

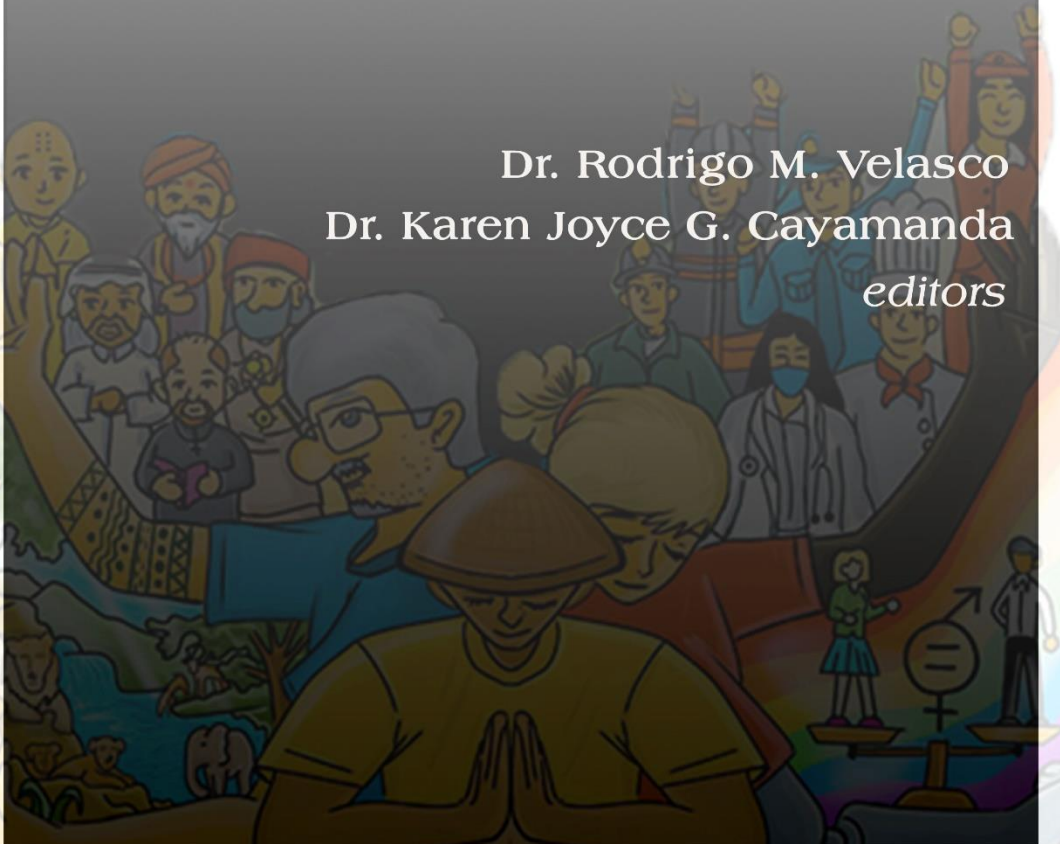
# The WORLD

## in Different PERSPECTIVES: Rebuilding Lessons after a Crisis

Dr. Rodrigo M. Velasco

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*editors*



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# Preface

The world is in chaos. The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic created the havoc that all parts of the globe had to deal with. In addition, there are still other personal and social crises that everyone endures.

Rebuilding Lessons after a Crisis attempts to present the whys, whats and hows of humanity's risk perception across the world as we embark on this challenging journey and help define the most appropriate and most effective risk-related behaviors for survival.

The current pandemic has brought about the abrupt shift in all sectors of the society in different parts of the world. It has resulted to immediate adjustments and development of coping mechanisms to transcend beyond the challenges of this pandemic. Like any other crisis, the current situation taught us to reflect and manage its overwhelming effects.

This book compiles articles that reflect the different perspectives in varied concerns such as health, economy, education, and social transformations. Its impact to the physical, emotional, psychological and financial conditions of humanity across the world are also presented.

Part I as the opening chapter attempts to describe the situation in terms of how a crisis has been evaluated in different lenses as to the risk perception and the risk related behaviors as to how various sectors have adapted to the situation.

Part II describes the varied effects of the pandemic and the adjustments and coping responses manifested by the different sectors.

Part III offers the strategic actions and coping mechanisms that can help recover and sustain ways of life in these challenging times.

## About the editors

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# **The Effects of Extrajudicial Killings on the Socialization and Self-acceptance of Victim's Families**

*Jherwin P. Hermosa*

## **Introduction**

When President Duterte assumed to power on 2016, he immediately started the so called “*war on drugs*” envisioned to halt the long time problems of the Philippines on illegal drugs. He tasked primarily the Philippine National Police to lead this war with their so called “*Oplan Tokhang*” in going after illegal drugs activities and personnel. Unfortunately the *Oplan Tokhang* is allegedly used or abused by policemen for their personal interests or some sort of vendetta against their enemies which resulted to the problems of EJK (Franco, 2016; Johnson & Fernquest, 2018). In the Philippines, the term “extrajudicial killings” does not have a clear definition. Baldwin (2016) in *Secretary v. Manalo*, the Supreme Court, citing the rule on the writ of Amparo, opined that extralegal killings are “*killings committed without due process of law, i.e., without legal safeguards or judicial proceedings*” (Arceo, 2016).

In 2016, President Duterte released the so called “Narco-Lists” naming active and retired politicians and police officials who were allegedly involved in the drug trade. One of the listed personalities was the ex-mayor of the San Pablo City, Laguna whose family members allegedly involved in illegal drugs either as users or dealers (Escuta, 2017). The unending battle seemingly started resulting to the loss of lives of the suspected drug users, dealers and drug lords without any due process of law. The ironic reality about the story was that most of the killed were the poor, the ordinary people, and the powerless leaving their families with this remarks “*Nanlaban kasi eh, kaya napatay!*” (Reyes, 2016; Barera, 2019; Fernquest, 2018; Amnesty International, 2019). The turn of events can disturb human behaviour and might affect the expression of feelings and thoughts, socialization and self-acceptance that eventually could

lead to fear, discomfort and anxiety. Some issues in the community like EJK might result to disorganized and chaotic society (Houle & Kenny, 2018).

Taking the premise of democracy and psychosocial development, this study dwells into the effects on the immediate family members who experienced the tragic loss of loved ones lives due to EJK. In a report by Boghani (2019), the left behind families suffered deep trauma resulting to children's withdrawal from school and others work menial jobs. Similarly, the reports of Human Rights Watch (2020) emphasized on the psychological distress suffered by family members after witnessing the killing of a loved one. Children had to leave the community, hide and relocate due to fear while some children experienced bullying due to stigma. In this context, the current study aims to assess the effects on the socialization and self-acceptance of the left-behind families of EJK victims in a specific community. The results of the study could be fundamental in understanding the extent of effects of these variables to other people and the society at large.

## **Literature review**

### ***Theoretical Framework and Study Variables***

The current study variables are closely related to the Social Influence Theory proposed by Kelman in 1958 which explains the influence of the society in the individual's attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. As cited by Estrada et al. (2011), the three central elements of the theory are compliance (accept influence), identification (adopt induced behaviour) and internalization (accept influence). In this study, the three elements are considered central to the behavioural change of the individuals left behind by victims of the EJK. It underscores the perception of the person on the issue of EJK (compliance) that made him/her change the attitude towards the other person (identification) and towards himself (internalization). As such, the compliance element was assessed through the approval or disapproval of EJK, the identification was evaluated through socialization and internalization through self-acceptance, self-control and optimism.

**Socialization.** According to Christiansen (2008), socialization is one of the most important environmental factors during childhood development which taught children how to act. It refers to the period of childhood development when children learn the rules and values of their society. This hypothesizes that initially children learn to merely obey the rules of their society. Certain actions are repeated because of directly correlated consequences. In addition, Weidl (2012) reiterates that socialization is the development of culture within a person, teaching him or her values, norms and roles. This also creates self-awareness as individuals interact with others making socialization a life-long process (Brym, Lie & Rytina, 2010). Deviance, by contrast, is an aversion from the common values, and norms of one's own culture. A crime is when one deviates from a norm that is considered a law, and enforced by government bodies (Brym, Lie & Rytina, 2010). All three of these have a large effect on the society.

In the past decades, a number of studies have focused on issues related to personal safety in the community (Crawford et al., 2008). However, there are still gaps in the literature since the field of personal safety is still growing in various countries. In addition, individual perception often measures belief or opinion not influence on the behaviour. The subject of personal safety falls within the social geography (Chekwa, et al., 2013) which justifies the current study locale. There are several studies conducted related to environmental danger, risk, or threat of harm, injury, or loss to personnel and/or property, whether caused deliberately or by accident (Brown & Andy 2007). Individuals are threatened by societal behaviour as victims, perpetrators, or both (Flannery & Quinn-Leering, 2010) requiring preventive measures (Fischman & Foster, 2007). The incidence of environmental safety generally associates with greater perceptions of fear (Loukaitou-Sideris & Fink, 2009; Johnson, 2009; Burton & Leoschut, 2013).

**Self-Acceptance.** Self-acceptance, a dimension of Ryff's (1995) psychological well-being model, means having a positive attitude, good of bad qualities, toward the self and positive feelings about the past. According to Saleem and Saleem (2017),

it refers to the individual's satisfaction about himself/herself. As considered necessary for good mental health, it requires a realistic and subjective awareness of one's own strengths and weaknesses. It demonstrates the individual's 'unique value.' Ultimately, an individual needs to achieve unconditional self-acceptance, accepting self without concerning about others love, respect, and approval (Hill, et.al. 2008).

Baroni et al. (2016) emphasize the importance of being aware of the individual potential and making this potential functional to reach self-fulfilment. In this sense, human empowerment is important. The purpose in life is having goals and outlook that gives its meaning. Thus, personal growth, a close concept to self-actualization, helps realize a person's potential (Altunbas, 2014). The individual characteristics along with psychological well-being develop the individual potential. In this context, this study presupposes that the participants have positive relations with the society, in general. Positive relations include well and trusting relationships with others, empathy, love, and trust.

***Self-Control.*** Good self-control has been related to many positive outcomes related to health, success, wellbeing, and crime avoidance (Stock, & Baumeister, 2012; Duckworth, Quinn, & Tsukayama, 2012). Policy-makers have considered large-scale programs aimed at improving self-control with the hope of improving the health and wealth of the citizenry and reducing crime (Moffitt et al., 2011). The trait of self-control is found in a plethora of research studies, predominately in the field of psychology. Although self-control is considered an important trait, no single accepted definition or name is used consistently. Self-control has been referred to as self-regulation, self-discipline, and willpower, among other names (Duckworth & Kern, 2011). Duckworth, et.al. (2012) acknowledged the confusion between the meaning of self-control and self-regulation and differentiate them as "self-control" being a personality trait that voluntarily regulates impulses to meet long-term goals and "self-regulation" being metacognitive strategies that help in meeting personal goals. Storch (2015) succinctly sets self-control and self-regulation apart by saying "*self-control*

*helps you meet small challenges, but to change your life significantly you'll need self-regulation."*

**Optimism.** Abdel Khaleq & El Nayal (2015) defined optimism as *"the positive view, loving life and belief in the possibility of good occurrences, or the good aspect of things, rather than the bad aspect."* In addition, Abdel Khaleq (2010) defines optimism as rejoicing view of the future making the person expects better, anticipates occurrence of goodness, and looks forward for success. Accordingly, it holds generalized favourable expectancies for the future (Carver et al., 2010). Optimism concentrates in the general expectation that good or positive things will happen. Thus, optimists are individuals with a tendency to have positive expectations about the world in general, whereas pessimists tend to anticipate negative outcomes in their lives (Carver et al., 2010). On the other hand, pessimism is a negative anticipation of the events to come, making the person expects worst things to happen, and anticipates badness, failure and disappointment.

### **Methodology**

A descriptive correlational method was used to find out the relation between the self-acceptance and socialization of the selected participants. The method was used because the research aims to correlate the relationship between the variables.

The participants were 60 selected residents who are related (relative, friend or neighbor) to the victims of EJK in the three barangays namely Barangay San Juan, Barangay Guadalupe and Barangay Del Remedio, San Pablo City, with age 18 years old and above. The participants were purposively chosen who agreed to answer the research questionnaire. The respondents were mostly 18-25 years old (45%), female (51.67%), single (53.33%), high school graduate (41.67%) and employed (75%). These were mostly relatives of the victims.

The study used a self-made questionnaire with three portions:

**Personal Information.** This includes the basic information about the respondents, which include the age, gender, civil



status, educational attainment, occupation, family monthly income and relationship to the victim.

**Questionnaire on Self-Acceptance.** This was divided into three categories which are optimism, emotional stability and self-control. Each category has 10 questions that aimed to answer the perceived level of self-acceptance of the respondents.

**Questionnaire on Socialization.** This was divided into two categories which are the family safety and concern and safety of the community. Each category has 10 questions that aimed to answer the perceived socialization of the respondents.

The data collection was personally administered for confidentiality and security. The study secured the participants' consent at the beginning of the survey. The study objectives were clearly discussed to give the participants enough time to comprehend the critical nature of the study. The study treated the data gathered with utmost confidentiality in order to protect the identity of the participants.

The frequency, mean, percentage were used for the non-inferential statistical treatments whereas Pearson r was used to correlate the independent and dependent variables.

## Findings and Discussion

**Table 1**

*The Respondents' Factors for Socialization*

Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
Personal/Family Safety	1.69	0.873	L
Community Safety	2.11	0.932	M
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>0.902</b>	<b>A</b>

*Legend: 4.0-3.26 High; 3.25-2.51 Moderate; 2.50-1.76 Average; 1.75-1.0 Low*

Table 1 shows the respondents' perception on the different factors for socialization. It is evident that the level of

socialization in terms of family safety has an overall mean of 1.69 which is verbally interpreted as “low.” It means that the respondents’ socialization is very limited due to the heavy effects of the situation. The Filipinos are well-known for being socially and family-oriented people. Most often than not, the strength comes from family members and loved ones due to strong ties enabling support system in times of challenges. The results clearly indicate that the fearful experience created stigma and long lasting trauma that limited their way of socialization (Almendral, 2017). Meanwhile, safe community has been perceived as “moderate” with an overall mean of 2.11. Although higher than expected, the general impression of the respondents towards other people still is indifferent. There are still prohibitions as to the actions towards other people and the society, in general. The respondents still feel the need to be secured towards their community actions.

The overall general perception on the factors of socialization has an overall mean of 1.90 which is verbally interpreted as “average.” The assessment clearly showed the negative consequences of the EJK on the left behind families. As narrated by Demick (2016), that many suffer psychological distress after witnessing the killing of a loved one. Some of these respondents also had to leave their homes and community, either to hide or relocate because of fear. Similarly, some experienced bullying because of the stigma of alleged drug use by a now deceased parent.

**Table 2**

*The Respondents’ Level of Self-Acceptance*

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>VI</b>
Optimism	1.91	0.934	M
Emotional stability	1.90	0.967	M
Self-Control	2.13	0.924	M
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>0.941</b>	<b>M</b>

*Legend: 4.0-3.26 High, 3.25-2.51 Moderate, 2.50-1.76 Average, 1.75-1.0 Low*

Table 2 shows the respondents’ level of self-acceptance. The mean of 1.91 reflects the moderate level of self-acceptance as to

optimism. There was moderate level also in the emotional stability with a mean of 1.90 and with 2.13 mean reflects the moderate level of self-control of the respondents. Summing this up, the overall level of self-acceptance of the respondents was “moderate” with mean of 1.98. This implies that EJK affects the self-acceptance of an individual, particularly those who are relatives and family members of the victims. Most of them feel judged and secluded with a tagged negative stereotyping. Due to the stigma tied to DRKs, neighbours’ and relatives are also afraid to associate with bereaved families and are unable to condole at the wakes. This also leads to weaker support systems for affected families. Some respondents noted that some informant ‘assets’ and assassins are also members of the community, eroding trust among neighbours. As shared experience, Pangilinan, et al. (2017) identified one orphaned grandchild of a respondent is saving up money to buy a gun so that he can avenge his father’s death.

**Table 3**

*Test of Correlation between the Profile of the Respondents and Socialization*

Profile of the Respondent	Test-statistic	Tabular value	Value of tc	r-value	Decision	Interpretation
Age	R	2.00	0.187	0.024	Accept Ho	NS
Gender	R	2.00	0.499	0.065	Accept Ho	NS
Civil status	R	2.00	0.761	0.099	Accept Ho	NS
Educational attainment	R	2.00	0.687	0.90	Accept Ho	NS
Occupation	R	2.00	0.557	0.073	Accept Ho	NS
Family Monthly Income	R	2.00	1.313	0.170	Accept Ho	NS
Relationship to the Victim	R	2.00	1.450	0.187	Accept Ho	NS

Table 3 shows the test of correlation between the respondents' profile and the factors of socialization. It can be implied that the age, gender, civil status, educational attainment, occupation, monthly income and relationship to the victim were not statistical factors affecting socialization of the respondents. This infers that the demographic profile of the respondents have no statistical implication on the various factors considered for socialization. Thus, the situation must be assessed on a case by case basis.

**Table 4**

*Relationship between Profile of the Respondents and Self-Acceptance*

<b>Profile of the respondent</b>	<b>Test-statistic</b>	<b>Tabular value</b>	<b>Value of tc</b>	<b>r-value</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Age	r	2.00	0.449	0.065	Accept Ho	NS
Gender	r	2.00	0.678	0.089	Accept Ho	NS
Civil status	r	2.00	0.201	0.026	Accept Ho	NS
Educational attainment	r	2.00	2.545	0.317	Reject Ho	S
Occupation	r	2.00	0.790	0.103	Accept Ho	NS
Family Monthly Income	r	2.00	0.418	0.055	Accept Ho	NS
Relationship to the Victim	r	2.00	1.620	0.208	Accept Ho	NS

Table 4 presents the test of correlation between the profile of the respondents and the level of self-acceptance. Noticeable that all the variables under profile were not significant to the self-acceptance of the respondents except for educational attainment. Willis (2011) claimed that the higher education of an individual, the higher the level of emotion. Being exposed and aware of the different circumstances in the environment, the educational level reflects the level of critical thinking and analysis. The level of education opens the socio-cognitive skills of an individual to respond to the different social situations. Similarly, the educational attainment in the Philippines is tantamount to higher

social expectations in terms of emotional stability which also affects the self-acceptance.

**Table 5**  
*Relationship between Socialization and Self-acceptance*

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Test statisti c</b>	<b>Tabular Value</b>	<b>Value of tc</b>	<b>r- valu e</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Interpretatio n</b>
Socialization and Self-Acceptance	R	2.00	2.208	0.507	Reject Ho	S

Table 5 shows a positive relationship between socialization and self-acceptance. The results signify that as socialization increases the level of self-acceptance also increase. Relatively, when the socialization of the respondents is poor then the level of their self-acceptance drops. As Grusec (2011) clearly states that “*the ability of a person to maximize the potential skill was brought out with socialization and with this the emotion that arises emphasizes the severity and degree regarding to the norm of a certain community.*” Similarly, the self-acceptance can be measured through the degree of socialization of an individual per se. It infers that the psychological domain of a person has a strong impact on the way he/she socializes and views the society.

The findings of the study suggest that the left behind families have high involvement, whether emotional or social, with the EJK victims’ unbearable fate. This explains the Filipinos high regard for family, family ties and strong family bond. Generally, the results imply a rather clear effect on the socialization and self-acceptance of the respondents. Whether low level or high level, the family’s involvement in the tragic experiences brought trauma and fear (Reyes, 2015) affecting how to socialize and reject the dictates of the society. However, this raises questions on the family’s life after the victims’ death. Rebuilding a family after a tragic event is not easy which Carandang, (1987) as cited

in Puente (2000) coined the term *mananalo* (helper) to describe this phenomenon in Filipino family dynamic.

## Conclusion

The study examined the EJK victims' left behind families to determine the effect of the tragic event on the socialization and self-acceptance. The results showed no significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and the factors for socialization while there was significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and the self-acceptance. As to the socialization, the respondents' perceived personal safety and community safety as generally "average". Meanwhile, the self-acceptance in terms of optimism, emotional stability and self-control, are generally assessed as "moderate." It was further revealed that there was a significant relationship between socialization and self-acceptance of the respondents.

The results of the study serve as fundamental to the complete understanding of the effects of a difficult situation. Although it is easier said than done, respondents should have the strength to face any problems with optimism. Strong family support system is needed in order to overcome this difficulty.

For the Local Government Unit, this study may serve as a vantage point in their better response and approach to assist the EJK victims' family members. The priority must be establishing a program to address the psychological needs. Further studies may be conducted using validated and expanded questionnaire to include other variables not considered in this study. A mixed method may also be considered for triangulation and validation of the results.

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