

Implementation of Child Protection Policy in a Public School

Japhet Z. Matulac¹ and Karen L. Zamora²

¹R. A. Medel Sr. Elementary School, Bacolod City, Philippines

²Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod, Bacolod City, Philippines

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Introduction. Child protection policy gives guidelines and rules to the Child Protection Committee to create a secured and safe environment for learners. It is a tool that protects both learners and school personnel by clearly characterizing the arrangements and measures for child protection and by practicing a reliable behavior toward child-safety (Zamora & Madrigal, 2018). Hence, the paper examines the level of implementation of the Department of Education (DepEd) Child Protection from a public school in the Division of Bacolod City during the School Year 2018-2019. This study was conducted to create awareness among school personnel regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the Child Protection Policy in its jurisdiction. The researcher utilized the result of the study in making

an action plan that serves as a mechanism to ensure the school's full implementation of its Child Protection Policy.

Methods. A descriptive-comparative method was used to assess and compare the level of implementation of the DepEd Child Protection in a public school in the Division of Bacolod City during the School Year 2018-2019. There were 95 school personnel who participated in the study. The data were gathered using a validated and reliability-tested researcher-made instrument. To analyze the data, Mean, Standard Deviation, and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were utilized.

Results. The results of the study revealed that the school observed a very high level of implementation of the Child Protection Policy as strongly evident by a widespread consciousness and conformity and nonexistence of gaps concerning the implementation of child protection procedures. As to the difference in the level of implementation of Child Protection Policy during the School Year 2018-2019 in the area of duties and responsibilities of school personnel, a significant difference was revealed when the personnel are grouped according to their classification. Meanwhile, there is no significant difference in the level of implementation of the Child Protection Policy in the learners' duties and responsibilities. In terms of the difference in the level of implementation of the Child Protection Policy in the area on the establishment of the Child Protection Committee, there is a significant difference of school personnel when grouped as a whole. On the other hand, in terms of the difference in the level of implementation of the Child Protection Policy in the area of capacity building of school officials and personnel, there is a significant difference. Finally, in the difference on the level of implementation of DepEd Child Protection Policy in the areas of duties and responsibilities of school personnel, duties and responsibilities of pupils, students and learners, the establishment of Child Protection Committee and capacity building of school officials and personnel as a whole has shown a significant difference in the level of implementation of its Child Protection Policy.

Conclusion. The top-level management and teachers are the vanguards of the school. They have a much better understanding of child protection in terms of managing with the children and guardians. They also have firsthand involvement in dealing with cases. Also, they have the information and abilities on how to properly help and handle child protection concerns. Consequently, the results of the study showed that the non-teaching personnel requires consistent training for their proficient development and advancement to be more equipped in doing their functions. Further, the assessment on the level of implementation of Child Protection Policy in a public elementary school in the Division of Bacolod City did not intend to compare the level of implementation of its assessors; rather, it created a common framework for assessing the school's child protection action plan. Therefore, the school's Child Protection Policy should be firmly implemented and must be innate to all school personnel to secure children's holistic growth and welfare.

Practical Value of the Paper. The study significantly contributes to creating a common framework for assessing the school's child protection action plan. Therefore, the school's Child Protection Policy should be firmly implemented and must be innate to all school personnel to secure children's holistic growth and welfare. In addition, the findings of the study provided a basis for designing an action plan that serves as a mechanism to ensure the school's full Implementation of its child protection policy.

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Correspondence:

Japhet Z. Matulac [matulacjaphet@gmail.com]
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1909-2729>