

ROLE OF TERTIARY INSTITUTE IN COMMUNITY EXTENSION SERVICES: A NEEDS ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Extension services are one of the core functions of State Colleges and Universities in the Philippines. Marikina Polytechnic College (MPC), as one of the SUCs in the National Capital Region, is also required to conduct extension services. Programs to be offered to partner communities must be identified first before its execution. A needs analysis was conducted by MPC to identify what program could be delivered to the partner community utilizing the survey method of research. The source of data in the study was selected by the Barangay Captain of the partner community through snowball sampling (n=20) in which the majority came from 18-35 years old bracket, female, college graduates, and wage workers. It was revealed in the study that the main problem identified as perceived by the respondents is a lack of income, for personal problems, and a lack of livelihood programs, for community problems. It was also revealed that the samples in this study wanted to focus the extension program on dressmaking. Therefore, the extension program that must be conducted must be a sustainable livelihood program for dressmaking. Upon identifying the needs of the partner community, budget allocation, material preparation, location of training, and availability of trainers must be taken into consideration.

Keywords: Extension Services; Marikina Polytechnic College; Needs Analysis; Survey Method

INTRODUCTION

Extension Services were defined in RA 8435 as "...provision of training, information, and support services by the government and non-government organizations" to its community. It is one of the core functions of the

State colleges and Universities (SUC) in the Philippines are expected to promote livelihoods and well-being, research-based knowledge, and education to their local communities. Some programs may include agriculture and natural resources, community development, youth



development, and livelihood projects among others.

Aside from the execution of Extension Services as mandated by law, there are notable reasons why there is a need to conduct and continue sustainable extension services:

Promoting Sustainable development The transfer of knowledge, technologies, and innovations to communities will lead to better economic, social and environmental outcomes (Wulundari & Ardana, 2021)

Promotion of Social Responsibility. Extension Services help promote social responsibility among higher education institutions by engaging its stakeholders in public and community engagements (Brown & Edginton, 2012)

Strengthening Teamwork. Extension services create an avenue to strengthen the teamwork and network of higher education institutions within the organization and their state holders to achieve their common goal of helping the community (Soverano, 2020).

Development of Partnerships. Extension services can facilitate the development of partnerships between higher education institutes and their external stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-government organizations, and private sectors that may eventually lead to further collaboration in research and development projects, other extension services, and the like (Larsen & D'Amico, 2012).

Prior to the execution of extension services, there is a need to conduct a needs assessment analysis of the targeted beneficiaries. Elizabeth (2017) enumerated the reasons why there is a need to conduct a needs assessment:

- To determine the needs of the target community.
- To check the concerns that extension services provided are not familiar with.

- To determine the resources need and its effective allocation.
- To ensure the sustainability of the extension services.

Marikina Polytechnic College (MPC), being of the State College located in National Capital Region, was also mandated to provide extension services in its local community using its areas of specialization to further support the goals and objectives of the College (RA 9289). Being a technology-offering higher education institute in the Philippines, MPC offers a variety of extension services ranging from automotive servicing, electrical and electronics servicing, food processing, cosmetology, welding and fabrication servicing, and the like.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims to assess the needs of the partner community of Marikina Polytechnic College. Further, it aims to determine the sources of income of the participants, their family and community problems, and the needed training.

METHODOLOGY

A survey method to assess the needs of the partner community was the main research design of the study. Survey research was defined by Check & Schutt (2012) as “the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions”. This research design is well suited to the current study since it will solicit information and feedback from the target respondents of the study which are essential in the analysis of the needs of the target community for extension services. Respondents of this study were identified using Snowball sampling. This type of sampling



technique is the recruitment of research participants to identify the respondents of the study (McCombes, 2019). In the case of the current study, the barangay captain of the partner community identified the sources of the data in this research.

Data were collected using the prepared survey questionnaire which underwent checking and rechecking for its validity. Personnel in the Extension Services Office of Marikina Polytechnic College were the ones who crafted and peer-validated the data-gathering instrument. The sources of data in this needs assessment study is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Source of data

Demographics	N
Age Bracket	
18 to 35 years old	10
36 to 53 years old	6
54 years old and above	4
Sex	
Male	4
Female	16
Educational Attainment	
High School graduate	4
Vocational	2
College Level	7
College Graduate	5
With National Certification	2
Total	20

Ethical Consideration. Prior to data gathering in this study, a Memorandum of Understanding between Marikina Polytechnic College and the partner community was established. Included in the Memorandum of Understanding is that the community will be a beneficiary of the extension services that MPC

will provide. Being the extension service provider, there is a need to conduct a needs analysis in their community. The barangay captain was the one who identified the key person in the needs analysis. Data that could identify the respondents in this study were removed. This is in accordance with Data Privacy Act of 2012.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To identify what kind of extension services to be offered to partner communities, a needs assessment is needed. This section provided the results of the needs assessment analysis conducted using a survey questionnaire. Segments in the survey questionnaire that did not attain any information were deleted in this report.

1. Identified the source of income of the respondents

Table 2

Source of Income of Respondents

Source of Income	N
Salary/ wage as worker	10
Owns Business	3
None	7
Total	20

Table 2 depicts that the majority of the respondents of this study belong to the working class and those who don't have any source of income at all. This implies that respondents of this study either wanted to have an extra income or wanted a source of income which means that the extension service must be a sustainable income-generating activity.

2. Identified Source of Problem of the Respondents



Table 3

Identified Problem

Identified Problem	N
Personal Problem	
Vices	1
Lack of Income	15
Needs attention from immediate community	2
Indifference as couple	2
Community Problem	
Lack of Livelihood Program	12
Fighting among residents	3
Noise Pollution	4
Garbage Collection	1
Total	20

Table 3 supports the inference generated from Table 2 as most of the respondents of the study require extra income from a livelihood program.

3. Identified training needed by the respondents

Table 4

Training Programs needed

Training Programs needed	N
Automotive Electricity	1
Automotive gas engine	1
Bag making	1
Building and wiring installation	1
Candle Making	1
Computer encoding	1
Cookery	2
Cosmetology	1
Domestic refrigeration and aircon	1
Dressmaking	7
Food Processing	3
Total	20

Table 4 shows the result of the survey among the respondents as to what kind of training programs they wanted to have. As depicted in the table, respondents of the study identified that dress-making is their preferred training program.

CONCLUSIONS

As revealed in the needs analysis conducted by the Extension Services Office of Marikina Polytechnic College, there is a need for a sustainable income-generating project for the selected community which is focused on dressmaking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since it was already identified in this study the needs of the partner community, there is a need to craft the training program relative to dressmaking. The length of training must also be considered and reflected in the budget allocation, material preparation, location of training, and availability of the trainers.

This study may be a basis for other studies relative to extension services to be conducted by either the college itself or other institutes offering extension services.

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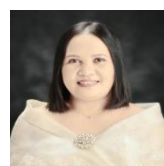
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