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**Decolonization,
Indigenization,
Spirituality,
and Buddhist Social Work**
**Social Work Academics
Resisting the Globalization of
Western-rooted Social Work**



**Indigenizing Spirituality towards Healing and Recovery of
Human Rights Survivors:
Through the Lens of the Social Work Helping Process**

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ABSTRACT

The War on Drugs launched in June 2016 had the main agenda which pronounced to eradicate the rampant illegal drug use and trade by the end of the year, claiming its achievement within a six month-time frame. As the nation looked on, numerous reports on social media revealed the escalating, horrific circumstances of death, pain, and suffering into which the families and relatives of the alleged drug users and pushers were thrust—all without observable or documented due process. These events struck fear into the hearts of many, kindled only indifference in some; however, for the majority of the public, a thirst for justice was awakened.

The study revealed that indigenous spirituality unique to the respondents impacted their grieving, coping, and recovery. Further, the role of indigenous spirituality served as a strong foundation for the participants who have experienced the death of their loved ones either by directly witnessing the killing of their family members or witnessing violence being enacted upon their loved ones which led to their death. Despite the trauma, they have claimed to have experienced the healing process evident through the changes in their social functioning, like self-care, family and social relationships, and service to the larger community guided by their spirituality. Regaining their social functioning

reflected in their efforts to re-engage in family maintenance, economic and social endeavors. The involved in its justice advocacies, seeking justice for the death of their loved ones, and are openly using their involvement as an avenue for their recovery process and are actively involved in healing or other forms of psycho-social support activities.

The study the experiences of family survivors engaged in the pathway of recovery are examined in terms of how they experienced and gave meaning to their spirituality during their grieving, coping and recovery. From the lens of identifying internal and external sources of their strengths influenced by the concept of Rights Based Perspectives infused in the ecological framework. Equally important is how the surviving family members experienced and drew meaning from it that led to the pursuit of their concept of justice. How Spirituality was used to cope and manage their anguish and the challenges and the strengths they discovered along the way towards regaining their social functioning.

Keywords: Spirituality, human rights; recovery; grief; grieving