



ASEAN SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL

Volume 10, No. 1, June, Year 2022

ISSN : 2089-1075

www.aseansocialwork.com

Community Needs Assessment in Sitio Sapa, Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal: Basis of Social Welfare Extension Program of the University of Rizal System Rodriguez, Rizal

Ma. Victoria H. Alarte

College of Social Work and Community Development, University of Rizal System Rodriguez, Rizal, Philippines

*Correspondence: mavictoria.alarte@urs.edu.ph

Abstract

The incorporation of community services about the need for a sustainable livelihood program was evaluated in this report. The four hundred (400) residents were taken as respondents, using full household enumeration. Most of the respondents in Rodriguez Rizal are purely uplifted and hailed, living a simple modern way of life brought about by industrialization in the region. However, considering the number of years they live in the area, they still have limited earnings due to limited educational qualifications. Most of the family's meager income is spent on their food. The government provides limited economic and social infrastructure. Therefore, poverty is always felt among them, so the need for a sustainable livelihood program that is important, productive, and beneficial is required to achieve a fulfilling and meaningful existence. The results demonstrate that there is a need for a program to enhance their living conditions. It is recommended that in partnership with the local government unit and the school, steps should be taken to improve the community's livelihood by expanding appropriate research-based community services. The following advice was proposed in response to the analysis carried out and from the data collected. A partnership between the Barangay Unit and the Local Government Unit is primarily via the Municipal Office for Social Welfare and Development and the Social Work and Community Development College. A Sitio Sapa Community mobilization operations such as capacity building enable them to be self-confident through the social security program. Through social growth, an extension program links the needs and resources of the Community to the residents of Sitio Sapa as part of the dual objective of the Conditional Cash Transfer being implemented in the region. Through investment in human resources (i.e., education, health, and nutrition), social development breaks the cycle of poverty. To address the capacities of the citizens in the region, a social welfare program will be planned.

Keywords: Needs assessment, community development, social welfare

Introduction

Typically, communities are defined by a geographical area, but they can also be based on shared interests or characteristics, such as religion, race, age, or occupation. People come from different backgrounds within a society and have particular cultures, traditions, and values. It is critical to use this wide range of ideas and wisdom to evaluate community needs and strategize improvement areas. It would be best to have a clear understanding of the various cultural groups within a community and how best to work with them to solve the community's problems before conducting a community needs assessment.

Currently, communities face the threat of surviving without risking people's potential to meet their needs in the future. They face challenges and struggle to take hold of their sustainable projects and developments. The ability or capacity of communities to maintain or even sustain themselves is challenged (www.landlearnsw.org.au/). The sustainability of society is significantly influenced by the development and preservation of economic and environmental health, social justice promotion, and broad-based citizen engagement in planning and implementation. Moreover, it is generally likely that societies involving people and organizations to establish sustainability values and a common vision for the future and apply an integrative approach to environmental, economic, and social objectives will be more effective. (<http://www.sustainable.org/approximately>). For several reasons, conducting an evaluation, especially in a community, is imperative. The first is that the community's survival is decided.

Second, residents and local officials are alerted to the effect of a proposed development on the community's social and economic well-being; third, it is about avoiding the creation of inequalities among community groups. The positive impacts associated with the proposed development are, therefore, encouraged by evaluation. Educational institutions have a corporate obligation to expand services to needy communities to contribute to economic growth. In particular, higher education institutions advocate the trilogy's functions, namely: instruction, research, and extension. As a result, the Higher Education Commission has attached importance to integrating research and community services, which may also impact education. As an environment for quality assessment, higher educational institutions were then required to provide community services. A study on the evaluation of needs in needy communities is considered crucial. Radhakrishna et al. (2014) argued that a common language for planning, discussion, implementation, and demonstration of a program's performance and accountability is integrating research, extension, and education. He quoted Decker (2004) as saying that the traditional Extension-Research model was simple and worked somewhat well because the functions of the faculty of extension and research were rigid and clearly defined.

In meeting the needs of its user groups, Social Work as a discipline and as a profession has three approaches. Casework, Group Work, and Community Organizing are these methods. As a social work method, Community Organization has three models: social action, social analysis and community development (Miclait 1993), which differentiates itself from other community organizing work.

Methodology

This research employed a quantitative approach emphasizing objective measurements and numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques. The four hundred (400) residents were taken as respondents, using full household enumeration. To assess the needs of the residents of Sitio Sapa of Barangay San Rafael, the researchers used descriptive survey methods. The identification, documenting, analysis, and interpretation of nature's present phenomena, composition, or method requires descriptive research. The emphasis is on the prevailing circumstances and how individuals, groups, or things in the present behave or function. The methods of the survey were used. This approach is considered acceptable since the outcome is described and interpreted. Descriptive statistics include the processes used in obtaining and explaining a data set to generate useful information. (Ronald E., Walpole, 2002)

Results and Discussion

As to the profile of the respondents, there are more female than male with the frequency of 261 or 65.3%. In terms of age, majority of the respondents are within the age bracket of 29-35 with a frequency of 150 or 37.5%. In terms of respondents year of residency, most of them are staying in the area for almost 40-49 years with a frequency of 190 or 47.5%. With regards to the livelihood and socio economic of the respondents surveys found out that majority of the respondents are vendor with the frequency of 197 or 49.3%.

In terms of estimated family income there were 192 or 48.0% majority of the respondents are earning 5,000-7,999.00 per month. With regards to the estimated monthly expenses, mostly of the respondents are consumes between 5,000-5,999.00 with the frequency of 192 or 48%. Regarding respondent's profile in terms of organizational membership mostly of the respondents are affiliated with the neighborhood with a frequency of 123 or 30.8%. The distribution of the profile of the respondents in terms of political involvement reveals a frequency of 400 or 100%. In terms of livelihood needs respondents manifest their interest in animal raising with a frequency of 151 or 37.75% , this was due to the fact that there are no available job offerings within the community and in the terms of respondents aspirations in life most of them wants to have their children finish their studies and have their own stable job.

The respondents in this study are housewives left behind to take care of their homes and independent kids. Along with other single children, most of the husbands who work are high school graduates working as skilled laborers who have chosen to do rather than to further their education. Common source of income of the families are in selling seasonal commodities that includes vegetable and other commodities. The average combined income of three family members are Php 8000.00 monthly that includes independent children who have been forced to contribute to the family's needs, and it is clear that the socio economic condition falls within the poverty line is a driving factor that needs to be address.

The livelihood needs of the respondents falls under backyard farming particularly animal raising such as hog raising and poultry. It was ascertain in the study of Lee and Nelson (2006), the role of needs assessment is defined by the several factors, such as, gathering data on perceived needs. Among four categories of needs – perceived needs, expressed needs, absolute needs, and relative needs - the identification of perceived needs are the most important aspect, because it is the riil needs felt by the community. A program which is established based on need asseessment, especially the community's perceived needs, can be more sustainable.

A worsening economic condition within a household and a widening gap in the distribution of income causes many to seek jobs and seek alternative livelihoods that will result in substantial changes in their living conditions that will allow them to live a life of dignity and well-being.

Based on the study conducted and from the data gathered, the resources and potentials are identified. These resources can be the recommendations of this research. To the local government unit, specifically the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office to be able to plan and initiate projects that will help the people of Sitio Sapa to be more economically productive as far as felt needs is concerned. For the Non-Government Organization to extend their livelihood program to the Sitio Sapa residents. An extension program that will link the needs and resources of the Community to the residents of Sitio Sapa.

The results demonstrate that there is a need for a program to enhance their living conditions. It is recommended that in partnership with the local government unit and the school, steps should be taken to improve the community's livelihood by expanding appropriate research-based community services. Based on the analysis carried out using the data collected, the establishment of partnership between the Barangay Unit and the Local Government Unit is important, primarily via the Municipal Office for Social Welfare and Development and the Social Work and Community Development College. A Sitio Sapa Community mobilization operations, such as, capacity building enable them to be self-confident through the social security program. Through social growth, an extension program links the needs and resources of the Community to the residents of Sitio Sapa as part of the dual objective of the Conditional Cash Transfer being implemented in the region. Through investment in human resources (i.e., education, health, and nutrition), social development breaks the cycle of poverty. To address the capacities of the citizens in the region, a social welfare program needs to be planned

Conclusion

In Rodriguez Rizal, most of the participants are solely raised and hailed. They live a simple, modern way of life brought about in the region by industrialization. However, because of limited educational qualifications, they still have limited means of earning, despite the number of years they live in the city. The meager income of the family is mainly spent on their food. The government has minimal social and economic resources. Poverty is still felt between them; therefore, to achieve a fulfilling and meaningful life, the criteria for a sustainable livelihood program that is important, profitable, and beneficial are required.

Via extension services, the College of Social Work and Community Development can, in partnership with other colleges, use its programs or courses to optimize its human capital to carry out not only dole-out outreach activities. But an extension program will enable the group to preserve its socio-economic status through various capacity building programs and safety net interventions that could sustain or improve their livelihood assistance capabilities.

Suggestion

The following suggestion was proposed in response to the study conducted and from the data obtained. A relationship between the Barangay Unit and the Local Government Unit is encouraged through the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office and the College of Social Work and Community Development. Sitio Sapa's Community Mobilization programs, such as, capacity building through the social protection program, allow them to be self-reliant. As part of the Conditional Cash Transfer's dual objective, an extension program is being introduced in the region that will connect the needs and services of the Community to the residents of Sitio Sapa through social development. Through investment in human resources, social development breaks the cycle of poverty (i.e., education, health, and nutrition). To address the capacities of the citizens in the region, a social welfare program will be planned.

Acknowledgement

The research and publication of this journal would not be successful without the support of various parties. On this occasion, the research team would like to thank the full support from all parties that involved in this research.

Author's Brief Bio

Ma. Victoria H. Alarte

mavictoria.alarte@urs.edu.ph

Alarte is a college of Social Work and Community Development, University of Rizal System Rodriguez, Rizal, Philippines. She active to meet with clients weekly while still in the program and also provide holistic and comprehensive case management services to all clients including: intake assessment, benefit assessment, goal setting, long term case plan development, weekly caseplan development, progress monitoring, individual money management, sponsorship education, advocacy and referrals.

References

- Arnstein, S. R. "A ladder of citizen participation." *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Vol. 35, No.4, July, pp. 216-224. <http://www.sharedservicearchitects.co.uk/write/Documents/Citizen>
- Bonanno, A. (2012). "Food Desserts: Demand, Supply, and Economic Theory." *Choices Quarter 3*. Available online: <http://choicesmagazine.org/choices->.
- Cabauatan, W. F. (2013). Needs assessment on grassroots leadership in selected barangays in the Municipality of Santol, La Union. *Saint Louis College Faculty Research Journal*, Vol. X, No. 1, City of San Fernando, La Union.
- Calmorin, L. (2007). *Methods of Research and Thesis Writing*. Manila: Rex Book Store *Community Needs Assessment*. <http://www.learningtogive.org/resources/community-needs-assessments>. (Accessed on June 8, 2016).
- Cresswell, J. W. (2007). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Decker, D. J. (2004). Integrating research and Extension to achieve the land grant mission: The CUAES Vision and Philosophy. *CALS Connect*. food-deserts-demand-supply-and-economic-theory
- Garcia, R. G. et al. (2013). Household and community needs of Barangay Poblacion, Santol, La Union. *Saint Louis College Faculty Research Journal*, Vol. X, No. 1, City of San Fernando, La Union General Profile of *The Sangguniang Barangay 2010-2013*, Municipality of Santol, La Union
- <http://www.landlearnsw.org.au/>. (Accessed on August 8, 2016)
- http://www.lic.wisc.edu/shapingdane/facilitation/all_resources/impacts/analysis_socio.htm (Accessed on June 22, 2016)
- <http://www.sustainable.org/about>. (Accessed on May 17, 2016)
- http://www.zamboanga.com/z/index.php?title=Lettac_Sur,_Santol,_La_Union,_Philippines. (Retrieved on June 10, 2016)
- <https://www.childfund.org/poverty-and-education/magazine/theme-articles/an-evaluation-of-food-deserts-in-america/>
- Mendes, P. P. (2008). Teaching community developmet to social work students: A critical reflection. *Community Development Journal*, 2008.
- Participation_Theoretical_Frameworks.pdf. (Accessed on June 20, 2016)
- Radhakrishna, R., Tobin, D, Foley, C. (2014). *Journal of Extension*. Vol. 52, Number 1, Article # 1FEA1. www.joe.org.
- Tan, A. (2009). *Community development theory and practice: Bridging the divide between 'micro' and 'macro' levels of social work*. <https://www.nacsw.org/Publications/Proceedings2009/TanACommunity.pdf>. (Accessed on July 8, 2016).