Summative evaluation of community extension project: A phenomenological inquiry

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Abstract

Aim: The research was conducted to see if the project should be scrapped, and the results were used to make that decision. Bansayalangsa Kalambuansa Katawhan is a community outreach initiative started by the Social Work Program. Participants received instruction in environmental sanitation and leadership, organizational, and project management.

Method: Twenty-one (21) people participated in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and individual interviews. Positive responses were received from those who benefited from the research findings in the areas of increased income, empowered leadership, heightened environmental awareness, and enhanced skills.

Findings: This finding demonstrates the value of the academic community's ability to provide extension services to local communities, which benefits the nation as a whole.

Implications/Novel Contribution: Community social workers will benefit from the findings of this study. To be the paragon of solid leadership, trust, and integrity, they must display passion, patience, knowledge, and wisdom..

Keywords: Community extension, Leadership training, Organizational & project management, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

The academe and other sectors' investments in community extension programs have benefited the country by improving the quality of life in underserved areas (Fernan, 2014; Punluekdej & Srisorn, 2017). Most universities and colleges have their own outreach programs aimed at helping underserved neighborhoods. For instance, the University of the East's community livelihood project was to encourage, instill faith in, and provide a foundation for social equality and stability (Simpson, 1998).

Many people were sceptical of extension projects despite the claims that they could help communities because schools, colleges, and universities were engaged in these services for accreditation purposes. Because faculty and students were obviously required to participate in extension projects as a requirement for accreditation, the essence of volunteerism in community extension services was obscured (Cuyugan et al., 2017; Watson, 2013). Furthermore, Rohan, Booske, and Remington (2009) found that extension projects frequently ran into issues, particularly with the management side of the project; individuals often lacked the expertise and training to effectively oversee the endeavor.

Objectives of the Study

This research aimed to learn how community members felt about the training provided by the community extension program of social work at the University of Mindanao and how those feelings manifested themselves in tangible ways.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Lens

This study was anchored on the beliefs of the ff. authors. Mertens and Wilson (2018) expressed the necessity of evaluating something that was implemented on a particular period of time to determine its value and worth. Alkin and Christie (2004) declared it is imperative to identify the areas of concern in evaluating a project and to choose an appropriate method in collecting and analyzing data for sound decisions to be made (Ruggles et al., 2010; D. B. Smith, Moore, Jayaratne, Kistler, & Smith, 2009) also affirmed that the use of evaluation is imperativefor community extension projects offered by schools to its community partners in order to measure the effectiveness, outcomes, and impact of the services offered to the people. However, (N. Smith, Mitton, Cornelissen, Gibson, & Peacock, 2012; Sanjeeb, 2019; Taras, 2005) pointed out the importance of looking into the level of engagement of the parties involved in community extension services especially in the termination phase of the project.

Evaluation Type

Assessment systems can be characterized into two essential sorts relying upon the data required Formative and Summativeand each can assume significant jobs in our endeavors to assess network commitment.

Formative evaluation

It gives data to control program improvement. This additionally incorporates: Procedure assessment decides if a program is conveyed as proposed to the focused on beneficiaries (Rossi, Mark, & Howard, 2004). Developmental and process assessments are suitable to lead during the execution of a program.

Summative evaluation

It illuminates decisions about whether the program worked (i.e., regardless of whether the objectives and destinations were met) and requires making express the measures and proof being utilized to make "outline" decisions. Summative techniques likewise include: Result assessment centers around the detectable states of a particular populace, hierarchical characteristic, or social condition that a program is required to have changed. Result assessment will in general spotlight on conditions or practices that the program was required to influence most straightforwardly and right away.

Effect assessment looks at the program's drawn out objectives. Summative, result, and effect assessment are fitting to direct when the program either has been finished or has been progressing for a considerable timeframe (Rossi et al., 2004).

Notwithstanding your system or mediation, you will probably have three essential objectives driving your commitment assessment exertion:

To educate the improvement regarding your exercises and projects (developmental assessment)

To enhance the procedure and accomplishment for future endeavors (process assessment)

To survey the results and effects of your exercises and projects (summative assessment).

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative phenomenological research method was employed in this study. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were used in the conduct of this studyto explore interesting areas of this research (Patton, 1987). Most procedures on investigation were flexible in the sense that it did not restrict the sequence of investigation to a particular form so much so that it did not deal with numbers because there were situations where numerical figures were unable to explain (Creswell & Poth, 2016; Stewart & Shamdasani, 2014). There were 21 participants who responded on the interview and focus group discussion. The researcher developed an interview guide questionnaire using the open ended questions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Feedback of BANGKKA Beneficiaries on Training Services

Strengthening of Leadership, increased in income, skills enhancement and values education are the main

goal of the community extension. Beneficiaries testified that the absence of facilitators caused leaders to become self-reliant in supporting the beneficiaries.This result coincided with Turner and Müller (2005) who declared that the success of an organization is highly dependent on the skills of leaders and must possess high integrity and exercise transparency (Amorado, 2011). The leaders felt empowered in becoming self-reliant in their economic aspect as well as in the overall handling of their organization. Participants stressed that certificates of appreciation somehow boost their esteem as leaders of their organization, besides its being an evidence of attendance of trainings they attended.

Figure 1. FGD with the barangay leaders & officers of the organization

The beneficiaries family income was augmented, thus they were able to help their husbands provide well for their families. They acquired new livelihood product yet they continued their Peanut Butter product and other handicraft business. Now, they have four (4) choices of products to produce and sell depending on the availability of capital: Deboned fish, Tinapa, Peanut Butter and handicrafts.This development urged the womens organization to establish a cooperative for the organization. This implies the effectiveness of the training program. The belief that success in planning and management of project relies on the grassroots (McGill, Slocum Jr, & Lei, 1992; Pasquale, 2009) proved true in this situation. Furthermore, values education enhanced self-awareness, hygiene and environmental consciousness on the part of the beneficiaries. As an output, the community had planted mangrove trees as part of social responsibility.

Feedback of the BANGKKA Banner Project Beneficiaries on the Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes of the Training Services Facilitators

The beneficiaries gained so much knowledge on leadership, organizing, project management, and environmental sanitation from the seminars and training given to them by the student-facilitators from the Social Work program of the University of Mindanao and other invited lecturers. Leaders were noted to have already gained confidence by standing and talking in front of a crowd, unlike before, they were just content on sitting down being a passive listener. Now, more than ever, the beneficiaries were more confident in handling groups and improving human relationships.

The beneficiaries skills in facilitation, project management and organizing beneficiaries, cooking, recording, and even proper hygiene were enhanced as they themselves had expressed. Parenting and building harmonious familyrelationships were strengthened. One notable change in the attitudes of the beneficiaries was their involvement in community activities. After the trainings and seminar-workshops afforded to them by UM Social Work students, LGUs and NGOs, they become more active and motivated members of their organization. Project activities were already easier to accomplish given the fact that members have become very supportive of their leaders. The WE feeling had already operated in them. Also, unity among members was noted.

Feedback of the BANGKKA Banner Project Beneficiaries on the Implementation of Agreed Shared Responsibilities of the Partners

Barangay leaders shown their support to the activities by being present whenever invited. Barangay leaders

were the ones who identified the clients or the beneficiaries. Those who were in need were prioritized. It was observed that all activities found in the plan were covered.The beneficiaries suggested any training should present participants with certificates to document their involvement.

Manifestation of the Extent, Outcomes and Effectiveness of the Trainings of BANGKKA Banner Project Beneficiaries

The findings revealed some worthwhile outcomes of the BANGKKA project Incumbent barangay officials played an important role in training other leaders in their community. The trainings were given to these community leaders almost a decade ago and up to now these community leaders who were recipients of the trainings continue to lead their communities. This proved the extent or reach of the benefits of the training which cut across time. Up to the present, these leaders continuously doing their responsibilities in their organization. It was observed that the organization of the women had expanded from simple livelihood projects to a cooperative project; and from handicrafts to food preservations. Again, these organizations continue to operate even without the presence of their barangay leaders, which meant that they felt empowered to execute their responsibilities for the project.

All the learning they acquired from the training motivated them to become responsible parents and community members. They changed their perspective. When people in a community change their perspective for the better, then community organizations succeed. True enough as this study proved.

CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Social development is the core of the social work profession. The passion for people and the communitys betterment is where social workers find meaning in their profession (Mendoza, 2008). Social workers help communities to rise above their conditions to enjoy a life that is meaningful and worthwhile (Buenviaje, 2005). Social workers who work in the community have to demonstrate passion, patience, knowledge and wisdom. They are the epitome of strong leadership, trust and integrity (Amorado, 2011).

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