

Peacebuilding and Social Work: The Narratives of Community Organizers in Conflict-Affected Areas in Maguindanao

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the challenges experienced by the social workers as community organizers in peacebuilding-related community organizing in armed conflict-affected areas in Maguindanao. It sought to know the peacebuilding initiatives of the community organizers in community organizing and the experiences encountered by the community organizers in peacebuilding-related community organizing and in working with conflict-affected areas. Phenomenological method of qualitative research was used. The participants were community organizers working in Community and Family Services International (CFSI) and Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) - Maguindanao. Purposive sampling was used in identifying the target participants. Findings show that community organizing contributes to promoting peacebuilding in the conflict-affected areas through the programs and services being implemented by the community organizers by conducting Family Development Sessions which fosters family development, promotes healthy family life, responsible parenthood, parental effectiveness, cultural solidarity, and environmental awareness. Peacebuilding does not only revolve around initiatives at the macro level but starting in advocacy in responsible parenthood and parental effectiveness could lead to the prevention of peace-related issues and community problems. It is concluded that the participation of the people is the major challenge encountered by the community organizers. The peace and order situation of the community is also vital in the successful flow of the community organizing process.

KEYWORDS

Peacebuilding, Social Work, Community Organizing, Community

INTRODUCTION

In this world where conflict exists as a common phenomenon, various professions become actively involved in promoting peace in their ways. Peacebuilding and development agenda is inherent in the values and goals of the social work profession being a human service-oriented profession. Social workers play a critical part in advancing peace, human rights, and improvement by supporting the esteem, capability, and worth of man. Be that as it may, in spite of the fact that the 1980s checked a period of increased proficient concerns with things of war and peace, the writing uncovered that the calling was essentially engaged within the mental, social, and financial impacts of war, and less locked in in progressing a conceptual system to advise a social work approach to positive peace (Kafula, 2016).

Peacebuilding is the development of many forms of relationship which aims to resolve injustice in nonviolent ways and to transform the structural conditions that generate deadly conflict. This includes personal, group and political relationships across ethnic, religious, class, national, and racial boundaries. Peacebuilding can include conflict

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