

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE YOUTH: THE AUTONOMY- SUPPORTIVE CONTEXT

Amelia Girly U. Lagbas - Aranas, B.P.A., M.P.A., D.P.A.
Cebu Technological University-Main Campus, Cebu City, Philippines

Abstract

This paper presents with the goal of determining the performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Southern Leyte. Two hundred forty who were SK officials were chosen through purposive sampling as respondents of the study and the elected officials assessed and evaluated the performance of the SK members along the legislative agenda. The researcher-made questionnaire was used in gathering the data. This research study utilized the descriptive-correlational design. As to the findings of their profile mostly were seventeen years of age; majority were high school level; more than ten trainings attended and mostly have two years experience as SK members. The performance was very good as evaluated by the community elected council. There was no relationship between the social conditions and performance of the SK members, geared towards the formulation of proposed enhancement.

Keywords: Social Sciences, SK performance, descriptive-correlational design

Introduction

The Congress of the Philippines approved Republic Act NO. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code” and made it effective on January 1, 1992. It is applicable to all provinces, cities, municipalities, communities and other political subdivisions as may be created by the law (Ramirez, 1993). The Local Government Code of 1991 was enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress on its 5th regular session in 1991 and was approved and signed into law by President Corazon C. Aquino on October 1991. The significance of the Local Government Code of 1991 to the Sangguniang Kabataan “lays down the policies that seek to institutionalize democracy at the local level” and as such hopes to accomplish the initial process of stimulating our people to participate directly in the affairs of government. The Primer Book I (1992) stated that the

principle of devolution widens the scope of possible venues for empowering the people. By enacting into law the Sangguniang Kabataan, in effect empowers the youth of the land.

Every local government unit created or recognized under the local government code is a body politic and corporate, endowed with powers to be exercised in conformity with laws. As such, it exercises powers as a political subdivision of the national government and as a corporate entity or corporation representing the inhabitants of its territory (Orendain, 1996). The decade of the new millennium is going to witness significant changes in the country as a consequence of the development and innovative efforts exerted by the government agency in the delivery of public services to the people. These favorable changes in the governmental system are convergence of the public services delivered directly to the undeserved, and underprivileged group which are living in the different communities in the country. The national government is extending full support to develop the country's manpower specifically those people who belong to the lowest strata of society. The community officials, together with the Sangguniang Kabataan members are provided with incentives in the achievements of the various reforms and programs which is significant to the growth and development of the economy of the country.

According to the Philippine Constitution, the local government is the political subdivision of the country. Geographically, it is subdivided into provinces, cities, municipalities and communities. These local government units consolidate and coordinate their efforts, services and resources for purposes beneficial to the people in their respective communities. Each local government unit has the power to create its sources of revenue and to levy taxes under R.A. 7160, subject to such limitation as may be provided for by law (Ramirez, 1993). The average income of the people in the community is low, below subsistence level and poverty is a common sight among the inhabitant in the area. Upliftment of economic condition of these groups is one of the priority concerns of the community officials and the Sangguniang Kabataan members. The community assembly created in the different communities throughout the country is composed of the community captain, community councilmen, the community secretary and the community treasurer. The qualified voters of the community elect the community captains together with the seven councilmen at large. They hold office until the end of the term of the community captain which is three years as one term. The Sangguniang Kabataan members are also elected by the youth in the community. There are eight Sangguniang Kabataan officials in each community. They are tasked by the national government with the supervision of the community council in implementation of the legislative agenda formulated by the higher officials in our governmental system.

The National Government Agencies with project implementation functions shall coordinate with the Local Government Units concerned in the discharged of their functions. They shall ensure the participation of the Local Government Units in the planning and implementation of national projects. In the lower level of the Local Government Units, the Sangguniang Kabataan is organized, whose functions is to promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth in the community in accordance with applicable provisions of Local Government Code. The Sangguniang Kabataan chairmen and members shall hold office for a period of three years unless sooner removed for cause as provided by law, permanently incapacitated, or resign from office. Elections for the Kabataang community conducted under BL 337 at any time between January 1, 1988 and January 1, 1992 shall be considered as the first elections provided the code. Stated in Republic Act 7160, after their election, the Sangguniang Kabataan members were given conducted trainings, orientations, seminars, workshop to develop themselves into a strong and potent group which could exert pressure on government agencies like financial institutions that assistance should be extended to the youth sector by providing funds necessary for the setting up of enterprise.

However, Economic Development Primer Book II, 1992; it is the responsibility of the SK to prepare families and groups at the community level, not only by building their capability, but also by changing their distorted sense of values, attitudes and behavior detrimental to viable business enterprises within the context of the national vision. The program shall not succeed unless and until a strong mass movement is created under the leadership of government, but with the youth, through the Sangguniang Kabataan as one of the leading forces. It would be impossible for the government to accomplish its vision and program alone, without the support of the political leaders like the SK in the lower level who will implement both the vision and program of the national government. Strategies for economic development should be discussed thoroughly and creatively by all sectors of the society under the leadership of the youth through the Sangguniang Kabataan. Politically and administratively, the government programs cut across technical agencies also and through all levels of government. Its implementation requires changes in the government, including the various units of the community. The program links the people and the government in active partnership that has potentially far-reaching consequences for there would be a change in the attitude of the youth from the attitude of a traditional society.

Community officials and the SK members require leadership that should be enlightened, unselfish, dedicated, courageous and effective. These political leaders in the community should be the principal generator of ideas

from which should radiate the necessary influence to galvanize these ideas into a unified action from the community people to execute and materialize community projects especially those projects based or partly on the principle of self-help. In order to secure the united action of all community constituents in solving current and pressing problems, the socio-psychological forces of the group should be utilized. The technique of setting the community residents to set together and get their ideas and feeling and shake their indifference and be sensitive to the common problems of the community should be initiated by the community officials and the SK of the municipality. Political leaders must know how to influence the group to follow them or lead the group to the right direction, thus, achieve the national objectives of the country.

It is in this regard that the researcher being the Sangguniang Kabataan Chairwoman at the same time Municipal SK Federation President and ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Bayan in the municipality of Anahawan, Province of Southern Leyte is motivated to conduct this study in order to determine the social conditions and the level of performance of the SK members along the legislative agenda undertaken.

Theoretical Background

This study basically focused on social conditions of the SK members, anchored on the legal provisions in Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as Local Government Code of 1991 under the Rule XXVII which states that an elective official of the SK member must be: a citizen of the Philippines; a qualified voter of the Katipunan ng Kabataan; a resident in the barangay for at least one year; at 15 years, but not more than twenty-one of age on the date of election; able to read and write Filipino, any Philippine language or dialect; such elective official must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude. In the lower level of the national government, there is an assembly of the youth in every barangay, known as katipunan na Kabataan, whose primary objective is to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the youth.

Bandura's (2001) theory of generalization states that a person matures and when exposed to more complex environmental forces his pattern of behaviour will change, age represents the level of maturity and his educability. As Brownell (1998) said, the importance of providing training and seminars will encourage independence and reward initiative within the capabilities in motivating to achieve these become productive and to work cooperatively with others. Experiences obtained in one situation are applicable to other situations, Judd (1994) it puts emphasis upon the value to

understand, organize and generalize specific experiences, which can be encouraged by training, depends upon the insights of the person.

The Filipino youth is the most precious national resource reiterated by almost everybody public gatherings like national holiday celebrations, in congressional debates, mass actions, at election time, but as a people have yet to prove beyond doubt the commitment to the youth's growth, welfare and development through concrete deeds. The most opportune time for the government to input in the information and shaping of the future leadership of the country.

Under Republic Act 7160, the government being the major institution that shapes and moulds the youth, in mobilizing the family, the religious groups, mass media, schools in giving the proper direction and guidance to meet the requirements of leadership not only of future governance but also of present needs. The Primer Book I (1992) stated that the Sangguniang Kabataan shall be the vehicle for carrying out the continuing dialogue between the youth and the government. The SK shall be the channel through which the creative ideas and creative energies of the Filipino youth as whole.

Profile of the SK members in Terms of Social Conditions

Table 1 shows the profile of the SK members based on these categories: age, gender, civil status, educational attainment, number of SK trainings attended, and the number of years experience as SK members.

As to age, of sixteen (16) years old fifty-three (53) or 22.08% belong to this bracket; thirty (30) or 12.50% ages of seventeen (17) thirty-four (34) or 14.17% ages of eighteen (18); sixty-four (64) or 26.67% were nineteen years of age; forty-two (42) or 17.50% were under twenty years of age and seventeen (17) or 7.08% were twenty-one years of age.

With regard to gender, one hundred twenty-five (125) male or 52% and one hundred fifteen (115) or 48% were female.

In relation to civil status majority of the SK members were single or 99.52% and only one who is married.

For the educational attainment: one hundred sixty (160) or 66.67% were in the college level; seventy-five (75) or 31.25% were in the secondary level and five (5) or 2.08% were in the elementary level. Rule

XIV under RA 7160, SK members during their incumbency the were exempt from tuition in public schools including state colleges and universities. The National government reimburse said college or a universities the amount of tuition and matriculation fees provided that to qualify for the privilege, said officials shall enrol in the state college or university within or nearest their area of jurisdiction.

For the numbers of SK trainings attended majority of the respondents attend more than ten, one hundred fifty (150) or 62.5% of the respondents

attended; forty-seven (47) or 19.58% who have six to ten trainings attended and forty-three (43) or 17.92% have one to five trainings attended.

As to number of years experience as SK members: eighty-nine (89) or 37.08% have experience for one year; one hundred ten (110) or 45.83% experience for two years and forty-one (41) or 17.08% experience for three years.

Table 1 Profile of the Sangguniang Kabataan Members

Profile	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Age		
16	53	22.08
17	30	12.50
18	34	14.17
19	64	26.67
20	42	17.50
21	17	7.08
Total	240	100.00
2. Gender		
Male	125	52.00
Female	115	48.00
Total	240	100.00
3. Civil Status		
Single	239	99.52
Married	1	.48
Total	240	100.00
4. Educational attainment		
Elem. level	5	2.08
Secondary level	75	31.25
College level	160	66.67
Total	240	100.00
5. Number of SK Trainings		
Attended	43	17.92
1-5	47	19.58
6-10	150	62.50
more than 10		
Total	240	100.00
6. Number of Years Experience as SK Members		
1	89	37.08
2	110	45.83
3	41	17.08
Total	240	99.99

Table 2 shows the performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan Members along the legislative agenda undertaken in the area of: revenue raising, environmental protection, provision of the minimum basic needs, assistance to the disadvantaged sector, peace and order, agriculture and fisheries and livelihood projects, in which every barangay elected officials

assessed the eight SK members. This was proven on the result of the mean were Very Good to the areas undertaken in the legislative agenda.

Table 2 Performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan Members

Legislative Agenda	Mean	Interpretation
Revenue Raising	3.484	Very Good
Environmental Protection	3.600	Very Good
Provision of the Minimum Basic Needs	3.568	Very Good
Assistance to the Disadvantaged Sector	3.618	Very Good
Peace and Order	3.555	Very Good
Agriculture and Fisheries	3.559	Very Good
Livelihood projects	3.577	Very Good
Over all	3.566	Very Good

As it was stated in Presidential Decree No. 1191 also known as (Constituting the Pambansang Katipunan ng Kabataan ng Pilipinas, Vesting it with Powers and Attributes of a Corporation, Defining its Roles and Functions and for Other Purposes), that the Filipino youth demonstrated their awareness of the country's development programs and the effectiveness in helping, coordinating and implement development programs of the government. Making it more autonomous, and vesting it with attributes and powers of a corporation, to ensure the enthusiastic and continuing participation, demonstrated their capability to administer their affairs, activities and projects in the country. With this study, concluded that the barangay council and the SK council go hand in hand, coordinate, support and cooperate for the upliftment for the welfare of the constituents.

Relationship between Social Conditions and Performance of the SK members

It can be gleaned in Table 3, age and performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan members was correlated to the areas undertaken in the legislative agenda of: revenue raising have correlational coefficient of 0.088012 means negligible positive relationship; environmental protection gave -0.01361 means negligible negative relationship; provision of the minimum basic needs have correlational coefficient of -0.05767 means negligible negative relationship; assistance to the disadvantaged sector have correlational coefficient of 0.02076 means negligible positive relationship; agriculture and fisheries have -0.09824 means negligible negative relationship; and livelihood projects have -0.01007 means negligible negative relationship; with an overall performance of -0.04919 means negligible negative relationship. As to the study of Villegas (1998) age represents the level of maturity and his possible educability to a certain person, high performance when the person mature and exposed too more complex environmental forces. It may be observed that in this study,

respondents at their young age they were be able to help, coordinate to the higher officials in the government.

Table 3 Relationship Between Age and Performance of SK Members

Variables Correlated		Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Social Conditions	Level of Performance		
Age	Revenue raising	0.088012	Negligible Positive Relationship
	Environmental protection	-0.01361	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Provision Minimum Basic Needs	-0.05767	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Assistance to the Disadvantaged Sector	0.05266	Negligible Positive Relationship
	Peace and order	0.02076	Negligible Positive Relationship
	Agriculture and Fisheries	-0.09824	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Livelihood projects	-0.01007	Negligible Negative Relationship
Age	Over All Performance	-0.04919	Negligible Negative Relationship

Table 4 revealed the chi-square test of independence between gender and performance of the SK members, were computed chi-square is 2.34; coefficient of contingency is 0.098; Pearson r-value of 0.11 the interpretation was low positive relationship. The child’s family is the most influential socializing agency in his life (Siruno, 1993). Leadership is not an inborn trait but it is developed. The roots of leadership are found in childhood experiences, especially the parental attitudes regarding child-rearing methods.

Table 4 Results of the Chi-square Test of Independence for Relationship between Gender and Performance of the SK Members

Computed Chi-square value	Coefficient of Contingency	Pearson r-value	Interpretation
2.34	0.098	0.11	Low Positive Relationship

Civil status cannot be correlated to the performance in this study, hence there is only one respondent who is married and majority was single.

Table 5 presented the educational attainment and performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan members was correlated to the areas undertaken in the legislative agenda of: revenue raising have correlational coefficient of -0.0338 means negligible negative relationship; environmental protection have -0.08643 means negligible negative relationship; provision of the minimum basic needs have correlational coefficient of -0.07596 means negligible negative relationship; assistance to the disadvantaged sector have -0.03568 means negligible negative relationship; peace and order have correlational coefficient of .038938 means negligible positive relationship;

agriculture and fisheries have -0.07561 means negligible negative relationship; and livelihood projects have 0.007289 means negligible positive relationship; with an overall performance of -0.09437 means negligible negative relationship. The study of Alferes (1995) revealed with that regards to educational attainment, the performance of degree holders was obtained higher ratings in the intellectual and emotional balance.

Table 5 Relationship Between the Educational Attainment and Performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan Members

Variables Correlated		Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Social Conditions	Level of Performance		
Educational Attainment	Revenue Raising	-0.0338	Negligible Negative Attainment
	Environmental Protection	-0.08643	Negligible Negative Attainment
	Provision Minimum Basic Needs	-0.07596	Negligible Negative Attainment
	Assistance to the Disadvantaged Sector	-0.03568	Negligible Negative Attainment
	Peace and Order	.038938	Negligible Positive Attainment
	Agriculture and Fisheries	-0.07561	Negligible Negative Attainment
	Livelihood projects	0.007289	Negligible Positive Attainment
Educational Attainment	Over All Performance	-0.09437	Negligible Negative Attainment

Table 6 shows SK trainings attended and performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan member was correlated to the areas undertaken in the legislative agenda of; revenue raising have correlational coefficient of 0.141721 means negligible positive relationship; environmental protection have -0.07072 means negligible positive relationship; provision of the minimum basic needs of correlational coefficient of -0.09682 means negligible negative relationship; assistance of the disadvantaged sector have -0.04757 means negligible negative relationship; peace and order have correlational coefficient of 0.018491 means negligible positive relationship; agriculture and fisheries have -0.09409 means negligible negative relationship; and livelihood projects have -0.005789 means negligible negative relationship. Trainings and seminars, workshop have higher level of performance in the organization.

Table 6 Relationship Between the SK Trainings Attended and Performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan Members

Variables Correlated		Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Social Conditions	Level of Performance		
SK Trainings Attended	Revenue Raising	0.141721	Negligible Positive Relationship
	Environmental Protection	-0.07072	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Provision Minimum Basic Needs	-0.09682	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Assistance to the Disadvantaged Sector	-0.04757	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Peace and Order	0.018491	Negligible Positive Relationship
	Agriculture and Fisheries	-0.09409	
	Livelihood projects	0.005789	Negligible Positive Relationship
SK Trainings Attended	Over All Performance	-0.05725	Negligible Negative Relationship

Table 7 revealed experience as SK members and performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan members was correlated to the areas undertaken in the legislative agenda; revenue raising have correlational coefficient of 0.182353 means negligible positive relationship; environmental protection have -0.05137 means negligible negative relationship; provision of the minimum basic needs have correlational coefficient of -0.12959 means negligible negative relationship; assistance to the disadvantaged sector have -0.04192 means negligible negative relationship; peace and order have correlational coefficient of 0.056025 means negligible positive relationship; agriculture and fisheries have -- 0.05739 means negligible negative relationship; with an overall performance of -0.03047 means negligible negative relationship. As study of Antonio (1997) that working experience served very high perception on the Performance Appraisal System on the Local Government Unit of Valencia and San Fernando Bukidnon.

Table 7 Relationship Between the SK members Experience and their Performance

Variables Correlated		Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Social Conditions	Level of Performance		
Experience as SK members	Revenue Raising	0.182353	Negligible Positive Relationship
	Environmental Protection	-0.05137	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Provision Minimum Basic Needs	-0.12959	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Assistance to the Disadvantaged Sector	-0.04192	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Peace and Order	0.056025	Negligible Positive Relationship
	Agriculture and Fisheries	-0.05739	Negligible Negative Relationship
	Livelihood Projects	-0.02733	Negligible Negative Relationship
Experience as SK members	Over All Performance	-0.03047	Negligible Negative Relationship

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that, there is no relationship between social conditions and performance of the Sangguniang Kabataan members along the legislative agenda undertaken. R.A. 7160 under Rule XXVII was proven to be implemented as studied.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings of the study, the following are recommended:

The community officials and the SK members will campaign to increase their revenue. A harmonious community ‘Pulong-pulong’ to the communities has to be conducted by the policemen, and constituents. The parents should fully support their children financially, physically, morally, spiritually and socially to have good leaders in the community.

The government, being the major institution that shapes and molds the youth, should spearhead in mobilizing the family, the religious groups, businessmen, the schools and mass media in giving the proper direction, vision and guidance in enabling to meet the requirements of leadership not only of future governance, but to their present needs.

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