

Empowering Department of Social Welfare and Development Region X Communities through the Sustainable Livelihood Program of St. Michael's College

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Abstract: *St. Michael's College through the Mother Ignacia Center for Social Responsibility empower people by transporting community engagement initiatives to deprived, depressed and underserved communities. One of the Sustainable Livelihood Programs of the school is the BASAHANG MAASAHAN which is a project developed and organized by College of Business Administration (SMC-CBA) on 2011 with the aim of empowering people to free families from the problem of providing their basic needs through self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-governance. The program was introduced and was granted to the eleven municipalities of LANA DEL NORTE under the collaborative action of the school and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD-Region X) Philippines.*

The research was conducted to identify how the project helped the residents in terms of self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-governance. This was a survey that employs quantitative and qualitative methods. The respondents were the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries. Questionnaire and interview were the instruments used in this research. Descriptive Statistics consisting of frequency, percentage, mean, median and mode were employed to find out the response distribution of the variables included in the paper.

Result of the study reveals that the family monthly income were relatively higher hence, they can now meet their basic family physiological needs and send their children to school. Moreover, they were able to improve the management of their time. Furthermore their economic reliance to their husbands declined.

The success of BASAHANG MAASAHAN PROJECT will be shared to other indigent communities hoping to further expand the services to the marginalized sectors of the society.

Keywords: *Sustainable; Livelihood; Program*

1. Introduction

Poverty remains the most critical social problem in the Philippines that needs to be addressed. Poverty means inability to secure the minimum consumption requirements for life, health and efficiency on account of insufficient or property. These requirements include minimum human needs in respect of food, clothing, housing, education and health. On the First Quarter of 2013, fielded on March 19-22, 2013, the Social Weather Stations (SWS), a survey group, found out that 52% (estimated 10.6 million) of Filipino families consider themselves Mahirap or Poor. To address this problem St. Michael's College – College of Business Administration (SMC – CBA), true to its core value of SERVICE reach out to others through highly visible extension and community programs. BASAHANG MAASAHAN (Rags that you can be Trusted) project was developed and organized with the aim of empowering people to free families from the problem of providing their basic needs through self-sufficiency, self-governance, and self-reliance. BASAHANG MAASAHANS' (Rag that you can Trust) Long term goal is to empower the communities through social business enterprise.

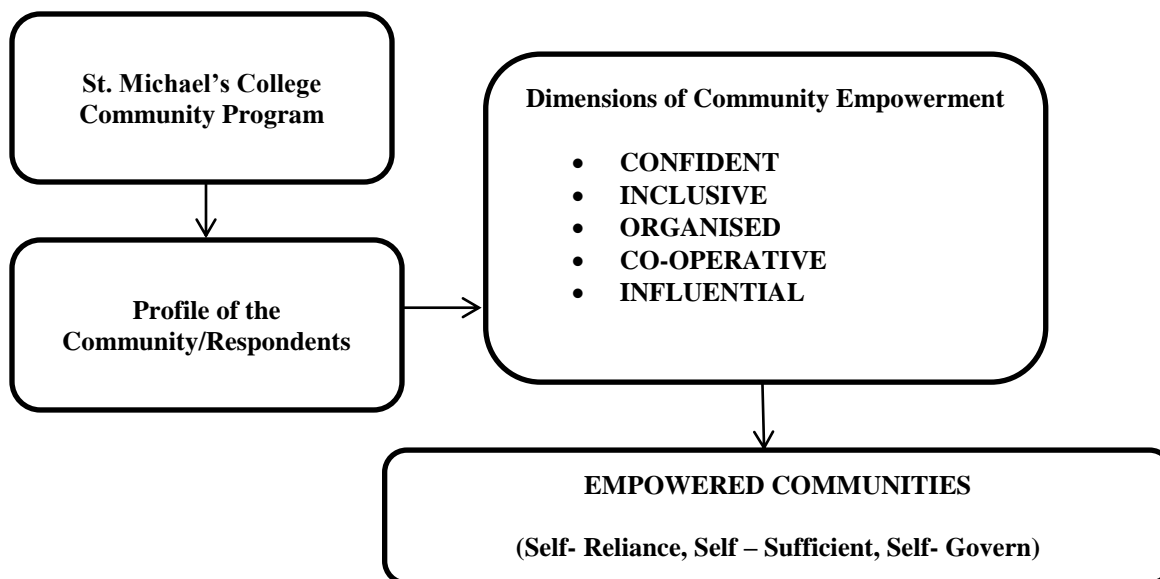
Social entrepreneurship is an excellent way of doing what you love, being with service to others and building a sustainable enterprise all at the same time.

A study was introduced to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries and the possible problems encountered in line to this skills. Result of the study reveals that the beneficiaries were interested in learning the skill of weaving rags out of used clothing. It further reveals that the problem encountered is the raw materials and the channel of distribution of the finished products. Based on the result, SMC commits to support in terms of marketing , thus “ BasahangMaasahan” project was initiated starting 2011 up to present.

2. Conceptual Framework

It shows the flow of the study. This will focused if communities were empowered by the community program of St. Michael’s College.

The study covers the profile of the respondents as to age, religion, family income and numbers of family members which are the independent variables. The researchers used the dimensions of community empowerment introduced by Community Development Exchange of United Kingdom funded by the National Empowerment Network. The five community empowerment dimensions illustrated are part of a framework designed for planning and evaluating community development which are the confident, inclusive, organized, co-operative, and influential.



3. Methods

This research was conducted to identify how St. Michael’s College through the community engagement programs initiated by the college under the Mother Ignacia Center for Social Responsibility empower the beneficiaries in terms of confident, inclusive, organized, co-operative, and influential and questions are formulated in both objective and subjective or qualitative forms. Descriptive Statistics consisting of frequency, percentage, mean, median and mode were employed to find out the response distribution of the variables included in the paper. The respondents were the 455 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries. Questionnaire and interview were the instruments used in this research and answers of the open-ended questions will be grouped or categorized by the researcher.

4. Survey Data and Interpretation

TABLE I. Profile of the Respondents

AGE	Median	46
	Mode	36
	Minimum	26
	Maximum	53
RELIGION	Islam	62.63
	Roman Catholic	20.65
	Others.	16.70
INCOME	Median	Php5,000.00
	Mode	2,500.00
	Minimum	1,500.00
	Maximum	6,500.00
NUMBERS OF FAMILY MEMBERS	Median	7
	Mode	6
	Minimum	4
	Maximum	10

The table further indicated that the median age of the respondents is 46 years old. The result implies that the respondents are in their middle adulthood. According to Eric Erickson Stages of Psychosocial Development , people in the middle adulthood (40 to 65 years old are adults that need to create or nurture things that will outlast them, often by having children or creating a positive change that benefits not only themselves but other people as well. Success leads to feelings of usefulness and accomplishment.

It also reveals that the highest percentages of 62.63% are Islam, in the study referred to the religion of the Maranao. The Program of St. Michael's College was introduced to selected municipalities catered by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program by DSWD Region X, Baroy, Tubod, Lala, Kapatagan, Nunungan, Salvador, Magsaysay, Sapad, Tangcal, Sultan Naga Dimaporo.

It further indicated that the respondents median number of family member is 7 and the maximum is 10. The program was introduce to municipalities of Lanao del Norte wherein majority of the respondents were maranao about 1,142,000 is the current population size of the Maranao (Maranao Online, 2012).

TABLE II: Level of Empowerment

Dimensions	Mean	Description
CONFIDENT	3.21	Empowered
INCLUSIVE	3.62	Very Empowered
ORGANIZED	3.20	Empowered
CO-OPERATIVE	3.44	Very Empowered
INFLUENTIAL	3.26	Very Empowered
Legend: 1.00-1.75 not empowered, 1.76-2.50 less empowered, 2.51-3.25 empowered, 3.26-4.00 very empowered		

The table shows the empowerment level of the beneficiaries of DSWD- Region X. The CONFIDENT as dimension of empowerment wherein the respondents weighted mean is (3.21 - empowered) which is describe as empowered it includes the aspect of acquiring skills from the program introduced by St. Michael's College and learned how to manage time in making the rags as taught during the training conducted by the school.

Another dimension in the study is INCLUSIVE that was rated (3.62 – very empowered) the beneficiaries together with St. Michael's College and DSWD- Region X were together in planning the program. The

beneficiaries idea on how to make the program workable was entertained and included in the enhancement skills training for the phase 2 of sustainable livelihood program

In the dimension of ORGANIZED, the beneficiaries rated (3.20-empowered) which means that beneficiaries can produce the number of outputs expected from them to create in the scheduled date. Therefore, there was a proper observation of time schedule. According to the interview it was revealed that the respondents will manage their time so that they can create rags for their family and scheduled it after doing their daily chores to earn income.

Also in the dimension of CO-OPERATIVE, the beneficiaries rated (3.44-very empowered). It shows the dedication of the respondents in terms of the Sustainable Livelihood Program given collaboratively by St. Michael’s College and DSWD- Region X.

And the last dimension in the study is INFLUENTIAL which was rated as (3.26-very empowered). Wherein the beneficiaries agree in working in ways which encourage among themselves and influence other members of their communities to take part with the services introduced by SMC and DSWD-Region X to them.

TABLE III: Empowered in Terms of the following:

SELF-SUFFICIENT <i>The project make my family buy the following:</i> (3/10)	Foods	82.55%
	School Expenses	78.87%
	Personal needs	68.33%
SELF-RELIANT <i>The project help me to:</i> (3/10)	Help the Family	89.63%
	Pay other expenses	78.36%
	Save	66.24%
SELF-GOVERN <i>In terms of :</i> (3/8)	Scheduled time	78.25%
	Weaving rags	77.33%
	Delivery	68.58%

The table shows the aspects were beneficiaries assert the most empowered parts of being self-sufficient, self-reliant and self-govern.

5. Conclusion

The findings of the study reveal that the median age of the respondents is 46 which belong to the middle adulthood with the minimum age of 26 and a maximum of 54. Number of family members reveals 7 members as the median with minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 and the majority of the religion were Islam and the median of their income Php5,000.00 minimum of Php1,500.00.

The result further indicated that the family monthly income were relatively higher and now meet their basic family physiological needs such as buying food with the highest percentage of 82.55, school expenses 78.87% and personal needs 68.33%.

Likewise, they were able to improve the management of their time because they will allocate period for household chores, responsibility to their children and weaving of rags. As the result discloses that they were able to schedule their time 78.25%, weaving rags 77.33% and can meet the delivery period 68.58%.

Furthermore, under self-reliance were self-reliant the project help the family 89.63%, pay other expenses 78.36% and save 66.24%.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the success of BASAHANG MAASAHAN as the community engagement project of St. Michael’s College will be shared to other recipients’ who wishes to increase their income and develop livelihood skills.

Also it is recommended that DWSD Region X will continuously support the beneficiaries in terms of marketing channel of their output.

7. Reference

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