
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Community-Based Development Program and Projects of the University of Makati in Porac, Pampanga: An Evaluative Study

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| ABSTRACT

This study aimed to evaluate the extent of benefits gained by the indigenous people of the resettlement area in Barangay Camias, Municipality of Porac, Pampanga, in the community-based development programs and projects of the University of Makati as to entrepreneurial and livelihood programs, infrastructure developments, health services, and social welfare projects. Descriptive-survey design was used to describe the present situation of the barangay and the help that these community-based programs and projects gave after these were realized. The findings revealed that the program-recipients benefited from the community-based development programs and projects; positive feedback was received from them; and perceptions and responses of the program-recipients, therefore, attested the responsiveness of the community-based development program and projects of the University of Makati to the needs of the Aeta Community. The researchers humbly recommend that a periodic impact assessment must be conducted (at least annually) in order to maintain and sustain the community-based development program and projects of the University; and immersion and community-based extension programs for adopted communities shall be conducted regularly and continuously which involves all colleges, centers, administrative departments and students of the University.

| KEYWORDS

Community-Based Development Program; University of Makati; Evaluative Study

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

ACCEPTED: 28 August 2022

PUBLISHED: 02 September 2022

DOI: 10.32996/Ijahs.2022.2.2.8

1. Introduction

The extension is one of the three-fold functions of the educational higher learning institutions that are recognized and embodied in the Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997 (RA 8292). Intensification of the extension services, together with research and instruction in higher education, will gear towards the provision of better-quality education and the development of middle and high-level manpower.

Based on the general guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the term extension refers to the act of communicating and transferring knowledge and technology to specific sectors and target clientele to enable them to effectively improve production, community, and/or institutions, and quality of life, at the same time, enhance the HEI's academic and research programs. Based on AACUP (2000), as cited by Illupa (2008), the extension also refers to the application of new knowledge and technology generated in the institution to improve the quality of life of the people.

Furthermore, according to former Senate President Marcelo B. Fernan, extension service is defined as a concept encompassing people empowerment and human resource development geared towards human capital enhancement, technology, and facilities diffusion among the "masang" Pilipino, if not the poorest of the poor. Extension service projects as avenues for the people, by the people, and of the people, should by itself be initiating, capitalizing, and sustaining approaches to community development.

The University of Makati, Center for Extension Service, Entrepreneurial and Livelihood Education (CESELE), and all colleges and centers focus on the following objectives: to achieve a more focused community extension works with sustainable, measurable, and realistic results; to strengthen linkages with partners, communities, and stakeholders in the effective delivery of extension services; and to provide a dynamic and integrated community development services intended for university stakeholders.

To achieve these goals, activities and services were focused on training such as: civil service review program, computer literacy training, customer service relations seminar, drug awareness program, financial literacy, and other related seminars/workshop, infrastructure projects, health services, entrepreneurial and livelihood programs which were based on the needs of Makati community and adopted community. Just like other community extension programs, UMak Extension also encountered budget constraints and limited manpower to implement all the programs.

1.1 CESELE Vision

We envision the Center for Extension Service, Entrepreneurial and Livelihood Education (CESELE) **"KABALIKAT"** project of the University of Makati to become the **"best in the country"** implementers of relevant, responsive, and sustainable extension services and outreach programs in the City of Makati and neighboring Cities/Municipalities.

1.2 CESELE Mission

The CESELE Mission, which is the **"KABALIKAT"** project, is committed not only to direct executing university extension and outreach programs for internal capability building but also to coordinating and collaborating with partners for networking and linkages and to help in developing the capabilities of communities and other stakeholders through effective and efficient implementation of programs and projects for the extension.

1.3 CESELE Philosophy Statement

"By helping Others, We help ourselves."

1.4 CESELE Objectives

General Objective: To provide the individual, partners, communities, and stakeholders a venue for a holistic approach to community services and development.

Specific Objectives: to achieve a more focused community extension works with measurable and realistic results, to strengthen linkages with partners, communities, and stakeholders in the effective delivery of extension services, to provide centralized, dynamic, and integrated community development services to intended stakeholders and to lead in identifying and implementing long/short relevant courses, seminars/forum, and other non-formal education programs, projects, and activities.

The academic department's extension programs and projects should be classified into three major categories. They are intended for the development of the following areas: Internal Capability Services, Networking and Linkages, and Community-Based Development Program.

1.5 Statement of the Problem

The study aimed to evaluate the extent of benefits gained by the indigenous people of the resettlement area in Barangay Camias, Municipality of Porac, Pampanga, in the community-based development programs and projects of the University of Makati.

Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions:

1. What are the community-based development programs and projects of the Center for Extension Services, Entrepreneurial and Livelihood Education (CESELE) of the University of Makati that were realized in Porac, Pampanga?
2. How do the program recipients evaluate the extent of benefits of community-based development programs and projects of the University of Makati, such as:
 - 2.1. entrepreneurial and livelihood programs;
 - 2.2. infrastructure development;
 - 2.3. health services; and
 - 2.4. Social welfare projects?
3. What are their remarks and commentaries about these community-based programs and projects?
4. What development plan could be proposed to improve the extension services of the University of Makati to this Aeta Community?

2. Methodology

The researchers used the descriptive-survey design of research. The descriptive design was used to describe the present situation of the barangay and the help after these community-based programs and projects were realized. This is also a fact-finding study with adequate interpretations of the findings and describes what actually exists.

The researchers used a survey questionnaire distributed to the program recipients to evaluate the community-based development programs and projects in their barangay and later on verified by an interview.

A regular visit to the resettlement area gave the proponents and target beneficiaries enough space for common understanding. The proponents took note of the fact of the disparity in customs and tradition by way of cursory observation, to which they were allowed through dialogue and answers to queries by focal areas in the area. Focus group discussion was the more effective way to learn from the Aetas of Sitio Belora, known as Barangay Camias, Porac Pampanga. Even more, gravitate to outsiders and share their stories. Initially, the interest was to provide socio-economic projects to the whole Pasbul-Camias, but after three years of frequent visits to the area, the locals gained from the University by providing them entrepreneurial livelihood, infrastructure projects, and other services.

2.1 Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study were 55 residents of the Aeta resettlement area, who were also the recipients of the programs facilitated and organized by CESELE.

3. Findings and Discussion of Results

The following were the findings of the study:

1. Community-based Development Programs and Projects

The following are the community-based development programs and projects of the University for the residents of the Aeta Community: two (2) fabricated solar lamp posts; two (2) public comfort rooms; water sewerage system rehabilitation; sari-sari store package; health services like medical and dental check-up; relief operations; feeding program; literacy training; and marketing of the products such as Aeta-craft bamboo coin banks (native alkansya), fruits and vegetables.

2. Evaluation on the Extent of Benefits of the Community-based Development Programs and Projects

The evaluation of the program-recipients about the extent of benefits of the community-based development programs and projects of the University in terms of entrepreneurial and livelihood, infrastructure development, health services, and social welfare projects is shown in table 1.

Table 1
Evaluation of the Program-recipients on the Extent of Benefits of the Community-based Development Programs and Projects of the University

Programs/Projects	Mean	SD	Verbal Interpretation
Entrepreneurial and Livelihood Programs	4.24	.721	Well-Benefited
Infrastructure Development	4.00	.742	Benefited
Health Services	4.21	.786	Well-Benefited
Social Welfare Projects	4.05	.721	Benefited
Composite	4.12	.746	Benefited

Legend: 4.21-5.00–Well-Benefited; 3.41-4.20–Benefited; 2.61-3.40–Moderately Benefited; 1.81-2.60–Less Benefited; 1.00-1.80–Not Benefited

The table shows that the program recipients were **well-benefited** by the entrepreneurial and livelihood programs, as well as the health services of the University. Moreover, these recipients **benefited** from infrastructure development and social welfare projects. The values of standard deviation, which are all less than one (1), signify consistency and uniformity in the evaluation of the program recipients. This means that there is a common answer among the respondents. This is true for all indicators.

In general, the recipients **benefited** from community-based development programs and projects of the University. This is based on the composite mean value of 4.12 and an equivalent standard deviation of .746.

This only proved that the program recipients are satisfied as regards the implementation of the different community-based development programs and projects of the University. The researchers can also say that these people gained a lot from these programs and projects.

3. Remarks and Commentaries

From the interview conducted, which ask, "what can you say about the different community-based programs and projects prepared by the University?," the following answers were gotten (in summary): malaki ang naitulong, unti-unting umuunlad ang kabuhatan (*a big help in the progress of our lives*); nakakatulong at nakapagdagdag sa pang-araw-araw (*can help and give additional income*); maayos ang pagtanggap sa amin (*we are very much accepted*); malaki po ang naitulong sa amin kahit na malayo kami (*it was a big help for us even if we are far*); lahat po kami ay nagalak at napasaya ng mga programa at proyektong ibinigay ninyo (*the programs and projects make us glad and happy*); masaya at maganda, nakakatulong sa aming lahat, lalo na ang aming mga anak na nag-aaral (*happy and good, a big help for all of us, especially to our children who are studying*); malaki ang natutunan ng mga bata lalo na sa edukasyon (*children learned many things especially in education*); nag-enjoy ang mga bata sa activities (*the children enjoyed the activities*); nakakatulong po kayo. Sana po maipagpatuloy pa po. (*You're a big help. Hoping that this will be continuously done.*); ang lahat po ng mga tao dito ay inaabangan ang pagdating ng mga taga-Umak dahil sa naitulong ninyo sa patubig at pagkain (*all people in the place are patiently waiting for the people of Umak because of the help extended in irrigation and food supply*); and masaya po pag may bisita at nagbabahagi ng biyaya (*happy if there are visitors who sharing their blessings*).

4. Conclusions

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The program recipients were very satisfied with the community-based development programs and projects provided by the University, such as entrepreneurial and livelihood programs, infrastructure developments, health services, and social welfare projects.
2. Positive feedback from the interview conducted was received from these program recipients.
3. Perceptions and responses of the program recipients, therefore, attested to the responsiveness of the community-based development program and projects of the University of Makati to the needs of the Aeta Community.

4.1 Recommendations

With the foregoing conclusion, the following recommendations were humbly presented:

1. A periodic impact assessment must be conducted (at least annually) to maintain and sustain the community-based development program and projects of the University.
2. Immersion and community-based extension programs for adopted communities shall be conducted regularly and continuously, which involves all colleges, centers, administrative departments, and students of the University.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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