



Exploring Parental Struggles and Challenges of Juvenile Reoffenders

CATHERINE F. REYES

Naga College Foundation, Inc., City of Naga

Corresponding author: reyes.catherinefernandez@gmail.com

Originality: 100% • Grammarly: 95% • Plagiarism: 0%

ABSTRACT

Article History

Received: 16 Sept 2025

Revised: 09 Apr 2026

Accepted: 08 Jun 2026

Published: 30 Jul 2026

Keywords— Juvenile reoffending, Parental struggles, Juvenile delinquency, Risk and protective factors, Parental involvement, Juvenile justice, Family support, Albay Province

Juvenile reoffending remains a pressing social issue that affects families, communities, and the justice system. Parents of juvenile offenders often experience emotional, social, and financial difficulties while attempting to guide their children toward rehabilitation. While existing studies have largely focused on risk factors and youth behavior, limited attention has been given to parents' lived experiences as a basis for designing family-centered interventions. This study explored the parental struggles and challenges in dealing with juvenile reoffenders in Albay from 2019 to 2023 and proposes a strategic development plan informed by these lived experiences. Using a qualitative phenomenological design, data were collected through interviews with parents and guardians and analyzed using Giorgi's method. Findings revealed that most juvenile reoffenders were male out-of-school youth, with theft as the most common offense. Risk factors included peer influence, socio-economic difficulties, and lack of supervision, while protective factors involved parental guidance and family support. Parents reported emotional distress,



© Reyes, C. F. (2026). Open Access. This article published by JPAIR Multidisciplinary Research is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0). You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material). Under the following terms, you must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes. To view a copy of this license, visit: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

financial strain, and difficulty managing their children's behavior. Anchored on these findings, the study proposes a Strategic Development Plan, "Strengthening Families," which outlines targeted, multi-sectoral interventions such as parenting education, counseling support, youth skills development, and strengthened community collaboration to enhance parental capacity and reduce reoffending. The study concludes that strengthening parental involvement and family-centered interventions can help reduce juvenile reoffending. Overall, it contributes to the literature by linking phenomenological insights with a context-specific, practice-oriented intervention framework.

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency and reoffending continue to be significant social issues affecting families, communities, and justice systems worldwide. Juvenile reoffending refers to the repeated involvement of minors in criminal activities after prior intervention from the justice system. This problem not only affects the youth involved but also places considerable emotional, social, and economic burdens on their families, particularly parents and guardians who are responsible for guiding and rehabilitating their children. Understanding the struggles experienced by parents in dealing with juvenile reoffenders is therefore essential for developing effective intervention strategies aimed at preventing recidivism and promoting the successful reintegration of young offenders into society (Aazami et al., 2023).

International studies emphasize that family dynamics and parenting practices play an important role in shaping youth behavior. Research shows that ineffective parenting practices, weak parental supervision, and poor family relationships are strongly associated with delinquent behavior among adolescents. Conversely, positive parenting practices, emotional support, and consistent discipline serve as protective factors that can reduce the likelihood of juvenile offending and reoffending (Hoeve et al., 2009). These findings highlight the importance of parental involvement in addressing juvenile delinquency and supporting the rehabilitation of youth offenders.

In the Philippines, the management and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law are guided by the Republic Act No. 9344, also known as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. This law promotes restorative justice and emphasizes rehabilitation rather than punishment. It encourages diversion programs, community-based interventions, and active family participation in addressing juvenile delinquency. Parents and guardians play a crucial role in supporting their children's rehabilitation and working with social welfare

agencies to facilitate their reintegration into the community. Despite these initiatives, the implementation of juvenile justice policies in the Philippines faces several challenges, including limited institutional resources, insufficient support programs, and lack of awareness among families about rehabilitation processes. Parents of juvenile reoffenders often experience emotional stress, financial strain, and social stigma while attempting to manage their children's behavior and prevent further offenses. These challenges can affect family stability and limit parents' ability to provide effective guidance and supervision to their children (CSG Justice Center, 2023; Hazell, 2022).

While studies on juvenile delinquency are widely documented in Western contexts and some Asian countries, there remains a limited body of ASEAN-based literature that specifically examines parental experiences and family-centered responses to juvenile reoffending. Existing regional studies tend to focus on legal frameworks and youth behavior, with less emphasis on how parents navigate these challenges and contribute to rehabilitation efforts. This gap highlights the need for context-specific research that captures the lived experiences of parents within ASEAN settings, particularly in the Philippines.

Furthermore, studies on juvenile delinquency emphasize that both risk and protective factors influence youth involvement in criminal behavior. Family conflict, poor parental monitoring, and socio-economic difficulties may increase the likelihood of delinquency, while supportive family environments and positive parental involvement can help reduce the risk of reoffending (Aazami et al., 2023). Understanding these factors is essential in identifying effective strategies that parents can use to guide their children away from repeated criminal behavior. Given the significant role of parents in preventing juvenile delinquency, it is important to examine the struggles and challenges they face when dealing with children who repeatedly engage in criminal activities. Therefore, this study aims to explore the parental struggles and challenges experienced by parents of juvenile reoffenders in the province of Albay from 2019 to 2023. The findings are intended not only to contribute to existing literature but also to inform the development of a contextually grounded strategic development plan for family-centered juvenile rehabilitation.

FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on Life Course Theory, Moral Development Theory, and Family Systems Theory, which explain the behavior of juvenile reoffenders and the role of family influence in shaping delinquent behavior. Life Course Theory suggests that criminal behavior develops over time through life experiences and social interactions such as family environment and peer influence. Moral

Development Theory explains that juveniles with lower levels of moral reasoning are more likely to engage in delinquent acts. Meanwhile, Family Systems Theory emphasizes that a child's behavior is closely influenced by family relationships, communication patterns, and parental guidance. These theories help explain juvenile reoffending and the parental struggles in handling delinquent behavior.

This study follows an Input–Process–Output (IPO) conceptual framework. The input includes the status of juvenile reoffenders, contributory risk and protective factors, and the struggles experienced by parents and guardians. The process involves the use of a qualitative phenomenological approach through interviews, transcription, coding, and thematic analysis. The output is the development of a parental strategic plan for juvenile reoffender rehabilitation aimed at strengthening parenting strategies, improving family relationships, and supporting the rehabilitation of juvenile reoffenders in Albay Province.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The primary objective of this study is to explore the parental struggles and challenges in handling juvenile reoffenders in the province of Albay from 2019 to 2023. Specifically, the study aims to determine the status of juvenile reoffenders in terms of their demographic profile, as well as the frequency and type of crimes committed. It also seeks to identify the contributory factors of juvenile reoffending, including risk factors such as peer influence, socio-economic conditions, parental factors, and psychological or behavioral issues, as well as protective factors like parental guidance, family structure, and support systems. Furthermore, the study examines the struggles and challenges experienced by parents and guardians in managing juvenile reoffenders and aims to develop a strategic plan that will help improve parental strategies to prevent and reduce cases of juvenile reoffending.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study employed a qualitative research design using a phenomenological approach to explore and interpret the lived experiences of parents and guardians of juvenile reoffenders. This design was appropriate as it focuses on understanding the essence and meaning of participants' experiences, allowing the researcher to capture in-depth insights into the challenges they encounter in managing and guiding their children.

Study Site

The study was conducted in selected municipalities and cities within the Province of Albay. These locations were chosen due to the presence of identified juvenile reoffender cases and the accessibility of participants through local social welfare offices, making them appropriate settings for obtaining relevant and firsthand data.

Participants of the Study

The participants of the study were parents or guardians of juvenile reoffenders residing in the Province of Albay. They were selected based on their direct involvement and lived experience in managing children who have engaged in repeated delinquent behavior, ensuring that they could provide rich and relevant insights into the phenomenon.

The study utilized purposive sampling to select participants who met the inclusion criteria. Although the sample size was relatively small, it is consistent with phenomenological research, which prioritizes depth of understanding over breadth. The selected participants were considered information-rich cases capable of providing detailed accounts of their lived experiences. However, the findings may not be statistically generalizable to all parents of juvenile reoffenders in the Philippines or ASEAN region, and this limitation should be considered when interpreting the results. Despite this, the study provides valuable contextual insights that may inform similar settings.

Instrumentation

The study utilized a validated semi-structured interview guide composed of two parts. The first part gathered demographic information of the participants, while the second part consisted of open-ended questions designed to elicit in-depth responses on parental struggles, challenges, and contributory factors of juvenile reoffending. The instrument was reviewed by a research expert and translated into Filipino to ensure clarity, cultural relevance, and accurate understanding among participants.

Data Gathering Procedure

Prior to data collection, formal permissions were obtained from relevant authorities, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs). Participants were identified and contacted through coordination with these offices. Informed consent was secured, and participants were oriented on the purpose of the study, ensuring confidentiality and voluntary participation.

Data were collected through face-to-face, audio-recorded interviews to capture accurate and detailed responses.

Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to established ethical standards in conducting research involving human participants. Informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to data collection, ensuring that their participation was voluntary and based on a clear understanding of the study's purpose. Participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity, and any identifying information was excluded from the report. They were also informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. All data collected were used solely for research purposes and were stored securely to protect participants' privacy.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools were partially used in the preparation of this manuscript, specifically for language enhancement, grammar checking, organization of ideas, and improvement of clarity and coherence. However, the research data, findings, analysis, interpretation, and conclusions were developed and validated by the researcher. AI assistance was not used to replace the researcher's judgment, generate research findings, fabricate data, or conduct independent data analysis. All outputs assisted by AI were carefully reviewed, revised, and verified by the researcher to ensure accuracy, originality, ethical compliance, and alignment with the actual findings of the study. The author remains fully accountable for the accuracy, integrity, validity, and originality of the submitted manuscript.

Data Analysis

The collected data were transcribed verbatim and systematically analyzed using Giorgi's existential phenomenological method. This involved multiple stages, including reading the transcripts to gain a holistic understanding, identifying significant statements, and coding meaning units relevant to the research objectives. These meaning units were then organized into categories and synthesized into core themes. A thematic analysis was further employed to examine patterns, relationships, and recurring concepts across participants' responses. This process enabled the researcher to capture the essence of the participants' lived experiences and ensure a structured, in-depth interpretation of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Status of Juvenile Reoffenders

The first objective of the study was to determine the status of juvenile reoffenders in the Province of Albay in terms of their demographic profile, frequency, and type of crimes committed. To present these data clearly, the information gathered from the participants was organized into tables. Table 1 shows the demographic profile of juvenile reoffenders, including their age, age of first offense, age of last offense, gender, and educational attainment.

Table 1
Demographic Profile of Juvenile Reoffenders

Juvenile Reoffender (Child)	Current Age	Age of 1 st Offense	Age of Last Offense	Gender	Educational Attainment
Child 1	16	14	16	Male	Stopped at Grade 7 (Out of School Youth)
Child 2	13	11	13	Male	Grade 8 (Modular)
Child 3	16	11	15	Male	Stopped at Grade 4 (Out of School Youth)
Child 4	15	14	15	Male	Stopped at Grade 8 (Out of School Youth)
Child 5	19	14	18	Male	Stopped at Grade 6 (Out of School Youth)
Child 6	17	15	17	Male	Stopped at Grade 8 (Out of School Youth)

Source: Data collected from interviews with parents and guardians of juvenile reoffenders.

The demographic profile shows that the juvenile reoffenders were aged between 13 and 19 years old, with some committing their first offense at an early age of 11. All identified juvenile reoffenders were male, indicating a gender pattern in the group studied. In terms of educational attainment, all were out-of-school youth, having stopped schooling between Grades 4 and 8. This demographic information suggests that early involvement in delinquent activities and lack of continued education are common characteristics among the juvenile reoffenders in the study.

The demographic profile of juvenile reoffenders implies that early involvement in delinquent behavior and lack of educational engagement are

significant concerns among youth. Since all identified juvenile reoffenders were male adolescents and out-of-school youth, the findings suggest that school dropout and limited access to education may increase the risk of involvement in unlawful activities. The early age of first offense also indicates the need for early intervention programs, stronger parental guidance, and school-based support systems to prevent the progression of delinquent behavior. Strengthening educational opportunities and youth development programs may help reduce the likelihood of juvenile reoffending and promote positive behavioral outcomes.

These findings are consistent with studies in Southeast Asia, which indicate that juvenile delinquency is influenced by interconnected factors such as family instability, peer influence, and socio-economic challenges. In particular, research among Malaysian adolescents highlights that weak family support, exposure to delinquent peers, and financial constraints contribute significantly to youth involvement in criminal behavior, reinforcing the patterns observed in the present study (Aziz et al., 2023). Juvenile reoffenders are commonly male adolescents with low educational attainment or disrupted schooling. Puzzanchera and Hockenberry (2019) reported that 84% of juveniles in residential placement are male, and nearly 60% do not have a high school diploma or GED, while the World Health Organization (2023) noted that low educational achievement is a major factor associated with youth violence and continued offending. Similarly, Hockenberry and Puzzanchera (2024), as cited in the study's definition of terms, emphasized that age, gender, and educational attainment are important aspects in understanding the background of juvenile reoffenders and in developing targeted interventions and support programs. These studies support the present finding that juvenile reoffenders in Albay were mostly male, in their teenage years, and out-of-school youth.

Frequency and Type of Crimes Committed

The frequency and type of crimes committed by juvenile reoffenders are presented in Table 2. This table shows the number of offenses committed by each juvenile reoffender and the specific types of crimes involved, providing an overview of the pattern of delinquent activities among the juveniles in the study.

Table 2
Frequency and Type of Crimes Committed

Juvenile Reoffender (Child)	Frequency of Crimes	Type of Crimes
Child 1	3	Theft
Child 2	2	Theft
Child 3	3	Theft and Underage Drinking
Child 4	2	Theft and Carnapping of Motorcycle
Child 5	More than 5	Rape, Theft, Robbery, Viol of RA 9165, Carnapping
Child 6	3	Physical Injuries, Mauling

Source: Data collected from interviews with parents and guardians of juvenile reoffenders.

Table 2 shows the frequency and type of crimes committed by juvenile reoffenders. The data indicate that some juveniles committed offenses two to three times, while one committed more than five crimes, demonstrating repeated involvement in unlawful activities. In terms of the type of crimes, theft emerged as the most common offense, while other crimes included underage drinking, carnapping of motorcycles, robbery, rape, physical injuries, and violation of RA 9165 (drug-related offenses). The presence of both property-related and violent crimes suggests that some juveniles progress from minor offenses to more serious criminal activities over time. These findings highlight the recurring pattern of delinquent behavior among juvenile reoffenders.

The findings imply that juvenile reoffenders tend to engage in repeated criminal activities, particularly theft and other property-related crimes, which may indicate the development of habitual delinquent behavior. The presence of more serious offenses such as robbery, carnapping, physical injuries, and drug-related violations suggests that some juveniles may progress from minor to more severe crimes over time. This situation highlights the need for early intervention, consistent parental supervision, and community-based rehabilitation programs to prevent the escalation of delinquent behavior and reduce the likelihood of continued reoffending among youth.

The pattern of repeated offending and the predominance of property-related crimes, particularly theft, observed in this study may be linked to sustained exposure to family instability and socio-economic challenges. Evidence shows that these conditions significantly increase the likelihood of continued offending

and involvement in various forms of delinquent behavior among youth (Nguyen, 2025). Theft and robbery are among the most common crimes committed by juveniles, and repeated offending may lead to more serious crimes over time (Sigue, 2019). Likewise, youth violence and delinquency are often associated with risk factors such as low educational attainment, substance use, and negative social environments (World Health Organization, 2023). These studies support the present findings that juvenile reoffenders engage in repeated unlawful activities, highlighting the need for early intervention and rehabilitation programs.

Contributory Factors Of Juvenile Reoffending

This section presents the contributory factors of juvenile reoffending based on interviews with the participants, particularly the parents and guardians of juvenile reoffenders. The responses revealed both risk and protective factors that influence the likelihood of juveniles engaging in repeated unlawful activities.

Risk Factors

Several risk factors were identified as contributing to juvenile reoffending, influencing the likelihood of youth engaging in repeated unlawful behavior. These factors stem from social, family, economic, and behavioral conditions that affect the development and decision-making of juveniles.

Peer Influence and Social Environment

The findings revealed that peer influence and the social environment significantly contributed to juvenile reoffending. Based on the statements of participants (P1–P6), most juveniles were influenced by friends who were involved in unlawful activities, which encouraged them to participate in crimes such as stealing and other delinquent behaviors. Some children who experienced bullying, victimization, and lack of family resources spent more time with peers outside the home, making them more vulnerable to negative influences. These narratives show that association with delinquent peers and exposure to unfavorable community environments play a crucial role in shaping juvenile delinquent behavior.

Peer pressure and environmental conditions strongly affect juvenile decision-making and behavior. When children lack proper supervision, experience bullying, or live in disadvantaged environments, they may seek acceptance from peers who engage in delinquent activities. This highlights the importance of strengthening parental supervision, community support systems, and youth programs to provide positive peer groups and prevent juveniles from engaging in unlawful acts. The findings are supported by recent studies indicating that peer

influence and social environment are strong predictors of juvenile delinquency and reoffending. Adolescents who associate with delinquent peers are more likely to adopt similar behaviors because peer groups provide approval and opportunities for deviant activities.

Research has shown that exposure to peers who engage in antisocial behavior significantly increases adolescents' involvement in delinquent acts and weakens their attachment to positive social institutions such as school (Jiang, 2023). Similarly, adverse childhood experiences and negative peer influence can increase the likelihood of youth engaging in aggressive or delinquent behaviors (Ugwu et al., 2024). These studies support the present findings that peer pressure and unfavorable social environments contribute to juvenile reoffending, emphasizing the importance of parental supervision and positive peer support systems.

Socio-Economic Factors

The findings revealed that socio-economic challenges such as poverty, financial instability, and lack of parental financial support contributed to juvenile reoffending. Based on the statements of participants (P1, P3, and P6), financial difficulties limited the family's ability to support the child's education and basic needs. Some juveniles became disinterested in schooling, discontinued their studies, and spent more time with peers, which increased their involvement in delinquent activities. These narratives indicate that economic hardship and educational disengagement create conditions that make juveniles more vulnerable to reoffending.

Poverty and financial instability can weaken family support and educational engagement, increasing the risk of juvenile delinquency and repeated offending. When families lack adequate resources and supervision, children may seek alternative support from peers and become exposed to negative influences. This highlights the need for stronger family support programs, educational engagement initiatives, and socioeconomic assistance to help prevent juvenile reoffending.

Socioeconomic disadvantage and poverty increase the likelihood of youth involvement in delinquency and recidivism. Adolescents from economically disadvantaged families often experience limited access to education, supervision, and social support, which may increase their risk of engaging in criminal behavior (Sigue, 2019). Similarly, research indicates that poverty and educational disengagement are significant predictors of juvenile delinquency and reoffending (Hoeve et al., 2020).

Parental Factors

The findings revealed that parental factors such as broken families, lack

of parental guidance, parental separation, and domestic violence contributed to juvenile reoffending. Based on the statements of participants (P1, P2, P3, and P6), some juveniles experienced limited supervision, lack of emotional support, and family instability due to parental separation, death of a parent, or work commitments. In some cases, children were exposed to domestic violence and alcoholism, which affected their emotional well-being and behavior. These situations resulted in juveniles seeking attention or support outside the family, increasing their vulnerability to delinquent activities.

The family instability and weak parental involvement can increase the likelihood of juvenile delinquency and reoffending. When children experience broken families, neglect, or exposure to domestic violence, they may develop behavioral problems and seek belonging in negative peer groups. This highlights the importance of strengthening family relationships, improving parental supervision, and providing support programs for families experiencing difficulties to help prevent juvenile reoffending.

Weak parental guidance, family conflict, and lack of parental supervision increase the risk of juvenile delinquency (Aazami et al., 2023). Likewise, low parental monitoring has been linked to higher levels of delinquent behavior among adolescents, highlighting the importance of active parental involvement (Zhu & Shek, 2021). The influence of family instability and weak parental supervision observed in this study is supported by research demonstrating that low parental monitoring and ineffective parenting practices are strongly associated with adolescent delinquency and antisocial behavior (Dishion & McMahon, 1998; reaffirmed in later longitudinal studies such as Wang et al., 2020).

Psychological and Behavioral Factors

The findings revealed that psychological and behavioral factors contributed to juvenile reoffending. Based on the participants' statements (P1, P3, P4, P5, and P6), some juveniles exhibited rebellious behavior, involvement in vices, excessive gaming, and impulsive actions such as stealing. One participant also reported that the child had been diagnosed with kleptomania, which influenced repeated stealing behavior. These narratives indicate that mental health concerns and behavioral issues can impair judgment, emotional regulation, and self-control, increasing the likelihood of involvement in delinquent activities.

Untreated psychological and behavioral problems can increase the risk of juvenile delinquency and reoffending. When mental health issues and impulsive behaviors are not properly addressed, juveniles may struggle to manage their emotions and actions, making them more vulnerable to criminal behavior. This highlights the importance of early psychological assessment, mental

health support, and intervention programs to help at-risk youth develop better emotional regulation and decision-making skills.

Psychological difficulties such as poor emotional regulation, impulsivity, and behavioral problems are strongly associated with adolescent delinquency. Adolescents who struggle to regulate emotions and control impulses are more likely to engage in antisocial behaviors and delinquent activities. Research indicates that emotional dysregulation among children and adolescents can impair judgment and behavioral control, increasing the likelihood of problem behaviors and delinquency (Paulus et al., 2021).

Protective Factors

By lessening the impact of risk factors and encouraging favorable outcomes for young offenders, protective variables are essential in lowering juvenile reoffending. These are in terms of constant parental advice and reminders, complete family structure, and positive parental involvement and support system.

Constant Parental Advice and Reminders

The findings revealed that constant parental advice, guidance, and reminders serve as protective factors against juvenile reoffending. Based on the statements of participants (P1 and P5), parents who regularly guide their children, monitor their behavior, and remind them to avoid delinquent acts help reinforce positive behavior. These consistent parental interactions encourage juveniles to become responsible individuals and discourage them from repeating aggressive acts or stealing.

The findings imply that active parental involvement, consistent supervision, and supportive communication can help prevent juvenile delinquency and reoffending. When parents continuously provide advice, guidance, and reminders, they strengthen the parent–child relationship and reinforce pro-social values. This highlights the importance of positive parenting practices and consistent parental monitoring in creating a stable environment that supports youth rehabilitation and behavioral change.

The positive parenting practices such as parental guidance, supervision, and supportive communication reduce the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. Adolescents who experience strong parental support and consistent guidance are less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors because parental involvement helps reinforce positive values and responsible decision-making (Shek & Zhu, 2022). Likewise, research shows that warm and supportive parenting combined with consistent monitoring serves as a protective factor against adolescent problem behaviors and delinquency (Wang et al., 2020).

Complete Family Structure to Provide Stability and Support

The findings revealed that a complete family structure providing stability and parental support serves as a protective factor against juvenile reoffending. Based on the statement of participant P6, the presence of both parents and proper parental guidance was believed to help the child improve behavior and avoid delinquent acts. This indicates that a stable family environment and active involvement of parents in guiding and supporting their children contribute to positive behavioral development and reduce the likelihood of juvenile delinquency.

Family stability and active parental involvement play an important role in preventing juvenile delinquency. When both parents provide guidance, emotional support, and supervision, children are more likely to develop positive values and coping skills. A stable family structure also creates a nurturing environment that helps children manage challenges and reduces their vulnerability to delinquent behavior. The findings are supported by studies indicating that family structure and parental presence play a significant role in preventing juvenile delinquency. Research shows that adolescents who grow up in two-parent families with stable parental relationships are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior compared with those from disrupted family structures.

The presence of both parents provides stronger supervision, emotional support, and guidance, which help reduce youths' involvement in criminal activities (Hoffmann, 2023). Similarly, studies highlight that cohesive family relationships and strong parental involvement serve as protective factors against delinquency, as supportive family dynamics help adolescents develop positive behaviors and coping mechanisms (Yusoff et al., 2022).

Positive Parental Involvement and Support System

The findings revealed that positive parental involvement and a strong support system serve as protective factors against juvenile reoffending. Based on the statements of participants (P2 and P5), parents who provide guidance, encouragement, and emotional support help juveniles reflect on their actions and develop positive behavioral changes. The participants observed that when children were encouraged to engage in productive activities and skill development, especially during their stay in the youth facility, they demonstrated improved behavior and expressed willingness to avoid repeating past mistakes.

Active parental involvement, guidance, and supportive networks can promote rehabilitation and reduce the risk of juvenile reoffending. When parents maintain open communication, provide supervision, and encourage constructive activities, juveniles are more likely to develop positive values and behavioral change. Supportive environments, including family guidance and structured

programs in youth homes, can help at-risk youth build skills, regain stability, and reintegrate successfully into society.

The findings are supported by studies showing that positive parental involvement and family support significantly reduce adolescent delinquency. Research indicates that adolescents who experience supportive parenting, open communication, and strong parental engagement are less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors, as these factors promote emotional security and positive youth development (Shek & Zhu, 2022). Additionally, family support systems and parental involvement have been identified as protective factors that help reduce youth offending and support rehabilitation among juvenile offenders (Walters, 2021).

Struggles and Challenges Encountered by Parents in Dealing with Juvenile Reoffenders

This area highlighted the struggles and challenges parents face in managing juvenile reoffenders. Parents often struggle with feelings of frustration and helplessness as they strive to provide the best possible care for their children. Despite their commitment, they encounter numerous obstacles, including limited resources, societal stigma, and the complex needs of their children. Nevertheless, these parents remain dedicated to fostering their children's improvement and reintegration within the community.

Financial and Employment Challenges.

The findings revealed that financial and employment challenges are significant struggles experienced by parents of juvenile reoffenders. Parents reported difficulties in securing stable employment and managing limited financial resources while supporting the needs of their children. These economic hardships increased parental stress and limited their ability to provide adequate supervision, guidance, and support for their children's rehabilitation.

Financial instability and unemployment among parents can affect their capacity to effectively guide and support their children, potentially increasing the risk of juvenile reoffending. Economic stress may reduce parental supervision and limit access to educational, psychological, and social support services for the child. This highlights the need for community assistance programs, livelihood support, and family-centered interventions to help parents manage financial challenges while supporting their children's rehabilitation.

Family financial strain can weaken parental supervision and increase adolescents' risk of delinquent behavior. Economic hardship places pressure on parents, which may reduce their ability to provide guidance and support for their

children (Masarik & Conger, 2017). Similarly, research indicates that economic stress within families is associated with higher levels of youth behavioral problems and delinquency (Mistry et al., 2021).

Financial Instability and Unemployment.

Financial instability and unemployment significantly affected parents' ability to support their children involved in juvenile reoffending. Participants (P1, P3, P4, P5, and P6) shared that lack of stable income limited their capacity to process legal cases, visit their children in youth facilities, and provide financial support for their needs. These financial constraints caused distress among parents and hindered their involvement in their children's rehabilitation, highlighting how economic difficulties can intensify the challenges faced by families dealing with juvenile reoffending.

The economic hardship and unemployment weaken parents' capacity to provide emotional, financial, and rehabilitative support for their children, which may contribute to continued delinquent behavior. Financial stress can also affect parental well-being and limit their participation in rehabilitation processes. This highlights the need for community assistance programs, livelihood support, and family-centered interventions to help parents better support their children and reduce the cycle of juvenile delinquency.

The findings are supported by studies showing that family economic hardship and parental unemployment can increase stress within households and reduce parents' capacity to supervise and support their children. Economic pressure may disrupt parenting practices and weaken family functioning, which can increase adolescents' likelihood of engaging in delinquent behavior (Conger & Donnellan, 2007). Similarly, research indicates that financial strain experienced by families can limit parental involvement and contribute to behavioral problems among youth, increasing the risk of delinquency (Mistry et al., 2021).

Concerns for Children's Well-Being and Safety

The findings revealed that parents of juvenile reoffenders experience deep concerns about their children's well-being, safety, and behavioral development. Participants (P1, P2, P4, and P5) expressed worries about their children's negative personality traits, antisocial behavior, and association with delinquent peers. Some parents also feared possible retaliation from victims due to their children's involvement in unlawful acts. These narratives show that parents feel distressed and powerless in managing their children's behavior, highlighting their strong concern for their children's future development and safety.

Juvenile reoffenders experience emotional distress and heightened concern for their children's behavioral development and safety. When children exhibit antisocial behaviors and negative personality traits, parents may struggle to guide and control them effectively. This underscores the importance of parenting support programs, behavioral interventions, and family counseling to help parents manage behavioral issues and promote positive development among at-risk youth.

Recent studies showing that exposure to family violence and conduct problems is positively associated with adolescent antisocial behavior. Simões et al. (2024) found that greater exposure to interparental emotional and physical violence was associated with higher levels of antisocial behaviors among adolescents. In addition, Buist et al. (2020) reported that family negativity was linked with adolescent delinquent behavior over time, highlighting the role of family relationships in behavioral development.

Relationship and Communication Challenges

The findings revealed that relationship and communication challenges between parents and children contribute to difficulties in managing juvenile reoffending. Parents reported struggles in maintaining open communication with their children, often encountering power struggles, emotional misunderstandings, and difficulties in expressing concerns and guidance. These communication barriers weakened the parent–child relationship and limited parents' ability to influence their children's decisions and behavior.

The findings suggest that poor communication and strained parent–child relationships can increase the risk of delinquent behavior, as children may become less receptive to parental guidance and more influenced by peers. Strengthening open communication, mutual understanding, and supportive family relationships is therefore essential in helping parents guide their children and prevent further involvement in delinquent activities.

The studies indicating that poor parent–child communication and weak family relationships are associated with higher levels of adolescent problem behaviors and delinquency. When communication within the family is limited or conflict-driven, adolescents may experience emotional distance from their parents and become more susceptible to antisocial behavior. Research shows that positive and open parent–adolescent communication promotes better emotional adjustment and reduces the likelihood of delinquent behaviors among adolescents (Bi & Wang, 2021).

Inability to Control the Child

The results showed that parents experienced difficulty controlling their children's behavior, which contributed to juvenile delinquency and repeated offending. Participants (P2, P4, and P5) shared that their children often stayed out late with peers, refused to attend school, and engaged in behaviors such as stealing. Some parents struggled to locate or discipline their children, which caused frustration and strained family relationships. These narratives indicate that lack of effective behavioral control, peer influence, and weak parental authority increased the likelihood of delinquent behavior.

Difficulty in managing children's behavior and setting clear boundaries can increase the risk of juvenile delinquency. When parents are unable to regulate their children's actions or maintain consistent supervision, children may become more influenced by peers and engage in risky behaviors. This highlights the importance of effective parenting strategies, clear behavioral expectations, and community support programs to help parents guide and discipline their children.

These findings are supported by studies indicating that effective parental monitoring, supervision, and communication reduce adolescents' involvement in delinquent behavior. When parents maintain strong involvement in their children's lives and establish clear rules and expectations, adolescents are less likely to engage in antisocial activities. Research has shown that positive family functioning and supportive parenting practices are associated with lower levels of adolescent delinquency and behavioral problems (Shek & Zhu, 2022).

Social Shaming and Resentment Toward Parents

The parents experienced social shame and stigma due to their children's involvement in delinquent behavior. Participants (P4, P5, and P6) expressed feelings of embarrassment, guilt, and distress when their children were involved in unlawful acts such as stealing. Some parents felt labeled as neglectful or irresponsible by others in the community, which affected their self-esteem and relationships with others. These experiences created emotional strain for parents and intensified the challenges of managing their children's behavior and guiding them away from delinquency.

Social stigma and community judgment can negatively affect parents' emotional well-being and their ability to support their children's rehabilitation. Feelings of shame, isolation, and blame may discourage parents from seeking help or support from others. This highlights the need for community awareness, family counseling, and supportive interventions that address both the behavioral issues of the child and the emotional challenges faced by parents.

The families of delinquent youth often experience social stigma, blame, and

community judgment, which can negatively affect parental well-being and family functioning. Research indicates that parents of justice-involved youth frequently experience shame, social isolation, and stress due to public stigma associated with their child's behavior, which can further strain family relationships (Young et al., 2017). The experiences of social shame and stigma reported by parents in this study are supported by research indicating that families of justice-involved individuals often experience social exclusion, blame, and emotional distress. Stigmatization can lead to feelings of shame, isolation, and reduced well-being among family members, which may affect their ability to support rehabilitation efforts (Murray et al., 2012).

Inability to balance work and spend time with family

The account of P2 highlights the challenge of balancing work responsibilities and parental roles. Due to financial pressures, she is required to work even during evenings and weekends, which limits her ability to monitor and spend quality time with her children. This lack of supervision and parental presence may contribute to her child's association with negative peers and engagement in delinquent behavior. Her experience reflects how economic demands can weaken family interaction and reduce opportunities for guidance and emotional support. This situation can be explained through Family Systems Theory, which emphasizes that difficulties experienced by one member of the family affect the entire family system. P2's need to prioritize work to meet financial needs disrupts family functioning, which may influence her child's behavior and development.

The findings highlight the importance of parental presence, supervision, and communication in preventing delinquent behavior among children. They also suggest the need for support systems that help working parents balance work and family responsibilities. Strengthening family relationships and providing economic and community support may help create a more stable environment that promotes positive child development and reduces the risk of reoffending.

The difficulty of balancing work and parenting responsibilities observed in this study is supported by research showing that limited parental supervision and reduced parent-child interaction are associated with increased adolescent delinquency. In a study conducted among Asian adolescents, low parental monitoring—often influenced by parental absence and work demands—was found to significantly increase the likelihood of involvement in delinquent and risk-taking behaviors (Shek & Zhu, 2021).

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The major output of the study is the Strategic Development Plan titled “Strengthening Families: A Parental Strategic Plan for Juvenile Reoffender Rehabilitation.” This plan is designed to address the challenges faced by parents and families in managing and supporting juvenile offenders and preventing reoffending behavior. It provides a comprehensive framework that focuses on strengthening family support systems, empowering youth through education and skills development, enhancing community collaboration, and ensuring continuous monitoring and evaluation of the program. The plan outlines clear goals, objectives, activities, service providers, participants, resources needed, expected outcomes, and budget allocations to guide its implementation over a three-year period in the Province of Albay. It adopts a multi-sectoral approach, involving local government units, educational institutions, non-government organizations, healthcare providers, community organizations, and law enforcement agencies to collaboratively support juvenile rehabilitation efforts. Key components of the strategic plan include parenting workshops and counseling sessions to improve parental knowledge and communication, educational and vocational training programs to enhance youth development and employability, and community engagement initiatives to strengthen partnerships and raise awareness on juvenile reoffending issues. Additionally, the plan incorporates monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess program effectiveness, gather feedback from stakeholders, and ensure continuous improvement of the interventions. Overall, the strategic development plan serves as a structured intervention framework that aims to improve parenting practices, strengthen family relationships, support youth rehabilitation, and ultimately reduce juvenile reoffending within the community.

CONCLUSION

Juvenile reoffending is shaped by multiple interrelated factors involving the individual, the family, and the broader social environment. The behavioral patterns of youth are strongly influenced by peer associations, socioeconomic conditions, and the quality of parental guidance and supervision. When these influences are combined with family instability, limited communication, and economic hardship, parents face significant difficulties in guiding and rehabilitating their children. At the same time, the presence of supportive family relationships, consistent parental involvement, and positive guidance plays a crucial role in encouraging behavioral change and preventing further delinquency. These circumstances emphasize the importance of strengthening

parental capacities, improving family relationships, and enhancing community support mechanisms to effectively address juvenile reoffending and support the long-term rehabilitation and reintegration of youth in conflict with the law. The study highlights the need for practical interventions such as parenting education, counseling, and community-based support programs to strengthen parental capacity and reduce reoffending. It also contributes to juvenile justice reform by emphasizing family-centered approaches within RA 9344 and presents the “Strengthening Families” strategic plan as a guide for sustainable intervention and rehabilitation efforts

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

The findings of this study provide a basis for translating research into practical applications that can support juvenile rehabilitation and prevent reoffending. The identified parental struggles, risk factors, and protective mechanisms may be utilized in the development of community-based intervention programs that focus on strengthening family relationships, improving parental supervision, and promoting positive youth behavior. Local government units, social welfare agencies, and community organizations may adopt these findings to design targeted programs that address the specific needs of families dealing with juvenile reoffenders.

In addition, the results of the study can be used in the development of instructional materials and parental training modules aimed at enhancing parenting skills, communication strategies, and behavioral management techniques. These materials may be integrated into parenting seminars, family counseling sessions, and school-based programs to equip parents with practical knowledge and skills in guiding at-risk youth.

The findings may also serve as a foundation for awareness campaigns and community education initiatives that promote understanding of juvenile delinquency, reduce stigma toward affected families, and encourage community involvement in youth rehabilitation. Such campaigns can help create supportive environments that foster positive behavioral change among juveniles. Furthermore, the study has implications for policy advocacy, particularly in strengthening the implementation of Republic Act No. 9344 by emphasizing family-centered and community-based approaches. Policymakers and stakeholders may use the proposed Strategic Development Plan, “Strengthening Families,” as a reference in designing sustainable programs and policies that support parental capacity-

building, youth development, and rehabilitation efforts. Overall, this study bridges the gap between research and practice by providing actionable insights that can be applied in community programs, educational initiatives, and policy development to reduce juvenile reoffending and promote the successful reintegration of youth into society.

Author Contributions: Catherine F. Reyes— Sole Author Responsible for the conceptualization, methodology, investigation/data, gathering, data curation, formal analysis, original draft preparation, and manuscript revision. Eymard Z. Gomez—Adviser Provided supervision, academic guidance, technical feedback, and manuscript review.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Statement: Not Applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Yes. Informed consent was required and obtained from all participants before the conduct of the interview. Each participant was provided with an informed consent form, and the purpose of the study, interview procedures, voluntary nature of participation, confidentiality of responses, and right to withdraw were verbally explained before the actual interview. All participants agreed to participate and gave their consent before they were included in the study.

Data Availability Statement: No new data were created.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

LITERATURE CITED

- Aazami, A., Valek, R., Ponce, A. N., & Zare, H. (2023). Risk and protective factors and interventions for reducing juvenile delinquency: A systematic review. *Social Sciences*, 12(9), 474. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci12090474>
- Aziz, N. A., Hamzah, L. M., Mustafa, S. M. S., & Alias, N. F. (2023). Juvenile delinquency among Malaysian adolescents: Probation officers' accounts on driving factors and curbing strategies. *International Journal of Academic Research in Progressive Education and Development*, 12(3), 1649-1659. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARPED/v12-i3/19214>

- Buist, K. L., Deković, M., & Prinzie, P. (2020). Family negativity and delinquent behavior in adolescence. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2020.1742337>
- Conger, R. D., & Donnellan, M. B. (2007). An interactionist perspective on the socioeconomic context of human development. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 58, 175–199. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.58.110405.085551>
- Hockenberry, S., & Puzzanchera, C. (2024). *Juvenile court statistics 2022*. National Center for Juvenile Justice. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/>
- Hoeve, M., Stams, G. J. J. M., van der Put, C., Dubas, J. S., van der Laan, P. H., & Gerris, J. R. M. (2020). A meta-analysis of attachment to parents and delinquency. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*.
- Hoffmann, J. P. (2023). Family structure, unstructured socializing, and delinquent behavior among adolescents. *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- Jiang, J. (2023). Learning from bad peers? Influences of peer deviant behavior on adolescent delinquency. *Journal of Youth Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2023.2246539>
- Masarik, A. S., & Conger, R. D. (2017). Stress and child development: A review of the Family Stress Model. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 13, 85–90. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2016.05.008>
- Mistry, R. S., Lowe, E. D., Benner, A. D., & Chien, N. (2021). Expanding the family economic stress model: Insights from developmental and family research. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 13(3), 384–402. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12421>
- Murray, J., Farrington, D. P., & Sekol, I. (2012). Children's antisocial behavior, mental health, drug use, and educational performance after parental incarceration: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Psychological bulletin*, 138(2), 175. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0026407>
- Nguyen, T. T. (2025). Family circumstances and the law violations of juvenile offenders in Vietnam. *International Journal of Innovative Research and Scientific Studies*, 8(2). <https://doi.org/10.53894/ijirss.v8i2.5886>

- Olsen, E. M., et al. (2024). Family factors associated with delinquency outcomes among court-involved youth. *Children and Youth Services Review*
- Paulus, F. W., Ohmann, S., Möhler, E., Plener, P. L., & Popow, C. (2021). Emotional dysregulation in children and adolescents with psychiatric disorders. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 12, 628252. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2021.628252>
- Puzzanchera, C. M., & Hockenberry, S. (2019). Trends and characteristics of youth in residential placement, 2017. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://www.ojp.gov/library/publications/trends-and-characteristics-youth-residential-placement-2019>
- Shek, D. T. L., & Zhu, X. (2022). Family functioning and adolescent delinquency: The mediating role of positive youth development attributes. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 13, 883439. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2022.883439>
- Sigue, J. B. (2019). *RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006: A case study on its implementation in Bacolod City*. Philippine Legal Research. <https://legalresearchph.com/2019/06/16/ra-9344-or-the-juvenile-justice-and-welfare-act-of-2006-a-case-study-on-its-implementation-in-bacolod-city/>
- Simões, M., et al. (2024). Interparental violence and development of antisocial behaviors in adolescence. *Children and Youth Services Review*.
- Ugwu, L. E., et al. (2024). Childhood adversity and peer influence in adolescent bullying perpetration. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1374932>
- Wang, M. T., Dishion, T. J., Stormshak, E. A., & Willett, J. B. (2020). Trajectories of family management practices and early adolescent behavioral outcomes. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 30(3), 594–610. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12522>
- World Health Organization. (2023). *Youth violence*. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/youth-violence>

- Young, S., Greer, B., & Church, R. (2017). Juvenile delinquency, welfare, justice and therapeutic interventions: A global perspective. *BJPsych Bulletin*, 41(1), 21–29. <https://doi.org/10.1192/pb.bp.115.052274>
- Yusoff, N. M., et al. (2022). Family functionality and parenting behavior as predictors of adolescent delinquency. *Journal of Family Studies*.
- Zhu, X., & Shek, D. T. L. (2021). Parental control and adolescent delinquency based on parallel process latent growth curve modeling. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(17), 8916. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18178916>