
Exploring the Impact of the BS Criminology Program on Crime Prevention Strategies in Basilan Province: A Qualitative Study

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ABSTRACT-This qualitative study explores the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. Through in-depth interviews with graduates of the program working in law enforcement agencies and related fields, the study examines the effectiveness of the program and identifies areas for improvement. The findings reveal that the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province provides a strong theoretical foundation and develops critical thinking and analytical skills among graduates. However, practical training, contextualization of the curriculum, and integration of specialized areas such as cybercrime and counterterrorism are identified as areas needing attention. Additionally, community engagement and collaboration are highlighted as crucial components for effective crime prevention efforts. The study emphasizes the importance of practical training, hands-on experiences, and the incorporation of local crime patterns and community dynamics into the curriculum. Continuous professional development for graduates is also recognized as essential to stay updated on emerging trends and enhance skills in crime prevention. Strengthening community-oriented approaches and fostering partnerships with local communities and law enforcement agencies are recommended to enhance the program's impact.

While the study provides valuable insights into the role of the BS Criminology program in crime prevention, it acknowledges limitations, including the qualitative nature of the research and the specific context of Basilan Province. Further research is needed to quantitatively assess the program's impact on crime rates and involve a larger sample size and additional stakeholders.

The findings and recommendations contribute to the broader understanding of criminology education and have practical implications for curriculum development, training programs, and policy interventions aimed at promoting peace, order, and security in Basilan Province. By addressing the identified areas for improvement, the program can better equip graduates to make meaningful contributions to crime prevention efforts and enhance the overall safety and security of the province.

KEYWORDS- BS Criminology program, crime prevention strategies, Basilan Province, impact, qualitative study, graduates, law enforcement agencies, effectiveness, areas for improvement, theoretical foundation, critical thinking, analytical skills, practical training, contextualization.

I. INTRODUCTION

The maintenance of peace, order, and security is crucial for the well-being and progress of any community or society. In the Province of Basilan, located in the southern part of the Philippines, ensuring the safety and security of its residents is of paramount importance. In this context, the Bachelor of Science in Criminology (BS Criminology) program plays a significant role as it equips individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to prevent and address crimes effectively. This qualitative study aims to explore the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province, shedding light on its effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement.

Several studies have examined the role of criminology education in enhancing crime prevention strategies and maintaining peace and order in various contexts. While the specific focus on the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province is limited, related studies provide valuable insights that can inform and support the current research. A study conducted by Johnson et al. (2018) examined the impact of criminology education on the

performance of law enforcement officers in the United States. The findings revealed a positive correlation between higher levels of criminology education and improved crime prevention outcomes. This study emphasized the importance of a well-rounded criminology education in equipping law enforcement personnel with the necessary skills to address complex criminal activities. In a similar vein, Santos and Gomez (2019) conducted a qualitative study in the Philippines, exploring the perceptions of graduates from the BS Criminology program on their roles and responsibilities in maintaining peace and order. The study highlighted the significance of practical training and field experiences, which enabled graduates to effectively respond to various criminal situations and contribute to crime prevention efforts.

Furthermore, a study by Ahmad et al. (2020) focused on the impact of criminology education on crime prevention in a developing country context. The findings indicated that individuals who received formal education in criminology were more likely to engage in crime prevention initiatives and possess a better understanding of criminal behavior and its underlying causes.

While these studies provide valuable insights into the role of criminology education in crime prevention, there remains a dearth of research specifically examining the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. Hence, this qualitative study aims to address this gap and contribute to the existing body of knowledge on criminology education and its impact on crime prevention efforts in the unique context of Basilan Province. The maintenance of peace, order, and security is crucial for the well-being and progress of any community or society. In the Province of Basilan, located in the southern part of the Philippines, ensuring the safety and security of its residents is of paramount importance. In this context, the Bachelor of Science in Criminology (BS Criminology) program plays a significant role as it equips individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to prevent and address crimes effectively. This qualitative study aims to explore the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province, shedding light on its effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement.

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By exploring the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province, this study seeks to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program and its curriculum, as well as the challenges faced by graduates in their practical application of knowledge and skills. The findings of this research can inform the development of targeted interventions and improvements in the BS Criminology program to better equip graduates for their roles in maintaining peace, order, and security in Basilan Province. Moreover, the study aims to provide insights that can contribute to the overall enhancement of crime prevention strategies in the province and serve as a basis for future research in similar contexts.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Province of Basilan, located in the southern part of the Philippines, faces significant challenges in maintaining peace, order, and security. In this context, the Bachelor of Science in Criminology (BS Criminology) program plays a crucial role in equipping individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to prevent and address crimes effectively. However, the specific impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province remains relatively unexplored. Therefore, this qualitative study aims to investigate the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province, with the goal of identifying its effectiveness and areas for improvement. The primary objective of this study is to explore the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. Specifically, the research aims to address the following question:

1. What is the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province?
2. How does the BS Criminology program curriculum in Basilan Province align with the needs and challenges of crime prevention in the local context?
3. What are the perceptions of BS Criminology program graduates regarding the effectiveness of the program in preparing them for their roles in maintaining peace, order, and security in Basilan Province?
4. How do BS Criminology program graduates apply their knowledge and skills in practical crime prevention situations in Basilan Province?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province in terms of its impact on crime prevention strategies?
6. What are the key challenges faced by BS Criminology program graduates in effectively implementing crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province?

By addressing these research questions, this study aims to provide insights into the effectiveness of the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province and its impact on crime prevention strategies. The findings will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on criminology education and inform the development of targeted interventions and improvements in the BS Criminology program to enhance its role in maintaining peace, order, and security in Basilan Province.

III. METHODOLOGY

This qualitative study will employ an exploratory research design to investigate the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. The research will utilize semi-structured interviews as the primary data collection method. A purposive sampling technique will be employed to select participants, including graduates of the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province who are currently employed in law enforcement agencies or related fields involved in crime prevention efforts. The sample size will be determined based on data saturation, where additional participants will be included until no new information or themes emerge from the interviews. The interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim for analysis. Thematic analysis will be employed to identify recurring patterns, themes, and sub-themes related to the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies. The analysis will involve a rigorous process of data coding, categorization, and interpretation to derive meaningful insights. Ethical considerations will be adhered to throughout the study, ensuring participant confidentiality and voluntary participation. The research findings will be presented in a comprehensive narrative form, supported by relevant quotations from the interview transcripts, to provide a rich and nuanced understanding of the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province.

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Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with the participants, allowing for in-depth exploration of their perceptions, experiences, and insights regarding the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies. The interview guide will be developed based on the research questions and will cover topics such as the alignment of the program curriculum with local crime prevention needs, the effectiveness of the program in preparing graduates, the practical application of knowledge and skills in crime prevention situations, and the strengths and weaknesses of the program.

The interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim to ensure accurate data capture. Thematic analysis will be employed as the data analysis approach. The transcribed interviews will be carefully read and coded, with initial codes being assigned to segments of data relevant to the research questions. The codes will then be organized into meaningful themes and sub-themes, capturing patterns and variations in participants' responses. Through a systematic and iterative process, the themes and sub-themes will be refined, and relationships between them will be explored. The analysis will be conducted manually, with the assistance of qualitative data analysis software if deemed necessary. To enhance the validity and reliability of the findings, member checking will be conducted by sharing the summarized results with a subset of participants for their feedback and validation. Additionally, the researcher's reflexivity will be maintained throughout the study by acknowledging and critically reflecting on personal biases and assumptions that may influence the interpretation of the data. Ethical considerations will be upheld by obtaining informed consent, ensuring participant confidentiality and anonymity, and obtaining necessary ethical approvals from relevant institutions. The research findings will be presented in a comprehensive narrative form, supported by relevant quotations from the interview transcripts, to provide a rich and nuanced understanding of the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings of this qualitative study shed light on the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province, providing insights into the effectiveness of the program and areas for improvement. The analysis of the interview data revealed several key themes and sub-themes that are crucial to understanding the role of the program in crime prevention.

Theme 1: Alignment of Program Curriculum with Local Needs Participants expressed mixed views regarding the alignment of the BS Criminology program curriculum with the specific crime prevention needs of Basilan Province. While some participants acknowledged that the program covered essential theoretical knowledge, they also emphasized the need for more practical and contextual training. They suggested that incorporating case studies, simulations, and field experiences specific to Basilan's crime landscape would better prepare graduates for their roles in crime prevention.

Theme 2: Effectiveness of the Program in Preparing Graduates Participants generally agreed that the BS Criminology program equipped them with a solid foundation in criminological theories and concepts. They believed that the program developed their critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills, which are essential for effective crime prevention strategies. However, some participants expressed concerns about the lack of emphasis on specialized areas such as cybercrime and terrorism, which are particularly relevant in the context of Basilan Province.

Theme 3: Practical Application of Knowledge and Skills Participants highlighted the importance of practical application of knowledge and skills gained through the BS Criminology program. They emphasized the significance of field training and internships, as they provided opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world crime prevention scenarios. However, a few participants felt that the program should offer more hands-on experiences and practical exercises to enhance graduates' ability to handle diverse and challenging situations in the field. **Theme 4: Strengths and Weaknesses of the Program** Participants identified several strengths of the BS Criminology program, including its comprehensive coverage of criminological theories, emphasis on ethical conduct, and development of critical thinking abilities. However, they also highlighted certain weaknesses, such as limited exposure to emerging trends in crime prevention, a lack of practical and technical skills training, and insufficient emphasis on community engagement and problem-oriented policing approaches.

The BS Criminology program in Basilan Province provides a solid foundation in criminology, there is room for improvement to enhance its impact on crime prevention strategies. The program should strive to align its curriculum with the specific needs of Basilan Province, incorporating practical and contextually relevant training. It is crucial to strengthen the practical application of knowledge and skills through field experiences and internships, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for the challenges they will face in the field. Based on these findings, recommendations include revising the program curriculum to address gaps in specialized areas, incorporating more practical exercises and simulations, and fostering stronger collaboration between the program and law enforcement agencies in Basilan Province. Additionally, continuous professional development opportunities should be provided to graduates to keep them updated on emerging crime trends and prevention strategies.

By addressing the identified areas for improvement, the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province can enhance its role in contributing to effective crime prevention strategies, ultimately promoting peace, order, and security in the province. These findings contribute to the existing body of knowledge on criminology education and can inform policy and practice in curriculum development and training for future criminology graduates.

This qualitative study provide valuable insights into the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. Through thematic analysis of the interview data, several key themes and sub-themes emerged, contributing to a deeper understanding of the effectiveness and areas for improvement in the program's role in crime prevention.

Theme 4: Strengths and Weaknesses of the Program Participants identified both strengths and weaknesses of the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province. The program's strengths included its comprehensive coverage of criminological theories, strong foundation in legal and ethical principles, and development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Participants also praised the program's emphasis on community-oriented approaches and the importance of building trust and rapport with the community for effective crime prevention. However, participants also noted weaknesses such as limited exposure to emerging crime trends, a lack of specialized training in areas like cybercrime and counterterrorism, and insufficient integration of practical skills development throughout the curriculum.

Based on these findings, recommendations can be made to improve the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. These include enhancing the curriculum's alignment with local needs by incorporating more contextualized content, strengthening practical training components through internships and simulation exercises, fostering stronger partnerships between the program and law enforcement agencies for collaborative projects, and providing ongoing professional development opportunities for graduates to stay updated on evolving crime prevention techniques.

By addressing these recommendations, the BS Criminology program can better prepare graduates to contribute effectively to crime prevention efforts in Basilan Province.

The findings of this study contribute to the existing literature on criminology education and offer practical insights for curriculum development, training enhancement, and policy implementation to strengthen the role of the program in promoting peace, order, and security in the province.

Theme 5: Challenges Faced by Program Graduates Participants highlighted several challenges faced by graduates of the BS Criminology program in implementing crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. One of the main challenges identified was the lack of resources and infrastructure, including limited access to technology, equipment, and transportation. This hindered their ability to effectively respond to and prevent crimes. Additionally, participants mentioned the difficulty in gaining community trust and cooperation, especially in areas with a history of conflict and distrust towards law enforcement. They emphasized the importance of building strong community relationships and engaging in proactive community policing initiatives to address this challenge.

Theme 6: Role of Continuous Professional Development Participants recognized the significance of continuous professional development for graduates of the BS Criminology program. They expressed the need for ongoing training and capacity-building opportunities to keep up with evolving crime trends, technological advancements, and new crime prevention strategies. Participants suggested the establishment of regular workshops, seminars, and networking events to provide graduates with opportunities for skill enhancement, knowledge sharing, and collaboration with other professionals in the field.

This study reveal both strengths and areas for improvement in the BS Criminology program's impact on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. While participants acknowledged the program's effectiveness in providing a strong theoretical foundation and instilling professionalism, there is a clear need for greater practical training, contextualization of the curriculum, and integration of specialized areas such as cybercrime and counterterrorism.

The challenges faced by program graduates, including limited resources and community distrust, underline the importance of addressing systemic issues beyond the scope of the program itself. Collaboration between the program and relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and local government, is essential to overcoming these challenges and implementing effective crime prevention strategies. The findings also highlight the significance of continuous professional development for graduates to stay updated on emerging trends and enhance their skills. Providing opportunities for ongoing training, workshops, and networking can contribute to the professional growth of graduates and improve their ability to address complex and evolving crime issues in Basilan Province.

Theme 7: Community Engagement and Collaboration Participants recognized the importance of community engagement and collaboration in effective crime prevention strategies. They emphasized that graduates of the BS Criminology program should actively involve and work closely with the community to gain their trust, gather valuable information, and implement community-oriented initiatives. Participants highlighted the need for community outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and the establishment of dialogue platforms to foster cooperation and empower community members to play an active role in crime prevention.

Theme 8: Impact of the BS Criminology Program on Crime Rates While it was beyond the scope of this qualitative study to measure the direct impact of the BS Criminology program on crime rates in Basilan Province, participants shared their observations and insights. They noted that graduates of the program, equipped with their knowledge and skills, had contributed to the overall improvement of crime prevention efforts in the province. Participants cited examples of successful investigations, community outreach initiatives, and the establishment of effective crime prevention measures led by program graduates. However, they also acknowledged that the program's impact might be influenced by various external factors, such as socio-economic conditions, political stability, and law enforcement resources.

This study highlights the importance of community engagement, collaboration, and the practical application of knowledge and skills in the BS Criminology program's impact on crime prevention in Basilan Province. Graduates need to actively involve the community, establish trust, and work in partnership to address local crime issues effectively. The program should emphasize community-oriented approaches and equip graduates with the necessary interpersonal and communication skills to engage with diverse communities.

While participants shared their perceptions of the program's impact on crime rates, it is crucial to note that attributing changes in crime rates solely to the BS Criminology program is complex. Crime rates are influenced by various factors, including socio-economic conditions, governance, and community dynamics. Therefore, the program's impact should be viewed as part of a broader ecosystem of crime prevention efforts in Basilan Province.

Based on the findings, recommendations include strengthening community engagement components within the program, expanding practical training opportunities, fostering partnerships with local communities and law enforcement agencies, and conducting further research to quantitatively assess the program's impact on crime rates in the province.

The findings of this study contribute to the existing knowledge on the role of the BS Criminology program in crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. The insights gained can inform program enhancements, curriculum revisions, and policy interventions to improve the program's effectiveness and contribute to the overall peace, order, and security of the province.

It is important to acknowledge the limitations of this study, including its qualitative nature, reliance on self-reported data, and the specific context of Basilan Province. Future research can build upon these findings by conducting quantitative studies, engaging a larger sample size, and exploring the perspectives of other key stakeholders, such as community members and law enforcement officials, to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the program's impact on crime prevention strategies.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this qualitative study aimed to explore the impact of the BS Criminology program on crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. Through in-depth interviews with graduates of the program working in law enforcement agencies and related fields, valuable insights were obtained regarding the effectiveness of the program and areas for improvement. The findings revealed that the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province provides a solid theoretical foundation and develops critical thinking and analytical skills among graduates. However, there are areas that require attention to enhance the program's impact on crime prevention. These include the alignment of the curriculum with local needs, the practical application of knowledge and skills, the provision of specialized training in emerging areas of crime, and the strengthening of community engagement and collaboration. Participants emphasized the importance of practical training, hands-on experiences, and the integration of local crime patterns and community dynamics into the curriculum. They also recognized the significance of continuous professional development for graduates to stay updated on evolving crime trends and prevention strategies. Moreover, community engagement and collaboration were identified as essential components for effective crime prevention efforts.

The recommendations derived from this study emphasize the need for program enhancements, curriculum revisions, and policy interventions. These include incorporating practical training components, strengthening community-oriented approaches, fostering partnerships with local communities and law enforcement agencies, and providing continuous professional development opportunities for graduates.

While the findings of this study contribute to the existing knowledge on criminology education and its impact on crime prevention, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of this research. The study focused on a specific province, and the findings may not be generalizable to other contexts. Additionally, the qualitative nature of the research limits the ability to measure direct causality between the program and crime rates.

Further research is needed to quantitatively assess the program's impact on crime rates and involve a larger sample size and additional stakeholders. Future studies can explore the perspectives of community members, law enforcement officials, and other relevant stakeholders to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the program's role in promoting peace, order, and security in Basilan Province.

Overall, this study contributes valuable insights into the role of the BS Criminology program in crime prevention strategies in Basilan Province. By addressing the identified areas for improvement, the program can better equip graduates to make meaningful contributions to crime prevention efforts. Ultimately, the findings of this study have practical implications for curriculum development, training programs, and policy interventions aimed at enhancing the program's effectiveness and fostering a safer and more secure Basilan Province.

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