

**Philippine Program Against Child Labor Towards Strategic Framework for Child Labor-Free
Philippines: Evident in Negros Occidental**

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Abstract

This study critically revises the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) and proposes its abolition in favor of a robust, strategic policy framework for eradicating child labor in the Philippines, with a particular focus on Negros Occidental. Despite its achievements, the PPACL faces systemic challenges, including inadequate resource allocation, uneven enforcement, and cultural barriers that perpetuate child labor. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative analyses to assess the program's effectiveness and identify gaps in implementation. Key findings reveal that while the PPACL has made progress, its sustainability is compromised by structural weaknesses. To address these issues, the study introduces a transformative framework centered on resiliency, empowerment, and societal transformation. Resiliency strategies prioritize community engagement and economic alternatives for vulnerable populations. Empowerment focuses on enhancing access to education, skills training, and livelihood opportunities. Transformation entails policy reform, stakeholder collaboration, and advocacy campaigns to challenge deep-seated cultural norms. The proposed policy aligns with international best practices, such as community-based monitoring, conditional cash transfers, and child-centered interventions. By addressing both immediate and systemic challenges, this framework aims to create a sustainable, child labor-free society. The study concludes by emphasizing the urgency of policy reform and the integration of localized, culturally sensitive solutions for eradicating child labor in the Philippines.

Keywords: child labor, policy reform, PPACL, resiliency, empowerment, Philippines, Negros Occidental