



Rebuilding Lives Beyond Rescue: Reintegration of OSAEC Survivors

In one of its most impactful research endeavors to date, the De La Salle University – Social Development Research Center (DLSU-SDRC) has delved into the complex realities of reintegration among adult survivors of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC). Led by Dr. Maria Caridad Tarroja, the study offers critical insights into the long-term recovery journey of survivors and the structural supports needed to ensure meaningful reintegration.

Utilizing both quantitative data and in-depth interviews, the research reveals a nuanced picture of post-rescue life. While many survivors demonstrate resilience and psychological well-being, a considerable number continue to experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, and trauma. Reintegration, the study argues, is not a one-time event but a deeply personal and evolving process shaped by emotional, relational, and socioeconomic conditions.



SDRC Project in Focus

A key finding is the multifaceted nature of what it means to be “successfully reintegrated.” For some, returning to their biological families is not an option due to prior abuse, economic instability, or unresolved conflict. Instead, they transition into independent living programs, where they receive long-term psychosocial and livelihood support in safe, structured environments. In these settings, survivors are not just surviving—they are rebuilding, envisioning futures marked by stability, dignity, and self-determination.

The research underscores the urgent need for a whole-of-society approach. Effective reintegration requires coordinated engagement from government agencies, non-government organizations, community networks, and families. Programs must move beyond short-term assistance and instead offer sustained, trauma-informed care, livelihood training, and empowerment pathways that are responsive to the lived realities of survivors.

As the study emphasizes, reintegration is not simply about returning—but about belonging, healing, and thriving. By placing survivors’ voices at the center of policy and practice, this work lays the groundwork for a more compassionate, inclusive, and effective response to one of the most pressing issues of our time.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Title: Reintegration Experiences and Development Outcomes of OSAEC Survivors

Project Lead Investigator: Dr. Maria Caridad H. Tarroja

Co-Investigator: Dr. Melvin A. Jabar

Funding Agency: World Hope International

Evaluating the Konsulta Package:

Supporting Universal Health Care Through Evidence

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta) Package is a critical initiative under the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, providing Filipinos with free access to primary care services such as consultations, laboratory tests, screening, and essential medications. To avail of these benefits, Filipinos need only be registered PhilHealth members and enroll in a Konsulta-accredited provider.

Recognizing the importance of evaluating how the Konsulta Package is being implemented nationwide, the Social Development Research Center (SDRC) of De La Salle University was commissioned by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to conduct a process evaluation of the Konsulta rollout. This research is part of NEDA-UNDP's broader monitoring and evaluation (M&E) initiative to assess key government programs.

The study, which runs from May 2024 to June 2025, focuses specifically on the supply side of the Konsulta implementation. It aims to understand how facilities are delivering services, managing registration and accreditation processes, availing of provider payments, and facing logistical or systemic challenges. The evaluation covers a wide geographic scope across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, and includes both accredited and non-accredited public and private health facilities.

SDRC Project in Focus



Data collection activities are currently ongoing in the Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Bataan, National Capital Region, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Cotabato, and Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga del Sur, involving key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), service provider surveys, and facility assessments. These efforts are designed to answer key questions about implementation challenges, enabling factors, and best practices that could inform future policies such as Konsulta Plus.

The study's findings are expected to guide improvements in the operational rollout of the Konsulta Package, contributing to better access, service efficiency, and sustainability. By generating timely and actionable insights, SDRC supports the broader goal of ensuring that all Filipinos benefit from responsive, equitable, and high-quality primary health care.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Title: Process Evaluation of Konsulta Package

Project Lead Investigator: Dr. Marites Tiongco

Co-Investigators: Dr. Zaldy Collado, Dr. Albert Lamberte

Evaluators: Dr. Pilar Ramos-Jimenez, Dr. Jeriel de Silos, Mr. Bernard Cielo

Project Manager: Ms. Joanna Cayton-Velante

Funding Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

Researcher Spotlight

Dr. Pilar “Lalay” Jimenez Honored for a Lifetime of Impact in Public Health and Gender Advocacy



On March 27, 2025, at the Roof Deck of the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall, De La Salle University-Manila, the Social Development Research Center conferred the first-ever Evolutio Socialis Distinguished Researcher Award to Dr. Pilar “Lalay” Ramos Jimenez, recognizing her enduring contributions to research, policy, and advocacy in public health, gender, and community development.

The Evolutio Socialis Distinguished Researcher Award is presented to scholars whose work has significantly shaped research, policy, and practice in social development. It honors individuals whose contributions have made a lasting impact on communities, institutions, and the broader academic field. As its inaugural awardee, Dr. Jimenez sets a high standard for research that leads to meaningful change.

As a Scientist-in-Residence and University Fellow at De La Salle University, Dr. Jimenez has helped advance the field of health social science in the Philippines. She played a key role in launching DLSU’s graduate program in Health Social Science and has spent over three decades mentoring young researchers and leading groundbreaking studies that empower marginalized communities. Her work focuses on reproductive health, indigenous rights, and gender-sensitive governance, and has had significant impact on national and global public health programs. She has led and collaborated on research projects supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Women, the Ford Foundation, and other development institutions. She has also served as a consultant for UNFPA’s South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) program, contributing to regional efforts in advancing reproductive health policies and programming.

Currently, Dr. Jimenez continues her research engagement through SDRC projects such as the HAPPI Project and the Konsulta Process Evaluation, working alongside government and development partners to strengthen health systems and community engagement. Beyond academia, she brings her research insights to a wider audience through her opinion column “View from the South” in The Manila Times, where she writes on gender, governance, and development issues from a grounded, regional perspective. Her recent recognition through the Evolutio Socialis Distinguished Researcher Award celebrates a lifelong commitment to scholarship that uplifts lives and advances meaningful, evidence-based social change.

