

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE SAN AGUSTIN UNITED SEWERS ASSOCIATION (SAUSA) PROJECT: AN EXTENSION PROJECT OF EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY, PHILIPPINES

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Abstract

This study assessed the impact of The San Agustin United Sewers' Association which is an extension project of the College of Technology of the Eastern Visayas State University in Tacloban City, Philippines and was established to address the need of the barangay to provide a means of livelihood to residents who were adversely affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda in November 2013. The study is guided with the following objectives: To determine the socio-demographic profiles of the respondents in terms of: age, family size, educational attainment, occupation, and monthly family income; to determine the impact performance of the extension project to the respondents; to explore the general impression of the respondents about the extension project; to analyze the problems encountered by the respondents of the extension project; and to describe the suggestions of the respondents to improve the extension project. A combination of descriptive quantitative and qualitative designs were used in this study. Majority of the respondents were between 56-65 years of age, dominated by female with 3 to 5 members of the family, most obtained their secondary diploma, farming and fishing were the major source of income, and they all belong within the poverty threshold. The project was perceived to have a very high impact to the respondents. They also perceived that the project has provided additional income to the family, additional source of fund for daily expenses, they learned about different strategies and techniques in sewing, and they were able to be acquainted with new friends. Despite the positive things brought about by the project to the participants they still encountered some challenges such as not enough sewing machine, some sewing machines were broken, failure to conduct meetings. It is therefore recommended that before the commencement of any project, all necessary materials needed for the training shall be given focus and whatever plans made shall be realized.

Keyword: Extension project, women's organization, cooperative, women association

INTRODUCTION

After a conduct of any extension programs, projects, and activities, evaluation or an impact assessment is necessary. This measure is done to see if the extension programs, projects, and activities are conducted according to its objectives and purpose. According to Canan and Hennessy (1985, in Montalbo, 2016), Impact Assessment as anticipatory research attempts to provide decisionmakers with information about the likely social outcomes of adopting a policy, instituting a program, or initiating a project which is, by definition, designed to alter the future. This paper is anchored on the impact assessment studies of Dugyon (2016), Etwire, et al.(2013), Gonzales and Maghamil (2009), Herrera (2010), and Montalbo (2016).

The use of Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) can reduce the harm done by development tackle all dimensions of business-poverty relationships and to achieve fundamental changes in the governance of sustainable community development, companies will have to rethink their approaches to social partnerships, multi stakeholder engagement process, and impact assessment (Muthuri et. al, 2012; Yahya, Ismail, Salleh and Abdullah, 2015

in Montalbo, 2016).

This present study is conducted in Babatngon which is classified as a 4th Class Municipality of Leyte. Its total land area is 11,518 Hectares covering 25 barangays. The Municipality has formulated its executive and Legislative Agenda for CY 2014-2016 with the goal of “Providing the municipality a roadmap towards a unified direction, synchronized efforts and converged resources to further hasten development”. This agenda is aligned to the vision of the LGU as a premier tourist destination in the 1th District of Leyte.

The College of Technology has always been one of the colleges in the Eastern Visayas State University to have a vibrant extension program. The nature of courses offered by the college makes its extension projects the most sought after by local government units (LGUs) and other agencies, both from the private and government sectors. These projects focus on techno-transfer of developed products/research output and skills training for livelihood. A highlight of the Extension Program of the college is the partnership with the Municipality of Babatngon which covers livelihood skills training on Cookery, Baking, Sewing and Handicrafts (with focus on recycling), Carpentry, Electrical Installation and Maintenance, F & B Service, Bartending, and Welding. The Memorandum of Agreement with the municipality covers 25 barangays. In January 2013, the COT-EVSU-Babatngon Training Center located at the Municipal Hall compound was inaugurated. Another training center was established in Barangay San Agustin in 2014.

The extension program of the college with Babatngon, Leyte continued, and is still on-going. In particular, the college assisted in the creation and establishment of the San Agustin United Sewers Association (SAUSA) Garments Center, located at Barangay San Agustin, Babatngon. This is a business venture which is part and parcel of the Babatngon Multi Service Business Center.

The direct beneficiaries of this business venture are the constituents of Barangay San Agustin and other barangays not currently employed or engaged in entrepreneurial activities, as well as those who would like to venture in a small scale enterprise which would require new skills like sewing/dressmaking.

From adversity also comes some blessings and this was proven true with the outpouring of grants. The assistance of the EVSU College of Technology in rebuilding their lives came in the form of trainings and facilitating access to grants. In particular, the group of women trained by Mrs. Margarita Brao under the Livelihood Skills Training Program of the COT in basic sewing and handicrafts were able to rise up from the devastation of Yolanda and undertake a business which is now providing their families with income.

The women folk organized the San Agustin United Sewers Association and included the men, some of whom had previous experience in tailoring. They established the Garments Center in San Agustin which is now accepting sewing jobs on a commercial scale. The story of SAUSA is about a journey from rug-making to commercial garments production, which hopefully, will bring economic progress to the municipality of Babatngon.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study is guided with the following objectives:

1. To determine the socio-demographic profiles of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age,
 - 1.2 Family Size,
 - 1.3 Educational Attainment,
 - 1.4 Occupation, And
 - 1.5 Monthly Family Income;
2. To determine the impact performance of the extension project to the respondents;
3. To explore the general impression of the respondents about the extension project;
4. To analyze the problems encountered by the respondents of the extension project; and
5. To describe the suggestions of the respondents to improve the extension project?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study made use a combination of descriptive qualitative and quantitative research design specifically the content analysis and descriptive research design. It was used to describe the profile of the respondents, the different projects/activities provided in its service- community. It likewise accounts the assessment of the respondents on the impact of the extension program with respect to acquired knowledge, skills and values and attitudes. Frequency, percentage were used to treat data along profile of the respondents.

Locale of the Study

This study was conducted at Brgy. San Agustin, Babatngon, and Leyte specifically the San Agustin United Sewers Association (SUASA). This barangay was considered as the adopted barangay of Eastern Visayas State University to interface extension mandate of the college.

Respondents of the study

The respondents of this study were the beneficiaries of the extension projects and activities of the College, the San Agustin Sewers Association (SAUSA). The Member of SAUSA was: 27 (Twenty –Nine) are women and 2 (Two) are men. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents of the study. This technique was used since the beneficiaries of the program are thought to be the best people to share their experiences and changes in their life as offshoots of the program.

Research Instrument

A survey questionnaire is the main instrument used in this study. The questionnaire was made up of three parts. Part I included Social Economic Profile of the respondents. Part II the SAUSA project impact of the extension projects and activities provided in the community. Part III General Impression of the Project Partnership. Part IV identifies Problems Encounter in the implementation of the projects. Part V the Comment and Suggestion to improve the project partnership. The contributions of each extension project to the respondents were elicited through interview with guide questions.

Statistical Treatment

Data accumulated through the use of the research instrument were treated using descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage and mean. The qualitative data were analyzed using initial coding, axial coding, and selective coding. After which, themes were identified and discussed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The demographic profile of the respondents presented in Table 1 indicate that among the 19 SAUSA members surveyed, 10 of them belongs to the age group 46-55 years old and 6 were 56-65 years old which accounts about 84 percent of the distribution, while the remaining 16 percent or equivalent to 3 SAUSA respondents were of the age ranged from 66 and above. Among these, 90 percent were female and 10 percent were male. Result also indicates that family size of about 58 percent of the respondents were on the category 3-5 family members, 32 percent have 6-8 family members, meanwhile 2 respondents have 9 and above family members. Educational attainment of about 47 percent which accounts highest frequency percentage was at least high school level; 32 percent have obtained secondary diploma while 21 percent have attained tertiary education. Occupation of about 63 percent of the SAUSA members were farming and or fishing; 16 percent were construction worker and or labourer and 16 percent have small scale business. Thus, with this occupation, classification of the monthly income of the 19 SAUSA members belongs to the category of poverty line or equivalent to P 10, 481.00 below.

SAUSA Project Impact

Table 1: Respondents' demographic profile

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
46-55	10	52.63
56-65	6	31.58
66 and above	3	15.79
Sex		
Male	2	10.50
Female	17	89.50
Family Size		
3-5	11	57.89
6-8	6	31.58
9 and above	2	10.53
Educational Attainment		
Elementary Level	1	5.30
Elementary Graduate	3	15.80
High School Level	5	26.30
High School Graduate	6	31.60
College Level	3	15.80
College Graduate	1	5.30
Occupation		
Farming/Fishing	12	63.16
Construction Worker/Labourer	3	15.79
Small Scale Business	3	15.79
Message Therapist	1	5.30
Monthly Income		
below 10,481.00	19	100.00
Total	19	100.00

SAUSA Project's Impact Assessment

As observed in Table 2, each item which aims to measure the impact of the SAUSA project as well as its overall rating obtained a qualitative description of "Very High Impact" with mean score ranging from 4.95 to 5.00.

Table 2: Impact assessment of the SAUSA Project

Benchmark Statement	Mean	Qualitative Description
Partnership objectives are clearly stated	5.00	Very High Impact
Project Objectives are attainable and doable	5.00	Very High Impact
Provide additional income to the family	5.00	Very High Impact
Enhance the economic conditions of the members	5.00	Very High Impact
Provide Better opportunity among families	4.95	Very High Impact
Provide holistic Impact to the lives of the family members	4.95	Very High Impact
Overall rating of the SAUSA project partnership	5.00	Very High Impact
Overall Mean	4.99	Very High Impact

General Impression of the Project Partnership

To validate the feedback given by the respondents, a focus group discussion was conducted to specifically get their impressions and perceptions about the project specifically on the partnership. Most of their responses listed were indicated below.

- Provided additional income to the family
- Additional source of fund for daily expenses.
- Learned about different strategies and techniques in sewing
- Acquainted new friends.

Problems Encountered

Assessment of the SAUSA Project also allows the members to list down their problem encountered in the implementation of the project. Most of their responses listed were indicated below.

- Not enough sewing due to pandemic
- Some sewing machine were broken
- Failure to conduct meeting.

Suggestion to Improve the Project Partnership

SAUSA members' comments and suggestions in terms of re-planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, dissemination of monitoring and evaluation results, and submission of year-end/ terminal reports were also gathered as these will be useful in improving the project partnership. Responses listed were indicated below.

Re-Planning

- HAVE REGULAR MEETINGS TO BE CONDUCT
- IF THERE ARE NEW PROJECT, OFFICERS WILL NOTIFY THE MEMBERS IMMEDIATELY

Implementation

- IF THERE ARE NEW PROJECTS, MEMBER MUST DO IT WELL.
- SAUSA MEMBERS DO CAREFULLY THEIR SEWING BASED ON THE LIKES OF THE CUSTOMERS/CLIENTS

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- I HOPE EVERY THREE OR SIX MONTHS WILL HAVE A PERMANENT INSPECTION
- IF THERE IS A PROBLEM THAT MAY BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO THE

Dissemination of Monitoring and evaluation results

- IF MEMBERS CAN BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF EVERY MONITORING TO BE EITHER BY EVSU OR BY SAUSA OFFICERS
- CONDUCT MEETING EVERY MONTH TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IMMEDIATELY
- IF MEMBERS CAN BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY IF A PROBLEM IS COMING

Submission of year-end/terminal reports:

- HAVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT SOON
- MAKE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT PER QUARTER OF THE YEAR

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and results of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Majority of the respondents were between 56-65 years of age, dominated by female with 3 to 5 members of the family, most obtained their secondary diploma, farming and fishing were the major source of income, and they all belong within the poverty threshold.
2. The project was perceived to have a very high impact to the respondents.
3. They also perceived that the project has provided additional income to the family, additional source of fund for daily expenses, they learned about different strategies and techniques in sewing, and they were able to be acquainted with new friends.
4. Despite the positive things brought about by the project to the participants they still encountered some challenges such as not enough sewing machine, some sewing machines were broken, failure to conduct meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions, the following are recommended:

The College of Technology takes pride in the service orientation shown by its faculty as evidenced by a hundred percent involvement in extension activities. Need to conduct advanced training in the different fields of specialization. Having an adapter from the technology transfer activities of the college can be attributed to this service orientation.

Based on our experience with the SAUSA project, we recommend that extension services should go beyond techno-transfer or livelihood skills training. Logistic support is also a crucial need, especially if the local government units cannot provide for it. The college must therefore continue to assist the partner communities in accessing grants or donations which will help them with start-up enterprises. Monitoring and evaluation are also recommended as there

might be problems which can be addressed with further training or other interventions that the college can provide. This is the key to sustainable extension projects.

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