



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER

2021-2022

annual report

Annual Report

2021-2022

Social Development Research Center
De La Salle University Manila



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Social Development Research Center
De La Salle University Manila

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Message from the Director

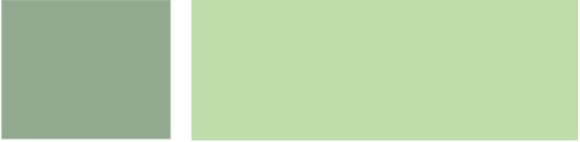
Lasallian Greetings!

It is my pleasure to share with you the activities and projects of SDRC in the last academic year. Despite the pandemic, our Center was still able to continue its operations. A manifestation of its agility and ingenuity, SDRC has managed a great number of projects and activities outnumbering the pre-pandemic years. The Center has conducted capacity-building seminars, both paid and pro-bono, with our partners.



With the ease in travel restrictions, the center has also conducted a social engagement activity with the Alangan Mangyan in Baco, Oriental Mindoro. Over 150 families received relief goods and children of the community were treated to a meal. The Center also visited two institutions for higher learning in the province of Camiguin in Northern Mindanao to conduct free capacity building on journal article writing with Dr. Zaldy Collado as the resource speaker. We also celebrated our 43rd anniversary with the theme “Introspection and Application: Making a Post-Pandemic World Possible.”

I wish to thank the research fellows of the Center for bringing in new projects. In this academic year, the Center managed more than 10 externally-funded projects. As a result of the pandemic, our fellows and their research associates



and assistants had to shift strategies by making use of online platforms to be able to carry out data-gathering activities, something that we did not really anticipate during the pre-pandemic years.

It is also worth mentioning that SDRC's social science volume of its COVID-19 book project entitled "Narratives and Knowledge in the Midst of the COVID-19 Lockdown" edited by Dr. Romeo Lee was released this year. I wish to thank all contributors for a job well done. The Humanities Volume will be released in due course.

At this point, I sincerely thank all our funders, research fellows and their associates and assistants, and most especially the staff of SDRC for their contributions toward making the past year a success.

Animo Lasalle!

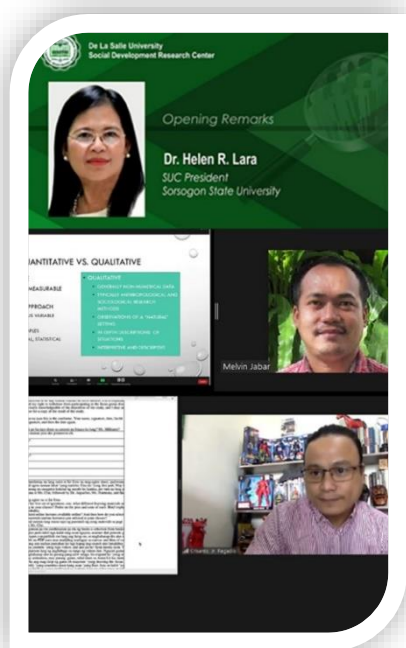


Dr. Melvin A. Jabar

Institutional or Organizational Development Initiatives

“Why Qualitative Research?” SDRC Conducts “Why Qualitative Research” Webinar with Sorsogon State University

Forging on in its efforts to navigate the New Normal, the Social Development Research Center conducted the second in its virtual webinar workshops for provincial state universities and colleges on August 4, 2021 with “A Guide to Qualitative Research for Sorsogon State University.” The event conducted via Zoom was participated in by over 30 members of the SSU faculty led by its president Dr. Helen Rosas Lara. Through the webinar workshop, the Center hoped to contribute toward Dr. Lara’s development goals of valuing research, extension and production toward the success of the University and the community.



The day-long event was divided into a morning session focusing on the principles of qualitative research and an afternoon session providing an overview on the use of the NVivo software for data analysis. SDRC Director Dr. Melvin Jabar opened the webinar by explaining that it was part of a social engagement program conceptualized prior to the pandemic to offer capacity building training on qualitative research to social science faculty in 12 SUCs across the Philippines. He proceeded with his presentation on the principles of qualitative research, and reminded participants that its goals were to elicit meaning, provide context, explain the process, and discuss the reasoning behind why people act and behave the way they do. In the

afternoon, Behavioral Sciences Department Vice-Chair Dr. Crisanto Regadio walked participants through the NVivo software, which he explained enabled users to be more objective and methodical in their data analysis. Faculty were afforded a hands-on experience in creating data files, importing Word files such as transcripts to project files, and doing coding (creating nodes).

Through the discussions and in the open forum that followed, Dr. Jabar and Dr. Regadio responded to participants' questions on using NVivo, and on conducting qualitative research.

PUP Arts and Letters Faculty Participate in SDRC Capacity Building Workshop

Faculty members of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters participated in a capacity building workshop focusing on qualitative and quantitative research from September 27 to 30, 2021 via Zoom.

Conducted by SDRC, the training was attended by 45 registrants representing the departments of Humanities and Philosophy, Filipinology, and English and Foreign Languages and Linguistics.

Day 1 of the workshop began with Dr. Joahna Estacio of the DLSU Department of English and Applied Linguistics giving a presentation on "Action Research in Education" and Dr. Myla Arcinas of the DLSU Department of Sociology and Behavioral Sciences conducting a session on "Action Research for Community Projects." Day 2 started with Prof. Alicia Manlagnit of



the DLSU Department of Sociology and Behavioral Sciences sharing her knowledge of “Qualitative Research Methods” with Dr. Dennis Erasga of the DLSU Department of Sociology and Behavioral Sciences speaking on “Qualitative Data Analysis” in the afternoon. Day 3’s resource person for the morning session was Dr. Homer Yabut of the DLSU Department of Psychology, who guided participants through a discussion on “Quantitative Research Methods”; Dr. Marites Tiongco of the DLSU School of Economics discussed “Quantitative Data Analysis” in the afternoon session. The final day of the workshop opened with Dr. Crisanto Regadio of the DLSU Department of Sociology and Behavioral Sciences presenting “Evaluation Research,” and

closing the workshop was SDRC Senior Research Fellow Dr. Ma. Elena Chiong Javier, who shared her expertise on “Participatory Action Research.”

Each presentation was followed by group activities in which participants were able to apply the new knowledge they learned, and a sharing of “AHA! Moments” in which they reflected on research concepts they resonated with.



Virtual Meeting Place for Junior Researchers Hosted by SDRC

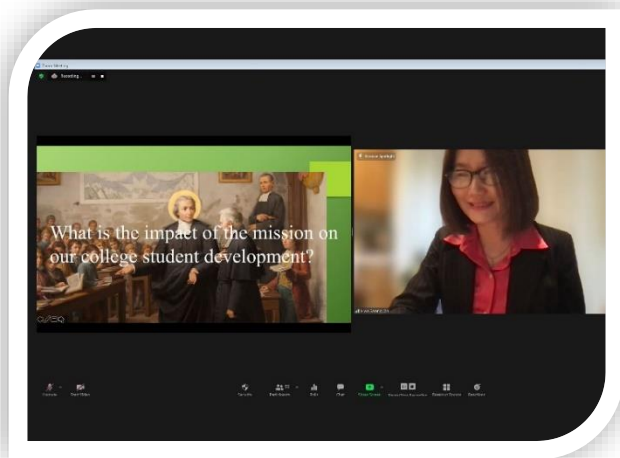
Over forty junior researchers from the Philippines, Pakistan and Indonesia responded to the Social Development Research Center's invitation to participate in its "Research Speed Dating" event on March 28, 2022 via Zoom. The activity served as a venue for social science researchers to meet and become part of possible research collaborations through funding opportunities from the government of the United Kingdom, the Canadian Institute of Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the National Institute for Health Research (UK), Global Health Policy and Systems Research (UK), the Stockholm Environment Institute, and the International Peace Research Association (US).



By interacting in break-out groups, participants were able to share their current research involvements and explore topics of common interest for interdisciplinary and inter-country alliances. As the activity was a first-time experience for many, challenges in becoming familiar with the format and in "warming up" to others in a group setting were encountered, but registrants expressed appreciation for the chance to participate and to make new acquaintances for future exchanges.

Presentation on Examining Student Response to Lasallian Mission and Values Held Online

Dr. Hwa Seong Oh, a success coach at the Office of Students Engagement and Academic Success of St. Mary's College in California, spoke on "International Research on College Students' Perceptions Regarding the Impact of the Lasallian Mission on Their Development" in an event hosted by SDRC on March 30, 2022 via Zoom.



In her presentation, Dr. Oh shared the findings of her study, focusing on the perceptions of the mission impact on students' holistic development in institutions of higher education. Using a survey instrument she developed called the Lasallian Mission Impact Inventory, she looked into the academic, spiritual, social and career development of students in Africa (Christ the Teacher Institute for Education, Tangaza University College, Kenya), Asia and

Oceania (DLSU-Philippines), Europe-Mediterranean (UniLasalle, Beauvais, France), Latin America (Universidad La Salle, Mexico), and North America (Bethlehem University, Palestine and Saint Mary's College). She found that many students in Lasallian institutions of higher education across the Lasallian Regions understand and value the mission, and that the mission has significant impact on the holistic development of students who value it. Her research data also indicated the importance and need for effective mission formation and integration. With regard to DLSU students, she found that the impact of the Lasallian mission on social development of students is significant, especially so for those who value the Lasallian mission.

After an open forum in which feedback was provided by participants, a roundtable discussion on strengthening the impact of Lasallian Mission to be participated in by representatives of the regional schools and facilitated by Dr. Oh, SDRC Director Dr. Melvin A. Jabar and DLSU Lasallian Pastoral Office Director James Laxa was planned as a future event.

SDRC Conducts Face-to-Face Social Engagement in Mindoro

The Social Development Research Center continued its social engagement outreach activities with its first face-to-face visit to a vulnerable community two years since the interruption caused by COVID-19 in March 2020.

Taking advantage of the opportunity to continue with the program now that health restrictions have eased, the visit to a Mangyan partner community in Sitio Banilad, Dulangan 2 in Baco, Oriental Mindoro was conducted on the morning of March 31, capping a week of events commemorating the Center's 43rd anniversary.

The SDRC Team led by its Director Dr. Melvin Jabar and including members of the core staff and former research assistants, and staff from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation and the Department of Sociology and Behavioral Science, was able to distribute relief goods to 160 households in the community. Ms. Julie Panaligan assisted the team in the distribution, as well as in the feeding of *lugaw* prepared by the staff to some 80 grade school children.



The activity brought a fitting close to this year’s anniversary activities, which had as a theme “Introspection and Application: Making a Post-Pandemic World Possible.”

Capacity Building and Social Engagement Activities Conducted in Region 10

The in-person SDRC capacity building training program was revived in 2022 when a presentation on “The Art and Science of Journal Article Publication” was conducted at Fatima College and the Camiguin Polytechnic State College on



August 1 in Mambajao. Resource person Dr. Zaldy Collado, an SDRC research associate and Department of Behavioral Sciences and Sociology associate professorial lecturer, shared samples of correspondence from his own attempts at submitting to academic journals and mapped out a simple but concise six-step plan to increase participants’ chances of journal publication. He later fielded questions about submission requirements and

about whether DLSU journals accepted submissions from external researchers, provided recommendations for where students could send their articles, and encouraged junior faculty to collaborate with mentors in order to gain publishing experience.

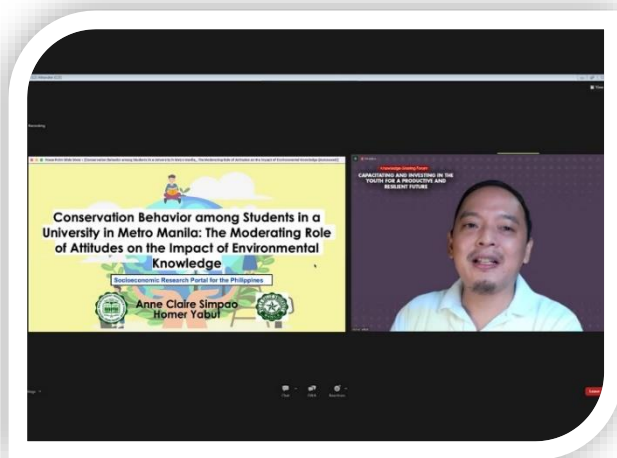
The event marked a welcome return to the Center’s on-site nationwide capacity building training program for state universities and colleges, which was initiated in 2018 but was halted by the pandemic in 2020.

To supplement their training activities, the SDRC team toured heritage sites and nature reserves in Camiguin, the country's second smallest province, before moving on to Bukidnon. There they held a social engagement activity with the Talaandig community in Lantapan. During the visit, elder women tribal leaders, called "bae," spoke about the Talaandigs' cultural beliefs and practices. Representing the group, Bae Lisa Saway emphasized that it would be "a crime not to pass on our traditions to the next generation." The elders performed a ritual of welcome and acceptance of the team, and blessed the members as they continued their journey. The visit was highlighted by dance performances of children, young women and elder women mimicking the planting cycle and the movements of animals in their surroundings. Before departing from Lantapan, the team stopped by the gallery of artist Salima Saway, who demonstrated the use of soil in her paintings depicting figures and incidents in the Talaandigs' past.



Yabut Speaks on Conservation Behavior among the Youth

Dr. Homer Yabut, Department of Psychology associate professor and SDRC research fellow, spoke on behalf of the Center during the “SERP-P Knowledge-Sharing Forum on Capacitating and Investing in the Youth for a Productive and Resilient Future” conducted on August 11 via Zoom and Facebook Live. Presenting a paper entitled “Conservation Behavior among Students in a University in Metro Manila: The Moderating Role of Attitudes on the Impact of Environmental Knowledge,” co-authored with researcher Anne Claire Simpao, Dr. Yabut observed that positive attitudes about conservation can enhance the relationship between environmental knowledge and conservation behavior.



The study discovered that female university students aged 27 and above, who were at the undergraduate level and in their fifth year or higher, with a family income of P20,000 and below, had the highest level of engagement in conservation behavior. Possible reasons for this were that women demonstrated greater affinity and support for the environment; older students provided support for themselves and their families, and thus had

limited use of basic necessities and other spending; and that college students had more positive attitudes toward the environment.

Given these findings, it was recommended that educational institutions focus on environmental topics that are action-oriented and promote sustainable practices; students make an effort to be more knowledgeable about environmental matters, both on and off campus; and that universities

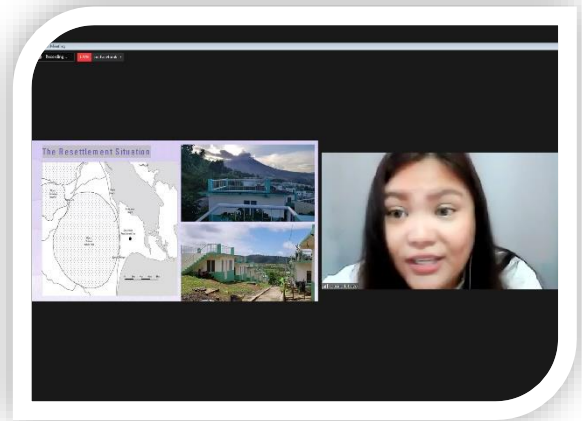
supplement environmental education with practices and regulations that can help shape positive conservation behavior among students.

The virtual forum was conducted as the contribution of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) to the observance of International Youth Day on August 12.

Academic/Scholarly Activities

Webinar on Resettlement and the Threat to Indigenous Peoples' Identity Conducted

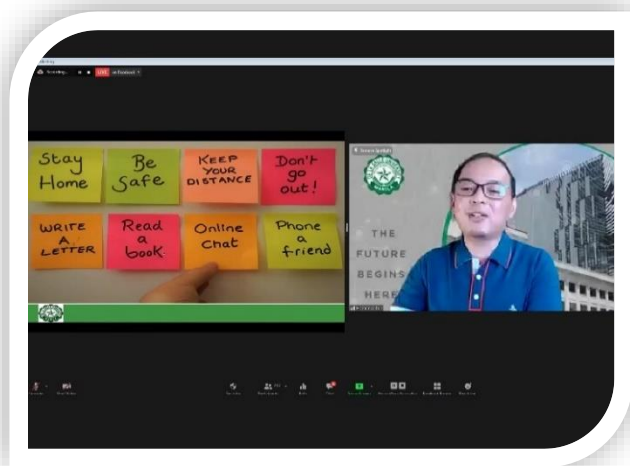
A presentation entitled “Disaster, Resettlement, Vulnerability: A Case Study of Indigenous People in the Bicol Region of the Philippines” was hosted by the Social Development Research Center on March 4 over Zoom. During the webinar, Dr. Czarina Labayo of the DLSU Department of Sociology and Behavioral Science described the plight of the indigenous Ati people in their resettlement in a safe zone just outside the Mayon Volcano National Park. Focusing on the relationship between post-disaster resettlement and the vulnerability caused by culture loss among IPs, she spoke of how the Ati continue to live in danger despite their transfer from the foot of Mayon to housing in the San Andres Resettlement Site in Sto. Domingo, Albay, specifically because their traditional health system is being replaced by Western bio-medical practices.



Citing examples from the Ati's experience, Dr. Labayo illustrated how the Philippine government controlled the community after they had been moved to the resettlement site. Most significantly, the Ati's traditional health system was disregarded by the LGU's health workers, who found their methods of diagnosis and use of "kahoy-kahoy" or herbal medicines primitive and ineffective. In cases illustrating their predicament, Dr. Labayo shared stories of unfortunate outcomes of treatment of illness by doctors, leading community members to refrain from visiting health centers when they may need to.

An estimated 125 registrants viewed the webinar, including those from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Foundation University-Dumaguete, the Philippine Army General Hospital, and Mentari Intercultural School-Jakarta.

Discussion on the Challenges of a Post-Pandemic Transition Held



Psychology Department faculty member and SDRC research fellow Dr. Homer Yabut delivered a presentation entitled "Facing the Challenges of the Post-Pandemic Transition" on March 29 via Zoom. The topic drew nearly 300 viewers to attend the webinar, with many seeking guidelines on how to walk the tightrope between eased pandemic restrictions and the continuing threat posed by the virus.

Citing the WHO definition of Post-Pandemic Transition as a "decrease of pandemic surveillance due to a decrease in pandemic outbreak," with

organizations in charge remaining vigilant in ensuring preparedness, Dr. Yabut – a licensed psychologist and an advocate for providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS) during disasters, calamities, and the pandemic – illustrated how changes and challenges in this transition can lead to post-pandemic anxiety. Anticipating that participants would seek answers on how to overcome such situational stress, Dr. Yabut identified adaptability – the capacity to be flexible, to adjust, and to cope – as essential in managing the post-pandemic transition. Specifically, the ability to “reframe” or adjust one’s mindset, to manage one’s emotional responses, and to alter one’s behavior to change are the components he cited as being vital to adaptability.

Sharing a reflection learned from his mentor, the late Dr. Bobby Mendoza, Dr. Yabut relayed that “The narrow stream complains about the rocks, the ocean shapes them.” Adaptability takes place when people change their attitudes and take charge in shaping what happens in their lives. He likened the pandemic to a gift to be unpacked – it is up to the recipient to determine how they “see” what its contents are.

OSAEC Remote Counseling Team Conducts Pilot Testing Validation Workshop

In its first face-to-face research activity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Social Development Research Center sponsored a validation workshop for the “Pilot Testing of Remote Counseling for OSAEC Survivors” on May 12 and 13 in Clark, Pampanga. Led by project director Dr. Maria Caridad Tarroja, the remote counseling project seeks to address the questions “What factors facilitate accessing and utilizing the remote counseling protocol?”, “What are the challenges experienced by various stakeholders in



accessing and utilizing the remote counseling protocol?”, and “How does remote counseling help the OSAEC (Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children) victims/survivors?”.

Based on the study’s findings, it was determined that the remote counseling protocol was made more accessible due to factors including the availability of infrastructure such as gadgets and ensuring privacy; familiarity with gadgets and the Zoom platform, and reframing the online space as a vehicle for healing rather than for exploitation; the assistance of remote counseling liaisons; the supervision of remote counselors, which enhanced the remote counseling



experience and provided direction on where to get strategies; coordination involving fast and prompt communication and the capacity to adjust to schedule changes; orientation of stakeholders, which facilitated clear contingency plans in case of technical glitches; and good partnerships with LGUs, which helped community-based survivors access the program.

The challenges experienced by stakeholders regarding the remote counseling protocol included difficulty in communicating with reintegrated community-based survivors, delayed responses from parties involved, and remote counselors difficulty in coordinating directly with clients; matching schedules and availability; lack of infrastructure such as gadgets, private space, and stable internet connection; lack of familiarity with technology; the need to ensure internet safety; and limited time to conduct activities and accomplish worksheets.

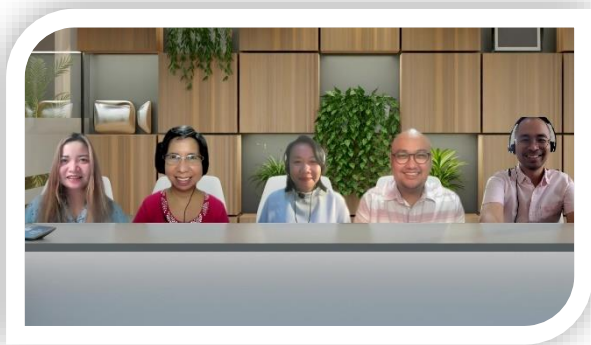
Feedback from the liaison officers, remote counselors, and other stakeholders indicated that collaboration would improve with the creation of guidelines, particularly with respect to the roles and responsibilities of the parties, and the establishment of establish a brief feedback protocol before and after sessions. With regard to the referral protocol, it was suggested that procedures be identified for clients that do not fit the inclusion criteria and that a referral network be established. Lastly, it was noted that the module would be more effective if the number of sessions was increased to 10 or 12, and recommended that a version of intervention for younger OSAEC survivors be looked into.

The validation workshop was attended by institutional partners Mary Grace Canda, program director of Lost Coin Ministries Foundation, Inc.; Alma Baoc-Daug, administrative social worker of Happy Horizons Children’s Ranch; Shalamel C. Sollano and Meg P. Cabanacan, social workers, and Adesty P. Dulawan, clinical supervisor of World Hope International; Janet B. Ganzan of the Department of Social Work and Development Haven for Women, Region 10; and Imee Jean Regala, social worker of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) Philippines, Inc.



Research Team Discusses How Filipino Youth Respond to Online Bullying and Harassment

Members of the Department of Communication and the Department of Psychology composing a recent SDRC research team shared their findings and launched their research report entitled “How Filipino Youth Identify and Act on Bullying and Harassment on Social Media” on July 8 via Zoom and Facebook Live. The study involved interviews with Filipino youth aged 15-24 from four sites across the country: Manila (for the National Capital Region), Batangas (for Luzon), Negros Occidental (for Visayas), and Misamis Occidental (for Mindanao), to understand and spotlight what young Filipinos consider as constitutive of bullying and harassment on social media, and how they are impacted by and act on them.

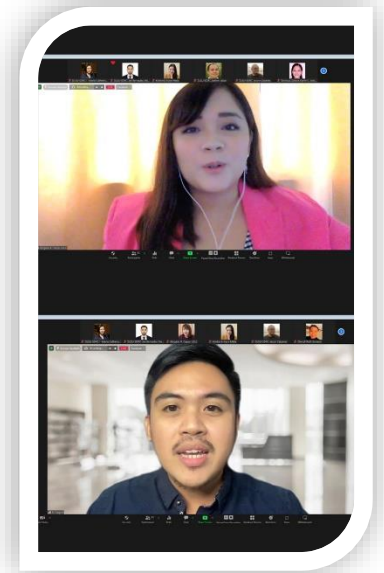


Project director Dr. Cheryll Ruth Soriano opened the presentation with an explanation of the study’s approach, explaining that research and interventions on the topic of Filipino youth’s response to bullying and harassment on social media needed to be grounded on experience, and that the study’s focus was on youth as active social media users. Co-investigator Dr.

Maria Caridad Tarroja – also a former SDRC director – spoke on the study’s findings in relation to mental health, particularly regarding youth’s consequent views about the self, about others, and about the world. A synthesis of these findings was presented by co-investigator Dr. Jason Cabañes, who explained that the key factors in how Filipino youth assess the severity of bullying and harassment online involved 1) how well they are able to manage and work around social media’s technological affordances; and 2) their proximity or perceived closeness to people, groups or beliefs that are featured in online content. Co-investigator Dr. Jan Michael Bernadas concluded the team’s

presentation by sharing their recommendations, particularly citing the need to recognize the different contexts in which stakeholders are situated, and to determine what they need to know and what they can do.

The discussion was followed by a presentation of three videos being used in the campaign to raise awareness. Two reactors were invited to provide their thoughts on the research: Dr. Abigail Capay, a registered psychologist at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod who was also a field coordinator for the study, stressed the importance of teaching children kindness as part of creating a healthier environment, since it was likely that youth would confide in their peers instead of in their parents and counselors. Mental health advocate Dr. RJ Naguit, meanwhile, proposed that bullying be viewed in terms of the system, since social media is a means of securing validation, and it is those who do not conform that experience bullying; he further noted that social media was also a platform that could be maximized by providing referral pathways for mental health.



A wealth of topics was discussed during the open forum, during which issues on the importance of conducting awareness campaigns, identifying concrete forms of response, the need for youth to familiarize themselves with the technical affordances of social media, how to deal with bullying within the family, whether bullying equates to meanness, and what can be done to help youth to deal with the oppressive elements in society, were raised and initially addressed.

The webinar presentation and open forum was hosted and moderated by Kimberly Kaye Mata, one of the study's co-authors. An estimated 100 viewers including those from the LGU of Cabanatuan City, St. Louise de Marillac College of Sorsogon, Camarines Norte State College, Occidental Mindoro State College, Cebu Institute of Technology, Foundation University in Dumaguete City, and St. Patrick School of Quezon City participated in the webinar presentation.

Research Projects

Mental Health and HIV among Call Centre Employees in the Philippines: Co-producing a Workplace Intervention using a Systems Approach

Funding Agency: Medical Research Council through The University of Glasgow

Project Director: Maria Guadalupe Salanga

Co-Investigator: Niño Jose Mateo

The aim of this project was to understand how the workplace setting (or system) shapes both mental health and HIV risk. The investigators worked with call center employees and their managers to understand their priorities and identify aspects of the workplace that they think could provide potential solutions. Having agreed on these solutions, they were tried out in the workplace, and managers and employers were asked for their views on how well they address the issues, how easy they are to implement and whether they represent value for money. The solutions consider the physical environment, working culture and wider social influences to ensure it is acceptable, and easy to deliver in the long-term. The project involved workshops with employees and managers, as well as interviews with employees and outside experts. The aim of the investigators was to come up with a final design that call centers and stakeholders in industry and government think would be worth evaluating on a wider scale. They are also sharing lessons with other researchers on methods for designing interventions in corporate settings.



Development, Pre-test and Pilot Testing of Remote Counseling Program for OSAEC Victims/Survivors (Phase 2)

Funding Agency: The Asia Foundation


Project Director: Maria Caridad Tarroja

Research Associates: Patricia Simon, Ma. Araceli Alcala, and Agnes Villegas

Project Coordinator: Gelivic Bacalso

Phase 1 of the “Development and Pilot Testing of Remote Counseling Protocols for OSAEC (Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation) Survivors and Victims” project involved the development of the protocol based on relevant literature and key informant interviews. Findings in Phase 1 of the study indicated that delivering remote counseling services to OSAEC survivors needs to consider the following aspects: telehealth (also referred to as telemental health, telepsychology, and remote counseling) best practices, the unique experience of OSAEC survivors, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The six-step method identified by Shore and Manson (2005) in setting up telepsychiatry services includes (1) needs identification, (2) infrastructure survey, (3) partnership organization, (4) structure configuration (protocols), (5) pilot implementation, and (6) solidification.

Steps 1 and 2 were completed in Phase 1, and Steps 3 to 6 were implemented in Phase 2, which sought to describe and facilitate the implementation of brief and evidence-based interventions for remote counseling of individual OSAEC survivors. The resulting Treatment Manual for OSAEC Survivors is intended for the use of counselors who have been trained in its use by the researchers. It is written in a way that tries to strike a balance between adherence to trauma-informed psychotherapeutic, structured interventions and therapist autonomy in carrying out interventions on a session-per-session basis. It is faithful to the themes and framework that the research has shown to be helpful for survivors of OSAEC, although the Manual allows some flexibility that may be necessary in the conduct of remote counseling. The Manual is targeted for survivors who are at least 15 years old, as borne from findings of the researchers’ study that



younger victims are incapable of viewing themselves as victims, and thus may not yet experience/suffer the effects of OSAEC. It is also the intent of the Manual to capture the heterogeneous nature of the OSAEC experience; thus, whether survivors have acknowledged their abuse or not, the ultimate goal of trauma-informed care is to prevent re-traumatizing the survivor.

Needs Assessment Profiling, Business Continuity Capability Assessment, and Private Sector Core Humanitarian Standard

Funding Agency: Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, Inc.

Project Director: Crisanto Regadio, Jr.

Research Associates: Melvin Jabar and Axell Alterado

This study intended to come up with assessment tools that will promote the use of risk assessment and business continuity in the overall management of MSMEs. The production of these assessment tools was based on the principles of management by fact, data driven disaster management, and a participatory approach to assessment formulation.

Non-Health Determinants of Family Planning Use among Women with Disabilities


Funding Agency: *Philippine Society for Responsible Parenthood, Inc.*

Project Director: Mary Janet Arnado

Research Associates: Zaldy Collado

Research Assistant: Joseph Cadeliña

This research was conducted in the context of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and PSRP's efforts to work with Philippine government agencies toward attaining national development priorities, including the global agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. It sought to 1) examine the non-health determinants of family planning use among women with disabilities; and



2) determine the consequences of family planning on their lives. It further sought to explain why women with disabilities are left behind with regard to family planning information and services, how they make do without them, and what happens to their families when they are excluded.

Brokering Labor in the Local Platform Labor Economy: Towards Fairer Work Conditions

Funding Agency: Deutsche Gesellschaft for Internationale Zusammenarbeiten (GiZ) GmbH through the University of Oxford

Project Director: Cheryll Ruth Soriano

Co-Investigator: Pamela Custodio

Legal Consultant: Antonette Bautista

Research Associate: Chana Marie Garcia

Research Assistant: Margreta Lanzador Medina

This project examined the conditions of workers engaged in on-demand service and cloudwork platforms, and the socio-technical infrastructure underlying them, and assessed the labor arrangements facilitated by labor platform design using five fairwork principles: fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management, and fair representation. The project aimed to arrive at policy and program interventions for shaping fairer local labor standards and structures for gig and freelance workers (specifically) and for the global digital economy (broadly). For Phase 1, the research involved the analysis and scoring of the labor conditions on eight platforms operating in the Philippines, to run for approximately six months. The review employed three methods: 1) desk research (platform design and contract analysis); 2) interviews/ FGD with workers; and 3) interviews with platform managers.

Review and Assessment of Population Management Policies of National Level

Funding Agency: Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM)

Project Director: Roberto Javier, Jr.

Research Associates: Antonio Contreras, Dennis Erasga
and Alexander Dagalea

This project sought to analyze current population management policies in terms of their responsiveness, comprehensiveness and effectiveness in addressing emerging population issues within the development context, and provide recommended policy actions and strategies that could be proposed for national legislation to enhance the existing national population policy. Such analysis and recommendations were expected to catapult and prepare the country for the transition that would help it reap the benefits of the demographic dividend that the POPCOM, as the government agency tasked with implementing a population policy, sought to guide the Philippines to pursue.


Qualitative and Quantitative Research Capacity Building Workshop

Funding Agency: Polytechnic University of the Philippines

Project Director: Melvin Jabar

Resource Persons: Ma. Joahna Estacio, Myla Arcinas, Alicia Manlagnit,
Dennis Erasga, Homer Yabut, Marites Tiongco,
Crisanto Regadio, Jr. and Ma. Elena Javier

This workshop guided participants on 1) learning how to do qualitative and quantitative research (including its processes, principles, methods, modalities); 2) research capacity building; 3) learning research methods (enhancing research capacity, increasing knowledge); 4) familiarization with easy to understand methods and principles in research; 5) learning ethical and



culturally sensitive research methodologies; 6) developing an appreciation of qualitative research (in-depth appreciation); and 7) gaining knowledge on evaluation research, action research, and participatory action research.

Study of Convicted OSEC Traffickers in the Philippines

Funding Agency: Justice and Care

Project Director: Melvin Jabar

Research Associates: Maria Caridad Tarroja and Zaldy Collado

Online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) has increased exponentially in recent years with the rapid growth of high-speed internet connectivity, increased mobile devices and access to online payment mechanisms. Vulnerability to OSEC has only heightened throughout the COVID-19 lockdown, with customers and facilitators enjoying an unprecedented level of access to children. This study adopted a mixed-method case study design in order to investigate the dynamics of “supply side” OSEC offending in the Philippines and these offenders’ interactions with consumers of OSEC (“demand side” offenders). The primary objectives of this study were to develop knowledge of how these offenders committed their crimes, to inform strategies related to investigation (law enforcement) and facilitation (technological and financial sectors); and to understand why these offenders chose to commit OSEC crimes, to better inform protective, preventative, and rehabilitative measures. The study is slated to be published and shared in order to inform decisions related to education, prevention, intervention, prosecution, aftercare, and other policies and practices.



Reducing Inequities on Immunization in Urban Poor Communities in the Philippines (Manila and Taguig City)

Funding Agency: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Project Director: Mary Janet Arnado

Research Associate: Joseph Cadelina

The REP project area consisted of 28 barangays in Taguig City and 22 barangays in the City of Manila. Several strategic activities were conducted to improve implementation capacities of health staff and increase support of various barangay leaders and stakeholders primarily. These activities were focused on improving governance and leadership at the barangay level, increasing access to and improving the quality of immunization services, increasing demand for immunization services as well as monitoring and evaluation of the immunization services that were delivered.

This evaluation includes a review and assessment of the processes and outcomes in terms of the key components of the project. Activities that were conducted and the participation of various stakeholders were also evaluated. The opinions and observations of the project stakeholders were assessed to come up with specific interventions that would be applied in the development of a policy brief and scaling up within other areas in the country. Project impact was evaluated based on the immunization outcomes and processes that have lasting impact on the behaviors and perceptions of local stakeholders, primarily the health staff, barangay leaders and volunteer health workers. The review focuses on effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project since its implementation from June 2016 to August 2020.



Development and Pre-Testing of the BNS Handbook on First 1000 Days

Funding Agency: National Nutrition Council (NNC)

Project Director: Melvin Jabar

Research Team: Rowell Madula (Writer), Axell Alterado (Writer), Angelique Santos (Writer), Zaldy Collado (FGD Facilitator) and Jeremy Eric Santos (Graphic Artist)

The Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) Program is a human resource development strategy of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, which involves capacity building, deployment and supervision of volunteer workers on nutrition or the BNS. In 2010, a five-day introductory course was developed for the BNS, while a handbook focusing on their role in the barangay nutrition program management followed in 2012. The National Nutrition Council (NCC), in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), developed a training regulation in 2021 on community nutrition services. With the passage of RA 11148 or the “Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act,” the training regulation gave a unique lens to the competencies needed by the BNSs to deliver services in the first 1000 days of life.

To complement this change, the NCC sought to enhance the 2012 BNS handbook to serve as accompanying material during training and as reference material during the service period.

This project thus involved the formation of a consultancy group to develop, package and pre-test the Barangay Nutrition Scholar’s handbook on the first 1000 days of life to increase the BNS’s knowledge and gain competencies in delivering services under the F1KD program.

Review of Therapeutic Care for Survivors on Online Sexual Exploitation in the Philippines

Funding Agency: World Hope International

Project Director: Mary Angeline Daganzo

Consultant: Maria Caridad Tarroja

Co-Investigator: Kimberly Kaye Mata

Through its Protecting At-Risk Children Vulnerable to Exploitation (PAVE) project, World Hope International seeks to develop and strengthen systems for comprehensive care of survivors of online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines. In partnership with the Roberts Wesleyan University, WHI through PAVE aims to fund universities or students to implement research projects that focus on but are not limited to the prevalence, dynamics, impact, interventions, program evaluation or driving factors of OSAEC. SDRC contributed to the pool of knowledge about OSAEC for the purpose of creating policies and laws that would inform and push forth prevention of online exploitation of children and strengthen aftercare programs to help survivors of exploitation.

Development of Disaster Preparedness Manual for Earthquake

Funding Agency: Local Government Academy

Project Director: Jerome Cleofas

Research Team: Gerald Potutan (Disaster Scientist)

Czarina Labayo (Cultural Anthropologist)

Irene Olivia Ubay-Anongphouth (Civil Engineer)

Ma. Luisa Delayco (Business Mgmt and Comm Expert)

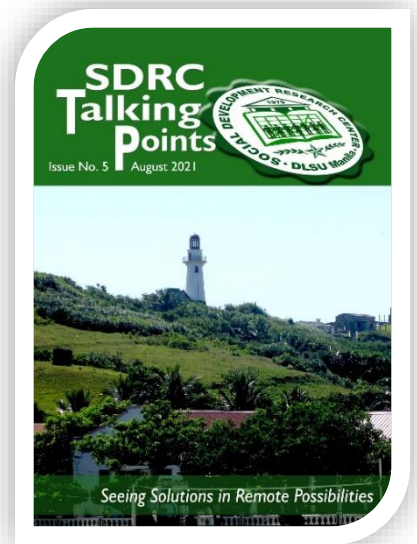
Commissioned by the Local Government Academy, under its Program for Enhancement of Local Government's Capacity on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and Climate Change Adaptation and Management (CCAM), SDRC developed a Disaster Preparedness Manual for Earthquake

using the framework of Operation Listo of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The Manual was developed in order to institutionalize standardized protocols and platforms for early preparedness, response, and monitoring actions that city/municipal LGUs should follow.

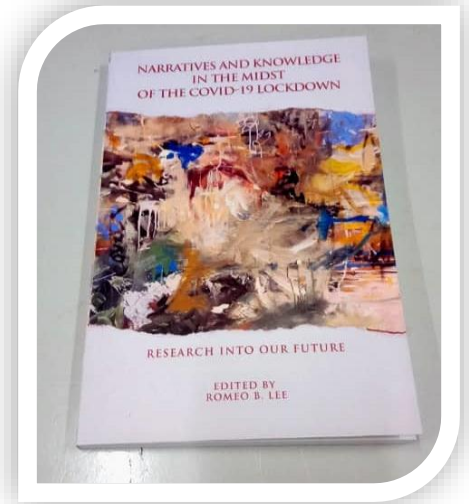
To achieve this, the Center documented the relevant research and standards, policies, programs and best practices related to critical preparedness actions in terms of preparation, response, and monitoring/reporting; looked into the current practices, challenges and issues related to earthquake preparedness, risk reduction and management among government agencies and key stakeholders; prepared disaster preparedness manuals, which included checklists of early preparation for mayors, critical preparation for mayors, and Municipal Local Government Operations Officers (MLGOOs), Chiefs of Police (COPs), and Fire Marshals (FMs); and drafted a policy for the adoption of the NDRRMC.

Publications

SDRC Talking Points Issue 5 was launched in September 2021. It was the second issue produced under quarantine restrictions. As such it discusses the experience of fieldwork from the perspective of the young researchers who were part of SDRC project teams and had to negotiate their data gathering with the use of communications devices. The projects they represent are indicative of the range of studies that the Center continues to conduct, addressing the needs of children and the youth, mothers who are less fortunate, heritage preservation, and better practices in governance.



In June 2022, the Center released the first of its special publications focusing on the coronavirus pandemic entitled *Narratives and Knowledge in the Midst of the COVID-19 Lockdown*. The volume is a pioneering effort at producing knowledge on the sociocultural perspectives that have been engendered by the DLSU Social Development Research Center. It was originally intended to provide state-of-the-art sociocultural knowledge on the Philippines' COVID-19 lockdown, including the challenges and the effects that it has wrought on the lives of Filipinos. The knowledge to be gained from the book will help guide SDRC in firming up its social responsibility priority agenda toward mitigating the impact of the lockdown on the country and its more than 100 million citizens. More crucially, the book is a fitting tribute to the social responsibility role—that is, the duty to work for the welfare of others—that SDRC has significantly played for decades. The book is edited by retired Behavioral Sciences Department full professor Romeo B. Lee.





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