

Out-Of-School Youth Policy Review and Implementation in the Second District of Pangasinan

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This study aimed to examine and evaluate the existing policies concerning Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and their implementation within the Second District of Pangasinan. Specifically, it sought to present the development and key features of OSY-related policies in the Philippines, focusing on the areas of education, skills development, and labor and employment. Moreover, it aimed to identify the activities undertaken in implementing OSY policies in the Second District of Pangasinan under these three aspects, as well as to determine the challenges encountered during their execution.

The research respondents consisted of the heads and/or officers-in-charge of the various Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices (MSWDOs) across the eight municipalities in the Second District of Pangasinan. In addition, officials from different agencies directly involved in OSY-related programs were included, such as the Department of Education (DepEd) Division I Office of Pangasinan, Pangasinan State University (PSU) Lingayen Campus, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Pangasinan Provincial Office, and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Western Pangasinan Field Office.

The study utilized a qualitative research design, which was deemed the most suitable approach for this type of inquiry. This design allowed the researchers to obtain in-depth insights into the experiences, perspectives, and strategies of the concerned agencies in implementing OSY policies. The participants included the heads or officers-in-charge of the eight MSWDOs within the district and those from national agencies cited in related literature—DepEd and PSU Lingayen Campus, responsible for the education component; TESDA Pangasinan Provincial Office, which handles skill development programs; and DOLE Western Pangasinan Field Office, tasked with implementing employment and livelihood initiatives for OSY in the Second District of Pangasinan.

To gather data, the researchers employed document analysis and structured interviews. Document analysis was used to examine both national and local policies relevant to the study area. Among the national policies reviewed were Republic Act No. 8044, otherwise known as the *Youth in Nation-Building Act*, and Republic Act No. 5462, or the *Manpower and Out-of-School Youth Development Act of the Philippines*, along with other related laws. Structured interviews were conducted to assess how these policies were operationalized within the district. To ensure the relevance and comprehensiveness of the interview guide, the researchers conducted an extensive review of RA 5462, RA 7796, RA 8044, RA 9155, RA 10917, RA 11230, RA 11510, as well as related literature and studies.

Prior to data collection, the researchers secured approval from their research adviser. After receiving permission, formal requests were sent to the Municipal Mayors through their respective MSWDOs in all eight municipalities within the district to conduct interviews and access necessary records. Similar letters were also addressed to the heads and supervisors of the DepEd, TESDA, and DOLE offices involved in the study. Once the data were collected, the information was organized systematically in tabular form. The researchers then analyzed and interpreted the data to formulate the findings and conclusions of the study.

The study utilized interview guide questions and a document checklist as primary instruments. The results revealed that OSY policies are indeed being implemented in the Second District of Pangasinan through various programs and activities organized by both the local government units (LGUs) and concerned agencies. Each policy has contributed positively to the advancement of OSY development, particularly in improving educational access, enhancing skills training opportunities, and expanding employment prospects.

However, the study also identified some gaps in the implementation process. These include the absence of a comprehensive OSY profiling system and insufficient budget allocation to sustain the

activities and programs. Despite these limitations, the LGUs and partner agencies have taken alternative measures to continue supporting OSY initiatives.

In light of the findings, the researchers recommend the strengthening of OSY profiling and data management systems, as well as the expansion of program coverage to reach a larger number of beneficiaries. Furthermore, enhancing coordination among implementing agencies and ensuring adequate budget support are necessary steps to improve the overall implementation and effectiveness of OSY policies in the Second District of Pangasinan.