

ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD BENCHMARKING: A BASIS FOR COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

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ABSTRACT

Evaluating the economic and livelihood programs that can be implemented by different barangays in the Municipality of Buenavista, Guimaras Island, as well as the economic programs that can be linked to the livelihood programs of barangay officials in the Municipality of Buenavista, Guimaras Island. Through benchmarking, this descriptive study aimed to highlight the Guimaras State College's community engagement. Findings revealed that most residents in the neighborhood were identified as "agree" in the economic benchmarking and as "agree" in the livelihood benchmarking. Accordingly, implementing extension programs for the school's recognized community may help elevate the community's standing once the Extension Offices develop appropriate activities for them.

Keywords: economic benchmarking, livelihood benchmarking, community extension program

INTRODUCTION

Community development is a fluid process involving all sectors. The establishment and maintenance of various forms of connection and communication between disparate local groups that are otherwise focused on their more individual concerns is a critical component of this process. The goal of all higher education institutions is to strengthen two of their four roles, instruction and extension, so that they can provide free access to functional literacy, economic development, and livelihood programs to destitute populations. Convergence, coordination, and the use of complementarities across these four functions will strengthen the instructional requirements. The institutions have been actively involved in community extension in collaboration with their many academic departments, students, and faculty and staff groups.

A community extension program is an activity that introduces participants to a new learning style.

The Extension Program at Guimaras State College is the college's primary link to economic and livelihood development, serving as the foundation for developing extension programs in local areas. Likewise, the college continues to develop collaborative initiatives and potential revenue streams for all beneficiaries' businesses in order to supplement academic, research and extension, and other college-related activities. The State University and Colleges (SUC) character has been tasked with providing teaching and professional training, as well as assisting individuals in developing their latent personalities, such as leadership qualities, public speaking abilities, and self-confidence.

Production, on the other hand, is the result of research and extension activities. Community stakeholders have a better understanding of critical issues and are empowered to take action to improve their current situation. This engagement could be sustained and expanded by providing extension services. Several of these initiatives



benefit community beneficiaries by providing instruction and other services through skill development, robust extension and research programs in food production, health and nutrition, community development, and capability building. Economic, livelihood, health, and computer literacy programs are the most frequently associated with extension initiatives. This study, on the other hand, focuses primarily on economic and livelihood projects that will increase livelihood opportunities and serve as a source of revenue.

Collaborations between universities and the community should be mutually beneficial. The Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997 in the Philippines requires accredited higher education institutions recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to participate in community extension initiatives. Pursuing requirements to conduct activities that benefit the residents of the community through research and extension. There should be deliberate efforts to develop community-based programs and services with community participation, taking changing societal and individual needs into account. The community in which people live influences their work. While the college extends their experience to assist in meeting the needs of a community, typically one of their several construction areas, residents in the community should be monitored for behavioral data that can assist extension workers in developing cost-effective programs with the greatest societal value. These services include a number of benefits related to the social consequences of community service activities. They also help the community since it may benefit from the support provided by the College Extension Services.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study sought to benchmark economic and livelihood initiatives to establish a baseline for community extension program operations in the year 2020. Likewise, it sought to determine the extent of economic and livelihood programs implemented by various barangays in the Municipality of Buenavista, Guimaras Island, and ascertain how these implemented economic and livelihood programs related. Lastly, it aimed to

design extension initiatives based on the findings of the study.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive research design was used in this study. Its primary objective was to exhibit and analyze Guimaras State College's community engagement efforts using benchmarking as the foundation for its community service program. This primarily assisted in assessing the current system of Extension Programs and Services. Data collection techniques include questionnaires, documentation analysis, and field trips. The study's respondents were people of a selected barangay in the Municipality of Buenavista, Guimaras Island. The livelihood extension activity was established in response to the research findings. The questionnaire was divided into three sections: Part 1 contains demographic information about the respondents, Part 2 contains survey questions regarding economic activity, and Part 3 contains survey questions on the community's livelihood activities. After respondents completed the questionnaire and the data were collected, it was tallied, tabulated, and analyzed. Following the collection of responses to the survey question, a different statistical procedure was applied. The weighted mean was used to ascertain the level of economic and livelihood engagement of residents during benchmarking to serve as the foundation for the College's community extension programs and to highlight any difficulties encountered in implementing such programs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Economic Benchmarking for Community Extension Program

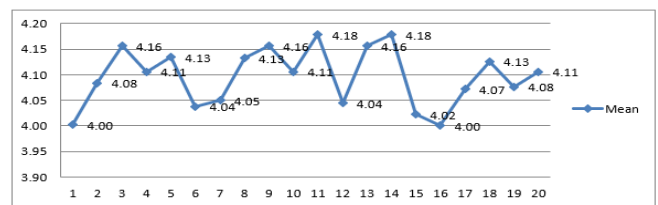


Figure 1. Results on the Economic Benchmarking for Community Extension Program



The description was made on the basis of the indicated scale: Strongly Agree (4.21-5.00), Agree (3.41-4.20) Disagree (2.61-3.40), Strongly Disagree (1.81-2.60) and Undecided (1.00-1.80).

It is worth noting that items 11 and 14 were mostly "Agree" (M=4.18) in terms of extension program's planning sufficiently reflective of all significant differences in the costs and outcomes of the activity and monitoring and compliance are sufficient to achieve the program's primary goal. While item 16 garnered the lowest mean (M=4.00), the description remained "Agree," and the question was whether the model structure appropriately reflected the nature of the living circumstances being evaluated. No extension activity is planned in isolation; each demonstration, public meeting, or film screening is part of a larger Oakley and Garforth-based extension program (1985). To develop a framework for comprehending the components of a compliance program, one must be a student of published guidance, such as regulations (i.e., codes, rules, decrees, laws, orders, and statutes) and guidelines (e.g., guides, principles, manuals, handbooks, or other sets of instructions).

2. The Livelihood Benchmarking for Community Extension Program

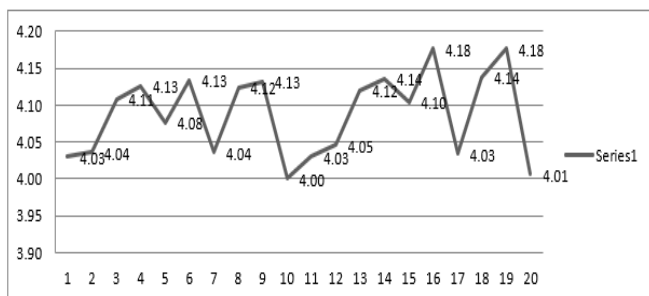


Figure 2. Results on the Livelihood Benchmarking for Community Extension Program

The results demonstrate on how item nos. 16 and 19 were observed as "Agree" with a mean of (M=1.18) that the livelihood benchmarking has been observed in appropriate management of adverse incidents has been considered in the

extension program and appropriate orientation for community extension program presented clearly. While the economic activity program of extension is applicable and effective was not quietly convinced among the respondents it which it recorded the lowest mean (M=4.00) but still observed as "Agree". Around the world, there exist many programs and interventions developed to improve conditions in local communities. Communities come together to reduce the level of violence that exists, to work for safe, affordable housing for everyone, or to help more students do well in school, to give just a few examples (<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/evaluate/evaluation/framework-for-evaluation/main>).

3. The Correlation between Local and Provincial Economic Development

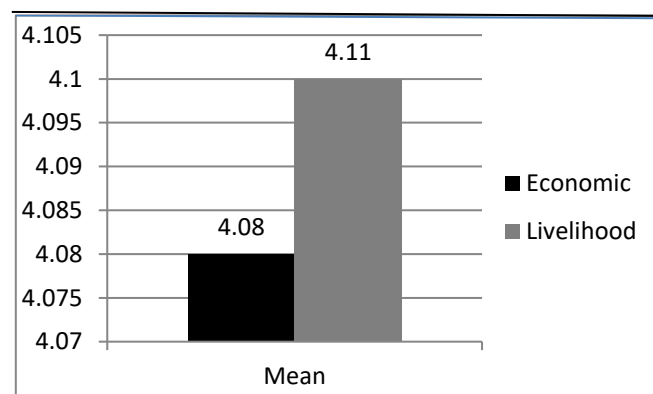


Figure 3 – Results on the Economic and Livelihood Benchmarking for Community Extension Program

It is noted that the Livelihood Benchmarking has higher mean (M=4.11) compared to Economic Benchmarking (M=4.08). However, they are both observed as "Agree". Indicators, benchmarks and rankings are emerging as central technologies of contemporary global governance, which profoundly shape transnational processes by naturalizing normative criteria about appropriate conduct, Golinelli (2016).



Table 1

Results of Correlation between Local and Provincial Economic Development

Category	r	Sig (2tailed)
Economic Livelihood	.299**	.000

Result of Pearson r showed a significant high positive correlation between the Economic and Livelihood Benchmarking ($r=.299$, $p=.000$).

This suggests that if Economic has a high degree of benchmarking results, the same is true for their degree of benchmarking for Livelihood. As a result, one can conclude that benchmarks are not always depoliticizing or neoliberal. Rather than that, one may argue that they are fundamentally oriented toward more transparency and the public interest. As a result, progressive forces should not confine themselves to critiquing "really existing" criteria but should instead experiment with ways to improve them.

CONCLUSIONS

The respondents' assessment of the level of economic and livelihood programs is acknowledged. This program of economic activity is suited for the target community. Perhaps this extension effort is planned in isolation, with anything that might be applicable to the community incorporated into a larger extension program. Perhaps the broader societal objective of achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development is doable. Having program evaluation mentioned is a critical organizational practice for all sorts of benchmarking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to an investment in physical capital, there may also be an investment made in the people and the environment. It is possible to move extremely vulnerable households into livelihoods that are more sustainable and toward economic stability.

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