

# Exploring the Minds of Parents of Drug Users: A Phenomenology

Girlie N. Cañete<sup>1</sup>, Harry Santiago P. Achas<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Saint Francis Xavier College, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, 8501, Philippines  
gncanete012283[at]gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Cagayan de Oro College, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, 9000, Philippines  
santiagoharry206[at]gmail.com

**Abstract:** *Drug addiction affects not only the user but including his family and the entire community as well. This study is primarily interested to listen to the experiences of the drug user's parent in order to put into account the possible intervention that will be formulated out from their respective shared experiences. Their challenges and ways of coping it were also part of the investigation. Parents were also asked to share their insights to the general community basing on their experiences. Qualitative research design specifically phenomenology was utilized. Qualitative data was obtained through in-depth interview among ten (10) parents and focus group discussion (FGD) with six (6) parents done in one of the Rehabilitation Center in Northern Mindanao. Findings revealed that radical change of child's temperament and character, shame, humiliation and anxiety, guilt and self-reproach, being caught off-guard, and being saddled with financial burden were the five major themes experienced by the participants. As to their coping strategies, three themes emerged, fortitude and positivity, unconditional love, forgiveness and support, and faith and trust in Divine Providence. For the insights that they shared to the society, be a strong presence in your children's life, give them the love and support to start life anew, and intensify drive on war against drugs were the three common themes. Considering that most research participants confided that part of coping up with their experienced problem is "acceptance", we, as one community should also find acceptance on us. Acceptance that a certain family for example had experience problem on addiction and our role is to support them and eliminate the traditional concept of stigmatizing drug users.*

**Keywords:** Drug Addiction; Drug Users; Drug User's Parents, Philippines

## 1. Introduction

Not even the man in the storm's eye could have imagined the country's magnitude of the drug threat. In many respects, drugs and crimes are connected. With the addictive nature of drugs, not to mention their capacity to relieve tension and give some degree of temporary pleasure and sense of euphoria, the users created a powerful urge and willingness in the process to continue to use these drugs that have proved to be harmful to an individual's mental, physical and psychological well-being. Prohibited drugs are not free and for those who are already addicted, it costs an enormous quantity of money. This is then the start of their engagement to illegal activities and operations. A prevalent situation is that a drug user engages in the sale of drugs so that he can sustain his need for illegal drugs. Others may commit crimes related to property such as robbery and stealing. Thus, it is not surprising that there are close links between drugs and crimes. It is obvious that illegal drugs have a major impact on the Filipino society and have ruined lives and families. (Winning the War on Drugs and Poverty, Working for Peace (2016).

Nevertheless, with the multiple programs allocated for the positive rehabilitation of drug users, the family therapy program has been seen as having a significant impact in providing a favorable result to a life-long recovery of drug users, given that every member of the family circle will be affected once there is a member sought to have been engaged in drug addiction. Addiction affects the finance, physical health, and psychological well-being of a family. It should be noted that, the effect of addiction in most households is overwhelmingly negative, with few

exceptions. No matter how old a child's parents are, the generic perception is, discovering addiction is a problem classified as displeasing and rude awakening. It can cause mothers and fathers to create doubt as to their parental skills and decision making. Most of the time parents blame themselves for the involvement of their child on drug addiction. This can lead to dysfunctional family system if intervention is unsuccessful as confidence between each member in the family circle may disappear. Other members of the family may have doubts about the sincerity of the family member involved in drug addiction. With this, the one involved in drug addiction can feel the lack of sense of belongingness. (Groenewald & Bhana, 2016).

Accordingly, parents of drug users can do a lot to help their children overcome addiction, but they can also do a lot of harm if they don't make the correct decisions about their children. This applies to both adult and adolescent children. Even an addict's parents in their 40's may have an important impact on the severity and length of their child's drug use as well as on their utmost self-restoration. Drug addiction recovery needs a unified family effort. Addicted member should feel the comfort when he is with his family and should not feel being rejected. Strong communication is a matter that needs to be developed intensively so that if ever a member of the family is having a problem, it will be resolved the soonest possible time. However, since drug addicted children often develop severe problems in communicating efficiently with their parents, it is vital to understand precisely what roles parents' plays during drug addiction and recovery in order for them to provide correct assistance to their children. This is very important given that in most instances, it is uncommon for the addict to reach for

assistance on his own. This is where a caring parent can step in and save a life literally (The Role of Parents in Addiction and Recovery, 2019).

The present administration of Rodrigo Duterte is quite firm in implementing programs geared on ending drug addiction in our country. News from television and any other mode of social media manifest this fact. Yet, we seldom hear of any program intended for the parents of these drug users who are believed to be one of the primary persons to suffer the negative effects of drug addiction. It is hoped that this research may provide data that will serve as an eye opener to take into consideration the family (parents in particular) towards the solution of drug addiction. Hence, the necessity to conduct a research study with an intention of knowing what is beneath the minds of these parents is the main thing considered by the researcher in pursuing her endeavor.

Drug addiction is regarded as a grim state of affairs. The researcher's interest to conduct this study manifests her care on resolving the problem. The fact that there is care means that there is still hope. Hope that every family will not anymore suffer the ill effects of drug addiction on any of their members.

### **1.1. Limitation and Delimitation of the Study**

The study involves parents of drug users from one of Northern Mindanao, Philippines drug rehabilitation facilities. A total of 16 parents were asked to participate in the study. 10 of them participated in the in-depth interview and the remaining six participated on the focus group discussion. The study depends on the capacity of the 16 respondents to describe their experiences and respond to issue from the interview. Informants had different degrees of understanding and personal experiences, and thus subjective.

The study is based through one-on-one interview and focus group discussion utilizing open-ended questions. The findings of the inquiry may not be generalizable to other areas in the nation due to the reality that there are only 10 informants for the in-depth interview and six for the focus group discussion. In the concept of inquiry, this research is descriptive. In terms of data collection, this study is only confined on the narrative reports of the parents of the drug users, currently undergoing treatment at Rehabilitation Center. This merely implies that the main analytical units are the reports and tales narrated by the parents of the drug users.

The study focuses on parent's shared experiences in coping with their child's drug addiction. However, this involves stories about how drug addiction formed by drug users based on their parents' point of perspective, the factors that led to its development, and how it affects the other family members. Since the research is of qualitative nature, constraints on the information gathered are regarded as the potential weakness of this research. Given also that only those parents who have a child undergoing rehabilitation programs are the sources of the information being supplied.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

This study used qualitative phenomenological approach. In this strategy, the investigator depended on the perceptions, ideas, emotions, judgement, and experiences of the drug user's parents. Phenomenology is usually accompanied by hermeneutics (Houston & Mullan-Jensen, 2012). Smith and Osborn (2007), emphasized that phenomenology is a descriptive study of human experience that focuses on an in-depth study of a phenomena based on the participants' point of view. Hermeneutics on the other hand as Houston and Mullan-Jensen have pointed out, focuses with interpreting the experiences, behavior or views of the respondents by exploring their intentions and its significance to them.

Phenomenology is a technique of qualitative research used to explain how a certain phenomenon is experienced by humans. A phenomenological research tries to set aside biases and pre conceived hypothesis about human experience, emotions and reactions to a specific scenario. Data taken from the interview are manipulated from the respondents' simple answers. The view or principle of the researcher on the subject under investigation is being discredited (Mortari&Tarozzi, 2010).

Since phenomenology is a qualitative research that focuses on the commonality of a lived experiences within a specific community, it has been regarded as the one relevant to this study. Drug users' parents were interviewed to collect data about their views and experiences on the matter being investigated. The basic objective of this approach is to arrive at a description the nature of the specific phenomenon linked to their child's addiction and coping strategy. The normal issues are: What's the phenomenon you've experience? What contexts or circumstances typically affected your experiences on the phenomenon? Participants and informants were allowed to share whatever answer they have based on the question given to them. The researcher put into account their thoughts and ideas regardless as to whether he/she agrees on it or not. This is basically the basic concept when we talk about phenomenological research study (Creswell & Poth, 2017).

Also, considering that the researcher wishes to define an event, activity or phenomenon in this research, a suitable qualitative method is the phenomenological study. There is utilization of mixtures or combination of techniques in a phenomenological research. Such as conducting interviews, reading papers, watching videos, or visiting locations and activities, to comprehend the significance that informants and participants place on everything being examined. To provide insight to their motivation, the researcher depends on the participants own views. Researcher don't begin with a well-formed hypothesis like other qualitative methods. Researcher also often performed a lot of interviews in a phenomenological research, generally between 5 and 25 for prevalent themes. This is done in order to create an adequate data set of research for emerging themes and to use other respondents to validate the results of the study. A phenomenological research as applied would aim to further understand the experiences of the parents and its effect to their lives and their family (Zahra, 2018).

Phenomenology basically studies the structure of the different kinds of experiences ranging from perception, thought, memory, imagination, desire, volition to bodily consciousness, embodied action, and social activity to include linguistic activity. Our experiences are aimed toward representing things only through specific concepts, thoughts, ideas, images and others. The direction of experience towards things in the world is created through awareness and consciousness. These constitute the significance or content of a particular experience and are different from the things they convey or imply. Phenomenology like any other study technique, has strengths and constraints. Overall, a wealthy and comprehensive view of human experience can be provided. It does however, rely on the participants' articulateness and requires the investigator to be objective and bias-free when interpreting the information (Smith & Thomasson, 2010).

The information was collected in this research through an in-depth interview as well as focus group conversation (FGD) with the purposively selected parents of drug users, presently undergoing therapy at the Rehabilitation center. Guide questions have been utilized to provide adequate data for the in-depth interview and focus group discussion (FGD). The focus group discussion or otherwise known as FGD is a method used to validate and clarify collected data that were gathered through other means.

The sensitivity of the issue on drug addiction contributes to the challenges that I experienced in conducting this study. Since my respondents are the parents of drug users, I had a hard time looking for willing and participative parents. On my first attempt in looking for my credible respondents, I visited one of the drug prone areas in Region- X. I was accompanied by one of the reputable residents there, but I was dismayed by the result of my initial survey because my prospect respondents were unwilling and hesitant to share their stories because what they have in mind is, their child will be subjected to "Operation Tokhang" if they will share to me to involvement of their child to drugs. That time, I went home problematic because I really want to pursue this study and acquire factual information. Not then when I was able to take the idea of visiting rehabilitation and having the parents of drug reformers as my respondents.

I then forwarded a letter to the Director of the Rehabilitation Center asking permission to be given an access to conduct interview to parents. My chosen rehabilitation Center is having with them a Research Team. I was entertained by the Head of the team and was asked with pertinent information related to my study. Upon knowing that my respondents are the parents, she is a bit worried of their availability since they had just scheduled a yearly family day requiring parents' attendance. It will take me long if I will wait for the next schedule since it will be on next year. I asked for her help and made an inquiry if they still have any other activity requiring the presence of parents aside from their recently concluded activity. Until the visitation time scheduled on weekends came to her mind. I was relieved upon hearing it and was given an instruction to wait for their call since my letter of intent still need to be approved by the Director of the Center.

A week after, I received a call requiring me to attend an orientation prior to the conduct of my study. Case officers were the facilitators of the said orientation. There, I was informed on the Do's and Don'ts when inside the Center particularly the things and foods that are not allowed. One of the members of the research team was with me that time. After the orientation, she lends me a copy of an "Informed Consent" for reproduction purposes which is to be accomplished by the respondents before the interview.

The following day, my data gathering commenced. Personnel from the rehabilitation's research team introduced me to the parents and explained the purpose of my presence and research. She then identified my respondents. She is with me all throughout the interview. The interview was conducted privately to assure that the statements of the respondents were not be affected by any factors. The researcher made sure that informants are well prepared and properly oriented on their involvement. All of them were asked to fill in the Informed Consent Form as manifestation for their voluntary participation. Duration of the interview conducted as the major means of data gathering was included on the contents of the mentioned form. That, the interview to be conducted will be for at least an hour. As to the timeline of the study, after the data gathering, immediate transcription of it was made and followed with the translation of data to English for those addressed through the vernacular language. This was done in an utmost nature in order to prohibit misplaced of data storage as well as to maintain its reliability and validity.

Basic note-taking was done by the researcher during the data gathering through an interview. Personal experiences during the conduct of the interview were noted. Remarkable reactions observed and seen from the informants and participants were also noted in order to better understand the phenomenon that they had experienced.

Researcher then asked permission from the informants and participants to allow her to use a tape recorder during the interview so that the entire conversation will be put into record and it will be easier for her to retrieve the statements given by them. Audio-recording will guarantee a greater degree of validity as well as the reliability of the research study. Therefore, this information collection instrument is essential.

All throughout the conduct of the research study, the research ethics were deliberately and strictly observed so as not to offend the sensibilities of the individuals engaged in the study. Strict observance of their rights to privacy was also maintained. In addition, confidentiality as to their identity was ensured. No name was being mentioned during the interview. They were addressed with "ma'am" and "sir".

### **2.1. Categorization of Data**

After the in-depth interviews and focus group discussion were accomplished, the audio recordings were immediately transcribed and translated into English (for those interviews in vernacular). Three steps were conducted during the data analysis, which included data reduction, data display, conclusion drawing and verification (Zhang & Wildemuth,

2009). Accordingly qualitative content assessment is any data reduction and applying due effort to know the sense of a particular thing that requires a quantity of qualitative material and tries to define key consistencies and meanings.

Data reduction is the abstraction of data from the transcription, the deletion of unimportant information and its transformation into a complete and readily understood content by many (Namey et al., 2008; Suter, 2012). The information pairing and sieving is often referred to as thematic analysis, a sorting and categorization form. The information were consolidated and becomes simpler to manage after being sorted and classified by data reduction, in particular by sorting and arranging big quantities of qualitative information, retrieving and locating words and sentences.

The second step was to analyze the data, which is the organization of the data and to show it in the form of graphic organizers, such as table or matrix, allowing the viewer to reach his conclusion (Suter, 2012). In this study, I sought the assistance of a professional data analyst. It is a step beyond data reduction, displaying the data in an arrange and orderly way, obviously demonstrating the interrelationships of pieces of information that are easily accessible to the viewer. Other higher order categories that were not discovered during data reduction, emerged at this point (Bryman, 2016).

The final steps in qualitative analysis were conclusion drawing and verification. It includes re-examining the meaning of the analyzed information and evaluating their aftermath for the issues at hand. Verification is integrally connected to conclusion drawing. It requires re-examination of the information as many times as needed to check or verify the emerging findings. No definitive evaluations have been produced at this stage, but the information have been permitted to make sense for themselves through the creation of conceptual categories and descriptive themes. The themes were then interpreted by the researcher in an effort to explain the phenomenon being studied with regard to the associated literature on the study (Marshall & Rossman, 2014).

Many different interpretations were considered before the investigator created a rational argument in the most evident manner possible so that others could judge the study's validity. I considered which data to include and information to dispose the time when I made the interpretation of my study. The manner in which the text was written was clear and accurate, correctly recognized which of the data was the researcher's personal view and which are those with factual description. An interesting and readable research offers adequate description to enable the reader to comprehend the basis for an interpretation. (Graue, 2015).

Member checking and peer debriefing were also applied. A copy of the transcribed data from the in- depth interview and FGD were provided to both informants and participants for checking and confirmation purposes. Also, for them to present their feedback. Favorably, no one has contested the transcription material. All of them meant their consent. Proof was the participant's duly signed verification form.

Peer debriefing was also embraced as I worked with my colleagues who helped me examine the transcripts and scrutinize them. Important feedback from each of them, such as over-emphasized or under-emphasized information points, vague descriptions and overall data errors, were taken into account. Data not relevant to the research have been removed. This phase of my research study also helped me to see to it that no personal opinion was employed on the data being tabulated.

### 3. Results

#### *Participants' Profile*

In this research there were 10 key informants, nine female and one male, all of whom had a child restricted for therapy at the rehabilitation center. Their ages ranged between the ages of 42 and 63. They were chosen based on their accessibility, will, and recommendation from the case officer charged for the supervision of their child. Participants were provided pseudonyms for confidentiality reasons. Also, as shown in Table 1, the age of youngest child undergoing treatment is 21 and 36 is the highest. In short, all of them already belong the age of maturity. Reason for this is, their confinement at the rehabilitation center is part of the prison sentence promulgated by the court in relation to their case.

The focus group discussion was conducted with six female participants. They were all from the same location and were selected in the same manner as the informants. Their age is between the ages of 42 and 65. The discussion was performed to obtain further insight into the problem being studied and also to reinforce and confirm the results. The true name of the participants was hidden during the discussion and they were all reminded not to disclose any information being heard and shared.

The same set of questions were utilized during the conduct of the in- depth interview and focus group discussion. The informants for the in-depth interview were identified by the staff of the rehabilitation center who was around during my visitation day. The said staff spoke to the parents, asked for their consent, and presented the study's purpose and their role on the research conducted. While waiting for their turn, informants sat around the table allocated for them. The interview took place inside the gymnasium of the center. The particular location was in isolated region close to the stage.

In the same venue, the FGD was also conducted using the same procedures. What was observed during the discussion was that, for the first few minutes of the discussion, there were participants who hesitated to share their experiences. As the discussion continued, and likely because they could discover comfort from what other respondents had shared, they then shared their own stories with confidence. There are also participants who have just agreed with their co-participants' responses. During the interview, I used two audio recorders together with my notebook to write down significant findings. I availed the assistance of my elder sister, who is also an educator, to assist me with taking note, as suggested by Birks et al, (2008), using more than one

individual to gather the data will enhance the accuracy of the data gathered as well as its results.

### ***Experiences of the Drug Users' Parents***

From the data collected on the experiences of the study participants, five major themes emerged. These themes are: Radical change of child's temperament and character, shame, humiliation and anxiety, guilt and self-reproach, being caught off-guard, and being saddled with financial burdens. Core ideas for each theme were presented on the second column of the table. This were being formulated by the data analyst basing on the data gathered during the actual interview.

### ***Coping Strategies of Parents with Drug- Addicted Children***

From the data collected on the coping strategies of the study participants, three major themes emerged. These themes are: Fortitude and positivity, unconditional love, forgiveness and support, and faith and trust in divine providence.

### ***Insights of Parents with Drug- Addicted Children***

From the data collected on the insights of the study participants, three major themes emerged. These themes are: Be a strong presence in your children's life, give them the love and support they need to start life anew, and intensify drive and war against drugs. The insights presented by parents were also given core ideas following its theme. These insights are sort of message as well as an advice that were shared by the parents- participants as based on their actual experiences on the issue being studied.

## **3.1. Discussion**

This study used the qualitative research method, specifically the phenomenological approach. This is believed to be the most appropriate method for this study since the researcher aims to take into account the personal experiences of the informants and participants basing on the phenomenon being investigated. Through this, the problems that were presented herein, were being given corresponding answers that are deemed reliable because they are from the people who personally faced and surpassed such problem.

Phenomenological qualitative approach is ideal for dealing with delicate issues such as experiences of the parents of the drug user, their coping strategies, and insights. It is in this framework of reference that 16 participants, 10 for the in-depth interviews and 6 for the focus group discussion were asked to participate and share their experiences as parents of a drug user, as well as their coping strategies and insights. Nine participants in the study for the in-depth interviews were female, and only one was male. For the focus group discussion, all six participants were female. Based from the results of the study, specific themes emerged for the experiences of the parents, their coping strategies, and insights.

### ***Experiences of the Parents of the Drug User***

As the results of this study have revealed, there are a lot of difficulties faced by the parents of a drug addict. These difficulties come in many forms and shapes and one is the radical change of child's temperament and character.

In relation to this, Felman (2018) presented the primary indication that the parents and siblings had observed in their relative, which led them to suspect drug addiction. They described their drug addicted family member as being bad-tempered, sleepy, having bloodshot eyes, and always asking for money. In addition, Alexander and Gwyther (1995) stated that alcohol and other psychoactive drugs play a prominent role in violent death of adolescents, including homicide, suicide, traffic accidents, and other injuries. Considering the case of Mitch she often observed that her son keeps on sleeping, and if asked to do a task, would not obey. She said that she is not directly aware that her son is using illegal drugs but she already has a belief based from her son's behavior.

Indications for drug abuse can be physical, behavioural and psychological. Behavioural indication includes any disturbance of grades, participation and absence of interest in hobbies or sports at collage. Shifts in friends, asking for cash or missing valuables are often a sign of drug use around the home. An unexplained shift in a child's character or attitude is part of the so-called psychological indication. It is essential for no reason to observe any changes in mood, extreme irritability or even sudden laughter. Intense lethargy or paranoia should be regarded as worrying. The bottom line is: if a parent perceived that his child is no longer the person that he use to know and that a stranger appears to have taken their position, it should be deemed drug affiliation. Parents should initiate immediate communication with the child (Liddle & Hogue, 2001).

Drugs alter the way our mind and body function. Choice Theory by Glasser (1999) says that conduct is not distinct from choice. At any moment, we choose how to act. How about those involved in the use of drugs? Choice theory describes that our actions are governed by choices. Drug addiction is a component of the choice of an individual hence, behaving differently than normal is the result of this choice. As drugs change the normal functioning of the mind, it will influence ones' decision making. This is true for those drug users who will only realize their wrongful act and behavior once the effect of drug stops.

Kay, is not directly aware that her son is using drugs. But his change in behaviour made her believe that he is using illegal drugs. She noticed the changes in his treatment towards her. His son is avoiding her and is also avoiding to make a conversation with her. The tips on how to avoid drug addiction involvement of your child by Santasiero and Santasiero (2019) is applicable to the case of Kay stating that don't assume that your family will not be affected by drug addiction. Addiction does not discriminate, it cuts across all levels of society and economy, races and cultures, and it can occur in any family. Because the fundamental issue is a biochemical in most situations, it can occur to anyone. Believing that it might not occur in your family might be your greatest mistake.

On the other hand, Red stated that her son no longer listens to her. When her son asks for money and she cannot give it, her son will get mad. It even came to a point when her son resorted to stealing just to support his vice. Che added that her son had become violent. It was during the time when she

confronted him about his use of illegal drugs. Accordingly, her son threatened of hurting her if she will say something about it or will initiate topics pertaining it. Che mentioned that her son is not anymore, the kind of person that she used to know. His behavior was altered and negatively affected by drugs.

The experiences of Mitch, Kay, Red, and Che support the claim of Cami and Farre (2003) that as young people use alcohol and illicit drugs, they may develop a continuous pattern of conduct that damages their legal record, instructional choices, psychological stability, and social development. Drug use can lead to cognitive deficits and possibly irreversible brain damage. Teenagers who use drugs are likely to communicate mainly to colleagues who use drugs, so interactions with friends and relationship with the opposite sex, may be unhealthful and a teen may develop restricted social skills reporting.

On the assertion mentioned by Winters et al. (2014) he mentioned that when you are living with an addict, you will probably begin feeling desperate, or even blame yourself. A drug addict's family and friends tend to experience personal adverse implications such as depression. Furthermore, in a study of Butler and Bauld (2005), parents voiced a sense of shame about what other individuals would think of their child's addiction.

This is in consonance with the Affect theory by Tomkins (1984) which says that human impact and emotion are unique because of their instant entanglements with very specific human capacity to make meanings. There is what we called mechanism of human emotions. Such emotion contributes to our interpretation of a particular situation. The impact of the situation to our life makes up the way we perceived others thought towards us. Taking into consideration the case of Jen who shared her feeling of being degraded and underestimated by the people around them since his son was caught to be involved in drug related activities. Joy also experienced an incident that her siblings will not visit her son because of shame.

In the case of Mar, he is having an anxiety because he is a government employee and is often tasked to give seminars and lectures pertaining to drug abuse when he himself has a son who is a drug addict. This made him worry that people may give negative comments on him as a speaker since he was not able to reprimand his son first. This case of Mar is supported by Choate (2011) which recognized that parents often feel uninformed and ill-prepared to discover that their child has been involved in drug addiction. The ways parents try to access assistance often pose a major challenge. Before trying to access assistance, many parents and family members try to handle the issue themselves.

Parents revealed that it is very disastrous to know that your child is engaged in drug addiction. No matter how old a parent's child is, finding out that one's child had an addiction issue can be an awkward, rude awakening. It may cause mothers and fathers to question their parental skills or the choices they have taken. Parents of addicts, like children of addicts, often blame themselves for the growth of drug addiction on their family member (Mosher & Akins, 2007).

Operant Conditioning theory of Skinner (1963) can be associated to this theme. Through operant conditioning, a person makes an association between a specific conduct and its result. Skinner believed that the best way to comprehend conduct was to look at the causes and consequences of the action. Parents may somehow engage into blaming themselves because they recognized their lapses and along the way discovered the consequence of it. Their manner of dealing with their child and their behaviour might be the contributing factors leading to the addiction of their child to drugs.

Kay expressed her guilt feeling of what happened to her son. She sometimes blames herself for not being able to notice that her son is already using drugs. A common feeling was shared by Mar that he has a feeling of regret because he was not able to monitor his son well due to work. Basing on their experience in treating 400 opiates addicted adolescents, Santasiero and Santasiero (2019) presented tips on how to avoid addiction among children and one of it is to be involved in the life of your child. Take part in their sports, hobbies, interests, and school. Reward good conduct, encourage positive behaviour and respect for authority. Regrets always come at the end so better do your responsibility as parents before drugs will ruin the life of your child and the other members of the family.

Che also blamed herself for her lapses which might lead her son to be a drug addict since she was not able to send his son to school. Another thing that she pointed is that, her husband is also a drug addict and is now in jail. The case of Che can be associated to Social Learning Theory of Albert Bandura in 1970's. Addiction is learned through observation, reinforcement and direct experiences. Possibility is, her child modelled the behaviour of his father considering that parents are significant people to one's life. The increase of inner expectations for the consequences of the drug is a significant impact on parental modelling. For example, when a young person sees that the use of prohibited drugs is a way of easing stress, a problem or a conflict, they may take it internally and do the same when undergoing the same situations (Akers, 2008).

These support a study of Butler and Bauld (2005) where parents said they felt a feeling of failure, and they thought that they were to blame for their child's addiction. Most parents also felt a profound feeling of guilt that was linked to their capacity to see the issue at its most previous point. The parents also mentioned the consequences of their child's addiction. Kath narrated how she had a stroke because of what happened to her son. This is due to stress brought by her son's addiction since she had a hard time sleeping at night thinking of her son's condition. On the other hand, Ann shared that she was able to make self-reflections because of what happened to his son. She asked herself about her lapses that lead to her son's addiction. There was a moment of self-pity.

Moreover, Smith and Estefan (2014) elegantly assessed the experiences of mothers whose children are suffering from drug addiction. Interestingly, authors point out that, very often, mothers have a profound feeling of responsibility for their offspring's addiction because they are socially viewed

as responsible for their children's drug abuse involvement. This is evident on the parents serving as informants and participants of this study. Though their child confined on the rehabilitation center already reached the age of maturity and some already have a family of their own, still parents continue to provide support to their children be it be an emotional or financial support. Emotional support is manifested by their attendance every time the Center scheduled for a visitation day. Financial support is also there. As what has been confided by the parents to me, they are the one who shoulder for the monthly payment of 6,000 pesos for their child's stay at the Center.

It is very obvious that majority of the Filipino families really maintains a close family tie. It is common for us to adopt an extended type of family wherein even if one child already has a family of his own, still said child will lived with the parents together with his own family. In some instances, parents may defend and may try to hide wrongdoing of their children because they don't want their children to see in pain. There are even times wherein parents would argue on someone even if it is their child who committed a mistake or the one responsible for the occurrence of an argument or a quarrel perhaps (Rodell, 2002).

All informants and participants confided that they only knew the addiction of their child on drugs the time when the authorities made it known to them either through a report or an apprehension. Family System Theory particularly its key concept which is homeostasis can provide an integral frame of this theme. The idea of homeostasis is that each family member tends to operate in such a way that keeps the entire family system in equilibrium even if it is not healthy for a particular person. If one member in the family is doing a wrongful act, there may be one member who is aware of such wrongful act done by the other member but chooses to have it be cover up. In the aspect of drug addiction, his attempts enable drug abuse to continue with restricted consequences and to maintain the family structure in comparative balance by disallowing conflict within the family. Although this adaptation may keep the family system in a state of balance, it also helps to keep the problem.

In some instance, denial appears to be most parents' original response and coping after figuring out that their children are in drugs. Similarly, Jackson and Mannix's study (2003) shows that parents were originally struggling to recognize that their child had a drug abuse issue. Nevertheless, as they went through the denial phase, other coping strategies such as limiting the liberty of the child and tracking his/her private environment strictly were employed.

It is seldom or uncommon for the effects of addiction to be restricted exclusively to the addict. In some manner, everyone around him or her is affected. Frequently, the individuals who spend the most of their time around the addict are family, friends, and co-workers. These are individuals most probably be affected by drug addiction (Swartbooi, 2013). Kay narrated how their relationship as parent-child was changed after her son was arrested because of drug use. Kay recalled that prior to what happened, she has so much trust in his son and he cannot say anything bad

about him. Lou also expressed his discouragement on what happened to her child. She stated that she felt disappointed because in their family, they practice open communication. Her children are free to express and say what they want but still, it happened. His son was still keeping secrets to him and eventually engaged himself in drug use.

There are numerous casual factors for drug addiction in adolescents and adults as presented by Fisher et al. (2010) in their article entitled *Insights About Drug Addiction*. It includes peer pressure, influence, problems and "for fun". For some individuals, the primary factor why they become drug addicts is the individuals around them. Everything is available in this contemporary world. Web, televisions, and other things. Some young males and females take the things they're watching. Problems are a factor as well. For some taking drugs is an emotional outlet. Teenagers use distinct types of drugs for a distinct type of enjoyment during parties. They are not satisfied with alcohol intoxication; instead, they use drugs for pleasure.

In addition, Butler and Bauld (2005) in their study confirmed that the manner parents found that their children were abusing drugs varied significantly. Some children willingly confessed that the wanted assistance while others still denied involvement on drug abuse when confronted by their parents. This is true in the case of Jen in which she only knew that her son was using drugs by the time he was caught. Jen further expressed that she never expected it to happen since her son is working as a policeman. Mar shared the same sentiment that he only learned of his son's addiction when his son was arrested. He emphasized that he was totally unaware because he is busy working. The incident left him in shock.

Furthermore, Prinsloo (2009) mentioned that drug addicted people do not represent a single entity, but rather form part of a number of sub-systems such as their nuclear family, schoolmates, and peer groups. The finding of Horta et al. (2016) disclosed that one of the problems encountered by the drug addict family was the lack of money to pay for the addict's therapy, problems in gaining access to government given services and hospitalization, having no one to speak with, leading to family vulnerability, and reporting on the fight to get material resources and a support network. This is closely similar to the experience of Mitch in which she shared her financial struggle brought by his son's addiction. She said that it added a burden on her part since she was now the one who sends and fetches her son's children in school and that their dismissal time are not the same. Now that her son is at rehab, she is the one supporting and providing the needs of her son's three children including education and food.

Parents' act of taking the financial burden of their child's addiction can be consolidated in the Attachment Theory of Bowlby (1977). Accordingly, sensitive parents provide relief when young children are in trouble. Parental willingness to nurture children may endure, so that grown children who have issues may also require parental assistance. In the study of Fingerman, she indicated that parents could provide many kinds of assistance to their grown children. Parents between the ages of 40 and 60 discovered that they offered their

assistance to their children in need. It assumed that middle-aged parents would provide more assistance to adult children suffering difficulties or crisis, especially material and practical support because such problem often requires time and money.

Another sharing from Jen revealed that she is negatively affected. Ever since her son was confined, she has sold things and properties for the lawyer's payment. She even worked very hard, rain or shine, just to manage the finances. Groenewald and Bhana (2018) asserted that the effect of addiction is overwhelmingly negative in most households, with few exceptions. Kath and Mar shared the same hardship because they are now the ones taking care of their son's children as well as providing them food after their sons have been put in rehab. Hon expressed that her family resorted on debt to provide the financial need of her child. She stated that it brought hassle to their family since they made a lot of debt just to finance the need of her child including the bills in the rehabilitation center.

Every single person in an addict's immediate family (and sometimes extended family) is influenced in some manner by the substance abuse of the individual. Addiction has an impact on family finances, physical health and psychological well-being. In latest years, society has shifted ever further away from the traditional nuclear family. When young children are part of the family, their ages must also be taken into consideration when talking about the effects of substance abuse. The same can be said for older adults who have grown-up children. The severity of addiction and the classification of drug dependence is also a factor in the addiction's general impact to the family (Groenewald & Bhana, 2018).

#### *Coping with the Challenges of Having a Child Using Drugs*

There are a lot of ways to deal with a love one who is suffering from drug addiction. Some are useful and some may be damaging. A large portion of the families of drug addicts are struggling with their abilities and learning the most helpful method to assist their children. One way to assist an addicted child is to concentrate on positivity. Your child, whether young or adult, does not want to feel being adjudged or criticized. As a parent, you can concentrate on initiating the discussion of addiction treatment by laying down its positive aspects. For example, let your child know that can be successful in their recovery (Cami & Farré, 2003).

This is true with the case of Mitch which has full of hope and has high belief that they can surpass their difficulty. She considered the addiction of her child as a trial given to their family. She emphasized that as a mother, her role is to help her child surpass his problem because it is part of her responsibility to her child. As a parent, she was able to slowly accept the reality that her son was addicted to drugs. She also believes that submitting her child to the rehabilitation center will speed up his rehabilitation since there are programs solely designed for them. That, every time she visited her child, she already observed positive changes on his behavior.

In a likely similar statement Joy expressed that she accepted her son's condition and followed the court order which is to send him to a rehabilitation center. According to her, she cannot bear on not to help her son since no matter what happened, he is still her son. Focusing on the aspect of positivity is a useful method in establishing good connection to drug addicted children. Whether they are on their teens or adolescence, children don't want to feel judged or heckled. Let your child understand and feel that you believe that he can recover from drug addiction and be able to live happily and normally with the entire family circle. Provide him the support that he needs. Sometimes, the need to personally ask him with what he want is necessary for him to really feel that you truly care and always of helping hand (Clemmensen, 2019).

Self-determination theory posits that there are two primary kinds of motivation, intrinsic and extrinsic. Both are strong forces in shaping who we are and how we act (Deci & Ryan, 2008). In this situation, the parents' intrinsic motivation emerges from their love for their children. Extrinsic motivation is the recognition that their child was engage in law violation relating to illegal drugs and that their child needs to take its consequence as well as to undergo treatment so that everything will go back in its proper place.

On the other hand, Lou revealed that even though she already accepted what happened to her son, she is still hurt because of what her son had done. Though she is disappointed; which her son was aware of, there exists no gap between them in terms of their relationship as parent-child. In a list of the best tips for parents of addicted children as cited by Patterson (2019), one of the main ways to help their children is through open and assertive communication.

One prevalent challenge parent feel is that the addiction tears their family apart, which can lead tumultuous family relationships. They may feel be trade and lost their child's confidence. They may also grieve the loss of who their teen was before they started to use it, or may struggle with emotions of shame, and guilt. Once you have had an impact on the lives of your child (and your family), you may need to know a whole new way of interacting with them (Clemmensen, 2019).

The study of Usher et al. (2007) revealed that parents used various coping strategies such as watching over the adolescent's behaviors, talking to the child about his/her drug abuse and setting guidelines and penalties to restrict the child's drug abuse. Considering the case of Mitch and Kay, they stated that one way to help their child is by being vigilant. This is in the form of knowing their whereabouts and their peers since peers has a great influence in substance abuse. Another point cited by Mitch is to advice son to surrender to the Barangay rather than wait for him to be part of the Tokhang.

One significant aspect providing assistance is the setting of limits and the implications if those limits are crossed. Letting the child know that he is greatly love often one of the best ways to deal with a child who is addicted to drugs (Orford et al., 2013). Joy expressed that, parents should not



neglect their son and support his recovery. If there is a need for imprisonment, have him imprisoned in order to help him. If there is a need to confine him in a rehabilitation center, allow it to happen. She also insisted on the need to monitor their children. In an article of Santasiero&Santasiero (2019), it's a helpful way is to get engaged in your child's life. Become engaged in their sports, their hobbies, their interests and at school. Reward commendable conduct and emphasized the consequences of negative behavior.

The study of Horta et al. (2016) revealed that family member said that the selected option for coping is to give advice to stop the drug use, change practices and companionship, look for other activities or avenue, study more, and take care of the body and be worried about nutrition. This is true to case of Ren who cited the importance of communication. She said that there is a need to talk to them and have them understand why they have to be rehabilitated. Remind them the value of life and on the importance of taking care of oneself. Let your child understand how much you support them. Always be there. But be firm, be productive, and remain positive. This will help your child himself and his recovery process.

In terms of giving and showing support, Lou shared the value of support within the family. Be it emotionally or financially, everything. In addition to providing support, recognition and consciousness are required. Most of all, loving despite of everything, through ups and downs, be it be positive or negative, and move forward. Horta et al. (2016) divulged that one way to show support is to consider going to therapy with your loved one. If the addict you love has agreed to get help, go to therapy sessions together. By getting concurrent help, you can both learn how to deal with the addiction and its implications. Also, you will be able to understand each other better. In addition, as a parent, it is up to you to set the stage for a beneficial and productive discussion, for openness and forgiveness. By doing so, your child will gain more confidence in you, trust you and would listen to what you have to say.

Affection Exchange Theory of Floyd et al. (2017) has a notable explanation of parents' coping strategies. Parents convey their unconditional love, forgiveness and support to their children because basically, that is also the kind of affection that they want from their children. Floyd suggests that when parents show affection to their children, the moment that their children become parents, they will also be showing affection to their own children. The genetics of affection are then passed on to another generation while at the same time being able to sustain current relationship.

The effects of drug addiction in not only limited to the drug addict himself. Instead, the entire family will be affected. The family members of a drug addict person are usually unprepared in facing the reality that a member of their family is affected with drug addiction. It is therefore a phenomenon linked to the growth of the family, which occurs in any state of life. But as said, whatever problem a family is having, it can always be resolved since problems are just trials given to us by God in order to put spices in our life. He will not give us a problem that beyond our

capability to solved. One theme that prevailed in this study is faith and trust in divine providence.

Prayer occurs in various aspects and infinite interconnection. As defined by the quantum mechanics, dimension refers to the study of interactions between atoms and elementary particles of a theory that can define the nature of interrelationships between nuclear, electromagnetic, and gravitational forces. Rohr (2015) said that there is power in prayer. When individuals come to a location of worship, when they rest in love as their home base, they discover God in them and their lives are filled with quantitative entanglements, resulting in healing, forgiveness, answered prayers and liberty for those with them in the field of power.

Kath shared her prayerful act of dealing with his child's addiction. She stated that she always prayed to God for his problem to be solved. She revealed that God is her only defender since she already attempted to seek help from people around her but no one lend her a hand. Another is from Ren who said that she felt sad yet she prayed to God that He will enlighten her son and that he will be treated at the rehabilitation center. These sharing of Kath and Ren were supported by the finding of Horta et al. (2016) where the families used faith and spirituality as a factor of protection and hope, putting the situation in God's hands, trying to solve the problem, and continuing to have the strength to never give up.

Shan also expressed her faith by saying that she lifted all to God and asked for guidance. Another is by talking to her son calmly and by making him understand his need to change. Religion and spirituality emerge as the most common way for the relative to find strength in addressing the problem. The quest for the sacred triggers the resilient potential and reduces the stress and anguish of those who are silently suffering and having sickness. Moreover, if they heal their dependent family member, they place the only chance on God. The research respondents felt recognized and sheltered in the religious organizations, increasing their hope for the continuity of life (Horta et al., 2016).

According to science, all is linked, energy is eternal, and consciousness is vibrant, thus prayer has a true authority. Quantum theory of Max Planck, 1922 who proposed that any harmonic oscillator's energies such as the atoms of a black body radiator are limited to certain values, each of which is an integral multiple of basic minimum value. This theory will enhance our understanding on intercession. We have already been able to assess a subtle impact known as quantum entanglement in the domain of quantum physics. It is a phenomenon in which certain objects communicate and relate to each other in such a manner that they continue to share certain features in common when separated by big distances, even when those features will be altered. When we pray for each other, we get caught up with them and they get caught up with us, maybe we get caught up in God, too (Elnes, 2017).

#### *Insights Parents Share to the Society in General*

The basic concept of learning from the experiences of others will manifest the importance of listening to parents' insights, as these will surely be based from their personal account.

Thus, the contribution they may contribute to the society is of high regard. On the data gathered, there are three major themes emerged as to what insights can parents share to the society. Being a strong presence in your children's life, give them the love and support they need in order to start life anew and intensify drive and war against drug.

An reminded the need to monitor one's children. Aside from monitoring them, there is also a need to ask them if they have problems so that if ever, they have, they will be sharing it to you and not to their peers. This was further emphasized with her mentioning the need to have open communication. Parents should allocate time to talk with their children to know their problems and help them on it because it is the role of the parents. Red also recommends communication. Establish the need to talk to them and give them advices in case they did something wrong.

The insights of An and Red were instilled by National Institute on Drug Abuse (2018) that excellent communication can help you detect and identify problem early and be able to respond in a right way. Assertive communication involves a balance between asking questions and actively listening to drive a productive discussion. The best kinds of questions will be open-ended and non-judgmental. An open-ended question is one that cannot be answered with one word. Open-ended questions are useful because they lead to enhanced communication and a better exchange of thoughts. The aim of these questions is to learn more about your child and to enable them to communicate their worries, struggles and hopes.

Considering that communication is an indicator on this theme, feedback as one of the main ideas of Family Systems Theory can be applied herein. Feedback refers to the circular manner in which sections of a scheme interact with each other. The process of feedback determines how the parent-child connection is created. Establishing communication is a way to maintain connections within the scheme. Effective communication is a significant feature of powerful and healthy households. Research identifies communication as a key building block for harmonious marital, parent-child, and sibling relationships. Just as efficient communication can always be seen in a productive family, poor communication is generally found in unhealthy family interactions. Poor communication can lead to a wide range of family problems including excessive family conflict, inadequate problem solving, absence of intimacy and weak emotional bonding (Peterson & Green, 2009).

In addition, the quality of communication in the family determines their relationship. Poor communication among family members can result to conflicts due to poor understanding. On the other hand, good communication can lead to harmony (Galvin, Braithwaite, & Bylund, 2015). This are the concepts of Conflict theory develop by Karl Marx as applied in the family setting. That, in order to prevent misunderstanding, it is necessary to understand the individuals who are building communication. Misunderstanding will occur if members will not practice open communication. Knowing that a member in a family is experiencing problem is possible through communication. Therefore, it is necessary to really develop healthy

communication and encourage everyone to speak out what they want to share or express (Rossel, 2001).

Bel mentioned her thoughts on the difference between the youths before and at present. She compared that youths today are more prone to temptations that is why there is a need to be always mindful of their actions and peers. If their peers commit wrong doings, advice son to avoid them to prevent him from copying the wrongful acts of his peers. Kay also shared her advice on monitoring children. The time to leave the house and the time that they need to be at home should be established and made known to them. Joy also reminded to instill discipline.

These insights of Bel, Kay, and Joy are reflected in the literature of Patterson (2019) for the need to set clear boundaries. It's a sensible way for individuals to treat you and for you to treat them. Drug addicts are notoriously good at testing the limits of those they love directly or indirectly through manipulation. Make sure that you are always coherent and that you outline clear expectations and limits. When you are a drug addict's parent, no matter how, there are some main things to keep in mind. The first is that you should be clear about expectations. This can imply highlighting the cause-and-effect scenario so that your child knows what you would not tolerate. You need to stick with the stuff you say, no matter how hard it is.

Ren on another note, shared that support should be given for the recovery of children engaged in addiction. She said that parents should give time to their children for them to feel that they are loved while being confined in the rehabilitation center. Parents should let them feel supported in their treatment and recovery. Mar added that parents should not lose hope in the recovery of their children. Because in this time of their lives, parents play a very important role for them to surpass the challenges that they are facing since their problem, is also the parents' problem. Joy also mentioned that parents should reprimand their children. They need to warn their children and take time to know where they are heading.

In relation to this, Santasiero and Santasiero (2019) stated that one must aspire to be the greatest parent you can ever be. Good parenting requires selflessness. It is a balance between rewarding positive behavior, teaching the consequences of negative behavior and being involved in the child's life. Being over-protective, over-punitive, over-permissive or absent can only increase the chances of an adolescent on becoming addicted to drugs. Furthermore, the use of encouragement and optimism builds a sense of teamwork and cooperation while at the same time reducing conflict and negativity. Style will allow them to seek new and healthy coping skills, participate in new activities, create more suitable peer relationships, and face difficulties.

Kath shared what needs to be done when your child is on the process of recovering. She mentioned to give them support and provide needs so that they will be encouraged to change. Visiting your child in the rehabilitation center is also helpful. She supported Kath's statement on the need to constantly visit your child. She stated to visit him regularly, give advices, and pray to God. According to Groenewald

and Bhana (2016), parents can actively support and engage with their child during the treatment and recovery phase. In addition to offering moral and emotional support, parents can also play a primary role in promoting the practical aspects of therapy. Ultimately, parents are contributory factors in the development of drug addiction on their children and they also play an indispensable role towards the addicted child's rehabilitation. However, no parent is infallible and no risk is worth taking when it comes to a child's life.

Furthermore, this can be associated on John Bowlby's Theory of Attachment (1977) wherein he explains how the parent-child relationship develop and affects the growth of the relationship. Bowlby described attachment as an enduring psychological relationship between human beings. Attachment theory focused on the emotional bond between people. This bond will then create a connection between and among people who already tighten the bond during the early life stage. This further support why parents still continue on supporting and loving their child amidst what they've done (Cherry, 2019; Bretherton & Munholland, 2008).

The concept of Foucault's (1979) in early modern Europe, of imposing punishment against criminals with all possible humiliation, pain and suffering and all intended to activate the authority of the sovereign. This was used to arouse people's emotions and make people conscious that the offenders would be punished accordingly. This type of punishment sent a message to the subjects that they would be punished in the same manner if they violated the laws of the sovereign (Spierenburg, 2004).

On this note, this view of Mitch is in accordance to the claim of Reyes (2016) stating that Duterte is the first mayor and president to have actively targeted criminals and, in doing so has encouraged other politicians to follow his example. Joy also supported by saying the program is good since the bad boys will be lessened. Kath and Lou shared the same sentiments of being happy for the government's implementation of the war on drugs. Using official statistics compiled by the PNP, more than 6,100 fatalities from police activities and vigilante-style murders occurred during the period from Duterte's accession to the presidency in July 2016 to the end of December 2016.

The need to target sources of drugs was expressed by An. For her, it should not only be illegal drugs that must be targeted but also those people who are behind it. If these people still exist, illegal drugs will not be stopped. On the statement made by Yen, she said that the one on top should be the top priority of Operation Tokhang. That, operatives are only arresting those branches yet the very root are still there. So the branches still continue to grow. This was supported by Hon saying that illegal drugs remain because the providers are still there. Tokhang only arrested those small fishes. The sharks still keep on swimming and living a comfortable life while they are using those small fishes as their bait.

Their view is supported by Tadalán (2018) stating that the police claimed, of 5,000 individuals, 47 percent were small-time drug dealers, 8 percent were alleged drug users, and 1%

were said to be drug couriers. Only 1 percent were narco-politicians and another 1% were police officers. Also, Duterte's technique of actively targeting criminals has influenced mayors of Mindanao and Visayas. This is in accordance to addition made by Tin that our government should prioritize programs intended to resolve drug addiction. The government should give utmost priority to programs on the eradication of drugs. Government officials should strongly implement programs so that illegal drugs cannot enter the country because there are a lot of families who will be affected by drugs since it abused the innocence of children.

Additionally, it is claimed that half a million to seven hundred thousand individuals have surrendered to the police. Over 40,000 individuals were detained. The war on drugs has therefore earned a large amount of common assistance from across the Philippines class spectrum. The latest nationwide study of the President's performance and trust ratings undertaken by Pulse Asia Research from September 25 to October 1, 2016 showed that approval rating for Duterte was about 86 percent. Even though some individuals are worried about these fatalities, they support him on his stand and manner of dealing with the problem of drug addiction as President in our country (Xu, 2016).

The informants and participants expressed approval to continue the Government's war on drugs is a manifestation of their willingness to support programs intended to eradicate illegal drugs and their recognition on the importance of the Government as well. This is in congruent with Social Control Theory of Hirschi and Stark (1969) that considers the state as an entity that will provide means of social control geared on keeping the social bond (Krohn & Massey, 1980). Mitch expressed her support on the government's war on drugs by stating that she is in favor of the ways of Duterte in terms of stopping illegal drug use. She added that the war on drugs had long been implemented but it was not intensified, this just happened during the time of Duterte.

In addition, Reyes (2016) emphasized that Duterte is famous because of his straight forward message about who can be killed: drug lords, drug addicts and criminals, preferably males, habitual criminals and drug addicts who have constantly gone to rehabilitation but have not been healed. This is true in the case of Bel who shared her admiration for the doings of Duterte since she thinks it is the best way to reduce and eventually stop illegal drugs. However, Bel added that this program should be strengthened for it to not only target small time pushers and users but also drug lords who are the source of drugs.

On the other hand, Xu (2016) in her article *Human Rights and Duterte's War on Drug*, wrote that the Philippine president considers drug trafficking and dependency as "significant barriers to financial and social progress in the Philippines," says John Gerhman, a Philippine politics expert. His way of providing the Filipinos lasting progress and peace is to end drug addiction. Problems coming out during its implementation were dealt right there after. The drug war is a corner stone of Duterte's domestic policy and reflects the expansion of measures he had previously

introduced as Davao City Mayor in his political career. Though a lot of criticisms were raised towards the program, still its implementation marks a history on our country through the favorable and invaluable changes of the statistics on drug related crimes.

Wholeheartedly, Tin said that she is in favor of the government's campaign and war on illegal drugs but it should not resort in killing people. Her view is in contrary with President Duterte who insisted on seeking and killing suspected drug addicts leading in anti-drug vigilantes targeting suspects, apparently emboldened by the present situation. There are, however, allegations that the state is using the War on Drugs to murder, arrest, or threaten politicians. Twelve mayors, for instance, have been murdered since July 2016. Four of the victims were on the 'narco-politicians' list of the government. For supposedly 'coddling' drug lords, another former congressman was murdered (Muggah, 2017).

Furthermore, Heydarian (2018) in his article, *A Long-Awaited Turning Point in Duterte's Bloody Drug War*, stated that while most Filipinos promote a solid crack down on crimes and drugs, more than 9 out of 10 Filipinos want drug suspect to remain alive, while seven out of 10 Filipinos are afraid to become victims of extrajudicial killings. Many Filipinos are only in theory supporting Duterte's Drug War, but disagree with his violent techniques. This issue put our country as being one of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights area of concern.

Attachment theory and Family Systems theory are the two theories that are often linked on the responses provided by the informants and participants during the data gathering. Value of healthy relationship between parents and children are the very points of attachment theory. Emotional bond between the parents and their children may be cited as reason for parents to continue providing support to their children amidst of their drug abuse engagement. Family Systems theory on the other hand emphasized the value of communication. There is a parent- respondent who manifests that in their family, they practice communication. But she is the only one who adhere on it. The rest may be deemed as disregarding the value of communication which hinders them to know any problem of their child who take illegal drugs as their refuge.

#### 4. Conclusion

Drug addiction affects our entire society and would destroy the basic social unit (family), if it will not be given appropriate solutions by our government. Parents, being the ones who were personally affected by the addiction of their child should be provided with treatment programs intended for their recovery. Similar with the drug users, they also take the burden on the ill- effect of drug addiction.

I also learned that parental role is complex. The responsibility of parents is eternal. Thus, even if the child is already emancipated, still parental responsibility remains. There is no parent who can afford to see his child suffer. So even if the child committed misdeed or violation against our law, it is normal that they will feel anger but they will still

be there to support their child. In fact, there are instances wherein parents will tolerate misdeed of their child and even blame themselves for such misdeed. My love to my parents deeply intensifies with the conduct of this study. Truly there's no greater love than the love of a parent to his children.

Clinging on my mind prior the conduct of this study is the issue on the war on drugs of our government. Thus, the commendation expressed by the participants on the mentioned issue provide me a basis of concluding that said program was able to served its purpose. That, it should continue on the implementation of such program especially with those intended to target drug lords and the very source of illegal drugs. Towards this end, consideration of human life should be the top priority. Meaning, operatives implementing the program need to be reminded on the value of life over and above everything.

#### 5. Acknowledgement

The researcher is thankful to all the selfless people who extended their help for the completion of this study; Dr. Mary Ann E. Tarusan, her adviser, for her untiring support and patience leading to the completion of this study; The panel of examiners; To Dr. Benson S. Go and his research team headed by Nerissa R. Buot, MPA, RPsych. Ms. Jennelyn Elogsong and Karren P. Carrera, RPh.; To Saint Francis Xavier College administration headed by Ms. Roselyn P. Carlos and Ms. Jenny C. Abucejo for the encouragement and financial assistance provided to the researcher. To SFXC- Criminology Department, Dean Rogelio C. Polo Jr., and to our HR Generalist Ms. Maria Erica Gaytos.; To my parents, Patronilo and Beverly Canete; my siblings, Bernadette, Joan, Juliet and Pamela; my nephew, Brielle Timothy and to Armie Joyce. Above all, to our Almighty Father who is the main source of everything.

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