



UPDATE

VOL. 6 ISSUE NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

SDRC INFOGRAPHICS AY 2023-2024

SDRC RESEARCH PROJECTS

4
New

10
Ongoing

2
Completed

4

New Funding Agencies

4

Signed MOA in SUCs

2

SDRC Research Grants

8

Benchmarking Activities / Visits

7

Capacity Building Training in SUCs

4

Staff Development Activities

2

Books Launched

1

Patented App

1

NAST Researcher Awardee

In the Academic Year 2023-2024, the Social Development Research Center (SDRC) has demonstrated exceptional progress and dedication to advancing research and development. The Center has expanded its collaborative efforts with new funding agencies and established significant partnerships with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) through signed Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs). SDRC's commitment to fostering innovation is evident through the initiation and completion of various research projects, alongside the development and launch of groundbreaking resources, including books and a patented app. The Center has also focused on enhancing the skills and capacities of its team and partners through numerous training sessions and staff development activities. With a steadfast dedication to excellence, SDRC continues to be at the forefront of social development research, driving meaningful change and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

Facilitation of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) in the Philippines

Analysis and recommendations for better detection, deterrence and prevention



Justice and Care, with the Social Development Research Center (SDRC), disseminated the preliminary findings of the “Facilitation of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) in the Philippines: Analysis and Recommendations for Better Detection, Deterrence, and Prevention” at the Orchid Garden Suites, Manila on April 18, 2024.

The study was conducted by the following team members: Ms. Nicole Munns, Director of International Systemic Change, Justice and Care; Dr. Maggie Brennan (Principal Investigator), Dr. Elaine Byrnes, and Ms. Cydney Sheridan, from the School of Psychology, Faculty of Science and Health, Dublin City University; Dr. Melvin Jabar, Dr. Maria Caridad Tarroja, and Dr. Zaldy Collado from SDRC, De La Salle University; and Prof. Derek Perkins, Professor of Clinical Psychology, Royal Holloway, University of London.

Team members Ms. Munns, Dr. Brennan, Dr. Tarroja, and Dr. Collado were present during the event. Dr. Raymond Girard R. Tan, DLSU Vice President for Research and Innovation, was also present and opened the event. More than 70 attendees from government, non-government organizations and international agencies involved in child and women welfare protection, the anti-human trafficking sector, the anti-cybercrime group sector, and the financial sector were at the event.

Dr. Brennan discussed the results and recommendations of the study. The results revealed the common profile of the OSAEC victims and facilitators, the pathways leading to OSAEC activity and the modus operandi of OSAEC facilitators and their relationships. At the same time, she also discussed the policy recommendations focused on reducing harm done to victims and survivors, stopping the spread and cycles of abuse, addressing enabling online environments, and strengthening the global response to OSAEC cases.

Ms. Munns and Dr. Brennan were then joined by Atty. Lawrence Aritao, International Justice Mission; Atty. Margarita Magsaysay, National Coordination Council against OSAEC and CSAEM/Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking; Ms. Maria Victoria Almazan, Council for the Welfare of Children; and, Atty. Maria Roda Cisnero, The Asia Foundation for a panel discussion led by Dr. Tarroja.

Dr. Homer J. Yabut, Director of SDRC, gave his closing remarks, encouraging stakeholders to take collective action in the advocacy, emphasizing the effort in protecting children, breaking down the systems of exploitation, and building a safer future for generations to come.

The team aims to disseminate the full findings to the organizations soon, alongside the recommendations to push for policy development on OSAEC in terms of early detection, deterrence, and prevention, as well as notions for improvement in rehabilitation, reintegration and long-term support of OSAEC victims.

Research Fellow Spotlight



Dr. Jerome V. Cleofas, a Research Fellow at the Social Development Research Center, has been honored with the 2024 Outstanding Young Scientist Award in the Field of Sociology by the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines. This prestigious accolade celebrates his significant contributions to sociology and related disciplines. Dr. Cleofas' diverse academic background includes a BS Nursing degree from Far Eastern University, where he graduated cum laude in 2007, an MA in Nursing from St. Paul University Manila in 2010, and a PhD in Sociology from De La Salle University, where he focused on Family, Health, and Population Dynamics, completing his studies in 2016.

Dr. Cleofas is a professor and the chair of the Department of Sociology and Behavioral Sciences. He teaches a range of courses in health and social sciences, including child and adult health, community health, health research, nursing subjects, family studies, and sociology. His research interests include sociocultural determinants of health, community and public health, SOGIE and health, social media, and education. He has presented his research at local and international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Cleofas has also served as Senior Research Associate and Institutional Planning Coordinator at a Catholic university and is an active member of professional organizations such as the Research Capacity-Building Committee of the Metro Manila Health Research and Development Consortium. His multidisciplinary expertise and extensive experience make him an invaluable asset to the fields of health, social sciences, and research.

