



Socio-Economic Impact of the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan Project in a Philippine Community

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Abstract: The "Socio-economic Impact Study on the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan Project in Barangay Masili, Calamba City for the Year 2016-2020" probes into the impact of a community engagement initiative led by the Community and Extension Services Department (CESD) in partnership with the School of Business, Management, and Accountancy (SBMA) at Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba. The project aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 12 (responsible Consumption and Production). This aim to address unemployment issues in Barangay Masili by providing entrepreneurship training and capacity-building activities to members of the Hayuma Multi-Purpose Cooperative (HMPC) and the broader community. This study aimed to identify the planned and unplanned impacts of the project, as well as determine the gaps between these impacts. This study also aims to identify issues and concerns regarding the implementation of the project.

The study used a mixed-method research design, specifically convergent parallel design which involved collection of qualitative data through focus group discussions and quantitative data from project documents and activity evaluations. The results indicated significant positive impacts on the community's socio-economic status, including improved business knowledge, increased self-confidence, and enhanced socio-economic well-being. Unexpected outcomes, such as the creation of employment opportunities and heightened community engagement, further underscored the project's effectiveness.

In conclusion, the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project has successfully achieved its intended goals while generating unanticipated community benefits. Recommendations for future initiatives include expanding the project to other communities, strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, diversifying skills training, and fostering knowledge sharing among participants. Overall, the study highlights the importance of community engagement and education in promoting sustainable development and empowering marginalized populations.

Keywords: *Community Development, Capability building, community extension, impact assessment, Calamba City, Laguna, mixed methods research design, convergent parallel design*

I. INTRODUCTION

The "TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN" initiative by the Community and Extension Services Department (CESD) of Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba, in collaboration with the School of Business, Management, and Accountancy (SBMA), exemplifies a commitment to addressing unemployment and fostering sustainable development in Barangay Masili, Calamba City. Launched in 2016, the project aims to build entrepreneurial capacities among residents through outcomes-based training and cooperative empowerment, specifically targeting the Hayuma Multi-Purpose Cooperative (HMPC). This initiative aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). These goals advocate for inclusive economic opportunities, poverty reduction, and sustainable practices.

The project's significance lies in its dual focus on community empowerment and institutional engagement. By leveraging the expertise of Letran Calamba's faculty and administrators, the program serves as a platform for fostering socio-economic development while enriching the institution's role in corporate social responsibility. The initiative's emphasis on capacity-building reflects the need to address persistent challenges such as unemployment and limited access to sustainable livelihood opportunities, which are prevalent in Barangay Masili.

This impact study evaluates the program's contributions to the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of community development. Specifically, it examines the effectiveness of the cooperative framework in fostering entrepreneurship, improving living standards, and promoting sustainable practices among its members. By employing focus group discussions (FGDs) and document analysis, the study provides a comprehensive assessment of the program's impact, offering valuable insights into best practices for community extension programs.

Project Background

In alignment with global and national trends toward fostering sustainable development, particularly addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), the Community and Extension Services Department (CESD) of Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba, in collaboration with the School of Business, Management, and Accountancy (SBMA), initiated a capability-building program aimed at enhancing employability and entrepreneurship in Barangay Masili, Calamba City. Launched in 2016, this program, titled TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN, focuses on providing outcomes-based entrepreneurship training to address the unemployment challenges faced by the residents, particularly through the empowerment of the Hayuma Multi-Purpose Cooperative (HMPC).

This program was conceived with the intent to build local entrepreneurial capacity, thereby improving the socio-economic status of community members while aligning with the broader goals of Letran Calamba's corporate social responsibility. The CESD-SBMA extension program aims to leverage the knowledge and expertise of the institution's administrators, faculty, and personnel, creating a collaborative environment that benefits both the community and the institution.

Problem and Context

Barangay Masili, a community in Calamba City, faces socio-economic challenges marked by high unemployment rates and limited access to sustainable livelihood opportunities. In response, the TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN project has focused on equipping members of HMPC and other local residents with the skills necessary to create and sustain micro-enterprises, ultimately improving their livelihood and fostering long-term socio-economic development.

Significance of Study

This impact study is significant as it provides insights into the role of higher education institutions in addressing pressing community needs through collaborative programs. By evaluating the effects of this capability-building initiative on the participants and their community, the study seeks to contribute to the understanding of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of community extension programs. Moreover, the findings could inform future practices in the operation of community-based cooperatives, enhance corporate social responsibility frameworks in educational institutions, and offer valuable data for policymaking in local government units.

Related Literature and Studies

The related literature and studies underscore the pivotal role of cooperative and community extension programs in addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges within local communities. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive framework for promoting global sustainability and inclusivity. Specifically, the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project addresses several key SDGs, including Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). These goals emphasize the importance of providing economic opportunities, promoting decent work, reducing socio-economic disparities, and fostering sustainable practices—objectives that align with the project's focus on enhancing the livelihoods of the residents of Barangay Masili through entrepreneurship training and cooperative development.

Cooperatives are member-owned, democratically governed organizations that aim to meet the shared social, economic, and cultural needs of their members. They are integral in empowering communities by pooling resources, fostering economic activities, and promoting collective action (ICA, 2023). In community settings, cooperatives act as platforms for shared ownership, skill development, and equitable income distribution, ensuring that resources and benefits reach the grassroots level. However, operating cooperatives presents challenges such as limited financial resources, inadequate management skills, low member participation, and regulatory hurdles. Studies (Ramirez, 2022; Caballero, 2024) have highlighted the importance of capacity-building programs, efficient governance structures, and government support to overcome these challenges and ensure the sustainability of cooperatives in community settings.

Social Impact of a Cooperative

Cooperatives significantly contribute to social cohesion by fostering collaboration and mutual support among community members. According to Niegas (2024), cooperative-led programs enhance behavioral ethics, increase community engagement, and improve access to essential services. These social benefits foster an environment of trust and shared responsibility within communities.

Environmental Impact of a Cooperative

Cooperatives in community settings also play a role in promoting sustainable practices. Erno (2021) reported that cooperatives involved in agricultural and environmental projects have adopted eco-friendly methods such as waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable farming practices. Such initiatives not only protect the environment but also educate members about the importance of ecological stewardship.

Economic Impact of a Cooperative in a Community Setting

Economically, cooperatives empower members by creating income-generating opportunities and enhancing financial literacy. Studies (Niegas, 2024; Erno, 2021) have shown that cooperatives enable communities to access capital, reduce poverty, and improve

living standards. The "TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN" initiative in Barangay Masili aligns with this by providing capability-building plans aimed at fostering entrepreneurial skills and economic independence among residents.

Niegas (2024) examined the impact of community extension programs conducted by the Laguna State Polytechnic University-Siniloan Campus. The study highlighted significant contributions to enhancing hospitality and tourism competencies and emphasized the need for integrated extension project packages tailored to community needs. Similarly, Erno (2021) assessed the "Marketing and Business Innovation Project" by Surigao del Sur State University. Activities such as rice trading and product development were found to enhance entrepreneurial skills, augment income, and build self-esteem among beneficiaries. These studies underscore the importance of regular monitoring and adaptation of programs to meet evolving community needs.

The findings from these studies resonate with the objectives of the "TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN" initiative. By employing focus group discussions and document analysis, this study evaluates the economic, social, and governance impacts of the program. The integration of best practices, such as needs-based program development and sustainable cooperative frameworks, will guide future recommendations for enhancing community extension initiatives.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This impact study seeks to assess the impact of the TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN program on the socio-economic status of its participants and their community. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Identify the impacts of the project as planned;
2. Identify the impacts of the project not according to the plan;
3. Determine the gaps (planned and unplanned impacts); and
4. Describe the issues and concerns in the implementation of the project.

Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework of the study lays the foundation for introducing the research project, guiding the investigation in alignment with its stated objectives (Dabica et al., 2020). In this case, documents from 2016 to 2020 from the CESD on the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project were used to supply the much-needed information on chronological activities. More importantly, the participants' 2020 overall project evaluation was analyzed quantitatively. One crucial piece of information needed in this study was the result of focus group discussions (FGDs) on the participants, and student volunteers conducted last February 01, 2024, attended by all the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project participants. The impacts of the TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN program will be measured using a combination of focus group discussions (FGDs) and document analysis. The FGDs will be used to identify the status of the community before and after the implementation of the program, particularly assessing its impact on the economic, social, and governance aspects of the participants. These discussions will provide insights into how the program has affected the livelihoods, social cohesion, and governance structures within the community. Additionally, document analysis will be employed to evaluate the implementation of the Tulong Dunong program over the duration of the project. This method will help to assess the adherence to project goals, the effectiveness of training modules, and any challenges encountered throughout the program's execution. By combining both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, the study will provide a comprehensive understanding of the program's overall impact and the changes in the socio-economic status and cooperative sustainability in Barangay Masili. The data were analyzed and evaluated, which served as the basis for assessing the project's impact on the community regarding its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

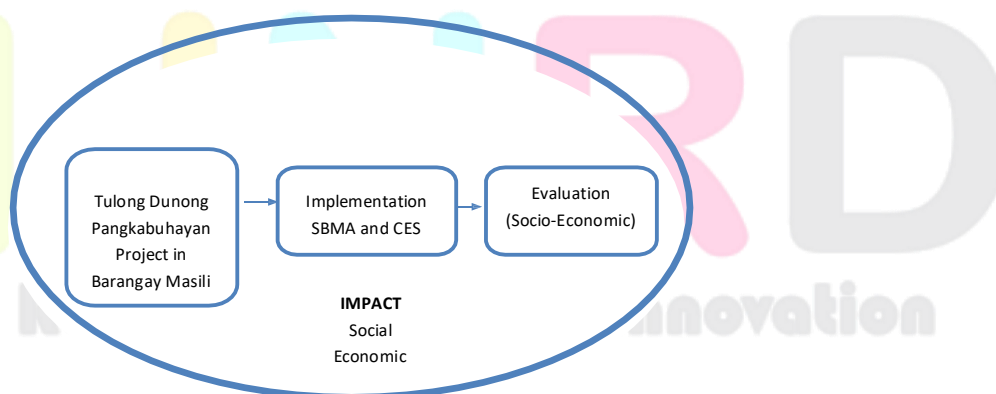


Figure 1. Conceptual paradigm of the project's socio-economic impact assessment.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed-methods research design, integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches to evaluate the socio-economic impacts of the TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN program implemented by the School of Business, Management, and Accountancy (SBMA) in collaboration with the Community and Extension Services Department (CESD). The study aimed to assess the project's effectiveness, identify issues in its implementation, and analyze its contributions to the economic, social, and governance aspects of the participants' lives.

To achieve this, the study utilized both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted with eight program participants from Barangay Masili, Calamba City, Laguna. These discussions provided

firsthand insights into the participants' experiences with the program and its perceived impacts. The FGD guide included open-ended questions tailored to uncover key issues and benefits resulting from the training programs. Secondary data comprised archived documents from CESD, including participant evaluations and reports spanning the years 2016 to 2020.

The methodological process is outlined in Table 1. Primary data from FGDs was analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes, patterns, and insights related to the participants' socio-economic conditions before and after the program. Secondary data was subjected to document analysis and descriptive statistical methods, focusing on mean scores and trends in participant evaluations to assess the program's effectiveness over the four-year period.

Table 1. Methodological Matrix

Context	Project Objective	Data Needed	Data Source	Data Collection	Methods for Data Analysis
Assessment of the training program given by SBMA-CESD to participants in Bgy. Masili, Calamba City, Laguna	To identify, assess, and analyze the socio-economic impact of pre- and post-training programs, issues and concerns in the implementation of the project on participants through the Tulong Dunong project	Answers to the questions by the participants during the group discussion (FGD) to be administered by the proponents.	Primary data from project participants	Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	Thematic Analysis
		Documents from 2016 to 2020 coming from different stakeholders	Secondary data from the Community and Extension Services Department (CESD)	Document analysis	Descriptive Statistics

Ethical considerations were strictly observed. Participants were briefed on the study's purpose, and their informed consent was obtained before participation. Anonymity and confidentiality were prioritized, with all data securely stored. Ethical clearance for the study was granted by the Institutional Ethics Review Board.

Data Analysis

The researchers employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods to evaluate the impact of the TULONG DUNONG PANGKABUHAYAN program.

For the quantitative data, the study utilized the weighted mean to analyze evaluation scores collected from training participants through project evaluation instruments administered during Academic Years (AY) 2016–2017 to 2019–2020. These scores were aggregated and analyzed to assess the overall perception of the program's effectiveness and its socio-economic impact on participants. The Likert scale used for the evaluation instruments is as follows:

- 3.26 – 4.00: Excellent – Indicates that participants perceived the program as having an excellent impact on their lives.
- 2.51 – 3.25: Good – Indicates that participants rated the program as having a good impact on their lives.
- 1.76 – 2.50: Fair – Indicates that participants rated the program as having a moderate impact on their lives.
- 1.00 – 1.75: Poor – Indicates that participants perceived the program as having little to no positive impact on their lives.

The weighted mean values for each criterion in the evaluation questionnaires were calculated and interpreted based on this scale. This approach facilitated a clear understanding of the program's performance across multiple dimensions, as perceived by its participants.

For qualitative data, thematic analysis was used to analyze insights gathered from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). This involved coding and categorizing responses from participants to identify recurring themes and patterns. Key themes included the program's socio-economic impacts, areas of improvement, and challenges encountered during implementation.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Eight resident participants were convened last February 01, 2024, for a focus group discussion (FGD) in Barangay Masili. The two-hour session was presided over by the researchers. The participants were individually as to the benefits they got from the training (see Appendix A.) After collecting all the primary and secondary data, the researchers came up with these findings:

Impacts of the Planned

As anticipated, participants have indicated social and economic benefits from the project. This includes increased clients for their livelihood activities, earning opportunities, and understanding how to access the online market. The project also improved the people's skills and self-confidence of the participants. Moreover, the participants were also empowered by increasing their business knowledge, skills, and abilities. Overall, the project improved the general wellness of the community, both in the social and economic aspects.

The positive testimonies of some participants were also reflected in the overall mean of their evaluation for the last four years of implementation. The following table (Table 3) presents the average mean of participants' assessment of their training over the past four years. As summarized in the table (Table 4), the overall mean for their evaluation was 3.92, interpreted as excellent, thus indicating the successful implementation of the entire project.

Table 3. Average mean of participants' evaluation of training from AY 2016 – 2017 to AY 2019 – 2020

Criteria	AY 2016 – 2017 (n=29)	AY 2017 – 2018 (n=34)	AY 2018 – 2019 (n=34)	AY 2019 – 2020 (n=6)
a. The objectives of the program are clearly laid out	3.97	3.88	3.91	4.00
b. The objectives of the program were fulfilled	3.97	3.82	3.91	4.00
c. Competence/Effectiveness of the Resource Speaker/s	4.00	3.94	3.97	4.00
d. Promptness in delivery of services of the organizer	3.97	3.74	3.91	4.00
e. The place where the project took place is appropriate.	3.90	3.85	3.82	4.00
f. There is enough food allocation	4.00	3.79	3.85	4.00
g. The program starts and finishes on time. Time Management	4.00	3.91	3.91	4.00
h. Sufficient amount and type of materials or equipment needed for the program	3.97	3.74	3.94	4.00
i. Providing materials or resources on time.	3.97	3.79	3.94	4.00
j. The objective of the program was fulfilled according to the stipulated time and funds	3.93	3.74	3.85	4.00
k. the objective of the program was fulfilled according to which there were no problems with time and funds	3.90	3.91	3.82	4.00
Average Mean	3.96 (Excellent)	3.83 (Excellent)	3.89 (Excellent)	4.0 (Excellent)

Over the years, the average mean ratings for most criteria have shown relative stability, with minor fluctuations noted. Overall, there appears to be a positive trend, with a slight increase in the average mean from AY 2016 – 2017 to AY 2019 – 2020. Participants consistently rated the clarity and fulfillment of program objectives highly across all years, with average means ranging from 3.82 to 4.00. A notable improvement was observed in AY 2019 – 2020, where both criteria received a perfect score.

Additionally, ratings for the competence/effectiveness of resource speakers remained consistently high, ranging from 3.94 to 4.00 across all years. While there was a slight decrease in ratings for promptness in service delivery from AY 2016 – 2017 to AY 2017 – 2018, it remained high overall. Ratings for the appropriateness of the venue showed general positivity, with minor fluctuations over the years. Participants rated food allocation highly, averaging 3.79 to 4.00 across all years. Likewise, ratings for time management consistently remained high, with average means ranging from 3.91 to 4.00 across all years. Ratings for both material and equipment sufficiency and timeliness were generally positive, ranging from 3.74 to 4.00 across all the years. Objective fulfillment regarding time and funds received consistently high ratings, with minor fluctuations.

Overall, the average mean ratings for each year indicate an excellent level of satisfaction with the training program, with the highest rating of 4.00 achieved in AY 2019 – 2020. It's worth noting that the sample size for AY 2019 – 2020 is smaller (n=6) compared to previous years, potentially influencing the generalizability of the results despite the high ratings obtained. In summary, the data

suggests that participants consistently perceive the training program positively, with high ratings across various criteria, indicating effective planning, organization, and execution of the training sessions.

Table 4. The overall mean of participants' evaluation of training from AY 2016 – 2017 to AY 2019 – 2020

Criteria	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
a. Competence/Effectiveness of the Resource Speaker/s	3.98	Excellent
b. The program starts and finishes on time.	3.96	Excellent
c. The objectives of the program are laid out clearly	3.94	Excellent
d. The objectives of the program were fulfilled	3.93	Excellent
e. Providing materials or resources on time.	3.93	Excellent
f. Promptness in delivery of services of the organizer	3.91	Excellent
g. There is enough food allocation	3.91	Excellent
h. Sufficient amount and type of materials or equipment needed for the program	3.91	Excellent
i. The objective of the program was fulfilled according to which there were no problems with time and funds	3.91	Excellent
j. The place where the project took place is appropriate.	3.89	Excellent
k. The objective of the program was fulfilled according to the stipulated time and funds	3.88	Excellent
Overall Mean	3.92	Excellent

The analysis of the data presented in Table 4 indicates positive perceptions among participants regarding various aspects of the training program. Firstly, both criteria related to objective clarity and fulfillment (Criteria a and b) received high ratings, with weighted means of 3.94 and 3.93, respectively, suggesting that participants found the program's objectives clearly defined and effectively met. Secondly, participants rated the competence and effectiveness of resource speakers (Criteria c) highly, with a weighted mean of 3.98, indicating satisfaction with the quality of speakers. Thirdly, the promptness in delivery of services (Criteria d) garnered a weighted mean of 3.91, indicating that participants perceived services to be delivered promptly, enhancing the overall experience.

Additionally, venue appropriateness (Criteria e) received a weighted mean of 3.89, reflecting participants' general satisfaction with the project location. Furthermore, participants expressed satisfaction with food allocation (Criteria f), with a weighted mean of 3.91, indicating adequate provision of food. Time management (Criteria g) was also positively perceived, with a weighted mean of 3.96, suggesting efficient scheduling. Moreover, participants found materials and equipment sufficient and delivered on time (Criteria h and i), with weighted means of 3.91 and 3.93, respectively. Participants also rated the fulfillment of program objectives regarding time and funds positively (Criteria j and k), with weighted means of 3.88 and 3.91, respectively. Overall, the training program received an impressive weighted mean rating of 3.92, falling within the "Excellent" interpretation category, signifying high satisfaction with the program. In summary, the data from Table 4 suggest that participants evaluated the training program highly across various criteria, with consistently excellent ratings indicating satisfaction with different aspects of the program's organization, execution, and outcomes.

Impacts of the Project Not According to the Plan

As planned, the project's main objective was to strengthen the involvement of HMPC members and residents of Brgy. Masili to uplift their socio-economic status. But in addition to this objective, unexpectedly, the project also provided employment opportunities for the community members in local establishments. Moreover, project activities, such as excursions, increased the participants' understanding of business operations and the conduct of various ventures. And lastly, the project has helped to increase the engagement within the community.

Gaps between the Planned and Unplanned Impacts

The planned impacts focused on improving the socio-economic status of the partner community through several activities enacted throughout the four-year plan. However, the unplanned impact revealed the creation of employment opportunities in local establishments, which wasn't initially part of the project's objectives. Moreover, while the project aimed to empower participants by increasing their business aptitude and ability to venture out of business, the unplanned impact highlighted that project activities, such as excursions, further increased participants' understanding of business operations and ventures. Lastly, the planned impacts included improving the general wellness of the community in terms of social and economic aspects. However, the unplanned impact indicated increased community engagement, which may not have been specifically targeted but emerged as a positive consequence of the project. These gaps suggest that while the project achieved the planned socio-economic benefits objectives, unexpected positive outcomes extended beyond the initial scope.

Thematic Analysis

The thematic analysis of the focus group discussion (FGD) transcript reveals several key findings regarding the impact of the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project on the residents of Barangay Masili. These findings shed light on the nature of community development initiatives and highlight the effects of such projects on individuals, families, and communities. One prominent theme from the analysis is the significance of skill development and empowerment. Participants consistently mentioned acquiring new skills and knowledge through the project, ranging from vocational skills like massage therapy to entrepreneurship and marketing strategies. This finding underscores the importance of skill-building initiatives in enhancing participants' employability, income generation capabilities, and overall empowerment. By equipping individuals with valuable skills, the project not only enhances their economic prospects but also a sense of self-confidence.

Furthermore, the analysis highlights the role of community engagement and social capital formation in driving positive outcomes. Participants emphasized the importance of building networks with fellow community members and local businesses, facilitating knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and mutual support. This finding underscores the value of community-based approaches in promoting social cohesion, collective action, and community resilience. Through strong social ties and networks, the project creates supportive environments that enable individuals to thrive and succeed.

Another significant finding from the thematic analysis is the project's impact on participants' financial stability and livelihood improvement. Many participants shared stories of increased income, expanded client bases, and diversified sources of revenue due to their participation in the project. This finding highlights the project's effectiveness in addressing economic vulnerabilities and improving the socio-economic well-being of participants and their families. The project contributes to poverty reduction and economic empowerment at the grassroots level by providing opportunities for income generation and livelihood enhancement. Moreover, the analysis underscores the importance of adaptability and resilience in navigating challenges and seizing opportunities. Participants shared experiences of overcoming unexpected events and obstacles during the project, demonstrating their ability to adapt and persevere in the face of uncertainty. This finding highlights the importance of flexibility, resourcefulness, and problem-solving skills in achieving positive outcomes in community development initiatives.

Issues and concerns in the implementation of the project

Despite facing limitations like insufficient funding and delays in acquiring necessary materials due to late purchase requests, the CES moderator has demonstrated remarkable perseverance in keeping the project moving forward. During the FGD, some participants mentioned that they faced scheduling conflicts that prevented them from joining activities like field trips (lakbay-aral) or tours.

Summary of Significant Findings

Throughout its implementation from 2016 to 2020, the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project, initiated by the Community and Extension Services Department (CESD) in collaboration with the School of Business, Management, and Accountancy (SBMA) at Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba, has left a significant impact on the socio-economic landscape of Barangay Masili, Calamba City. Summary of significant findings from the identified objectives are as follows:

1. The study revealed that the project successfully achieved its planned objectives, resulting in various social and economic benefits for the participants. These benefits included increased clientele for livelihood activities, earning opportunities, improved business knowledge, skills, and abilities, as well as enhanced general wellness within the community.
2. Unexpectedly, the project also provided employment opportunities for community members in local establishments. Additionally, activities such as excursions further increased participants' understanding of business operations and ventures, and the project contributed to increased community engagement.
3. While the project successfully achieved its planned socio-economic objectives, unplanned positive outcomes extended beyond the initial scope. Gaps between planned and unplanned impacts highlighted the creation of employment opportunities, increased understanding of business operations, and enhanced community engagement.
4. The issues encountered in the implementation of the project include insufficient funding and delays in acquiring necessary materials. Some participants also faced scheduling conflicts that prevented them from joining activities like field trips (lakbay-aral) or tours.

V. CONCLUSION

The findings of this study underscore the effectiveness of the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project in achieving its planned objectives while also revealing unexpected positive impacts and areas for further development.

1. Firstly, the project successfully met its intended goals of enhancing the socio-economic status of the partner community in Barangay Masili. Participants reported various benefits, including increased clientele for their livelihood activities, earning opportunities, and improved business knowledge and skills. Moreover, the project contributed to the empowerment of

participants by enhancing their self-confidence and abilities. The consistent high ratings across multiple evaluation criteria indicate a high level of satisfaction with the program's organization, execution, and outcomes.

2. Unexpectedly, the project also led to the creation of employment opportunities for community members in local establishments, further enhancing economic opportunities within the community. Additionally, project activities such as excursions provided valuable insights into business operations and ventures, contributing to participants' understanding and skills in entrepreneurship. The increased community engagement observed as an unplanned impact highlights the broader positive effects of the project beyond its initial scope.
3. However, despite the overall success of the project, there are gaps between the planned and unplanned impacts. While the project aimed to improve the socio-economic status of the community, unexpected positive outcomes such as increased employment opportunities and enhanced community engagement suggest areas where the project could further expand its impact. Future iterations of similar projects could consider incorporating these unplanned but beneficial aspects into their planning and implementation strategies to maximize outcomes.
4. The challenges mentioned highlight the importance of securing adequate funding and planning for resource acquisition well in advance. Additionally, measures to improve participant scheduling flexibility, such as early calendaring of activities or providing a recording of missed sessions, could be explored in future projects.

In conclusion, the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project has proven to be successful in achieving its planned objectives while also generating unexpected positive impacts and highlighting areas for further improvement. By addressing the socio-economic needs of the community and fostering empowerment and resilience among participants, the project has made significant contributions to community development in Barangay Masili.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION PLAN

Building on the success of the Tulong Dunong Pangkabuhayan project, several recommendations emerge for future initiatives:

1. Given its positive impact, there is a strong case for continuing and expanding the project to other communities facing similar socio-economic challenges. This recommendation aligns with the conclusion that the program has achieved its objectives, indicating that its continuation and expansion would further advance socio-economic empowerment.
2. While entrepreneurship training has been central to this project, diversifying skills training to address broader community needs can further enrich participants' capabilities and opportunities. This recommendation corresponds with the conclusion by acknowledging the program's unplanned impacts and proposing a strategy to build on them through diversification.
3. Conduct a systematic review of the project plan to identify any gaps between the planned and unplanned impacts. It is essential to acknowledge and document the unplanned impacts that have emerged, such as the creation of employment opportunities in local establishments and increased community engagement. These unplanned positive consequences should be further studied to understand their significance and potential for future projects. By recognizing and addressing these gaps, the project can be adjusted to better align with the evolving needs of the community and maximize its overall impact.
4. To further enhance project implementation success, consider establishing a clear communication plan to keep participants informed about activity schedules and any potential changes. Efficient planning, allocating, and acquiring limited resources would also be a good practice. Moreover, the CESD could assist the moderators by exploring the possibility of getting sponsors for the extension projects.
5. Facilitating knowledge sharing and collaboration among project participants and community members can create a ripple effect of empowerment and economic growth, nurturing a culture of learning and innovation within the community.

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