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The Tragic Leap of Flames: Fire Victim Survivors

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Criminological Research II (Thesis Writing and Presentation)

Presented By:

Krystal Ruth Domalanta Asuncion

Gerwin Dan Paleracio Batuac

Ivy Dianne Agustin Cabansag

Erick Joshua Andres Calma

Aeron Joshua Bagcal Dumayas

Roland Joy U. Guanzon

Johncent Dumlao Guillermo

Jimmy Batac Pablo Jr.

MARCH 2025

JohnLloyd Padayaw Pastor
Crimson Agag Tarnate
Raeven Kay Bolusan Valiente

ABSTRACT

The research study discovered the lived experiences of Fire Victim Survivors (FVS), specifically focusing on the causes of the physical injuries they incurred, the safety measures they undertook during the fire incident, the struggles they faced, the assistance they received, and their realizations following the event. Utilizing qualitative research through a phenomenological approach, the study involved four participants from Laoag City and the City of Batac, Ilocos Norte. Data-gathering tools included an approved and verified interview guide, recording devices, and interviews, with narrative analysis employed to interpret the findings.

The results highlighted the physical injuries sustained by the survivors, such as amputated feet and varying degrees of burns. The study revealed participants' lack of knowledge regarding safety measures. It emphasized the struggles they encountered in adjusting to their new life circumstances after the fire incidents. Ultimately, the survivors realized the importance of being responsible and cautious to prevent future fire incidents.

The study concluded that the FVS faced numerous challenges linked to the fire incidents underscoring the need for vigilance and caution, lack of knowledge during fire emergencies, the support received from government entities and relatives, and the realizations that prompted them to adopt a more careful approach to safety.

Recommendations emphasized the importance of continued vigilance and caution among the survivors. It suggested that they attend seminars on fire safety measures, prepare for potential job opportunities, seek assistance from the government and their community, and maintain a careful approach to prevent future fire incidents.

Keywords: || Tragic Leap of Flames, Fire Victim Survivors, Incurred Physical Injuries, Fire Safety Measures, Struggles Faced, Assistance Received, and Realizations.

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

Introduction

Residential fires can lead to significant emotional distress in addition to possible physical injuries. It proves the idea of Tannous et al. (2023) that residential fires are devastating and potentially become the source of physical injuries. Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association in the US indicate that approximately 384, 000 residential fires in the United States in 2010 caused 13, 800 injuries which include fatal degree burns and lifetime disability. Michelle (2024) also stresses that house fires will always have a mental and physical impact on everyone involved that even firefighters need to avoid. Torklaw (2020) states that most of the impacts of fire incidents include acute lung injury due to smoke or toxic fume inhalation and external burn injuries.

Losing a home in a fire involves not only the loss of residence, but also many other things of value such as important documents, and treasured objects, and most importantly, a place of security, comfort, and safety. After a fire, this sense of security can also be lost and can significantly disrupt the normality of daily life. The American Psychological Association (2024) cites that it is common for people to experience several stages of adjustment including shock, anger, depression, and hopelessness. Ultimately, people can reach a stage of acceptance and are able to move beyond disbelief, bitterness, and sadness where positive feelings begin to re-emerge as the focus shifts towards the future.

According to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) latest reports in 2024, home fires and home fire deaths declined by about 50% since 1980. However, the 7.8 deaths per 1,000 reported home fires reflects a 10% increase over the 7.1 rate in 1980. In other words, while the number of home fires and home fire deaths has significantly declined over the past few

decades, the death rate per 1,000 reported fires is a little higher. These numbers show that while there is strong progress in preventing fires, mitigating their effects when they do happen remains a challenge.

Lockton (2024) points out that while the Philippines often faces the destructive force of typhoons, fires have also left their mark on the country's history, highlighting the critical need for proactive measures in fire prevention and safety. Every year, hundreds of Filipinos die and billions of pesos worth of properties are lost because of fires (Araral, 2023). On average per year, the Philippines had 15,733 fire incidents from 2013-2018 with 855 fire-related injuries and 253 fire-related deaths (Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, 2020). The victims had consistently reported the traumatic effects it had given them. With the incidental occupancy of fire tragedies, victims come to encounter various mental issues like traumas and unprecedented psychological disorders.

Given the severe causes of fires, the government is still providing the victims with necessities and support. The National Housing Authority (NHA) has distributed 380 thousand pesos to fire victims in Dasmariñas City in Cavite. This ensures the ultimate safety of the people who became victims of fire incidents. Provided that a residential fire is considered a calamity, an article titled Calamity Emergency Assistance Program in the Philippines (2024) informs that one of the key types of Calamity Assistance is financial aid, which includes cash grants, food vouchers, and livelihood assistance. Cash grants are given to affected individuals and families to help them meet their immediate needs and cover essential expenses.

In the province of the Ilocos Norte, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) offices have recorded fire incidents that cause victims to experience detrimental effects like severe loss of property or lifelong disabilities. In some municipalities, particularly in Marcos, Ilocos Norte as reported by the DSWD DROIMS (2024), damaged properties worth not less than 100,000.00

pesos which directly affected the lives of the victims. Other cases reported by BFP Laoag City (2024) included 43 fire incidents, particularly in houses and forests. This made the bureau to conduct inspections and timely campaigns about the possible losses of people if they had experienced fire-related incidents.

Fire victims-survivors are placed in a very tragic situation by the fire. It can lead to emotional, psychological, and social difficulties in addition to physical wounds and trauma they frequently experience which include physical injuries, psychological trauma such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and significant losses of belongings. Shocking fire events challenged the essence of various environmental considerations focusing more on livelihoods and other properties.

It is in this context that this research was undertaken to discover the experiences of fire victims specifically the incurred physical injuries, undertaken safety measures, struggles, received assistance, and realizations.

Background of the Study

Elizabeth (2018) posits that the world is facing numerous challenges, both natural and man-made, prompting individuals to either escape or confront these adversities. It is noted that many of the world's crises are exacerbated by human activities and a lack of awareness regarding the potential consequences. The Cable News Network (2020) reported on fire-related incidents that depicted individuals as hopelessly burdened, highlighting the emotional and psychological trauma that often accompanies such events. Many victims suffer significant losses, including family members, homes, and their own lives, while others endure severe injuries such as first or second-degree burns. Fire survivors frequently face long recovery periods, and these challenges create a new normal that can lead to psychological distress and other issues (Itchy, 2022). Sneider (2014) further explains that survivors experience both

emotional and physical trauma, resulting in impairments related to occupational, psychological, and overall quality of life.

Research indicates a consensus among studies focusing on various groups affected by disasters, affirming that such events significantly impact mental health. The effects can range from short-term to long-term, influenced by the nature of the event, the type of victim, and individual emotional vulnerability (Loo et al., 2016). Specifically, fire disasters are associated with negative consequences for the mental and physical health of not only the victims but also their families and both professional and voluntary responders. While the psychological effects on victims may diminish over time, long-term follow-up studies spanning 20 years or more indicate that these effects can persist, albeit at a reduced level compared to controls.

In the Philippines, a tropical country characterized by frequent fire incidents (Medina, 2017), the risk is particularly high. In urban areas like Manila, where homes are built in close proximity, fire can spread rapidly, often leading to devastating outcomes. The province of Ilocos Norte consistently records fire incidents as a leading cause of life-threatening situations and property loss. Despite documented causes, many incidents remain unprecedented and unaccounted for, with a significant number of individuals still unaware of the potential risks. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) offices in the province have compiled reports on fire incidents, detailing the reasons and consequences. For example, BFP Laoag City (2024) noted that many cases stem from electrical wiring issues and the use of candles, leading to severe injuries and even permanent paralysis. The BFP office in the City of Batac echoed these concerns, emphasizing the challenges of effective rescue operations, which reportedly have a success rate below 75%.

Given that much research on fire incidents has focused on quantitative data, this study aims to provide a qualitative analysis of the experiences of fire victim-survivors. This research represents one of the first inquiries into the tragic experiences of fire victims in the province of

Ilocos Norte. The study seeks to uncover the victims' experiences during and after fire incidents, including the physical injuries incurred, safety measures undertaken, struggles faced, assistance received, and realizations gained.

The findings of this research will not only shed light on the actions of fire victims but also highlight the importance of community engagement in reducing fire incidents through awareness and education. Furthermore, this research may encourage organizations to initiate charity work and seminars to support fire victims. Ultimately, it aims to foster a deeper understanding of fire incidents and their implications, paving the way for criminological programs that address the needs of fire victims, ensuring that their experiences are recognized and valued.



Statement of the Problem

Generally, the study aimed to discover the tragic experiences of the Fire Victim Survivors (FVS) in Ilocos Norte. Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the causes that resulted in the physical injuries incurred by the FVS?
2. What are the safety measures undertaken by the fire survivors during the incident?
3. What are the struggles that the fire survivors experienced after the incident?
4. What are the assistance received by the FVS?
5. What are the realizations of the FVS?

Theoretical Framework

The following theories were used in this study:

Post-Traumatic Growth Theory

Post-Traumatic Growth (PTG) theory, proposed by Tedeschi and Calhoun in 1995 suggests that individuals can experience positive psychological changes following a life crisis or traumatic event. PTG posits that those who are not profoundly shaken by an event, and who do not feel the need to reconstruct their belief systems, are more likely to adopt this growth. The theory indicates that individuals often need to encounter conditions that serve as eye-openers to facilitate a new psychological transformation that can ultimately be beneficial (Sutton, 2019).

This theory is particularly relevant to FVS, who often endure personal losses that leave them feeling vulnerable. Such experiences can act as triggers for PTG, allowing survivors to recognize and embrace new opportunities that contribute to their future success and well-being (Villazor, 2024).

Cognitive Theory

Cognitive theory by Piaget (1952) highlights the hidden states of individuals, asserting that a person's feelings, thoughts, and internal struggles significantly influence their observable behaviors. This theory illustrates how fire survivors navigate their circumstances, employing cognitive strategies to adapt and rebuild their lives post-trauma. It also sheds light on the behaviors developed during the fire incident that may have led to physical injuries. Cognitive theory supports victims' accounts of their struggles, emphasizing the mental processes that influence their responses to adversity (Tryon, 2014).

Humanistic Theories

Proposed by Abraham Maslow and others in the early 1900s, it suggests that an individual's personality is heavily influenced by their self-perception and identity. For the FVS,

this means that their sense of self and personality may be profoundly affected by their ability to regain safety, rebuild self-esteem, and reconnect with a sense of belonging following the traumatic experience of fire. This theory underscores the importance of self-identity in the recovery process, (Madsen, 2012).

Life Events Theory

Life Events Theory developed by Holmes and Rahe in 1967 posits that significant life events can lead to substantial changes in a person's circumstances, duties, and obligations. These key life events often serve as stressors, eliciting strong emotions and potentially resulting in short-term or long-term changes in mental health. The theory emphasizes how fire incidents can impact the psychological well-being of FVS based on their individual circumstances, past experiences, coping strategies, and motivations for continuing their lives in the aftermath of such events. It encourages FVS to reflect on the lasting effects of their experiences, recognizing that these events can lead to transformative changes, whether positive or negative, in their lives (Murphy, 2023).

Conceptual Framework

The study utilized the IPOO model, which illustrates the relationship between four major components of the conceptual framework: Input, Process, Output, and Outcome. This model effectively identifies the processing tasks required to transform inputs into outputs and their corresponding outcomes (Finn, 2021).

The input component addresses the problems being investigated, specifically focusing on the experiences of FVS. This includes various aspects such as the incurred physical injuries, undertaken safety measures, struggles faced, assistance received, and realizations gained through the experience.

The process involves the collection, interpretation, and analysis of the gathered data, employing a Qualitative Phenomenological Study design, which emphasizes the collection and analysis of non-numerical data, aiming to examine subjective perspectives through narrative analysis, a method that identifies, analyzes, and interprets patterns within qualitative data.

The output of the study is a documentary video titled, “Untold Stories of Fire Victims in Ilocos Norte: A Quest for Life,” which will be posted online. The study will also include a project named “*Yakap Alay sa Kapatid*,” designed to provide direct assistance to fire victim-survivors. The anticipated outcome of the study is to enhance fire safety awareness within the community, emphasizing the importance of understanding and addressing the needs FVS while promoting measures to prevent future incidents.



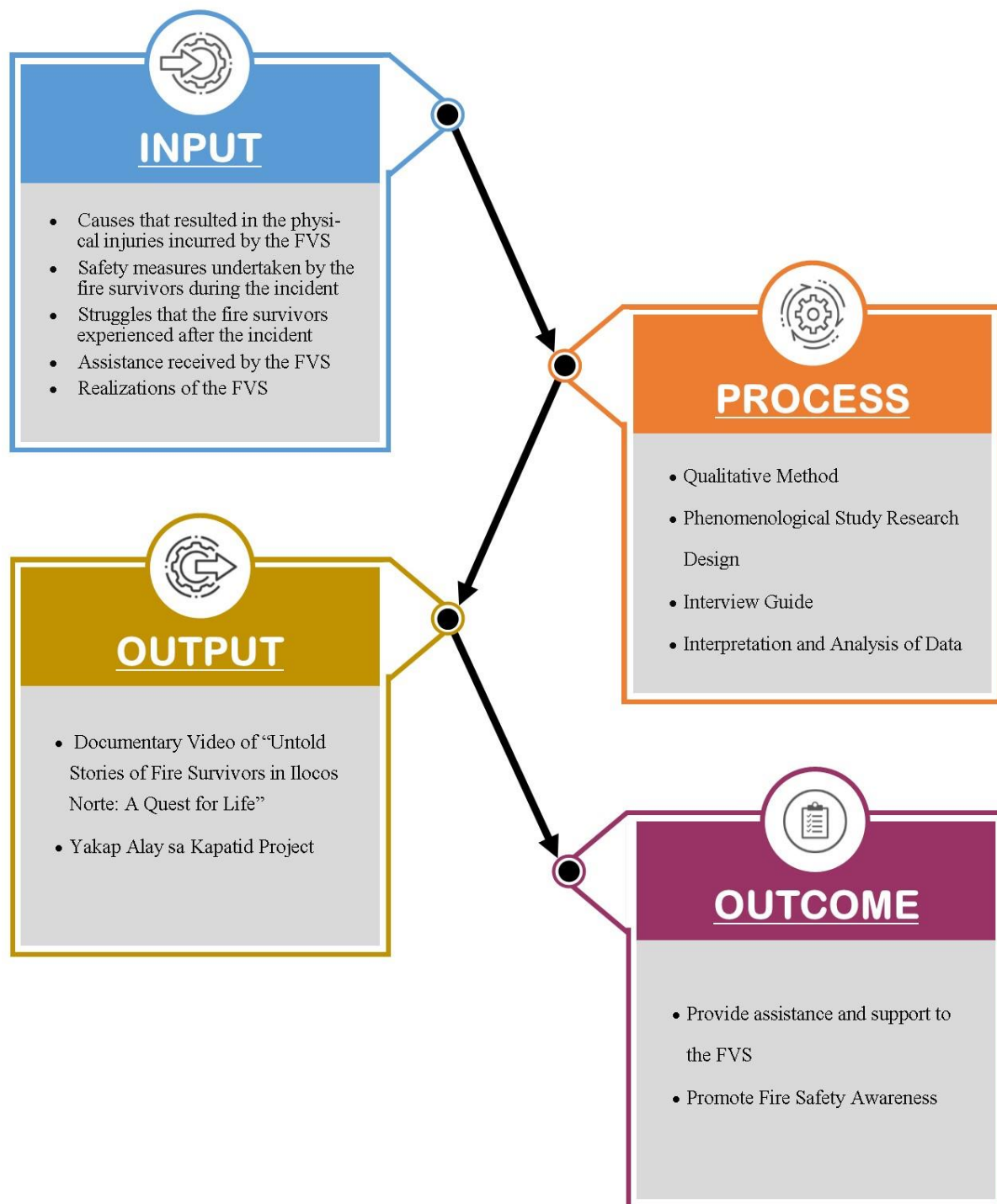


Figure 1. Paradigm of the Study.

Significance of the study

The following are the beneficiaries of the study. They are benefited based on the following:

Fire Victims. This study could enlighten the minds of fire victims and individuals who have experienced fire-related incidents. It helped them become aware of and understand how to navigate life despite the challenges brought about by such events.

Local Government Units (LGUs). The study could benefit various LGUs by addressing timely issues related to fire incidents. It could assess the needs of fire victims, enabling them to formulate necessary programs and actions to assist those affected.

Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). This study could serve as an eye-opener for the BFP, guiding them in strengthening the implementation of their programs and plans within the community. It could encourage the development of diverse approaches that address urgent needs related to fire protection, emphasizing that community issues should be prioritized beyond just fire prevention and safety.

Community. The study could challenge community members to be more vigilant and careful in their use of fire. It could increase their knowledge about the events occurring in their society, as well as potential causes and appropriate actions during fire incidents.

Academic Institution. The study could educate students and teachers within the academic community about the possible aftermaths of fire incidents. It could help them understand the effects of experiencing a fire and motivate them to take informed actions to avoid potential fire incidents.

Researchers. This study could aid researchers in identifying the experiences of fire victims and provide insights into how fire incidents impact their lives.

Future Researchers. It could provide essential information regarding the lived experiences of fire victims and serve as a valuable reference for expanding studies on this important topic.

Scope and Delimitations

The study focused on uncovering the tragic experiences of fire victim-survivors (FVS), particularly emphasizing the accounts of four participants who have sustained physical injuries and experienced damage to their homes.

This research was conducted in the Province of Ilocos Norte, specifically in Laoag City and the City of Batac. The study took place over a designated period, spanning from the second semester of the academic year 2023-2024 to the first semester of the academic year 2024-2025.

Definition of Terms

Experiences. These refer to the life events of individuals who have encountered fire incidents, detailing what they did during and after the event, as well as the struggles they faced while recovering.

Fire Victim Survivors (FVS). These refer to individuals from Laoag City and the City of Batac who have experienced fire incidents. They strive to continue their lives in the aftermath of these events, often facing significant challenges such as disability, varying degrees of burns, and amputations of arms or legs as a result of the fire.

Assistance. This encompasses the support provided by the government to the FVS, aimed at meeting their immediate needs and covering essential expenses.

Physical Injury. This refers to the physical damage sustained as a result of the fire, which can lead to severe conditions affecting the victims' lives, including their ability to earn a living due to lifetime disabilities.

Realizations. These refer to the awareness gained by the FVS, allowing them to begin anew despite the traumatic experience of the fire incident.

Safety Measures. These refer to actions taken by the FVS that enabled them to survive during the ongoing fire incident.

Struggles. These reflect the life events of fire victim-survivors that led to significant difficulties. Despite these challenges, they managed to overcome them, using their experiences as a foundation for moving forward into a new life.

Tragic Leap of Flames. This describes the traumatic and destructive effects of the fire incident on fire victim-survivors, highlighting the lasting impact of such experiences.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND STUDIES

This chapter presents relevant and related literature studies that have been considered by the researchers to strengthen the significance of conducting this study.

Fire Codes of the Philippines

The Fire Code of the Philippines: Signed by President Arroyo in 2008, known as RA 9514, this code aims to raise national awareness and include everyone in fire prevention and suppression efforts to reduce fire losses. It emphasizes that fire prevention and safety must receive equal, if not greater, emphasis than fire suppression and extinguishment.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) provide the framework that guides the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) in enforcing laws to maintain public safety and promote economic development by preventing and suppressing all types of damaging fires. The objectives of the IRR include preventing fire-related injuries, deaths, and property losses that have reached concerning levels, undermining society's economic and social benefits. It promotes awareness and includes everyone in fire prevention and suppression, adopts universal fire safety standards, ensures fire safety construction, and mandates the installation of protective measures in buildings and structures. Furthermore, it establishes organizations responsible for coordinating fire safety, prevention, and suppression efforts across all sectors of society.

The Fire Code also discusses its applicability, specifically in Section 4, which states that fire code requirements must apply to all individuals and all public buildings, facilities, or structures. It includes provisions for inspections, fire safety construction, and protective warning systems, with a focus on hazardous materials, required inspections, fire safety measures for hazardous operations, and penalties for non-compliance.

Fire Ordinance in Ilocos Norte

Due to the rising incidence of fires in Ilocos Norte, the local government has enacted various ordinances to raise community awareness and reduce fire-related incidents. While some fires can occur due to natural phenomena, a significant percentage is caused by human actions.

The RA 9003, known as the "Anti-Burning Law," is strictly enforced by local governments in Ilocos Norte. This Republic Act, which dictates the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, prohibits the burning of leaves and other waste materials, particularly along national roads. Violators face penalties ranging from 1 to 15 days of imprisonment and fines between ₱300.00 to ₱1,000.00. Local governments mandate strict compliance, encouraging citizens to practice waste segregation and utilize proper waste disposal methods.

In Laoag City, City Ordinance No. 2013-066, known as the Fire and Pyrotechnic Zone of Laoag City, instructs all Local Government Units to implement Memorandum Circular No. 2010-048, which regulates the sale, manufacture, distribution, and use of firecrackers, polyvinyl pipes (commonly known as "BOGA"), and other pyrotechnic devices. This ordinance aims to decrease the likelihood of fire-related incidents. Additionally, Memorandum Circular No. 2011-06 mandates the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in all high-rise buildings to ensure the availability of such systems during fire incidents.

In the Municipality of Nueva Era, Ordinance Number 12 S. 2017 reaffirms the public safety, security, and order code. Under Letter J, Section 63, it states that no person, whether natural or juridical, shall ignite, cause to be ignited, or maintain any open fires, with penalties for violations still applicable, though some exemptions may exist.

The province has also formed an Inter-Agency Task Force to address the causes of forest fires affecting various municipalities. This task force includes representatives from the BFP, PNP, PMC, PAF, PA, DENR, and the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte. One member noted the urgent need to address wildfires in areas like Nueva Era, Piddig, Solsona, Vintar, Burgos, and Pasuquin, citing factors like hot weather conditions and human activities. The Provincial Resiliency Office has been actively calling on the public to aid in preventing grassfires, especially during summer when fire risks are heightened, urging vigilance and immediate reporting of any grassfire or wildfire to the BFP. The BFP has also highlighted its lack of manpower and equipment for forest fire fighting, alongside the need for improved infrastructure to facilitate timely responses.

Reports of Fire Incidents in the Philippines

The Philippines faces significant challenges from both natural disasters, such as typhoons, and the rising incidence of fires, which have left a profound mark on the country's

history. Recent data from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), as reported by Fontanilla (2024), reveals a concerning trend: recorded fires in April 2023 saw a nearly 40% increase compared to the same period the previous year. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for enhanced fire prevention and safety measures. Fire incident reports are primarily compiled through direct interviews with various news agencies, highlighting firsthand experiences. For instance, PhilStar (2024) reported a total of 3,034 fire incidents from January 1 to March 1, 2024, with 1,698 cases classified as accidental, further illustrating the growing number of fire incidents in the Philippines. The BBC (2022) emphasizes the nation's vulnerability to fire accidents, citing a devastating incident where 80 homes were destroyed in the capital region.

Overcrowded living conditions, particularly in Metro Manila—home to about 13 million people—exacerbate the risk of fire incidents. The BFP noted an 8.3% rise in fire incidents during the first four months of 2023, with damages escalating compared to previous years. Additionally, Caliwan (2024) reported a 25% increase in fire incidents in the first two months of the year, predominantly affecting residential areas. The geographical distribution of these incidents reveals that most occur in residential zones, with significant outbreaks in cities like Quezon City, Manila, and Taguig. Historical data from the BFP shows that from 2013 to 2018, the country experienced 94,399 fire incidents—averaging 15,733 annually—while the National Capital Region recorded the highest rates of fire incidents, injuries, and fatalities.

In 2023, the BFP reported 15,679 fire incidents as of December 26, marking a 20.7% increase from the previous year. Rivera (2022) noted that the Philippines' hot weather conditions significantly contribute to its susceptibility to fire incidents. Despite government efforts to promote fire safety through alarms and response units, the increasing frequency and severity of these incidents highlight a critical need for improved safety measures. A collective effort is

essential to implement proactive strategies that can protect communities from the devastating effects of fires, ensuring the safety and well-being of the Filipino people.

Untold Stories about fire incidents in the Philippines

As this literature unveils the profound experiences of some of the victims of fire incidents in the Philippines, it acknowledges the work of Allanic et al. (2021), who present insightful findings.

Results and findings reveal several key themes emerging from the narratives of the victims. Firstly, regarding (1) Outpouring Support from the Community, the majority of interviewees expressed gratitude for the assistance they received during their times of need, particularly highlighting monetary support and donations. Secondly, in terms of (2) Uncertainty and Anxiety of Family Situation, victims recognized the interpersonal crises that arose from the loss of family members and property, noting that all their financial and emotional investments were lost due to the fire incident. The findings also highlight (3) Severe Emotional Distress, as some victims reported experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and other mental health consequences. They reflected on the loss of their homes and possessions, lamenting over money that turned to ashes and the destruction of personal necessities. Additionally, the study addresses (4) Guilt and Accountability to the Incident; despite the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) classifying the event as an accident, the victims grappled with guilt and shame knowing that negligence within their households contributed to the fire. For instance, one victim shared that forgetting to unplug a rice cooker was the cause of their loss.

It is evident that fire incidents are among the Philippines' most prevalent disasters, particularly in residential areas, both urban and rural. The impact on fire victims is devastating, affecting their psychological, social, and economic stability, thus adding an additional burden

that hampers their recovery process. This situation creates a dilemma for victims and their families, as they face uncertainty, anxiety, guilt, and accountability—negative consequences of their experiences. However, the study also highlights the resilience of Filipinos, showcasing traditional values that endure in modern times. The spirit of *bayanihan* or communal unity and cooperation in times of difficulty, along with a strong belief in divine intervention, are positive attitudes that help Filipino fire victims navigate their circumstances. It is, therefore, highly recommended that the government provide psychological assessment and intervention programs, particularly for children, to mitigate the negative impact of fire incidents.

Another set of testimonies from the research of Allanic et al. (2021) sheds light on the experiences of fire victims in the Philippines, referencing a report from Global Voices written by Mongaya (2017) that details a deadly mall fire. Survivors of this incident, which resulted in the deaths of 38 workers in Davao, turned to social media to share their testimonies and express their grief. They reported smelling burning plastic or toxic fumes before smoke began to pour from the air conditioning units. With no power, the smoke quickly engulfed the area. Survivors recounted their desperate attempts to escape, stating that both fire exits were blocked, and they struggled to break the glass in a nearby locker as people sought to jump to safety, but the glass proved too thick and unbreakable. These testimonies have sparked numerous questions regarding the potential causes of the fire.

In light of the increasing frequency of fire incidents in the Philippines, it is clear that fire disasters have become a major concern in recent years. Regardless of the specific causes or outcomes, one fact remains: the victims bear the brunt of any fire disaster.

Indeed, residential fires can lead to profound emotional distress, alongside the risk of physical injuries. Losing a home in a fire entails not only the loss of a residence but also the destruction of valuable items such as photo albums, important documents, and cherished

possessions. Most importantly, the home represents a place of security, comfort, and safety. After a fire, this sense of security can be shattered, severely disrupting the normalcy of daily life.

As the research indicates, children and adolescents may react in various ways to the trauma of a fire, experiencing anxiety, nightmares, and sleep disorders. A child's ability to cope is significantly influenced by how their parents and caregivers handle crises. Because children often look to adults for guidance, support, and information, it is crucial that adults work toward effective coping strategies, serving as positive role models for younger individuals in overcoming adversity.

Burn Survivors' Experience of Core Outcomes during Return to Life: A Qualitative Study

Zamanzadeh et al. (2014) highlighted that burn injuries represent one of the most significant health challenges faced by victims, who encounter considerable obstacles in their lives. The primary goal of caring for and rehabilitating these individuals is to help them return to their previous life situations. Consequently, the present study aimed to explore the experiences of burn survivors in their journey to reclaim their lives, seeking new understandings of acceptable implications within their cultural and religious contexts.

This study employed a qualitative approach, utilizing qualitative content analysis through in-depth unstructured interviews with 15 burn survivors conducted in 2012 and 2013 in Tabriz. During the qualitative analysis, a central theme labeled "balance" emerged as the essence of participants' experiences. This theme was further broken down into three sub-categories: (1) Physical Integration which encompasses aspects like physiological stability and the preservation of affected limbs; (2) Connecting to the Life-Stream which involves self-care practices, acclimatization to changes, and the normalization of their new circumstances; and (3) Return to Existence which refers to the emergence of a sense of inner satisfaction and excellence.

The findings of this study corroborate the physical, psychological, and social scales identified in previous research. Additionally, the concept of "return to existence" was proposed, which can be assessed by the development of an individual's inner satisfaction and sense of excellence. This notion is considered a crucial determinant in facilitating the reintegration of burn victims into their lives.

Burn Survivors' Experiences of the Ongoing Challenges after Discharge in South Korea: A Qualitative Study.

Kim et al. (2021) explored the experiences of burn survivors after discharge in a community setting and identified three themes: ongoing distressing symptoms and the unpredictability of hypertrophic scars, difficulties in reintegration into society, and the burden of health expenditure.

Using a qualitative descriptive format, data were collected by semi-structured interviews with 10 patients who had sustained major burns. Each interview was based on a protocol of 60 to 90 minutes duration and used a qualitative content analysis.

Three themes were identified in the analysis: (1) ongoing distressing symptoms and the unpredictability of hypertrophic scars, (2) difficulties in reintegration into society, and (3) the burden of health expenditure. Several participants expressed consistent difficulties with distressing symptoms such as wound pain, pruritus, sleep disturbances, and unpredictable scar and symptom changes.

Survivors further described the financial burden associated with high expenditures from non-reimbursable rehabilitation expenses and the high cost incurred with consistent skin care. By providing support based on their needs, appropriate interventions would be more readily available for burn.

Longitudinal Study on Psychological Reactions and Resilience among Young Survivors of a Burn Disaster in Taiwan 2015–2018.

In the study of Yi Wi et al., (2020), they mentioned and restated that young burn survivors who recovered both psychologically and physically under supportive care and personal resilience 2 years after the burn event, yet post-traumatic mental distress and coping efforts after 2 years during community reintegration should be detected and managed.

This study is a designed Longitudinal study with follow-up interviews using a standardized questionnaire from November 2015 to June 2018. The burn survivors received structured assessment in the four-wave interviews including the five-item Brief Symptom Rating Scale, nine-item Concise Mental Health Checklist, and two-item Patient Health Questionnaire for depressive symptoms and suicide risk assessment.

Post-traumatic psychological symptoms were assessed through the four-item Startle, Physiological Arousal, Anger, and Numbness Scale, and the six-item Impact of Event Scale. When it comes to the findings, the response rates were 65.1%, 74.2%, 76.9%, and 78.5% across the four-wave interviews among 484 burn survivors. The participants were mean-aged 23.1 years with just over half having 40% or more burn wounds in total body surface area. The respondents at each wave were similar in gender, age, and percent of total body surface area burned. In the first two years of recovery, the respondents showed resilience in coping with the stress of trauma under family and social support. While there was a decreasing trend of psychological symptoms over the first two years, hypnotic use and alcohol consumption remained at about 10% in the final interview, which was accompanied by psychological symptom recurrence.

The findings show that young burn survivors recovered both psychologically and physically under supportive care and personal resilience in two years after the burn event, yet, it is recommended that post-traumatic mental distress and coping efforts after two years of

community reintegration should be detected and managed. Early prevention and detection of mental health deterioration is needed even after two years of burn disasters.

The Most Critical Issues and Challenges of Fire Safety For Building Sustainability

in Jakarta

Rahardjo and Prihanton (2020) published that fire outbreaks in buildings create a huge negative impact on the buildings, which could be detrimental to the safety of life and property. It also has enormous economic and social impacts. For example, families who lose their homes due to fires are subjected to living in refugee camps. Furthermore, fire victims are faced with food, health, psychological, and financial challenges.

When a building is attacked by fire, its sustainability is directly affected, which in turn affects the surrounding environment and the welfare of the community. The hazards associated with fire outbreaks in buildings need to be addressed efficiently and effectively. This can be done through fire safety practices and awareness campaigns on the causes of fire, prevention and suppression techniques, and the provision of adequate firefighting equipment.

The descriptive qualitative method was used to conduct this study. This method is generally used to describe the state of buildings that are objectively observed about fire protection systems and management. The study began with a literature review to obtain the right assessment criteria to be adopted. In conducting the research, the authors made direct observations of fifty high-rise buildings in Jakarta. The results, based on the weight of each criterion, were displayed using the traffic light system method. The red color indicated the “not reliable” condition, yellow indicated the “less reliable” condition, and green indicated the “reliable” condition. The direct observation of high-rise buildings conducted in the field showed that not all high-rise buildings fall into the “Reliable” category. Moreover, this study showed that

the fire protection system conditions for each building were different. For this reason, efforts are needed to raise awareness about the importance of managing fire protection systems in buildings.

The results also showed that only 42% (less than half) of the sample buildings were reliable in terms of fire safety. A fire protection system is a prevention and suppression technique adopted in the design of a building. There are two fire protection systems adopted in Indonesia, especially in Jakarta: the active and the passive protection systems. The active protection system is implemented by using equipment that can work automatically or manually. It is used by occupants or firefighters in conducting extinguishing operations.

The Lived Experiences of Those who have been Involved in a House Fire Event

This section discusses scientific evidence on unintentional residential dwelling fires (UDF) and the resulting injuries, which cause significant suffering and strain on healthcare systems (Lilley et al.). Recent, New Zealand research shows high rates of UDF injuries among males, individuals aged 20-29, and those of Māori ethnicity. Hospital stays for UDF injuries average six nights, with 12% of cases being life-threatening. Challenges exist in data coordination between the ACC and the Ministry of Health, and Fire and Emergency. In the UK, residential dwelling fires are the primary source of fire-related injuries, with consistent injury rates over time despite a decrease in UDF incidents. UDFs in the UK account for a high percentage of fire-related deaths and injuries. In New Zealand, domestic fires contribute significantly to hospital admissions and medical treatment claims.

Understanding human behavior during residential fires is crucial, with research highlighting different motivations and actions between those who sustain non-fatal injuries and those who are fatally injured. Limited research in New Zealand focuses on human interactions with fires in UDFs, particularly in cases of fire fatalities. More studies are needed to comprehend human behavior in residential fires. Little research has explored the experiences, motivations,

and actions of individuals involved in UDF to aid fire services in training and community safety education. The emphasis has been on fire patterns rather than individual behaviors in UDF situations.

Before conducting the interview, written informed consent was obtained from each participant, allowing for audio recording. Recruitment continued until data saturation was reached, with 31 participants interviewed. Data collection took place between April and December 2020, with interviews lasting 30 to 60 minutes. Participants were given reimbursements of \$30 for their time. The interviews were transcribed by an independent company, with all material destroyed after transcription. The interview questions were open-ended, allowing participants to discuss their experiences of the fire event. The interview guide was developed based on key theories of human behavior in response to fires and previous qualitative research. Questions explored how participants became aware of the fire, actions taken, evacuation, re-entry, opinions of their actions, and reflections on what they would do differently. Data analysis utilized a grounded theory approach to understand social processes and experiences related to fires. Inductive coding was used to develop a constructivist grounded theory focused on how people derive meaning from the fire event. An inductive approach was chosen due to limited previous research in the area, with no existing work in the New Zealand context.

Thirty-one interviews were conducted between April and December 2020 and March and April 2021, with disruptions due to COVID-19 lockdowns. The majority of interviews were done over the phone or video calling, with a few conducted in person. The sample characteristics were diverse, with most participants being female, of working age, European, financially secure, and from the Auckland and Northland regions. Out of the 31 participants, eleven reported sustaining an NFFRI, and eight reported non-attendance by Fire and Emergency. Injuries varied from

superficial burns to hospital admissions for smoke inhalation and burns treatment. The remaining interviews did not fully meet the inclusion criteria for analysis. his study focused on informing NFFRI prevention efforts by examining experiences, motivations, and actions related to UDF through qualitative interviews. The goal is to prioritize preventive actions to reduce NFFRI through fire safety strategies and prevention programs.

The study distinguishes between primary prevention, aimed at preventing residential fires, and secondary prevention, focused on minimizing injuries during a fire event. Secondary prevention activities help reduce the burden of NFFRI by lessening the severity of injuries sustained during a fire, thus alleviating personal devastation and reducing the strain on emergency services and the health system. The qualitative interview study aimed to understand the experiences, motivations, and actions of individuals during fires in residential settings, particularly focusing on differences between those injured and uninjured in such events. Survivors of UDF were found to conduct rapid risk assessments of fire and smoke cues, highlighting the importance of considering diverse experiences in designing community fire safety strategies and programs.

The Fire Victims Dilemma: Unveiling Stories during Covid-19 Pandemic

As presented in the study by Allanic et al. (2021), fire disasters in the Philippines have become a significant concern in recent years, particularly in residential structures, where many residents across the country undoubtedly experience fire-related accidents. This study explored the experiences of fire victims during the Covid-19 pandemic, involving eight fire victims from Misamis Occidental, located in the northern part of Mindanao, Philippines. A qualitative descriptive format was employed, with data collected through semi-structured interviews that lasted between 60 to 90 minutes.

The participants were identified using the snowball sampling method. Moustakas' transcendental phenomenology was utilized to analyze the data, resulting in four meaningful themes: 1) outpouring support from the community, 2) uncertainty and anxiety regarding family situations, 3) guilt and accountability about the incident, and 4) strong faith in God. The results revealed that participants exhibited a high level of stress and anxiety during the incident, especially given that the Philippines was under lockdown due to the pandemic. However, it was also highlighted that the positive attitude among Filipinos remained resilient.

The study recommended several actions: a) strengthening the campaign for fire prevention, b) creating local fire brigades, and providing psychological assessment and intervention for fire incidents, and c) reviving the traditional positive attitude of being a Filipino, which is crucial for community resilience in the face of adversity.

Rising From the Ashes: A Phenomenological Study on Fire Survivors

The research study by Faisal et al. (2020) focused on the lived experiences of fire survivors, highlighting the struggles they encountered and their coping mechanisms. The study reported that the predicament faced by fire survivors was challenging, filled with traumatic incidents and difficulties.

Using a qualitative phenomenological approach, the researchers employed purposive sampling to select ten participants aged twenty-five and above from the financially unstable community of Villanueva extension. They obtained permission to conduct research outside their school premises and ensured that the participants' identities were kept confidential. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, which were documented using recorders and cameras, and the researchers demonstrated respect and empathy towards the participants' circumstances.

The findings revealed several key insights into the struggles of residential fire survivors and their journey towards acceptance. Firstly, most survivors sought help from family, relatives, and friends. Additionally, many relied on themselves to navigate their challenges. The study also found that survivors worked hard to meet their daily needs and gradually recovered after their homes were destroyed. Importantly, the survivors became more alert and aware of their surroundings, reflecting a heightened sense of vigilance against the possibility of future fires.

Overall, the study aimed to understand the experiences and struggles of fire survivors. The findings indicated that survivors were often left with little more than their documents, prompting them to seek assistance from loved ones. The support they received not only provided practical help but also offered inspiring words that motivated them to persevere. While some survivors preferred to work independently, the study emphasized that most gradually worked hard to recover and rebuild their lives, ultimately fostering a state of heightened awareness for their safety.

Determining Factors Affecting Perceived Effectiveness among Filipinos for Fire Prevention Preparedness in the National Capital Region, Philippines: Integrating Protection Motivation Theory (PMT) and Extended Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)

The Philippines ranks among the most vulnerable countries globally to severe man-made fire disasters in urban areas, incurring significant annual damages. This study aimed to identify the factors that significantly influence Filipinos' perceived effectiveness in fire mitigation within urban contexts by integrating the Protection Motivation Theory (PMT) and the extended Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). The focus was particularly on the younger generation, including students and the working class, inspired by Fitzgerald-McGowan's discussion, which suggests that fostering fire mitigation behavior among youth would eventually influence older generations, creating a continuous cycle of awareness and preparedness.

Key variables evaluated in the study included media platforms, fire experience, fire prevention knowledge, and fire insurance policies. These variables were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to enhance understanding of people's preparedness for fire mitigation. The study aimed to gather data from a representative sample of approximately 400 participants in the Philippines, guided by the Yamane Taro formula, which indicated that a sample size of 503 would suffice for a population of 62.6 million at a 95% accuracy rate.

The initial SEM model presented indicators for perceived effectiveness among Filipinos for fire mitigation in the National Capital Region. Among the hypotheses tested, only one—regarding the impact of fire insurance policies on perceived vulnerability—was found to be insignificant. Following the removal of this non-significant construct, a modified SEM was utilized for further analysis.

Ultimately, the study underscores the critical need to explore fire mitigation strategies in the Philippines, emphasizing the integration of PMT and TPB. It identifies variables such as media platforms (MP), fire experience (FE), fire prevention knowledge (KFP), fire insurance policies (FI), perceived severity (PS), perceived vulnerability (PV), and perceived behavioral control (PBC) as essential components influencing fire mitigation effectiveness. Despite existing research related to disaster risk management, fire mitigation remains an underexplored area in the Philippines, even though fire is recognized as one of the costliest preventable disasters.

Analysis and Forecasting of Fire incidence in Davao City

Fire incidents pose a significant threat to life and property, leading to severe injuries, property damage, and fatalities. Common causes of fire include faulty wiring, discarded cigarettes on flammable materials, substandard products, and defective smoke detectors.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2018), approximately 180,000 burn deaths occur globally each year, predominantly in low- and middle-income countries.

International Fire Statistics reveal that 86% of fire fatalities begin in residential buildings, with 66% resulting from inappropriate human behavior (Burroughs, 2016). In the Philippines, there were 96,447 reported fire incidents from 2011 to 2017, resulting in 1,924 deaths, 5,750 injuries, and approximately 31.06 billion in property loss (Commission on Audit, 2018). Notably, Davao City experienced a 35% increase in fire incidents in the first quarter of 2018 compared to the previous year (2017).

For this study, datasets were sourced from the Bureau of Fire Protection – Region XI in Davao City, comprising 84 monthly fire incidence cases recorded from January 2012 to December 2018. The first 72 data points (January 2012 to December 2017) were used for model building (training set), while the subsequent 12 data points (January 2018 to December 2018) were utilized for forecast evaluation (validation set).

The analysis indicated that the most significant occurrences of fire incidents happened between 2015 and 2016, often attributed to unattended candles left burning during brownouts, which were caused by maintenance work on major power plants and reduced water levels at hydropower sources due to El Niño. One notable incident involved the tragic death of a pastor in a church staff house in Davao City's Poblacion district (Colina, 2015). In 2016, major fire incidents were predominantly reported in densely populated urban areas, including a significant fire at Bankerohan Public Market (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, 2017).

The primary aim of this study was to analyze the characteristics and behavior of fire incidents in Davao City based on the available time-series data. The analysis revealed that historical data on fire occurrences did not exhibit trends or seasonality, suggesting that the number of fire incidents in the city has remained relatively stable over time. While consistently

reducing adverse events such as fire incidents is an ideal goal, achieving a complete elimination of such cases over time remains a challenging aspiration.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the methods, design, and procedures employed in the study. It includes detailed descriptions of the research method, the participants involved, the sampling procedure, the instruments utilized, the validation process for these instruments, the data gathering procedures, and the treatment of the data.

Research Method and Design

This study utilized a qualitative research method, which emphasizes the expression of feelings, associated characteristics, meanings, and essential observations and interpretations (Bhandari, 2023). This approach involved collecting and analyzing the experiences of fire victim-survivors (FVS) regarding their encounters during fire incidents. Interviews served as a primary tool for gathering personal opinions and experiences from the participants.

A phenomenological research design was implemented to explore the lived experiences of the FVS, aiming to uncover their insights and life lessons. This design focused on examining the phenomena that have significantly impacted individuals, highlighting the nuances of their experiences and how they perceive these events in their specific contexts (Harappa, 2021).

Population and Locale of the Study

The participants in this study consisted of four fire victim-survivors from the Province of Ilocos Norte: one from Brgy. 1 San Lorenzo, Laoag City; one from Brgy. 11 Sta. Balbina, Laoag City; one from Brgy. 25 Sta. Cayetana, Laoag City; and one from Brgy. 16 Quiling Norte, Batac

City, Ilocos Norte. These individuals have incurred physical injuries as a result of the incidents, including foot amputation and varying degrees of burns.

The researchers employed purposeful sampling to select the participants. According to Nikolopoulou (2022), this method relies on the researcher's judgment to identify and select individuals, cases, and events that can provide the most valuable information to achieve the study's objectives. This sampling technique aims to gather in-depth knowledge and insights from the four fire victim-survivors, allowing the researchers to understand their thoughts and experiences as survivors of fire incidents, as well as their resilience in continuing life despite the challenges posed by the fires. Purposeful sampling is particularly suited to this study, as participants were chosen based on the specific aims of the research and the insights it sought to uncover.

Data Gathering Tool

The researchers utilized a researcher-made interview guide, which served as a roadmap to ensure consistency and structure in each interview conducted for the study (Vid Cruster, 2024). The interview guide included key topics such as the causes of the physical injuries sustained by the FVS, safety measures they undertook, their struggles, interventions received, and their realizations following the incidents. Additionally, a recording device was used to capture the information gathered during the interviews.

To establish the validity and reliability of the interview guide, it was reviewed by the adviser and validated by the guidance counselor from the institution, who is an expert in the effects of trauma and fire incidents on individuals. The researchers also conducted a pilot test to assess the reliability of the research instrument.

Data Gathering Procedure

Prior to interviewing the participants, the researchers visited BFP offices in Ilocos Norte to gather records of fire incidents and identify fire victims. With the collected data, potential participants were identified and promptly reported to their adviser for initial approval.

The researchers then drafted a letter requesting permission to conduct the study, which was signed by the adviser. After consulting with the guidance counselor for approval and validation of the interview guide, the researchers conducted a brief familiarization session with the participants, introducing themselves and explaining the purpose of the study. Interviews were conducted in a safe and confidential environment, based on the participants' preferences.

Treatment of Data

Narrative Analysis was employed in this study, focusing on interpreting the core narratives from the participants' personal stories (Dovetail, 2023). This approach allowed the researchers to understand and interpret the experiences shared by the FVS during the fire incidents, enabling them to construct meaning from these narratives and reflect on how these stories relate to their everyday lives.

Ethical Considerations

Participants were provided with comprehensive information regarding the purpose of the research. To ensure their understanding, consent was obtained, and the voluntary nature of participation was emphasized. Participants were informed that they could withdraw from the study at any time without any repercussions. The researchers emphasized the importance of the participants' responses. The participants were informed of their rights. The researchers respected the rights of those who chose not to participate. Confidentiality and anonymity were strictly maintained by ensuring that personal information provided by the participants remained confidential. Furthermore, data collected during the study were securely destroyed after its completion to protect the participants' privacy.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter presents the data gathered from the participants and narrates the participants' insights based on the interviews they conducted.

Case 1: Causes that resulted in the physical injury incurred by the FVS

Fire incidents can ignite suddenly, often leaving individuals with little time to gather essential supplies and materials necessary for survival. These tragic events not only cause physical harm but also inflict deep psychological trauma on the victims, as they grapple with the devastating aftermath of such accidents. The scars left by these incidents serve as permanent reminders of the tragedy they endured. This section of the research study examines the causes of the physical injuries sustained by fire victim-survivors (FVS).

The physical injuries resulting from fire incidents can be severe, including burns that may reach as high as third-degree, which can be catastrophic to the human body. Reports from the participants indicate that serious burns have led to foot amputations and the destruction of the first and second layers of skin.

These findings are corroborated by the account of FVS 1, who described his experience as a fire survivor with amputated feet and severe burns on their arms and back:

“Basta ang naalala ko, paggising ko, nasa paa ko na yong apoy. Tinatanggap ng mga paa ko yong apoy, paakyat ng paakyat. At hindi ko na natanggal yong pants ko. Pero, noong nasa hospital pa lang ako, tinanggal na yong paa ko kasi grabe yong pagkakasunog. Yong daliri ng kamay ng mga

***nagbuhat ay pumasok sa likod ng katawan ko kase
sobrang luto na. Eto sa braso ko, wala nang
natirang balat at yong dalawang paa ko, kase kapag
hindi daw puputulin, aakyat daw inpeksiyon.”***

(All I remember is, when I woke up, the fire was already on my feet. The fire continued to spread to my upper body, and I never had the chance to remove my pants. When I was rushed to the hospital, they had to amputate my feet because the burn was so severe. The fingers of those who carried me sank into my back because the burn was drastic. The burn on my arms is serious, with no skin left; if they hadn't amputated, the infection would have spread upward.)

Another participant shared her experience, noting that having wet hair helped to prevent the fire from spreading further across her body, which is why she only sustained burns on their ears, upper back, and shoulders. She recounted how the fire slowly reached her back, causing disorientation, prompting her to run, and eventually leading to slipping and falling. As stated by FVS 2, who sustained burns on her ears and nape:

***“Bale nauram daytoy ayan ti lapayagko, daytoy dua
nga abagak. Nabasa daytoy buokko isu a madi
nauram, daytoy kudilko nauram isu timmarayak
ngem naigalisak idia datar.”***

(I got burned on my ears, including my upper back and the top of my shoulders. My hair was wet, which is why it wasn't burned. During the incident, the fire slowly reached my back, and as a result of my disorientation, I ran and slipped on the floor.)

Another participant reported sustaining a first-degree burn from the arm to the upper back. This occurred while he was gathering important materials, and he suddenly heard an explosion that caused the fire to engulf his body.

The statement of FVS 3, who is described as a victim with first-degree burns on both arms and the upper back, was:

***“Daytoy pannakauramko, first degree burn ditoy
babaen ti takiag ken bukotko. Naalak daytoy gapu
iti pananggammatko ngamin idin ta dimmakel diay
apuy ta adda bintak. Idi kitaek ti bagik ket nauram
metten.”***

(The fire incident resulted in a first-degree burn extending from my arm to the upper part of my back. This occurred while I was grabbing important belongings, and the fire began to spread due to the explosion. When I looked at my body, I realized that the fire had already engulfed me.)

This study also reveals that some physical injuries can be sustained not directly from the flames, but rather from the intense heat generated by the fire. Areas such as the nape and hands were notably affected. Additionally, the dislodgement of wooden materials during the fire incidents contributed to physical injuries that impacted the victims.

The statement of FVS 4, who is described as having incurred burns on the shoulders and arms, was:

***“Daytoy imak ken teltelko ti naala gapu iti
kinabara ti apuy.”***

(My hands and my nape were affected due to the heat of the fire)

Most fire incidents leave both minor and severe effects on individuals, particularly impacting their physical attributes. Beyond the varying degrees of burns caused by the fire, some survivors have faced amputations, such as the loss of feet, which can significantly diminish their strength and hinder their ability to perform daily activities normally. These acquired burns serve as a stark reminder of the need for caution in our actions, as burns—regardless of their severity—can have lasting consequences on how others perceive us. The narratives shared by the FVS underscore the importance of addressing fire burns, as neglecting them can lead to drastic effects on individuals' lives.

The results of this study align with findings presented in an article published by The City of Phoenix (2024), which states that burn injuries can impact muscles, bones, nerves, and blood vessels. Burns compromise the skin, disrupting the body's normal fluid and electrolyte balance, thermal regulation, joint function, manual dexterity, and overall physical appearance. Additionally, patients may endure emotional and psychological challenges that start at the emergency scene and can persist for an extended period.

First-degree burns are considered superficial injuries, involving only the epidermis or outer layer of the skin. They are the most common and least severe type of burn, characterized by reddened skin and significant pain. In contrast, third-degree burns encompass all layers of the skin and are classified as full-thickness burns, making them the most serious type. Although a third-degree burn can be extremely painful, some patients may experience little to no pain due to the destruction of nerve endings; this type of burn often necessitates skin grafting for treatment.

BFP reported in 2020 that a staggering number of fire-related injuries—855 individuals—are documented annually. This statistics is further supported by the authors of the qualitative study titled "Burn Survivors' Experiences" by Zamanzsadeh et al. (2021), which identifies a significant theme among those who sustained major burns: the burden of health expenditures. As

a result, victims often face challenges in community engagement due to the financial strain and the emotional toll of their injuries.

Case 2: Safety measures undertaken by the survivors

According to Vilkancaite (2024), fire can have devastating effects. During a fire, flames and smoke can spread rapidly, causing extensive damage to both people and property. Implementing effective fire safety measures can significantly reduce the risk of injury and save lives. With this awareness, each individual plays a crucial role in minimizing exposure to severe conditions. This section discusses the safety measures undertaken by fire victim-survivors (FVS) during the fire incident.

One participant shared that while the fire was ongoing, they were unable to think clearly enough to take effective safety measures. Instead, they resorted to praying and grabbed their jacket in an attempt to protect themselves from the devastating effects of the fire. This sentiment is echoed in the statement provided by FVS 1, who recounted:

*“Ang ginawa ko nalang ay kinuha yong jacket ko
at pinang-cover ko sa ulo ko at nagdasal na lang
ako nang nagdasal. Wala na akong naisip na
gawin.”*

(What I did is pick up my jacket and use it to cover my head while I kept praying and praying. I had nothing else in my mind.)

Another participant emphasized that when it comes to implementing safety measures, one should be quick to grab a pail of water to help extinguish the spreading flames. However, they stressed that prioritizing personal safety is paramount above all else.

The statement expressed by FVS 2 was:

***“So idi kitak ta ngato, nangalaak iti maysa timba
a danum, binagkatko. Inyulik ti sanga timba nga
awan pay la unay apuy ngem idi linukatakon kasla
pimmigsa idiy... Imbukbukko diay danum.”***

(At that time, as I looked at the house, I immediately grabbed a bucket of water and carried it upstairs. I noticed that the fire didn't appear too big, but when I opened the door, a huge fire engulfed my sight. I poured the water in desperation.)

Another participant remarked that retrieving a bucket of water is an immediate action one should take, along with seeking help. During a fire incident, it can be challenging to think clearly or devise ways to extinguish the fire or stop it on your own.

This sentiment is supported by FVS 3, who stated:

***“Napanak nagala iti danum idi,
nagtintinnulongkami. Awan mapanunotko idin
nga ubraen... Inakseptarko latta idin nga addan
apuy iti kudilkon.”***

(I fetched a pail of water, and some people helped me. I didn't have anything in mind; I just accepted that the fire was already on my skin.)

Another participant shared their experience of becoming non-responsive to pain, even though it was present. In that moment, they did not think about performing safety measures but instead focused on saving important documents for their family. This perspective is supported by the statement of FVS 4, which states:

*“Awan inaraamidko a safety measures ta ti
ammok ket gagangay lang ta sugatko ta ti ammok
lang ket nasinit lang ngem dakkel gayam.”*

(I did not do anything because I thought my wounds weren't that bad.)

The results of the study indicate that only a few participants took the initiative to fetch water in an attempt to reduce the fire, while many others did not take any action. This suggests a lack of knowledge regarding safety measures that could potentially save lives.

Reports by Fontanilla (2024) based on recent data from the BFP reveal a troubling trend: recorded fire incidents have increased compared to the past four years. Analyzing these outbreaks of fire incidents in the context of previous fire safety strategies provides valuable insights into the catastrophic consequences that can arise from inadequate fire safety measures. Additionally, a discussion by Arsenio (2024) highlighted that most fire incidents occurred in residential areas, while others took place in structural and non-structural locations such as electrical posts and vacant lots. This underscores the fact that if fires are not addressed promptly, they can lead to detrimental situations.

The research also emphasizes the deeply rooted faith of many individuals, illustrating how they rely on the power of Divine Mercy. They focus on prayers, believing that this spiritual connection can provide them with the strength needed to achieve safety. This sentiment is supported by the study conducted by Allanic et al. (2021), which suggests that the presence of *bayanihan* – a Filipino cultural practice of communal unity—and strong belief in divine intervention fosters a positive attitude that helps Filipino fire victims navigate their challenging situations.

Case 3: Struggles experienced by the FVS

It is common for individuals to experience several stages of adjustment following a disastrous event (Apa, 2015). In the context of fire-related incidents, struggles are often unavoidable (Ceasar, 2022). The stress and sleepless nights that victims endure contribute significantly to their challenges. This section of the research study discusses the struggles faced by the FVS.

Survivors are grappling with financial difficulties and the stress of returning to work due to physical injuries and the loss of personal belongings. One respondent articulated that the primary struggle is how to mobilize effectively despite having amputated feet. Participants noted the difficulty of moving around with amputated feet. Furthermore, they frequently needed to visit the hospital for wound dressing changes, which added to their burdens. One participant shared that they were compelled to move in with a relative because others believed that the wounds were causing their daughter to become ill due to the presence of worms in the wounds. Additionally, this condition hindered the participant's ability to secure employment, as they were not accepted for any job they applied for.

This narrative is supported by the statement from FVS 1:

“Halos nahirapan na ako sa paglakad, hindi ko maipaliwanag kung paano. Sobrang hirap lalo na ngayong wala nang paa. Noong inuwi na ako sa bahay, kailangan ulit akong ihatid sa hospital kase yong mga sugat at benda sa katawan ko, kailangan pang linisin ulit. Noong hindi na ako nahahatid sa hospital, inuod na siya kase walang naglilinis sa amin. Mga kamag-anak ko, kapatid, tiyuhin ko, ayaw linisin. Noong time na pagkatapos ng sunog

wala ng tumatanggap sa akin, mga tiyuhin ko sa side ng mama ko, pinalayas din ako, kase yong step father ko, may anak sila ako yong sinisisi kung bakit nagkakasakit yong anak nila. Palaboy-laboy nalang ako. Sobrang hirap, kase hindi ako pinapayagang magtrabaho kase nakikita nila akong may kapansanan.”

(I had a hard time walking. I can't explain it. Now, it's tough, especially since I have amputated feet. By the time they brought me home after the incident, I needed to return to the hospital to dress and clean my wounds. However, when I went back, my wounds had worms because no one helped me clean them. My sister and other relatives didn't want to help. After the fire incident, no one welcomed me—not even my uncle from my mother's family. They kicked me out because they believed I was the reason their daughter kept getting sick. I am now a vagrant, and it's challenging because I have never been accepted for any job due to my condition. I even lost my ID.)

Another participant expressed experiencing mental and emotional distress due to the loss of pets, whom he considered family:

“Awan unay napasaran a problema basta nagkararagak lattan... Adu ti timmulong ken donasion kadakami, isu ti inus-usarmi a pinagbiag inggana itatta, amin pati pinagpatakder ti balay, awan pulos gastuenmi, diay laeng pinagpa-labor-mi, amin a materiales a mausar panagpatakder. Dagiti asok, aginggana itatta, saanak pay a naka-overcome, saanko

*pulos malipatan, kasi part of familymi isuda, dagidiay
as-asomi, kumbaga annakko idan, inggana itatta diak
pulos malipatan isuda kasi imbilangko isuda nga
annakko, isu ti talaga a pagsangitak isuda, isu lang ti
nagsangitak dagidiay nauram nga annakko, no mano
da, adda pay ubing.”*

(I didn't encounter too many problems; I just prayed. Many extended their help through donations. I used these donations for everyday living, especially in building a house for myself. I didn't spend too much, only on the labor. Up until now, I think about my dogs. I cannot overcome their deaths because I considered them part of my family—they were like my children. I cried for them because some were even puppies.)

It was discovered that one of the respondents experienced significant mental distress, including difficulty sleeping at night and concerns about where to find resources for everyday needs. This was reflected in the statement from FVS 3, who said:

*“Tallo aldaw a diak nakaturog ken awanen ti
mabalin a pangalaanmi ti pagbiagmin.”*

(I did not sleep for three nights, and I don't know where to sustain our everyday needs.)

Another FVS encountered finding a job or how to make a living despite what happened. It was discovered that many personal belongings, such as medals, pictures, books, and important documents, were reduced to ashes, which deeply affected their emotional well-being and caused significant distress. This situation was compounded by the participant's inability to secure any job, which led to increased burdens and financial difficulties.

*“Siempre, diak ammo no ayanna ti pagyananmin,
ania ti gastosenmi ken narigat talaga a mapanunot
dagiti naawan aglalo dagiti remembrance kasla
koma iti picture ken dagiti medals dagiti annakko,
awanen. Financial payen a kase awan pulos e.
Saanak nakastrek ti trabaho iti almost one month.
Malagipmo amin dagiti napukaw ken siempre
masayanganka aglalo kadagiti libro dagiti
ubbingko ta nagngingina.”*

(Of course, I don't know where to stay or how I will get our everyday finances. It's tough to think about the lost things, especially our life's remembrances like medals and pictures of my children. I wasn't able to work for a month. I constantly think about my losses, such as our children's books, which were costly.)

The research found that the majority of participants identified financial difficulties as the main challenge encountered due to the loss of clothing, homes, and important belongings. Many reported experiencing emotional damage and psychological distress. It was noted that numerous personal items were reduced to ashes, and they never had the opportunity to save them. The findings emphasized that survivors faced significant challenges searching for jobs; given their physical and mental difficulties, they struggled to gain approval from potential employers. Some participants spent one or more months looking for work, while others have yet to find employment.

Furthermore, the research revealed that fire incidents can drastically alter the lives of survivors. Although they are grateful to have escaped with their lives, they carry scars that hinder their ability to move forward. These findings align with the untold stories of fire victims

presented by Allanic et al. (2021), which state that fire survivors often face uncertainty and anxiety regarding family situations, recognizing interpersonal crises related to the loss of family members and property. Many survivors reported severe emotional distress, with some experiencing Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Allanic also noted that the sense of security can be lost after a fire, significantly disrupting the normalcy of daily life.

This supports the idea presented in the research entitled "Rising from the Ashes: A Phenomenological Study on Fire Survivors" by Faisal et al. (2020), which indicates that fire survivors must rely on themselves to find ways to meet their life's needs. Children and adolescents may react in various ways to a fire, including experiencing anxiety, nightmares, and sleep disorders.

However, these challenges will persist unless they receive support and interventions aimed at overcoming the unprecedented effects of such incidents. While it takes time to heal, challenges can become more manageable with awareness and care, especially as fire-related incidents continue to be reported globally. Therefore, it is essential for people to cultivate a safe and fire-free environment.

Case 4: Assistance received by the FVS

In a journal published by Convoy of Hope (2023), it states that experiencing a house fire can be one of the most traumatic events in a person's life. The aftermath can feel overwhelming, leaving victims unsure about what to do next, but it is crucial to remind them that they are not alone. It is also noted that seeking government assistance after a house fire can be an essential step in the recovery process for victims. The trauma and loss experienced can be somewhat mitigated by the support and financial aid that government programs provide. Julian (2019)

emphasized that assistance to families in need or those affected is vital, as they are the first line of support for their needs.

This section of the paper highlights how the government provided necessary aid through cash assistance and food packages. Along with the support of family, friends, and others close to them, they were able to meet their everyday needs and overcome some of the challenges brought by the fire incidents.

These statements align with those provided by the participants, such as FVS 1, who said:

“Meron pala akong natanggap galing sa PCSO noong nasa hospital pa ako. Sila yong nagbigay ng pera na panggamot lang na nagkakahalaga ng fifty-one thousand para sa mga gamot lang. Wala ding galing sa mga kamag-anak ko maliban sa pag-alaga ng kaunting panahon. Pagkatapos, wala na galing sa gobyerno.”

(I received support from PCSO when I was still at the hospital. They were the ones who extended monetary help to cover my medical insufficiency amounting to Php 51,000.00 for my medicine. I didn't receive anything from my relatives except care for a little while.)

This statement is further supported by FVS 2, who said:

“Adu ti timmulong kadakami, aglalo daydiay kapitanmi. Isuna ti nagbalin nga way nga no apay nagadut timmulong kadakami. Uray dimi ammo, dagitay kabagianmi, ni kapitan halos nagadu, kada gagayyem dagitoy annakko,

*gagayyemko, gagayyem ti atek, adu ti timmulong.
Bale 300k plus kenni kapitan. Sa adu a delata, adu
a bagas, isu saankam unay nadagsenan kaslang
nalag-anankami. Ni Governor, nangted pay. Ditoy
munisipiotayo aduda a timmulong. Pati ita, daytay
pinagpatakder ti balay ket adu ti nangtulong
kadakami agraman dagiti materiales a naaramat.”*

(Many people extended their help, specifically our Barangay Captain. He is one of the reasons why so many people came to our aid, even though we do not know him that well. Various relatives of our barangay captain, friends of my children, my friends, and close friends of my sister all extended their help. Their support resulted in a total of Php 300,000.00. Many other politicians, like the governor, also offered assistance. In our municipality, numerous individuals continued to help, even now that we are rebuilding our house.)

This is similar to how FVS 3 shared some of the interventions, mentioning:

*“Addada inted dagiti frend ko, dagidiay nagbasbasa idiay
Divine Word College of Laoag a nagradyar ti nangted iti
tulong ken pagpaagasko ken tay abay tay nakauramak ket
immayda dimmanon. Kadagitoy, adda met impaay ti City
Governemnt ti Laoag City babaen kenni Mayor tulong
pinansial. Dagiti kabagianmi, impaayda met ti tulong
pinansial.”*

(Some of my friends extended their help. Those alumni of DWCL and my neighbors provided assistance for my medicine. This time, the city government of Laoag, headed by the mayor, gave aid. Our relatives also extended financial support.)

FVS 4 shares also the help he got from people:

***“Imbag laengen ta nasayaat ni Kapitan isunat’ nangsarak
ti pagyananmi pansamantala, dakkel a tulong kadakami
dagidiay tulong pinansial ti gobierno ken NGOs a bagas
ken badbado. Ti city ken provincial ket cash assistance, ti
DSWD ket ayuda.”***

(It’s good that our Barangay Captain is kind. He looked for our temporary home. The financial assistance from the government and NGOs was of great help to us, providing clothes and rice. The city and province extended cash assistance, and the DSWD also offered help.)

Participants enumerated some of the aid provided by local government units and politicians. Despite the assistance given to FVS, the research found that not all needs are being addressed equally or adequately. While some victims received financial support for housing and medicine, the importance of tools and other materials necessary for children's learning was often overlooked, as noted by FVS 4. Some participants received substantial monetary assistance for housing and facilities, while others struggled to find support for their everyday needs. One out of four participants expressed feeling the absence of governmental assistance, highlighting a lack of sufficient resources to meet the needs of these victims, both financially and materially. This indicates that the distribution of help and goods is limited.

These statements support the untold stories of fire incidents presented by Allanic et al. (2021), who noted that the majority of interviewees reported receiving help during times when the situation felt unbearable, particularly regarding monetary support and donations. This aligns with the findings of Shanabi et al. (2023), which indicated that survivors described a financial burden associated with significant expenditures that were not reimbursable. By providing support based on their specific needs, appropriate interventions could be more readily

available. The testimonies of participants are also corroborated by Williams et al. (2023), who found that most fire survivors sought help from family, relatives, and friends.

Case 5: Realizations of the FVS

The emotional toll of fire damage can manifest in various ways, ranging from anxiety and depression to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Survivors may experience intense feelings of fear, helplessness, and hypervigilance as they grapple with the lingering trauma of the fire. Flashbacks, nightmares, and intrusive thoughts about the events surrounding the fire can further exacerbate psychological distress, making it difficult for individuals to move forward with their lives (Bell, 2022). However, Nala (2017) pointed out that what has been lost in incidents like fire cannot be regained. This section discusses the realizations shared by the fire victims. As stated by FVS 1:

“Natutunan ko iyong magdasal nang magdasal nalang talaga. Huwag mag-iiwan ng nakasaksak sa kuryente. Iyong maggamit gumamit ng kandila kapag brownout kase brownout iyon at pwedeng sindi ng kandila at hindi na namalayan kase paggising namin, nandoon na iyong apoy. Huwag magpapabaya ng mga nakasaksak at I-checheck lagi. Kapag brown out, gumamit nalang ng mga emergency lights tulad ng solar lights. Lagi nalang magdasal at ipagkatiwala sa Diyos.”

(I learned to pray and keep praying. Don't leave anything plugged in. When using candles during brownouts, be careful, because the fire that I experienced might have been caused by an unattended lighted candle, as we did not realize it. When we woke up, the fire was already there.

Don't neglect the items that are plugged in and always check them. When there's a brownout, it's better to use emergency lights like solar lights. Always pray.)

One of the participants shared about not giving up, emphasizing the importance of not leaving plugged sockets unattended. It was also noted that when you see or spot burning bulbs or wires, it's better to check or remove them immediately.

This is supported by the following statement given by FVS 2:

“Madika met mabalin a sumuko ta adda met agbasbasa, isu nga awan iti sisi-siek, basta bangon, uray narigat, bangon latta. Tay kunak nga iti ayan ti uneg ti balay, no adda ag-gilap-gilapen, siguraduemon, ikkatem laeng diay bombilianan, wenno saan no adda agangot, i-checkmon. Ag-safety-ka nga talaga. Daydiay laeng ti dapat nga iwasan.”

(I am not supposed to give up because some of my children are still going to school, and I don't blame anyone. We must keep going, even if it's hard. What I can only say is, inside our houses, if we spot burning or sparking light bulb wires, we should remove the bulb immediately. If you smell something that indicates burned wires, check it immediately or remove it. It's better to turn off the main switch.)

As stated by FVS 3:

“Agsafety tay latta ngem adda latta gayam jay tendency na nga panagperdi.”

(We always need to observe safety precautions given the fact that we cannot avoid things that are beyond our control.)

Another narrative was given by FVS 4:

***“Kasapulan a tanggapan. Imbag laengen ta awan
ti nairaman a sabali kase once nga rabii a
napasamak baka awan tay inaunakon kase isu’t
mabatbati idiay balay ta innak met agubra ta isu
ngamin ti trabahok. No panggep ti ap-apuy, safety
latta. Siguraduen nga awan mairaman nga asideg
nga alikamen kasla koma iti papel kada lupot.”***

(We need to accept it. It’s good that nothing or no one was severely damaged or affected because, if the incident had happened during nighttime, we might have lost our first child, who was the only person at home at that time. After all, my other kids accompany me to my workplace. In cases of fire-related incidents, safety is always a must. We must ensure to save important documents and clothes.)

Realizations entail a deep understanding of the span of an event – from its roots to its effects. This approach allows for a better examination of the causes of an event, which could lead to prevention and enhanced safety. This research narrates the experiences of the victims, highlighting their lifelong realizations. As depicted in the interviews, participants shared their insights that safety should be prioritized among other considerations. Negligence in monitoring potential fire hazards could lead to severe damage and the rapid spread of fire.

One of the findings emphasizes that victims consistently pray and remain vigilant when incidents like this occur unexpectedly. While the risk may seem low, the consequences can be devastating when a fire is triggered, potentially claiming more than just life.

The realizations of the FVS serve as guides and eye-openers to maintain a safe environment. In addition to these insights, prayer is seen as a key practice to alleviate the stress that may trigger emotional reactions.

The ordeal of surviving a fire can result in significant insights and changes for individuals who face such calamities. Those who endure these experiences often gain a deeper appreciation for life's vulnerability, the importance of community support, and the strength of resilience. The outcomes of the interviews are supported by a study of urban fire survivors, where researchers found that many individuals exhibited remarkable emotional resilience and adaptability. Over time, survivors demonstrated the ability to rebuild both physically and emotionally, relying on personal and community networks to cope with the aftermath (Journal of Traumatic Stress, 2018).

DOCUMENTARY VIDEO OF: “UNTOLD STORIES OF FIRE SURVIVORS IN ILOCOS NORTE: A QUEST FOR LIFE”

Rationale

Through this study, the researchers discovered that within the stories of these survivors lie inner thoughts that serve as reminders for everyone to prioritize safety and remain aware of the detrimental effects of fire. The researchers have felt the emotional and mental distress that these survivors have carried, and continue to carry, to this day. They have seen the burden reflected in their eyes and felt it through their words, recognizing the challenges that have motivated them to strive harder to continue living despite the traumatic incidents they experienced.

In light of these findings, the researchers aim to produce a documentary video presentation to emphasize the importance of vigilance during fire incidents. This initiative will be complemented by a supplementary project titled, “*Yakap Alay sa Kapatid* Project,” which seeks to extend help and support to these survivors, fostering a sense of community and resilience in the face of adversity.

Objectives

- To share with people the experiences of these fire victims that are vital in addressing concerns regarding fire incidents-from their causes to their realizations.
- To educate the public about the real-life impact of fire incidents on individuals and families, highlighting the emotional and physical challenges faced by survivors.
- To inform them about proper protocols during an ongoing fire, based on the experiences of the FVS.
- To illustrate the strength of the FVS despite their traumatic experiences during the fire incident.

- To raise funds to help sustain some of their life's needs, providing essential support for their recovery and well-being.

Strategies

- The video presentation showcasing the stories of the fire victims will be posted on various social media platforms, serving as an accessible means to raise awareness about fire incidents. This approach allows anyone to access the content easily.
- The researchers will collaborate with Prime Movers, the official publication of DCCP-CCJE, to post and share the video online, as well as with private institutions interested in extending assistance to the fire victim-survivors (FVS).
- The interviewees will be informed about the project's outcomes, which can benefit them, and efforts will be made to encourage them to participate in interviews.
- The researchers will visit the victims to deliver prepared food packs, fulfilling one of the project's objectives to provide tangible support to those affected.

A PROPOSED VIDEO PRESENTATION: AN INTERVIEW OF THE EXPERIENCES OF FIRE-VICTIM SURVIVORS UNTOLD STORIES OF FIRE VICTIMS IN ILOCOS NORTE: A QUEST FOR LIFE

Objectives	Activities	Strategies	Person Involved	Budgetary Allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A video presentation featuring the quests of the fire victims in surviving the fire incident and a project titled <i>“Yakap Alay sa Kapatid Project”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share with people the experiences of these fire victims that are vital in addressing concerns regarding fire incidents—from their causes to their realizations. To educate the public about the real-life impact of fire incidents on individuals and families, highlighting the emotional and physical challenges faced by survivors. To inform them about proper protocols during an ongoing fire, based on the experiences of the FVS. To illustrate the strength of the FVS despite their traumatic experiences during the fire incident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The video presentation showcasing the stories of the fire victims will be posted on various social media platforms, serving as an accessible means to raise awareness about fire incidents. This approach allows anyone to access the content easily. The researchers will collaborate with Prime Movers, the official publication of DCCP-CCJE, to post and share the video online, as well as with private institutions interested in extending assistance to the fire victim-survivors (FVS). The interviewees will be informed about the project's outcomes, which can benefit them, and efforts will be made to encourage them to participate in interviews. The researchers will visit the victims to deliver prepared food packs, fulfilling one of the project's objectives to provide tangible support to those affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers Fire Survivor Victims (FVS) Criminology Department (DCCP) 	<p>Php 10,000.00</p>

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the summary of the gathered data from the participants' narration, the conclusions drawn from it, and the recommendations offered as a result of this study regarding the lived experiences of FVS.

Summary of Findings

The highlights of the collected data in this study were the following:

The participants experienced life-long injuries, including amputated feet and third- and first-degree burns, primarily affecting their arms and backs. They shared that they did not prioritize safety adequately. They relied heavily on prayer and the salvaging of important belongings. Fortunately, two of them quickly fetched water to help subdue the spreading fire and used jackets—though not recommended—as protection for their heads. It was also revealed that participants faced significant challenges, particularly in securing employment and finding means for stability. They also dealt with severe physical injuries from burns, loss of loved ones, emotional and mental distress, and the destruction of cherished belongings. It was found that participants received financial, food, and clothing assistance from their community, including the government, friends, and family members. The research concluded that many of the realizations were rooted in themes of responsibility and perseverance which include the importance of prayer, taking precautions, and not leaving live sockets unattended. They also emphasized the need to check for live and burned wires, which could indicate the potential onset of a fire incident that could lead to severe damage. Furthermore, the researchers noted that the loss of pets during fire incidents can result in psychological distress for the survivors.

Conclusions

- Simple causes of fire incidents can lead to varying degrees of effects, resulting in physical injuries such as amputated feet and burns of different severities.
- While the victims possess some knowledge about what to do during fire incidents, they lack comprehensive understanding of safety measures. Many relied primarily on their belief in prayer for protection.
- The victims encountered significant challenges, particularly in securing job opportunities. These challenges were aggravated because of depression, severe emotional distress, and other mental health consequences.
- The FVS received assistance from the government and relatives; however, this support was often insufficient to meet their comprehensive needs.
- The FVS recognized the need for greater awareness and proactive measures to enhance safety.

Recommendations

From the aforementioned findings and conclusions, the following are recommended:

- The FVS are encouraged to remain careful and vigilant to prevent any causes or occurrences of fire and to take initiative in seeking job opportunities to foster their independence and financial stability. They can seek assistance from the government and family members to help meet their recovery needs following the devastation caused by the fire and are reminded to prioritize responsibility in maintaining safe living environments to minimize the risk of future fire incidents.
- LGUs may implement programs that align with the experiences of the FVS regarding fire safety and provide job opportunities to help them earn a living and sustain their basic needs.

- BFP may strengthen community participation in seminars, such as Fire Prevention Month, to raise awareness and educate the public.
- The research is highly recommending the implementation of the project titled, "*Yakap Alay sa Kapatid Project*," in partnership with DCCP-CCJE and other NGOs. This initiative aims to provide food packages and assistance to the FVS, as well as to create a documentary video presentation that shares the lived experiences and stories of the FVS during and after the fire incidents.
- Private organizations may adopt the "*Yakap Alay sa Kapatid Project*" to continuously help these FVS and those who experienced fire incidents.

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