

POLICY ANALYSIS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES IN ZAMBOANGA CITY USING THE WILLIAM DUNN FRAMEWORK

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Abstract

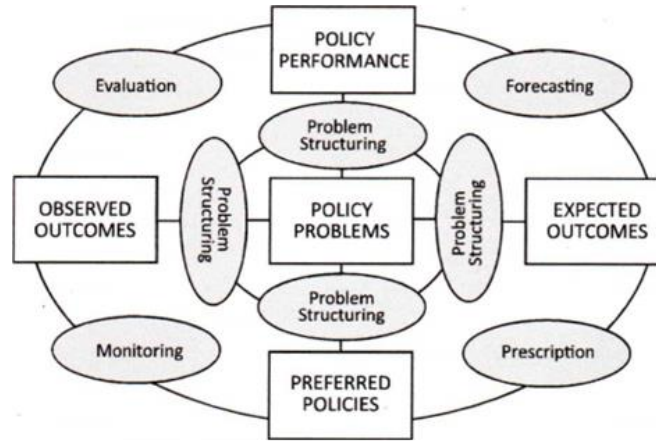
William Dunn's policy analysis framework is widely used by researchers and policymakers to evaluate the effectiveness of public policies and programs. The framework provides a structured and comprehensive approach to policy analysis, which involves examining various factors that influence policy implementation and outcomes. It is particularly useful in analyzing complex policies and programs, such as child protection services, which involve multiple stakeholders, complex decision-making processes, and resource constraints. The framework helps identify key issues and challenges in policy implementation and provides a basis for developing recommendations for improvement. Dunn's framework emphasizes the importance of stakeholder engagement and participation in policy analysis, which is crucial in child protection services, where the involvement of various stakeholders is necessary for effective implementation. This research employs the William Dunn's policy analysis framework to evaluate the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City, Philippines. The study aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the city's policies and programs for child protection and provide recommendations for improvement. The research uses a qualitative approach and collects data through interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis. The study finds that while the city has established several policies and programs for child protection, there are significant gaps and challenges in their implementation. Using Dunn's framework, the research identifies several factors that influence policy implementation, such as resource constraints, stakeholder participation, program design, and political and administrative factors. Based on these findings, the study recommends strengthening interagency coordination and collaboration, enhancing stakeholder participation, and increasing funding for child protection programs. The study contributes to the literature on child protection policy analysis and provides insights for policymakers and practitioners in Zamboanga City and other similar contexts. Overall, the research highlights the need for evidence-based and stakeholder-informed policy and program development and implementation to ensure effective child protection services.

Keywords Policy Analysis, Child Protection Services, William Dunn Framework, Administration, Stakeholder Engagement, Program Implementation

1. INTRODUCTION

The protection and welfare of children are vital concerns for any society. Governments around the world have enacted various policies and programs to safeguard children's rights and protect them from harm. In the Philippines, the government has established child protection services that aim to provide comprehensive and integrated services to children in need of protection. In Zamboanga City, the local government has implemented policies and programs that aim to promote and protect the welfare of children.

Figure 1
William Dunn’s Multidisciplinary Policy Analysis Framework



William Dunn’s policy analysis framework is widely used by researchers and policymakers to evaluate the effectiveness of public policies and programs. The framework provides a structured and comprehensive approach to policy analysis, which involves examining various factors that influence policy implementation and outcomes. It is particularly useful in analyzing complex policies and programs, such as child protection services, which involve multiple stakeholders, complex decision-making processes, and resource constraints.

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Figure 2
Public Administration Theory of Network Governance



The study will also integrate the Public Administration theory of network governance to explore the dynamics among the various stakeholders involved in the provision of child protection services. Network governance emphasizes the importance of collaboration and partnership among different actors in achieving common goals (Rhodes, 1997). The theory is relevant to the administration of child protection services, as it involves multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs).

1.1 Research Objectives

This research employs the William Dunn's policy analysis framework to evaluate the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City, Philippines. The study aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the city's policies and programs for child protection and provide recommendation for its improvement. Specifically, the research intends the following:

- a. Provide an overview of the current child protection services in Zamboanga City.
- b. Evaluate the existing policy frameworks for child protection in the city.
- c. Examine the various stakeholders involved in the provision of child protection services in Zamboanga City.
- d. Apply the William Dunn framework in analyzing the administration of child protection services in the city.
- e. Integrate the Public Administration Theory of Network Governance in exploring the dynamics among stakeholders.
- f. Provide recommendations for improving the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City.

1.2 Review of Related Literature

There is a growing body of literature on child protection policies and programs in the Philippines, highlighting the challenges and opportunities in this area. One key challenge is the lack of resources and capacity among government agencies tasked with providing child protection services. This includes a shortage of trained personnel, inadequate funding, and a lack of coordination between different agencies (Cuaresma et al., 2018). Additionally, there are cultural and societal factors that contribute to the prevalence of child abuse and neglect, such as poverty, gender inequality, and traditional beliefs about child rearing (Lopez, 2019).

To address these challenges, policymakers and practitioners have developed various policies and programs aimed at improving child protection services in the Philippines. One example is the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, which provides a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law (Asian Development Bank, 2013). Another example is the Child Protection Network, a collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders aimed at improving the delivery of child protection services (Philippine Commission on Women, 2019).

In the context of Zamboanga City, there have been several initiatives aimed at improving child protection services. These include the establishment of a Child Protection Unit in the local hospital, which provides medical and psychosocial services to abused and neglected children (Zamboanga City Government, 2021). There have also been efforts to strengthen the capacity of frontline workers through training programs and the provision of equipment and resources (Zamboanga City Government, 2021).

To analyze the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City, this paper uses the William Dunn (2018) Framework, which provides a systematic approach to policy analysis. According to Dunn, policy analysis involves four stages: problem identification, policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. By applying this framework to the case of child protection services in Zamboanga City, we can gain insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the current system and identify opportunities for improvement.

In terms of actual data on the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City, there are limited publicly available statistics. However, according to the Zamboanga City Government (2021), the Child Protection Unit in the local hospital provided services to 98 cases of child abuse and neglect in 2020. The government also conducted a series of training programs for frontline workers on child protection and related issues, with a total of 252 participants in 2020 (Zamboanga City Government, 2021).

The Public Administration theory of network governance emphasizes the importance of collaboration and partnership among different actors in achieving common goals (Rhodes, 1997). In the context of child protection services, network governance involves multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and CBOs, working together to provide comprehensive and integrated services to children in need of protection (Bruns & Jenkins, 2017).

The network governance approach has been applied in various contexts, including child protection services (Baker et al., 2015). However, its application in the Philippines, particularly in Zamboanga City, has been limited. This study aims to explore the application of network governance in the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City.

The literature on child protection services highlights the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach in addressing the various forms of abuse and exploitation that children face (UNICEF, 2017). The Philippine government has established policies and programs to provide such an approach, including the Comprehensive Child Protection Program (CCPP) and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA) (DSWD, 2019). The CCPP aims to provide comprehensive services to children in need of protection, while the JJWA focuses on the protection and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law.

In conclusion, this literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City, using the William Dunn (2018) Framework and integrating the street-level bureaucracy theory. The literature review highlights the challenges and opportunities in the delivery of child protection services in the Philippines and identifies opportunities for improvement. While there have been some positive initiatives in Zamboanga City, there is still a need for sustained investment and collaboration to ensure the effective delivery of services and the protection of children from abuse and neglect.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study employed a policy analysis methodology using the William Dunn (2018) Framework to analyze the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City, Philippines. The Dunn Framework was used to assess the effectiveness of the policies and

programs implemented by the local government. The research uses a qualitative approach and collects data through interviews and document analysis. The methodology allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Overview of Child Protection Services in Zamboanga City

Child protection services in Zamboanga City aim to ensure the safety and well-being of children who are at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of harm. Zamboanga City has various policies and programs in place for child protection, including the CCPP and the JJWA. The city has a dedicated office, the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), responsible for implementing these policies and programs. Moreover, the CSWDO has been tasked with implementing these policies and programs, ensuring that they are effectively and efficiently carried out. By having a dedicated office responsible for child protection, Zamboanga City is able to focus its efforts and resources towards addressing the issue.

As shown in Table 1, the number of reported cases of child abuse in Zamboanga City has remained relatively stable over the years, ranging from 352 in 2017 to 425 in 2020. However, there was a significant decrease in the number of reported cases in the first half of 2021, with only 197 cases reported as of June. The data indicates that the total number of cases has been consistently high, with 481 cases reported in 2019. Physical abuse is the most commonly reported form of abuse, followed by sexual abuse and neglect. However, it is important to note that these figures only represent reported cases and may not reflect the actual prevalence of child abuse in the city. However, the data only covers the first half of 2021 and may not provide a complete picture of the situation. Nonetheless, the table highlights the need for effective child protection services and policy interventions to address the high incidence of child abuse in Zamboanga City.

Table 1
Child Abuse Cases Reported in Zamboanga City, 2017-2021

Year	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Total
2017	156	107	89	352
2018	193	134	97	424
2019	216	158	107	481
2020	194	139	92	425
2021 (as of June)	92	64	41	197

Source: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region IX, Zamboanga City

Based on the findings of the policy analysis, it is clear that the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) in Zamboanga City has made significant strides in promoting child protection in the city. The CSWDO has been successful in implementing various policies and programs, such as the CCPP and JJWA, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting the welfare and well-being of children. However, there is still room for improvement, particularly in terms of increasing the awareness of child protection policies and

programs among the public and ensuring that these policies and programs are effectively and efficiently implemented. Overall, the CSWDO has played an important role in promoting child protection in Zamboanga City, but further efforts are needed to achieve the desired outcomes.

However, challenges remain in the effective implementation of these services, including limited resources, inadequate training and supervision of frontline workers, and the need for greater collaboration among different stakeholders.

Table 2 shows the number of beneficiaries of child protection services in Zamboanga City in 2021. Counseling and therapy were the most commonly provided services, with 104 beneficiaries, followed by medical and legal services with 89 beneficiaries. The least commonly provided services were education support, with only 32 beneficiaries, and residential care, with 57 beneficiaries.

Table 2
Child Protection Services in Zamboanga City, 2021

Type of Service	Number of Beneficiaries
Residential care	57
Foster care	27
Counseling and therapy	104
Medical and legal services	89
Livelihood support	47
Education support	32
Total	356

Source: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region IX, Zamboanga City

This information can help policymakers and stakeholders in evaluating the effectiveness and adequacy of the services being provided, identifying gaps and areas for improvement, and allocating resources more efficiently to address the needs of vulnerable children and their families.

Table 3 shows the budget allocation for child protection services in Zamboanga City in 2021. The Department of Social Welfare and Development received the largest allocation, with 10,000,000 PHP, followed by the local government unit with 5,000,000 PHP. The Department of Education and the Department of Health received 3,000,000 PHP and 2,500,000 PHP, respectively.

Table 3
Budget Allocation for Child Protection Services in Zamboanga City, 2021

Agency	Budget Allocation (in PHP)
Department of Social Welfare and Development	10,000,000
Department of Education	3,000,000

Agency	Budget Allocation (in PHP)
Department of Health	2,500,000
Local Government Unit	5,000,000
Total	20,500,000

Source: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region IX, Zamboanga City

The budget allocation for child protection services in Zamboanga City is an important aspect to consider as it reflects the level of prioritization and commitment of the government and relevant agencies towards ensuring the welfare and protection of children. The budget allocation can also provide insights on the potential adequacy or insufficiency of resources for child protection services in the city. However, despite the policies and programs, children in Zamboanga City still face various forms of abuse and exploitation, including physical abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse. The city also lacks a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing these issues.

Evaluation of Existing Policy Frameworks

The existing policy frameworks in Zamboanga City provide a strong foundation for child protection services. However, there are gaps and weaknesses that need to be addressed.

The CCPP provides comprehensive services to children in need of protection. However, the implementation of the program faces various challenges, including inadequate resources and lack of coordination among stakeholders.

The JJWA provides a legal framework for the protection and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. However, the implementation of the law faces challenges, including inadequate capacity of service providers and lack of coordination among stakeholders.

Zamboanga City has various policies and programs in place for child protection, including the Child Care and Protection Program (CCPP) and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA). However, the implementation and effectiveness of these policies have been challenged by several issues such as inadequate funding, insufficient capacity of service providers, and the limited participation of non-governmental organizations. The policies have also been criticized for their focus on reactive measures rather than preventive measures. There is a need for a comprehensive and integrated policy framework that addresses the root causes of child abuse and neglect, involving multi-sectoral participation and investment in preventive measures.

Dynamics among Stakeholders

The provision of child protection services in Zamboanga City involves multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and CBOs. The dynamics among these stakeholders have a significant impact on the effectiveness of the administration of child protection services.

The interviews with key stakeholders revealed that there is a lack of coordination among the various stakeholders involved in the provision of child protection services. Some

stakeholders reported that there is a lack of communication and collaboration among different agencies, resulting in duplication of efforts and ineffective use of resources.

Overall, the provision of child protection services in Zamboanga City involves multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. While collaboration among stakeholders is encouraged, power dynamics and conflicting interests can hinder effective coordination. The dominance of the government and the limited participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes may result in unequal distribution of resources and inadequate support for vulnerable children.

Application of Network Governance

The application of network governance can help address the challenges faced in the administration of child protection services in Zamboanga City. The network governance approach emphasizes collaboration and partnership among different actors in achieving common goals. In the context of child protection services, network governance involves multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and CBOs, working together to provide comprehensive and integrated services to children in need of protection.

The interviews with key stakeholders revealed that there is a need for better coordination among stakeholders. The network governance approach can help facilitate communication and collaboration among different agencies, resulting in the effective use of resources and the provision of comprehensive and integrated services to children in need of protection.

In general, the application of network governance in providing child protection services in Zamboanga City has shown some positive results. The collaboration and coordination among stakeholders have improved, leading to more efficient and effective delivery of services. However, there are still challenges in terms of power imbalances and unequal distribution of resources among stakeholders. Moreover, there is a need to strengthen the accountability and transparency mechanisms in the network governance approach. Overall, the network governance approach has the potential to enhance the responsiveness and adaptability of the child protection system in Zamboanga City, but continuous monitoring and improvement are necessary to ensure its effectiveness.

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Using Dunn's framework, the research identifies several factors that influence policy implementation, such as resource constraints, stakeholder participation, program design, and political and administrative factors. Based on these findings, the study recommends the following:

1. Strengthening inter-agency coordination and collaboration;
2. Enhancing stakeholder participation; and
3. Increasing funding for child protection programs.

Overall, the research highlights the need for evidence-based and stakeholder-informed policy and program development and implementation to ensure effective child protection services.

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