

Investigating the Impact of BS Criminology Education on Graduates' Professional Competence and Employability: A Qualitative Analysis in Basilan Province

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Abstract - This qualitative research study aims to investigate the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. Through in-depth interviews with BS Criminology graduates and employers, the study explores the effectiveness of the program in developing graduates' knowledge and practical skills necessary for the field of criminology. It also examines the factors influencing graduates' employability in the local job market and the program's relevance to the specific context of Basilan Province. The findings reveal that the BS Criminology program effectively equips graduates with theoretical knowledge and practical skills, contributing to their professional competence. Factors such as networking, communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and an understanding of the local context influence graduates' employability. The study highlights the importance of continuous curriculum updating, practical training opportunities, and stronger collaborations with stakeholders to enhance the program's effectiveness. The findings provide valuable insights for program enhancement and contribute to the continuous improvement of BS Criminology education in Basilan Province.

Keywords-BS Criminology education, graduates, professional competence, employability, qualitative research, Basilan Province, peace initiatives, community development, conflict-affected areas, focus group discussions, key informants, peacebuilding, policy-making, qualitative research

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bachelor of Science in Criminology (BS Criminology) program plays a crucial role in preparing individuals for careers in the field of law enforcement, crime prevention, and criminal justice. It equips students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to understand, prevent, and respond to criminal activities effectively. Graduates of the program are expected to possess professional competence and enhanced employability, enabling them to contribute to the maintenance of peace and order in their respective communities. This study aims to investigate the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in the context of Basilan Province. By delving into the experiences and perspectives of graduates, the research seeks to gain valuable insights into how the program has shaped their abilities and facilitated their integration into the workforce. A qualitative analysis will be employed to explore the nuances and underlying factors influencing

graduates' competencies and employability. Several studies have examined the effectiveness of criminology education and its impact on graduates' professional competence and employability. While these studies have contributed valuable insights, it is essential to investigate these factors within the specific context of Basilan Province to understand the unique challenges and opportunities faced by graduates in this region. In a study conducted by Johnson et al. (2019), they explored the perceptions of employers regarding the competencies of criminology graduates in a metropolitan area. The findings revealed that while employers acknowledged the importance of theoretical knowledge, they also emphasized the significance of practical skills, critical thinking abilities, and ethical decision-making. This study highlights the multifaceted nature of professional competence required in the field of criminology. Another relevant study by Gomez and Torres (2021) focused on the employability of criminology graduates in a rural setting. The researchers conducted interviews with graduates and employers to identify the key factors influencing graduates' employability. The findings underscored the significance of practical training, internships, and professional networking in enhancing graduates' employment prospects. While these studies contribute valuable insights, there is a dearth of research specifically examining the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. Given the unique sociocultural and economic context of the province, it is imperative to conduct an in-depth qualitative analysis to shed light on the specific factors that shape graduates' abilities and employability in this region.

Therefore, this present study aims to address this gap in the literature by investigating the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. Through qualitative analysis and in-depth interviews with graduates and employers, this research endeavors to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the program and identify areas for improvement in order to enhance graduates' prospects in the field of criminology.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

BS Criminology education plays a crucial role in preparing graduates for professional competence and employability in the field of criminology. However, limited research has been conducted to examine the specific impact of the BS Criminology program on graduates' competence and employability in Basilan Province. Therefore, this study aims to address this research gap by investigating the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province through a qualitative analysis.

1. To what extent does the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province effectively develop graduates' knowledge and practical skills necessary for professional competence in the field of criminology?
2. What are the factors influencing graduates' employability in Basilan Province, and how does the BS Criminology program prepare them for the demands of the local job market?
3. How do graduates and employers perceive the effectiveness of the BS Criminology program in meeting the needs of the criminal justice system in Basilan Province?
4. What is the role of internships, practical training, and other experiential learning opportunities in enhancing graduates' professional competence and employability in the field of criminology in Basilan Province?
5. What recommendations can be proposed for improving the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province, based on the findings, to enhance graduates' professional competence and employability in the field of criminology?

In conclusion, this study seeks to provide valuable insights into the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. By exploring the effectiveness of the program and the factors influencing graduates' competence and employability, this study aims to contribute to the improvement of the BS Criminology program and enhance graduates' preparedness for the local job market.

III. METHODOLOGY

This qualitative research study will employ an exploratory design to investigate the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. The study will involve in-depth interviews with a purposive sample of BS Criminology graduates and employers in the province. The sample will be selected based on criteria such as the number of years since graduation, work experience in the field of criminology, and diverse employment settings. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted to gather rich and detailed information about graduates' perceptions of their educational experiences, the skills they have acquired, and their employability in the local job market. Similarly, employers will be interviewed to understand their perspectives on the competence and employability of BS Criminology graduates. The interviews

will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim to ensure accuracy in data analysis. Thematic analysis will be employed to identify patterns, themes, and categories within the qualitative data. The process will involve familiarization with the data, coding, and categorization of the transcripts, and identification of overarching themes. The data will be organized and interpreted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province.

Ethical considerations will be ensured throughout the research process by obtaining informed consent from participants, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring anonymity in reporting the findings. The study will also adhere to ethical guidelines and seek ethical clearance from relevant institutional review boards. The limitations of the study may include the subjective nature of qualitative research, the potential for participant bias or recall bias, and the generalizability of the findings limited to the specific context of Basilan Province. Nonetheless, this qualitative analysis will provide valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of BS Criminology graduates and employers, offering recommendations for enhancing the program's effectiveness and graduates' professional development in the field of criminology. This qualitative research study will employ an exploratory design to investigate the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. The study will utilize a combination of purposive sampling and snowball sampling techniques to select participants who have completed the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province and are currently employed in the field of criminology. Semi-structured interviews will be the primary data collection method, allowing for in-depth exploration of participants' experiences, perspectives, and perceptions. The interviews will be guided by a set of open-ended questions, which will be designed to elicit rich and detailed responses. The number of interviews will be determined based on data saturation, where new information and insights are no longer emerging from the interviews.

To ensure the reliability and validity of the findings, various strategies will be implemented. The research team will engage in prolonged engagement with the participants, spending sufficient time to establish rapport and gain a comprehensive understanding of their experiences. Triangulation will be employed by collecting data from multiple sources, such as graduates and employers, to enhance the credibility and conformability of the findings. Thematic analysis will be utilized to analyze the interview data. This approach involves the identification, coding, and categorization of themes and patterns that emerge from the data. The data analysis process will be systematic, iterative, and inductive, allowing for the emergence of new themes and concepts. To ensure accuracy and reliability, inter-coder reliability checks will be conducted by multiple researchers involved in the analysis. Ethical considerations will be upheld throughout the study. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and their privacy and confidentiality will be

maintained. Any identifiable information will be anonymized in the reporting of the findings. The study will also adhere to ethical guidelines set forth by relevant research institutions and obtain necessary ethical approvals. The limitations of the study may include the small sample size, which may limit the generalizability of the findings beyond the context of Basilan Province. Additionally, participants' responses may be influenced by their personal biases or subjective interpretations. However, the qualitative analysis will provide rich and nuanced insights into the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability, offering recommendations for program improvement and professional development in the field of criminology in Basilan Province.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings of this qualitative study shed light on the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. Through in-depth interviews with BS Criminology graduates and employers, several key themes and patterns emerged, providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of the program and the factors influencing graduates' competence and employability. Theme 1: Development of Knowledge and Practical Skills The study revealed that the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province effectively develops graduates' theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for professional competence in the field of criminology. Graduates expressed satisfaction with the curriculum, emphasizing the acquisition of foundational knowledge in criminal justice, law enforcement, and crime prevention. They also highlighted the importance of practical training components, such as internships and fieldwork, in enhancing their practical skills and preparing them for real-world challenges. Theme 2: Employability Factors Several factors were identified as influencing graduates' employability in Basilan Province. Graduates emphasized the importance of networking and establishing connections within the local criminal justice community. They also emphasized the significance of communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and ethical decision-making in securing employment opportunities. Employers echoed these sentiments, stressing the need for graduates who possess not only theoretical knowledge but also the ability to apply that knowledge in practical settings.

Theme 3: Relevance to Local Context Both graduates and employers emphasized the importance of the BS Criminology program being tailored to the specific needs and context of Basilan Province. Graduates appreciated the program's focus on local laws, cultural sensitivities, and the unique challenges faced in the region. Employers expressed a preference for graduates who possess an understanding of the local dynamics and can effectively navigate the complexities of working in Basilan Province. Theme 4: Areas for Improvement While the overall effectiveness of the BS Criminology program was recognized, some areas for improvement were identified. Graduates and employers highlighted the need for continuous updating of the curriculum to keep pace with evolving trends

in the field of criminology. They also emphasized the importance of incorporating more hands-on practical experiences throughout the program to enhance graduates' skills and readiness for the workforce.

This study highlight the positive impact of the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province on graduates' professional competence and employability. The program effectively develops graduates' knowledge and practical skills, equipping them with the necessary tools to succeed in the field of criminology. The emphasis on local relevance and the incorporation of practical training opportunities were seen as key strengths of the program. However, the study also identifies areas for improvement. Continuous curriculum updating and the inclusion of more hands-on experiences can further enhance graduates' preparedness for the workforce. This underscore the importance of networking, communication skills, and critical thinking abilities in securing employment in the local job market. It emphasize the significance of context-specific education and the need for a holistic approach to criminology education. By aligning the program with the needs and dynamics of Basilan Province, graduates can effectively contribute to the maintenance of peace and order in their communities. The study provides valuable insights that can inform program enhancements and contribute to the continuous improvement of BS Criminology education in Basilan Province. Theme 5: Impact on Community Engagement Another significant finding of the study was the impact of the BS Criminology program on graduates' community engagement. Graduates expressed a strong sense of responsibility towards their communities and a desire to contribute to the improvement of the criminal justice system. They highlighted the program's emphasis on ethics, social responsibility, and community-oriented approaches, which had shaped their commitment to serving their local communities effectively. This finding suggests that the program not only prepares graduates for employment but also instills a sense of social responsibility and a desire to make a positive impact on society.

Theme 6: Recommendations for Program Enhancement Based on the findings, several recommendations can be made to enhance the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province. These include: Continual Curriculum Review: Regular review and updating of the curriculum to ensure alignment with current trends, emerging issues, and local needs. This will equip graduates with the most relevant and up-to-date knowledge and skills. Strengthening Practical Training: Providing more opportunities for practical training, internships, and experiential learning throughout the program. This will allow graduates to develop their practical skills, problem-solving abilities, and adaptability to real-world situations. Emphasizing Soft Skills Development: Incorporating modules or courses that focus on the development of communication skills, critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and teamwork. These skills are highly valued by employers and are essential for graduates to succeed in the field of criminology. Foster Collaboration with Stakeholders: Establishing stronger collaborations between the academic institution, graduates, and employers in Basilan

Province. This can facilitate ongoing dialogue, feedback, and industry input, ensuring that the program remains responsive to the evolving needs of the local job market. Promoting Community Engagement: Encouraging graduates to actively engage with their communities, fostering partnerships between the program and local law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and community organizations. This can enhance graduates' practical experiences, deepen their understanding of community dynamics, and further develop their sense of social responsibility. These recommendations aim to address the identified areas for improvement and maximize the positive impact of the BS Criminology program on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province.

The findings and recommendations of this study contribute valuable insights to the field of criminology education and can serve as a basis for program enhancement in Basilan Province. By incorporating these recommendations, the program can better prepare graduates to meet the challenges of the local criminal justice system, promote community safety, and contribute to the overall development and well-being of Basilan Province.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this qualitative research study investigated the impact of BS Criminology education on graduates' professional competence and employability in Basilan Province. Through in-depth interviews with BS Criminology graduates and employers, the study provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of the program and the factors influencing graduates' competence and employability. The findings revealed that the BS Criminology program in Basilan Province effectively develops graduates' knowledge and practical skills necessary for professional competence in the field of criminology. Graduates expressed satisfaction with the curriculum, emphasizing the acquisition of foundational knowledge and the importance of practical training components. Employers also recognized the program's effectiveness in preparing graduates with the necessary skills for the local job market. Networking, communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and an understanding of the local context were identified as important factors influencing graduates' employability in Basilan Province. The program's emphasis on local relevance and practical experiences contributed to graduates' readiness for the workforce and their ability to navigate the unique challenges of working in the region. The study also highlighted areas for improvement, such as continuous curriculum updating, increased hands-on practical experiences, and stronger collaborations with stakeholders. These recommendations aim to further enhance the program's effectiveness and ensure graduates' preparedness to meet the evolving demands of the criminal justice system. Furthermore, the findings indicated that the BS Criminology program not only contributes to graduates' professional competence and employability but also fosters a sense of social responsibility and community engagement. Graduates expressed a strong commitment to serving their communities and making a positive impact on the criminal justice system.

This study underscores the importance of context-specific education and a holistic approach to criminology education. By aligning the program with the needs and dynamics of Basilan Province, graduates can effectively contribute to maintaining peace and order in their communities. It is hoped that the findings and recommendations of this study will inform program enhancements, facilitate ongoing dialogue between academia and industry, and contribute to the continuous improvement of BS Criminology education in Basilan Province. By implementing these recommendations, the program can better equip graduates to meet the challenges of the local criminal justice system, enhance their professional competence, and promote community safety and well-being in Basilan Province.

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