfare Code in 1974 that included some articles about children who are “maltreated, raped or seduced, exploited or overworked, exposed to gambling , prostitution, and othe vices”³¹.

Aside from these, there was not any single law which is specifically formulated for the protection of children who are caught up in the commercial sexual exploitation or child prostitution.

However, between the periods of 1986 to 1992, during the Aquino administration, there was a clear possibility of passing laws on child prostitution. In the 1987 Constitution, it was emphasized that the child has the right to “assistance and protection from neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development”³². This was further strengthened by the Family Code and the Executive Order 56 of 1986 that gives authority to the Department of Social Welfare and Development to take into its custody “the child prostitutes and those who are sexually abused and exploited”³³ and provide the latter rehabilitative services.

Before Aquino ends her term, she issued another act, this time a more specific one. This was the Republic Act 7610 or the ‘Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act’. Under this act, the protection of sexually abused and exploited children and penalties for the perpetrators and abusers are well stipulated. Also in this period, in 1992, the Philippine Action Plan for Children (PPAC)

²⁹ Ibid., p. 54

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

was formulated and implemented as the “over-all framework for children’s policies and programs”.³⁴

The period of Aquino set the start of passing provisions on child prostitution. Until now, our government is strongly holding on these legislation in pursuing the prohibition and eventually the elimination of child prostitution.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

Chapter Three

CHILD PROSTITUTES IN THE PHILIPPINES

It has been mentioned earlier that children are the weakest and most vulnerable members of the society. Therefore, they should be well taken care of. Their basic rights as children should be properly observed. They should be provided proper education, good life and a healthy environment that would help their growth and development. It is their constitutional right to be protected from any harm, danger, abuse, maltreatment and discrimination. They should be in a scenario where they play without conditions, well fed, properly schooled, and guided by their parents to live a healthy and moral life..

However, it is very dismaying that these rights are now violated. In the Philippines, it seems that many children are now being deprived of the rights mentioned above. There are increasing numbers of street children, child laborers, children in situations of armed conflict, and children who have been sexually exploited.³⁵ In a NEDA/UNICEF Report of 1992, it was estimated that there are 1.5 million street children, 2.18 million child laborers, 910,000 in armed conflict, and about 60,000 child prostitutes.³⁶

Among these issues, the incidence of child prostitution in our country catches my attention more because of the statistics that we rank second to Thailand, among Southeast Asian countries, having 75,000 child prostitutes in 1998³⁷. From a 1998 census, there are

³⁵ Prepared for the UN Children's Funds by the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, "Megatrends: The Future Of Filipino Children", 1998. P. 56

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Statistics on Trafficking and Prostitution in Asia and the Pacific. www.catw-ap.org/facts.htm

about 32 million Filipino children from which its 45% share comprises the number of prostituted children ³⁸.

Definition of a Child and Child Prostitution

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, in Article 1, a child is any person who is under eighteen (18), unless its majority is attained earlier as applied by law.ⁱ Under this definition, a person can get anything, rights and privileges, as long as he or she is still eighteen, still a child. The Convention also laid down the basic rights of a child. The following are some of these rights: rights to survival and development; rights to have a name and a nationality; freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion; access to appropriate information; protection from abuse and neglect; social security; standard of living; education; protection from child labor; protection from sexual abuse, sale, trafficking and abduction; and prohibition of torture and deprivation of libertyⁱⁱ. Under these rights, it is very clear that children are well protected from any abuse, harm and maltreatment. In Article 34 of this Convention, it is stated or emphasized that it is the child's rights to be protected from exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.³⁹

At the 48th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in 1992, child prostitution is defined as “the sexual exploitation of a child for remuneration in cash

³⁸ The Situation of Filipino Children. www.childprotection.org.ph/factsfigures/index.html

³⁹ United Nation Convention on the Rights of a Child. www.childrenrights.org/hk/preamble.htm

or in kind, usually but not always organized by an intermediary (parents, family member, procurer, teacher, etc.)⁴⁰

From these definitions, we may conclude that the rights of a person under eighteen or a child are violated if he or she is indulged or lured into prostitution. If he or she is sexually abused for money or material things. If he or she does not voluntarily engage in it because his or her parents, family members, and other persons acting as agents are the ones who push them to be in this trade, and if these people benefit at the expense of these children's safety and growth.

Distribution of Child Prostitutes in the Philippines

All over the country child prostitution is very widespread but the places where most number of child prostitutes can be seen are in Metro Manila, particularly in Quezon City, Pasay City, Malate and Ermita, Manila, and Caloocan; in Pagasanjan, Laguna; in Puerto Galera, Mindoro; in Cebu; in Aklan; in Angeles, and Olongapo City; and in Davao City.⁴¹

In a study of the Center for Integrative and Development Studies of U.P. on children involved in the sex industry, four study sites were used to determine the extent and distribution of child prostitution in the Philippines. These include Angeles City, Pampanga; Quezon City; Cebu City; and Davao City.⁴²

⁴⁰ Children and Prostitution. www.child-abuse.com/childhouse/childwatch/cwi.projects/indicators/prostitution/

⁴¹ Concepcion, Carmina. "An evaluation of the rehabilitation programs for sexually exploited children of CRIBS New Beginning", 1887. p.12

⁴² The World of Children Involved in the Sex Industry: Reducing the Risks and Harm of Sexual Exploitation, STD and HIV/AIDS in Filipino Children. www.childprotection.org.ph

In Angeles City, there is an entertainment district that consists of a main avenue where most clubs and bars are located. Public parks also become haven for children, pimps, and their customers. In Quezon City, sex trade is concentrated in the entertainment and recreation district like in the malls, theaters, discos, and restaurants. Also, a famous park named after a president is found out to be the place where boys congregate. There is also a community in Diliman where gay customers could look for boys. While the sex industry in Cebu City is mostly sustained by street-based boys and girls. Public places such as major thoroughfares, parks, malls, and cinemas are the common sites for sex transactions. The port area is also traced as one area appropriated by the sex industry. In Davao City, just like the three mentioned, sex transactions can also be found in public places such as market place, major streets and intersections, and recreation areas like theaters and parks.⁴³

Factors Promoting Entry

Some studies would say that the reasons for entering into prostitution are poverty, family disintegration, and tourism industry. However, there are recent studies that have found out more in-depth reasons. Like in the study of the above-mentioned Center for Integrative and Development Studies of U.P., factors are determined in three varying levels. These include trigger factors, circumstantial factors, and contributory factors.

Trigger factors, according to the study, are “immediate precipitating events, situations, or compelling reasons that propelled a child’s involvement in the sex industry”. These would include urgent or emergency individual or family problems and needs; association with, and referral of peers already in the sex industry; peer suggested

⁴³ Ibid. pp. 2-3

to problems related to material needs and economic stresses; association with, and referral of adults already in the sex industry; transition of sexually active young people from unpaid to paid sex; and the trafficking network, e.g. illegal recruitment, kidnapping, and abduction.⁴⁴

In this group of reasons, we can see that most of the children who are getting involved with the sex industry are basically referred or recruited. Some may be referred to work due to inevitable circumstances like emergency needs for money. Some are blatantly deceived to work as housemaids or servants in the urban centers like Manila but eventually as dancers, entertainers, and sex workers. Some are invited by friends or peers to try another adventure or experience such as this. Triggering factors may mean initial or starting points that push these children to be prostitutes. This would include that the children may either have no knowledge about sexual transactions, or they are involuntarily engaged in such. In the sample population of my study, I have found out that majority of them were illegally recruited from the provinces. Most of them came from the Visayas region who were invited to come to Manila to work as housemaids and servants in restaurants. But later on, they were told to work as dancers, entertainers, and sex workers.

For instance, two of my respondents, aged 14 and 15, cousins and neighbors, were at the same time recruited from Masbate. They were invited by an old woman from Samar to work in Manila as housemaids. They were promised to earn Ph 2,500.00 each every month. Overwhelmed with the amount they would earn, they agreed and went along with the old woman. Before they pushed to Manila, the old woman told them that they would work for her daughter who is on her way to deliver a child. She also added

⁴⁴ Ibid., pp.5-6

that they have got a big house because her daughter is married to a doctor from Japan. These things got the two girls very excited to see what is in Manila and what would lie ahead of them. But when they arrived, there was no big house, only a little apartment situated in a very crowded place. One of them said upon the interview:

"Wala naman pala silang bahay, nagsisinungaling lang yung matanda. Tapos yung anak niya ay walang asawa, nabuntis lang."

The old woman lied to them. When they arrived at the house, they realized another lie of the old woman. They were not really brought in Manila to work as housemaids but rather as sex workers or as girls giving sexual service to men, either native Filipinos or foreigners. This is an instance of illegal recruitment widely practiced and done by any capable person who is after the profit of capitalizing on young girls from provinces.

Another example is the story of a seventeen-year old girl from Cebu who has a small family yet low income earning. She has not pursued college yet due to insufficient resources. Financial shortage to support her schooling and also to support her family pushed her to find a job. Together with some friends, this girl was recruited to work in Manila. They were promised decent and good earning jobs. When I asked her what kind of job were they promised, she said while laughing, "*Model daw*". She thought the guy who recruited them was telling the truth as they were told to earn Ph 15,000.00 a month. With that amount, she would be able to sustain her education, and she could also buy fashionable clothes. But a big dismay came on her when they arrived in Manila. On the evening of their arrival, they were asked to prepare their selves and to dress up because the manager would see them. They were very excited because all along they thought this would be the beginning of them being popular as models. But their dreams were broken.

They were instead brought to a club and forced to go dancing on stage. She said with a regretful tone:

"Pagdating namin, nagulat ako. Pinasayaw kami sa stage. Umiiyak ako habang sumasayaw. Kala ko model yun pala dancer."

The two stories show that children are victimized by illegal recruitment, one of the triggering factors that leading them to be lured into prostitution. Inevitably, sometimes, this experience pushes them to continue what they ended up here in Manila. Their mentality becomes crooked. They would say that they have already been ruined and that they have got no choice but to continue it.

The second group of reasons is the circumstantial factors. These are the factors in the child's relationship in the family, school, peers, and neighborhoods that makes him or her more "vulnerable or desperate enough to plunge into any scheme that would extricate him or her from it"⁴⁵. This would include weak family ties and support; poor parenting styles such as monitoring, and discipline; experience of neglect and abuse in the family; negative experiences in school; weak identification and ties with school; poor or low qualifications for other jobs; visibility and accessibility of young people in the public domains; and desire to test acceptable boundaries⁴⁶. In these factors, it is very visible that weak family value orientations, and weak acceptance of the society are the main reasons that push these children to engage in prostitution.

To support this, I have got another story from one respondent. It is about a sixteen year-old girl, who at this age, has experienced real sexual abuse from her customers. She is from Samar and from a broken family. Her father has his own family and her mother is also the same. She does not live with either of them but instead she lives with her aunt

⁴⁵ Ibid.

who also happens to have her own family. With her aunt, she said she was treated so badly. She was never treated as a member of the family. She has never felt the care and concern from any of them, so she went away. She has never felt her worth in the family. She has got a broken and disoriented and disorganized family. This pushed her to live on her own and rebel on them.

Until one day while she was standing by a store, there was a man who approached her, maybe getting a hint that she is a “stokwa” or she stowed away, and offered her a job. Hopeless as she was, she accepted the offer without foreseeing that she would be caught in trouble. She did not know that the man meant earning from giving sexual service. The man brought her to a club in Samar. This was the first time she lost her virginity. She was given to a customer and forced to have intercourse with. Because of this, she thought she was already ruined and so hopeless. For her, there is no more future. She is already caught in this job to survive. So she decided to just continue it even until she pushed to Manila, also to work as a prostitute. She said there is nobody who would care where she is, and how she lives, even her family does not know what she has been up to.

The story above is an example of circumstantial factors wherein because the family is broken and disorganized, the child is much affected and has further brought her into a more difficult situation. The fact that this girl decides to continue what she has been doing is a mere reflection of the kind of values she had from her family.

There was another instance where the mother was herself pushing and supporting her daughter to be a prostitute because of the big earning they would get. One respondent, while working in the club as a dancer and eventually as a prostitute, her mother was the

⁴⁶ Ibid.

one who washes her costumes, prepares her things for the night, and even accompanies her to the club. This is a good example of the circumstantial factor. Instead the mother should have stopped her daughter ruining her life, it was her who even encouraged her child to do it so because of money. The value that she passes on to her daughter is not a reflection of a good family. It manifests that she values more money than dignity, self-worth, and respect.

The last and third reasons are included in the contributory factors. These are “socio-political, cultural, and economic realities that aggravate the current situation of children and young people in the sex industry”⁴⁷. The examples are the following: the sex industry itself; drug abuse as a societal problem; poverty, whether absolute or relative; unequal gender and power relations and low regard for women and children in society; AIDS scare that induces preference for younger children and young people; corruption and poor enforcement of laws protecting children and young people; and migration to urban centers.

These are the factors that further aggravate the incidence of child prostitution. These can be considered as the fueling factors that make the players in child prostitution, such as the prostitutes themselves, the customers, and the employers of these prostitutes to continually engage in this transaction.

Children Caught in Prostitution

Upon the recruitment or referral back in the province, to work and to earn are the only things that convinced the children to come along with the people recruiting them. All they knew was they would work as housemaids, servants, employees, or factory

workers. The thought of selling their young bodies for money had never crossed their minds. They had never thought that when they arrive in Manila, the promised jobs would never be as housemaids, servants, employees, or factory workers but rather they would be employed as entertainers and sex workers.

However, the saddest part is when they are already lured into prostitution, when they are already in the club, giving service to their customers, and when their young bodies are exploited and blatantly capitalized by their managers.

Children caught into this kind of transaction are either voluntary or involuntary child prostitutes. There are some factors affecting this difference. Children who voluntarily engage in it value more the money they would get than their self-worth while involuntary child prostitutes are just caught and could hardly escape, but when given the chance, they would get out of this business.

There are instances when at first, children who were illegally recruited would try to escape from the sex industry itself. But sometimes, eventually, some just get so overwhelmed with the benefits from engaging into such business. They would say that because of their jobs as sex workers or prostitutes, they are now able to buy new and fashionable clothes, they can buy whatever they would want, and they can send more money to their families back in the provinces.

From the sample population or respondents that I have got in my study, I have met some girls, presently admitted at Marillac, a national center for the rehabilitation of child prostitutes, who told me that aside from the money that they would get from their managers every month, they would also get commissions from the ladies' drinks their

⁴⁷ Ibid.

customers would order for them, and if their customers are good and gallant, they could even have some money tips. One respondent said:

"Medyo ok rin naman kami dun (club), hindi mahigpit manager namin. Kapag gusto namin mamasyal, pinapayagan naman kami basta bumalik lang kami sa oras, mga bago mag alas singko ng hapon. Tapos yung mga customers naman, karaniwan gusto lang kami i-table. Pagkatapos naming sumayaw, tinalawag kami para i-table. Dun sa club, bukod sa P8,000.00 na sweldo namin buwan-buwan, meron din kaming commission sa mga ladies' drinks tapos kapag mabait pa yung mga nagiging customers namin, binibigyan pa kami ng tip. Kaya may pera kami pambili ng damit na gusto namin at tsaka nakakapag-padala kami ng pera sa mga mogulang namin sa probinsya."

This implies that somehow, some children who were illegally recruited, would no longer want to get out from prostitution. Because as they say, it is a job that all they have to do is to please their customers, then presto, they would earn money. They would say that it is an "easy- money" or easy earning money.

However, if there are these kinds of child prostitutes, there are also child prostitutes who only happened or who really did not want to be engaged in prostitution. They were just victims of illegal recruitment and they were just trapped or caught up in their dreams of earning money to help their families. But if they were to choose, they would rather value self-worth and dignity than money. The majority of the respondents of this study are very much against prostitution. They are called involuntary child prostitutes. Although they really did not want to work as prostitutes, but they had no choice. They had to follow their managers and stay as prostitutes. They could not go back to the province unless they earn enough money for their fares. When they were recruited, they did not bring anything to Manila. Their recruiters were the ones who paid for their expenses, fares, and foods. Unless they have saved some money, they cannot escape from the establishments, either from the club or casa (brothel).

One of my respondents is a fourteen year-old girl who came from Leyte. It was her aunt who brought her to Manila. She was promised to see her real mom and this

would be the first time she would ever see her mom. Because of this, she got very excited to come along with her aunt. Without any hesitations, she packed her things up and then moved to Manila. But when they arrived, her aunt brought her into a big house and an “up and down” one as she described it. She stayed in a room in the lower ground and she was never allowed to go upstairs. After few days, she just realized that there were lost of girls in the house, especially upstairs. Her aunt did not tell her what was going on. By this time, she was getting confused. Until after few days, at one evening, her aunt woke her up and told her they would be leaving. She asked her aunt where, and she was answered by saying that they were going to meet her mom. She complained, “ it’s already twelve midnight, how am I going to meet my mom?” Then her aunt replied, “No, it’s ok, it’s not dark outside. There are still lights around unlike in the province.” Convinced and a little gullible, she went along with her aunt. But hours later, she realized that she was brought to a club, and not her mom.

In the club, she was forced to dance on stage and do some exotic stunts. It was too late to escape and refuse. She was one of the youngest in the club and she was very easy to threaten. Although she cried even on stage, she could not do anything but to continue dancing. Fortunately, she was not yet touched by any customer, and her suffering only lasted for three weeks until they were rescued by the police.

Another story was about a girl from Samar. She was a rebel and got invited to a club for money. At first, she hesitated but she knew she would have nothing to live for herself, so she tried. All along she knew that she would work not as entertainer, but as a waitress. But she was wrong. The invitation was meant as a job that gives sexual pleasures for the customers. In short, she would be a prostitute. Her young body was used

for the first time. This is where she has lost her virginity. And this continued until after some weeks when she was transferred to a club in Caloocan by the same person who invited her.

In Caloocan, she was brought in another club. There, she worked for a year as an all-around entertainer –as a dancer and as a prostitute. She admitted that here, she has earned a lot, she could buy the clothes and things she wanted and try some expensive foods. But time came when she could no more agree with the management of the club. So, she escaped and looked for a new job. But the job that she found was still related to her former job.

While looking for a job, she roamed around PICC in Pasay City. There, she met new group of friends. These people also happened to be prostitutes, also as young as she. They invited her to earn more money in a casa or brothel. In the casa, she said the customers would have their service just for a short-time period, as short as fifteen minutes. But for that short time they would earn as much as P500.00. Although she earned much, but when I asked her where was the most difficult situation that she got into, if in Samar, Caloocan, or in Pasay, she said:

*“ Sa Pasay po, kasi dun na po ako tumanda. Palagi na lang po, araw-araw ako nagagalaw.
Mahirap po talaga ang naging buhay ko dun ”*

In these words, I think she meant that she got totally ruined and almost lost respect for herself. She felt so hopeless. There were instances where she would just lie and prepare for the coming of the customer. Her life here in Pasay City, according to her was all about work and sex.

There is another story wherein the involved victims of child prostitution are cousins. This time, not in the club, but inside a casa. They were also illegally

recruited as housemaids but later on forced to give sexual services to customers through phone calls. Inside the casa, there were many girls who were already dressed up like grown-ups. Many of them came from different provinces. Their services would depend on phone calls. The casa would receive phone calls from the customers inquiring for available girls. Most of the customers prefer very young and virgin girls. The girls are brought into a hotel, motel, or just a house to do sexual acts and sexual intercourse with the customers. The pimps would court the girl and the customer to their destination and would wait until the transaction is through. It is usually the pimps who would get the whole payment and would give just little amount to the poor girls.

From these stories we can categorize what we call child prostitutes. There are those who are just dancers and entertainers, there are also those from being dancers and entertainers would eventually become as prostitutes, and there also those who work only as a prostitutes-giving sexual satisfaction or having intercourse with the customers. The life of a prostitute is not an easy thing. What more if a prostitute is only a child where his or her growth is not yet completed. To cope up with the situation and also to cope up with the trauma after leaving prostitution would definitely be very hard for them. Their moral, physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects are deliberately affected thus causing them to hardly go back to normal kind of living.

Rescue and Encounter with the Police

There is a saying that there is an end for everything. In the case of the child prostitutes, their sufferings are ended when the police and other concerned national officers rescued them from the clubs and brothels. For voluntary prostitutes, these

officers are their antagonists while for the involuntary prostitutes, these people are their heroes. They gave them the freedom that they have been wanting for so long time.

Most of the rescue operations in Metro Manila are successful. These are performed by the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police, and the Department of Justice. There are ways from which these officers could declare raids in the clubs and brothels. Some officers would disguise or play as customers to find out if a certain establishment such as club or brothel is employing children as waitresses, dancers, and as prostitutes. Some would hire informers to find if there minors inside a club or brothel and report it immediately to the authorities. There are also instances where some child prostitutes would be able to escape or find a way to report the case of exploiting children through prostitution.

After these clubs and brothels area raided and found minors, the authorities would file a case against the owner, or manager of the establishments. It is the government that sues these establishments. The children only serve as witnesses and not as victims. But before filing the case, the children are brought and interviewed first at the NBI office or at Camp Crame. They are asked how they got into such transaction and how they were treated inside the establishments. After completing the interview and grounds are already laid down, the government now files the case. But this does not just end here. After filing the case, the minors are brought to Marillac Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City where they would stay temporarily for rehabilitation and while waiting for the case to proceed.

The stories of the former child prostitutes that I have met and interviewed supported the process by which the authorities saved and rescued these children. One story says that a certain NBI officer disguised as a customer. It was almost one o'clock in

the morning when the NBI confirmed that there were minors in their club and declared a raid. Along with the adult prostitutes, twelve minors were brought to NBI office. They stayed until morning came when they were interviewed and made to release statements supporting the case against their manager and the owner of the club they were working in. After all these processes, these twelve minors were brought to Marillac Center to recover from their experiences inside the club.

Another story is when the police raided a casa in Blumentritt through the report of two girls being locked up and being prepared to be taken out by a customer. These girls were brought to Manila only few days before they were raided. Fortunately, before could have happened to them, they managed to call their brother who was incidentally in Manila. The brother, after hearing the story, immediately reported the case to the police and even contacted ABS-CBN. Few hours later, the police came together with the brother and ABS-CBN. The girls were rescued, including other minors who became like sex slaves in the casa for almost year. After the rescue operation, they were brought to Camp Crame and stayed there for four days. They were interviewed and medical examinations were administered on them. After these procedures, the police decided to bring them to Marillac.

To track down sites of child prostitution is not an easy thing to do. But the authorities are really trying hard to lessen the incidence, even if not to totally eradicate it. The government is very serious about it because the involved are children who are the most vulnerable members of the society. Their concern is the way these children could be affected physically, mentally, spiritually, and morally. These effects could eventually

hinder the normal growth and development of these children which is against to their supposed rights and privileges.

However, the rescue or encounter with the police is just a part of the total recovery or rehabilitation of the victims of child prostitution. It just prepares the way for the children to go back to their normal lives. This is now provided by rehabilitation centers whose goals are to provide these children services that would enable them to become normal citizens and a new environment that makes them recover from the trauma they had back in their previous work. One of these centers, actually the national center for girls who are sexually exploited and abuse, is the Marillac Hills Center as mentioned above.

Chapter Four

THE DSWD AND MARILLAC HILLS IN THE REHABILITATION OF CHILD PROSTITUTES

The Role of the Department of Social Welfare and Development

It is the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution stated that it is the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination, and other conditions prejudicial to their development; and to provide sanctions for their commission and carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination. It is also the State that should intervene in behalf of the child when the parents, guardian, teacher or person having care or custody of the child fails or is unable to protect the child against abuse, exploitation and discrimination or when such acts against the child are committed by the said parent, guardian, teacher or person having care and custody of the same.⁴⁸

The State is given the primary responsibility of the welfare of the child if in case the parents or guardians are not able to fulfill their responsibilities. Its every effort shall be exerted to promote the welfare of children and enhance their opportunities for a useful and happy life.

⁴⁸ Copy of the Fifth Regular Session, Congress of the Philippines, 1991. Republic Act No. 7610, Article 1.

In relation to this, the State has authorized some government agencies to implement this policy. The Department of Social Welfare and Development is its primary agency, along with others, providing special protection and rehabilitation for children who have gone to abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination.

In Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution, it is stated that there shall be a comprehensive program to be formulated by the Department of Justice and the Department of Social Welfare and Development in coordination with other government agencies and private sector concerned, within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, to protect children against child prostitution and other sexual abuse; child trafficking, obscene publications and indecent shows; other acts of abuse; and circumstances which endanger child survival and normal development.⁴⁹

The department is given special authority to take into custody children in abuse, exploitation, cruelty, and discrimination conditions. Being consistent with R.A. 7610 or the Special Protection Act, the department ensures the welfare of every child and gives rescue to those in crisis. Under Executive Order No.56, series of 1986, the offended party (the child) shall be immediately placed under the protective custody of the department or duly-licensed child-caring institutions coordinated with the department. According to the Child and Youth Welfare Code, it is the duty of the department to make a case study of every child who is the subject of guardianship or custody proceedings and to submit its report and recommendations on the matter to the court for its guidance. It is to intervene on behalf of the child if it finds, after its case study, that the petition for guardianship or custody should be denied. The hearing on guardianship and custody

⁴⁹ Ibid

proceedings may, at the discretion of the court, be kept in confidentiality or be closed to the public and the records shall not be released without its approval.⁵⁰

As it has been mentioned earlier, one of the functions of the department is to coordinate with local governments, non-government organizations and some government agencies to ensure the development and welfare of children in every community or area of the State. The department also classifies and defines institutions or agencies that could take children into their custody. Child-caring institutions provide twenty-four (24) hour resident group care service for the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of nine or more mentally gifted, dependent, abandoned, neglected, handicapped, or disturbed children, or youthful offenders. A detention home is also a twenty-four (24) hour child-caring institution that provides short-term resident care for youthful offenders while waiting for the court disposition on their cases. While shelter-care institutions provide temporary protection and care to children requiring emergency reception as a result of abandonment, dangerous conditions of neglect and cruelty in the home, or a court order holding them as material witnesses. Receiving homes are family-type homes providing temporary shelter from ten (10) to twenty (20) days for children who shall be under observation and study for eventual placement by the department. A nursery is also a child-caring institution providing care and shelter for six or more children below six years of age. A maternity home is a shelter or place of residence for pregnant women and their infants before, during and after delivery. While a rehabilitation center is an institution that receives and rehabilitates youthful offenders and other disturbed children. A reception and study center is an institution that receives for study, diagnosis, and

⁵⁰ "Looking at Filipino Children: A Compendium of Philippine Laws And International Declarations, Conventions and Covenants". Children and Youth Foundations of the Philippines, 1998. p.129

temporary treatment, children who have behavioral problems for purpose of determining the appropriate care for them or recommending their permanent treatment or rehabilitation in other child welfare agencies. A child placement agency is an institution assuming the care, custody, protection and maintenance of children for placement in any child-caring institution or home or under the care of any person or persons for purposes of adoption, guardianship or foster care.⁵¹

The department has four centers, out of ten, that facilitate services and programs for children: reception and study center for children, lingap center, nayon ng kabataan, and Marillac Hills or group home for girls. As of 1999, these centers have served a total number of 9, 173 clients.

Marillac Hills and its Organizational Structure and Operations in the rehabilitation of child prostitutes

This center is a field branch of the DSWD NCR. Located in Alabang, it serves to provide the victims of sexual abuse and exploitation services that would help them to be rehabilitated from the traumatic experiences they have had. The clients in this center are all girls.

History of Marillac Hills

This institution was founded in 1968 along Filinvest Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa. However, according to the DSWD, Marillac Hills or Marillac Hill Center for Girls, came from the umbrella of the Welfareville in Mandaluyong founded in 1924. Welfareville is the original institution which catered to the needs and welfare of Filipino children. It was

the site of all child-caring institutions of the government under the administration of the Bureau of Public Welfare. It occupied 50 hectares of land. It included the following institutions for the care, training and education of underprivileged children : Departments A and B for the orphanage, Nursery, Home for Mentally-Defective Children, Philippine Training School for Boys, Philippine Training School for Girls, and the Home for the Aged and Infirm.⁵¹ The Philippine Training Schools for Girls was a correctional institution for the female juvenile delinquents, for those girls who have committed offenses and have been convicted of law violations. It consisted of two buildings joined together almost into one and would render services to girls between nine and eighteen. Girls who were admitted were “reformed” of their anti-social conduct. They were called “juvenile delinquents” or “minor offenders”.⁵³

In 1968, the National Training School for Girls (NTSG) was relocated in Alabang, Rizal. This institution became the national center for rehabilitation of girls who have come into conflict with the law. The objectives were to provide these girls with opportunities and experiences that will satisfy adequately their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs; and to prepare them socially, vocationally, and psychologically for return to their families and the community. The institution rendered services such as homelife training, education, spiritual guidance, social services, recreation, and health care.

In 1995, the center was again relocated, together with the Haven National Center for Women. This time, also in Alabang, it is situated not along the highway, but inside an industrial village, although not really near from the industrial establishments. It has a

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p.130

⁵² “Folder of Information about Welfareville: The Children’s Village of the Philippines”. Bureau of Public Welfare, 1937. p.3

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p.7

very spacious environment. The institution now occupies about more or less twenty thousand square meters or two hectares of land with several buildings and cottages. It is also now known as Marillac Hills which is a temporary shelter for girls and young women who are in crisis. Under the DSWD, it provides expertise and services, free of charge, to those girls who are sexually abused, sexually exploited such as in prostitution, maltreated, impregnated, and, or, those who are in conflict with the law.

Location

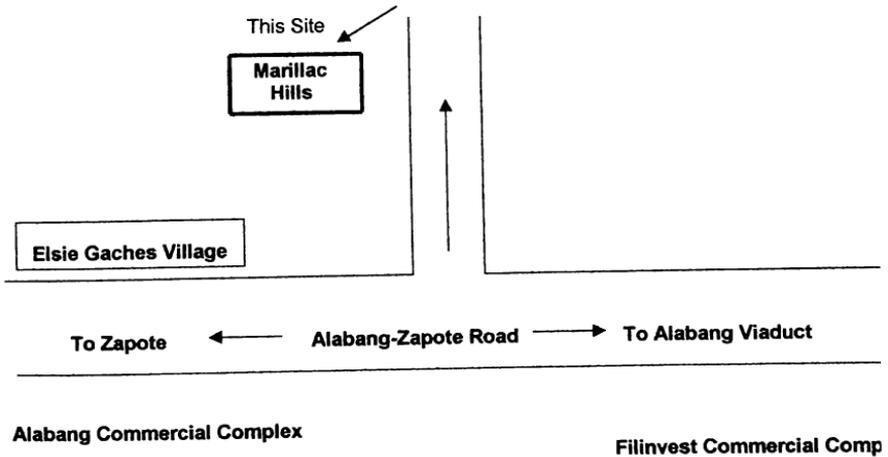
Marillac Hills is situated in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, in the National Capital Region. The City of Muntinlupa is located at the southern portion of the National Capital Region (NCR). Looking at the NCR map, the city is bounded by Taguig on the north, Las Pinas on the northeast, Paranaque City on the northwest, and Laguna on the south.

With increasing residential, commercial, and industrial establishments, the city has become a crowded place. Marillac Hill's is situated in one of the industrial subdivisions. The environment is very spacious, with fresh air and a little farther from the busy center of the city. This gives the children or clients of the center space and a conducive location to refresh and recover. Please refer to Illustration I.

Objectives

The institution's main goals are almost the same as the National Training School for Girls (NTSG), but this time, more specified. The goals are to 1.) to provide services for the care, training and rehabilitation of girls in difficult circumstances to enable them to become socially responsible and economically productive citizens; and 2.) to update techniques and treatment methods, establish procedures, standards and requirements

Illustration 1



Location Map of Marillac Hills

which can be adopted by other institutions. From these goals, they have come up with more specific objectives. These are the following:

- 1.) to help girls cope with the stress and develop positive attitudes;
- 2.) to stimulate the development of potentials, interest and capacities for economic self-sufficiency; and
- 3.) to assist in the development of social concern for clients to become more self-motivated and responsible.

Programs and Services

Like the NTSG, Marillac Hills also provides several services and programs for the girls admitted in the institution. There are seven major services that are rendered by the institution. These are the following:

- 1.) Social Service – this pertains to the service given by the social workers as they give personal attention to these girls to help them identify priority needs and to enhance social functioning. Each girl has a personal social worker to assist her case. The management of each case is done through guided group sessions and private conferences with other personals to facilitate rehabilitation;
- 2.) Homelife Service – the institution provides a homely atmosphere which is conducive to the normal development in answer to social, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. The girls live like in a real home, with house parents, rooms, and other facilities designed to provide a homely environment;
- 3.) Psychological Service – this includes consecutive psychological tests to assess the client's aptitude, interest and intellectual functioning. The results are used by

the multidisciplinary case team members for better case management. Girls who are in need of psychiatric services can avail of such services by staff representation with agencies, hospitals, and other community resources that can better meet their needs;

- 4.) Health Service – the institution provides one clinic with a team of health specialists consisting of physicians, dentist and nurses who assume the responsibility for the prevention and treatment of dental and health problems;
- 5.) Educational Service – education is provided through the Jose Fabella Memorial School – Marillac Hills Annex. The curriculum offers a combination of academic and vocational classes, with emphasis on the latter;
- 6.) Spiritual, Recreational and Socio-Cultural Service – sports, campings, birthday celebrations, and religious activities such as Bible studies and masses are conducted in coordination with volunteers. Television viewing on scheduled basis and socialization activities are also regularly conducted; and
- 7.) Productivity and Practical Skills Development – projects like dressmaking, handicraft, stuff toy making, computer operation, cosmetology and bakery are given to the girls that they may be able to learn and use these skills after their discharge.⁵⁴

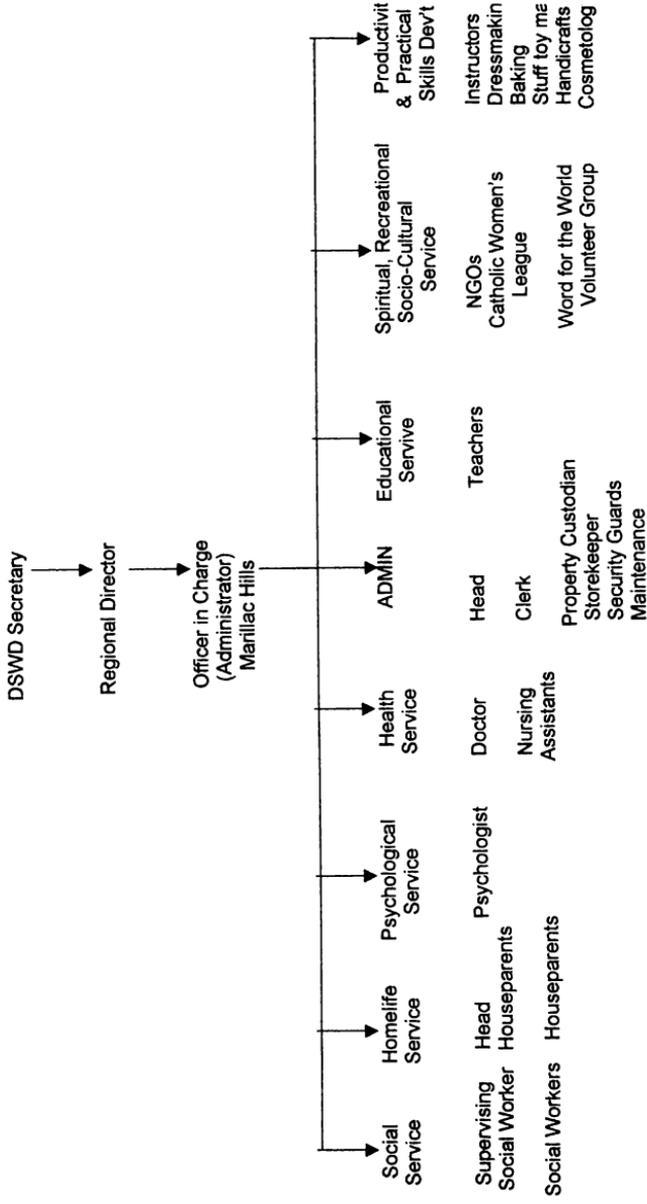
⁵⁴ Primer of Marillac Hills

Organizational Structure

The DSWD Secretary is the primary administrator of social institutions. From the main office of DSWD, the management falls down to the Regional Directors, such as the DSWD- National Capital Region director in the case of Marillac Hills. The NCR office now directs its administration to institutions under its jurisdiction. Institutions like Marillac Hills will have an Officer-in-Charge, as assigned by the NCR office, who will direct the services and programs, and manage the institution as a whole. In Marillac Hills, receiving directions from the Officer-in-Charge are the supervisors or heads of each service. In Social Service, there are one supervising social worker and the social workers. In Homelife Service are the head house parents and the house parents themselves assigned to different cottages. In Psychological Service are the psychologist and her few assistants. In Educational Service are the teachers while in the Spiritual, Recreational and Socio-Cultural Service are some non-government organizations such as the Catholic Women's League and the Lighthouse: Word for the World Volunteer Group as assisted by the social workers. In the Administration office are the head, the clerk, the property custodian, dietician, storekeeper, security guards, and the maintenance group. Last but not the least are the instructors in the Productivity and Practicla Skills Development. They are the instructors in dressmaking, baking, stuff toy making, cosmetology, paper recycling or handicrafts, basic computer operation, and sewing. Look at Illustration 2 to see the organizational structure.

Illustration 2

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF MARILLAC HILLS



Funding

The funds of this institution definitely come from the national office of the DSWD. Therefore, this institution is government funded. According to Marillac Hills office, they get just enough funds to sustain the maintenance of the institution and just enough to provide the basic needs of the clients. When I asked some social workers about the exact amount or budget of the government to their institution, they said they did not know the exact amount but they think it is in million. However, although it is in million, they said that they get the least amount to think that Marillac Hills is the only national center catering for the needs of the abused girls. The head of the homelife service said that forty five pesos (Ph 45.00) a day is allotted to every client. This amount would include the clients' three times meal a day and some personal needs such as some clothes, bath and laundry soaps, toothpaste, and shampoos which are given monthly.

However, the institution seeks support of individuals, non-government organizations (NGOs) and charitable institutions in the defense against the assault on children's and women's dignity and human rights. They are also open to some financial supports of NGOs and charitable institutions. These supports will still have to go through an assessment before dispersed and distributed among the needs of the clients. Among the volunteer groups of Marillac are the Rotary Clubs, Lighthouse Ministry and Catholic Women's League.

Physical Plan of Marillac Hills

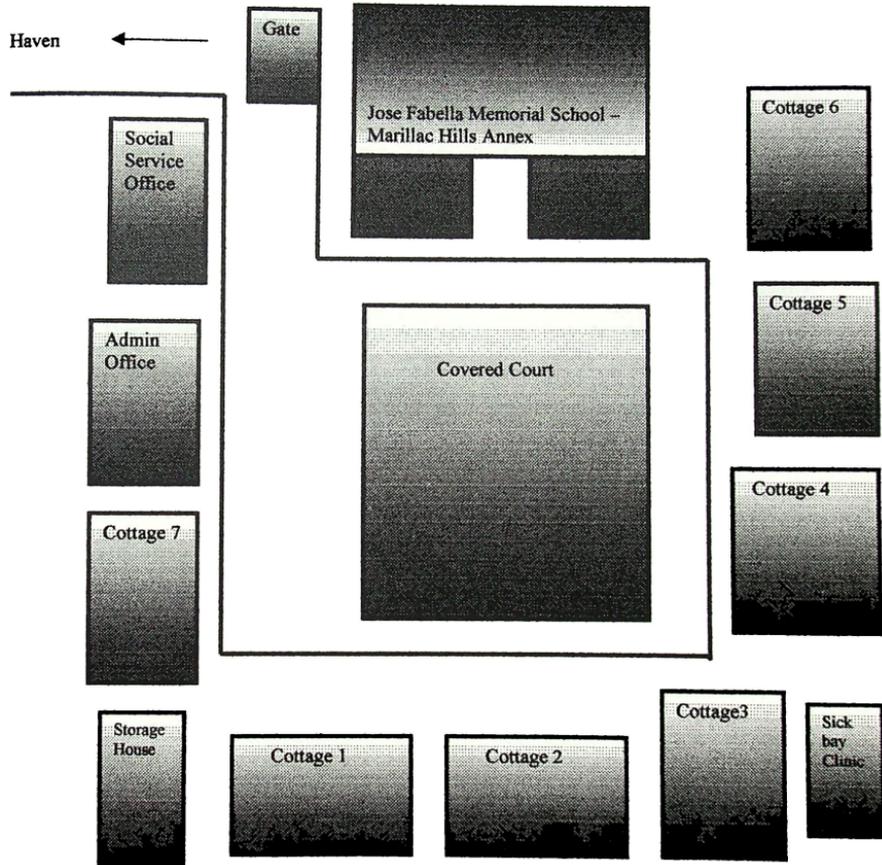
The institution consists of eleven buildings: seven cottages, admin office, social service office, directory or storage room, a school, and a covered court in the middle. The compound seems to follow a rectangular shape with a more or less 2 hectares of

land. Upon entering the gate, the first building to be seen is the social service office. Next is the admin office almost joined by cottage 7. They just follow a line pattern. At the right front of cottage 7 is the directory or the storage room. At the right side of the storage room making a corner is cottage 1. Next to cottage 1 is cottage 2. Making another corner, at the right front of cottage 2 is cottage 3, then cottage 4, cottage 5, and cottage 6. At the right front of cottage 6 is a school building with the library and conference hall. In the middle of the compound is a covered court established in 2000. See Illustration 3.

Facilities

As mentioned earlier Marillac Hills consists of eleven buildings. The social service office which serves to administer the admission of cases and to render and pay attention to personal needs and problems of each client. The admin office caters to the basic programs and services to the clients. It is also in this office where psychological services are rendered. There are also seven cottages provided to clients with different cases. Cottage 1 is for those who are newly admitted and sexually abused. Cottage 2 is for the sexually exploited. Cottage 3 is for youth offenders. Cottages 4,5, and 6 are regular cottages where the clients are transferred when they have already adjusted to an "institution" way of life. Cottage 7 is for those who need less supervision and who are prepared for discharge or release. Inside a cottage is like what we usually find in a house. There are about 32-40 girls in a cottage. There are divisions for a living room, kitchen, dining room, dirty kitchen, 2 comfort rooms (one for the staff and one for the girls) and there are usually 3 bedrooms with 3-6 double decks. Inside the living room are the

Illustration 3 Physical Plan of Marillac Hills



electric fan and sofas. In the kitchen are the dining tables, sinks, and cooking set. A homely environment is provided in these cottages. There is also a school established in 1998 by the help of a Filipino-Chinese businessman, a volunteer from the International Rotary Club. The school was named Jose Fabella Memorial School –Marillac Hills Annex. There are eight classrooms that would accommodate grade school and high school students. The library and the conference hall are established separate from the school building. Inside the library are the donated piano and guitars. The library is also used as an audio-visual room. At the middle of this whole compound is a big covered court established in 2000 as mentioned earlier, courtesy of the Lighthouse Ministry. There is also a clinic called Sick Bay which is open everyday for the clients' medical assistance.

Human Resource Development/ Staff

The human resource of Marillac Hills is distributed among the services and programs it offers. In the social service are twelve (12) social workers where the head social worker is already included. In the home life service, for every cottage, there are four (4) regular house parents rotating on a scheduled duty, one from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., another from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and next is from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The house parents come from outside the center. There are also two (2) relievers who relieve house parents who may have emergency cases. In health service are one (1) doctor, one (1) dentist, two (2) nursing attendants. In the administration office are the supervising head, one (1) clerk, one (1) property custodian, one (1) storekeeper, (1) one dietician and a nutritionist who prepare the needed food intake of the children. Also included are twelve (12)

security guards, two (2) for every duty., and two maintenance workers. There is also one (1) psychologist with four (4) assistants who attend to the psychological needs of the clients. In the educational service are eight (8) teachers who teach both the grade school and high school students. For example, one teacher for grades 1 and 2 combined in the morning session. Practical skills are incorporated in the curriculum, in the Technology and Home Economics or T.H.E. subject with the instructors for every training skill. In the spiritual and recreational service, mostly volunteers are working, like the CWL, and the Lighthouse Youth Ministry. All in all, the center has 86 human resource staffs.

Chapter Five
CLIENT PROFILE

There are about 271 clients brought in Marillac Hills as of February 2002. There are 263 old clients staying in the center for temporary shelter. About 8 clients just came new. The clients are all girls. Most of them are sexually abused, sexually exploited as in prostitution, some are youth offenders and some have been impregnated. Marillac Hills has been a center for these children who have been neglected and abused by the society.

Total No. of Cases Served as of February 1, 2002

	Old – 263	New - 8	Total – 271		
Cottage Total	Sexually Abused	Sexually Exploited	Youth Offender		
				Babies	
I	25	8		33	
II		25		25	
III	1		39	40	
IV	18	5	2	3	28
V	28	4			32
VI	39	3			42
VII	60	3			63
TOTAL	171	48	41	3	263

This shelter accommodates different cases and provides the clients the services they need to be rehabilitated and recover. Different cottages are offered to different cases. For instance, Cottage 1 is for the newly admitted and sexually abused while Cottage 2 is for sexually exploited girls. This time, the focus of our study will be the

sexually exploited. These are the girls who have been exploited sexually or “prostituted” by their procurers. As of February 2002, there are 48 sexually exploited girls staying in the center. There are 8 in Cottage 1, 25 in Cottage 2, 5 in Cottage 4, 4 in Cottage 5, 3 in Cottage 6, and also 3 in Cottage 7.

The sample population of this study came from three cottages only. I got 15 from Cottage 2, 2 in Cottage 4, and 3 from Cottage 6, a total of 20 respondents. I got the list from the Social Service Office. I asked them to give me a variation of the voluntary and involuntary victims of sexual exploitation or child prostitution. From their permission, I started to conduct a survey, personal interviews and focus group discussions.

Age of the Clients

Girls who are admitted in the center are basically under eighteen. This is the reason why they fall on the category of child prostitution. The law defines a child as a person who is eighteen years below. Anyone under eighteen is supposed to be in school and not to be exposed in an environment that would hinder his or her growth and development. In the case of prostitution, the law prohibits children to be engaging in it, either involuntary or voluntary. Children that are found engaging in prostitution are brought to the DSWD, particularly in Marillac Hills, for rehabilitation and recovery from the trauma they could have experienced inside the bars, clubs or brothels. Meanwhile, the procurers or agents of prostitution, and the owners of the establishments are sued for exploiting these children.

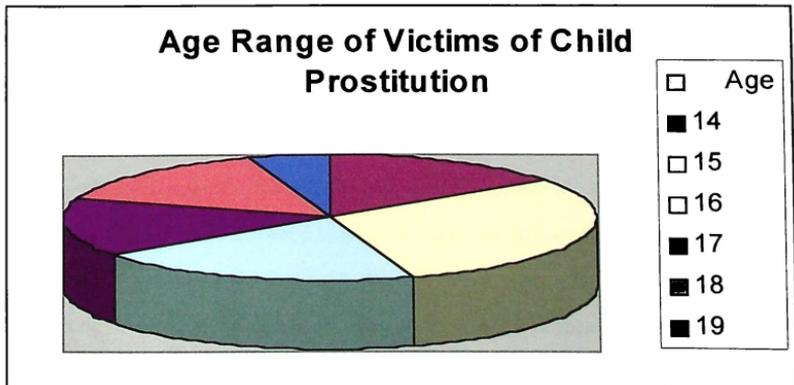
Based on the interviews and survey of the 20 respondents, I have found out that among them are about three (3) girls aged fourteen, about seven (7) are aged fifteen, three

(3) are sixteen, four (4) are seventeen, two (2) are eighteen, and one aged nineteen. Please refer to Table 1.1 and Graph 1.1. More or less, girls aged 15 are the common victims of child prostitution. They are the most number who have been recruited and tricked to work in Manila as maids and helpers in restaurants but ended up as dancers and prostitutes. Most of these girls were “stow-away” or “stokwas” in the casual language, those who went out of their house, rebelled and tried to become independents. Most of them have stopped schooling, particularly from high school.

Table 1.1

Age	No. Of Clients	Percentage
14	3	15%
15	6	30%
16	4	20%
17	3	15%
18	3	15%
19	1	5%
Total	20	100%

Graph 1.1



Socio-Economic Profile

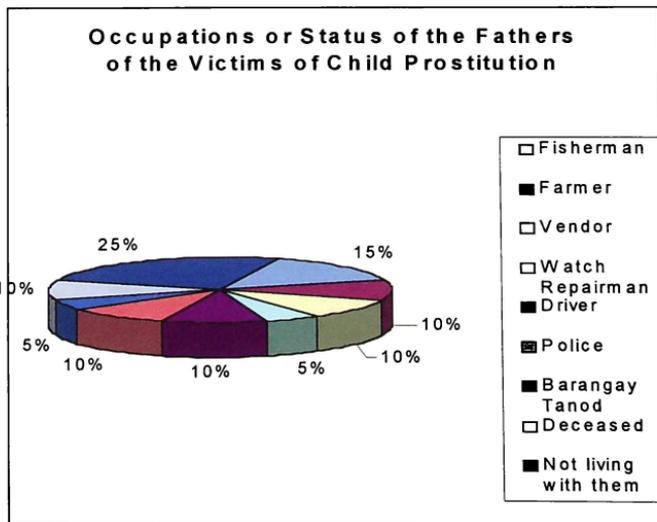
Most of these girls came from the low-income families. They came from provinces where their parents are working as fishermen and vendors. Because of poverty, they were just able to meet their basic needs. Some of them have even stopped schooling because of short funds or less budget at hand. Most of them have big families, ranging from six (6) to eleven (11) members in the family, including their parents. The income of each family is not enough to sustain even their basic needs. From the survey, I found out that their family incomes range from P75.00 to P300.00 a day. How would this amount sustain six to eleven members? This could only be for the meals of three times a day, and the rest of their needs like clothing, education, health, and others are almost unmet. This is one major reason why these girls were forced to work at a very young age, to the extent that they were even tricked and deceived to work in Manila as housemaids at first, but eventually as prostitutes. They were promised to earn from P2500.00 to P8000.00 each month. They were overwhelmed by the amount that they tried their luck in Manila, far away from their families. Because most of these girls are the eldest in the family, carrying the responsibility, next after their parents, they would even ignore their own welfare just to help their families. Their parents, without much knowledge of what could have happened to their children, were at ease sending them to Manila, hoping that their living would be alleviated if these girls would earn enough money. They did not know that the agents, whom they trusted so much to bring their children to Manila, were the ones who would ruin and lure their daughters' lives into prostitution. The table below shows that most of the fathers are not living with their families, such as having another families or being separated with the girls' mothers. Among the 20 respondents, I have

found out that about 5 or 25% of the fathers are not living with their families; while 3 or 15% are fishermen; 2 or 10% are farmers; another 2 or 10% are vendors; 1 or 5% is a watch repairman; 2 or 10% drivers; 2 or 10% are policemen; 1 or 5% is a barangay tanod; and 2 or 10% are deceased. Please refer to Table 1.2 and Graph 1.2.

Table 1.2

Father	Occupations/Status	Incidence	Percentage
	Fisherman	3	15%
	Farmer	2	10%
	Vendor	2	10%
	Watch Repairman	1	5%
	Driver	2	10%
	Police	2	10%
	Barangay Tanod	1	5%
	Deceased	2	10%
	Not living with them	5	25%
Total		20	100%

Graph 1.2

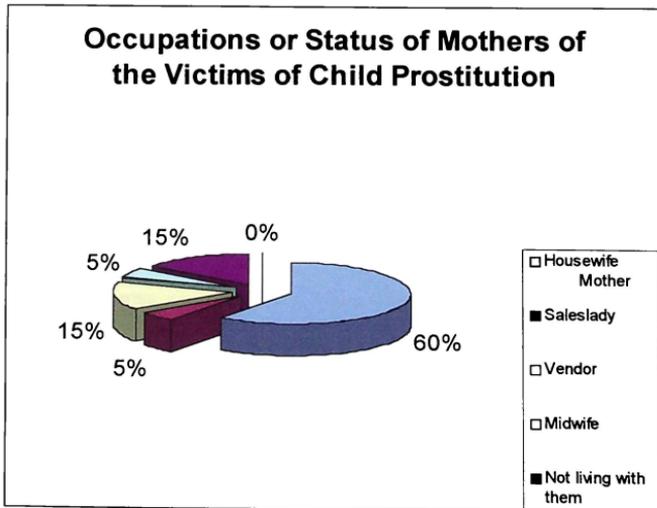


Meanwhile, most of the mothers are just plain housewives. They just stay at home and wait for their husbands' incomes or salaries. About 12 of the mothers are housewives or housekeepers, while 1 is a saleslady; 3 are vendors; 1 midwife; and 3 are not living with their daughters or families. Please refer to the Table 1.3 and Graph 1.3 below.

Table 1.3

Mother	Housewife	12	60%
	Saleslady	1	5%
	Vendor	3	15%
	Midwife	1	5%
	Not living with them	3	15%
Total		20	100%

Graph 1.3



Place of Origin

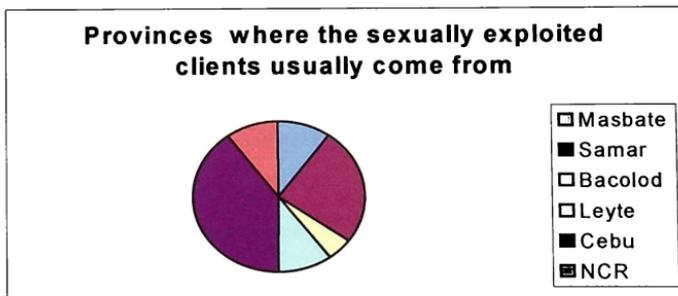
Most of the sexually exploited clients in Marillac Hills came from provinces. Most of them came from the Visayas and Mindanao regions. There is only a little percentage where the clients would come from the National Capital Region. One social worker said that a year ago, they released almost thirty (30) girls from Davao. They were also recruited to work in Manila and promised to earn enough money that when they return home, they would be able to somehow help their parents. This time, most of the center's clients are from the Visayas region. From the interviews I have conducted, I have found out that the provinces where these girls mostly came from are Samar, Masbate, Bacolod, Cebu, and Leyte. Out of the 20 that I have interviewed, 8 or 40% of them came from Cebu; 5 or 25% from Samar; 2 or 10% from Masbate; 2 or 10% from Leyte; 1 or 5% from Bacolod; and 2 or 10% from the National Capital Region (NCR). When I asked these girls what made them to decide to go to Manila, most of them said they wanted to see buildings, malls and different places that they would hear from the people who have already gone to Manila. They had in their minds a very good picture of the place. They were fascinated by the thought that when they go to Manila they would also be different when they come home. People from their provinces would have a different, probably good impression, about them after knowing that they just came from Manila. They also thought that they would find greener pasture away from their provinces because in the province they would just stagnate if they stay and depend on fishing and planting. The table below shows the number of clients who mostly come from the provinces, mostly from the Visayas region. In Cottage 2, about 20 come from

this region and almost out placing the 5 girls who come from the National Capital Region. See Table 1.4 and Graph 1.4.

Table 1.4

Province	No. of Clients	Percentage
Masbate	2	10%
Samar	5	25%
Bacolod	1	5%
Leyte	2	10%
Cebu	8	40%
NCR	2	10%
Total	20	100%

Graph 1.4



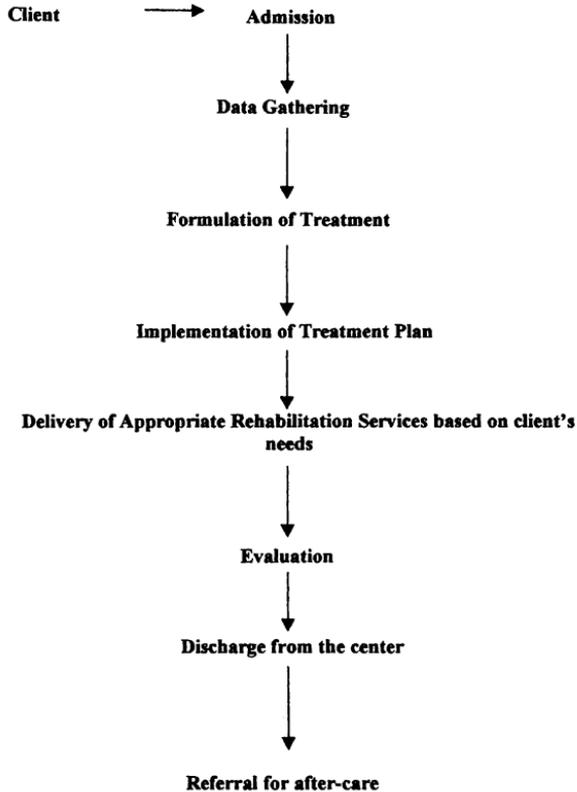
Chapter Six
LIFE AT THE CENTER

When the clients are brought in the center, the rehabilitation takes place. The needs of the clients would determine how and what services would be given to them. The services are rehabilitative in terms of helping the clients to recover from the trauma and provide them with an environment that would help them to be normal beings again. These are rehabilitative responses because “they seek to provide opportunities whereby the victims may soon be able to function as normal and healthy social beings”⁵⁵.

In Marillac, upon admission, the rehabilitation already starts. The program for the sexually exploited and abused girls is already implemented. The center aims to provide services for the care, training and rehabilitation of girls in difficult circumstances such as from abuse and exploitation to enable them to become socially responsible and economically productive citizens. This is realized by helping the girls to cope with the stress and develop positive attitudes; tapping or stimulating the development of potentials, interest and capacities for economic self-sufficiency; and assisting in the development of social concern for clients to become more self-motivated and responsible. All of these are wrapped up in one package, one program implementation from admission, delivery of services, until the time of discharge. The program implementation is illustrated below.

⁵⁵ Concepcion, p.15

Program Implementation (Institution-based)



The clients could either be walk-in clients, or from referrals of the organizations or some government agencies, or could also come from outreach missions such as rescued by volunteers or concerned people. Upon admission, the client would be interviewed for some details such as family background and origins, how they got into prostitution, and on some personal matters.

After the interview, she would be examined at the clinic for medical clearances, if just in case, she is infected by diseases such as HIV, AIDS, or some contagious diseases. After the medical clearance, she would now be assigned to the admission cottage where she would be with other newly admitted clients. Upon the cottage assignment, there would be an inventory or recording of personal belongings, bed assignment, provision of food and clothing, and the orientation on house rules and regulations.

After admission, the center now proceeds data gathering about the client. For instance, they would get the socio-economic status by contacting the parents, families or relatives. They would also gather further medical information such as giving the clients physical examinations, dental check-ups, STD Clearance, and psychiatric evaluation. The clients would also be given a psychological assessment. Also the clients are asked to choose if they would like to take the formal school or education in the center, or just enroll in the non-formal or training courses also provided by the center.

After gathering the data and establishing the needs of the clients, the formulation of treatment comes next. In here, there would be a consultation and conference of the staff involved such as the head of the institution, social workers, doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, teachers, vocational instructors, and houseparents. There would also be a consultation with the client and family.

When the kind of treatment is already formulated, the implementation is now enforced. Then the delivery of appropriate rehabilitation services based on the client's needs is now given emphasis. The whole stay of the client in the center would basically depend on the delivery of the services. Upon the delivery, the client would be involved in counseling sessions, from individual to group sessions. In here, the personal problems or other matters disturbing the client are being discussed. Educational services are also offered to the client. The center has a school inside from elementary to high school which is also recognized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. Livelihood skills development trainings are also given to the clients such as sewing, cosmetology, paper recycling, stuff toys making, food processing, and baking. These courses could be completed in six months, one at a time. Medical services are also provided to the clients such as medical and dental services. If the facilities are no longer capable in meeting the medical needs of the client, she could be referred for medical treatment outside the center, maybe to a nearby hospital. There is a psychiatric evaluation wherein the client is given some tests to determine her mental capacity and condition. Self-enhancement skills development such as ego building , stress reduction, crisis management, spiritual enrichment and renewal, sports development, values development or reorientation, and socio-cultural development are also provided to the clients. As to their cases on court, some free legal services are also given to them.

Maybe it will take the client half a year, or even shorter, to recover and be rehabilitated from their experiences through the services offered in the center. After this, when the proper time comes, the next step is evaluation. In this stage, the performance of the client, after months of staying in the center, is being discussed in a pre-discharge

conference. Here, they would determine if the client is now ready to face a new life outside and would be able to live a normal life again. The status of court proceedings, such as if the owners or managers of the clubs or brothels are now punished, would also determine the discharge of the client. After the evaluation and approval, the center would contact the field office where the family of the client is located. The family is contacted and informed about the discharge of the client. The center makes sure that the client would be accommodated by her family because if not, she would be referred to some after-care institutions. When the evaluation has been finalized, the client is now discharged from the center. ⁵⁶

From my visits and observations in the center, I can say that the program is very well implemented. I got the chance to interview some sexually exploited clients and they attested to it. One respondent was very happy that she was brought to the center. She said that it is better to be there than to be somewhere else which could bring her into another difficult situation.

She was admitted in the center seven months ago. She is only fourteen and was employed in a club as a dancer. When the police raided the club, together with some minors, she was brought to Marillac. At first, she was puzzled why they were brought there. But then when the police and social workers explained to them that they would stay there temporarily for their rehabilitation from their experiences in the club they were enlightened.

On the first day of her stay, she was trying to adjust. But then eventually, she gradually learns to cope up with the kind of living they have in the center. Although she terribly misses her family, but still, she enjoys her stay. She has got a lot of friends there,

⁵⁶ Primer of Marillac Hills

who, like her, have also been sexually exploited. She also continues her schooling inside the center's school as recognized by DECS. She is now on her first year in high school.

Her daily routine is like waking up at 4:30 in the morning, taking a bath, and preparing for school. But before going to school, she sees to it that she has already done her assignment. It is not about the school assignment but the cottage assignment. Every girl in each cottage is assigned of a household chore for a month. In their cottage, she is assigned to clean their room, to fix their beds. After finishing her assignment, she then prepares herself for school. Her classes starts at 8 and ends up at 3 p.m. She has five subjects - Values, English, Science, Social Studies and Technology and Home Economics.

After school, she then goes back to the cottage and have merienda. After that, she helps to clean the cottage, then she plays with her friends until 5 p.m. Then, she goes back to the cottage and prepare herself for dinner. The girls have their dinners early, by 6 p.m. they should be done already. After dinner, some of the girls would wash the dishes and clean the kitchen, while the others would watch the television until 8:30 p.m. She sometimes help the girls who are assigned to clean the kitchen. By 9 p.m. they should all be ready to sleep.

Aside from these, schooling and household chores, she has also learned stuff toy making which is already incorporated in her T.H.E. subject. Their finished products are brought to the display room and sometimes sold when visitors come.

Her relationship with the her co-residents of the center is very good although sometimes, it is inevitable to have petite quarrels with her friends. Inside the cottage, they are supervised by house parents who play the role like real parents. The girls are provided

a very homely environment. She said, she can attest to that. She is very thankful that she was brought in Marillac Hills because she was able to really recover, emotionally, psychologically and socially. She is also thankful to the social workers really help them get through the process, especially in the legal aspect. When she would have court hearings (after the case was filled and she stands as a witness), social workers accompany her and try to make her comfortable with the situation and as much as possible, they protect her. When I asked to whom she is more close with, she said with the social workers who personally handles her case. By the way, each girl or client in the center is assisted by a personal social worker. In general, when I asked her what she can say about her stay at the center or describe her present situation, she said:

"Masaya dito, dami ko naging kaibigan, dami ko rin natutunan kahit na minsan malungkot dahil nami-miss ko na pamilya ko. Kahit na gusto ko na umuwi alam ko na hindi pa pwede dahil hindi pa tapos kaso namin at alam ko naman na para din sa amin ito."

Her tone implies that she now knows what is happening to her and she has now realized what is there waiting for her.

The two cousins that I have mentioned earlier in Chapter three also have their stories at the center. They came in August. Both are from Cottage 4. In this cottage, only nine of them are of their ages. Most of the residents are children below thirteen who have been sexually abused or commonly known as raped. Compared to cottages with girls of the same age, both find it a little difficult. They are expected to be more responsible because they are much older. However, they still receive fair treatment.

Both have the same daily routine. They seem to be very inseparable. Just like the other clients, they wake at 4:30 in the morning, take a bath and prepare for the day. They do not attend school. It is optional to attend school or not. It depends on the clients, as long as they are doing something worth it and useful. The two girls just attend the

practical skills training. They attend the baking classes. They already know how to make breads or pandesal but have not yet learned how to bake a cake. They have been in the baking class for almost four months now. They would stop attending every now and then. When they feel like helping in the bakery, they would go in the afternoon. The breads that they make are given to the residents for the merienda and free of charge.

Aside from baking, the two also have assignments. One helps in the kitchen cooking and preparing the food of every meal while the other one helps cleaning the surroundings, in the morning and in the afternoon. After finishing their duties, they end up their day by playing, chatting and watching t.v. They are allowed to watch t.v. from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Their every activity is almost scheduled. They have time allotment to every activity, from waking up, doing assignments, attending their classes, mingling and playing with friends and even until sleeping at night.

When I asked the two about their stay, they just said it is good to have stayed at the center rather than roaming around places in Manila which could have lead them to more dangerous conditions. At the center, they are taught good values, helped to recover from the trauma and assisted to become more sociable. They said they have regular bible meetings every Friday afternoon and hear mass every Saturday morning facilitated by the Catholic Women's League, and Lighthouse Youth Ministry. They are even brought to malls and parks sponsored by a private volunteer group so that they would not only be confined at the center. When there are birthdays, they celebrate inside the cottage. However, although life must be nearly normal at the center, the two still want to go home

as soon as possible. They said that there is really no other place like home. When they come home, they said that they would continue schooling and help their parents.

I have also interviewed some girls from Cottage 2. They basically have the same Daily routines. At 4:30 a.m., they would already wake up. Some would run to the comfort rooms to take their baths while some, who are assigned in the kitchen, would prepare their breakfasts. They would start their day by having their breakfast altogether. After breakfast, they would follow their own schedules. Some would go to school. Some would finish their assignments like cleaning the house and the surroundings. Others would attend practical skills training such as baking, stuff toy making, dressmaking, cosmetology, handicrafts making or paper recycling. In the afternoon, their schedules become loose. This is time when they could play and chat with friends. At 6 p.m. they would already have their dinner. Afterwards, they could do whatever they want to do or watch t.v., 6 p.m. until 8:30. At 9 p.m., lights would be off and they have to sleep by then. This is like a typical day of the girls.

I have also met another girl from Cottage 2. She has been in the center for almost six months. Like the others, she also could not wait to go home. She was even caught escaping from the center one afternoon. But, in the meantime, she realizes that her stay is worth it. She admits that she has changed a lot. Before, she was a rebel, and she did not know most of the household chores. But now, she already knows how to clean the house, to wash the dishes, cook food and even learned dressmaking. She said her stay helped her a lot to change, from her behavior to her perspective in life. When I asked her to describe her stay, she said:

"Nandun na lahat, malungkot minsan, masaya, mahirap rin minsan. Pero iba talaga kapag nasa labas, kapag nasa sariling bahay ka."

Although she has changed and the center helped her achieve this, she still longs to go home. In time, she learns to patiently wait for her discharge.

Another one from this cottage commented that she knows her life in the center is temporary but helped her a lot in so many ways. Before, because of their family status, from a middle income family, she did not know how to work on the household chores. Now, she is very proud to say that she learned how to clean the house and prepare food.

One client from the same cottage confided to me that she worked as a child prostitute for almost a year and a half due to her rebellion from her family. She just got out from the sex industry when the brothel she was working in was raided and she was brought to Marillac. She has been in the center for almost seven months. This has brought her hopes. She knows that she chose to be in that situation but she has now realized that the path she chose was in the wrong direction.

Now, at the center she has asked forgiveness first from herself, from her family and of course, from God. I can see in her that she really did not want to be a prostitute. No one wants to ruin her life. She just fell short of perceiving a little farther what could her decisions bring her. She is really trying to recover with the help of the services of the center. She is now focusing her day on the activities of the center, mingle with friends, enjoy her schooling and hope for a very bright future ahead of her.

Here at the center, the girls may have routinary schedules. But along with those schedules are the services being provided to the girls. The stories above are just testimonies of what the center's services do in realizing their goals –to rehabilitate the clients and make them responsible, sociable, and productive citizens.

The social service office is responsible in admitting the clients, coordinating with the police who brought the clients in, contacting and informing the families of the clients about their situations, and assisting them in the legal proceedings of their cases for their protection and discharge. Every client is assigned a social worker assisting her needs in general. The social worker should know and determine the personal needs and assistance of the client, socially, psychologically, medically, and mentally. Therefore, every assigned social worker at the center is trying to meet the needs of their clients. This also makes the social worker and the client to have a special bonding that erases the gap between them and makes an open atmosphere between them. The social workers function as the over-all parents of the clients and coordinate with the other services for a worth it stay of the client.

In the homelife service, children are provided homely cottages wherein they have houseparents who would supervise them all throughout the day, from morning until in the evening. The cottages are designed to be like real homes where there are bedrooms, kitchens, dining rooms, comfort rooms and home appliances such as televisions, electric fans and refrigerators. They also have dirty kitchen where the girls are preparing for their own food. The girls are also assigned each household chore that they would do for one month like cleaning the house, the surroundings, watering the plants and cooking their foods. Inside the cottage, the girls are made to feel to be in real homes. Although it became very possible, the girls would still long for their real homes with their real families. They said they are contented with their lives in the center but they also claimed that there is really no place like home.

In the psychological service the center prioritizes to give this service to clients who would need urgent sessions. I was not able to see how the psychologist does her jobs inside the center. But the clients said, that she and her assistants regularly check each cottage and see of the clients would be needing their help. The clients said that they could even go to the clinic when they feel like consulting the psychologist. There are also sessions held on anger management and personality development to further help the girls recover.

In the health service the center has one clinic inside which is called Sick Bay. In there, they have one medical doctor and one dentist with four nursing attendants. Every client who might be needing their help could easily come to the clinic. The medical doctor regularly check-ups the clients for any medical need or assistance. Upon admission, the medical doctor also examines the coming client if she has got infectious and contagious diseases such as AIDS, HIV, and others.

In the educational service, the children who may want to continue their schooling inside the center may avail of their educational service free of charge. The school accommodates both grade school and high school. There are eight teachers and eight classrooms. Subjects being offered are Values, Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Technology and Home Economics. The classes start at 8 in the morning and end up at 3 in the afternoon. The materials needed by the students such as books, notebooks, and ball pens are provided by the administration office as distributed by the teachers.

The spiritual and socio-cultural service is basically brought about by the center's coordinated volunteer organizations such as the Catholic Women's League (CWL) and the Lighthouse Youth Ministry. The Catholic Women's League facilitates the Values

subject in school every morning while they also assist in the mass every Friday afternoon. The Lighthouse Youth Ministry leads the bible studies every Saturday afternoon. Some private organizations like the Rotary International also find time to visit the girls, donate some basic materials, and even bring them out to malls and parks. There are also parties on birthdays and other special occasions held.

Practical Skills and Productivity Development are essentially about six practical trainings being offered to the girls. Dressmaking, Cosmetology, Paper recycling or handicrafts making, Baking, Basic Computer Operation, and Stuff toy making are these basic practical and productivity trainings. Before, every course training is offered to avail in six months. Now, it has already been incorporated to T.H.E. subject that students who could not afford to avail the courses may have learned the skills inside the school. The skills will prepare these girls when they are already discharged from the center. Those who want to avail those courses may have used their learned skill outside. It is not compulsory to take every training course. It is optional. It depends on the client if she would want to pursue these trainings.

These are the summary services offered at the center in line with their objective of rehabilitating the girls and providing them the opportunities to regain normal lives.

Chapter Seven

EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMS OF MARILLAC HILLS

The intention of my research is basically to evaluate the programs of Marillac Hills, its effectiveness and the problems it faces in meeting their goals and objectives. Through the interviews with the sexually exploited clients, social workers, house parents and some observations, I hope to come up with a rational evaluation of its programs and services. Each program is evaluated separately.

The evaluation, aside from my observation, would depend on the clients, their lives and experiences at the center, and also on some heads' recommendations. This may include the strengths and weaknesses of the programs, and some areas or even threats for improvement

On Social Service

The social service office is the primary office that handles each case of the client. Upon admission, it administers interviews to know the problem of the client. It determines what kind of assistance the client needs. If the client would complain that her lower belly aches or her organ is painful, she is then prescribed to immediately see their doctor. She might be infected with a disease such as HIV or AIDS or contagious disease. If this is the case, she would be referred to a special medication. As of the moment, the center has no client who has got any disease like this. Another thing is if the client has stopped schooling before she became a prostitute, she would be offered to avail her education inside the center. If she is psychologically affected or her experience in the club or

brothel is very traumatic, she would be assisted and regularly checked-up by the psychologist. About the legal case of the client, social workers contact the family and inform them, then they would accompany and assist the client every now and then to court hearings until the case is through.

The strength or positive aspect of the social service office is the social workers on how effective they are in handling the case of each client. During my visits, I could see many clients coming in, consulting the social workers. The social workers seem very knowledgeable about the matter. Right then and then they know what to do about the need and case of the clients. They also discuss with the parents the details of rehabilitation of the girls. Moreover, they establish good rapport and camaraderie with the clients. As mentioned earlier, every client has a social worker who assists her personally. The client feels free telling the social worker her problems, could be at the center, or even problems with her family. The social workers comfort and befriend every client to also establish trust. One time, I have heard some clients calling one social worker “tita”, not “miss” or “ma’am”. I think this incidence proves that the gap or difference of situation is being avoided. This helps the clients to feel normal and not treated as different beings.

However, the shortage of staff or social workers could be a hindrance in continuing their service. One senior social worker said, presently, there are more or less 260 clients accommodated by the center while the social workers are only 12, extending all their efforts to meet the needs of these clients, especially in the legal aspect. There are times the assigned or scheduled job overlap.

If the number of staffs would not be increased, with the increasing number of clients, it is possible that they could not anymore pay attention to every case or even to supervise all clients regarding their cases.

Furthermore, the office still needs improvement in terms of the facilities. I think, it still needs to be provided some computers, office materials, and other document-keeping facilities.

On Homelife Service

As mentioned earlier, upon the admission of the client, she is assigned a cottage where she stays until her discharge from the center. At the cottage, together with the other clients, she is provided a homely atmosphere. The houseparents take the role of the parents while the clients themselves serve as family members.

The clients are provided personal supplies like shampoo, laundry and bath soaps, toothpaste, and colognes every month. They are also provided a three times-meal, meriendas are not yet included. The everyday costs of each client is estimated as P45.00., The children are taught household chores as they are assigned in cooking, cleaning the rooms, living room, kitchen, and surroundings for a month. Every month they exchange house assignments.

This kind of set-up could really help the clients feel like she was in a real home or with her real family. The bonding with the other clients could help each of them recover by knowing that they are not of different situation. Furthermore, based on the clients' comments, the houseparents are taking their part responsibly. With them, the clients feel as if they were in their homes, secured and watched over. The household chores and

assignments teach the clients to be responsible at home. Some of the clients did not know these chores not until they came at the center. Every part of the cottage is maintained. The kitchen and dining areas reflect a very clean and fresh atmosphere. Appliances are enough like a television in the living room, a refrigerator and stove in the kitchen, and one electric fan in every room.

However, there are also some weaknesses that I have found in the homelife service. In the cottage that I basically administered my study, I found out that there are three bedrooms with six to eight double decks that accommodate more or less 30 girls. Each room accommodates eight to ten girls. The double decks could not accommodate all the girls, some even have to sleep on the floor with mattresses. The ideal number of clients in a cottage is about 20 to 25, but because of the increasing number of clients coming in, there is a shortage in space and beds.

The personal supplies of the clients sometimes become not enough. This produces tension among the clients when some of them would steal other's personal belongings or supplies. One client said, "*Usa dito ang nakawan ng gamit*". In here, she only meant that it becomes inevitable for some to steal or get other's supplies because of the shortage of the latter.

The scheduled living or activities of the clients sometimes make them bored. The worst thing that this could bring about is to make the clients have a "structured" or "institutionalized" living and mentality which the center tries to avoid. One social worker said:

"Iniiwasan nga namin na maging institutionalized pati ang kanilang pag-iisip. Marami na nga sa kanila ang natatakot lumabas. Kasi iisipin pa nila kung ano kakainin nila kinabukasan, saan sila matutulog, o pano sila mabubuhay. Dito kasi lahat provided. Baka nga pagtawid sa kalsada ay katakutan pa nila."

Another one, the head of this service also recommended that houseparents should also attend and be provided with seminars on handling children in the situation like this to further their knowledge about the reasons why they (clients) behave like this and that. Furthermore, she added that the number of houseparents, if possible, could also be increased. For every cottage, there only four houseparents who are relieving one at a time, one from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., another from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., and from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., the last one is a reliever if in case, one houseparents has an emergency matter to attend to. Every duty is supposed to supervise more or less 25 clients. It is very difficult for a houseparent to supervise every one of them. She also suggested that this summer, there is no school, the clients could have an “activity therapy” for relaxation and at the same time to avoid boredom. This means activities that would give variance to the summer period of the clients.

Another thing that she added is about the housparents’ status in terms of their employment. Three out of four houseparents are covered by the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which means that they are contractual and would receive no further benefits. Only one out of the four is regular. She appealed that the housparents be given a regular status to receive benefits. By the way, for a person to qualify as a houseparent or housemother, she must be at least a high school graduate and must have qualities of a parent. Two weeks before she is regularly employed, she visits the cottage and she is trained there for her to know if she could be a houseparent.

On Health Service

The center has one medical doctor, one dentist, and four nursing assistants, in a

clinic called Sick Bay. The clients may freely visit the doctors if medical and dental assistance is needed. The health service group is said to have been taking its part responsibly.

However, due to a shortage of staff in this service group, not all of the medical and dental needs of the clients are met. The medical and dental doctors are on duty only during daytime. If there would be an emergency in the center, the doctors would not be around. The case would just be referred to the nearest hospital.

Aside from this, there is also shortage of medicine supplies and facilities in the clinic. One girl said that their medicines are not enough. Once when she had an headache, she asked for a medicine even just to lessen the pain, an attendant instead of giving her a medicine, she was told to put her head inside the refrigerator. The facilities are also limited. One of the clients broke her nose because she fell from the bed. She was not given preliminary treatment due to limited facilities. She needed to be rushed to the nearest hospital. But in fairness, the doctor and the dentist are very warm except from that attendant who told one client to put her head on the refrigerator.

On Educational Service

There are eight classrooms at the Jose Fabella Memorial School-Marillac Annex. The classes starts at 8 a.m. and ends up at 3 p.m. The school accommodates elementary and high school students. There are eight teachers, with eight classrooms, accommodating all these levels. There is one teacher for grades 1 and 2, both on the same period, on the same room, at morning session.

The instructors for training courses are sometimes handling the T.H.E. subject. In high school, each teacher teaches almost all subjects such as English, Math, and Science. Values Education is handled by the Catholic Women's League.

The problem in this service is lack of support, particularly, financial support. There are needs for additional school supplies and books. Although the school is recognized by DECS, the latter seems to have ignored supporting these children by not providing them textbooks and other needed educational materials. Most of the books are from some private sponsors.

Some facilities like additional classrooms should also be given emphasis. Learning would not be realized if the environment is not any more conducive. Also, more teachers are also needed to accommodate all the students.

However, though the educational service may lack many things, the center still tries to improve their quality of teaching. One respondent commented that sometimes they are dismissed late because she believes their teacher still wants them to learn more.

On Psychological Service

The clients are checked-up by the psychologist at the center regularly. There are sessions held on different behavior and attitude management. However, this office still needs more assistance and improvement. There is only one psychologist that assists all 260 clients. Though she has two assistants, still, she could not provide them all her service. What she does is she prioritizes those clients who need urgent sessions. In here, I mean, she assists those who would be going to courts for hearings. The rest of clients are just falling next to line.

If there are no sessions with the clients who are going to court hearings, the psychologist daily visits every cottage. She checks-up if there are clients having difficulties in recovering. The problems most of the clients encounter are their boredom while waiting for their slow moving cases. Some are having difficulties in recovering from the trauma of abuse and exploitation. It is very hard for the psychologist to meet all these needs.

I suggest that if it would be impossible to get more psychologists, the center could even hire counselors. Those counselors should be destined to work differently depending on the case. Like for instance, one for the sexually abused, another for the sexually exploited, and one for the youth offenders. The clients may have different psychological needs. The efforts of rehabilitating the clients could also be further enhanced by providing activities wherein the clients are put into difficult situations, not like their situation, and leave them solving to improve their capabilities in handling such situations that could be of help in solving their own.

On Spiritual and Socio-Cultural Service

This is being provided by some concerned non-governmental organizations like the Catholic Women's League, Word for the World Ministry, Lighthouse Youth Ministry, and even some private business organizations like the International Rotary Club. The children are provided activities that would give them normal experiences and treatment such as bible studies, value orientation, parties, and also outdoors activities.

I asked one client what she could say about this service, she said because of these activities, their boredom is lessened. Their stay at the center is made a lot lighter and fun.

The center is open to assist this service. They welcome any parties or groups that desire to reach out to these children. In relation to this, I think the number of programs and activities should also be increased. Especially this summer season where there is no school, creative activities should be provided that would avoid clients from escaping because of boredom.

On Practical Skills Development

As mentioned earlier the girls are provided training skills such as baking, cosmetology, handicrafts making, dressmaking , and stuff toy making. For those who are not schooling at the center, the training courses are taken in six months while some are already incorporated in the curriculum, taken as Techonology and Home Economics subject.

This program makes the girls, even inside the center, productive. Their potentials are tapped here. They are prepared for their discharge that when they are already released, they know how to earn aside from being a prostitute. This would avoid them to resort to their former job. I think this program is a big help on these children. This makes the children responsible, independent, and aware of their other potentials.

However, I think more instructors should be hired. To further increase the knowledge of the children on these skills, new batch of instructors should be accommodated. Even new training courses like food processing, basic computer or secretariat skills, drawing and painting. I can see the girls really have potentials of becoming productive citizens. All they have to do is to enhance them through these courses.

Basically, these are the services the center provides in line with their objective in rehabilitating the girls, providing them recovery measures and making them again normal individuals. The services are not to discriminate the clients, in fact, these are designed to make them back to their normal condition like before they were indulged and lured into prostitution.

I have proven that the services are effective when I asked one client who is about to leave the center. She said:

"Dito sa Marillac, masaya at malungkot rin. Parang normal lang maliban lang sa malayo ako sa tunay kong pamilya. Nakapag-aral ako dito, natuto akong maglinis ng bahay at magluto. Marunong na rin akong gumawa ng tinapay. Marami pa akong naging kaibigan."

If the services are not effective this girl would have not commented like this.

To sum up, although the center is not perfectly realizing its objectives due to shortage in facilities, funds, and human resource, it still manages to deliver the services well, thus it is somehow able to rehabilitate the clients and make them normal, responsible, sociable, and productive individuals.

Chapter Eight

CONCLUSION

Throughout my study, I was able to meet my objectives. First, I was able to determine if Marillac Hills is effective in delivering its programs to its clients. Based on my observations and on the clients', I can say that the center is functioning well although there may be some inevitable reasons such as shortage of funds and staffs. But generally, it delivers the services and it reaches the clients' needs. Secondly, I was also able to see the condition of the clients inside the center. They are coping very well and have become better persons. Though they already want to go home, still, they know that the right time will come for that. They know that they are being prepared for their discharge. While at the center, they are eventually becoming normal persons. They do what the normal kids do, only that they are inside the center, but most likely inside a community. Thirdly, through the interviews and the way the clients responded to my questions, I can say that they have eventually recovered from the trauma. Most of them have now positive perspectives in life. Because of the services, almost all aspect of their being is rehabilitated such as the physical, mental, emotional, psychological, and spiritual. Their potentials to be productive citizens are also tapped and assisted through the practical training courses. Moreover, and lastly, I have also found out that there are some non-government organizations that are trying to reach out and help the clients through coordinating directly with the center. From these, I can now therefore conclude that I was able to meet my objectives.

About the initial statement of my study, if Marillac's program for child prostitutes is effective, I honestly believe and I confirm that the program is definitely effective. In the first place, if it is not, the victims of child prostitution who are rescued by the police would not be brought in the center. Why would the police bring the victims if they know that the program is ineffective in rehabilitating these girls. Why would the clients give positive ratings and comments if the services that they get do not meet their needs. Many of them said that they are contented on the way they are taken care of and that they have changed a lot. Therefore, it only implies that through the program itself, the center has already met its objectives. First, the girls eventually learn to cope up with the stressful and traumatic experiences and develop positive attitudes through homelife and spiritual programs. Their potentials, interest and capacities for economic self-sufficiency are tapped and stimulated through the practical skills training and productivity courses. The clients have become more self-motivated and responsible.

I must admit that before, I have an impression of ineffectiveness and lousiness of institutions like Marillac. I believed that institutions like this are falling short in meeting their objectives. The clients are caught in the middle of this ineffectiveness. However, though I only had a two-month long study of the center, I was able to manage and change my impression. I have now realized that institutions like this need and deserve assistance from us. Through these centers or institutions we can reach out and help our less privileged, discriminated, neglected, abused and exploited fellows.

In the case of child prostitution, Marillac Hills, a government institution, is reaching out for the neglected, abused, and exploited Filipino children. Therefore, we should support it and offer some help or assistance to sustain its mission and objectives.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Sample Questionnaire

Pangalan:
Edad:
Kasarian:
Estadong Sibil:
Kaarawan:
Kasalukuyang tirahan:
Tirahan sa probinsya: (kung meron man)

Pkilagyan ng tsek (/) ang mga patlang na naaayon sa iyong mga sagot.

Ilan kayo sa pamilya?

1-3 _____ 4-6 _____ 7 pataas _____

Pang-ilan ka?

Panganay _____
Pangalawa _____
Pangatlo _____
Pang-apat at pataas _____
Bunso _____

Meron bang trabaho ang mga magulang mo?

Tatay OO _____ Wala _____
Nanay OO _____ Wala _____

Magkano ang kinikita ng mga magulang mo araw-araw? (kung meron man)

	Tatay	Nanay
P75 pababa	_____	- _____
P100	_____	_____
P150	_____	_____
P200	_____	_____
P250 pataas	_____	_____

Ilang buwan ka na sa DSWD?

1-3 buwan _____

4-6 buwan _____

6 na buwan pataas _____

Paano ka napunta sa pangangalaga ng DSWD?

Kusa _____ may nagdala _____ kinuha ng DSWD

Ano ang naramdaman mo nang una kang mapunta dito?

Kinabahan at natakot _____

Natuwa at nagkaroon ng pag-asa _____

Nagyon, ano na ang nararamdaman mo?

Kinakabahan at natatakot pa rin _____

Natutuwa at Nagkakaroon na ng pag-asa _____

Nagkaroon ka ba ng maraming kaibigan dito?

OO _____ Wala _____

Sa palagay mo ba, mas nakabuti sa iyo ang pagkakapunta mo dito?

OO _____ Hindi masyado _____

Masaya ka ba ngayon?

OO _____ Hindi masyado _____

Natutugunan ba ang mga pangangailangan mo dito?

OO _____ Hindi masyado _____

Maayos ba ang relasyon mo sa mga nag-aalaga sa iyo dito?

OO _____ Hindi masyado _____

Nag-iba ba ang pagtingin mo sa iyong sarili?

OO, naging mabuti _____ Hindi, naging masama _____

Nagkaroon ba ng mga pagbabago sa iyong sarili?

OO _____

Wala _____

Naging masayahin _____

Naging malungkutin _____

Naging pasensyoso _____

Naging mainipin _____

Naging positibo ang _____

Naging negatibo ang _____

pagtingin sa buhay _____

pagtingin sa buhay _____

Nalaman mo na at naintindihan ang mga karapatan bilang isang bata?

OO _____

Hindi masyado _____

Kung may makikita ka na bata na nakakaranas ng mga naranasan mo noon, dadalhin mo ba siya dito?

OO _____

Hindi _____

Kung bibigyan mo ng marka ang mga pasilidad dito, ano ang ibibigay mo?

10 (pinakamataas) at 1 (pinakamababa)

10 _____

5 _____

9 _____

4 _____

8 _____

3 _____

7 _____

2 _____

6 _____

1 _____

Kung bibigyan mo ng marka ang mga nag-aalaga sa iyo dito, ano ang ibibigay mo?

10 _____

5 _____

9 _____

4 _____

8 _____

3 _____

7 _____

2 _____

6 _____

1 _____

Appendix B -Guideline Questions used in the interview portion.

1. Ilang taon ka na?
2. Saang probinsya ka galing? (Kung meron man)
3. Ilan kayong magkakapatid?
4. Pang-ilan ka?
5. Anong trabaho ng tatay mo? Ng nanay mo?
6. Nag-aaral ka pa ba?
7. Hanggang saan o anong year ka umabot bago ka nagtrabaho?
8. Paano at bakit nagtrabaho ka agad?
9. Paano ka napasok sa ganoong trabaho?
10. Gaano ka katagal dun?
11. Paano ka nakaalis sa ganong trabaho?
12. Kelan at paano ka napunta dito sa Marillac?
13. May nagdala ba sa iyo?
14. Anong naramdaman mo nung dinala ka dito? Natuwa ka ba? O Natakot?
15. Gaano ka na katagal dito?
16. Kamusta naman ang pananatili mo dito?
17. Nagkaroon ka ba ng maraming kaibigan?
18. Bago ka dinala dito, anong naramdaman mo sa iyong sarili? Nagalit ka ba? Nawalan ng pag-asa?
19. Ngayon, may mga pagbabago ba sa iyong sarili? Tulad ng ano?
20. Ano-ano namang mga gawain ang pinagkaka-abalahanan nyo dito?
21. Paano ba ang buhay dito? Sa isang buong araw, ano-ano ang mga ginagawa o activities ninyo? (Kwento)
22. Sa cottage nyo, paano ang relasyon nyo sa mga houseparents?
23. Nararamdaman mo ba sa kanila ang tunay na pag-aalaga at pagmamahal?
24. Kamusta naman ang relasyon nyo sa isa't isa ng mga kasamahan mo?
25. May mga pagkakataon ba na nag-aaway din kayo? Katulad ng anong bagay?
26. Kagaya ng sa isang bahay, may mga patakaran rin ba kayong sinusunod dito?
Kagaya ng kung anong oras dapat manood ng t.v.? Anong oras dapat matulog at gumising? May nakatoka ba kung sinong magluluto? maghuhugas ng pinggan? O maglilinis ng bahay?
27. Ilan ba ang kwarto nyo dito? Ilan kayo sa isang kwarto?
28. Paano naman natutugunan ung mga personal nyong gamit o pangangailangan?
Halimbawa, ilang sachet ng shampoo sa isang linggo? Sabon? Paano pag mayroon kang dalaw, saan ka kukuha ng gamit?
29. Tuwing kailan ibinibigay ang mga gamit na ito?
30. Sa pagkain, sino ang nagluluto? Paano nyo pinaghahatian ang pagkain?
31. Gaano karami ang ulam at kanin?
32. Paano natatapos ang araw sa cottage nyo? Bago ba matulog, sabay-sabay kayong nagdadasal o sa sarili na lang? May iba pa ba kayong pinagkakaabalahan ng sama-sama? Halimbawa, naglalaro o nagkukwentuhan?

33. Paggising mo sa umaga, ano-ano ang mga una mong gingawa?
34. Pumapasok ka rin ba sa skul dito?
35. Kumusta naman ang mga teachers nyo? Mababait ba sila? Natutugunan naman ba ang mga gamit, libro at iba nyo pang pangangailangan dito?
36. Ilang oras ba ang klase nyo?
37. Pagkagaling sa eskwela, ano naman ang susunod na karaniwang gingawa mo?
38. Marunong ka rin bang manahi?
39. Paano kayo tinuturuan nito?
40. Mag-bake o gumawa ng tinapay?
41. Ano-ano pa yung ibang mga natutunan nyong gawain dito?
42. Pag nagkakasakit kayo, sino at paano kayo inaalagaan?
43. Mayroon bang clinic dito? Doktor? Dentista? Nurse?
44. Ano-ano pa ung iba nyo pang pinagkakaabalahanan? Pag may birthday, paano nyo sine-celebrate?
45. Mayroon din bang mga palaro o iba pang masasayang okasyon kayong idinadaos dito? Tulad ng parties, campings o bible studies.
46. Paano naman ang relasyon nyo sa mga social workers dito?
47. Pag may iba pa kayong mga pangangailangan, nasasabi nyo ba sa kanila?
48. Malapit ba kayo sa kanila?
49. Ano pang ibang mga pangangailangan nyo ang sa palagay mo'y di pa nila naibibigay? O sa plagay mo'y ano pa ung mga bgay na dapat pa nilang idagadag upang malubos ang pananatili mo dito?
50. Kung ikaw ay tatanungin at aalis ka na dito, masasabi mo bang nakatulong ang mga programa nila dito sa iyo? Sa paanong paraan?
51. Kung may makita o makilala ka ba na batang dumadanas sa pinagdaan mo nun, hindi ka ba mag-aatubili na dalhin siya dito?
52. At sa pag-alis mo dito, paano mo mailalarawan ang pagtigil mo pansamantala sa Marillac? Ano ang iyong mga karanasan?