

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN GUIMARAS: SMART PRACTICES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

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ABSTRACT

This correlational-descriptive study established the level of local and provincial economic development in Guimaras, as well as the relationship between local and provincial economic growth. It was fused with a segmented quiz on local and provincial economic development. More so, SPSS was used to interpret the data collected. Findings revealed that the island's local development was "Highly developed" while the island's provincial economic development was "Highly developed". As the local economy continues to grow, the provincial economy has the potential to expand. Thus, the local and provincial communities may collaborate in advancing Guimaras Island's economic growth. The Local Government Unit may inspire economic development in both areas to be advantageous mutually.

Keywords: Local Economic Development, Provincial Economic Development, Smart Practices, and Good Governance

INTRODUCTION

Guimaras province is much more than luscious mangoes. It is a biodiverse island with a diverse range of vegetation and wildlife. It is a strategically placed island province located southeast of Panay Island and northwest of Negros Island. It is the smallest and youngest of the six provinces that comprise Region VI of the Philippines, sometimes known as Western Visayas. It is composed of five municipalities: Jordan (the province's primary gateway and service center), Buenavista (the university center), Nueva Valencia (the tourism center), Sibunag, and San Lorenzo (the agriculture centers).

The provincial administration spent investments after a lengthy consultation process with the province's many development stakeholders to ensure the province's comprehensive development plan is implemented.

Appropriate budgeting, staffing, and coordination of operating work plans, programs, and day-to-day services are used to translate approved policies and programs into operational work plans, programs, and day-to-day services. The local government highlighted agriculture, fisheries, and tourism as critical economic drivers for the region's continued development. Three (3) commodities are emphasized in the Agriculture sector based on their food sufficiency and economic contribution to the provincial economy: rice, mango, and cashew.

Furthermore, focusing on its various initiatives is one of the most critical local variables that could enhance the selected industry' growth potential. These businesses, including as tourism, mango and cashew farming, and food processing, all contributed to the island's economic prosperity. Finally, note that fisheries, especially seaweed farming, are a limiting performance that performs best when supported. Another is that Guimaras



has proclaimed the province "coal-free," prohibiting the admission of coal-fired power plants and coal mining projects. The San Lorenzo Wind Farm generates clean, renewable energy, and the white-sand beaches and numerous other sites where people can connect with nature conceal secrets about Guimaras that are about to be unearthed. Additionally, it intended to provide new development prospects in agricultural hubs around Sibunag, a fifth-class municipality. Indeed, a road construction program is now underway to upgrade the province's cross-island transportation network.

The Provincial Economic Development Office (PEDO) assists the provincial government in leading, strengthening, and pushing the province's economic agenda in a more holistic, integrated, and focused manner. Its establishment enables the provincial government to collaborate with component municipalities, the provincial government unit's LGU-based economic offices, national government line agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and TESDA that have established offices and presence in the province, and private sector associations such as those representing producers, traders, and ancillary industries operating in the province.

Finally, through local government efforts, it was hoped that the local environment code would be nationally approved and then included into a provincial physical framework plan. This will concretize the island province's spatial strategies for the next 10–25 years, by altering the local revenue code to align with the province's agri-tourism goals. This would include establishing a revenue code with investment rules that encourage growers to plant priority crops in accordance with the framework plan via a series of tax incentives or penalties.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to accumulate factual data regarding the economic development of Guimaras Island at the local and provincial levels through prudent practices and sound governance in the year 2020. It sought to determine the extent of local and provincial economic growth and its

relationship through the use of Smart Practices and Good Governance.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a descriptive correlational design to investigate the relationship between Guimaras's municipal and provincial economic development. This study examined smart practices and good governance in order to discover how Guimaras Island's economic development might be improved. Additionally, it aimed to characterize its practice and governance. To accomplish the objectives, a questionnaire was created and distributed to the target audience. This questionnaire contains statements about Guimaras Island's local and provincial economic development. After administering the survey, the data obtained was analyzed using SPSS.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Implementation of Smart Practices and Good Governance

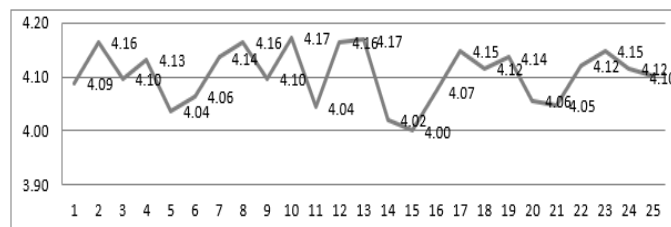


Figure 1. The results in the Local Economic Development in Guimaras Island

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

The graph–1 exhibits data on how Guimaras Island implemented Smart Practices and Good Governance based on its local level. It shows that item nos. 10 and 11 (M = 4.17) observed as "High Developed" with the statements: "Local communities are open to the development of tourism and people are safe and secure inside the community" got the highest mean in the study conducted, while item no. 15 got the lowest mean

(M = 4.00) observed as "High Developed" with the statement: "resources of environmental significance are being identified and protected." Local government includes tourism in the development of Guimaras Island, as Aasco and Lizada (2017) highlight enhancing economic and employment opportunities that are becoming more and more evident in the local community, and its positive impact is felt by both direct and indirect beneficiaries.

2. Provincial Development of Guimaras

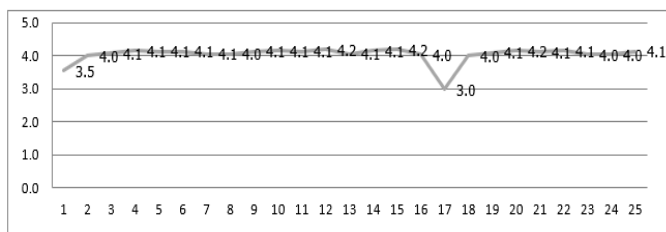


Figure 2. Results of Mean of each item aligned to the Provincial Development of Guimaras

The graph also illustrates results regarding the Provincial Development of Guimaras based on the study conducted. It is notable that it is "Highly Developed" on items 12 and 15. It contains the highest mean (M = 4.2) that there is a continuous monitoring in any form of government programs and development and the province promotes a sense of purpose, perseverance, creativity, and integrity in doing their part to contribute to overall LGU goals, while item number 17 garnered the lowest mean (M = 3.0), observed as "Developed," saying that the continued concerted efforts of all the stakeholders in the industry in the implementation of all these initiatives will surely lead to sustainable Philippine tourism. Perhaps they are prioritizing how to keep their residents safe and secure in various endeavors. Thus, the local government possibly neglected how to protect their environmental resources. Identifying environmental issues on the island aided in understanding how to deliver how to endanger human health, undermine long-term economic growth, and endanger ecological systems critical to sustainable development.

3. Performance of the Province as to smart practices and good governance

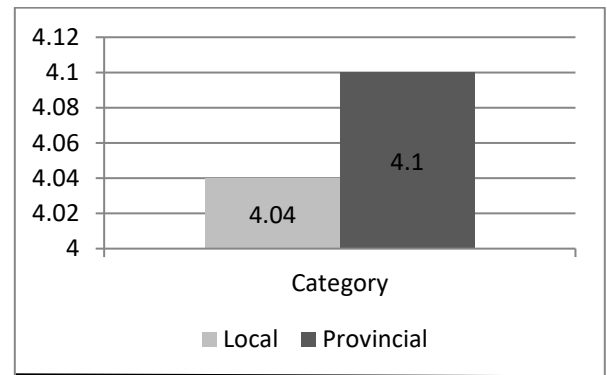


Figure 3. Descriptive Results of Local and Provincial Economic Development

Graph no. 3 indicates that the province performs smart practices and good governance (M = 4.1) better than locals (M = 4.04) in regards to their development based on the study conducted. Having policies related to the provinces and local governments means government at these levels is closer to the people and on the principle of promoting public participation for the development of the island. Considering that the DILG launched the 2016 Seal of Good Local Governance: Pagkilala sa Katapatan at Kahusayan ng Pamahalaang Lokal is an instrument which tracks the performance of local government units (LGUs) and awards LGUs with good performance. It is an award and incentive program for performing local governments, in an attempt to encourage and challenge all provinces, cities, and municipalities to improve on their performance and service delivery set across six (6) components comprising the areas. Good governance promotes transparency and accountability in the delivery of basic services that are responsive to people's needs. Possibly, Republic Act No. 7160, "An Act Providing for a Local Government Code of 1991," may be beneficial in order for the island to foster development in upcoming years.

4. Correlation between Local and Provincial Economic Development



Table 1
Results of Correlation between Local and Provincial Economic Development

Category	r	Sig (2tailed)
Local	.236**	.000
Provincial		

***p<.001

The result of Pearson r shows a significant high positive correlation between local and provincial economic development (r =.236, p =.000). This infers that whenever there is a local development, the same was true for the extent of provincial development. In an ideal scenario, a particular local government unit (LGU) manages its own growth and change through a body of plans with varying scope and time frame. The term "ideal," however, does not imply an unrealistic or unattainable dream. It simply means a scenario that does not exist as of yet. Nevertheless, it is the scenario that the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991 (RA 7160) wants every LGU to achieve.

CONCLUSIONS

It was discovered that Guimaras Island is capable of promoting tourism, implying that this path could result in the island's successful economic development. By providing accurate information about the island to all tourists and non-tourists who visit the spectacular scenery, white sand beaches, and other economic activities associated with tourism, it ensures the island's safety for all visitors and residents alike. While the island's Local Government Units' efforts to supply public services and serve the needs of local communities may be deemed desirable, they may be able to develop if they continue to unify in order for Guimaras to be heard above the rest. However, the island's resources could be bolstered to ensure sustainable development. By having good monitoring and evaluation systems in place on the island, it can continue to adapt to the way the local economy is growing

RECOMMENDATIONS

The LGUs may highlight attractions that can make the island seem more appealing to tourists and may also highlight the most unique features of the island so that it is easily recognizable and stands out from others. They may also have an in-depth analysis of the maximum sustainable visitor capacity to ensure visitors have little impact on the sensitive environment of the island.

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