



Assessment of Family Functioning among Perpetrators of Physical Abuse

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Abstract The present study assessed family functioning and intergenerational patterns of physical abuse of adult among perpetrators. Family Assessment Measure III and Genogram were used as assessment tools. Fifteen perpetrators of physical abuse participated in the initial assessment and only seven out of the fifteen participants continued with Genogram interview. Respondents were in the early to middle adulthood stage and most of them were females. Majority of the respondents have not reached tertiary education. They belong to the low socio-economic status and have no stable source of income. The assessment conducted was anchored on the Structural Family Theory of the systems perspective. The assessment was made by: (1) filling out of personal data sheet, (2) taking the family assessment tool that measured the perpetrators' strengths and weaknesses in terms of communication, involvement, control, values, and norms, and (3) constructing of three generation genogram focused on physical abuse. Results showed difficulty in communicating effectively as a family and in setting boundaries at home. Moreover, power struggles, inconsistent regard to explicit and implicit rules at home, control issues and discrepant value system of the family were seen. Consistent with these problems in the family system, genogram observed the presence of intergenerational pattern of physical abuse. A report of the result was forwarded for appropriate action and intervention.

Keywords: family dysfunction, physical abuse, intergenerational pattern

In the Philippines, the implementation of The Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act or Republic Act 7610 (Art.1 Sec. 3A) guards children with ages 18 years and below from any form of abuse. The programs of Department of Social

Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other non-government organizations to protect children are commendable. The existence of Bantay Bata 163 in rescuing abused children and attending to their welfare is a significant contribution to the society. However, despite these laws and programs, international and local statistics consistently show that the increase of child abuse cases is alarming. The abused continues to be more abused while the abuser keeps on abusing and the cycle of violence fails to stop (Bancroft & Silverman, 2002).

In an effort to promote mental health that starts from the family, the Counseling and Psychological Wellness Center (CPWC) collaborated with Bantay Bata 163; Davao City in addressing psychological needs among their clientele.

In systems perspective, presenting problems like physical abuse serves as a communication to the family that a dysfunction exist (Young & Long, 2007). This assessment study looked into the family systems structural sources of dysfunction. Genogram is an assessment tool used across family therapy theories (Corey, 2006). The genogram together with paper pencil test on relationship measures or inventories was the first step in the comprehensive intervention program. During the signing of the informed consent, the intake counselor educates the clients of the recommended procedures that would be best for the clients to undergo before therapy. Psychological assessment prior to counseling is encouraged. This assessment is a series of standardized personality measures, which includes mental ability, emotional competence, and relational skills. In addition to testing, the intake counselor invites family members together with the identified client to map a three-generation genogram. Results of the assessment are used to conceptualize the problem and treatment plan. Psychological report was made and feedback is given to the client(s). Counseling/family therapy proceeds after the assessment. Thus the respondents of the present study underwent the same process to come up with an appropriate intervention for the whole family experiencing physical abuse. However, the assessment done for this study was focused on family functioning and intergenerational pattern of physical abuse.

Previous reviews indicate how family violence is assessed using different protocols. Milner and Murphy, (1995) identified assessment approaches to evaluate offenders of violence as discussed below. It includes the use of interviews, observations, general personality measures, and offender specific measures. These evaluations are needed for a variety of purposes, which include screening, report confirmation, treatment planning, treatment evaluation, and recidivism prediction. Interviews attempt to assess offender characteristics using a question and answer format. The success of structured interview depends on a variety of factors such as the competence of the interviewer and client condition. Interview process may have lower reliability and validity than standardized objective tests; however, it allows for idiographic assessment. Observational methods have been used in natural and laboratory settings. The advantage of this approach is the direct observations of the behavior but results may yield mixed levels of sensitivity and specificity ranging from chance to adequate levels. General psychological assessment used abuse-related standardized questionnaires that identify significant areas of dysfunction in the offender

and offenders' family that are in need of remediation. This may be appropriately used for screening, treatment planning, and evaluation. Another evaluation tool used is specialized offender assessment techniques. There are two types of this assessment tool: physiological assessment and self-report questionnaire. To sum up the authors' idea, they gave the responsibility to the test users as to the choice of assessment techniques and further maintained that given a wide variety of measures and applications, it is the responsibility of the test user if the validity and reliability are sufficient for a particular application for a specific population.

In another study, Eckhardt and Utschig (2007) suggested that assessment among perpetrators of violence should begin with assessment of readiness to change before undergoing intervention program for a sustained change. The same authors made use of Prochaska et al.'s (1992) model of the processes experienced by perpetrators as they attempt to change. The path to intentional behavior change consists of five distinct stages of change: (1) pre-contemplation, (2) contemplation, (3) preparation, (4) action, and (5) maintenance. Researches on perpetrators indicated that clients who terminated therapy prematurely are more likely to be in the pre-contemplative stage of change. Movement through stages of change predicted client persistence in treatment and overall therapy outcome (Prochaska et al., 1992 as cited by Eckhardt & Utschig, 2007). Aside from readiness assessment, risk assessment among perpetrators is also a very important assessment considered by helping professionals for safety and readiness purposes (WHPPU, 2007).

On the other hand, family therapists observed that clients have a hard time attending therapy sessions even if the intervention program is summoned by the court or institutions where the clients are affiliated. Uebelacker, Hecht, and Miller (2006) developed a Family Check-up brief intervention to counter barriers of not coming to family therapy. This brief intervention program could be a two to three sessions only. It is interesting to know that almost 50% of the intervention is assessment. Assessment is in itself therapeutic. Battery of tests is conducted to clients but assessment occurs prior to and at the first meeting. Questionnaires are emailed to the clients for them to fill out in private to save time during the first session. Giving feedback of the assessment consumes the first session. Basically, Family Assessment Device (FAD) is administered to clients. It is a 60-item self-report questionnaire with seven subscales, six assess each of six areas of family functioning and the seventh assesses general family functioning. Analyses are often conducted on mean FAD scores. The FAD was used to provide feedback to families and to assess change overtime.

Skinner, Steinhauer, and Barbara's (1995) scales on communication, control, involvement, and values and norms as evaluated by the Family Assessment Measure (FAM III) were used as the areas of concern manifesting structural dysfunction. Communication refers to the achievement of mutual understanding so that the message received by the perpetrator/child is similar with the message intended. Control refers to the process by which the perpetrator influences, manipulates, or exercises power over the child. Involvement refers to both the degree and quality of the perpetrator's

interest in the family. Values and norms refer to the beliefs, ways, and rules explicitly or implicitly followed or manifested by family members.

Coming from the family systems perspective, this study focused on the assessment of family system and intergenerational patterns of physical abuse cases. This study wanted to get the perspective of the perpetrators as baseline data in designing intervention program since there are already available data coming from the victims at Bantay Bata 163 Davao City. Using the family assessment tool and genogram, this study aimed to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the family in terms of communication, involvement, control, values, and norms and to trace intergenerational patterns of physical abuse.

The Present Study

This study was anchored on systems perspective specifically using Structural Family Therapy by Salvador Minuchin. Family therapists explained that Structural family therapy considers three dimensions in conceptualizing family dysfunction (Corey, 2006; Kaslow & Massey, 2004; Young & Long, 2007). Problems could stem from issues in boundaries, power, and alignment. Family is functional or dysfunctional based upon its ability to adapt to various stressors, which relies on the clarity and appropriateness of its subsystem boundaries. The same author described boundaries as characterized along a continuum from enmeshment through semi-diffused permeability to rigidity. In addition, family subsystems are characterized by a hierarchy of power; usually the parental subsystem is on top of the offspring subsystem. In healthy families, parent-children boundaries are both clear and semi-diffused, allowing the parents to interact together with some degree of authority portraying the parenting roles. From the children's side, the parents are sufficiently enmeshed from the children to allow for the degree of autonomous sibling and peer interactions that produce socialization, yet not so rigid or aloof as to ignore childhood needs for support, nurturance, and guidance.

In addition to structural theory, Bowen's theory on multigenerational transmission is incorporated in the assessment using genogram. This assessment tool inquired and validated family structural issues and intergenerational pattern of physical abuse. Multigenerational Family Therapy operates on the premise that a predictable pattern of interpersonal relationships connects the functioning of family members across generation. An individual's problems can be understood by viewing the role of the family as an emotional unit. Emotional problems will be transmitted from one generation to another until resolved emotional attachments are dealt with effectively (Corey, 2006).

This study sought to determine if the structural family functioning issues that includes boundaries, power, and alignment, existed among the families with physical abuse cases as perceived by the perpetrators. The subscales on communication, involvement, control, and values and norms from the Family Assessment Measure III helped in the in-depth exploration of family dysfunction. This assessment can be used by the Counseling and Psychological Wellness Center (CPWC) and Bantay Bata 163 Davao as baseline data for further psychological intervention.

On the other hand, the present study inquired about the existence of physical abuse across generations in the perpetrators' lineage as postulated by the theory on Multigenerational Family Therapy. McGoldrick and Gerson (1985) described genogram as a format for drawing a family tree that records information about family members and their relationships over at least three generations. He further explained that genogram displays family information graphically in a way that provides a quick gestalt of complex family pattern and a rich source of hypotheses about how a clinical problem may be connected to the family context and the evolution of both problem and context over time.

The study aimed to determine the family functioning of the perpetrators of physically abused children in Bantay Bata 163. Specifically, it aimed to answer the following: (1) what is the socio-demographic profile of perpetrators of physical abuse in Bantay Bata 163? (2) What is the level of family functioning among the perpetrators of physical abuse in the following scales: communication; involvement; control, and values and norms? (3) Is intergenerational pattern of physical abuse present among the families of the perpetrators?

Method

Research Design

This study used a descriptive design. It described the socio-demographic profile, the level of family functioning, and the intergenerational patterns of physical abuse among the perpetrators.

This study was conducted in two modes of assessment. The Family Assessment Measure III was administered among perpetrators of abuse in Bantay Bata 163 located in Km.4 McArthur Hi-way, Matina, Davao City. The other mode used in-depth interview using genogram was conducted individually at the Counseling and Psychological Wellness Center, Brokenshire College, Madapo City.

Respondents

The study used purposive sampling due to the dearth of respondents who willingly participated in this study considering the sensitivity of the issue on physical abuse. This study was participated by fifteen (15) perpetrators. They were identified as immediate and extended family members of the victims who were reported to Bantay Bata 163 for committing physical abuse. These fifteen (15) participants took the Family Assessment Measure III. All participants referred by Bantay Bata 163 were present during the test administration. However, only seven (7) participants went on to the interview phase of the assessment.

Instruments

Family Assessment Measure III (FAM III). The FAM III by Skinner et al. (1995) is a standardized instrument used to measure the level of functioning of perpetrators in terms of task accomplishment, role performance, communication, affective expression, involvement, control, and values and norms. It consisted of three (3) components namely: (1) General scale which focused on the family as a system, (2) Dyadic relationship scale which

examined relationship of family members, and (3) Self-rating scale which tapped the individual's perception of his/her functioning in the family. This instrument was validated to people in Canada and United States of America across different ages, genders, and family background specifically to natural and foster families of family members who were suffering from clinical conditions such as depression, alcoholism, anxiety disorders, anorexia, bulimia, manic-depressive, social phobia, schizophrenia, etc. This was also tested to gifted, handicapped, foster children and other participants who came from distressed relationships. The general scale and dyadic relationship scales of FAM III had an internal consistency reliability of .93 and .95 respectively while the self-rating scale had a reliability of .89 (Skinner et al., 1995). Prior to test administration of FAM III, the tool was translated to Cebuano on December 2009 and was back translated to English on January 2010 with the assistance of different experts in Visayan language in order to show consistency in thought and content. The help of three (3) experts in the field of Psychology was sought to validate the Cebuano-translated assessment tool. The tool was pilot-tested to seven perpetrators of physically abused children from Men's Responsibilities in Gender and Development (MR GAD), a non-government organization. The test on reliability analysis provided a Cronbach's alpha of .80, which is considerably high.

Genogram. The genogram is a multigenerational family tree that plots familial relationships and visually records information about social and psychological issues in the family across three (3) generations. This was used in this study to determine the presence of intergenerational abuse among the perpetrators of physically abused children in Bantay Bata 163 (McGoldrick, 1995).

Personal Data Sheet. The personal data sheet is a document that shows the respondents' agreement to participate in this study. It included personal information of the participants like: the participant's name, gender, age, civil status, address, religion, contact number, educational attainment, and occupation. The second part assured confidentiality of information to the respondents.

Procedure

FAM III was administered to the group together with the assistance of other counselors to attend to the participants' testing needs. Genogram was conducted to each respondent at the counseling cubicles of the researchers in CPWC. Fellow help providers in the center helped conduct the in-depth interview. The counselors of the center are competent in using genogram as an assessment tool as it is a standard operating procedure before counseling clients at CPWC.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics was used to describe the respondents' socio-demographic profile and FAM III results. Percentage, mean, and standard deviation were used to analyze the data. Constructing of three-generation genogram was used to see the existence of family functioning focusing on physical abuse.

Results

Table 1 presents the participants' age, gender, presence of intergenerational abuse, educational attainment, economic status, religion, and tribe.

Table 1
Profile of the Participants (N=15)

Demographics		f	%
A. Age	Early Adulthood (20-40 years old)	9	60%
	Middle Adulthood (41-60 years old)	6	40%
B. Gender	Female	12	80%
	Male	3	20%
C. Presence of Intergenerational Abuse	Present	10	70%
	Not Present	5	30%
D. Educational Attainment	Elementary		40%
	Undergraduate	6	
	Elementary		27%
	Graduate	4	
	High School		20%
E. Economic Status	Undergraduate	3	
	College	2	13%
	Undergraduate		
F. Religion	Low*	15	100%
	Roman Catholic	14	93%
	Iglesia ni Cristo	1	7%
G. Tribe	Cebuano/Bisaya	10	70%
	Ilonggo	2	10%
	Mandaya	3	20%

Note: *Based on Department of Labor and Employment Wage Order No. RB XI-14

Table 1 shows that participants who belong to the middle adulthood stage are relatively higher in proportion compared to those in the early adulthood. The oldest participant is 62 years old while the youngest is 28 years old. Eighty percent are female and only twenty percent are male participants in the FAM III assessment. Seventy percent said they experienced to be physically abused as children. Most of them have not reached college level. They belonged to low socio-economic status and majority are Cebuano and Roman Catholic.

Table 2 presents the respondents' family functioning in terms of communication, involvement, control, values and norms. The four aspects

of family functioning are shown in each of the three scales namely general, dyadic, and self-rating scales.

Table 2

Family functioning of the perpetrators of physically abused children in Bantay Bata 163 (N=15)

		Communication	Involvement	Control	Values and Norms
General Scale	Mean	57	57	61	59
	SD	6.79	10.22	11.93	7.17
	Description	Average	Average	High Average	Average
Dyadic Scale	Mean	59	61	62	62
	SD	9.25	8.84	6.52	16.70
	Description	Average	High Average	High Average	High Average
Self-Rating Scale	Mean	59	62	57	54
	SD	9.41	8.69	8.41	5.37
	Description	Average	High Average	Average	Average

Table 2 under the general scale row shows average scores in communication ($M = 57$, $SD = 6.79$), involvement ($M = 57$, $SD = 10.22$), and values and norms ($M = 59$, $SD = 7.17$) and a high score in control ($M = 61$, $SD = 11.93$). The respondents looked at their overall family system as unhealthy. Scores 57 to 61 indicate problem areas in the family relationship. The higher the score one gets the more problems the family has. High scores mean weakness in the family interaction.

Secondly, when it comes to the respondents' relationship to a family member (refer to dyadic scale), they obtained high scores in involvement ($M = 61$, $SD = 8.84$) control ($M = 62$, $SD = 6.52$) and values and norms ($M = 62$, $SD = 16.70$). Results show that the perpetrators view the relationship with one another as dysfunctional.

Lastly, in the self-rating scale, respondents scored high in involvement ($M = 62$, $SD = 8.69$), which means weaknesses in how each member of the family engages with each other. High score in involvement validated by the consistent average to high scores in all other scales demonstrate disengagement.

Constructing a genogram aimed to see patterns of physical abuse of the respondents' respective families within the three generations. Intergenerational pattern of physical abuse existed within the families whose present problem involves physical abuse of adults. Results show presence of intergenerational physical abuse. Majority of the perpetrator respondents experienced being physically abused as children. In turn they also physically abuse their children/grandchildren. At least three among the respondents shared that they are also being abused by their present spouses / partners. The abuse comes in different forms or a combination of all forms: Physical, verbal, and emotional abuse. A sample written report of

genogram result is shown in Appendix A. These Seven (7) respondents willingly submitted themselves for this assessment.

Discussion

Perpetrators of physical abuse are in the early to middle adulthood stage and mostly are females. Majority of the respondents have not reached tertiary education. They belong to the low socio-economic status and have no stable source of income. They are mostly Roman Catholics and majority is Cebuano. Data on educational attainment show that all the respondents of the study failed to finish the tertiary level of education. Respondents point out poverty as the reason for not being able to finish school and lack of motivation to pursue their education because their primary concern is to put food on the table in order to satisfy their physical needs more than pursuing their education. This confirms the study of Gil as cited in Corby (2000) that most of the reported parents of physically abused children belong to low social classes and depend on the support of institutions. All of the respondents come from low economic status. Classification was based on the Department of Labor and Employment specifically Wage Order No. RB XI-14, which indicated the ranges of the minimum wage in Davao City between 219 to 250 pesos depending on the sector. Six of the respondents have no stable source of income while one falls below the minimum wage range. This implies that all respondents lack the capacity to live comfortable lives. Three of them are jobless while the rest are scavenger, street sweeper, cosmetic and coffee dealer. In fact, there were, initially, 15 respondents; however, only seven respondents continued with the in-depth interview using genogram in a scheduled face-to-face individual session. Burdened with household tasks, lack of person to entrust their children, insufficient husband- or partner-support to attend the sessions were the reasons stated for not continuing with the assessment. The researchers and Bantay Bata 163 exhausted different measures to communicate with the respondents; however, they did not show up.

Respondents view their family system as generally unhealthy (dysfunctional) as revealed by the results of the general scale of FAM III. The four areas measured by FAM III exhibited weaknesses in communication, involvement, control, and values and norms. In terms of communication, respondents express a fluctuating pattern. Communication pattern at home is inconsistent which creates confusion in the family. This supports Murphy and Eckhardt (2005), which state that perpetrators, who usually belong in dysfunctional families, have difficulties on how to express feelings and reactions appropriately in times of conflict. Using the examples of the interview with the clients in this study, one of the clients with four children was left with the sole responsibility of rearing their children. She and her first husband had no communication but they stayed in the same house. Involvement is another area of concern. There is an absence of involvement among members in the way respondents view their family relationship. They seem to be distant to each other. Alexandrov, Cowan, and Cowan (2005) explained that when physically abused children begin to make sense of the abuse, they may begin to develop a notion that people are not safe, predictable or trustworthy, thereby, making attachment a dangerous risk

that they are no longer willing to take. In Structural theory, it is described as having disengaged interaction or disengagement (Corey, 2006; Young & Long, 2007). Disengagement is the opposite extreme of enmeshment in the continuum of the family's task to set boundaries in the system. Disengagement is very evident in one of the respondents in this study. She was separated with her husband due to extra-marital affair between her husband and her sister. They separated with her husband without resolving the conflict. The client, her husband, and her sister have not been talking to each other up to the time of the interview. They just seem not to know each other. In the same way, Bancroft and Silverman (2002) stated that perpetrators could cause divisions among family members. As per report of Bantay Bata 163, most of their physical abuse cases are by a family member. Some family members decided to be an ally of the perpetrator while the other family members side with the victim. This is evidence of what Bancroft and Silverman (2002) referred to as "great splits and alignments among family members." Control scale scores indicate a problematic area. Control issues are characterized by overt and covert power struggles when it comes to parenting and decision making (Skinner et al., 1995). The same authors described this family to exhibit rigidity and lacking of flexibility or spontaneity or extreme chaos. This supports what Tower (2006) mentioned that abusers have not learned to make decisions and are afraid to feel out of control. Using the experiences of the respondents, most of them exhibit a chaotic relationship. For example, one respondent narrated that she has many children from different partners. She is presently cohabiting with her fourth live-in partner for a year with whom she had a child. Almost all of her children except the youngest were under the custody of Bantay Bata. She always falls out of control in dealing with any of the family members at home. Similar to her growing up years and experiences in relationships, she was also physically abusive to her children. She slaps, pinches, and hits her children with a stick when she becomes irritated.

Values and norms scores indicate that the value system is unclear at home. Explicit and implicit rules that should and should not be followed by family members can be inconsistent. Feinauer (2006) mentioned that rules provide stability, manage involvement of family members and guides communication; however, these cannot be seen from the respondents' families. Skinner, et al. (1995) described high average scores of values and norms as dissonant family value system resulting in confusion and tension. Family's values may also be in conflict with those of the culture as a whole. From the interviews of the present study, one respondent grew up without her mother. Her mother left their family for another man. Hence, it was her eldest sister who took the role of being a mother to her and her siblings. She is the fourth child in the brood of nine. Her father used to be a photographer and was usually out of the house. It was their eldest sister who managed the household. Her father was physically beating her and eldest sister through slaps, pinches, and hitting of guava stick that resulted in bruises and hematoma. As a child, she admitted that she was naughty and was not interested in going to school.

Relationship between and among family members indicates presence of ineffective communication, distant relationship, demanding or rigid interaction, and unclear value system.

The respondents keep distance from any member of the family. Respondents also do not communicate their thoughts and feelings to the family but instead demonstrate their disappointments through physical punishments. A respondent in this study shared that her children grew up seeing her as the disciplinarian in the family. She used to hit her children with stick and pinched them in their waists to express her disagreements to children's misbehaviors. She also became physically abusive by using a stick to hit her granddaughter. She was also verbally abusive to her children and granddaughter. They have difficulty in communicating effectively with each other. They seem to be distant to each other. Adjusting to the changing life demands and cultural values and norms is hard and challenging and thus uses physical abuse to cope with the transition. Consistently, relationships with family members cannot achieve total harmony. Respondents of the study who are all parents fail to establish a predictable control style to their children. Bancroft and Silverman (2002) state that part of the issue on control is the family's capacity to maintain ongoing functions and adapt to change. However, the confusion on what parenting style to use to their children signifies failure to perform existing roles and adapting to change. In addition, perpetrators can develop a belief system that makes aggression an acceptable behavior as mentioned by Bancroft and Silverman (2002). Hence, the values and norms passed on to their children can be the negative views towards them as parents and on relationships. This causes perplexity that allows children to question certain beliefs that can further result in arguments. This is also similar to their attachments with their family members. At some point, they can be attached with each other; however, there are also instances that they can be aloof to other family members (Skinner et al., 1995; Young & Long, 2007).

Perpetrators exhibit disengaged relationship with other family members. Results show that the respondents keep distance from any member of the family. Respondents also do not communicate their thoughts and feelings to the concerned member of the family but instead demonstrate their disappointments through physical threats and punishments. A respondent in this study shared that her children grew up seeing her as the disciplinarian in the family. She used to hit her children with stick and pinched them in their waists to express her disagreements to the kids' misbehaviors. She also became physically abusive to her children and grandchildren.

Intergenerational pattern of physical abuse existed within the families whose present problem involves physical abuse of adults. This means that the pattern of physical abuse in the participants' families has been passed on from generation to another. Using a genogram, it has been known that their father, mother, grandmother, or elder siblings have physically abused these participants as a child. They experienced being pinched, hit by objects such as a stick or belt that caused bruises and wounds. They grew up getting used to being beaten and believed that those were the correct ways to instill discipline. This supports the studies of Buerkel-Rothfuss as cited in Galvin, Bylund and Bronnmel (2008), Steel and

Pollock as cited in Corby (2000), Tower (2002) that parents who abuse their children have once experienced abuse themselves. These studies consistently state that early childhood exposure to aggression is influential in committing physical abuse in the later years of life. On the other hand, 43% of the participants have not experienced physical abuse from generations before them. However, their parents were reprimanding them when they committed mistakes. Despite the absence of intergenerational abuse, the genograms revealed that the respondents experienced being abused by their spouses or live-in partner. All of them have experienced raising their children alone at a certain time in their lives. Research shows that individuals who experienced physical abuse in childhood were more likely to report physical illness, depression, anger, and anxiety than non-abused individuals and those who have been victims of childhood physical abuse are impeded in their ability to develop social and emotional skills. Larsen, Sandberg, Harper, and Bean (2011), subscribed to empirical findings that childhood physical abuse has been found to have negative effects on adult mental and psychological functioning. Genogram results further showed presence of ineffective patterns of communication, rigid parental control, and distant and conflicting relationships between and among members of the family. These genogram findings validated the results of FAM III.

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Appendix A

(Sample Genogram Report)

Client X:

Family functioning

Client X has ten children with her husband. None of them finished elementary education. Their children had no interest in school and would prefer to work in the streets like looking for parking spaces or taxi cabs in exchange for pennies. Similar to their children, Client X's husband failed to finish elementary education while Client X finished elementary. Her husband used to be a construction worker and was often not home. Client X was the one who raised the children and managed the household. When her husband was dismissed from work, Client X had to work as street sweeper to provide for their physical needs. Client X admitted that she does not want to have many children; however, her husband would physically hurt her when she does not give in to his sexual urges and the use of contraceptive is not allowed.

Relationship pattern

Members of the family do not openly expressed what they think and how they feel. This lack of communication is also seen in the way the couple interacts with each other. But, once problem arises, verbal, emotional, and physical abuse comes into the fore. Client X expressed that she loves her family but she finds it difficult to control her emotions when angry. Client X views her relationship with her family as distant and conflicting.

Physical abuse

Intergenerational abuse is present in her family. Client X and her husband grew up having disciplinarian parents who also believed in using physical force to correct misbehaviors. Hence, they both use physical force as a way to discipline their children. Their granddaughter, who is reported to have been physically abused by Client X, was taken by Social Workers and was under the temporary custody of Bantay Bata 163 Davao at the time of interview. The child will be returned as soon as safety is ensured at home. Client X welcomes the idea of regular home visitations by Bantay Bata 163 representative to ensure the safety of the child. In addition, to how physical abuse was used by Client X to communicate disappointments at home, she is also physically abused by her husband. Her husband hit her using his fist, slapping her, and cursing her especially when he is drunk.

Findings:

The following themes were found: (1) Extended family system with many children, (2) Less value on education, (3) Presence of ineffective communication, (4) Rigid parental control, (5) Existence of distant and conflicting relationship, and (6) Manifestation of intergenerational pattern of physical abuse.