

Sustainable Livelihood Program and Peace development among the marginalized citizens in Butuan City, Philippines

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Abstract

The case study presents results of the investigation on the impact of the sustainable livelihood program (SLP) implemented by City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) to the marginalized Filipinos in Butuan City, Philippines. The study utilized the descriptive-correlational design to determine the extent of impact and tested the significant effect of the SLP to the improvement of their economic (employment, the creation of skills,) and social (peace development, personal satisfaction) of those beneficiaries of the said project. Though the triple constraints (time, scope, and cost) of the project was also present and limit this study, the researchers have collaborated with social workers and leaders of each community to ensure that the data-gathering plan met the standard requirement. Combination of purposive and convenience sampling techniques were mostly deployed during the survey, while observations and interviews from time to time were executed to validate other points which were critical in the interpretations and analyses of the results. The study had open new information that SLP project has a significant contribution in the social protection for those marginalized people not only in Butuan City but also in other regions of Philippines with a high population of marginalized Filipinos. The beneficiaries of the project mostly women were able to generate a new source of income that could support their daily needs. It also sparks hope for every marginalized Filipinos because there was this personal satisfaction achieved within themselves, 32 percent of the respondents agreed that it developed their well-being, while 41 percent believed SLP provide poverty alleviation. Most of the respondents concluded that SLP had created for positive peace development to their respective household, and to the community since it gives them the motivation to support this project so it will grow and become a sustainable livelihood program. The R-squared of .948 concludes that at least 94.8 percent of the variance on the impact of SLP project could explain the factors that influence economic and social development among the marginalized Filipinos in Butuan City, Philippines.

Keywords: *SLP for marginalized Filipinos, positive peace development*

Introduction

The case study aimed to investigate the efficacy of the implemented project called sustainable livelihood program (SLP) and to examine its significant influence on the relationship between the economic and social development for the marginalized Filipinos. The focus was to analyze the extent of improvement and degree of SLP projects in the selected barangays (beneficiaries of SLP) and to look for opportunities that could further improve the long-term sustainability of the said project by analyzing and drawing conclusions on the feedback from the respondents.

The researchers have used the combination of quantitative and qualitative techniques in the

gathering and analyzing of the data. A quantitative method for determining the indicators that have positive contributions to economic and social development. While the qualitative technique for the identification of other factors that have detrimental effects on the growth of the said project and explore alternatives that could bridge those gaps. City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) in Butuan City, together with local government units (LGU), had launched SLP on the selected barangays. The primary objective of the said project is to help the marginalized Filipinos regarding building a financial and business capability, to create their own small business hoping that it will contribute to the improvement of communities by providing

sustainable employment and source of income.

Related Literature

The sustainable livelihood program (SLP) also known as sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) by the other authors, is not a new concept. The concept founded 30 years ago through the collaborative efforts of different countries and World Bank who are focusing on developing programs and projects for social protection that could aid the marginalized people around the globe, creating sustainable employment to each community [1] [2].

According to Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD), the evolution of SLP first started in 1993 as Self-Employment Assistant Program Kaularan (SEAP-K) also known as a micro-credit program and the Philippine government so far already invested 20 billion Pesos in this endeavor with the goal to improve the economic performance of those who are below the poverty line [3]. As the time goes by and the needs of each community changes, the SLP has finally established in 2011 with an end in mind of creating a community-based capacity building program that aims to improve the socio-economic condition of the participants through micro-enterprise development and employment facility activities [4]. This project does provide training for entrepreneurial capability so they can create their viable livelihood products or services and then link cash transfer to sustainable livelihood program [5].

Most of the research conducted for social protection was limited to a specific country and with a particular focus on the framework of the sustainable livelihood approach. According to DSWD, there is limited or no research yet that provide study related to the impact of SLP on the economic and social in the selected barangays within a city or municipality. Thus, the researchers were inspired to create this mini research to contribute to determining the level of impact regarding economic and social development of SLP to the selected respondents among the barangays in Butuan City.

Previous researchers were able to trace back the sustainable livelihood projects implemented by individual and group of people out of labor of love. According to [6] one nun had an exceptional achievement who lifts the lives of many thousands

of the poorest of the poor in central and southern Philippines through research and collaboration with the people in the communities. The effort of the nun had paved the way for more than 11,000 small and medium entrepreneurs, nearly all women, have their families out of dire poverty. The concept that nun introduced is people's alternative livelihood foundation with a focus on peer pressure, the said foundation provide capital to those who are eager to create their own small business, and the borrower started to produce locally grown food which could better compete with other products. Other sustainable project implemented in Sierra Leone during post war to restore peace and economic development of the affected communities. The effect of foreign direct investment (FDI) created jobs, opportunities, and economic development. The result showed that other factors in human behavior have a significant impact on the failure of the company to manage thus slowing down the growth of restoration of economic and peace [7]. The study of [8] focused on the analysis of different livelihood assets of the farmers in the Northeast region of Thailand. Results showed that each area of the region has a different set of profile and livelihood activities, and it may affect the sustainability of their livelihood. Most farmers have only primary level education, and this limit their knowledge on improving management of livestock and farming itself. The constraint is also present in their natural resources, for example, there is a shortage of water and some problem in the property of their soil. The government was providing with physical assets that could assist them regarding road access and communication.

The case study had anchored to the following theories:

According to [1] states that a livelihood involves the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and the activities for producing income for a living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope up and be able to recover from stress and pressure from the environment.

Moreover, also the authors defined livelihood as comprised of people in a community, their experiences, and their income for making a living. It also includes substantial resources and human capital (skills, teamwork). The livelihood

activities, the overall assets (physical, social, and financial) and the access to the said assets are the determinants of the standard of living reached by individuals and households and the community [1].

The sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) puts people at the center of a development process or intervention and is based on the belief that people need a range of assets to achieve positive livelihood outcomes and sustain positive changes.

Norway has implemented the SLA as a standard tool to improve understanding of livelihoods by identifying the main factors that affect them, and the relationships that can be used in planning new and evaluating existing development activities.

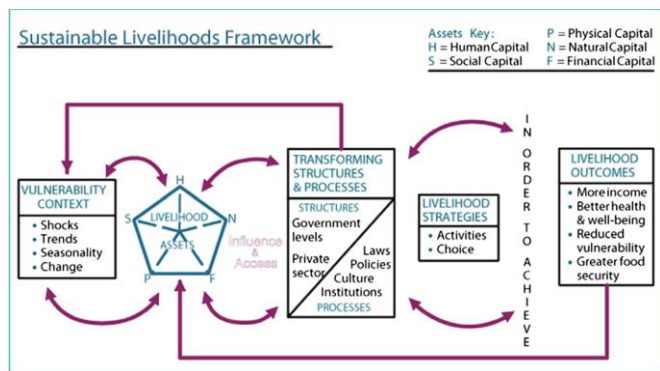
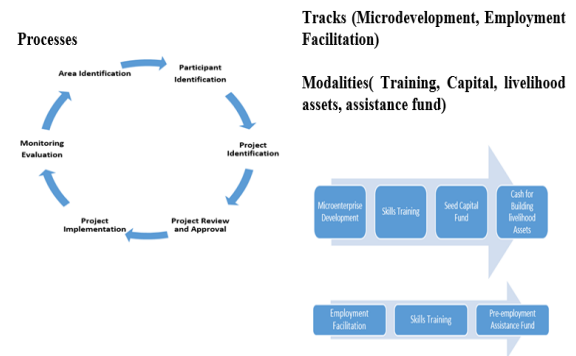


Figure 1: Sustainable livelihoods framework

Conceptual Framework:

The case study had anchored to the framework of sustainable livelihood program (SLP) from the Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD) of the Philippines [5]. The structure starts with the identification of participants (beneficiaries) and community, project identification and approval, once approved it is for implementation, then the social worker (project program officer) will monitor and evaluate. The transformation process of SLP starts with inputs such as the readiness of the workforce, the availability of funds, ensuring that the system and structures are in place. The second step is that the targeted participants will undergo training and certification (skills training) before using the inputs in creating livelihood interventions, the third step is that the participants should engage in quality livelihood or sustainable products and services and finally, the efforts will create a positive impact on the economic improvement of

those marginalized Filipinos. The DSWD believed that SLP requires partnering relationship meaning it should have support from local government units (LGU) and private institutions to have a sustainable process.



Workforce Funds Systems Structures	Participants Provide with Livelihood interventions	Participants Engaged in Quality Livelihoods or jobs	Improved Economic Sufficiency of Low-income families
Input	Output	Outcome	Impact

Figure 2: Research Paradigm

Methods

The researchers applied descriptive-correlation research design to reveal new finding. It was descriptive because the researchers performed analyses to examine the extent of impact on economic and social development and explore the degree of SLP projects implemented in their respective communities. It was correlational because the researchers applied the statistical tool to establish the significant relationship between the degree of SLP and level of impact to economic and social development [1].

Population and sample: The population are the citizens in Butuan City, Philippines who belong to below poverty line and classified as marginalized Filipinos and the researchers were able to collect response from sixty (60) families who are part of the SLP project from five (5) barangays.

Barangays	Population	Sample Size
Banza	3,349(<100*)	11*
Maug	2,573(<100*)	12*
Obrero	4,570(<100*)	7*
Pinamanculan	2,091(>100*)	4*
San Vicente	13,326(>200*)	36*

*Representative member of each family also member of the livelihood activities

Figure 3 – breakdown of sample size

Sampling technique: The case study used the combination of purposive and convenience sampling methods. The purposive sampling method is a non-probability sampling technique to focus on the selected respondents identified by the social workers from Butuan City CSWD. It used the convenience because only those respondents who were available during the survey were included.

Research Instruments: The researchers utilized the researchers-made questionnaire in the gathering the feedback from the respondents. With the help of social workers from CSWD, the researcher used a research-made questionnaire to gather the needed data. It was submitted to an expert for its content validation and reliability.

Results and Findings

Table 1 – Profile of the respondents

Barangays	No. of respondents	Female	Male	Married*	Ave. no. of dependents
Banza	11	11	0	11	4.09
Maug	12	12	0	12	2.67
Obrero	7	7	0	7	4.86
Pinamanculan	4	4	0	4	6.75
San Vicente	36	35	1	36	5.56
Grand Total	70	69	1	69	4.83

*One of the respondents is a widow

As shown in Table 1, the researchers were able to collect seventy (70) respondents from six barangays. Most of the respondents are women with married status and has an average of five dependents. In this study there was one male who also benefitted from SLP project.

Table 2 presents the overall scenario of the products and services created in each barangay because of the SLP. Barangay San Vicente is rank number one as the best performer barangay in the Butuan City; it is because it has a systematic approach in managing the microfinance activities that yield better results and output (revenue).

Table 2 – Types of small business created from SLP Project.

Barangays	Type of small business
Banza	Grocery store, Microfinance
Lemon	Microfinance, Sari-sari store
Maug	Sari-sari store, Micro finance
Obrero	Micro lending
Pinamanculan	General merchandise, polyculture, food catering, micro lending
San Vicente	Cooperative, Micro finance, Food products

Most of the members are satisfied with the service provided with a very low interest in every loan thus they no longer borrow money from micro-lending company that charges high-interest rate for their small business. While the barangay Pinamanculan, is rank number two as the best performer regarding output and it has more products and services to offer in the community. Their general merchandise has an inventory system that automatically tracks the sales using the barcode scanner, and it is near to the seashore thus other members are focusing on improving the output of their polyculture. The SLP project “grocery store” at Barangay Banza has a strategic advantage because it is near to schools and houses, according to the leader who manages the store it has an average sale of ten thousand (10,000) pesos per day because of high demand on basic items.

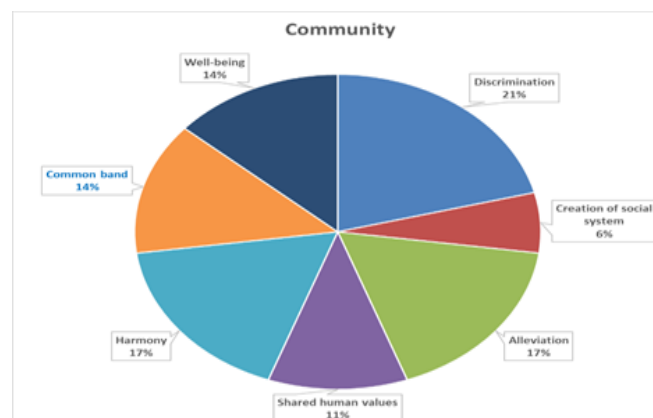


Figure 4 - Peace development into community level

Figure 4 presents the descriptive analysis of qualitative data gathered during the survey at the community level. The result showed that 21% of the respondent agreed that with the SLP it helps to minimize the discrimination within their respective community while both harmony and poverty alleviation has the same score which is also a good sign that indeed SLP has contributed to positive peace development.

Figure 5 presents the descriptive analysis of qualitative data gathered during the survey at the household level. The result showed that 38% of the respondent agreed that with the SLP it helps to improve their financial capability thus augmenting their life. Harmony has a score of 27% followed by well-being with a score of 21%; both imply that SLP has also created a positive peace in their household.

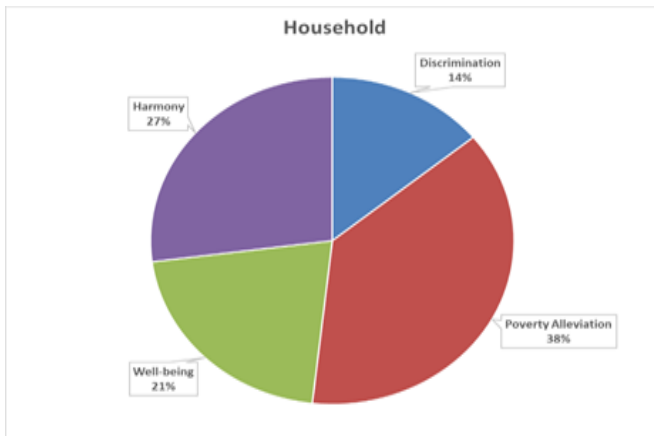


Figure 5- Peace development into household level

Figure 6 presents the descriptive analysis of qualitative data gathered during the survey at an individual level. The result showed that 41% of the respondent agreed that with the SLP it helps to improve their economic status from the bottom. 32% agreed that it also improved their well-being because each phase of SLP could develop a person to improve their skills in creating means for livelihood.

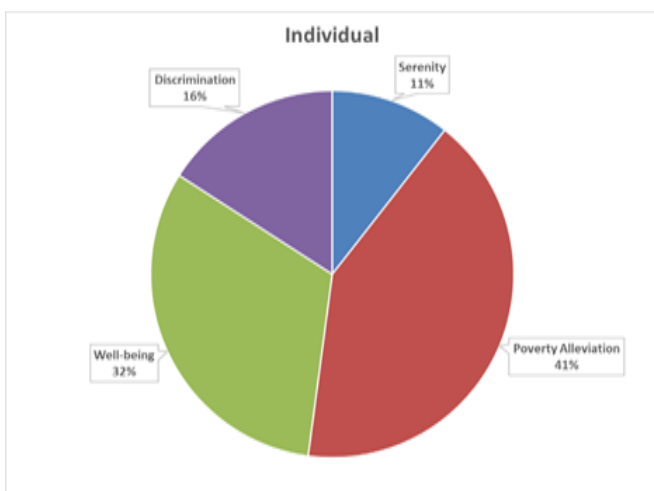


Figure 6 - Peace development into individual level

Table 3 – The overall mean of each of the factors

Factors	Weighted Mean	Verbal Description	Verbal Interpretation
Economic Development	3.14	Agree	Large Extent
Personal	3.27	Strongly Agree	Very Large Extent
Household	3.23	Strongly Agree	Very Large Extent
Community	3.19	Agree	Large Extent
Degree of impact of SLP to dependents	1.61	Disagree	Less Extent
Overall	2.89	Agree	Large Extent

*The survey from Barangay Lemon was not included in the statistical treatment

Table 3 presents the weighted mean of each factor. The factors overall mean score is 2.89 and verbally described as “large extent”, this implies that some of the SLP projects have contributed to the improvement of the social development. The factor “personal” has the highest mean of 3.27 verbally described as “Very Large extent” which indicates that most of the training skills and livelihood itself have contributed to the positive development of economic and social. While the degree of impact of SLP to their dependents was the lowest with a mean score of 1.61 and verbally interpreted as less extent, this imply that those with higher number of dependents can degrade the social and economic development of SLP.

Table 4 exhibit the results of the investigation using the Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA) to explore if the varied factors in SLP framework can significantly influence the positive peace, economic and social development among the beneficiaries of SLP. The MRA showed that varied factors of SLP have $r=.973$ showing very strong positive linear relationship and $p=.000$ is significant implying that the impact of SLP project to the community, household, and the individual has a substantial relationship to the economic and social development. The R-squared of .948 concludes that at least 94.8 percent of the variance on the impact of SLP project could explain the factors that influence economic and social development among the marginalized Filipinos in Butuan City, Philippines.

Table 4- Multiple Regression Analysis – Impact of SLP and Economic and Social Development

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Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.973 ^a	.948	.944	.24843	1.257

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community, Degree of SLP, Household, Personal

b. Dependent Variable: Economic and social development

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	72.560	4	18.140	293.913	.000 ^b
	Residual	4.012	65	.062		
	Total	76.571	69			

a. Dependent Variable: Economic and social development

b. Predictors: (Constant), Community, Degree of SLP, Household, Personal

Conclusion

The case study assessed the efficacy of the SLP project implemented in the selected barangays of Butuan City in the Philippines. The factors included in the study is part of the economic and social development, the independent variable is the elements under SLP framework while the dependent variable is the economic and social development. The study sought to answer the impact of SLP project on economic and social development and how significant is the contribution of SLP to positive peace development. The researchers used the descriptive-correlational design to determine the level of improvement of SLP to the economic and social development and to check the significant relationship between the defined dependent and independent variables. Based on the analysis of the data, the findings revealed in this study were as follows: The extent of the impact of SLP to economic and social development was verbally described as “large extent”. Most of the respondents agreed that the SLP has contributed to the positive peace development in their respective community, to their households and their individual, the finding contradict to the study of [9]. More than 70 percent of the respondents have expressed their thoughts that SLP had significantly improved their daily routine which resulted in the peace of mind, peace at home and peace to their community. The results of the study showed that there is a significant relationship between the SLP projects to the economic and social development.

Recommendation

There are still rooms for improvement of SLP that could further help address the issue of poverty.

Providing livelihood projects to the community of marginalized Filipinos has created positive peace. The increase of improvement of SLP could also increase the peace development of each community. The increase of improvement of SLP could also improve the economic performance of the people below poverty line. Thus, the DSWD needs to further improve the processes and framework of SLP so that the current and incoming beneficiaries will be able to move faster from business startup to growth thus the SLP will always adhere to the principles of sustainability livelihood concept. The Local Government Units (LGU) to consider developing more projects that could bridge the gap between the SLP and beneficiaries, for example, improving the road accessibility so that products transported faster from production into the market. The beneficiaries of SLP are encouraged to provide constant feedback and suggestions so that it could further improve the in the SLP framework are economic development, personal development, peace development both the community and household, and degree of impact of SLP project to the dependents of individual who participated in SLP program in their respective communities.

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