

Conference Paper

Gender Responsiveness: The Municipality of San Mateo Case

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Abstract

This study assessed the level of responsiveness of the Municipality of San Mateo. Descriptive statistics was employed particularly mean in order to obtain the ratings with regard to the level of gender responsiveness. Frequency counts and percentages were also used in determining the profile of LGU San Mateo. It was found out that the socio-economic data of LGU San Mateo provide information in relation to gender-responsiveness and the LGU has the capacity to deliver and employ gender-responsive services which were manifested in its systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive. Moreover, mechanisms and strategies could be adopted to facilitate the localization of GAD mainstreaming.

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1. Introduction

The Local Government Units (LGU) are duty-bound to implement laws and carry out their mandates according to what the law prescribes. The fundamental law of the land – the 1987 Constitution – says that “the state recognizes the role of women in nation building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before law of women and men” [1]. Further “the state shall protect working women by providing safe and healthy working conditions, taking into account their material functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation. The LGUs lay out developmental goals that will make gender equity innate in government programs and policies.

These provisions have been made operational through various executive actions and legislation. Republic Act (RA) 7192 [8], directs all government agencies to institute measures that would eliminate gender biases in government policies, programs and projects, and to ensure that women are given means to participate fully in the development and nation building. It also requires the allocation of substantial portion

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of all Official Development Assistance (ODA) to women and development projects starting with at least 5% in the 1st year of the implementation of the law, and gradually increasing in subsequent years.

The Philippine Government with the help of the society groups also formulated the plans for Gender Responsive Development (PPGD) (1995-2025) [9], [10], a 30-year perspective plan for integrating women in the development process. Adopted through Executive Order No. 273 [9], the PPGD gives substance to RA 7192 and other laws for the advancement of women and gender equality in public service and governance.

Local Government Code [5], also puts emphasis in the role of women in the community development. It has a provision for women's representation in local policy making in the provincial, city, and municipal councils. Sections 16 and 17 require LGUs to promote general welfare and to provide basic services and facilities for their constituents, including the discharge of devolved responsibilities pursuant to the Code. To make this operational, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has joined the National Commission on the role of Filipino women (NCRFW) and the Department of Budget Management (DBM) in insuring a joint Memorandum Circular 2001-01 giving guidelines on how the GAD approach can be incorporated into the local planning and budgeting system through formulating GAD Plans. Recently, a time-slice of the PPGT was devised into a Framework Plan for Women (2001-2004) [8]. The plan gives flesh to the policy of women and development and guides Government agencies and Local Government Unit in preparation of their GAD Plans and budgets [10].

The performance of LGUs is measured in terms of how they practice good governance. Furthermore, LGU cannot achieve good local governance without being transparent, participatory, and equitable and gender responsive. The following are the reasons why gender -responsiveness can contribute to the practice of good local governance,

First, gender-responsiveness makes the LGU more effective by enabling it to identify the particular needs of its constituents and address them accordingly; second, being gender responsive makes the LGU more efficient in that it encourages the mobilization and involvement of women in decision-making processes and implementation of LGUs programs and projects and finally, only gender-responsive governance will make LGU operations equitable, in that it provides women and men equal opportunity to benefit from the fruits of development in the locality.

However, despite of the existing mandates in the implementation of GAD, there are gender concerns and issues in local governance work which are often overlooked, simply because the officials and leaders think that their work has nothing to do with

gender. Often, the argument is that the policies they introduce apply to men and women, and that their work relates to the economic or technical aspects of governance and not to women in particular.

On the contrary, every program, activity, or intervention has potential gender concerns and issues:

1. All development work eventually aims at serving people, women and men.
2. Each activity of a development project or plan can affect women and men differently because the roles in the community differ.
3. Development interventions can change gender relations by creating (the same or different) opportunities and conditions for women and men.
4. Projects that ignore 50% of the economically active population will not lead to development, much less equitable development.

A gender-responsive LGU therefore, takes into consideration how its programs, policies and other development initiatives affect both women and men. It consciously generates support and involves women and men in this development process and specifically identifying their roles in these undertakings. This is the essence of being gender-responsive.

The integration of gender concerns in developments and creation of a gender-responsive enabling environment has increased at the national level. However, many LGUs have yet to fully understand and apply GAD principle at their level. Now, does LGU San Mateo gender-responsiveness consider its remarkable achievements in the delivery of basic services? Therefore, it is then the main purpose of this study to determine the Gender-Responsiveness of the Municipality of San Mateo.

2. Objectives of the Study

It is then the main purpose of this study to determine the Gender-Responsiveness of the Municipality of San Mateo. Specifically, this study was conducted to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of LGU San Mateo in terms of the following:
2. Population
3. Health-Related Data

4. Education-Related Data
5. Security and Safety-Related Data
6. Economic-Related Data
7. What is the level of gender-responsiveness of the LGU to deliver and employ gender-responsive services and strategies?
8. What are the mechanisms and strategies that could be adopted to facilitate the localization of GAD mainstreaming?

3. Materials and Methods

The research was undertaken following the Gender-Responsive LGU (GeRL) Self-Assessment Instrument [7]. The GeRL was answered by 27 respondents. The respondents were Municipal Councilors, MPDC or the Administrator, Local Health Officer, Budget Officer, Social Welfare Officer, Agricultural Officer, PNP Representative, Local NGOs, and Other relevant/key officers/representatives.

The GeRL Self-Assessment Tool is divided into three (3) parts;

Part I

Basic Information. This part aims to identify GAD-related socio-economic data of the LGU. Data generated from will serve as background information for the succeeding parts of the instrument

Part II

LGU Basic Services. This part enumerates gender-responsiveness indicators, which the respondent is expected to rate. The scores for the indicators will be used to determine the overall capacity of the LGU to deliver and employ gender-responsive services and strategies. The general description of the levels in the scale is as follows:

Part III

Other Information. This part asks the respondent to enumerate items relating to the LGU's responsiveness to GAD. Answers to these questions will help explain and/or

Scale	Range	Description
1	1.00-1.49	does not manifest gender responsiveness
2	1.50-2.49	shows early manifestations of gender-responsiveness
3	2.50-3.49	has adequate manifestation of gender-responsiveness
4	3.50-4.49	manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
5	4.50-5.00	has institutionalized and comprehensive approach in making the LGU gender-responsive

expound on answers given in previous parts and will also serve as basis for recommendations for capability building of the LGU.

Descriptive statistics was employed particularly mean in order to get the ratings with regards to the level of gender responsiveness. Frequency counts and percentages were also used in determining the profile and other programs and activities of LGU San Mateo.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Basic information

According to the latest census of the National Statistics Office (NSO), San Mateo has a total population of 60,792 comprising 4.08% of the 1,489,645 population of Isabela and .07% of the 92,337,852 population of the Philippines. 52.98% or 18,808 of its population comprises Women aged 15-49. It has an average household size of 4.35 or 13,984 households and there are 98 or .20% female-headed household. On health related data, the Life Expectancy Rate is 65/72 and Maternal Mortality Rate of 2015 is zero (0). This means that zero (0) **death** of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes. The Infant and Child Mortality profile in the year 2015 recorded eight (8) Infant Mortality and 11 Child mortality and the common causes are Cardio Pulmonary Arrest, Pneumonia, Hydrocephalus, Congenital Heart Disease and Prematurity. This means that Infant and Child Mortality rate is very low. There were

196 cases of teenage pregnancy in the year 2015. 52 % household with access to family planning and 100% of the population covered by PhilHealth and other health schemes. On education data, the literacy rate of San Mateo is 97.95 and there are more male graduates than female. No reported data for Domestic Violence. There are only two identify data on common crimes committed against women. The annual average family income is below 999.00 per month. Most family source of income is Farming. There are 20 accredited women organization. There are women elected in the elective local official positions and there are women occupying managerial, supervisorial position in the different agencies and departments of the Local Government Unit of San Mateo.

4.2. Level of gender-responsiveness

TABLE 1: Availability of Health Related Facilities.

Gender Responsiveness Indicator		Level of Gender-Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
		Computed Rating	
Availability of the following health-related facilities in the LGU			
1	Day Care Center	3.96	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Percentage of HHs with sources of/access to safe drinking water	4.44	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Percentage of HHs with sanitary Permit	4.26	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
4	Garbage Disposal System	4.67	has institutionalized and comprehensive approach in making the LGU gender-responsive
5	Barangay Health Centers	4.81	has institutionalized and comprehensive approach in making the LGU gender-responsive
Computed Rating		4.43	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

The table indicates that LGU has an available health related facilities wherein Disposal System and Barangay Health Centers incurred a computed rating of 4.67 and 4.81

respectively. This means that the LGU Gender Responsive is very high since the grand computed rating is 4.43. This also means that LGU San Mateo manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive.

TABLE 2: Accessibility of Health Related Facilities.

Accessibility of the Following Health Services in LGU		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	Maternal Care	4.04	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Family Planning Services using the reproductive Health framework	4.19	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Counselling Services for women	3.74	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
4	Disease Controlling Program for Sexually Transmitted Disease	3.74	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
5	PAP Smear	4.19	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
6	Breast Cancer Examination (Including mammogram)	4.26	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Computed Rating		4.03	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

Health Related Facilities are accessible. These data also support the basic information provided the Municipal Health Office that Maternal Mortality Rate is Zero and Infant and Mortality Rate is very Low. This means that since Health Related Facilities are available San Mateo folks are benefited and given priority attention. This also means that services manifest a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive. This further means that the LGU San Mateo has available facilities.

The table specifies the available facilities provided by the LGU. Thus, the presence of the facilities that LGU manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive.

TABLE 3: Availability of Facilities in the LGU.

Availability of Facilities in the LGU	Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
Private rooms for counselling and physical examination	3.78	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Availability of Comfort Rooms	3.74	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Availability of Water	3.85	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Lying in Facilities	3.85	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Computed Rating	3.81	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

TABLE 4: Availability of Safety and Protection-Related facilities/Services in the LGU.

Availability of the Following Safety and Protection-related facilities/Services in the LGU	Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1 Availability of separate toilets for men and women in the LGU managed/ Owned facilities or places	3.70	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2 Adequacy of lighting of streets and public places to deter crime	4.00	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3 Separate room for interrogation of women victims in police station	3.85	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
4 Separate room for interrogation of women victims in police station	3.70	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

Availability of the Following Safety and Protection-related facilities/Services in the LGU		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
5	Separate Detention Center for Women	3.59	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
6	Separate Detention Center juvenile delinquents	4.22	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
7	Services related to prevention of Domestic Violence	4.37	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
8	Services and Mechanismsto prevent human trafficking	4.30	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
9	Rehabilitation/ Dev't Crisis Center for women	4.44	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Computed Rating		4.02	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

It is glean on the table of the available safety and protection facilities/services provided by LGU. Most of the indicators are available with a grand computed mean of 4.02. This means that LGU San Mateo manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive.

TABLE 5: Accessibility of LGU Sponsored Conducted Training Programs for Women constituents (Cooperatives, Women, NGOs, Women Groups in the Past Three (3) Years.

Accessibility of LGU-Sponsored conducted training programs for women constituents (Cooperatives, women NGOs, women groups) in the past three (3) years		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	Functional (Literacy) Training program for women	3.96	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	No. of Livelihood Training program for women	4.19	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Types of Livelihood Training Program	4.44	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

Accessibility of LGU-Sponsored conducted training programs for women constituents (Cooperatives, women NGOs, women groups) in the past three (3) years	Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
Computed Rating	4.20	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

The data shows that LGU-Sponsored conducted training programs for women constituents (Cooperatives, women NGOs, women groups) in the past three (3) years are accessible. This means that since there are existing 20 accredited organizations, it only shows that trainings and programs for women are is being patronized by the different organization because of the purpose of improving their quality of life. Among the identified livelihood training are Rags Weaving, Electricity and Electrical Repair, Computer Literacy, Farmers Livestock School-Goat Enterprise Management (fIS-GEM) provided by Isabela State University San Mateo Campus. There are also other Training Programs provided by LGU in partnership with TESDA, DOST and other agencies. This also means that training programs provided are in consonance with poverty alleviation.

TABLE 6: Presence of Economic Support Services for Women in the LGU.

Presence of economic support services for women in the LGUs		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	Credit Programs Accessible to women	4.37	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Formations of Cooperatives/Forms of Credit Facilities	4.19	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Product Development and Marketing Assistance	4.44	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Computed Rating		4.33	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

The presence of Economic Support Services for Women in LGU is available. Credits schemes are available for small enterprise. There are women members in a cooperative based from the secondary data provided by LGU. Product Development and Marketing Assistance are provided since LGU is practicing the OTOP (One Town One Product) wherein the Women in the Barangays developed a product on Mungo (Bala-tong) and market in the Town’s Souvenir shop.

TABLE 7: Accessibility of Sponsored Conducted GAD.

Accessibility of LGU-sponsored conducted GAD-related training programs to its constituents/groups (Cooperatives, women NGOs, women groups,) in the past three years		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	Gender Sensitivity Training/ Orientation	4.07	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Orientation Program of Domestic Violence	3.70	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Orientation Program on Sexual Harassment Law	3.78	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
4	Gender Responsive Planning	3.70	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
5	Sector Specific Training Programs (e.g. gender and environment)	4.56	has institutionalized and comprehensive approach in making the LGU gender-responsive
Computed Rating		3.96	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

There are available trainings for Women and it is accessible. Massive information drive and trainings are provided thus it coincides with the LGU Police Report of No Reported Data on Women Violence. This means that women are equipped with enough knowledge and training for GAD-related Training Programs.

TABLE 8: No. of LGU Staff/Officials who attended the following GAD -related Training Programs in the last three years.

No. of LGU Staff/Officials who attended the following GAD -related Training Programs in the last three years		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	Gender Sensitivity Training/ Orientation	3.67	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Orientation Program on Domestic Violence	3.85	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Orientation Program on Sexual Harassment Law	3.56	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

	No. of LGU Staff/Officials who attended the following GAD -related Training Programs in the last three years	Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
4	Gender Responsive Planning	4.04	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
5	GAD Budgeting	4.00	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
6	Gender Mainstreaming	3.93	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
7	Sector Specific Training Programs	4.33	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
	Computed Rating	3.91	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

There are available data that LGU Staff/Officials attended GAD-Related Trainings. This means that LGU Staff/Officials are responsive in GAD-Related Training programs.

TABLE 9: Presence of Organized Committees/Working Groups to Address Specific Gender Issues and Concerns.

	Presence of Organized Committees/Working Groups to Address Specific Gender Issues and Concerns	Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	Committee on decorum and investigation	3.85	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Presence of anti-domestic violence programs and services	3.93	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Committee on protecting children	4.22	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
4	Women, Children and Family Committee at the Sangunian	4.15	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
5	Local Commission on Women or Similar structures	4.07	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

Presence of Organized Committees/Working Groups to Address Specific Gender Issues and Concerns		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
6	GAD Focal Points/Person	4.52	
Computed Rating		4.12	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

There are available committees/working groups to address specific gender issues and concerns. Information Desks are provided every offices and presence of GAD Focal Points or Persons.

TABLE 10: Development and Implementation of Plans, Strategies and Resources to Address Gender Concerns and Issues.

Development and implementation of Plans, strategies and resources to address gender concerns and issues		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	Use of sex disaggregated data and planning	4.00	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Development and Implementation of GAD Plan	3.70	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
3	Presence of GAD plans at the barangay level	4.26	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
4	Allocation of GAD Budget	3.89	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
5	Mobilization of Additional resources	4.33	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
6	Utilization of GAD Budget	4.04	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
7	Capacity building strategies for GAD	4.41	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
8	Involvement and participation of women in LGU development program	3.48	has adequate manifestation of gender-responsiveness
9	Implementation of IEC strategies to build awareness on gender issues and concerns	4.48	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

Development and implementation of Plans, strategies and resources to address gender concerns and issues		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
10	Existence of gender-related programs with IEC components	4.04	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
Computed Rating		4.06	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

There are ready developed and Implemented Plans, Strategies and Resources to Address Gender Concerns and Issues.

TABLE 11: Presence and Implementation of local ordinance and policies.

Presence and Implementation of local ordinance and policies		Level of Gender - Responsiveness	Qualitative Description
1	GAD Code or Ordinance	3.93	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
2	Domestic Violence related Ordinance	4.63	has institutionalized and comprehensive approach in making the LGU gender-responsive
3	Ordinances related to child and women protection and welfare	3.93	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
4	Ordinances against Human Trafficking	4.70	has institutionalized and comprehensive approach in making the LGU gender-responsive
5	Equal opportunity Policy/ Ordinance	3.85	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive
6	Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy	4.78	has institutionalized and comprehensive approach in making the LGU gender-responsive
Computed Rating		4.30	Manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive

There are ready local and ordinance policies on gender and development provided. The implementation of the local and ordinances are properly coordinated to the different Barangays, National Agencies like Isabela State University and other agencies.

5. Conclusion

1. The socio-economic data of LGU San Mateo provide information in relation to gender-responsiveness.
2. The overall capacity of LGU to deliver and employ gender-responsive services manifests a systematic approach and moving towards advanced stages of being gender-responsive.
3. There are ready mechanisms and strategies that could be adopted to facilitate the localization of GAD mainstreaming.

6. Recommendation

1. The LGUs should have a specific long-term plan in monitoring and enforcing the different gender-responsive services.
2. Programs/activities should be designed for equitable and responsive distribution of the benefits of development.

Author's Note

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