

Problem Behaviours Among Children of Filipino Seafarers in Iloilo City, Philippines

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of this study was to ascertain the problem behaviours among children of Filipino seafarers in Iloilo City, Philippines. The researchers used random sampling technique to determine the 200 respondents of the study. This research employed the descriptive method of analysis. The statistical tools were frequency and rank to describe the children problem behaviours. When taken as an entire group, data showed that the problem behaviours were self-centeredness, substance use, delinquency, and physical aggression. When grouped according to program, the problem behaviours were self-centeredness, delinquency, physical aggression, and substance use as reference to high school program, while those who were in college, the problem behaviours were self-centeredness, substance use, delinquency, physical aggression. When grouped according to sibling rank, the results showed that out of the 76 eldest children, the problem behaviours were self-centeredness, substance use, delinquency, and physical aggression. While, the problem behaviours of the 66 middle children of Filipino seafarers were self-centeredness, substance use, physical aggression, and delinquency. The 58 youngest children of Filipino seafarers' problem behaviours were self-centeredness, substance use, physical aggression, and delinquency. When grouped according to gender, male children problem behaviours were self-centeredness, delinquency, substance use, and physical aggression. And, 86 female children problem behaviours were self-centeredness, delinquency, substance use, and physical aggression. As to the marital status, children whose parents were living, the problem behaviour were self-centeredness, substance use, delinquency, and physical aggression. Children of Filipino seafarers who had separated parents, the problem behaviours were self-centeredness, substance use, physical aggression, and delinquency

1 BACKGROUND AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

On the occasion of the World Day of Immigrants and Refugees in 1993, celebrated as the International Year of the family, Pope John Paul II sounded out this appeal: "I would like to ask all those who at all levels are concerned with promoting the authentic well-being of the family, to consider carefully the problems of the immigrants, precisely in the light of the particular difficulties which they face today." Also, Castro (1993) mentioned that difficulties in married life can be a source why some couples experience problems in life and may put their lives in danger, as well as the plight of the families of migrant workers; the families of those obliged to be away for long periods, such as sailors and all kinds of itinerant people. In these cases, the effect of prolonged separation is that the wife, left behind with the children, has to assume unaccustomed roles, like becoming the head of the household. Here, several problems may arise especially in the children who grew up without the presence of their fathers.

The children of Filipino seafarers should therefore be responsible and well motivated towards their studies for their parents work abroad for the sake of their future.

According to Xin, Zhou, Bray and Kehle (2003), behavioural dysfunction in children and adolescents has been an important field in research. In the studies conducted by Donovan and Jessor (1985), they have found that problem behaviours, such as substance, aggression, delinquency, and even early sexuality, are positively correlated with their academic performance.

Furthermore, Jessor, Donovan, and Costa (1991) theorize a framework for understanding the relationship between problem behaviours, that is, the strong positive association between problem behaviours can be attributed to a single common factor, namely, unconventionality.

Moreover, the work of Achenbach and his colleagues (1991), has been noted to have an important contribution to the research on problem behaviour. Their work has led to the distinction between inter-

nalizing problem behaviours (i.e. withdrawn, somatic complaints, anxiety and depression) and externalizing problem behaviours (i.e. defiance, impulsivity, disruptiveness, aggression, antisocial features and over-activity).

The rationale of this study thus, was to ascertain the common problem behaviours among children of seafarers.

The conceptual framework of the study is summarized in Figure 1.

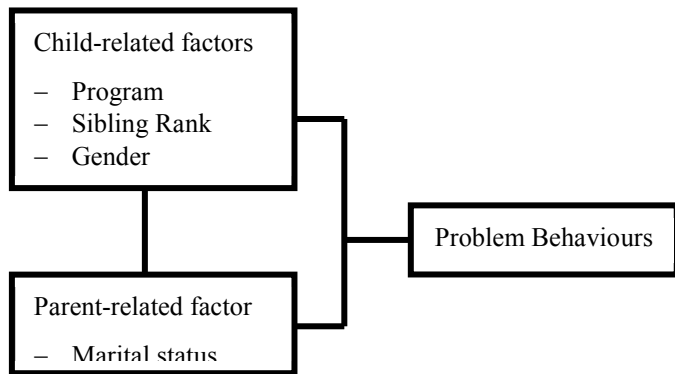


Figure 1. Conceptual framework of the study

2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study was to ascertain the problem behaviours among children of Filipino seafarers in Iloilo City, Philippines.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

- 1 What are the problem behaviours among children of Filipino seafarers in Iloilo City, Philippines when taken as an entire group?
- 2 What are the problem behaviours among children of Filipino seafarers in Iloilo City, Philippines when grouped according to (a) gender, (b) program, and (c) sibling rank?
- 3 What are the problem behaviours among children of Filipino Seafarers in Iloilo City, Philippines when parents are grouped according to marital status?

3 METHOD

The researchers employed the descriptive method in this study based on Travers (in Sevilla, 2002; Jessor, 1985) and Best and Khan (1998). The method employed was to describe problem behaviours among children of seafarers in relation to their academic performance.

4 RESPONDENTS

The distribution of children of seafarers according to certain categories is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Profile of Respondents

Category	f	%
Entire group	200	100
<i>Child-related factors</i>		
A. Program		
College	100	50
High school	100	50
B. Sibling rank		
Eldest	76	38
Middle	66	33
Youngest	58	29
C. Gender		
Male	114	57
Female	86	43
D. Parent's Marital Status		
Living Together	140	70
Separated	60	30

5 DATA-GATHERING INSTRUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The investigators distributed the validated instruments to gather data on child and parent related-factors, and problem behaviours among children of seafarers in Iloilo City. To determine the problem behaviours, the investigators used the instrument entitled "Problem Behaviours Evaluation Questionnaire" adapted from Donovan and Jessor (1991) entitled "Problem Behaviours Evaluation Rating Scale." The research instruments were personally administered by the researchers to the children of Filipino seafarers in Iloilo City, Philippines. The data gathered for this study were tabulated, analysed and interpreted using appropriate statistical tools.

6 RESULTS

When taken as an entire group, Table 2 shows that of the 200 children of Filipino seafarers the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour ($f = 174$, 87%), substance use ($f = 15$, 7.5%), delinquent behaviour ($f = 8$, 4.0%), and the least was physical aggression ($f = 3$, 1.5%).

The data are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Problem behaviours or respondents as an entire group

Problem behaviour	f	%	Rank
Self-centered behaviour	174	87.0	1
Substance use	15	7.5	2
Delinquent behaviour	8	4.0	3
Physical aggression	3	1.5	4

When grouped according to program, Table 3 reveals that out of 100 high school children of Filipino seafarers, the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 92, 92%), delinquent behaviour (f = 4, 4%), physical aggression (f = 3, 3%), and the least was substance use (f = 2, 2%). While, 100 college level children of Filipino seafarers revealed that their problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 86, 86%), substance use (f = 6, 6%), delinquent behaviour (f = 5, 5%), and the least was physical aggression (f = 3, 3%).

The data are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Problem Behaviours among Children of Seafarers when Grouped According to Program

Category	Problem behaviour	f	%	Rank
High school	Self-centered behaviour	92	92	1
	Delinquent behaviour	4	4	2
	Physical aggression	3	3	3
	Substance use	2	2	4
College	Self-centered behaviour	86	86	1
	Substance use	6	6	2
	Delinquent behaviour	5	5	3
	Physical aggression	3	3	4

When grouped according to sibling rank, Table 4 shows that out of 76 eldest children of Filipino seafarers the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 27, 35.54%), substance use (f = 26, 34.21%), delinquent behaviour (f = 17, 22.37%), and the least was physical aggression (f = 6, 7.89%). While, the 66 middle children of Filipino seafarers, the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 28, 42.42%), substance use (f = 16, 24.24%), physical aggression (f = 12, 18.19%), the least was delinquent behaviour (f = 10, 15.15%). And 58 youngest children of Filipino seafarers the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 27, 46.75%), substance use (f = 23, 39.66%), physical aggression (f = 6, 10.34%), and the least was delinquent behaviour (f = 2, 3.45%).

The data are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Problem Behaviours among Children of Seafarers when grouped according to Sibling Rank

Category	Problem behaviour	f	%	Rank
Eldest	Self-centered behaviour	27	35.54	1
	Substance use	26	34.21	2
	Delinquent behaviour	17	22.37	3
	Physical aggression	6	7.89	4
Middle	Self-centered behaviour	28	42.42	1
	Substance use	16	24.24	2
	Physical aggression	12	18.19	3
	Delinquent behaviour	10	15.15	4
Youngest	Self-centered behaviour	27	46.75	1
	Substance use	23	39.66	2
	Physical aggression	6	10.34	3
	Delinquent behaviour	2	3.45	4

When grouped according to gender, Table 5 shows that of the 114 male children of Filipino seafarers the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 50, 43.86%), delinquent behaviour (f = 36, 31.58%), substance use (f = 18, 15.79%), and the least was physical aggression (f = 10, 8.77%). And, 86 female children of Filipino seafarers the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 37, 43.02%), delinquent behaviour (f = 21, 24.42%), substance use (f = 16, 18.61%), and the least was physical aggression (f = 12, 13.95%).

The data are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Problem Behaviours among Children of Seafarers when Grouped According to Gender

Category	Problem behaviour	f	%	Rank
Male	Self-centered behaviour	50	43.86	1
	Delinquent behaviour	36	31.58	2
	Substance use	18	15.79	3
	Physical aggression	10	8.77	4
Female	Self-centered behaviour	37	43.02	1
	Delinquent behaviour	21	24.42	2
	Substance use	16	18.61	3
	Physical aggression	12	13.95	4

When grouped according to parents' marital status, Table 6 shows that of the 140 children of Filipino seafarers whose parents are living together, the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 57, 40.72%), substance use (f = 36, 25.72%), delinquent behaviour (f = 27, 19.28%), and the least was physical aggression (f = 20, 14.28%). While the 60 children of Filipino seafarers whose parents are separated the problem behaviours were self-centered behaviour (f = 21, 35.00%), substance use (f = 18, 30%), physical aggression (f = 16, 26.67%), and the least was delinquent behaviour (f = 5, 8.33%).

The data are summarised in Table 6.

Table 6. Problem Behaviours among Children of Seafarers when grouped according to Parents' Marital Status

Category	Problem behaviour	f	%	Rank
Living together	Self-centered behaviour	57	40.72	1
	Substance use	36	25.72	2
	Delinquent behaviour	27	19.28	3
	Physical aggression	20	14.28	4
Separated	Self-centered behaviour	21	35.00	1
	Substance use	18	30.00	2
	Physical aggression	16	26.67	3
	Delinquent behaviour	5	8.33	4

7 CONCLUSIONS

In view of the findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

Generally, the problem behaviours exhibited by children of seafarers were self-centered behaviour, substance use, delinquent behaviour, and the least was physical aggression. It is also noteworthy that respondents who are youngest have a higher percentage in physical aggression, as well as the high school group, and those whose parents are separated.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the researchers arrived at the following recommendations:

- 1 To address the problems of the children of Filipino seafarers, seminars, trainings, and personality development including psychological aspects should be given more attention by the personnel of the guidance office.
- 2 Family life and marriages shall be included in the psychology subjects of the students in college level this could be done by Instructor's Guide (IG) revision.
- 3 Counselling program shall be conducted among children of Filipino seafarers especially those who pose greater behavioural problems.
- 4 Further studies should be conducted to ascertain the problem behaviours among children of seafarers.

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