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Livelihood Programs of Municipal Social Welfare and Development of Pambujan, Northern Samar

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Abstract

This study aimed at determining the livelihood programs of Municipal Social Welfare and Development of Pambujan, Northern Samar. Specifically, it aimed to document the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, identify the livelihood programs implemented by Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, find out the effects of livelihood programs of Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, identify the problems encountered by the respondents in the availment of the program, and draw recommendations from the respondents to further improve the implementation of livelihood programs.

As to the profile of the respondents, majority were 18-27 years old, female, married, high school graduate, farmer, earned 5,000 and below per month, and residing for 12 to 20 years.

There were six (6) programs identified implemented by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar there the topmost implemented is educational assistance for the Youth.

The overall effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar is "high" with grand mean of 3.54.

There were nine (9) identified problems in the availment of the program and the most problematic is unequal distribution of services to the beneficiaries.

There were eight (8) recommendations forwarded by the respondents to further improve the implementation of livelihood programs and the most recommended is more livelihood programs.

Keywords: Livelihood Program, Municipal Social Welfare and Development (MSWDO) and Effects.

Introduction

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is mandated by law to develop, administer and implement comprehensive social welfare programs designed to uplift the living conditions and empower the disadvantaged children, youth, women, older persons, person with disabilities, families in crisis or at-risk and communities needing assistance. Another role of DSWD is to monitor and provide technical assistance to SWD service providers or duty-holders nationwide through its Field Offices, program supervision is seen as a means of helping them deliver their respective mandates.

In addition, DSWD is mandated by law to develop and administer social welfare policy and programs designed to uplift and empower women in need, including children, among other target stakeholders. Further, it has the responsibility to oversee the implementation of social welfare programs and services at all levels being the primary agency for social welfare.

With the smash of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DSWD initiated various livelihood programs to help people to sustain

their daily living and uplift their affected socio-economic status. One of the programs implemented by DSWD is the Sustainable Livelihood Program, also known as SLP, is a community-based program, which provides capacity building to improve the program participants' socio-economic status. As a component of the Convergence Strategy, the program aims to serve the beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilya, hoping to sustain and expand beyond the five-year intervention the socio-economic benefits gained. Prior to being called SLP, the Department of Social Welfare and Development already implements the Self-Employment Assistance Kaunlaran (SEA-K) Program. It is one of the core social protection programs geared to combat poverty. The SEA-K Program is an investment in building social capital at the community level in order to increase the access of marginalized households to financial services. It has the goal of establishing community-based, self-managed and sustainable credit facilities to enable the economically active poor to have continued access to credit (<https://www.dswd.gov>, 2024).

As to the problematic situation, Pambujan Northern Samar as second (2nd) class municipality is one of the municipalities of Northern Samar with insufficient livelihood programs. As observed, the said municipality has been featured by different media about the societal problems encountered by the municipality including hunger, malnutrition and among others.

The researcher is prompted to conduct this study to assess whether the Pambujan Municipal Social Welfare and Development office activities are in support to the vision of the DSWD which envisions all Filipinos free from hunger and poverty, have equal access to opportunities, enabled by a fair, just, and peaceful society.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to find Livelihood Programs of Municipal Social Welfare and Development of Pambujan, Northern Samar.

Specifically, the study aimed to attain the following objectives:

1. Document the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - i). Age
 - ii). Sex
 - iii). Civil status
 - iv). Educational attainment
 - v). Occupation
 - vi). Family monthly income
 - vii). Length of residency
2. Identify the livelihood programs implemented by Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar;
3. Find out the effects of livelihood programs of Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar in uplifting the socio-economic status of the respondents in terms of:
 - i). Livelihood
 - ii). Education
 - iii). Health
 - iv). Transportation
4. Identify the problems encountered by the respondents in the availment of the program; and
5. Draw recommendations from the respondents to further improve the implementation of livelihood programs.

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted in the Municipality of Pambujan, Northern Samar. Quantitative research was used specifically descriptive-survey because the researcher merely described the livelihood programs of Municipal Social Welfare and Development.

The population of the study were the beneficiaries of the livelihood program of Pambujan-Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO). Hence, the respondents of this study were the fifty-two (52) beneficiaries of the livelihood program of Pambujan-MSWDO.

Results and Discussions

Profile of the Respondents

Age

The data in Table 1.1 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to age. The data revealed that 1 or 1.92 percent were 58 years old above, 2 or 3.84 percent

were 48-57 years old, 15 or 28.84 percent were 38-47 years old, 15 or 28.84 percent were 28-37 years old, and 19 or 36.53 percent were 18-27 years old.

The data further revealed that majority of the respondents were 18-27 years' old which is considered as adult youth.

Table 1.1: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
58 years old above	1	1.92
48-57 years old	2	3.84
38-47 years old	15	28.84
28-37 years old	15	28.84
18-27 years old	19	36.53
Total	52	100

Sex

The data in Table 1.2 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to sex. The data revealed that 20 or 38.46 percent were male and 32 or 61.53 percent were female.

The data further revealed that majority of the respondents were female this is because during the conduct of the study, the housewife were present in their respective houses. This is supported by Kar *et al.* where he found out that for Filipino, most of the bread winners are the male gender.

Table 1.2: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	20	38.46
Female	32	61.53
Total	52	100

Civil Status

The data in Table 1.3 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to civil status. The data revealed that 23 or 44.23 percent were single, 26 or 50 percent were married and 3 or 5.76 percent were widowed.

The data further explained that majority of the respondents were married and have their own family. According to Yakubu *et al.*, majority of respondents were married (47 respondents). Each of the respondents has dependent family members between one to eight people.

Table 1.3: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Civil Status

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	23	44.23
Married	26	50
Widowed	3	5.76
Total	52	100

Educational Attainment

The data in Table 1.4 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to educational attainment. The data revealed that 6 or 11.53 percent were elementary level, 2 or 3.84 percent were elementary graduate, 10 or 19.23 percent were high school level, 15 or 28.84 percent were high school graduate, 19 or 36.53 percent were college level, 9 or 17.30 percent were college graduate.

From the data, it can be observed that most of the respondents were high school graduate which can be concluded that due to

their highest educational attainment they were not able to find stable jobs and other source of income. Hawryluck study found out that school closure affected around 28.45 million learners all over the country, with slightly more male learners (14.29 million) than female learners (14.16 million).

Table 1.4: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
Elementary Level	6	11.53
Elementary Graduate	2	3.84
High School Level	10	19.23
High School Graduate	15	28.84
College Level	10	19.23
College Graduate	9	17.30
Total	52	100

Occupation

The data in Table 1.5 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to occupation. The data revealed that 20 or 38.46 percent were farmer, 6 or 11.53 percent were PDCab driver, 12 or 23.07 percent were vendor, 3 or 5.75 percent were businessman, and 11 or 21.15 percent were housewife.

From the data, it can be observed that most of the respondents were farmer which is connected to the reason why these respondents were not able to get job due to the low educational background. bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com found out that parents speculated what risks children might face as a result of schoolwork transitioning to home, educational activities provided online, child care being limited or unavailable, social relationships changing, sports and extra-curricular activities being cancelled, and stress and anxiety increasing at home. Some parents reflected on feeling some relief from not having to coordinate usual extracurricular activities.

Table 1.5: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	20	38.46
PDCab Driver	6	11.53
Vendor	12	23.07
Businessman	3	5.76
Housewife	11	21.15
Total	52	100

Monthly Income

The data in Table 1.6 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to monthly income. The data revealed that 38 or 73.07 percent earned 5,000 and below per month, 9 or 17.30 percent earned 5,001-10,000 per month, and 5 or 9.61 percent earned 10,001-15,000 per month.

From the data, it can be observed that most of the respondents were receiving less than 5,000 per month which is a small amount to provide their basic necessities especially in their daily needs. According to Philippine Daily Inquirer the Philippines' gross domestic product is estimated to shrink to -3.8% in 2020, which would likely make a substantial number

of the population economically vulnerable in the short and medium term, including those already in poverty. Another 5 million people were added to the 2.3 million unemployed that were recorded last April 2019.

Table 1.6: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Monthly Income

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percentage
5,000 and below	38	73.07
5,001-10,000	9	17.30
10,001-15,000	5	9.61
Total	52	100

Length of Residency

The data in Table 1.7 show the distribution of the respondents' profile according to length of residency. The data revealed that 2 or 3.84 percent were residing for 2 to 6 years, 6 or 11.53 percent were residing for 7 to 11 years, 24 or 46.15 percent were residing for 12 to 20 years, and 20 or 38.46 percent were residing for 21 years and above.

From the data, it can be observed that most of the respondents were residing in the municipality of Pambujan for 12 to 20 years. This implies that they can more observed and experienced various programs and projects implemented in their municipality.

Table 1.7: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Length of Residency

Length of Residency	Frequency	Percentage
2 to 6 years	2	3.84
7 to 11 years	6	11.53
12 to 20 years	24	46.15
21 years and above	20	38.46
Total	52	100

Livelihood Programs Implemented

The data in Table 2 exhibits the livelihood programs implemented by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar.

There were six (6) programs identified which include:

- Educational Assistance for the Youth,
- Handicraft training program,
- Food processing training program,
- Special Social Services (Referrals to other welfare institutions or agencies),
- Skills Training and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) and
- Provision of Assistance in Crisis Situation.

From the data it can be deduced that the topmost implemented program by the MSWDO Pambujan is educational assistance for the youth which is in the form of scholarship grant or cash assistance for the youth. Etim, & Daramola, 2020 highlighted that the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development has led in the provision of opportunities for income-generating activities and livelihood development through the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program since 2011. This policy note describes the program and reflects on opportunities the program has for improving and complementing other social protection programs.

Table 2: Livelihood Programs Implemented

Livelihood Programs Implemented	Frequency	Rank
Educational Assistance for the Youth	45	1
Handicraft training program	43	2
Food processing training program	40	3
Special Social Services (Referrals to other welfare institutions or agencies)	34	4
Skills Training and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)	30	5
Provision of Assistance in Crisis Situation	21	6

*Multiple response

Effects of Livelihood Programs

Livelihood

Table 3.1 exhibits the effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar in terms of livelihood.

As to the livelihood, there were six (6) parameters used to measure its effect. Among the parameters, all of them were rated “high effect” which include: the livelihood Program encourage me to work, the livelihood program help me in accessing public services easily, sufficiency of daily budget, able to sustain the family’s income, adjusting the allocation of funds for other expenses, and the livelihood Program help me in providing livelihood such as opening of store and small-scale business).

The overall effects to livelihood program is “high” with mean of 4.01. This result is in connection to Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs where Maslow believed that people are motivated to fulfill their own needs (“Motivation Theories”). Every person starts at the bottom of the pyramid and works to achieve the goals of the next layer working to the top sector.

Table 3.1: Effects of Livelihood Programs

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
The livelihood Program encourage me to work	4.11	High Effect
The livelihood Program help me in accessing public services easily	4.03	High Effect
Sufficiency of daily budget	4.17	High Effect
Able to sustain the family’s income	3.86	High Effect
Adjusting the allocation of funds for other expenses	3.86	High Effect
The livelihood Program help me in providing livelihood such as opening of store and small-scale business)	4.03	High Effect
Sub-Total	4.01	High Effect

Education

Table 3.2 exhibits the effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar in terms of education.

As to the education, there were seven (7) parameters used to measure its effects. Among the parameters, all of them were rated “high” which include: applying for school fees relief, asking for assistance from the schools, sending the children to other schools, making the children go to decent school, not borrowing money or asking for financial assistance from relatives for educational assistance, able to buy school supplies for children, and able to pay school fees. The overall effect to education is “high” with mean of 3.93.

Table 3.2: Effects of Livelihood Programs to Education

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
Asking for assistance from the schools	3.88	High Effect
Sending the children to other schools	3.59	High Effect
Making the children go to decent school	4.19	High Effect
Not borrowing money or asking for financial assistance from relatives for educational assistance	4.19	High Effect
Able to buy school supplies for children.	4.65	Very High Effect
Able to pay school fees	3.30	High Effect)
Sub-Total	3.93	High Effect

Health

Table 3.3 exhibits the effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar in terms of health.

As to health, there were five (5) parameters used to measure its effect. Among the parameters, all of them were rated “high” which include: able to have regular treatment or therapy, health checkup, having enough money for health and nutrition cost, able to by medicines, having enough money for treatment cost, and sufficient money for vitamins. The overall effect to health is “high” with mean of 3.76.

Table 3.3: Effects of Livelihood Programs to Health

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
Having enough money for health and nutrition cost	3.30	High Effect
Able to by medicines	3.88	High Effect
Having enough money for treatment cost	4.17	High Effect
Sufficient money for vitamins.	3.80	High Effect
Sub-Total	3.76	High Effect

Transportation

Table 3.4 exhibits the effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar in terms of transportation.

As to transportation, there were five (5) parameters used to measure its effect. Among the parameters, there was one (1) rated “high” which is able to travel from one place to another. One (1) parameter rated “moderate” which is sufficient of daily needs due to limited travel time allowance. Two parameters rated “low” which include: able to conduct recreation activities and able to pay fare despite of increase of fare of all public vehicles. And one (1) rated “very low” which was able to provide own vehicle. The overall effect to transportation is “low” with mean of 2.47.

Table 3.4: Effects of Livelihood Programs to Transportation

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
Sufficient of daily needs due to limited travel time allowance	3.01	Moderate Effect
Able to conduct recreation activities	2.36	Low Effect
Able to pay fare despite of increase of fare of all public vehicles	2.19	Low Effect
Able to provide own vehicle	1.03	Very Low Effect
Sub-Total	2.47	Low Effect

Summary Table

Table 3.5 exhibits the effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar.

The data shows that livelihood has high effect with mean of 4.01, education has high effect with mean of 3.93, health has high effect with mean of 3.76, and transportation has low effect with mean of 2.47.

The overall effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar is “high” with grand mean of 3.54. Hence, this result is somewhat in accordance to the mandate of DSWD which stated that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is mandated by law to develop, administer and implement comprehensive social welfare programs designed to uplift the living conditions and empower the disadvantaged children, youth, women, older persons, person with disabilities, families in crisis or at-risk and communities needing assistance.

Table 3.5: Summary Table

Effects of Livelihood Programs	Mean	Interpretation
Livelihood	4.01	High Effect
Education	3.93	High Effect
Health	3.76	High Effect
Transportation	2.47	Low Effect
Grand Mean	3.54	High Effect

Problems Encountered

The data in Table 4 exhibits the problems encountered by the respondents in the availment of the program.

There were nine (9) identified problems which include the following: unequal distribution of services to the beneficiaries, lack of budget, insufficient slots for the beneficiaries, lack of participation of the community, lack of health care workers, political issues, palakasan system, unsupportive barangay officials, and not much beneficial to the residents.

The data further revealed that the topmost problem encountered by the implementers is unequal distribution of services to the beneficiaries which mean that there were supposed beneficiaries which is left out and unable to receive any grant from the MSWDO.

Table 4: Problems Encountered

Problems Encountered	Frequency	Rank
Unequal distribution of services to the beneficiaries	48	1
Lack of budget	40	2
Insufficient slots for the beneficiaries	35	3
Lack of Participation of the Community	31	4
Lack of health care workers	26	5
Political issues	20	6.5
Palakasan System	20	6.5
Unsupportive barangay officials	18	8
Not much beneficial to the residents	12	9

**Multiple response*

Recommendations

The data in Table 5 exhibits recommendations from the respondents to further improve the implementation of livelihood programs.

There were eight (8) recommendations forwarded by the respondents which include: more livelihood programs, regular implementation of the program, sufficient amount of financial aid, must have sufficient number of employees that will assist the implementation, proper dissemination of information in regards to 4P's program, fixed time and schedule of cash assistance release, more supplies of health assistance to beneficiaries, and there must be a proper cooperation between parents and parent leader.

From the data it can be deduced that the topmost recommendation is more livelihood programs which mean that the more livelihood program implemented in the municipality the more beneficiaries can avail.

Table 5: Recommendations

Recommendations	Frequency	Rank
More livelihood programs	42	1
Regular implementation of the program	40	2
Sufficient amount of financial aid	38	3
Must have sufficient number of employees that will assist the implementation	30	4
Proper dissemination of information in regards to 4P's program	27	5
Fixed time and schedule of cash assistance release	18	6
More supplies of health assistance to beneficiaries	15	7
There must be a proper cooperation between parents and parent leader	11	8

**Multiple response*

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions and implications were drawn:

The respondents were adult youth but low in educational attainment and low earner.

There were various programs implemented by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar. This implies that

The overall effects of livelihood programs by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Pambujan, Northern Samar is “high” with grand mean of 3.54. This implies that the MSWDO office is performing their duties and responsibilities for the welfare of the community.

There were nine identified problems in the availment of the program which and the most problematic is unequal distribution of services to the beneficiaries. This implies that there were problems that hindered their implementation of programs.

There were eight recommendations forwarded by the respondents to further improve the implementation of livelihood programs and the most recommended is more livelihood programs. This implies that there is a need to implement more programs for the community.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are forwarded:

- Majority of the respondents were considered low income earner. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in collaboration with Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pambujan may provide livelihood projects to increase their daily income.

- ii). The topmost program implemented is along scholarship for youth. Hence, it is recommended that the MSWDO Pambujan may consider and focus to other livelihood program.
- iii). The overall effects of livelihood programs of MSWDO is high. Hence, it is recommended that the DSWD and LGU may review and conduct feasibility study on the projects implemented to ensure the high impact of the programs.
- iv). The problem encountered identified by the respondents may be given attention to higher authority such as Provincial DSWD and LGU Pambujan.
- v). The number one recommendation by the respondents is to have more livelihood programs. It is recommended that LGU Pambujan in partnership to DOLE, DTI and other stakeholders may implement other livelihood programs to the municipality.
- vi). Similar study be conducted and use qualitative study.

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