

Prison Based Management Strategies for Violent Extremist Offenders in the Bureau of Corrections: Towards Program Enhancement

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Abstract

This study was conducted to evaluate the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) programs facilitated for the Violent Extremist Offenders (VEOs) confined at the Maximum-Security Compound of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City. The two programs are assessed, the VEO Reformation Program (VRP) and the VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program (VBMFP).

This research utilized the Mixed Method Research. The descriptive qualitative design and the triangulation method were used to gather and assess valuable data coming from the respondents. The instrument used to collect data was the questionnaire. A survey was conducted in 2024, at the New Conference room of the Headquarters of the Bureau of Corrections in Muntinlupa City participated by twenty security officers and twenty reformation officers who had experience in managing the VEOs in the NBP. In depth interview was conducted to supplement the data gathered from the instruments. The researcher consolidated and tabulated all the questionnaires.

Results of the study showed that the BuCor Officers, regardless of Ranks, perceive both programs (VRP and VBMFP) as effective in reforming the VEOs. However, the VBMFP was perceived as more effective as it identified the Criminogenic and Risk Factors of the VEOs, give more opportunities for expressing themselves and with close engagement with the Facilitators who provide individual and group counseling. There were however some challenges enumerated which hampered the effective implementation of the program. These are the lack of Policy to direct and institutionalize the program, need for more resources, inclusion of the family and a well-conceived pre and post release assistance with the help of the community. The researcher strongly suggested that the Bureau of Corrections must institutionalized first the Violent Extremist Offenders Behavior Modification Focused Program (VBMFP) as this strategy provides a more effective way of reforming and deradicalizing the VEOs. To formulate a policy which will serve as a guideline in crafting and facilitating the VEOs Management Program. Included in this are the development of a Focused Rehabilitation Strategy; training of personnel and more logistical support for the VEOs; encourage Family participation in the BuCor Reformation Activities; and strengthen the pre and post release programs for VEOs in coordination with other GOs, NGOs, and other socio-civic groups in the community

Chapter 1

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

Introduction

Significant global issues in prison management are rehabilitation and reintegration. UNODC's paper en-

titled “Addressing the Global Prison Crisis (2015-2017) reported that many prison systems around the world are in a stage of crisis, and this affects seriously the prisoners, their families and the societies. Significant global issues on prison management are the rehabilitation and reintegration. Effective prison management involves preparing inmates for reintegration into society. However, many prisons focus primarily on punishment rather than rehabilitation, leading to high recidivism rates.

Access to education, vocational training, and mental health services is often limited especially on the third world countries or developing nations. Common problems that need to be addressed were the issues of severe overcrowding leading to poor living conditions, increased violence, and health problems. Human Rights violations and abuses such as torture, inadequate access to health care, and poor sanitation have repeatedly raised concerns by the international organizations like the United Nations invoking the Nelson Mandela Rules or the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which is considered as international Standards being implemented and adhered widely across different countries. Corruption and Abuse of Power within prison systems including bribery, favoritism, and abuse of power by prison staff, is a notable problem in many countries. This can be undermining the fairness and effectiveness of the country’s criminal justice system.

Addressing these issues requires comprehensive reform, including changes to sentencing laws, investment in rehabilitation programs, and stronger oversight mechanisms to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners. The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. It also has the problem of overcrowding in some of its prison facilities due to strict sentencing laws, mandatory minimum sentences, and the war on drugs. This overcrowding exacerbates other issues like violence and inadequate health care (Western, et al., 2010).

Some European countries, like the United Kingdom and France, also struggle with overcrowding, although the problems are less severe than the U.S. (Council of Europe’s Annual Penal Statistics, 2023). Nordic countries like Norway and Sweden have avoided overcrowding through more lenient sentencing and a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration. They emphasized humane conditions, education, and vocational training, which have led to low recidivism rate. Being one of the countries that are among the richest in the world, aside from having the weakest in terms of population and the lowest incarceration rate, is the rationale why they can adequately manage their prisons (Tapio Lappi-Seppälä, 2007).

Terrorism has plagued the world, causing immeasurable damage to the lives of innocent civilians. Authorities have stepped up their campaign against this threat resulting in the arrest and incarceration of thousands of terrorists’ offenders. It is, however, a fact that the so-called Violent Extremist Offenders (VEOs) or terrorists’ offenders can still cause a lot of serious problems and security concerns even when confined in prisons. The effective management of imprisoned VEOs will prevent them from radicalizing other Muslim inmates and conducting nefarious operations both inside and outside the prisons. A crucial undertaking that rests on the shoulder of the Prison Administration is to keep these VEOs safely secured in prisons and rehabilitate them so they can re-integrate successfully back into the free community.

Managing VEOs in prisons is a significant challenge for developing nations, where resources and infrastructure maybe limited, and where the broad socio-political context often complicates the situation. Prison management in first-world countries generally benefits from more resources and infrastructure than developing nations, but it still faces significant challenges. Some developing countries segregate violent extremist offenders from the general prison population to prevent them from spreading radical ideologies or recruiting other inmates. The inmates are isolated and have heightened security measures. The

challenges encountered are the maintenance of separate facilities that require additional resources, including trained personnel, which can be challenging in resource-constrained environments.

Several developing nations have implemented de-radicalization programs aimed at rehabilitating extremist offenders that includes religious counseling, psychological support, vocational training, and education with a common goal of reintegration and returning into society as peaceful and productive citizens.

Countries like Indonesia and Saudi Arabia have gained recognition for their re-radicalization programs, Indonesia, for example, uses religious scholars and former extremists to challenge radical ideologies. The effectiveness of the VEO programs can vary widely, and they require sustained funding, expertise, and monitoring, which can be difficult in developing nations. Moreover, political instability can undermine these efforts.

Community engagement by utilizing religious and community leaders is employed in efforts to rehabilitate violent extremists. These leaders often have significant influence and can play a key role in countering extremist ideologies. This approach can be complicated by sectarian divisions or lack of trust between communities and authorities. Many developing countries receive international assistance and support usually from the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in form of training or the sharing of best practices in prison reform but reliance from international assistance create dependency, and the sustainability of the programs can be an issue once international fundings and support ends.

First-world countries manage violent extremist offenders (VEOs) in their prisons through a combination of specialized programs, strict security measures, and a focus on rehabilitation and deradicalization. Isolation and segregation are usually implemented in First-World countries, especially in the U.S., wherein VEOs are confined in specialized high-security prisons or within designated units of general prisons to minimize their influence on other inmates, prevent the spread of extremist ideologies and limit communication with outside networks. A typical example of the U.S. high-end prison facility is the so-called “Supermax” prisons, such as ADX Florence in Colorado, which are designated to house the most dangerous offenders, including terrorists. In the UK, certain high-risk inmates are housed in special units within Category A prisons.

One of their deradicalization and rehabilitation programs is the multi-disciplinary approaches. These programs often involve psychological counseling, religious education, vocational training, and social reintegration strategies. The aim is to challenge extremist ideologies, provide alternatives, and prepare offenders for a peaceful return to society.

Germany has established programs like “EXIT”, which helps former extremists reintegrate into society. In Denmark, the Denmark’s Aarhus model is well-known for its community-based approach to rehabilitating extremists, which involves local police, social services, and mentors. The success of these programs can be varied, and there is ongoing debate about the best methods for deradicalization. Some argued that these programs need to be carefully tailored to individual needs to be effective.

First-world countries often use sophisticated risk assessment tools to monitor the behavior of VEOs within prisons. These tools help identify those who are at high risk of radicalizing others or planning future attacks. Advanced surveillance techniques, including electronic monitoring and communications monitoring, are used to prevent coordination with external terrorist networks.

Upon release, many VEOs are subject to strict conditions, including electronic tagging, regular reporting, and ongoing surveillance to prevent recidivism. Closed collaboration between prison authorities, intelligence agencies, and law enforcement is strictly being implemented to ensure the effective intelligence gathering within prison to prevent further extremist activities and that VEOs are continuously

monitored both inside and outside prison. Almost all those First-World countries have Specialized Counter-Terrorism Units within their prison services, tasked with managing and monitoring extremist offenders.

In the Philippines, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) is a government agency responsible for managing and administering the penal system. It plays a crucial role in the correctional system by overseeing the custody, safekeeping of, and institutionalization of reformation programs for national inmates sentenced to more than three (3) years. The BuCor also experiences the same problems encountered by third-world countries in managing and handling inmates, as the Philippines is one of the developing nations that lack funds for the purpose.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), having the BuCor as a line bureau and a constituent unit, maintains administrative relations with the latter as defined under Section 38(2), Chapter 7, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), except that the DOJ shall retain authority over the power to review, reverse, revise, or modify the decisions of the BuCor in the exercise of its regulatory or quasi-judicial functions.

The Head of the BuCor with the rank of Undersecretary shall have the position and title of Director General of Corrections assisted by the three (3) Assistant Secretaries having the positions of Deputy Director General for Administration as the second officer in command, the Deputy Director General for Security and Operation as the third officer in command, and the Deputy Director General for Reformation as the fourth officer in command.

Currently, BuCor has seven operating institutions which are in the following areas: (a) New Bilibid Prisons - NBP Reservation, Muntinlupa City; Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm - Puerto Princesa, Palawan, *Correctional Institution for Women - Puerto Prinsesa., Palawan*; Correctional Institution for Women - Mandaluyong City ; Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm - Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro; Leyte Regional Prisons - Abuyog, Leyte; Davao Prison and Penal Farm - Panabo, Davao Del Norte; *Correctional Institution for Women - Sto. Tomas, Davao Del Norte*; and San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm - San Ramon, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur.

The BuCor, aside from its twin mandate of Securing and Reforming all national offenders coming from the different parts of the country, is also in charge of managing the terrorist offenders (VEOs) while confined in the institution. Section 52 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 known as Republic Act 11479, directs the BuCor and BJMP to establish a system of assessment and classification for persons charged for committing terrorism and preparatory acts punishable under this Act. The system shall cover the proper management, handling, and interventions for the detained persons. Additionally, the Anti-Terrorism Council Resolution No. 38, or the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism identified prison as one of the vulnerable sectors since there are VEOs under its custody. In consonance with this, BuCor should also develop with a suitable assessment, evaluation, and classification scheme for this special group of offenders.

In many countries where VEOs are confined in maximum security facilities, no study has given a definitive answer on the most effective way of managing and handling VEOs while serving sentences in prison. This may be because the intervention programs to deradicalize and rehabilitate the VEOs are anchored within the cultural context of the said countries. Therefore, one program that is considered adequate in one area may not work in another setting. In the Philippines, an extensive study has not been conducted in BuCor that assessed and compared the effectiveness of the Regular Institutional Reformation Program and the FOCUSED Behavior Modification Program and the FOCUSED Behavior Modification Program. This

research provides firsthand information on the efficacy of the two programs being facilitated in BuCor to rehabilitate and deradicalize the VEOs.

The study was conducted at the Maximum-Security Compound of the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP), in Muntinlupa City. NBP, which holds more than half of the total prison population in BuCor is one of its seven operating institutions, which caters national offenders coming from all over the Philippines.

The research aimed to determine the level of effectiveness of the two programs, the VRP and VBMFP in terms of the VEO's psychological and make-up and coping mechanism, level of hope and optimism, perception of BUCOR as an institution, perception of BUCOR officers, perception of BUCOR Reformation programs, VEO's plan, and VEOs violent extremist beliefs. Likewise, the research also targeted to determine the assessment of the programs by the Security and Reformation Officers who are directly engaging and facilitating the program. The Researcher dug deeper into the issues and challenges encountered by the facilitators in the implementing the VEO program. This is deemed important to determine ways on how to improve or enhance the strategy and that problems in its facilitation can be readily remedied. Suggestions were sought and were included in the Recommendation for the Administration to consider to better to improve the delivery of services for the incarcerated VEOs.

Background of the Study

The worldwide spread of terrorism wreaking havoc in many countries continues to haunt many nations as it remains a deadly threat to the peaceful existence of humanity.

Terrorism has been a perennial problem globally ever since the US September terror attacks of September 11, 2001. Its continuous evolution, both internationally and in the domestic scene, makes it a serious threat in many countries. The recent conflict in Israel, which started with violent attacks by the Hamas Terrorist Group, spells a grim reality that terrorism will inevitably be in our midst with no let up. The transformation of terrorism in the past three decades has been evident, shifting from organized plots to “lone wolf” attacks (Nazala 2019). Other researchers also claim that modern terrorists are more religious-inspired, daring, and independent of state support. Also, more groups have become more unpredictable, bolder, and constantly changing organizational structures. Others act independently, relying solely on online motivations to carry out violent acts in the name of ISIS or al-Qaeda, even without formal affiliation (Nazala, 2019).

Recent developments have shown that a radical transformation in the character of Terrorism has evolved (Lacquer 1999). Hoffman (1998) further explains that the new terrorism shows a very different and potentially greater lethal threat than the traditional terrorist groups. It can be concluded that the pattern of terrorism in the 21st century has evolved, bearing new characteristics, with unique motivations, tactics, technology and the skills and capability of the group.

Dr. Clarke Jones (2023), a leading researcher and expert in Terrorism, says, terrorism is typically distinguished from other forms of violence by its motivational component; its motivations ostensibly are to advance political, ideological, or religious objectives. There is an evident desire to use violence, specifically for civilians in service of those objectives, reflecting extremism. The Federal Bureau of Investigations in the United States differentiates between international terrorism and domestic terrorism. International terrorism is defined as “violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations (state-sponsored)”, and domestic terrorism as “violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial or environmental nature” (FBI, 2023).

Terrorism in the Philippines started a long time ago. It has been sustained for so many years and was strengthened the more with the entry of foreign terrorist groups in the Philippines. Such groups as Al Qaeda, JI and ISIS provide logistical support and training for the local VEOs. Numerous violent attacks in the military and civilian populace became a regular occurrence in Southern Mindanao areas. Bombings, kidnappings of both local individuals and foreigners continue hounding the Philippine scene.

One of the most prominent incidents happened on January 31, 2018 when 50 members of the ISIS-linked Maute group fought in a daring siege of Marawi City. The said local group gained prominence, which followed the pouring in of support from international terrorist groups. Sporadic fighting became a regular feature in Mindanao areas, attracting the global community's attention.

Last December 3, 2023, the Islamic State Group claimed the attack during a Catholic Mass held at a gymnasium in Mindanao State University, in Marawi Lanao del Sur. The bomb attack killed four people and injured dozens of Christians who were attending the mass. The IS group on its website stated that “the soldiers of Caliphate detonated an explosive device on a large gathering of Christians ... in the city of Marawi”.

Both President Marcos and the US government condemned the attack and expressed that both governments will stand firm in rejecting this act of violence. The Military is likewise validating the involvement of the Daulah Islamiyah-Maute Group in this heinous attack. The coordinated effort of the Military and other Law Enforcement groups remained on heightened alert to ensure public safety and to bring to justice the perpetrators responsible for this despicable crime.

The military has remained vigilant and has been stepping up its campaign against the VEOs, resulting in numerous arrests and eventual incarceration of hundreds of VEOs. The table is now turned to the Jails and Prisons. Handling and managing this group now become the primary responsibility and an enormous challenge faced by the Jails and Prisons. Confronting the Prisons and Jails is a serious problem of handling and managing this group of offenders, with a distinct background, ideology and psychological make up. Therefore, an effective system of handling convicted VEOs is a crucial part of a potent response by the criminal justice system to terrorism.

The primary goal of the Prisons, therefore, is to promote the rehabilitation of these incarcerated VEOs and prepare them to re-integrate into the free society as law-abiding, peace-loving, and productive citizens of the country.

Theoretical Framework

The effort to understand the causes, motivations and determinants of terroristic behavior is a continuing struggle by many countries worldwide. Some research and studies have been conducted to get a clearer view of why people choose to become terrorists but still there was no definitive answer. The only reason often recognized is the cultural orientation of the Muslim brothers. It is also of prime importance to understand how this threat to the peace and order of society impacts the government's functions and operation, as it delivers crucial and essential services to the people.

The handling of VEOs in prison affects the overall management of this public office (BuCor) and the whole Philippine government institution. Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism takes on the entire national approach, explicitly conveying that managing VEOs and Reforming them, is the responsibility of all governmental, non-governmental institutions and other stakeholders in our society.

This part will present the theory where this study is anchored and would serve as framework that will guide the understanding and development more viable programs for the management of the VEOs.

New Public Management Theory

The **New Public Management Theory (NPM)** has for its central focus the effective and efficient management and operation of public service organizations and institutions. Its main consideration is the centrality of citizens who are the recipients of the service. NPM is essentially, an approach to managing public service organization that is applied in government and public service institutions and agencies. It emphasizes on making public service more businesslike, pushing for improvement of its efficiency using the private sector management models. Some of the key themes in NPM include finance control, value for money, increasing efficiency etc.

Evaluation of the performance is done through audits, of benchmarking and assessment of accomplishments. Others used private sectors to deliver what is formerly public services. NPM treats public sector as customers and public servants as public managers. NPM is different from the traditional public administration model approach, whose policy is always in consonance with the regulations, legislations and administrative procedures.

One essential aspect of NPM is the principle of reinventing the government (David Osborne 1993). It posits the idea that the government system can be fundamentally re-oriented to function as productively and as efficiently as the private sector enterprise.

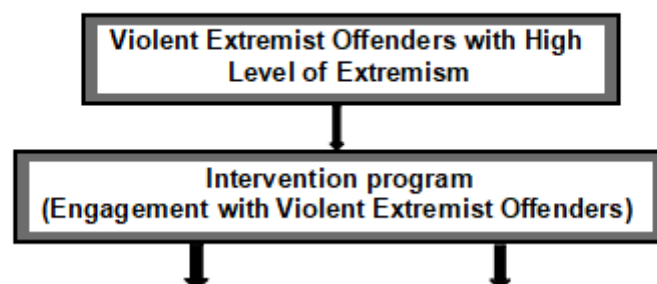
BuCor is a government institution that provides an essential service to the public and can be likened to a private enterprise. The theory of Reinventing the Government can be well applied in the Agency since the programs that were assessed in this study are newly developed and aimed at improving the service of the Agency. BUCOR's twin mandate is the Security and Reformation of all National Offenders, making sure that they are reformed and have become law-abiding citizens as they go back to the free society. As one of the five pillars of the Philippine Criminal Justice System, the BuCor performs the most challenging task of changing offenders' criminal behavior. Greater accountability lies on the BuCor in the management and strategic planning, emphasizing transparent processes and reporting outcomes. BuCor must be more flexible and adopt new approaches to improve the program.

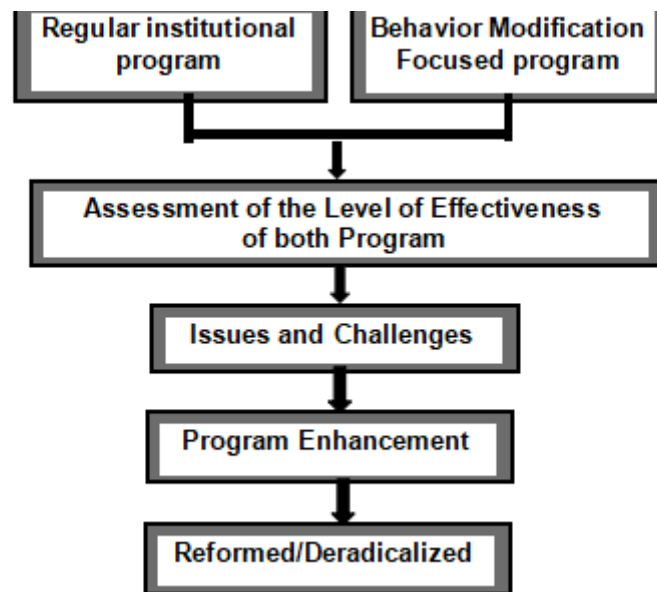
The VEOs confined at the BuCor receive reformation programs to promote their deradicalization and reformation while serving their sentence in prisons. The VEO programs were assessed and evaluated, and the data will be used to identify performance that may warrant further improvement. Findings from this study will enhance or upgrade the existing program to make it more responsive to the needs of the VEOs, which would result in their reformation.

As reformed offenders are integrated back into the free community, the goal of BUCOR as a Correctional pillar is achieved, resulting in a safer and orderly society.

Conceptual Framework of the Study

Figure 1. Research Paradigm





The figure above shows that a VEO who had been radicalized has a high level of extremism. The Extremist narratives are embedded in his mind which makes him a security threat in the compound. He has perceived injustice committed by the government, hostility towards men in uniform and with a distorted interpretation of the Islam religion. Added to this is his need for belongingness, as he and his family belong to the poor sector of society.

With this condition, the VEO is subjected to both the Regular Institutional Reformation program and to the Behavior Modification Focused Program that will be facilitated for one year. The level of effectiveness of both programs will be assessed and will determine the issues and challenges of its implementation for further program enhancement after which it is expected to result in his deradicalization and eventual reformation.

A Reformed VEO will integrate back into the free society as law-abiding, productive, and peace-loving member of the society.

Statement of the Problem

This research evaluated the BuCor’s Regular Institutional Reformation Program and Behavior Modification Focused Program for the VEOs confined at the Maximum-Security Compound of New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City. In this research, we named the Regular Institutional Program as Violent Extremist Offender Regular Program (VRP) and the Behavioral Modification Focused Program as Violent Extremist Offender Behavior Modification Focused Program (VBMFP).

The Informants were the Security and the Reformation Officers of BuCor who have been involved in the VEOs management program.

Specifically, this study answered the following questions:

1. What is the level of effectiveness of the two (2) BuCor programs (VRP and VBMFP) in terms of the following:
 - 1.1 psychological make-up and coping mechanism;
 - 1.2 level of hope and optimism;
 - 1.3 perception of Bucor as an institution;
 - 1.4 perception of Bucor officers;
 - 1.5 perception of the Bucor reformation program;
 - 1.6 level of optimism regarding the future; and

- 1.7 VEOs's violent extremist belief
2. What is the assessment of the Security and Reformation Officers on the two (2) BuCor VEO Programs (VRP and the VBMFP) by Rank?
 - 2.1 heads of offices;
 - 2.2 middle level rank; and
 - 2.3 rank and file?
3. What are the issues and challenges in the implementation of the two VEO programs?
4. What are the suggestions forwarded by the Security and Reformation personnel to improve the BuCor program?
5. Based on the findings, what Action Plan may be developed for Program Enhancement?

Significance of the Study

This study will benefit the following:

National Government and BuCor Leadership. The result of this study could give valuable information to our Lawmakers when crafting Policies in the handling and managing of VEOs confined in jails and prisons. More relevant laws can be enacted which will redound (hopefully) to additional funding and support to BuCor and other relevant Agencies. BuCor would be able to organize a more comprehensive program for a more effective and sustainable handling and management of VEOs. In consonance to RA 11479, Anti-Terrorism Law, and in compliance to the National P/CVE efforts of the government, findings of this study can provide evidence-based strategies to promote the reformation of this type of offenders.

Program Implementers. The ones facilitating the P/CVE program would be equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills in VEOs engagement. At the same time, they would be able to largely influence the minds and hearts of the VEOs while implementing the program and hopefully effect an environment conducive for deradicalization and eventual reformation.

Community. It is a reformed VEOs returning to the free society, would spell a safer community to live in. Additionally, the former VEOs can contribute to the overall peace building and maintenance of order in the community.

PDL Families. These are rehabilitated VEOs, equipped with knowledge and skills they can use in finding a job to support their loved ones. The once broken family will hopefully be re-united as the members face together a bright future for them and their children.

Future Researchers. The findings in this study could give knowledge to future researchers on the best approaches in handling and managing imprisoned VEOs. Further studies can also be done to expound on other effective techniques in managing incarcerated VEOs.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The study was delimited in the assessment of the Regular Institutional Reformation Program and the Behavior Modification Focused Program for VEOs confined at the Bureau of Corrections.

The respondents of the study were the Security and Reformations officers assigned at the Maximum-Security Compound and Medium Security Compound of New Bilibid Prison, located in the center of Muntinlupa City.

Definition of Terms

The terms are explained both conceptually and operationally to provide clarity regarding their application in the study.

Behavior Modification Focused Program (BMFP). It refers to intervention programs consisting of 12 Modules focused on life skills and personality development conducted to violent extremist offenders.

Bureau of Corrections (BuCor). It is an agency of the Department of Justice which is charged with the custody and rehabilitation of national offenders.

Deradicalization. A process in which people reject the ideology they once embraced. This is one step further than disengagement, which is characterized by a change in behavior (stop using violence and leaving the radical group) without giving up one's radical beliefs.

Maximum Security Compound (MaxSeCom). One of the prison camps of New Bilibid Prison

New Bilibid Prison (NBP). It refers to one of the operating prison and penal farms of the Bureau of Corrections

Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL). A person who has been arrested, held. in lawful custody, detained, or imprisoned in execution of a lawful sentence.

Radicalization. It a process through which people become increasingly motivated to use violent means against members of an out-group or symbolic targets to achieve behavioral change and political goal.

Reformation Officers. These refer to the personnel facilitating reformation programs to persons deprived of liberty.

Reformation Programs. These are the institutional programs conducted to persons deprived of liberty.

Regular Reformation Institutional Programs. These are six (6) reformation programs of the Bureau of Correction such as Education and Training.

Security Officers. These refer to personnel performing security functions such as guarding, monitoring, frisking, searching and others.

Terrorism. It refers to person who, within or outside the Philippines, regardless of the stage of execution: (a) engages in acts intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to any person or endangers a person's life; (b) engages in acts intended to cause extensive damage or destruction to a government or public facility, public place, or private property; (c) engages in acts intended to cause extensive interference with damage or destruction to critical infrastructure; (d) develops, manufactures, possesses, acquires, transports, supplies, or uses weapons, explosives or of biological, nuclear, radiological, or chemical weapons; and (e) Release of dangerous substances, or causing fire, floods, or explosions

Violent Extremism. It refers to the belief and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious, or political goals. This includes terrorism and other forms of politically motivated and communal violence. (www.livingsafetogether.gov.au.)

Violent Extremist Offenders. These are prisoners who embraced violent extremism. (UNODC Handbook on VEPs, 2016).

Chapter 2

RELATED LITERATURE AND STUDIES

This chapter presents various local and foreign literature and studies discussing the process of preventing and countering violent extremism in prisons.

The rise of violent extremism and the radicalization of violence within prison facilities has become a growing concern for the international community. Many prison systems around the world are in a stage of crisis that seriously affects seriously the prisoners, their families and the societies (UNODC, Addressing the Global Prison Crisis 2015). Many individuals become increasingly committed to extremist ideologies while incarcerated. This phenomenon has garnered significant attention from policymakers, security agencies, and scholars due to the potential for prisons to serve as breeding grounds for violent extremism.

The prison, with its closed environment, combined with various physiological and social factors, can make it a fertile ground for VEOs to conduct radicalization of innocent Muslim inmates. There are many challenges in addressing this issue, as prison administrations must not only prioritize the secure and safe custody of violent extremist inmates but also work towards preventing the radicalization to violence within prison walls. Moreover, efforts are needed to disengage prisoners from potential future violence and to prepare those nearing release for their successful reintegration into the community.

United Nations and the international community acknowledge the significant part that prisons play in the fight against terrorism. Hundreds and even thousands of VEOs confined in different prisons, jails and other detention centers in many countries, point to an important role these institutions play in deradicalizing and reforming the terrorists in their care. Each state is expected to provide the necessary assistance to these confinement areas through specialized training and logistical support to enable them to function effectively. Without this support, prisons can become an instrument in propagating rather than preventing and eliminating terrorism.

Apparently, imprisonment does not stop violent extremism. It is a false notion to think that incarceration can stop a terrorist from committing violent acts/ activities behind prison bars. The saying that a prison can either be a place for reformation/transformation or a school for radicalization cannot be further from the truth. Thus, the prisons play a very crucial role in the deradicalization process of a VEO. Systems of the Correctional Institution, as a member of the Criminal Justice System, is of immense importance, in preventing and countering violent extremism (Morales 2019).

Various governments are developing more effective strategies to dissuade potential recruits from joining the VEO group. As a crucial partner in the P/CVE effort, more focus now is directed at prison institutions. The Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF, 2012) (GCTF, 2012) cited three important reasons why there is an increasing concern in prisons. The first one cites that with the absence of necessary safeguards, prison may provide a safe sanctuary for terrorists to network, compare tactics, recruit, and even operate deadly activities outside. Second, the likelihood that once terrorists are released from prisons and go back to their former group, essentially points to efforts which are necessary to help VEOs ultimately disengage from violent activities. Lastly, even with the possibility that violent extremism can happen in prison settings, the likelihood that it can also present opportunities for positive change for an offender can be achieved while incarcerated.

Prisons are a unique environment. It provides various programs that can eliminate violent tendencies and reverse any negative influences of the past. All the necessary elements should be present in prison to provide an environment conducive to positive change. It will mean not only the facilities or the programs but also the security and reformation officers facilitating all the activities inside. If the Correctional Institution successfully transforms a VEO, he will return to the free community as renewed, productive, law-abiding and peace-loving individual. Ultimately, his reintegration to his family and to the community will be fully attained.

The Bureau of Corrections as a Correctional Institution provides various reformation programs for offenders confined in its seven facilities. Initially, the inmates will be provided with basic needs like food, clothing, housing, and other essential things for their survival in prisons. Then, six major programs are facilitated to the inmates, as he serves his sentence in the institution.

Medical and Dental Services. Upon admission to BuCor, the offender passes the Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC), where he undergoes physical, mental, and emotional examination/evaluation. The idea is

that an inmate can respond well to the Rehabilitation Program if he is physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy.

Inmate Educational Program. BuCor provides a complete educational package for the inmate, ranging from Functional Literacy-Alternative Learning System, Elementary, Junior and Senior High School, Vocational Training, Fine Arts, and College Program. The goal of Inmate Education is to develop the inmate intellectually, psychologically, emotionally, physically, and socially so that upon his release he will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to start a renewed life. Education is given much premium in the Philippines. It is considered as the most effective tool for reformation, for it targets almost all aspects of man's personality.

Work and Livelihood. The Prison Industry is one of the Reformation programs simultaneously an income generating endeavor of BuCor. In, here the inmate is not only taught various employable skills but also to earn money the honest way. Such values as industry, patience, honesty, and diligence are ingrained to the inmates as they work on the various Agricultural-Industrial projects of BuCor. Additionally, the inmate spends his time wisely, while serving his sentence in prisons. Private entrepreneurs are encouraged to invest in BuCor using Prison Labor, which is considerably cheaper and more hardworking than the usual workers outside the prisons. In the process, the BuCor generates income for its operation while the inmate also earns money which he can even send to this family outside.

Moral and Spiritual Program. The inmate is given the opportunity to practice his religion inside the prisons. It is said that when an offender is incarcerated, everything is taken away from him. The only thing left in an inmate is his sole time with his Creator. Filipinos are a very religious people. They believe and worship their God, and imprisonment pushes them to re-examine their beliefs in the Higher Being. The BuCor, through the Moral and Spiritual Division and its various activities, strengthens an inmate's moral fiber and religiosity. The rightness or wrongness of certain acts and the respect for other's life and properties, are infused in the inmate as he participates in the different religious and spiritual activities

Behavior Modification Program. It can be said that almost all Reformation Activities belong to this Program. This is because BuCor is a character-changing institution; generally, all programs aim to modify or eliminate criminal behavior. However, the Behavior Modification Program (BM) focuses on developing life skills and infusing problem-solving schemes to guide inmates in rational and logical decision-making. Such seminars/training as Anger Management, Handling Depression and Aggression, Understanding Emotion etc. They are given to the inmates to develop more self-control and logical and objective problem-solving skills to help them navigate their reintegration into the free society upon their release.

Sports and Recreation. It is said that a healthy body equals a healthy mind. Various sports and recreation activities are provided to the inmates not only to maintain their physical and mental health but also to infuse them with such values as sportsmanship, cooperation, unity, and camaraderie. Sports and Recreation activities provide a balanced life in prisons, as inmates engage in worthwhile activities.

The Arrival of VEOs in BuCor. In 2000, BuCor was confronted with a surge in the admission of VEOs bringing security concerns about the proper handling and securing of these offenders. Because of the lack of appropriate facilities, the BuCor integrated the VEOs with the general inmate population at the Maximum-Security Compound (MaxSeCom). However, the Security sought the different Gangs' help to monitor this group's activities and movements. The VEOs were distributed in the different gangs at the MaxSeCom, with the agreement between the Administration and Inmate Leaders that any untoward actions or suspicious activities of this group, will be immediately reported to the Security Personnel

thereat. This form of arrangement and agreement is called “Shared Governance”, wherein the inmate groups were enjoined in maintaining peace and order in the camp.

Integration vs Segregation. The lack of suitable facilities prompted the BuCor to mix the VEOs with the general inmate population. Surprisingly, this arrangement seemingly worked in preventing the VEOs from solidifying their group, for the simple reason that they were in the minority and at the same time, in the mercy of the Gangs. Their movements were being constantly monitored and checked. However, they were also encouraged to participate in the different institutional rehabilitation programs offered by BuCor. Another advantage of Integration is that the VEOs are exposed to various ideas and perspectives from the majority, which is apparently exerting greater control and influence on the minority.

Segregation. BuCor opted for the segregation of the Charismatic Leaders, who were monitored to have been conducting radicalization activities in the mosque. There were about 5 or 6 VEO leaders who were housed in a high-risk security facility to prevent them from exerting undue influence on the other Muslim inmates at the MaxSeCom. Building 14 was built precisely to house high risk inmates, separating them from the general inmate population at MaxSeCom. At Building 14, there is limited movement, and the absence of Reformation Programs prevailed in that area.

BuCor’s Management Program for VEOs

The PDLs confined at New Bilibid Prisons total to 25,020 (as of June 2024). Inmates confined at the MaxSeCom alone total to 14,587 which is 58.30% of the total inmate population in NBP.

Muslim inmates at NBP, total to 657, 152 of whom or 23.13% are identified as VEOs.

Profile of the VEOs at MaxSeCom

Case	Multiple Murder, Murder Kidnap for Ransom with Illegal Detention
Sentence	Reclusion Perpetua
Age	Between 30-40 years old
Nationality	Filipino and Indonesian
	Abu Sayyaf ----- 126 MILF ----- 3 Rajah Sulayman --- 4 Maute ISIS ----- 14 Daulah Islamiyah --- 1 Jemiah Islamiyah --- 3 Indonesian ISIS ----- 1
Place of Origin	Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao
Educational Attainment	Mostly are Elementary and High School Level
Status	Majority are Married
Religion	Islam

The High-Risk Inmate Management Program Team (HRIMP)

Due to the increasing number of VEOs admission in BuCor, the leadership saw the necessity of developing a Focused Program for this special group of offenders, which is in line with Agency's P/CVE effort. The reported radicalization by charismatic VEO leaders being done in the mosque, as reported by the BuCor's Security and Intelligence personnel in 2015, gave the needed traction to concretize this plan. The necessity to act swiftly to thwart this activity and then facilitate deradicalization among the identified Muslim inmates, brought about the formation of the High-Risk Inmate Management Program Team (HRIMP).

In 2016, the HRIMP Team was organized in response to the alarm sounded by the Security People. The Team was composed of Teachers from the Medium Security Compound, who had been experienced in Inmate Engagement for several years, and who had undergone training in the P/CVE seminars conducted by various International Organizations.

The initial activity consisted of crafting three (3) risk assessment instruments to evaluate and assess the personality of the VEOs: **(a) Risk Assessment Test for Extreme Offenders (RATEO)**. This instrument evaluates the determining factors of extremism and some mitigating factors (reformability essentials), that can be considered in planning the intervention program; **(b) Initial Risk Assessment Scale (IRAS)**. This Scale measures the actual and potential risk factors, together with some criminogenic features that would need focus in inmate management; **and © The Case Management Record (CMR)**. The CMR is a consolidation of the profile, case history and the other pertinent information about the inmate which are deemed essential in inmate assessment and evaluation.

The three instruments crafted by the HRIMP Team all aim at the following: (a) Draw a profile of the VEOs, including their criminogenic features and their reformability; (b) Assess their level of extremism; and utilize the result of the tests to design an appropriate program for the VEOs.

The first set of instruments was used for the first batch of VEOs who underwent the Intervention Program (IP). Significant results were attained from the instruments which were used to improve further the IP. However, these instruments failed to give the Facilitators information on the level of extremism of the VEOs and the changes in the paradigm of the participants. This prompted the Team to come up with a modified version which resulted in the crafting of a second instrument.

The Second Instrument. With the help of the International Center for Counter Terrorism-The Hague (ICCT-The Hague), Dr. David Webber, an American researcher in terrorism, assisted the HRIMP Team re-formulate the Test Instrument. The New Tool replaced the three instruments initially used and was proven to be very effective in measuring the level of extremism of the VEOs. Also, it measured the Level of Personal Significance, Attitude Towards Reformation, Attitude toward the Security/SAF and Attitude toward the Government. The HRIMP Team called this the VEO Profile Test (VPT). The said instrument was used for the second batch of VEOs.

To supplement the result of the VPT, the Team crafted a second instrument which they called the Focus Group Discussion Evaluation Form (FGD-EF). This tool consists of 8 open ended questions that sought to get the opinion of the VEOs on the following issues:

The Intervention Program consists of the following: (a) The BuCor's Reformation Program; (b) the Condition or situation in the Agency; (b) effects of the seminar or IP on their desire to rehabilitate, personal changes they experienced, opinion about the SAF, plans and their suggestion to BuCor to improve its services; and (c) the second set of instruments was able to provide more valuable information which was used by the Team to continuously modify the IP. Also, the observations during close encounter engagements with the VEO provided important inputs in understanding and managing the VEOs.

The Focused Behavior Modification Intervention Program

Based on the initial results of the assessment and evaluation of the VEOs, the HRIMP Team came up with an Intervention Program. It consists of 12 modules, which are veering heavily on the Behavior Modification Approach. Twelve (12) modules were crafted which focused on the development of life skills, personality development, psychological wellness, family relationships, handling and managing anger and stress etc. This is to reduce extremist behavior, beliefs, and tendencies through targeted interventions. These programs are typically multi-disciplinary, psychological, educational, and social components. Each module was given for one month and was tackled for 4 to 5 hours.

The titles of the modules are as follows: *Personality Development, Anger Management, Stress Management, Emotional Intelligence, Interpersonal Relationship, Healing Emotional and Psychological Trauma, Healthy Family Relationship, Conflict Management, Adversity Quotient, Developing Self-Esteem, Positive Attitude, and Understanding Depression.*

The sessions were held every Monday from 8 to 12 Am. Monday was chosen because it is a Non-Visiting Day, to enable the participants to concentrate on the activity.

A typical session is facilitated as follows: Kamustahan / Unfreezing Exercises, Lecture Proper, Group Discussion, and Individual Sharing.

Upon entering the programs, VEOs undergo a detailed and comprehensive assessment to evaluate the extent of their extremist beliefs, psychological state, and social background. This includes interviews, psychological testing, and analysis of the offender's history and motivations.

VEOs are classified based on their risk level – high, medium, or low – determining the intensity and type of intervention required. Those with a higher risk of reoffending or spreading extremist ideologies may receive more intensive monitoring and support.

After the 12 modules, a post assessment was done to determine how the IP affected the participants. Results of the post assessment instruments were gathered and analyzed to see if major changes had been achieved on the part of the VEOs.

The role of prisons in propagating terrorism has been recognized worldwide. In France, a freelance journalist, Eleonor Bredsley (2017) reported that there were many homegrown terrorists who had launched attacks like the one in Paris and Brussels. The perpetrators to such attacks were found to have been radicalized in prisons. They were incarcerated and were served time for crimes not even related to terrorism.

Bredsley (2017) further disclosed that about 150 people were killed in various parts of France, committed by criminals who had become radicalized in prisons that clearly showed that prisons once not closely monitored became a haven and breeding ground of terrorists/extremists' offenders.

An Egyptian prolific writer - Sayyid Qutb wrote books that influenced Muslims around the world while serving prison term. He expounded on the importance of jihad, which eventually became incubators of jihadist thought that influenced many terrorist groups (Bredsley, Dec. 2009, CTC Sentinel)

Robert Irwin, writer, and publisher (2001, The Guardian) stated that most useful insights in influencing Bin Laden did not happen in the mountains of Afghanistan, but from the insights of the Egyptian fundamentalist Scholar, Sayyid Qutb. Qutb is the primary influence in the Al-Qaeda leader.

Brandon (2009) from Combatting Terrorist Center at West Point (CTC Sentinel) claimed that there was an increasing radicalization in prisons in the West. This is particularly true in the UK, where more homegrown terrorist plots were observed. Famous terrorists in UK include Richard Reide, the 2001 "shoe-bomber" and Muktar Ibrahim, the leader of the July 21, 2005, London Bomb plot (Brandon 2009).

Brandon also posited that key leaders in the 2004 Madrid Bombing had themselves radicalized in Moroccan prisons. Ori Andato, former Commissioner of Israel Prison Service (IPS) believes that prison management maybe at risk for terrorism opportunity because of the following:

- The VEO is stopped from being chased attaining certain stability in prisons. In prisons, the VEOs can re-group and consolidate without the need to hide from the frying eyes of the law enforcers.;
- There are no more risks in prisons. The prison cells act as haven for VEOs, with the assurance that their human rights will be respected;
- All needs are provided for in prisons. Primarily, the prisoners are provided with their basic needs, shelter, and programs for rehabilitation. Most prisons now try to simulate life or condition in the free society;
- Peer group is available. VEOs in prison can spend time with their comrades. Opportunities for association with VEO friends and other associates are provided within the safe confines of prisons; and
- There is plenty of time to radicalize in prisons (Adato 2015). The one valuable element that VEO can have in prisons is Time. A VEO can have all the time in the world to radicalize, recruit sympathizers, plan and operate attacks outside the prison walls.

Preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) in prison settings is a complex and critical area of study, given the potential for prisons to act as incubators for radicalization. Research in this field draws on insights from criminology, psychology, sociology, and counterterrorism. Below is a summary of key literature and studies related to P/CVE in prison environment:

Understanding Radicalization in Prisons include the following:

- **Silbert & Bhatt (2007)** – Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat: This seminal report examines the process of radicalization, with a specific focus on how prisons can serve as environments conducive to extremist indoctrination. The authors identify phases of radicalization and highlight the role of charismatic leaders within prison settings in influencing vulnerable inmates.
- **Neumann (2010)** – Prisons and Terrorism: Radicalization in 15 Countries: This study published by the International Centre for the study of Radicalization and Political Violence (ICSR), examines radicalization within prison systems across 15 countries. It discusses how prison conditions, inmate interaction, and external influences contribute to radicalization. The study also explores the role of prison management in either exacerbating or mitigating radicalization risks.
- **Basra & Neumann (2016)** – Prisons and Terrorism: Extremist Offender Management in 10 European Countries: This report explores how European countries manage extremist offenders in prison, focusing on their classification, segregation, and rehabilitation. It highlights best practices and challenges in preventing radicalization and promoting deradicalization within prison environment.

Factors Contributing to Radicalization in Prisons

- **Useem & Clayton (2009)** – Radicalization of U.S. Prison Inmates: This study analyzes the factors that contribute to the radicalization of inmates in U.S. prisons. It identifies social isolation, identity crises, and the influence of radical clerics as key drivers. The authors argue for a balanced approach that addresses both security concerns and the need to inmate rehabilitation.
- **Sarma (2007)** – Risk Assessment and the Prevention of Radicalization from Nonviolence into Terrorism: Sarma discusses the importance of risk assessment tools in identifying inmates who are vulnerable to radicalization. The study emphasizes the need for individualized assessments that consider the inmate's background, psychological state, and social networks within the prison.

Deradicalization and Rehabilitation Programs

- **Horgan (2008)** – Deradicalization or Disengagement: Horgan’s work is a key contribution to the understanding of deradicalization processes. He distinguishes between deradicalization (changing beliefs) and disengagement (ceasing violent activities) and discusses how prison- based programs can address both aspects. The study highlights the importance of psychological counseling, religious re-education, and vocational training in deradicalization efforts.
- **Silke (2011)** – Disengagement or Deradicalization: A look at Prison Programs for Jailed Terrorists: This study reviews various prison-based deradicalization programs, particularly in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Silke analyzes the effectiveness of these programs and identifies key components that contribute to their success, such as post- release support and community reintegration initiatives.
- **Clarke & Soria (2010)** – The Challenge of Rehabilitating the Jihadists: Focused on Saudi Arabia’s rehabilitation program, this study provides insights into the role of religious re-education, psychological support, and family involvement in deradicalization. It highlights the importance of addressing ideological beliefs and providing social and economic support to prevent recidivism.

Policy and Management Strategies

- **Ishikawa (2018)** – Managing Violent Extremist Offenders in Prisons: A Review of Key Issues and Challenges: This UNODC report reviews the key challenges in managing violent extremist offenders (VEOs) in prisons. It discusses various approaches, including segregation vs. integration of VEOs, the role of prison staff training, and the importance of international cooperation. The report emphasizes the need for comprehensive strategies that combine security measures with efforts to address the root causes of radicalization.
- **Bartlett & Miller (2012)** - Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization in the UK: This study focuses on the UK’s Prevent strategy and its application within the prison system. The authors discuss how prisons can implement CVE strategies, such as monitoring extremist behavior, providing counter-narratives, and facilitating educational and vocational programs.

Evaluation of P/CVE Programs

- **El-Said (2015)** – New Approaches to Countering Terrorism: Designing and Evaluating Counter Radicalization and Deradicalization Programs: El- Said evaluates various counter-radicalization and deradicalization programs, with a focus on prison-based initiatives. The study provides a framework for designing effective programs and emphasizes the importance of evaluation to measure their impact and sustainability.
- **Koehler (2016)** – Understanding Deradicalization: Methods, Tools, and Programs for Countering Violent Extremism: Koehler’s books provide a comprehensive overview of deradicalization methods and tools, with a focus on practical implementation within prisons. The author discusses different program models, the role of mentors, and the importance of post- release monitoring.

Case Studies

- **Indonesia’s Deradicalization Program (2013)**: The case study of Indonesia’s deradicalization efforts in prisons is often cited as an example of a holistic approach that combines religious re-education, vocational training, and community involvement. The program’s success is attributed to its focus on addressing the ideological roots of extremism while providing economic and social support.
- **The UK’s PREVENT Strategy in Prisons (2015)**: The PREVENT strategy’s application in the UK prison system includes training staff to identify signs of radicalization, developing rehabilitation

programs, providing counter-narratives to extremist ideologist. Studies have assessed the effectiveness of these initiatives and highlighted the challenges in balancing security with rehabilitation.

Challenges and Critiques

- **Neumann (2010)** - Critique of Segregation Strategies: Research, such as the work of Neumann has raised concern about the effectiveness of segregating extremist inmates from the general population. While segregation can prevent the spread of radical ideologies, it can also reinforce inmates' sense of persecution and strengthened their extremist beliefs.
- **Aolain (2014)** – Ethical and Human Rights Considerations: Studies like those of Aolain examine the ethical implications of P/CVE strategies in prisons, particularly concerning the rights of inmates. The balance between security and human rights is a recurring theme in the literature, with debates over the use of surveillance, segregation, and other restrictive measures.

These Foreign literatures and studies on preventing and countering violent extremism in prisons highlighted the complexity of addressing radicalization within these environments. Effective P/CVE strategies must balance security concerns with efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate inmates. The role of religious and ideological re-education, and the need for comprehensive post-release support. The field continue to evolve, with ongoing research needed to refine and evaluate P/CVE programs globally.

Preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) in the Philippines has become a critical area of study, particularly considering the country's experiences with insurgency, terrorism, and radicalization, especially in the southern regions like Mindanao. The literature and studies on this topic often focus on understanding the drivers of extremism, the role of community-based initiatives, and the effectiveness of various P/CVE programs. Here are some pieces of literatures and studies that explore prison radicalization in the Philippines. These will provide insights into the dynamics of radicalization within the prison system, the role of extremist groups, and the responses of the government and civil society.

On Prison Radicalization: The Philippines as a Case Study” by Rommel C. Banlaoi (2013). This study by Rommel Banlaoi, a well-known expert on terrorism in the Philippines, provided an in-depth analysis of how radicalization occurs within the Philippine prison system. It discussed the influence of extremist groups like Abu Sayyaf and their recruitment strategies within prisons. Banlaoi highlighted the conditions that foster radicalization, such as overcrowding and the lack of proper rehabilitation programs. He also examines the challenges faced by the Philippine government in preventing the spread of extremist ideologies within prisons.

In terms of “Radicalization in Prisons in the Philippines” by the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence, and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR): This report by PIPVTR delves into the process of radicalization in prisons across the Philippines. It focused on the role of influential inmates who act as recruiters for extremist groups. The report identified prisons as critical breeding grounds for radicalization, with particular attention to the influence of jihadi networks. It also provided recommendations for improving prison management and preventing radicalization.

On Countering Violent Extremism in the Philippines: The Role of Prisons” by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): This UNODC reports examined the role of the prisons system in the broader context of countering violent extremism (CVE) in the Philippines. It assesses the vulnerabilities of the prison environment to extremist influence and effectiveness of current counter-radicalization efforts. The report emphasized the need for comprehensive CVE strategies that include prison reform, staff training, and the establishment of deradicalization programs within prisons.

On “The Role of Prisons in Radicalization and Counter-radicalization” by the institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC): While not focused solely on the Philippines, this IPAC report provides a comparative analysis of prison radicalization in Southeast Asia, including significant discussion on the Philippines. It explores how extremist groups exploit prison environments to spread their ideologies. The report underscored the importance of understanding the social dynamics within prisons, including the power structures that enable radical groups to thrive. It also suggests measures for mitigating the influence of radicalization in prisons

On “Radicalization in Prisons: The Maute Group and its Impact” by the Ateneo de Manila University – Working Paper (2018): This working paper focused on the Maute group, an Islamic extremist group in the Philippines, and its activities within the prison system. It looks at how the group has used prisons as recruitment centers and how this has affected broader security concerns in the country. The paper discussed the challenges of managing high-risk inmates and the implications for national security. It called for more targeted interventions to disrupt radicalization processes within prisons.

Another is on **“Radicalization and Recruitment in Philippine Prisons: Challenges and Prospect” by the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP):** This study from the NDCP provided a policy-oriented analysis of the challenges posed by prison radicalization in the Philippines. It reviewed government responses and proposes strategic interventions to address the issue and **highlighted** the need for better intelligence-sharing among security agencies, improved prison conditions, and the development of specialized deradicalization programs tailored to the Philippine context. **Then, “Examining the Root Causes of Prison Radicalization in the Philippines” by the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID):** This publication from the PCID explored the socio-economic and political factor that contribute to the radicalization of inmates in Philippine prisons. It looks at the intersection of poverty, injustice, and radicalization. The paper suggested that addressing root causes, such as marginalization and lack of access to justice, is crucial in preventing radicalization. It also emphasizes the role of religious and community leaders in counter-radicalization efforts.

These sources collectively provided a comprehensive overview of the issue of prison radicalization in the Philippines, offering insights into the causes, processes, and potential solutions in the field of counter-radicalization efforts.

Context and Drivers of Violent Extremism in the Philippines

Banlaoi, Rommel C. (2010) – Counter-Terrorism Measures in Southeast Asia: Banlaoi’s work provided an overview of the terrorism landscape in Southeast Asia, with a specific focus on the Philippines. He explores the root causes of violent extremism in the country, including socio-economic disparities, historical advances, and the influence of global jihadist movement. The study highlighted the importance of addressing underlying grievances to effectively counter violent extremism.

Lidasan, Rahib, and Villanueva, Mavic (2016) – Understanding Violent Extremism in the Philippines: Emerging Issues and Concerns: This study examined the socio-political and economic factors that contribute to violent extremism in the Philippines., particularly the Muslim-majority areas like Mindanao. It discussed how poverty, lack of education, and marginalization have created fertile ground for extremist ideologies to take root.

Ranstorp, Magnus (2016) – Global Extremism and Terrorism: Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia, with a Focus on the Philippines: Ranstorp’s analysis included a section on the Philippines, examining the historical roots of violent extremism, including the role of the Moro conflict and the

emergence of groups like Abu Sayyaf and the Maute group. The study emphasized the need for a multi-dimensional approach to address the complex drivers of extremism in the country.

Ala, Maria Isabel (2015) – Community-Based Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism in the Philippines: The Role of Civil Society: This study highlighted the role of local communities and civil society organizations in preventing and countering violent extremism. Ala argues that community-based approaches are more effective in the Philippine context because they are culturally sensitive and leverage local knowledge. The study emphasized the importance of trust-building between the government and local communities.

Gutierrez, Eric (2017) – Peacebuilding and Preventing Violent Extremism: The Role of Local Communities in the Philippines: Gutierrez explored how local communities in conflict-affected areas of the Philippines have developed peacebuilding initiatives that also serve as P/CVE measures. The study discussed the integration of traditional conflict resolution methods with modern P/CVE strategies highlighting successful cases in Mindanao.

International Alert Philippines (2018) – Conflict Alert: Conflict, Extremism, and the Role of Community in Mindanao: This report provided a detailed analysis of conflict and extremism in Mindanao, with a focus on the role of local communities in preventing violence. It includes case studies of community-led initiatives that have successfully mitigated the risk of radicalization and violence. The report also discussed the challenges these communities face, such as resources constraints and the need for more government support.

Government Policy Responses

Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence, and Terrorism Research (2019) – Countering Violent Extremism in the Philippines: Strategies, Challenges, and Lessons Learned: This study reviews the Philippine Government's P/CVE strategies, including the implementation of the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. The report evaluates the effectiveness of various initiatives, such as counter-radicalization programs in schools and rehabilitation programs for former extremists. It also identifies challenges, such as coordination between agencies and the need for more community involvement.

Another is United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) (2020) – Strengthening Community Resilience Against Violent Extremism: A Review of the Philippine Government's P/CVE Initiatives: This UNDP report assessed the impact of the Philippine government's P/CVE efforts, with a particular focus on building community resilience. It discusses the role of education, economic development, and interfaith dialogue in preventing extremism. The report also provided recommendations for improving the effectiveness of P/CVE policies, such as enhancing local government capacities and ensuring sustainable funding for community programs.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) (2021) – Preventing Violent Extremism in the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL): This study examined how the implementation of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, which grant greater autonomy to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), serves as a P/CVE measure. The study argued that political and economic autonomy, combined with strong governance, can help address the grievances that fuel violent extremism.

Torres, Wilfredo M. III (2017) – The Role of Education in Preventing Violent Extremism: Lessons from the Philippines: Torres' study highlighted the importance of integrating P/CVE content into the educational system in the Philippines. It discusses how education can promote critical thinking, tolerance, and social cohesion, which are essential in countering extremist ideologies. The study provides example

of successful school-based P/CVE programs and emphasizes the need for teacher training and curriculum development.

Flores, Pablito (2019) – Educational Reform as a Tool for Countering Violent Extremism in Mindanao: This study explored how educational reform in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao can contribute to P/CVE efforts. Flores discussed the challenges of implementing educational reforms in these regions, including inadequate infrastructure and teacher shortages, but also highlighted the potential of education to prevent radicalization by fostering a culture of peace and understanding.

Deradicalization and Rehabilitation Programs

Mastura, Michael O. (2016) – Deradicalization in the Philippine Context: Challenges and Opportunities: Mastura's work focused on the challenges and opportunities of implementing deradicalization programs in the Philippines, particularly in the context of Islamic extremism. The study analyzed various programs, including those run by the government and NGOs, and discusses their effectiveness in changing extremist beliefs and behaviors. It also emphasizes the importance of post-release monitoring and support to former extremists.

Amor, Maria Cecille (2018) – Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Former Extremists in the Philippines: A Case Study: This case study examined a specific rehabilitation and reintegration program in the Philippines, focusing on former members of extremist groups such as Abu Sayyaf. Amor discusses the components of the program, including vocational training, psychological counseling, and community reintegration, and evaluates its success in preventing recidivism.

Mahmood, Cynthia (2020) – Women's Role in Preventing Violent Extremism in the Philippines: Challenges and Opportunities: This study explored the role of women in P/CVE efforts in the Philippines, both as potential victims of radicalization and as agents of change. Mahmood discusses how women's involvement in community-based initiatives, education, and peacebuilding can contribute to preventing violent extremism. The study also highlighted the unique challenges women face in extremist environments, such as gender-based violence and exploitation.

Santos, Salma (2019) – Gender-Sensitive Approaches to P/CVE in Bangsamoro: Lessons from the Field: Santos' research focused on integrating gender-sensitive approaches into P/CVE strategies in the Bangsamoro region. The study emphasized the need for P/CVE programs to address specific needs of women and girls, who are often overlooked in traditional counter-terrorism efforts. It provides recommendations for involving women in leadership roles and ensuring that P/CVE initiatives are inclusive.

International and Regional Cooperation

ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (2021) – Regional Approaches to Preventing Violent Extremism: The Philippine Experience: This report discussed how the Philippines collaborates with other ASEAN countries in P/CVE efforts. It highlights regional initiatives such as intelligence sharing, joint training exercises, and cross-border cooperation in combating extremism. The study underscores the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the transnational nature of violent extremism.

International Crisis Group (2018) – Southern Philippines: Tackling Islamist Militancy After the Marawi Siege: This report examined the aftermath of the Marawi siege and its implications for P/CVE in the Philippines and the wider region. It discusses the role of international actors, such as the United States and Australia, in supporting the Philippines' P/CVE efforts through training, funding, and technical assistance. The report also addressed the challenges of rebuilding Marawi and preventing the resurgence of extremist groups.

The literature on preventing and countering violent extremism in the Philippines emphasizes the importance of a multi-faceted approach that includes community involvement, educational reform, government policy, and international cooperation. Key themes include addressing the root causes of extremism, such as socio-economic inequality and historical grievances, as well as the need for inclusive and gender sensitive P/CVE strategies. The studies and reports highlight both the successes and challenges of P/CVE efforts in the country.

In the local scene, an unforgettable incident that occurred in prisons was the siege of BJMP's Special Care Area (SICA) in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan by the Abu Sayyaf Group to escape last March 15, 2005. The said jailbreak was prevented by the Special Action Force (SAF) of the PNP resulting in casualties reaching to more than 50 detainees and a member of the SAF team. VEOs in the said area were believed to have consolidated their group while spending time inside the jail.

In BuCor, the Security Officers of the Maximum-Security Compound, were able to intercept a message, sometime in 2016, pointing to the radicalization activity of charismatic VEO leaders at the Mosque in the said camp. The latter influence and play pivotal role in spreading extremist ideologies among fellow inmates, plan terroristic attack outside of prison, and recruiting non-Muslim to convert to Islam typically known as "Balik-Islam" literally means "return to Islam," which reflects the belief held by some converts that they are returning to the faith of their ancestors before the widespread Christianization of the Philippines during the Spanish colonial period. The segregation of these charismatic leaders and the formation of the High-Risk Inmate Management Group, which facilitated a Focused Program for the VEOs were the strategies implemented by BuCor to prevent incidents of this kind from happening again. BuCor, as one of the five pillars of the Philippine Criminal Justice System, can help stop violent extremism and cut VEOs illicit networks outside the correctional facility thru an effective deradicalization program that is aptly supported by a well-capacitated correctional institution, family and community (Marquez, 2018).

Deradicalization and Rehabilitation In Prisons- BuCor's Strategy In Comparison with Those in other Countries

Governments around the world have greatly focused on better understanding the radicalization process so that strategies can be developed to counter violent extremist ideologies. Aware of this goal, the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) gathered best practices from many countries and came up with what they call the Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders (2012).

Recognizing the fact that prisons can both be incubators of violent extremism or institutions for rehabilitation and reformation, the GCTF came up with 25 Best Practices coming from different regions who have established prison- based rehabilitation programs for the VEO.

Embodied in these guidelines are some of the practices that are being implemented already by BuCor, incorporated in its P/CVE program. Most notable practices of BuCor's P/CVE efforts are: (a) Setting up clear goals for all deradicalization programs before facilitating the actual activities; (b) As embodied in Good Practice No. 3, BuCor has its established an intake assessment and classification system which provides vital information about the VEOs background; and (c) Good Practice, it states that prison staff should be professionally trained and educated to be able to deal with the complexities of the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. All those who are engaging VEOs have been appropriately trained and have developed suitable engagement skills needed in dealing with VEOs.

As in many other countries, prison radicalization is a source of concern in the Philippines. For instance, New Bilibid Prison is a maximum-security prison that holds inmates from the ASG and the BIFF; it is severely overcrowded at 165 percent capacity. The proximity of masses of discontented, radicalized individuals to the general prison population has raised concerns that more inmates will become radicalized and those that are already radicalized will become more radical. However, BuCor has come up with programs that were found to be effective in managing the VEOs.

The paper of Morales (2020) entitled *Rehabilitation and Transformation Among Former Members of Violent Extremist Group in Prisons*, underscored the immense importance of the reformation program being facilitated for the VEOs in prisons. Her study focused on the VEO Management Program of BuCor and she enumerated the essential components that should be present in a Correctional Institution so as to attain full rehabilitation of VEOs. These are as follows:

- A Focused Program veering on Behavior Modification Scheme - This approach should target identified risk factors and other psychological needs of the VEOs. It should focus on the VEOs core beliefs, target extremist thoughts and paradigm, in line with the P/CVE effort of the Agency.
- A System of Assessment and Evaluation of the VEOs and the Program - there must be a way to determine how the program is affecting or influencing the VEOs.
- Well-trained and Well-motivated Program Officers –The facilitators of the program should be well prepared, and with the right motivation to handle this special group of offenders
- The Family should be involved in the VEO program – a very crucial aspect of the inmate’s reformation is the involvement of the family. Filipinos are family oriented, and the inmate’s loved ones can play a pivotal role in the inmate’s decision to reform so he can go back to his family and live a normal life.
- A Post Release Program—The released VEO should be accorded a post release assistance program in order to help the inmate get his feet back on the ground and start a new life. A viable support system can hasten the reintegration of these inmates into the free community.

BuCor, as one of the five pillars of the Philippine Criminal Justice System, can help stop violent extremism and cut VEOs illicit networks outside the correctional facility thru an effective deradicalization program that is amply supported by a well-capacitated correctional institution, family and community (Marquez, 2018).

In managing VEOs within the Prison System, a question that is commonly asked is whether radicalized inmates can best be integrated into the mainstream inmate population, or whether they should be segregated in separate high- security facilities. Several countries, like the USA, Australia, and the Netherlands have opted for segregation, while others generally disperse violent extremist offenders among a small number of high-security facilities.

Others believe that segregating radical prisoners from the rest of the prison population may not be a good idea. To solve one problem, it will create another, which may amplify radicalization rather than curb it. Active monitoring, program development and facilitation, resourcing and staff training would result in a far better approach in handling VEOs (John Horgan 2010). On the use of prison-based programs for VEOs, one of the most serious concerns in this area relates to the effectiveness of prison-based programs which are designed to intervene with terrorist prisoners and to either de-radicalize and/or disengage them from violent extremism.

Continuous study should be done, to determine whether the programs can help in the deradicalization process or not. Using assessment and evaluation tools can help the prison authorities better understand the VEOs, identify the risk factors, and define criminogenic elements that intervention programs can target.

In Indonesia de-radicalization approaches have tended to focus on four elements: (1) isolating prisoners who are engaging in deradicalization programs from other terrorist prisoners; (2) providing practical incentives for prisoners to engage, including holding them in better conditions and by providing economic assistance for them and their families; (3) using former militants to debate with current prisoners the ideology, rationales and justifications for violence; and (4) running workshops to tackle issues such as anger management but also to develop practical skills for future employment and provide new social relationships outside the terrorist network.

Indonesia's approach is like the Philippine's strategy except for getting the assistance of former prisoners to debate with current prisoners' ideology. Another is the provision of economic assistance to the families, which the Philippine government cannot afford at this time. However, all the other elements can be considered effective for a viable practical reform of VEOs in prisons. This approach by the Indonesian Prisons can truly help in managing/ reforming genuinely in Correctional Institutions.

Thailand on the other hand has four modes of rehabilitation including familial, recreational, and religious. It encourages family participation in the program. It encourages family participation in the program. Vocational courses for developing employment skills is also given emphasis in Thailand's approach (Ruetaitip Tungkasamitra Chanskrakao, 2017)

BuCor similarly involves the family in the rehabilitation program for VEOs. Visitation rights are extended to the inmates' families so they don't lose connection with their loved ones. It is believed that family plays a vital role in the offender's life and that one essential aspect of his reformation is his connection to his family.

Yemen facilitates religious dialogue; group counseling just like in BuCors' Intervention Program. The Muslim religious leader usually facilitates the as a as facilitator who are equipped with several skill sets including the art of dialogue, the art of interacting with others and the ability to deliver information succinctly and accurately.

Similarly, the High-Risk Inmate Management Program team (HRIMP) in BuCor, focused on listening to the VEOs during group and individual counseling sessions. The VEOs once stated that one of the reasons they like the BuCor program is that they were given an opportunity to express themselves. Because of this, they were able to share their thoughts, their worries, pains, and aspirations in life. In many ways, the sessions held with the VEOs by the HRIMP team became therapeutic for the inmates, making them see the importance of the Reformation Efforts of the BuCor.

One of the causes and dynamics of prisoner radicalization is overcrowding. In overcrowding, there is a high level of disorder and violence inmates maybe inclined or even forced to join group for protection so they may become susceptible to the influence of violent extremist groups which may offer social and moral support to deal with the ordeals of imprisonment. (Rohan Gunaratna et al 2019)

Overcrowding is likewise experienced in the BuCor prisons. The continuous admission of many inmates from all parts of the country brings it about. However, BuCor sought the help of the gangs to monitor the VEOs. The Prison Guard's small number did not hinder monitoring the VEO's activities inside the Maximum Compound. Also, the Gang members provided security and a sense of belongingness for the VEOs, which prevented them from consolidating even in the most crowded prison, NBP.

In one study entitled "What a Difference Two Years Make: Patterns of Radicalization in Philippine Jail" (Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict 9, no. 1-3 (2016): 13-36), it was mentioned that Rehabilitation Program was seen as very successful in managing terrorists' prisoners. The BuCor institution offers 6 reformation programs which are being facilitated to all inmates, including the VEOs. Among the six

programs, the VEOs mentioned that the Moral and Spiritual, Work and Livelihood are the ones most interesting for them. They were also perceived as the ones that help them have a positive perspective of life while in prisons and give them hope for a bright future once released.

In a study by Ian Chalmers (2016), he mentioned that a variety of methods should be used to promote disengagement both before and after the inmates leave the prisons. This author shares Chalmers belief that a set of programs can be useful in deradicalizing the VEOs. It is however noteworthy to mention here, that every program that is implemented should have a clear goal to attain and that an evaluation of the activities should be accomplished to see the program's effectiveness.

In BuCor, a variety of methods and programs are implemented which include, religious programs, Work and Livelihood, Educational, Vocational and FOCUSED program veering on behavior modification approach. However, these programs and approaches have one very clear and important objective and that is to attain deradicalization and promote reformation of VEOs.

It is also important to reinforce disengagement by linking with CVE organizations and Muslim leaders before inmates are released into the broader community. Establishing ties with CVE organizations and connecting with Recognized Muslim leaders in the community, can add up to the efficacy of any program for the VEOs. At the same time, this technique is setting the stage for a successful reintegration of the VEOs once he is released.

A more effective and successful mentoring system in UK provides an interaction with providers utilizing a combination of education, training, jobs, social and religious mentoring, sports, and housing assistance as their methodology (Douglas Weeks 2016). As in the BuCor strategy, a holistic approach covers education and training, religious instructions, sports and recreation programs, and post-release assistance for all inmates, including VEOs.

It has been proven in BuCor's experience that a Holistic Intervention program for inmates or for VEOs that target all the aspects of man's personality can help reform the offenders.

Additionally, Islam, Md. D. (2019) said that it is evident that deradicalization programs are likely to experience higher rates of success if a holistic approach is being adopted and further mentioned that there are three features of holistic individual deradicalization programs that should be met. Firstly, a detainee should be re-educated to shift from a violent to non-violent ideological perspective. Secondly, vocational training should be given to detainees to help them. Thirdly, a terrorist should be given a viable environment to reintegrate back into the society.

ESTABLISHING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE AS A STRATEGY IN VEO ENGAGEMENT

There are promising signs that rapport-building is an effective technique when interviewing terrorist detainees. The same is true of motivational interviewing (MI), especially when applied to detainees who are ambivalent about and resistant to change. These techniques encourage engagement and disclosure of information. There is also some evidence that conducting sessions in informal settings leads to greater engagement. (Prison-Based Intervention Targeting Violent Extremist Detainees, ICSR info/2022/07/15) The team who facilitated the focused program for VEOs in BuCor started by merely engaging the PDL, asking them how they were doing and felt. This is a good example of rapport building. In this manner, they were able to establish and attain the trust and confidence of the VEOs. The facilitators are perceived not as enemies but as friends who are there to help them. This somehow made the engagement more fruitful both for the Reformation Officers and to the VEOs. Additionally, opening became easy for the PDLs as they shared their present experiences, including their activities before incarceration.

The findings of twenty-seven primary studies about VEO management, which highlighted the importance of so-called soft approaches by building trust and resilience among violent extremist clients and facilitating their prosocial engagement, further validated the approach used by the BuCor Reformation Officers. Strength-based models could be considered as an alternative to the predominant risk-oriented practices in prison and probation services. (Johan Axelsson, Leni Eriksson & Lina Grip 07 Feb 2023)

The Engagement Skill of the program facilitator is a critical aspect of managing the VEO programs. AS the VEO develops trust in the Prison Officer, facilitating the activities will become much more manageable. Believing in the officer's sincere intention will fully accept the program's goals. Cooperation of the VEO can be attained, which will pave the way to boost his motivation and serious participation in the programs.

Synthesis

The growing number of VEOs confined behind bars undoubtedly points to the importance of prisons in the fight against terrorism. It is recognized worldwide that correctional institutions play a pivotal role in reforming these types of offenders, and ensuring their successful reintegration back into the free community. As a part of the Criminal Justice System, Prisons hold the last card in the successful re-entry of a VEOs to the free community to lead a normal, productive, and law-abiding life.

Those studies presented various ways of managing the VEOs in different countries, each one with unique features that are anchored in each country's culture and social and political setting. It is however apparent that these strategies have similar elements and best features, that other countries can emulate to improve the management of VEOs further.

Similarities with the technique used by BuCor have been recognized and such as the fundamental rights of inmates - as a Government Agency that caters to offenders, prime and foremost in its approach is the respect for the fundamental human rights of offenders. This can also be concretized in a just and honest correctional system that operates with justice, integrity and equality.

The presence of Assessment and Evaluation System - as observed in many countries, the use of Assessment and Evaluation Tools to better understand the inmate can help in drawing a program that can identify risk, needs and other criminogenic factors of a VEOs. Having this vital information, will enable the Facilitators to understand the behavior and overall personality of VEOs and ultimately craft a program that can best effect reformation and eliminate violent extremist tendencies of offenders.

Also highlighted are well-trained and well-motivated reformation facilitators and security who are a must in any prison if the programs are to succeed. The Engagement Skills of the Facilitators can help attain the trust and confidence of VEOs, which is crucial in his journey to reformation.

As practiced in many countries, program monitoring is necessary to avoid any untoward incidents, modify activities if there is a need and to be always present to tackle any problems presented by VEOs at any given time.

Coordinating and linking with outside organizations can help facilitate the programs for VEOs. Outside groups can supply additional resources, and an assured support system can be available once the VEO is released back into the free community.

Chapter 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the research design, the chosen respondents of this study, the instruments utilized to gather the needed information, the data gathering procedure and the statistical treatment of the data.

Research Design

The quantitative and qualitative research design was used to assess and correlate the responses of the informants both on the Questionnaire and on the FGD. To assess the BuCor's Management Program for the Violent Extremist Offenders (VEO) confined at the Maximum-Security Compound at the New Bilibid Prisons, the descriptive qualitative design was employed. Questions from people who are knowledgeable about the management of VEOs and from those who had experience in engaging and facilitating the program for this specific group of offenders were asked during Focused Group Discussions. Their responses were analyzed and were correlated with the result of the Survey Questionnaire.

Kumar (2011) states that descriptive qualitative design has for its focus the description of the program being assessed, asking respondents about their knowledge which is relevant to the main topic being investigated.

On the other hand, the Quantitative Research Design, was applied on the results of the Questionnaire administered. Numerical figures yielded by the instrument were tallied and statistically analyzed. They were then correlated with the responses from the FGD. An assessment and comparison of the two programs for VEOs was done.

Additionally, the Triangulation method was used as secondary sources like research studies, books, journals and periodicals were examined and included in this study. This gives a more comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon, and the different strategies used by other countries in handling and managing the VEOs.

Research Informants

The Research was conducted at the Bureau of Corrections Headquarters in New Bilibid Prisons Reservation, Muntinlupa City. Reformation and Security Officers who have been involved in the management of the VEOs program were asked to answer a Questionnaire which were crafted for this purpose. In depth interviews were likewise conducted to the respondents to give clarifications and additional information which might have not been included in the instrument.

Selection of the Informants

Purposive sampling was used to select the informants of this study. It was used as it allows for a focused collection of data from individuals who possess specific knowledge or experience related to the study's variables, thus enhancing the relevance and depth of the findings (Campbell et al., 2020). Forty (40) BuCor Officers, with 20 officers from each group, representing different ranks and positions, from the Security and Reformation Officers were chosen as respondents in this research. Reformation officers who had been assigned to craft the VEOs program and those who facilitated the activities during one-on-one engagements with the said offenders, were asked to evaluate the efficacy of the program.

Likewise, security officers assigned at the maximum-security compound, who had been involved in monitoring the activities of the veos were also included as participants in this study.

All the chosen respondents had constant close engagement experience with the VEOs. Thus, they were able to observe their behavior on a day-to-day basis and have often conducted interviews which enable them to gauge changes in their personality and perspectives.

Research Instrument

The researcher utilized a questionnaire that was crafted for this particular purpose. The said instrument assessed the different areas of the program to determine its impact on the VEOs and to the whole Reformation process. It also assessed seven important areas which measure the effect on the Personality,

over-all Behavior and Responsivity of the VEO to the two programs being given by the Bureau of Corrections. These seven parts are as follows:

- *Psychological Make up and Coping Mechanism*. This measured the VEO's psychological stability, level of control on his aggressive tendencies, capacity to adjust to stressful situations, problem solving skills and his ability to follow the prison rules and regulations.
- *Level of Hope and Optimism*. This area evaluated the VEOs level of optimism, his capacity to look to a bright future once released, his plans upon his re-integration to the free society, capacity to perceive prison life not as a burden but a challenge and his participation in the different institutional programs and activities.
- *Perception of BuCor as an Institution*. It measured the VEO's capacity to help him reform, his belief in the philosophy and goals of the institution and its goal to give him a second lease in life, his level of respect for BuCor and his level of hope even while still incarcerated.
- *Perception of BuCor Officers*. This part assessed the VEO's perception of BuCor Officers, as professional and honorable men, the BuCor Officers' capability to help them reform, rehabilitate, guide them. It determined if the VEO has a respectable impression and a high regard for the BUCOR People.
- *Perception of BuCor Reformation Program*. This particular area evaluated the VEOs' impression of the Rehabilitation Program, its effectiveness in reforming them, in providing them with knowledge and skills that can help them in the future, in giving them opportunities to be with their families and loved ones and the people in the community and in helping them develop trust in themselves, other people and love for God.
- *VEO's Plan for the Future*. This part determined the VEOs overall plan for the future, including his attitude of looking at a bright future, in planning for his family and loved ones and his hope to eventually re-integrate in the free community.
- *VEO's Violent Extremist Beliefs*. An assessment of the VEO's violent extremist belief, his narratives, his trust or mistrust in the government, his full confidence in the BuCor officers who were helping them and his tendency to disengage from his former group was in this area.
- The Instrument underwent the assessment of two experts in the field, to validate its usage. Also, a dry run was conducted to determine if the Instrument will be able to measure what it intends to measure in the study. Interviews were likewise conducted to supplement the data that were yielded by the primary instrument The Focus Group Discussion was conducted where the researcher gave a 10-minute Video presentation of his dissertation entitled: "*Prison Based Management Strategies For Violent Extremist Offenders in the Bureau of Corrections: Towards Program Enhancement*".
- The participants/panel to the said FGD are as follows:
- **(a) Dr. Clarke Jones** – Doctor of Sociology from Australia. A terrorism expert who has worked in the Security and Law Enforcement, Field of the Australian Government for more than 20 years. He is a visiting fellow, School of Medicine and Psychology, Australian College of Health and Medicine, Australian National University. He is also the Founder and Executive Director, Reshape Justice Group (Australian Funded Organization);
- **Resurrecion Morales**- Doctor of Clinical Psychology, Graduate School Panel and Evaluator Forensic Psychologist. She has thirty-eight (38) years of experience in the correctional work with Special Focus on Inmate Management and Rehabilitation. She is the Director, Reshape Justice Group,

Consultant, University of Perpetual Help Las Pinas, and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Philippine Jesuit Prison Service; and

- **Dr. Lariza Martin** – Doctor of Educational Management, BuCor Coordinator for International Organizations (i.e. UN Bodies, Anti- Terrorism Council, etc.) He is the Deputy Camp Commander, Reception and Diagnostic Center, Head, Program Monitoring and Evaluation, Preventing /Countering Violent Extremism Office, Bureau of Correction.

A. Comments and Suggestions of the Panel

The study was lauded by the three panel members, recognizing it as a pioneering effort in the BuCor Management of Violent Extremist Offenders. The panel gave some suggestions once, the Researcher and initiated the Implementation of the Action Plan.

The panel suggested to include the following in the Implementation of the Action Plan relative to the P/CVE Office of BuCor:

- To Renew and to operationalize the Data Sharing Agreement between BuCor and other Concerned Agencies, especially with BJMP, to enable the BuCor to get all the vital information about the VEO once brought to the Agency.
- To exert effort in expediting the crafting of Policy for the Management of VEOs in the BuCor.
- To include in the Data File of the P/CVE Office statistics regarding Radicalization Incidents at the Maximum-Security Compound in NBP
- To strengthen the monitoring of all VEO activities with specific focus on the Security Requirements of the program

Data Gathering Procedure

The research was conducted at the BuCor Headquarters, specifically at the Maximum-Security Facility in NBP Reservation, Muntinlupa City. During the first two weeks, officers were chosen and those who were asked to answer the questionnaire were identified. They were then, given the Instruments to answer, followed by an in-depth interview by the researcher.

The third and fourth weeks were devoted to the assessment of their responses in the Instrument. On the fifth and succeeding weeks, all the information gathered were summarized, tabulated, analyzed, and subjected to statistical treatment.

Statistical Treatment of the Data

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used in the analysis of the results. The association between the Cluster (Security and Reformation officers) and the Type of Program offered to the VEOs (VRP and the VBMFP) was determined. The distribution and relationship of the two categorical variables and the Cluster and Type of Program offered for the PDL were analyzed to determine if there is a significant difference in the general responses of the informants. Likewise, their responses by Rank regarding the two VEO programs was sought to determine if there are significant differences.

A p-value of less than 0.05 level of significance revealed that that there was an association between the Cluster and the Type of Program offered to the PDLs.

Percentage and Average were used to profile the respondents and for statistical descriptive purposes to show preference of respondents from the two types of programs for VEOs.

Ethical Consideration

To ensure that this study is conducted with integrity and respect, and with adherence to academic and professional standard, the hereunder described ethical considerations were undertaken:

1. Informed Consent

Voluntary participation: The researcher ensured that all participants were involved in the research voluntarily. They were not coerced or manipulated into participating.

Clear Communication: Provided clear and comprehensive information about the research purpose, methods, potential risks, and benefits. Participants fully understood what the research involves before they agreed to take part.

Written Consent: Written consent form was signed by every participant, ensuring they have enough time to consider their participation and have had their questions answered.

2. Confidentiality and Anonymity

Protection of Identity: The identity of participants was safeguarded in a way that does not reveal personal data.

Data Security: Stored data securely, whether in digital or physical form, to prevent unauthorized access.

Limited Access: Only authorized personnel should have access to sensitive data, and it should be used solely for the purpose outlined in the study.

3. Avoidance of Harm

Physical and Psychological Well-being: This research did not cause physical and psychological harm to participants. This includes minimizing stress, discomfort, or any negative emotional impact.

Risk Assessment: Thorough risk assessment to identify potential risks to participants and to implement strategies to mitigate or prevent such risk if there's any.

Support Services: Considering that this research involved sensitive topics, support services by the Directorate for Investigation and intelligence was provided.

4. Rights to Withdraw

Participant Autonomy: The participants were fully informed of their rights to withdraw from the study at any time, without any negative consequences.

No pressure: The participants felt no pressure to continue if they decide to withdraw and explain how their data will be handled if they choose to exit the study.

5. Cultural Sensitivity

Respect for Cultural Differences: The cultural norms and differences of participants were respected considering that they had come from the different regions of the country to include Mindanao.

Language and Communication: Language barrier was addressed, and that the communications were English.

6. Transparency and Honesty

Disclosure of Research Intentions: The researcher was transparent about the aims of the research, the affiliation, and any potential conflicts of interest.

Truthful Reporting: The researcher ensured the honesty of his report and findings, without fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting data.

7. Data Management

Data Collection and Storage: Only the data necessary for the research was collected and was stored securely with compliance with the Data Protection Act.

Data Retention and Disposal: Policy is clear on how long the data were retained and how it was securely disposed of after the research is completed.

8. Ethical Review

Institutional Approval: Approval from the University Research Ethics Board before the research was

started and the researched complied with the ethical standard.

Ongoing Monitoring: This research involved only one-time collections of data. Periodic review was not required.

9. Power Dynamics

Researcher-Participant Relationship: The researcher’s top-level position in the agency does not duly influence participants’ responses or willingness to participate. It was clearly explained during the meetings with participants.

Respect for Vulnerable Groups: No vulnerable group such as children, elderly, marginalized community and the like that took part in this research.

10. Reporting and Dissemination

Responsible Publication: The researcher ensures that the findings were reported accurately and responsibly, acknowledging the contributions of participants and the limitations of the study.

Access to findings: The summary of the research findings was disseminated to each participant and to the Bureau of Corrections in general.

11. Respect for Intellectual Property

Citing Sources: The work of others was properly acknowledged. Plagiarism was strictly observed and was avoided.

12. Social Responsibility

Positive Impact: This research has a positive impact on society once the VEOs was rehabilitated once released.

Ethical Implications: The Researcher considers the broader ethical implication of this research, how the result might be used or who might benefit. The BUCOR will surely benefit from the findings of this research and the community in general.

Chapter 4

Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of Data

This Chapter presents the data gathered through survey which was organized according to the problem of research study. The data are presented and discussed in accordance with chronological order of the specific problems, analysis, and interpretation of data presented after the table.

Profile of the Respondents

**Table 1
Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Age**

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
60-64	5	12.5
55-59	1	2.5
50-54	5	12.5
45-49	3	7.5
40-44	11	27.5
35-39	6	15
30-34	5	12.5
25-29	4	10

Total	40	100
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Majority of the respondents, 11 or 27.5% are in their early forties, about 6 or 15% in their late 30s, with about 12.5% in their 60's, early 50's and early 30's. A bigger percentage of the respondents are relatively young, with an equal distribution from the different age group, mostly covering the age brackets of late 20's to late forties.

Table 2
Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Status

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Married	30	75
Single	10	25
Widower	0	0
Total	40	100

Thirty (30) out of 40 respondents or 75%, are married while 10 or 25% are still single.

Table 3
Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Education

Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Doctoral	2	5
Master's	18	45
College	20	50
Total	40	100

Twenty (20) or 50% of the officers are College Graduates, 18 or 45% have Masteral Degrees and 2 or 5% were able to finish their Doctoral Degree.

Table 4
Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Roman Catholic	30	75
Seventh Day Adventist	1	2.5
Born Again Christian	3	7.5
Islam	3	7.5
Baptist	1	2.5
Iglesia Ni Cristo	2	5
Total	40	100

A big percentage (30) or 75% of the respondents are Roman Catholics, three (3) or 7.5% are Born Again Christian, with another 7.5% having Islam Religion, and with the rest from Iglesia Ni Cristo, Baptist Church and Seventh Day Adventist.

Table 5
Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Length of Service

Length of Service in BUCOR	Frequency	Percentage (%)
36-40	4	10
31-35	2	5
26-30	2	5
21-25	6	15
16-20	2	5
11-15	13	32.5
6-10	2	5
0-5	9	22.5
Total	40	100

Thirteen or 32.5% have been in the service from 11 to 15 years, nine or 22.5% have stayed in the BUCOR for less than 5 years, while 6 or 15% have been working in the institution from 21 to 25 years. Many of the respondents have been in the institution from 5 to 20 years

Table 6
Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Ranks

Designation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Ranking Officers	9	22.5
Middle Officers	13	32.5
Rank and File Officers	18	45
Total	40	100

Majority of the respondents (18) or 45% belong to the Rank-and-file group, 13 or 32.5 % are Middle Rank Officers, while 9 or 22.5% are Heads of Offices.

Table 7
Distribution of Respondents in Terms of Length of Years of Assignment Monitoring and Engaging the VEO

Length of Assignment Monitoring /Engaging the VEOs (Years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
11-15	2	5
6-10	7	17.5
0-5	31	77.5
Total	40	100

A bigger majority of the participants, or 77.5%, have been assigned in the VEO Program for less than 5 years, while 7 or 17.5% have been monitoring the VEOs for 6 to 10 years.

2. Level of Effectiveness of the two BuCor Programs: (VRP and VBMFP)

Table 8
VEO’s Psychological Make-up and Coping Mechanism

	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average	Descriptive Statistics	Average	Descriptive Statistics
1.The program seemed to develop psychological stability on the PDL/VEO	3.775	VE	4.025	VE
2.He appeared to have learned to control his aggressive tendencies.	3.85	VE	4.05	VE
3.He appeared to have learned to adjust to stressful situations in Prisons	3.825	VE	4.1	VE
4.He seemingly developed good problem-solving skills.	3.75	VE	4.05	VE
5.He appeared to have learned to follow all prisons rules and regulations	3.975	VE	4.15	VE
Total Average	3.835	VE	4.075	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VEO - Violent Extremist offender		
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 8 shows that both the VEO Reformation Program (VRP) and the VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program (VBMFP) are rated as Very Effective by the respondents. However, the VBMFP garners a higher average rating which is 4.075 as against the VRP’s 3.835. This would mean that in helping the VEO develop a stronger psychological make up and coping mechanism, the VBMFP can elicit a more effective response from the VEOs. Some of the modules in the VBMFP tackle techniques in handling stress and depression in prisons. This may be one of the reasons why the respondents give a higher score to the VBMFP than the VRP. Thus, the VBMFP is believed to achieve better result in VEOs adjustment to stressful situations and more adherence to all prison rules and regulations.

The paper of Morales (2020) mentioned that one essential component for VEO management is a Focused Program that identifies risk factors and other psychological needs of the VEOs. The VBMFP was able to identify the psychological needs of the VEOs, and through the 12 Modules used, the VEOs learns how to manage his aggressive tendencies, cope with stress and attain psychological stability while in prisons. From the FGD, the informants mentioned that after undergoing the VBMFP, the VEOs asserted that they

have developed more control and a better handling of their aggressive tendencies. This confirms the evaluation of the Informants as reflected in the scores of the instrument used.

Table 9
VEO’s Level of Hope and Optimism

	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average	Descriptive Statistics	Average	Descriptive Statistics
1 . The program appeared to have imbibed greater degree of optimism on the VEOs.	3.825	VE	4.175	VE
2. He seemed to look forward to a bright future upon release	3.825	VE	4.25	VE
3 . The program appeared to have encouraged the VEOs to make plans for his family upon r release	4.1	VE	4.35	VE
4. The program seemed to make him look at life in prisons, not as a burden but a challenge.	3.775	VE	4.3	VE
5 . The program seemed to have inspired the VEOs to participate in the different institutional programs and activities.	3.8	VE	4.375	VE
Total Average	3.865	VE	4.29	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

VEO - Violent Extremist offender	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 9 reflects the responses of the participants in assessing the effectiveness of the two programs in the VEO’s Level of Hope and Optimism. The respondent’s rate both VRP and VBMFP as Very Effective in nurturing and sustaining hope and optimism among the VEOs. It is also shown here that these two programs can inspire the VEO to participate more in the different institutional programs and to look forward with such optimism on the day that they will be released and join their families. In the study of Silke (2011), it was mentioned that one of the factors causing the effectiveness of the program depends on giving activities that provide post-release and community re-integration initiatives

This means that opportunities are accorded so that the VEO can connect with the family **eventually leading to building hope** and an optimistic view. Apparent however in the assessment, is the high rating given to the VBMFP in developing the Level of Hope and Optimism of the VEOs. Presumably the participants believe that the VBMFP can have a more effective response from the VEOs since the VBMFP provides more opportunities for engagement with the Reformation Officers, during both the individual

and group counseling sessions. This is revealed by the informants sharing their thoughts during the FGD. Establishing trust and confidence with the VEOs during engagements can be an effective technique in managing the VEOs (Prison-Based Intervention Targeting Violent Extremist Detainees, ICSR info/2022/07/15). Once trust is accorded to the Facilitator of the program, then, imbibing hope and an optimistic view can be easily ingrained in the VEOs.

Table 10
VEO’s Level of Perception of BuCor as an Institution

	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused	
	Average	Descriptive Statistics	Average	Descriptive Statistics
1 . The VEOs seemed to see the BuCor as an institution that could help him reform.	3.875	VE	4.25	VE
2 . He appeared to believe in the philosophy/ goals of BuCor as an institution.	3.75	VE	4.05	VE
3 . The VEOs appeared to have high respect for BuCor.	3.75	VE	4.025	VE
4 . He seemed to believe that BuCor can give him a second lease in life.	3.8	VE	4.075	VE
5 . The VEOs seemed to see hope while incarcerated in BuCor	3.825	VE	4.175	VE
Total Average	3.8	VE	4.115	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VEO - Violent Extremist offender		
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

As reflected in Table 10 both the Security and Reformation Officers rated this area in relation to the two programs (VRP and VBMFP) as Very Effective. The average score, however, reflects a higher value accorded to the VBMFP by the respondents. The informants are of the belief that VBMFP can ingrain a more positive perception of the BuCor from the VEOs and that the institution can help the VEOs see hope while incarcerated in BuCor. As shared during the FGD, the respondents believe that the VBMFP can picture a more positive perception of BuCor than the VRP, as the Focused Program Facilitators who are the Reformation Officers can embody the ideals and goals of the BuCor Institution, as perceived more positively by the VEOs. In the paper of Marquez (2018), she stated that a well capacitated prison institution can stop violent extremism. Trust in the prison institution which is presented by the capable and sincere Correctional Officers themselves and a well-planned Deradicalization program can achieve better results

in the management of VEOs. The BuCor as a correctional institution truly plays a significant role in maintaining peace and order through its VEO management program.

Table 11
VEO’s Level of Perception of BuCor Officers

	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average	Descriptive Statistics	Average	Descriptive Statistics
1 . The VEOs appeared to see the BuCor officers as professional and honorable.	3.7	VE	4.025	VE
2 . BuCor officers are seemingly perceived as helping them reform and rehabilitate.	3.825	VE	4.075	VE
3 . The facilitation of the program appeared to give the VEOs a respectable impression of the BuCor officers.	3.65	VE	4.175	VE
4 . BuCor officers are seemingly seen as people who are there to guide them.	3.925	VE	4.225	VE
5 . The VEOs appeared to have high regard for BuCor officers.	3.825	VE	4.1	VE
Total Average	3.785	VE	4.12	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VEO - Violent Extremist offender		
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 11 shows that the respondents believe that both the VRP and VBMFP can cause the positive perception of VEOs to the BuCor Officers. Both programs get a Very Effective assessment from the respondents. They believe that the two programs can develop a respectable impression of the BuCor Officers on the VEOs and that the officers are there to guide them. As in other areas, the VBMFP get a higher score in this domain. The security and reformation officers are of the opinion that the VBMFP can be more effective in presenting a positive perception of the BuCor Officers in the eyes of the VEO. The constant communication, greater chances for engagement, wherein the VEOs are given opportunities to share their aspirations in prison and freely express their needs to have a more comfortable life in prisons are the main reasons why the VBMFP is assessed as more effective in VEO Management. Good Practice No. 3 of the Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF 2012), states that the prison staff

should be professionally trained and educated to be able to deal with the complexities of the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. The reformation officers facilitating the VBMFP have been trained and have developed engagement skills needed in dealing with the VEOs. Unfortunately, those facilitating the VRP have not been given the required training to be able to function effectively with this special group of offenders.

Table 12
VEO’s Perception of the BuCor Reformation Program

	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average	Descriptive Statistics	Average	Descriptive Statistics
1 . The rehabilitation program is seemingly perceived by the VEOs as effective in reforming them.	3.925	VE	4.05	VE
2 . The programs are perceived as complete and targets all aspect of his personality	3.45	AE	3.85	VE
3. The program appeared to have provide knowledge and skills that can help them reintegrate in the free society	3.8	VE	4.025	VE
4 . The BuCor programs seemed to give the VEOs an opportunity to be with their families, loved ones and people in the free community.	3.775	VE	4.175	VE
5. The programs seemed t develop in the VEOs trust in themselves, in other people and love for God	4.025	VE	4.225	VE
Total Average	3.795	VE	4.065	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VEO - Violent Extremist offender		
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 12 reflects the BUCOR Officers’ assessment of the VEO’s perception of the BuCor Program. Both the VRP and the VBMFP got a Very Effective rating in terms of their efficacy in the delivery of Reformation Program to the VEOs. It is however, noted that the VBMFP has been perceived as more potent in reforming the VEOs. The said program has been effective in providing knowledge and skills that would help the PDLs in their reintegration to the free society; in giving opportunities for family interaction and bonding and in developing trust in themselves, other people and love for God. The 12 modules offered

by the VBMFP are seen as more responding to the needs of the VEOs, which help them better in their reformation effort. Guided by the Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders (2012) which clearly states that for a VEOs Management Program to be effective, it should set up goals for the program consisting of intake assessment, classification system, identifying Criminogenic and Risk Factors, evaluation and continuous monitoring of all activities. Apparently, the proponents of the VBMFP have complied with the said requirements, resulting into a more effective VEOs management strategy.

Table 13
VEO’s Plan for the Future

	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average	Descriptive Statistics	Average	Descriptive Statistics
1 . The Reformation program seemed to have developed enthusiasm in the VEOs to plan for the future.	3.875	VE	4.225	VE
2 . The program appeared to have helped him look at the bright side of life upon release	3.675	VE	4.175	VE
3 . The VEOs seemed to have a concrete plan for his family and loved ones in the future.	3.6	VE	3.875	VE
4 . He appeared to actively participate in the various programs which he thinks can help him when released.	3.625	VE	4.05	VE
5 . The VEOs appeared to be looking forward to his eventual re-integration in the free community.	3.85	VE	4.2	VE
Total Average	3.725	VE	4.105	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VEO - Violent Extremist offender		
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

As reflected in Table 13 the respondents believe that the two VEOs programs can instill and develop a certain degree of optimism on the inmates. Both programs help the VEOs look at the bright side of life upon release, motivate them to actively participate in the different BuCor programs and cultivate their desire for an eventual reintegration in the free community. Evident is the VBMFP’s higher score in the assessment, showing that this program can help better in instilling a certain degree of hope and optimism

for the VEOs as they plan for their much-awaited reunion with their loved ones in the free society. In the study entitled “What a Difference Two Years Make: Patterns of Radicalization in Philippine Jail “(Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict 9, no.1-3 2016) it was revealed that Reformation Programs can help instill hope for a bright future to the inmate. It should however, have clear goals and must target certain needs of the inmate. The VBMFP has been carefully crafted, taking into consideration the dynamic needs and unique personality of the VEOs. Instilling hope for the future and nurturing optimism is one of the features in the 12 Behavior Modification modules facilitated through the VBMFP.

Table 14
VEO’s Violent Extremist Beliefs

	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average	Descriptive Statistics	Average	Descriptive Statistics
1 . The program has seemingly ingrained in the VEOs the futility of the violent extremist beliefs	3.55	VE	3.925	VE
2 . The program appeared to restore back the inmate’s trust to the government	3.325	AE	3.925	VE
3 . The VEOs appeared to have developed a more rational view of the problems in the society as a whole	3.475	AE	3.95	VE
4 . The program has seemingly developed in him full trust and confidence on the BuCor officers who are believed to be there to help them reform.	3.725	VE	4.1	VE
5 . The program appeared to have changed the VEO’s perception and made him disengage from his former comrades in the organization.	3.475	AE	3.95	VE
Total Average	3.51	VE	3.97	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

VEO - Violent Extremist offender	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 14 shows the BuCor Officers' assessment of the two programs in eliminating VEOs Extremist Beliefs. The two programs are rated as Very Effective in eliminating the VEO's Violent Extremist Belief, with the VBMFP garnering a higher assessment score than the VRP. The VBMFP offers a more holistic approach in deradicalization effort, which enables it to yield better results in this area. Islam, Md.D. (2019) mentioned that deradicalization programs are likely to experience higher rates of success if a holistic approach is adopted. Targeting all areas of the VEO's personality (physical, psychological, social, emotional, spiritual) can assure success in the VEOs management effort.

During the FGD, the informants however stated that the programs were faced with challenges that hindered its implementation in eradicating the violent extremist view of the PDLs. Some factors mentioned which prevented these programs from fully deradicalizing the VEOs included the following: the lack of training of the program facilitators, the lack of standard policy in the implementation of activities and the absence of human and logistical support for the VEO programs.

Summary

Based on the above data, the following are presented:

Pearson r was used to determine the correlation/relationship of level of satisfaction between the conduct of the VEOs Reformation Program and the VEOs Behavior Modification Focused Program. A Pearson r value of 0.739045 shows the high positive correlation/relationship of the level of satisfaction between the two types of VEOs programs in terms of the 7 factors.

With the t-Test score of 2.67103E or 0.0000267 which is less than the 0.05 level of significance, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference on the level of satisfaction between the conduct of the VRP and the VBMFP.

The BuCor Officers are of the opinion that the VEOs Behavior Modification Focused Program is more effective in Reforming the VEOs than the Regular Reformation Program. Although beset with so many challenges in the implementation of the VBMFP, it is assessed that the said program can still provide a more comprehensive and responsive strategy for the deradicalization and eventual rehabilitation of VEOs. It is more focused as it targets the Criminogenic Risk Factors in the VEOs. The VEO BMFP provides a more dynamic strategy in handling and managing this special group of offenders, for it aims to develop almost all aspects of man's personality which are physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological and social. At 95% confidence Level, or 0.05 level, if the P value of F test is greater than 0.05, it would mean that there is no significant difference in the responses of the BuCor Officers by Rank. A smaller P value would mean otherwise.

All the statistical results showed P values of F test greater than 0.05. This would mean that the Respondents when classified by Ranks, did not show any significant difference in their responses when rating the two VEO programs. All the participants, coming from different ranks and levels, believe that the VBMFP is more effective in nurturing and developing a more positive response from VEO when undergoing such program. Essentially, this would connote that a VEO can gain more psychological, social and emotional stability through the VBMFP, leading to a reformed individual who is ready for re-integration.

Table 15 VEO’s Psychological Make up and Coping Mechanism

Effect on the Psychological Make up and Coping Mechanism	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings
a. Heads of Offices	3.8444	VE	4.2444	VE
b. Middle Rank	3.7538	VE	4.0769	VE
c. Rank and File	3.9333	VE	3.9333	VE
Over-all Average Score	3.84	VE	4.08	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

VEO - Violent Extremist offender	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 15 shows the average ratings of the different BuCor Officers regarding the Effect of the VRP and the VBMFP on the Psychological Make up and Coping Mechanism of the VEOs. Average Score on the VRP is placed at 3.84, while the VBMFP is at 4.08. With P values of more than 0.05 the officers’ response shows no significant difference in their scores. It would connote that the BuCor officers, regardless of the ranks believe that the VBMFP can help better the VEO in strengthening their psychological make up and coping mechanism. In the UNODC Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons (2016), building coping mechanism and nurturing psychological stability are primary goals of the prison institution in VEOs Management. Anger Management, Stress Management and Adversity Quotient are three of the 12 modules in the VBMFP given to the VEOs. Such subjects can help develop and maintain psychological stability and skills in managing day to day stress of the VEOs.

**Table 16
VEO’s Level of Hope and Optimism**

Effect on the Level of Hope and Optimism	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings
a. Heads of Offices	3.9111	VE	4.2889	VE
b. Middle Rank	3.7385	VE	4.3077	VE
c. Rank and File	3.9333	VE	4.2444	VE
Over-all Average Score	3.85	VE	4.27	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

VEO - Violent Extremist offender	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 16 reflects the officer’s perception on how the two programs affect the Level of Hope and Optimism of the VEOs. The average score of VRP is 3.85 while the VBMFP is 4.27. P values computed at higher than 0.05 showing no significant difference in the belief of the BuCor Officers by rank, regarding the two programs. As shown in the table, the respondents believe that the VBMFP can develop and nurture Hope and Optimism more than the VRP. Alison Liebling et al in their paper “Are Hope and Possibility Achievable in Prisons” (2019) stated that an enabling environment, with constant communication and a harmonious relationship with the Officers in Prison, can cultivate Hope and optimism in the inmate. The Constant communication with VEOs and the various counseling sessions facilitated by the Facilitators of the VBMFP make up for an enabling environment to attain deradicalization.

Table 17
VEO’s Perception of BUCOR as an Institution

Effect on the VEOs Perception of the BuCor as an Institution	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings
a. Heads of Offices	3.8889	VE	4.2889	VE
b. Middle Rank	3.7692	VE	4.0462	VE
c. Rank and File	3.7889	VE	4.1	VE
Over-all Average Score	3.80	VE	4.14	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

VEO - Violent Extremist offender	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 17 shows the BuCor officers’ view of the two programs as they affect the VEO’s perception of the BuCor as an Institution. VRP’s average score is placed at 3.80, while the VBMFP reflects a 4.14 average score. P value shows no significant difference in the belief of the respondents, regarding the effect of the two programs regarding the VEO’s perception of BuCor as an institution. The officers are of the opinion that the VBMFP can imbibe a more positive view of the Institution to the VEOs, which is necessary for developing their trust in BuCor. Trust to the institution would spell more cooperation and more

participation in the different reformation programs. The Prison System and the interaction of the staff in a humane engagement can result in a positive perception of the Institution (UNODC 2016). Thus, the Correctional Officers play a pivotal role in projecting a positive image of the BuCor.

Table 18
VEO’s Perception of BuCor Officers

Effect on the Perception of BuCor Officers	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings
a. Heads of Offices	3.8889	VE	4.2667	VE
b. Middle Rank	3.8154	VE	4.1538	VE
c. Rank and File	3.7111	VE	4.0444	VE
Over-all Average Score	3.8	VE	4.15	VE

Table 18 reflects how the BuCor personnel rate the effect of the two programs on the perception of the VEOs to the BuCor Officers. The average score of the VRP is 3.8 while the VBMFP is computed at 4.15, reflecting no significant difference in the perception of the respondents regarding the two programs’ effect in this domain. Results of interview revealed that the BuCor officers from different ranks believe that the VBMFP can paint a more positive impression of the BuCor personnel, since there are more engagements afforded to the VEO during the facilitation of the VBMFP. The study of Johan Axelsson (2023) emphasized staff training and credibility in deradicalizing VEOs through rapport building. The VBMFP facilitators have mastered the art of rapport building, which was used in their dealings with the VEOs. Expectedly, the inmates have developed a more positive view of the BUCOR personnel through this program

Table 19
VEO’s Perception of BuCor Reformation Program

5. Effect on the Perception of the BuCor Reformation Program	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings
a. Heads of Offices	3.9778	VE	4.3333	VE
b. Middle Rank	3.7538	VE	4.0462	VE
c. Rank and File	3.7111	VE	3.9444	VE
Over-all Average Score	3.81	VE	4.09	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

VEO - Violent Extremist offender	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)

	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

The above table shows the respondents’ opinion on how the two programs affect the perception of VEOs to the BuCor Reformation Program. The average score of the VRP is 3.81, while the VBMFP is 4.09. Computed p value shows no significant difference in the perception of BuCor officers by rank. It is the opinion of the respondents that the VBMFP can influence more the VEOs to adhere and participate more seriously in the different BuCor’s Reformation Programs. Closer engagements in the facilitation of the VBFP will encourage more participation in the regular institutional programs, as Trust has been built between the Program facilitators and the VEOs.

Morales (2020) in her paper claimed that a Focused Program which provides a lot of opportunities for engagement with the family, presence of a pre and post release program and chances for connecting with the community will picture a positive perception the BuCor Program. One of the goals of the VBMFP is to consistently update and inform the VEOs about these opportunities. Expectedly, the VBMFP gets a higher score in this area than the VRP.

Table 20
VEO’s Plan for the Future

6. Effect on the VEOs Plan for the Future	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings
a. Heads of Offices	3.9778	VE	4.4444	VE
b. Middle Rank	3.4615	AE	4.0615	VE
c. Rank and File	3.7667	VE	3.9556	VE
Over-all Average Score	3.73	VE	4.15	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

VEO - Violent Extremist offender	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
Focused Program	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Reflected in Table 20 is the BuCor Officers ‘view of how the two programs affect the VEO’s Planning for the future. The VRP garners an average score of 3.73, while the VBMFP’ s score is placed at 4.15. A P value of less than 0.05 shows no significant difference in the opinions of the officers by Rank. The BuCor officers believe that the VBMFP can help more the VEOs plan. The high level of hope ingrained by the VBMFP can nurture the enthusiasm of the VEOs as he plans for his eventual reintegration in the free society. Additionally, the VBMFP through its 12 modules was able to develop the VEOs critical thinking ability as he looks at the future with optimism. Critical thinking builds resilience towards any unforeseen events in the future (Johan Axelsson 2023). VBMFP has been seen as successful in this area of VEOs management.

Table 21
VEO’s Violent Extremist Belief

7. Effect on the Inmate’s Violent Extremist Beliefs	VEO Reformation Program		VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	
	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings	Average Scores	Adjectival Ratings
a. Heads of Offices	3.7778	VE	4.1556	VE
b. Middle Rank	3.5692	VE	3.8769	VE
c. Rank and File	3.5111	VE	3.8889	VE
Over-all Average Score	3.61	VE	3.96	VE

Legend:

Basis for Interpretation

Legend	Score	Descriptive Statistics
VEO - Violent Extremist offender		
VRP - VEO Reformation Program	1.000 to 1.5000	Extremely Not Effective (ENE)
VBMFP - VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program	1.5100 to 2.5000	Not Effective (NE)
	2.5100 to 3.5000	Averagely Effective (AE)
	3.5100 to 4.5000	Very Effective (VE)
	4.5100 to 5.0000	Extremely Effective (EE)

Table 21 shows the BuCor officers’ view of the 2 programs affecting the VEO’s Violent Extremist Beliefs. The average score of the VRP is 3.61, while the VBMFP is 3.96. This data shows no significant difference in the perception of the officers by rank, which means that all the respondents believe that the two programs can eliminate the violent extremist beliefs of the VEOs. However, in the interview, they mentioned the different challenges faced by the VEOs program, which hinders its effectiveness in totally deradicalizing the VEOs. It is their opinion that with more support to these programs, the deradicalization process of the VEOs can be achieved fully in the future. As rapport is built and developed, the VBMFP facilitator begins to address the grievances, feelings of injustice and victim narrative during the counseling sessions (Axelsson 2023). Such activities help in the deradicalization process of the VEOs.

3. Issues and Challenges in the Implementation of the Two VEOs Programs

The respondents identify some major areas/ concerns in BuCor administration that pose several challenges for the effective implementation of the VEOs Program. These are as follows:

a. The Lack of Implementing Policy for the P/CVE Program

The BuCor lacks a concrete policy that would institutionalize the VEOs Program in the Agency. This is supposed to be in consonance with the Anti- Terrorism Act of 2020 and in compliance with the National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. Accordingly, this will ensure the continuity of the program even with the change of leadership in BuCor.

According to one of the respondents, *“There is no policy that will strengthen the program facilitation.”* There have been many instances when VEOs activities are disrupted, because of changes in the priority of the Leadership. This causes a strain in the relationship between the Reformation Officers and the inmates, resulting in trust issues which affect the participation of the VEOs. Clear cut guidelines are missing, which put the facilitation of the program in an unclear status. Uniformity of the program in the

different operating institutions is evidently absent, with each OPPF relying mainly on the regular reformation programs being given by BuCor.

As shared by another respondent, *“The continuity of the program is oftentimes hampered because of several factors such as change of leadership”*.

Additionally, the P/CVE (which has just been recently formed) has not put in full operation a Cohesive and Uniformed Program for VEOs. Unfortunately, not all Officers and OPPFs are aware of the P/CVE Office. Consequently, the much-needed support from the Heads of the Institutions is wanting.

b. Inadequate Resources for the program as seen in the Lack of facilities and for the implementation of the various reformation activities

Overcrowding is taking its toll not only on the VEOs program but also for the other Reformation Activities of the BuCor. There are not enough facilities equipped with appropriate training equipment and materials where the VEOs can comfortably stay, as they undergo the Focused Program side by side with the regular institutional program. In the initial engagement with the VEOs by the High-Risk Management Team, sessions are held in Classrooms or in vacant areas in the Camp. These are borrowed areas, and the activities are within sight and presence of many curious people which in a way disrupts the program. Lack of privacy during the session might also hinder the VEOs from expressing their real thoughts and perspectives for fear of being misinterpreted or misconstrued which may cause them trouble or problems with authorities and other inmates.

Three respondents aired their views regarding this matter:

“The overcrowding condition at the NBP Maximum Security facility contributes to the difficulty of having a consistent schedule in conducting the program”.

“There is lack of funding support for the program and activities conducted to VEOs”

“There is no specific area where the program and activities can be regularly conducted”

Training paraphernalia like books, magazines etc. are lacking in the areas where the VEOs are assigned. Adequate Sports facilities are not provided, in the same way that other needed resources for other Regular Reformation programs are absent.

c. Lack of Trained Personnel to manage the VEOs Program

There are only very few personnel assigned to this special group of offenders. Most of them have not undergone specialized training in VEOs Management. Engaging VEOs who have unique characteristics and Ideology requires certain knowledge and skill in Inmate Engagement. Problems arise when program facilitators are unaware, among other things, of the Criminogenic Needs of the VEOs. Confronted with this situation, all programs for VEOs and other inmates will be useless to a hilt. Likewise, lack of knowledge in assessment and evaluation of the VEOs and the program might put all efforts of the Reformation Officers to waste.

One of the respondents expressed *“Lack of well-trained personnel to facilitate the program”*.

Sadly, many program facilitators lack training in the following areas: Understanding the VEOs personality and the Islam religion; Techniques in effective inmate engagement; motivating the program facilitators; Crafting VEOs Program; Assessment and evaluation of the program; **and** Need for more Muslim reformation officers and religious leaders.

There is apparent difficulty in some Non-Muslim Reformation Officers in their engagement with VEOs. Majority of the VEOs are Muslim and the lack of understanding of the Muslim Culture, and difficulty in communicating in their local dialect pose some challenge on the Reformation and Security Officers in relating to these inmates. Strains in the facilitation of the program are experienced as there are times, when

perceived resistance to participate in the activities which are contrary to their culture and beliefs are observed.

It was also noted that there is a smooth facilitation of the activities, when Muslim Officers are the ones facilitating the program. Seeing their unique cultural ways are respected, motivates further the participation of the VEOs.

Most of those VEOs who have been so called “Radicalized” assume a distorted interpretation of the Quran. This led them to join the movement which in turn, causing their incarceration. Hence, it is believed that getting a Religious Scholar who will enlighten the VEOs on the right interpretation of the Quran may result in their full deradicalization.

One respondent is seemingly suggesting this, “*the lack of Imam or Muslim Scholars and the possibility of involving more Muslim Corrections Officers in facilitating programs to VEOs*”

d. Absence of active Involvement of the Family in the Reformation Program

Majority of the VEOs have not been visited by family and loved ones. This causes psychological problems and difficulties in adjustment to the prison life by the inmates. BuCor’s Reformation Effort should pave the way for the active involvement of the inmate’s family for a significant number of VEOs have expressed their desire to reconnect to their families. As has been observed, only very few inmates are visited by their loved ones. Such predicament hampers the responsiveness of the inmates to the Reformation Programs facilitated by BuCor.

e. The Lack of Active Involvement of the Community in BuCor Program for VEOs

Ideally, some sectors of the society, and other stakeholders should be actively taking part in this program for the VEOs. Unfortunately, this is not what is happening in BuCor. Only a handful of Community Sectors are participating in the effort to help the VEOs in their reformation effort. Such situation blurs an optimistic view of the future for the VEOs. Uncertainties in the future add up to some VEOs’ apathy and lukewarm interest in the BuCor’s program. There is an essential need for the participation of other GOs, NGOs and other civil society groups in the BuCor VEOs program. Providing a strong support system for the VEOs when he is released will ensure his successful reintegration in the free society.

4. Suggestions forwarded by the Security and Reformation Personnel to Improve the BuCor Program

• Formulate an Institutional Policy that would strengthen the VEOs Program in BuCor in consonance with the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020

The BuCor needs a basic framework which would establish the direction for the various programs of the VEOs. Clear cut goals should be set, and adequate resources must also be allocated to ensure the effective implementation of the program.

A policy that would spell out the standard procedure in program implementation should be in place to serve as guides for the Program Implementers. Ideally, a VEOs program should have the following important components: *Assessment And Evaluation of the Inmate; Case Management Planning; Implementation of the Activities; Continuous Monitoring; And Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Program.*

The policy would likewise mobilize further the operation of the P/CVE Office, and at the same time pave the way for the establishment of satellite offices in the different operating institutions. With the right policy in place, the continuity of the program is assured even with the change in BuCor administration/ leadership.

a. Provide adequate facilities where the VEOs can be housed with designated places for the facilitation of the Focused Program and other Reformation activities.

There is a need for permanent Areas/facilities where the VEOs can be housed, and where they can perform day to day activities in consonance with their unique culture and religion. Areas/facilities where they can participate actively in the BM Focused program and the different reformation programs should also be provided. It has always been the goal of the BuCor to provide an environment for the inmate that would simulate the free community. This in a sense will normalize their life inside the prisons, hopefully making them more responsive to the BUCOR's Reformation Efforts.

Majority of the VEOs are housed in the Maximum-Security Compound (MaxSeCom) of NBP. They are integrated in the general prison population, and it's possible that, the danger of negatively influencing them to join the gang and be a part of some nefarious activities which may be committed inside the prisons may happen. Since the VEOs are in the minority inside the MaxSeCom, there is a big possibility that they may join the gangs as a member and be an instrument of criminal activities in prisons.

Providing them with a separate facility to stay can give them focus on the various activities that may be facilitated for them without the intervention of other notorious inmates in the Camp.

b. Assign Permanent personnel in the VEOs Program who have been trained in the following areas:

Understanding the VEOs personality and the Islam Religion

Techniques in Effective Inmate Engagement; Motivating the Program Facilitators; Crafting VEOs Program; and Techniques in Assessment and Evaluation of the VEOs Program. There is a need for Continuous Professional Development for those who are and will be assigned in the program. Those assigned to the VEOs Program would need specialized training in VEOs Management. Knowledge in the VEOs personality, Muslim culture and the Islam Religion is a must for program facilitators. Effective Techniques in Inmate Engagement should likewise be possessed by the Facilitators of the program to encourage the VEOs to accept and adhere to the teachings that will be given to them during the program. As it has always been said... "It's not the program per se, but the Facilitator of the Program." The program is one thing, and the Facilitator is another thing. No matter how extensive or good the program is, if there is no Trust and rapport between the VEOs and the Reformation Officer, that program will be wasted. This is because the VEOs doesn't trust or believe in the one facilitating the program. Crucial to the program facilitation is the TRUST accorded to the Reformation Officer by the VEOs. Believing that someone truly cares for them will encourage and motivate the VEOs to fully participate in the program.

c. To hire more Muslim Correctional Officers to man the VEOs programs. Also to get the services of Muslim Religious Leaders who can assist in implementing the program for this special group of offenders.

It will be much easier if the one in the forefront of Program Implementation is a Muslim. They will speak the same language, look at things with the same perspective and cultural clashes and misunderstandings will be avoided. TRUST between the VEOs and the Reformation Officers will be easily established which is an important ingredient for a successful program. VEOs Management will be less challenging with more cooperation from them. The Muslim Officers will also be able to influence positively and encourage the VEOs to seriously participate in the program. The belief that these people who speak their dialect is on their side will bring about positive responses on the program being given to the VEOs.

d. Facilitate Active Involvement of the VEOs families in the BuCor Program

Involvement of the VEOs families in the rehabilitation program is crucial. This is because the family satisfies one of the basic needs of man, which is the need for love and belongingness. The presence of the

family nurtures the hope of the VEOs, with the thought that he will rejoin his family in the future. With his loved ones by his side, responsiveness and cooperation to the programs for VEOs can be easily achieved.

Efforts therefore should be made to enhance the Visitation Program for VEOs, especially during special occasions, like graduation etc. Families of the inmate can also be encouraged to participate in the other reformation activities of the institution.

e. A Well-crafted Pre and Post release program for VEOs can assist him to attain full rehabilitation.

GOs and NGOs, LGUs and other civil and civic society groups can be enjoined to assist in the re-integration program for VEOs. Assistance can be extended to provide a released VEOs job opportunities so he can start a new life with his family. Whatever a VEOs learns in prisons, will go to waste, if he is not accorded a Support System upon Release.

It is believed that the real challenge of a VEOs is not in prisons, but in the free community, when he returns. He will need a lot of help so he can go back to his family, get accepted by the society and find employment so he can lead a law abiding and productive life upon release.

5. Action Plan Developed for Program Enhancement?

Based on the findings of the Study, the following are the courses of action that would be implemented to Enhance the Program, to wit:

- The results of this study shall be presented to the BuCor Director General (DG) for his information. Essential matters that would be requested from the DG would be the Issuance of an Institutional Policy that would set the direction of the VEO Management through the Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism Office (P/CVE). The policy would cover the provision of facilities and allocation of resources for its operation. Likewise, the inter-office and inter-Agency coordination shall be established to bring about a more extensive program for the VEOs.
- To hold a meeting with the Directorate for Administration and the Human Resources Office to thresh out plans on training and deploying BuCor personnel who will implement among other programs, the VBMFP for these PDLs.
- To meet with the Directorate for Reformation to craft a program that would expand and intensify the involvement of the VEO family in the various Reformation Programs of the BuCor.
- To hold a meeting with the Directorate for External Relations to develop a more appropriate pre and post release program for VEOs. Included will be the plan to come up with various MOAs with Local Government Units and other GOs and NGOs. This will ensure the creation of a support system for a would be released VEO.

Chapter 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the summary of key findings, the conclusions drawn from the results, and the recommendations based on the study's objectives. It synthesizes the essential insights gathered from the research, highlighting their implications for stakeholders. The conclusions reflect the study's major takeaways, while the recommendations provide practical strategies and actionable steps for improvement. This chapter aims to bridge the gap between research findings and their real-world applications, ensuring that the insights gained contribute meaningfully to academic discourse and practical implementation.

Terrorism is a serious problem that plagues not only our country but the whole world. This menace has triggered considerable fear to the people in many countries and caused unimaginable damage to the community and properties of countless people in this generation.

Apprehension and incarceration of terrorists or the so-called Violent Extremists Offenders (VEOs) is not an automatic solution to the problems they create. Inside the prisons, a VEOs can still operate and execute nefarious activities within the confines of the cell house. It is therefore imperative that the Correctional Institution become aware of this serious problem and come up with viable solutions to prevent the VEOs from spreading terror inside the prisons.

An Effective and well-planned program using well-crafted strategies for Deradicalization and Reformation can result in better management of incarcerated VEOs.

Summary

This study assessed the BuCor's programs facilitated for VEOs confined at the National Penitentiary. One is the BuCor's VEO Reformation Program (VRP) and the VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program (VBMFP)

Both BuCor Security and Reformation Officers were chosen to be the informants of this study. They were personnel who had experience in managing and engaging the VEOs. Twenty (20) Reformation and twenty (20) Security personnel made up the final respondents of this research. A bigger percentage of the officers were young mostly covering the age bracket of late 20' to late 40's. Seventy-five (75) percent of them are married, majority of whom are college graduates and with Masteral Degrees. Most of the participants are Roman Catholics, worked in BuCor for less than 26 years, majority of whom are rank and file and middle level officers and with a significant number having less than five years in VEOs engagement.

1. Level of effectiveness of the two BuCor VEOs Program (VRP and the VBMFP)

Psychological Make-up and Coping Mechanism

The BuCor Officers rated the two programs as both Very Effective. However, the VBMFP received a higher rating showing that the officers are of the opinion that this program can help the VEOs better in their adjustment to the prison life, in maintaining psychological health and in their coping mechanisms when confronted with stress and depression.

Level of Hope and Optimism. The respondents are of the opinion that the VBMFP can help VEOs develop, and nurture hope more than the VRP. Likewise, the VBMFP can sustain the VEO's optimism in the face of problems while incarcerated.

Perception of BuCor as an Institution. Both the Security and the Reformation Officers believe that the VBMFP can ingrain a more positive perception of the BuCor as an institution. The Facilitators of the program who are the Reformation Officers can embody the ideals and goals of the Institution during their constant engagement with the VEOs.

Perception of BuCor Officers. The informants of the study have confidence that the VBMFP can present a more positive perception of the BuCor Officers in the eyes of the VEOs. The facilitators of the VBMFP provide greater opportunities for engagement with the inmates as they are allowed to express themselves during sessions. During these times, the VEOs will feel the concern of the BuCor officers building their trust and confidence to the Facilitators of the program. The Reformation Officers who are giving the program represent an ideal image of the BuCor officers.

Perception of the BuCor Reformation Program. The informants believe that both the VRP and the VBMFP can provide a positive perception to the VEOs as regards the BuCor's Reformation Program.

However, they see the VBMFP as more effective in presenting a more attractive picture of the BuCor's Reformation program which can help the VEOs respond better and participate more in the various activities of the Institution.

Effect on the VEO's Plan for the Future. Like the other areas mentioned, the informants view the VBMFP as more effective in helping the VEOs plan. The 12 modules used in VBMFP are all aimed at self-discovery and looking at the future with fresh hope and optimism. Also, the constant engagements with the facilitators who assist the VEOs in planning for the future, makes this program more effective than the VRP.

Effect on the VEO's Violent Extremist Belief. Although rated as Very Effective, both the VRP and VBMFP has been perceived as still wanting in many areas to make it more responsive in the Deradicalization effort of the BuCor. Some challenges apparently hinder the two Programs from attaining full effectiveness.

2. Assessment of the BuCor Security and Reformation Officers by Rank on the VEOs management Program

The BuCor Officers consisting of those Heads of the Offices, the Middle Rank and the Rank-and-File Personnel are one and the same in their opinion that both programs (VRP and VBMFP) are effective in managing the VEOs. However, the VBMFP can elicit more trust and confidence on the VEOs because of the constant and sincere engagements with them by the facilitators. Also, the VBMFP can result in a more responsive behavior from the VEOs which is very important in the Reformation Process.

3. Issues and Challenges in the implementation of the two VEOs programs

The following challenges in the implementation of the two VEOs programs had been forwarded by the Respondents: The Lack of Implementing Policy for the P/CVE Program; Inadequate resources for the program as seen in the lack of facilities for the implementation of the various reformation activities; Lack of Trained Personnel to manage the VEOs Program; The Need for more Muslim Reformation Officers and Religious Leaders; Absence of Active Involvement of the Family of VEOs in the Reformation Program; The Lack of Active Involvement of the Community in BuCor Program for VEOs.

4. Suggestions by the Security and Reformation Personnel to improve the BuCor Program

- Formulate an Institutional Policy that would strengthen the VEOs Program in BuCor in consonance with the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020.
- Provide adequate facilities where the VEOs can be housed with designated places for the facilitation of the Focused Program and the other Reformation activities.
- Assign Permanent personnel in the VEO Program who have been trained in Inmate Engagement Strategies.
- To hire more Muslim Correctional Officers to man the VEOs programs. Also to get the services of Muslim Religious Leaders who can assist in implementing the program for this special group of offenders.
- Facilitate Active Involvement of the VEOs Families in the BuCor Program
- Provide a well-crafted Pre- and Post Release program for VEOs to assist him to attain full rehabilitation.

Conclusions

The following are the conclusions of the study:

1. There is a need to formulate a Policy to set the direction of the BuCor's VEOs Management Program to attain success in its implementation. Policy Guidelines can guide the Program Facilitators in the

most effective strategy that would ensure Deradicalization and Rehabilitation of the VEOs confined in the Institution. This will cover the Crafting of the Program, hiring and training of personnel to manage the VEOs and link with other stakeholders.

2. The BuCor’s VEOs Management Programs are considered effective in reforming this special group of offenders. The VEO Reformation Program (VRP) and the VEO Behavior Modification Focused Program (VBMFP) are perceived by the BuCor personnel as infusing and imbuing positive influence among PDLs in the following areas: Psychological Make up and Coping Mechanism; Level of Hope and Optimism; Positive perception of BuCor as an Institution; Positive perception of BuCor Officer; Level of Optimism regarding the Future; Deradicalization effort of the BuCor.
3. It is however perceived that the VBMFP can have a more effective result in reforming the VEOs because of the following reasons: consistency in the facilitation which provides more opportunity for inmate engagements; providing both individual and group counseling sessions side by side with the regular activities, focusing on handling stress, depression and other problematic situations in the camp; more focused learning situations that target the criminogenic risk factors in the inmate; provision of opportunities for family interaction; and sincerity of the program facilitators which motivate further the desire of the VEOs to change for the better.
4. There is a common perception on the BuCor Officers, coming from the top, the middle and lower ranks that the VBMFP, together with the Regular Reformation Program can facilitate genuine Reformation on the VEOs, paving the way for a successful re-integration back in the free society upon release.
5. There is a need for collaboration with the family and the community to attain a holistic approach in the Reformation and Reintegration of the VEOs.

Recommendations

1. Formulate a policy which will serve as a guideline in crafting and facilitating the VEOs Management Program. Included in this are the development of a Focused Rehabilitation Strategy, training of personnel and more logistical support for the VEOs. More effective implementation can be achieved with more resources allocated to the program as embodied in the abovementioned policy.
2. Encourage Family participation in the BuCor Reformation Activities.
3. Strengthen the pre and post release programs for VEOs in coordination with Doctor of Educational Management.

OUTPUT OF THE STUDY

ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Objectives	Timeline	Resources Needed	Person-in-Charge	Benchmark	Success Indicator
1. Formulate an Institutional Policy to strengthen the VEOs Program in BuCor in consonance with	To establish a framework to which would set the direction for the VEOs program in BuCor	October 2024	None	ODDGR ODDGSO DR Directorate For Admin	Crafted Policy for VEOs Management with implementing rules for compliance	Issuance of Implementing Rules for the VEOs Management Program

the Anti-Terrorism Act	- To implement standard Procedures in program crafting and implementation of VEOs program					
2. Provision of facilities to house VEOs with areas for the implementation of Focused Program and other Reformation activities	- To provide a specific place where VEOs can be housed, and where they will have a place for various Reformation activities	October 2024 - October 2025	Allocation of Budget from the National Government	ODDGR DR Budget Office Logistics Supply Office	Allocation of Budget for the construction of VEO's facilities	Establishment of Housing and Reformation area for VEO's in NBP
3. Designation of Permanent Personnel to facilitate and manage the VEOs program	- To have a permanent set of BuCor Reformation and Security Personnel who will manage the BuCor VEOs program - To ensure the stability and continuity of the program	October - November 2024	-Reformation and Security Personnel who have undergone the VEOs Management Training Program	ODDGR, ODGSO DR DA	Issuance of Letter Order for the Reformation and Security Personnel who will be assigned permanently on the VEOs Management Program	The PCVE Office and the branches in the different OPPFs are officially manned by Trained Reformation and Security Personnel by virtue of a Letter Order from the DG.
4. Provision of continuous training for BuCor Personnel specifically for P/CVE personnel and staff to be	-- To have the knowledge and skills of Security and Reformation Personnel in the following areas: -Understanding the VEOs	September 2024 - onwards	Budget allocation from the BuCor for the training	DR DA LDD	Facilitation of continuous trainings for P/CVE Personnel and other Officers in VEOs Management	Well trained and well- motivated BuCor personnel facilitating an effective VEOs Management Program

assigned in the VEOs Management Program	<p>personality and the Islam Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Techniques in Inmate Engagement - Motivating the Program Facilitators - Crafting the VEOs program - Techniques in assessment and evaluation of the VEOs program 					
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5. Hire more Muslim Correctional Officers and Muslim Religious Leaders to assist in implementing the VEOs Program	- To assign Muslim Correctional Officers and Religious Leaders for the VEOs Management Program to get the VEOs' full cooperation to the program	November 2024 - continuing	Allocated Budget for Hiring of Personnel	DA HR	Hired Muslim Correctional Officers and Muslim Religious Leaders assigned in the VEOs Management Program	More cooperative and responsive VEOs who are actively participating in the program
6. Facilitate active involvement of the VEOs families in the BuCor Program - Strengthen the Family Visitation	- To enjoin the participation of the VEOs families in the various BuCor programs so as to encourage the VEOs to actively take	November 2024- continuing	None	ODDGR DR	- More active participation of VEOs families in the BuCor Reformation Activities	Active participation of VEOs in the BuCor programs - Change in radical beliefs and elimination

Program	part in the Reformation activities of the Institution				program for VEOs	of violent extremist views of the VEOs
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7. Develop/ Strengthen pre and post release program for VEOs	- To provide preparation for a VEOs for his eventual release - To provide a released VEOs a strong support system so he can fully reintegrate in the free society	Continuing	None	DER DR	- A well-crafted and release program specifically for VEOs - Established coordination and linking with NGOs and other civil society groups which provide assistance to released VEOs	- A psychological, physically, spiritually and socially prepared VEOs who has successfully reintegrated back in the free society - A MOA by which provide assistance to and other civil society groups with BuCor providing post release assistance to released VEOs
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