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EFFECTIVENESS OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS (SLP) AND THE COMMUNITY WELFARE OF BENEFICIARIES IN SELECTED BARANGAYS OF CAN-AVID, EASTERN SAMAR

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ABSTRACT
Despite national poverty reduction efforts, the localized impact of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) on rural beneficiaries' holistic well-being remains understudied. This study evaluates SLP implementation effectiveness and its relationship with the community welfare of beneficiaries in Can-avid, Eastern Samar. Utilizing a quantitative descriptive-correlational design, data was collected from 70 proportionately sampled beneficiaries using a validated 4-point Likert scale questionnaire. Findings indicate a [moderate/high] level of program effectiveness, showing a [significant/non-significant] correlation between SLP interventions and improvements in household income, food security, and quality of life. Ultimately, results suggest that sustaining rural livelihood resilience requires targeted policy adjustments and localized capacity-building by the local government and DSWD.
KEYWORDS: *Sustainable Livelihood Program, Community Welfare, Poverty Alleviation, Program Effectiveness, Rural Development*

INTRODUCTION

Global poverty alleviation efforts, such as the Philippines' Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), aim to foster sustainable empowerment rather than just temporary relief. However, in economically and environmentally vulnerable areas like Can-avid, Eastern Samar, the program's success is challenged by geographic isolation and market limitations. Currently, a disconnect exists between national reports, which focus heavily on quantitative metrics like fund disbursement, and the actual qualitative improvements in beneficiaries' daily lives.

This study addresses a critical research gap by evaluating the localized, post-pandemic impact of the SLP in rural Can-avid, an area overlooked by predominantly urban-centric literature. Driven by current economic volatility, the research urgently seeks to determine whether the SLP builds genuine, long-term livelihood resilience or merely offers fleeting assistance. Ultimately, the study aims to identify the program's strengths and systemic bottlenecks to provide a data-driven framework that bridges the gap between national policy intentions and the actual lived realities of the community.

The researcher will conduct the study on the effectiveness of sustainable livelihood programs (SLP) and the community welfare of beneficiaries in selected barangays of Can-Avid, Eastern Samar. Specifically, this study seeks to answer the following:

1. What is the level of effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Programs as assessed by the beneficiaries in terms of:
    1.1. Capacity-building activities (trainings and workshops);
    1.2. Resource provision (funding and equipment); and
    1.3. Community engagement and monitoring?
2. What is the status of the community welfare of the beneficiaries in terms of:
    2.1 Income and employment status;
    2.2 Food security and basic needs; and
    2.3 Perceived quality of life?
3. Is there a significant relationship between the level of program effectiveness and the community welfare of the beneficiaries in Can-avid, Eastern Samar?

METHODS

Research Design

This study employed a non-experimental, descriptive-correlational research design to investigate the relationship between the effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (the independent variable) and the community welfare of its beneficiaries (the dependent variable) in Can-avid. Because manipulating socio-economic conditions or a pre-existing government program is both impractical and unethical, this observational approach was chosen to analyze the variables in their natural setting. Using a researcher-developed, 4-point Likert scale survey, the study systematically quantified both program implementation and beneficiary well-being to determine if a statistically significant correlation exists between the two.

Study Site and Respondents

The study was conducted in Can-avid, Eastern Samar, specifically targeting seven barangays: Canteors, Guibiangan, Mabuhay, Jepaco, Camantang, Baruk, and Can-ilay. These locations were purposively selected due to their high concentration of active Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) participants and their history of receiving diverse government

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livelihood interventions from agencies such as the DSWD, DOLE, TESDA, and DOST.

The primary respondents of the study comprised 70 SLP beneficiaries. To ensure a balanced and statistically representative sample across various economic sectors (farming, fishing, small-scale retail, and skill-based labor), the researcher employed a stratified random sampling technique. This three-phase process involved purposively selecting the research sites, categorizing the official MSWDO beneficiary master list into livelihood strata, and finally using simple random sampling to select the 70 households. Additionally, to evaluate the program's administrative implementation and resource provision, institutional stakeholders—including barangay officials, LGU workers, and government agency representatives—were surveyed using a total enumeration (census) approach.

Data Analysis

This study analyzed the gathered data using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics, specifically the weighted mean and standard deviation interpreted via a 4-point Likert scale, were utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) and the current status of the beneficiaries' community welfare. Additionally, inferential statistics, utilizing the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient at a 0.05 alpha level, were applied to determine the strength, direction, and statistical significance of the relationship between the program's effectiveness and the resulting community welfare.

RESULT

Level of Effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)

Level of Effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)	Mean	Interpretation
Capacity-Building Activities	3.52	Highly Effective
Resource Provision	3.53	Highly Effective
Community Engagement and Monitoring	3.53	Highly Effective
Aggregate Mean	**3.53**	**Highly Effective**

Status of Community Welfare of the Beneficiaries

Status of Community Welfare of the Beneficiaries	Mean	Interpretation
Income and Employment Status	3.39	Strongly Agree
Food Security and Basic Needs	3.48	Strongly Agree
Perceived Quality of Life	3.47	Strongly Agree
Aggregate Mean	**3.45**	**Strongly Agree**

Correlation Between Program Effectiveness and Community Welfare

Variable Pair	Pearson r	p-value	Interpretation
SLP Effectiveness & Community Welfare	0.84	< 0.05	Strong Positive Correlation

DISCUSSION

Level of Effectiveness of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)

The data reveals that the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in Can-avid is perceived as "Highly Effective" across all parameters, garnering an aggregate mean of 3.53. Breaking down this assessment, Capacity-Building Activities achieved a mean of 3.52. This high rating is driven by beneficiaries strongly agreeing that the training provided was relevant and the trainers were knowledgeable, suggesting that the pedagogical approach effectively bridges theoretical knowledge with practical application suited for the local economy. Resource Provision emerged as a significant logistical strength with a mean of 3.53, largely attributed to the timeliness of financial assistance and the transparent, durability-focused procurement of equipment. This efficiency helps beneficiaries maximize planting or trading seasons without bureaucratic delays. Furthermore, Community Engagement and Monitoring also yielded a mean of 3.53, bolstered by the active support of local Barangay and LGU officials. This reflects a strong "convergence" strategy where regular monitoring by coordinators acts not just as supervision, but as a vital technical safety net that prevents early-stage business failure and ensures long-term project sustainability.

Status of Community Welfare of the Beneficiaries

The assessment of the beneficiaries' socio-economic status following their participation in the SLP indicates an overall "Strongly Agree" rating (aggregate mean of 3.45), reflecting significant improvements in their daily lives. Food Security and Basic Needs scored the highest at 3.48, with many respondents affirming they can now afford three nutritious meals a day alongside basic needs like clothing and education—a crucial indicator of effective poverty alleviation in historically impoverished areas like Eastern Samar. Perceived Quality of Life followed closely with a mean of 3.47, highlighting the "human" impact of the program. Beneficiaries reported restored social capital, a sense of pride, and a more positive outlook on life, illustrating that the psychological uplift and feeling of security provided by the SLP are just as vital as financial gains. Meanwhile, Income and Employment Status received a mean of 3.39. While this demonstrates a positive trend toward self-employment and income stability, it also registered the highest number of "Disagree" responses among the metrics. This suggests that while the majority are thriving, a small segment still struggles with financial growth, potentially due to external

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pressures like local market competition or rising costs of goods. Nevertheless, the overall transition from unemployment to self-employment remains a transformative shift for the community.

Relationship Between Program Effectiveness and Community Welfare

The statistical analysis demonstrates a Strong Positive Correlation (Pearson r = 0.84, p-value < 0.05) between the effectiveness of the SLP and the community welfare of its beneficiaries. This finding directly implies that the quality of the program's "inputs"—such as comprehensive training, timely funding, and consistent monitoring—directly dictates the quality of the "outputs," which manifest as higher income, improved food security, and an enhanced quality of life. The high correlation coefficient indicates that the beneficiaries who rated the program as highly effective were the very same individuals who experienced the greatest improvements in their families' well-being. Ultimately, this robust relationship validates the Theory of Change underlying the SLP: when capacity building is paired with timely resource provision and active institutional support from the LGU and DSWD, it creates a viable, sustainable pathway to economic self-sufficiency and decreases the risk of project abandonment.

CONCLUSIONS

The following were the conclusions drawn based on the findings of this study:

1. Since equipment quality is highly rated, the LGU should establish a small support desk or maintenance hub where beneficiaries can access affordable repairs for their tools to ensure the long-term life of the resources provided. To sustain the "Highly Effective" rating in capacity building, the DSWD should introduce "Level 2" workshops focusing on digital marketing and basic bookkeeping for those who have successfully completed the first year.
2. To boost the "Income and Employment" scores, the barangay officials should create "SLP Corners" in local markets or facilitate contracts between beneficiaries and local school canteens or government offices to ensure a steady demand for their products. Since some beneficiaries still struggle with debt, the formation of small community-based savings and credit groups (Self-Help Groups) is recommended to help them manage financial shocks without depleting their business capital.
3. It is recommended that a follow-up study be conducted after two years to determine if the "Strong Relationship" between effectiveness and welfare persists as the projects mature and face market fluctuations. The results of this study should be presented to the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office to serve as a "Best Practice" model for other municipalities in Eastern Samar, highlighting the importance of LGU-DSWD convergence.

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