

Status of Living: Challenges Encountered by the Immediate Family of Patriarch Inmates

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Abstract

Imprisonment of any family member affects the lives of the immediate members, especially if it is the head of the father who is convicted, leaving other members in pain because of the situation. This study determined the challenges encountered by the family members of the patriarch inmates in Iligan City, Philippines, during the first quarter of 2021. The study utilized the phenomenological research design. Ten identified family members composed the number of participants interviewed using a structured interview guide made by the researcher. The study utilized Moustaka's Transcendental Analysis in analyzing the data. Responses to the interview were analyzed utilizing NVivo software producing the four main themes: striving for sustenance and survival; financial and moral drawbacks; emotional grief; and annoying unsolicited public opinions towards the situation. These identified challenges encountered by the family members may serve as a benchmark for the concerned government agency in crafting programs that will help the family members of the patriarch inmates. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the support system of the concerned government agency towards the family members of the patriarch inmates. Furthermore, since most of the challenges the family members encounter are more focused on the emotional aspect of their lives, the social welfare department may strengthen their programs in supporting these families through effective evaluation of the situation for them to craft appropriate counseling techniques for these identified families.

Keywords: emotional grief, imprisonment, moral drawbacks, striving for sustenance, unsolicited public opinions

Introduction

Criminalities are problems the authority faces in the Philippines and other countries (Manninen, Suvisaari, Marola, & Aaltonen, 2017; Mkhize & Makau, 2018; Cornejo, 2017). The growing number of criminalities in the world is one of the factors that lead to a decline in the economy (Rocque, Saunoris, & Marshall, 2019; Rios, 2017; Jia & Lim, 2021). Furthermore, economic growth is hindered since investors are not attracted to invest in areas where crimes are evident (Ramos & Ashby, 2017; Suh, Shim & Button, 2018; Hung, 2020). Thus, it leads to slow movement of the economy and eventually affects the living of the people in the country (Dix-Carneiro, Soares, & Ulysea, 2018; Vaishnav, 2017). In addition, committing criminal offenses may lead to imprisonment of the criminals once they are found guilty of committing such crimes.

Further, when poverty is evident in the country or even in a single family, some are resorted to committing violations of the law that may lead to the imprisonment of an individual who committed an act against the law (Papaioannou, 2017; Denney, 2019; Kujala, Kallio, & Niemelä, 2019; Short Jr, 2018). Thus, it may lead to an additional problem for the state. This problem needs immediate response since it may affect many aspects of lives within the criminal's family (Armborst, 2017; Lochner, 2020). Leaders in most countries around the group were planning to address the poverty in their respective countries to mitigate the number of families that belong to the poverty level. Thus, eliminating the possible criminal acts among their subordinates due to the current situation that they are experiencing.

In addition, the literature showed an adverse effect on the lives of the family members of the criminal (Altintas & Bilici, 2018; DeLisi, Alcalá, Kusow, Hochstetler, Heirigs, Caudill, & Baglivio, 2017; Fox, 2019). The psychological effect, mental, discrimination, and lower self-esteem among the family members were some of the evident effects of the situation (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2018; Visconti, 2020; Schucan Bird & Shemilt, 2019; Sollie, Kop & Euwema, 2017; Burt, Lei & Simons, 2017). Therefore, families of

the patriarch inmates may experience psychological problems as an effect of the situation faced by the head of the family. Moreover, families may have started to feel that they were discriminated against in the community since they are members of a convicted inmate family.

Several studies were conducted about the effects of crime committed on the whole family. For example, the study of Rangi (2019) that determined the special effects of family breakdown on crime causatives amongst men by carrying a survey in Chivhu town investigated whether family breakdown causes men to commit a crime to determine the effects of family breakdown on crime causatives among men, to assess the role of police in maintaining family unit, and recommend ways of reducing criminal behavior from juveniles among men. Moreover, a study was conducted to examine the effects of the concentrations of single-mother families (SMFs) and single-father families (SFFs) on youth crime. Five hypotheses, including maternal, equality, same-sex, prevalence, and economic disadvantage, were expressed at the summative level and tested using data from 433 Canadian municipalities (Wong, 2017).

Between 2019 and 2020, the overall number of people incarcerated in the United States fell to an all-time low. Local jails drove the initial fall, which was sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic and pressure from campaigners to limit incarceration. Prisons also made reductions. From the summer to fall of 2020, prison populations declined further, but jails began to refill, showing the fragility of decarceration. Jails in rural counties saw the biggest initial drops but still incarcerate people at double the rate in urban and suburban areas. On the other hand, on January 31, 2020, there were 1,528,343 inmates in 51 prison administrations (out of 52) of the Council of Europe member states, corresponding to a European prison population rate of 103.2 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants. In the 50 prison administrations for which data are available for 2019 and 2020, this rate fell from 106.1 to 104.3 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants (-1.7%).

In the Philippines, there were several studies that focus on the effects of crimes on the life of criminals, victims, and even the immediate family of both victim and criminal (Haim, Nanes & Davidson, 2019;

Guinto, Kim, Bab-ating & Caranto, 2019; Matias & Lopez, 2017). In addition, a study that evaluated the self-concept and the parenting style perceived by the crime offenders and tested the relationship of the identified variables with the profile of the offenders was conducted (Matias & Lopez, 2017).

Most past literature has studied the experiences of criminal offenders, including the factors that have led them to commit the crime. However, little is known from the point of view of family members (Guinto, Kim, Bab-ating & Caranto, 2019). Further, no existing literature presented the different challenges encountered by the immediate family members of the inmates, the convicted head of the family, or any breadwinner of the imprisoned family. Hence, this study was conducted.

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on the **Resiliency Theory** of Garmezy in 1971. The theory argues that it is not the nature of adversity that is the most important, but how individuals deal with it. When an individual faces adversity, misfortune, or frustration, resilience helps them bounce back. It helps an individual survive, recover, and even thrive in the face and wake of misfortune. Psychologists and psychiatrists were the pioneers of modern resilience research (Masten, Lucke, Nelson & Stallworthy, 2021; Wood, 2019). Researchers interested in psychological and social determinants of health took up the idea and progressively expanded its application beyond mental health to include all aspects of health.

The origin of resilience research may be traced back to a half-century ago when psychologists investigated the outcomes of children at high risk for psychopathology (Briggs, Amaya-Jackson, Putnam, & Putnam, 2021). A minority of these children did not acquire any psychopathological disorders and grew up with remarkably healthy patterns. In the past, psychologists concentrated on identifying risk factors and vulnerabilities in children that could lead to bad results (Marchetti et al., 2020).

The study of adversity and an interest in how bad life experiences affect people negatively led to the development of resilience theory (Van Breda, 2018). Antonovsky (1979) refers to this as a 'pathogenic' perspective, which he claims has dominated the social and medical sciences by focusing on the origins of illness or (in the social work context) a breakdown in social functioning or welfare. Emmy Werner, who did longitudinal research on children born into bad socioeconomic conditions in Kauai, Hawaii, spanning several decades, is a key example of a researcher whose work in resilience began with work on vulnerability (Werner & Smith, 1982). In addition, Michael Rutter explored the intergenerational transmission of poverty and disadvantage (Rutter & Madge, 1976), and Norman Garmezy investigated the role of various genetic and environmental hazards in the development of schizophrenia (Garmezy, 1971).

The resiliency theory was used in the study since it provided a lens for determining the status of living among the family of the patriarch inmates. When there is resilience, researchers began looking into the positive elements related to good outcomes in at-risk children; a strength-focused one replaced this deficit-focused strategy in developmental research.

Conceptual Framework

This part of the study presented the different concepts derived from the themes obtained from the participants' responses in the interview conducted by the proponent, which include emotional grief, financial and moral drawbacks, striving for sustenance and survival, and annoying unsolicited public opinion.

The absence of any family member gives the feeling of incompleteness to anyone within the family. If the head of the family is physically not around, the ones left will usually face uncertainties and struggles, especially if the father provides for his family. In the case of a husband and a father sent to jail because of a criminal offense, the family experiences grief as they will long for the presence of their head of

household. This feeling of grief is a common expression of the absence of one important family member.

Emotional grief is felt by family members when a particular family member is convicted of a particular crime (Rowaert, Vandeveld, Lemmens & Audenaert, 2017). This emotion is eventually felt by the children who are very much attached to their parents. They might long for the usual love, support, and care of their parent during their absence due to imprisonment. This is usually felt by the family members in which it is their first time in life where they were apart from their family members. Emotionally challenged family members are considered a major difficulty in life. These emotions cannot automatically be avoided, especially for the Filipinos attached to the family.

With the absence of the patriarch who provides for the family, the most eventual effect is the family's difficulty in supporting their needs. In effect, the family experiences financial challenges as they have to continue living even without the support provided by the husband or father. Although the husband or father is put in jail for a reason, the situation brings even more pain to the family. Consequently, the situation will lead to emotional struggles that each family member might experience.

Financial difficulty is an identified challenge that almost everybody faces (Xue, 2017; Conger & Elder, 2020). The world is facing a financial crisis due to the pandemic that we are facing (Shahzad, Pouw, Rubbaniy & El-Temtamy, 2018; Brancaccio, Giammetti, Lopreite & Puliga, 2018). Further, this situation is also more experienced by the family left by the patriarch inmates. Most families were experiencing financial difficulties in sustaining their family's daily needs. It was a culture of the Filipinos that the head of the family would sustain the needs of the family members. However, in a situation wherein the patriarch is in prison. Eventually, the family will encounter financial difficulty (Arditti, 2018).

On the other hand, moral drawbacks could be experienced by any individual facing difficulties in life, like having a family member convicted of a specific crime being committed, most especially felt by the

children of the family. Moral support is one-factor children need from their parents to be motivated to continue their studies or even work to help support the family's needs (Doenyas, 2017; Verzhikhovska, Raievska & Bielova, 2019). Due to imprisonment, family members usually experience moral drawbacks in the absence of one member. This situation may lead to emotional stress for an individual.

Sustainability and survival need to be considered by the family of the patriarch inmates while they are not with their families. Sustaining the family's daily needs is the family's deep experience in the absence of their head. They were looking for a way to sustain the needs of their life and eventually survived the battle they were facing. Financial stability is crucial because it means continuously satisfying the household's requirements. It also entails living well within their financial means. This helps the family save a little money in an emergency. It is only sometimes necessary to have much money. Financial stability can be achieved in a low-income household.

Every individual experiencing difficulties tries to find ways to sustain their needs (Naji, 2020; Oulhaj, 2020) to survive the challenges encountered. This is an act of an individual hoping to overcome the current challenges they are facing (Živojinović, Ludvig & Hognl, 2019; Elissa, Sparud-Lundin, Xelsson, Khatib & Bratt, 2018). Filipinos are known for being strong in life regardless of their challenges. They are always crafting ways to gain something that eventually sustains their needs in life (Chassagne, 2019). Strong determination is always a good trait of an individual to overcome challenges and/or circumstances.

The emotional problems felt by the family of the patriarch inmates were added by the annoying unsolicited public opinions towards what is happening in the family's lives. Gossiping is one of the negative aspects of our lives (Hauke & Abele, 2020). This act could not help uplift the family's emotional problems, but it may add stressors to their lives. The family of the patriarch inmates cannot avoid the different unsolicited public opinions towards their personal life. Several comments about the personal life of the family of patriarch inmates came from the people within the locality. This kind of situation cannot be avoided since people

are used to having their own positive or negative comments in every situation happening within their area.

This study explored the challenges encountered by the immediate family of the patriarch inmates detained in Iligan City Jail.

Materials and Methods

Research Design

This study used the qualitative research design. The phenomenological approach was used as a method of undertaking. It analyzes the study participants' data to obtain meaningful themes following Moustakas' transcendental phenomenology (Moustakas, 1994). This research design is suited to explore the situation and the challenges encountered by the patriarch inmates' immediate family detained in Iligan City Jail.

Research Setting

The study was conducted in Iligan City, where the inmates were mostly from the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Misamis Oriental. Using the same territorial definition as a municipality, Iligan became a chartered city of Lanao del Norte on June 16, 1950. It was declared a first-class city in 1969 and was reclassified as First Class City "A" on July 1, 1977, by Presidential Decree No. 465. In 1983, Iligan was again reclassified as a highly urbanized city. Iligan is known as the Industrial Center of Southern Philippines, and its economy is largely based on heavy industries. It produces hydroelectric power for the Mindanao region through the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) and the Mindanao Regional Center (MRC), housing Agus V, VI, and VII hydroelectric plants.

Research Participants

The study was participated by five (5) immediate family members of the head of the family inmates of Iligan City Jail. These participants were purposively identified, and they were chosen based on the following criteria: 1) a wife or a live-in partner of the inmate, 2) a child of the inmate, in case the wife is not available during the conduct of the interview, and 3) parent of the inmate, in case the wife or the child is not available.

Research Instruments

The study used the interview guide crafted by the researcher. The adviser checked the interview guide, and at the same time, it was checked and approved by the panel members before it was administered to the participants. Further, the registered psychologist validated the instrument since the study is also inclined to the discipline. Finally, the researcher used an audio recorder during the interview with the participants.

Data Collection

Data collection is vital in every research endeavor. Before the data collection, the researcher started by asking permission from the university's dean of the Graduate school, allowing the researcher to pursue the study and conduct the interview through a formal letter. Once the approval from the dean was obtained, the researcher asked permission from the Jail Warden of the City Jail of Iligan in allowing the researcher to identify the head of the family inmates. Upon obtaining the necessary permissions, the researcher asked for consent from the respective barangay chairman, where the identified family members reside. Finally, the researcher set an appointment with the identified participants and proposed the interview schedule. The researcher informed the participants that the conversation would be recorded and assured them that all their responses would be confidential. Further, the minimum health protocol was observed during the interview, considering the pandemic.

Ethical Considerations

The researcher always observed ethical standards. The researcher strictly observed the voluntary participation of all the participants involved in the study. The interview was not conducted without their consent by allowing them to sign the informed consent form prepared by the researcher. In terms of the participant's identity, the researcher applied the measure to promote anonymity and secrecy by not mentioning my participants' names during the interview. Privacy and confidentiality were always observed, particularly the name of the participants and other information unnecessary to the study. The researcher adheres to the guidelines set by the Republic Act No. 10173, known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012”.

Data Analysis

In this study, Moustakas' (1994) data analysis technique of phenomenological reduction will be used. In addition, the transcripts of all participants gathered from the interviews will be analyzed using the methods of Moustakas. The following are the steps in the phenomenological reduction which serve as a guide in analyzing the data gathered: (1) Bracketing, (2) Horizontalization, (3) Clustering into Themes, (4) Textural Description, (5) Structural Description, and (6) Textural-Structural Synthesis.

Bracketing is an approach I will use to mitigate the effects of preconceived notions and perceptions held before the study commences. It is a process of suspending judgments and biases, or ‘*epoche*.’ Consequently, I will reach a deep level of inquiry from topic and population selection, interview design, collection and interpretation, and dissemination of research findings.

Horizontalization technically refers to listing all verbatim expressions that will affect the study. Initially, I will look into each statement with equal value. Then, statements that will be found irrelevant, repetitive, overlapping, and outside the scope of the study will be ignored.

Finally, horizons, which are the remaining sections after the data has been polished, will be considered the constituent and significant parts of the phenomenon. According to Moustakas, "horizons are unlimited, and horizontalization is a never-ending process" (Moustakas, 1994).

Clustering is the third step in obtaining inferences from the study. It involves the reduction of experiences to invariant horizons, creating core themes, and validating the invariant horizons using multiple data sources. In reducing the statements into horizons, I will cluster them into themes and ensure that each theme is implied with only one meaning. This is considered as placing the phenomenon into a "textural language." To validate the invariant horizons obtained from the study, I will review the findings of research studies using methods other than the data-gathering methods used in the study, like observation, field note-taking, focus group interviews, and related literature. This validation process is crucial to the accuracy and clarity of the representations.

Textural description, or 'what occurred,' refers to an account describing the phenomenon's perception. In obtaining the textual description of the participants' experience, I will use the verbatim excerpts from the interview and provide a narration of the meaning units derived from the themes. Structural description, or how it occurred, integrates imaginative variation, an ingenious outlook, and insights into the textural description. An imaginative variation is considered the mental experiment on analyzing the details and structures of the participants' experience by being detached from natural inclination through epoche. It is appended in each paragraph of textural descriptions to generate a structural description.

In the textural-structural synthesis process, I will collate the meaning units of each participant and develop a composite of textural and structural descriptions that are common to them. A narrative or synthesis represents all of the participants written in a third-person perspective. The primary goal of this final step of Moustakas' method is to obtain the essence of the experience of the phenomenon.

Responses of the study participants were analyzed through the NVivo software that guided the development of themes.

Results and Discussions

Themes are derived from the responses of the participant of the study after interviewing by the proponent. The participants' responses were analyzed using the NVivo software to produce an appropriate theme. The study identified four (4) appropriate themes: emotional grief, financial and moral drawbacks, striving for sustenance and survival, and annoying unsolicited public opinions.

Emotional Grief

Emotional grief is a feeling experienced by anybody when someone they love is taken away from them. The pain of losing is often devastating, and one may experience all kinds of difficult and unexpected emotions, from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt, and profound sadness. Emotional grief was experienced by the family members of the patriarch inmates at the time that they were convicted for the violations that they had committed. Most family members cannot avoid experiencing this emotion since the member of their family was convicted.

The participants felt the pain of being left, but they had no choice but to accept the sad reality and move on. They have to accept that the head of their family committed a crime, and they have to live with it. Some participants also mentioned that they do not know how to live without their partners. They were so worried and did not know how to support their children. These were revealed in the answers of the participants:

"When my son was convicted for the crime, sir, I feel pain, sir, and thinking that I have no choice but to accept it, sir" (P2).

"Sir, when my husband was convicted, sir, all I feel is I have no other choice but to move on, sir, and a pain in my heart, sir" (P3).

"When my son was convicted, sir, I am very lonely and feel pain in my heart, sir"(P4).

"After my son was convicted, sir, I feel dismayed and pain, but I have nothing to do but to accept it, sir" (P10).

"When my husband was convicted, I felt depressed and sad because I do not know how to live without him, sir"(P7).

"When my husband was convicted, sir, I felt very weak, pain in my chest and worried sir because we have our children to support sir." (P9)

In addition, participant 6 stressed that he was worried about his father because of his old age. Perhaps, he was afraid his father could not take it to prison. A mother, participant 8, further mentioned that she was worried because she thought she could no longer see her son for a long time. These were their emotional expressions:

"After my father was convicted, sir, I am very much worried because he is already old to serve a sentence, sir" (P6).

"After my son was convicted, sir, I felt pain and worried because I thought that I could not see my son for a long time, sir" (P8).

Most study participants experienced emotional grief (Baker, Norris & Cherneva, 2021; Shoemaker, 2019; Shaw, Gongola, Teitcher & Scurich, 2019) by the time their immediate head of the family was convicted of a particular crime committed. They tend to become emotional like any other difficult situation experienced by the family. This is eventually felt by Filipinos since the majority of Filipinos are family-oriented individuals. On the other hand, some participants said they were depressed when their family members were convicted. This situation in which family members felt anxiety about the situation (Mulia,

Keliat & Wardani, 2017; Altintas & Bilici, 2018; Badru, Ogunlesi, Ogunwale, Abdulmalik & Yusuf, 2018).

The result implied that the family members were worried about when their family members were convicted, considering their old age. In addition, they are worried about their health status inside the jail, serving sentences for years. Most participants, like any others, were disappointed upon committing the crime of their family members. These feelings are usually felt by other individuals experiencing or facing a difficult family situation.

Financial and Moral Drawbacks

Financial difficulties can be experienced by an individual having a budget shortage to sustain the family's needs. Further, it is a situation in which an individual may need more time to meet their bills or afford necessary basic needs. On the other hand, the moral drawback is a situation in which an individual's moral values have been affected due to contributing circumstances experienced by the individual.

In the absence of the husband, the family encountered difficulty in their finances, and they had to adjust their daily living. The participants, who are mothers of inmates, also revealed that they felt lonely and missed the moral support of their sons. This moral support was also emphasized in the answers of the other participants:

"In the absence of my son, sir, there is a little bit of different and adjustment in our day-to-day living, especially in terms of financial support, sir" (P1).

"In the absence of my husband, sir, I have encountered difficulty in financial and moral support, sir" (P3).

"In the absence of my husband, sir, I have encountered difficulties in how can I budget financially and have moral support, sir" (P7).

“Without my son sir, I feel lonely and missing my moral support coming from my son sir.” (P8)

"In the absence of my husband, sir, I feel a very big difference, especially to my moral and financial support, sir" (P9).

“In the absence of my son, sir, I encountered adjustment to my financial support, sir" (P10).

Financial shortages to sustain the needs of the family were faced by many not only in the locality but throughout the country, even across the globe currently (Makin, 2019; Barnichon, Matthes & Ziegenbein, 2018; Saleh, Halili, Zeitun & Salim, 2017; Demirgüç-Kunt, Peria & Tressel, 2020). This situation arises even before the advent of the pandemic (Reinhart & Reinhart, 2020; Bernanke, 2018; Zhang & Broadstock, 2018). Moreover, most Filipinos were experiencing financial issues due to the growing needs of each family.

On the other hand, family members of the patriarch inmates experienced moral drawbacks with their absence at home (Antony, 2019). Most participants were starving for moral support in everything they did with the head of the family. Moral support is an important aspect of every family member's life that they can gain from their family. This support can lead to success in everything they do since it gives them the strength to do what is best for them.

The result implied that the difficulties in sustaining the family's daily needs were experienced most of the time. Therefore, these family members tend to look for more ways to uplift their financial status without the immediate head of the family. This is a challenging situation faced by the family since this is the only aspect of their lives wherein they can sustain the basic needs of the family members.

Striving for Sustenance and Survival

Striving for sustenance is looking for effective ways to sustain the basic needs of an individual and the need of their family. It is considered a challenge for anybody who was in a difficult situation in life due to many circumstances that they were experiencing. Individuals who strive more to sustain their needs are most likely to survive. Therefore, this is considered good practice for an individual who is currently experiencing difficulties in life to keep on going.

The family of the inmates tried their very best in order to survive. However, they must exert effort to earn extra income to support and sustain their everyday needs. These were revealed in the answers of the participants:

"I tried my best to support the family, sir making the extra source of living, sir" (P1).

"As usual, sir, I will support the family doing our best to survive, sir" (P2).

"It is very hard, sir, to survive, making an extra effort to sustain our daily needs, sir" (P3).

"When my father was arrested, sir, I was busy on my online job, sir, to sustain our daily needs" (P6).

"I will try hard and double the effort, sir, to live and survive" (P7).

"I did try my best and effort, sir, to support me in my daily needs" (P8).

Sustenance and survival are acts considered by an individual to live in the presence of any circumstances (Pimplikar, Mukherjee, Parija, Vishwakarma, Narayanam, Ahuja & Mondal, 2017; Ladas, 2020; Raj &

Aithal, 2018). In this way, individuals may come up with ways to sustain their basic needs and the needs of their families (Jin & Kim, 2017; Oulhaj, 2020). These situations may be experienced by anybody who is facing a crisis in the family and the community as a whole (Komorowski, 2018; Grau Grau & Ramírez López, 2017; Krstić, Krstić & Đekić, 2018). Therefore, any family crisis, like health-related problems, death, and even serious troubles with family members, is a contributing factor to such actions of an individual.

The result implied that the family members experienced difficulties sustaining their daily needs in the absence of the head of the family. Most of the study's respondents encountered a situation in which they were striving for sustenance and survival in the absence of the head of the family due to imprisonment. These have been the usual challenges faced by the family members who were left at home since a family member has been imprisoned, especially if the breadwinner is the subject of any violations of the law of the land. These family members of the patriarch inmates, like the wife and children, tend to look for an extra income to sustain the family's needs, which is supposedly a father's responsibility.

Annoying Unsolicited Public Opinions

Unsolicited public opinions were the different opinions of the public towards the situation experienced by an individual. These opinions may have negatively affected the individual who experienced a difficult situation in life. Gossiping is among the identified problems and experiences of the family members of the convicted patriarch inmates. This is an act of talking negative thoughts from one person to another towards others and events.

The majority of the participants of the study experienced this situation in the community where they are currently living. Therefore, most were dismayed upon hearing the unsolicited public opinion towards their current situation. Further, because of the situation, most of them

were uncomfortable dealing with others around the locality. These were revealed in the answers of the participants:

“There are times we heard gossip about the incident, and I feel dismayed, but I will never mind the situation, sir” (P1).

“When my husband was imprisoned, sir, I felt dismayed and discomfort, sir, because I heard some gossip around me that my husband is a killer, but I prayed to fight and to continue living because I have four children who depend on me, sir” (P3).

“When my father was imprisoned, sir, I feel worried and sad because of the negative gossip I hear from my neighbor, and I am worried about my father, but I know we can survive” (P6).

“When my husband was imprisoned, sir, I heard negative feedback from my neighbors, and my children felt discomfort, but I told them not to think about it and just focus on what we have now and to survive, sir” (P7).

“When my son was imprisoned, I felt discomfort to our neighbor because of the negative gossip I heard, but what do I do but accept and move forward to live, sir” (P8).

Furthermore, the family needed help finding a job because of the record of their family name. They always hear negative feedback in the locality where they currently live. However, despite these things, they remained strong to show their neighbors that they were doing the right things. Besides, they must stand up for their children to survive. These answers of the participants supported these:

“When my son was imprisoned, sir, our daily life was greatly affected. We can hear gossip, and my children cannot easily find another job because of the record and family name we bear, but

we deal with it by making an extra effort and showing them that we are good people, sir" (P4).

"As a public servant, sir, I cannot deny that because my brother was imprisoned, there are people who look at you the same as him and say that I am a protector of my brother, but to prove I will show them my sincerity in serving the people and fighting against drugs sir" (P5).

"At the time my husband was imprisoned, sir, I heard negative feedback to my neighbor and sometimes making me and my children sad, and I have to stay strong to survive for my children, sir" (P9).

"When my son was imprisoned, sir, I heard negative feedback from my neighbor because I, as a retired law enforcement officer, could not discipline my son, but what can I do for today is to accept and move forward to survive, sir" (P10).

The result implied that the family members were all affected by what was happening to the head of the family. There were several situations wherein family members could not easily land their job since their family background needed to be better because of the situation. This is considered a serious effect since landing a job is important to sustain and support the day-to-day needs of the family members.

With the different negative experiences among the family members of the patriarch inmates, the majority continuously face their challenges in life and focus on how they overcome those difficult situations in life. Moving forward and focusing on the different ways to survive were the identified coping mechanism of the participants. They need to cope with the challenges they have encountered due to the situation to survive in the battles of life. This is a good indicator that Filipinos are well-determined in life and are strong enough to face any challenges that might come in the future.

Established from the responses during the data gathering conducted by the researcher through interviews guided by the approved interview protocol, it was found out that the participants who were the immediate family of the patriarch inmates experienced emotional grief since it is one of the assets of most Filipino families to have a strong connection in each member. Filipinos are known to be family-centered individuals. Thus, overcoming the situation is difficult and takes time for most Filipinos. Moreover, the participants were striving for sustenance and survival. They are looking for different ways to survive in the absence of the head of the family. Most of them were looking for ways and continuously working to sustain the needs of their family.

On the other hand, most of the participants experienced financial difficulties and, at the same time, moral drawbacks in the absence of the head of the family. This is experienced since it is usually the head of the family who will provide for the needs. With the absence of the head of the family due to imprisonment, eventually, the family experienced a financial crisis. Further, the morale of each member of the family was affected by the situation.

Furthermore, annoying unsolicited public opinions were one of the themes generated out of the responses of the participants. This situation must be avoided since gossiping among the people living in one locality is evident based on the participants' responses. This situation leads to depression among the family members of the patriarch inmates.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The four (4) identified themes of the study, such as striving for sustenance and survival, financial and moral drawbacks, emotional grief, and annoying unsolicited public opinions, were the common status of living among the family members of the patriarch inmates. These are the usual challenges the family members encounter that need more attention from other concerned individuals. These family members need support from their friends and relatives to sustain the needs of their families. Since the patriarch is the one who supports the family financially, eventually,

the family may encounter financial drawbacks. On the other hand, the family can experience difficulty surviving on their daily needs since they are having financial struggles in the absence of the head of the family, who happens to be the provider of the family.

Based on the study results, there is a need to strengthen the support system of the concerned government agency towards the situation of the family members of the patriarch inmates. Since most of the challenges being encountered by the family members are more focused on the emotional aspect of their lives, the social welfare department should strengthen their programs in supporting these families through effective evaluation of the situation for them to craft appropriate counseling techniques for these identified families. On the other hand, the Philippine government may design programs that will support the family of the patriarch inmates in times when they were left at home. Further, the locality where the family was currently situated might support the inmates' family, like giving them livelihood programs to sustain their daily needs.

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