INTRODUCTION

The advancement of digital technology has brought with it a new and addictive change to society, but it has also enabled new risks and crimes that young people worldwide should recognize. With Internet access growing in developing countries and a surfeit of children and adolescents using the Internet, a new type of crime—Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC)—has emerged. OSEC is a form of exploitation and child sexual abuse that occurs virtually, abetted by advance technologies and social media platforms. It includes the manufacturing and distribution of sexual images that contain child abuse, the grooming of children online, and the purpose of sexual exploitation, such as low-streaming of child sexual exploitation and abuse. In the Philippines, more than half of the population has easy access to the Internet, which has been labeled the global epicenter of OSEC by UNICEF in 2018. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought disruptions in the lives of people around the world, forcing a stay-at-home, increasing online activities. The Philippines is experiencing an unprecedented number of child exploitation cases, with 6.5 million Filipinos employed as of July 2020.

PROJECT VALUE ADD

The research will shed light into the impact of OSEC victimization on the mental well-being of survivors and their vulnerabilities of the families that engage in OSEC. Knowledge of the family and their vulnerabilities of the families that engage in OSEC. Knowledge of the family and their vulnerabilities of the families that engage in OSEC.

OSEC PROGRAM

The need for evidence-based interventions is essential to create effective clinical care for survivors. This study aims to provide a holistic overview of the determinants of OSEC and COVID-19. Specifically, the study will involve the following objectives:

- Mental health profile of OSEC survivors exposed during the pandemic to the demands of family situation, internalizing, and externalizing symptoms.
- Effect of various conditions when these individuals are exposed to the demands of family situation and symptom later.
- The lived experience of the care providers in residential facilities handling OSEC survivors during this lockdown.
- Family dynamics and driving factors among families who engaged in OSEC during the pandemic.

OSEC RESEARCH

The research will employ a descriptive mixed-method design, including quantitative data using standardized instruments to assess the survivors and semi-structured interview for a phenomenological perspective of the families and care providers. It will provide a holistic overview of the determinants of OSEC and COVID-19. Specifically, the study will involve the following objectives:

- Mental health profile of OSEC survivors exposed during the pandemic to the demands of family situation, internalizing, and externalizing symptoms.
- Effect of various conditions when these individuals are exposed to the demands of family situation and symptom later.
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- Family dynamics and driving factors among families who engaged in OSEC during the pandemic.

PHILIPPINES

The research and response to online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) amidst COVID-19 in the Philippines.