

## **A FATHER'S CHANGE OF HEART AGAINST SWEARING, SPANKING, AND BEATING HIS DAUGHTERS**

Earning PhP 200 (\$4) for a 12-hour back-and-forth drive along the patchy roads of Maramag, Bukidnon left Tatay Darino, a Motorela driver, spent for the day.

He shuddered whenever he reached home because his earnings are not enough to feed five members of his household. His two girls kept growing and so are their needs, while his wife often grumbled on and on about the exorbitant prices of commodities in the market.

The voices around him are deafening and the only way to silence the chaos is to swear, spank, or beat the girls out of their misery. Tatay (father) had accepted that life is cruel and their fortune as a family is cursed until the tide is turned in their favor.

Save the Children Philippines' Protect Children PH Project included Tatay Darino as one of the beneficiaries of the livelihood program in their barangay last year. Going through the workshops and coaching sessions, he found a viable hog-raising business to re-start his family. The PhP 10,000 (\$182.6) capital has doubled over a period of six months!

He is now able to save enough to buy his own Motorela as an add-on business to provide well for the girls. A Motorela is a motorized tricycle attached to a passenger cab. It is a popular mode of transportation in rural areas in the Philippines.

*"I regret how I hurt my children because I couldn't provide enough for them,"* Tatay Darino explained.

The learning sessions and workshops he and his wife participated in the barangay on child rights, protection, and online sexual abuse and exploitation of children made him re-think about his parenting style.

He now realized that the harsher the home environment is to the girls, the more they fritter away time in online shops to escape the troubles at home. Thus, exposing them to online predators.

Tatay Darino has had a change of heart! He has worked so hard to make their livelihood stable so that he and his wife can properly guide their children. Not only that, the girls have now participated in child protection activities in the school and the barangay.

By adopting positive parenting practices, he is able to relate better to his daughters and intentionally nurture them. He appreciated the livelihood program of Save the Children Philippines' Protect Children PH Project because positive change is now possible and real.

Save the Children Philippines has trained more than 10,000 children and more than 200 parents in Child Rights, Child Protection, and prevention of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) since the project launch in 2020. It also conducted capacity building trainings to 200 families who are enrolled in the program. -END-

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