



THE PROFILE, THE PERSPECTIVES, AND THE NEEDS OF RURAL WOMEN IN THE 4TH DISTRICT OF LAGUNA

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture, being the backbone for most developing countries, is one source of income for almost every rural woman in the world. These women live in remote areas and don't have access to internet or sometimes even mobile phones. They do not have enough information about agricultural practices and this alone, causes a problem. If a woman doesn't have access or any resources, all the programs in the world can't help them in any way.

This study focused on Phase 1 of which determined the profile, the perspectives and the needs of rural women in the 4th district of Laguna. Moreover, the study's primary goal is to help provide training, development programs and activities to the rural women in the 4th District of Laguna towards personal development and possible preparedness in various life's situations/incidences.

This research is a survey or descriptive in nature. There are 16 towns in the 4th district of Laguna, and 294 barangays. The team purposively selected all towns within the 4th district and at least 2 barangays in each town represented the women of the 4th District of Laguna in the conduct of this research. The study revealed that, the Needs assessment of the Profile, the Perspectives and the needs of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna with regards to Trainings, Development Programs and Activities, acquired the total frequency of 498 with a total percentage of 100. The Basic Communication & Literacy Skills received the highest response of seventy-four (74) or 14.86% of the total respondents. Followed by the Sustainable Livelihood Development Program; Baking, Basic Sewing, Cosmetology with sixty-two (62) or 12.45% of the total respondents. While the Good housekeeping (The 5S of good housekeeping: 1 Sort (SEIRI), 2 Systematized (SEITON), 3 Sweep (SEISO), Sanitize (SEIKETSU), and 5 Self-discipline (SHITSUKE); House Cleaning Tips and Maintenance got the lowest frequency of thirty-nine (39) or 7.83 of the total respondents.
INDEX TERMS — Rural Women, Sustainable Livelihood Development Program

1. INTRODUCTION

Majority of Filipino rural women are found in the countryside or "laylayan" like the 4th District of Laguna Province. These women are found to be engaged in planting, livestock and poultry production, while some have nothing to do. Hence, these women opt out to work as a laborer receiving the lowest paid, according to 1975 survey.

There are different factors that influence this situation. Most of these women do not have enough education to be able to work professionally. Some of them lack skills to be able to perform specific tasks. Some simply lack awareness and settle with a simple life. Thus, it cannot be denied that needs assessment of these rural women should be made and programs must be initiated to promote literacy and empowerment.

In addition, inequalities in access to resources and entitlements have made women the poorest of the poor. Poor women have fewer social, economic, political rights, including rights of access to such essentials as health care and education, lower economic return for their work, have multiple burden, as well as care for children and the elderly.

The needs for support to these women should be given emphasis. Thus, this research will focus on personal and community development of rural women in order to promote and enhance their knowledge and skills as women in the family as

well as in their community.

This study investigated the current condition of rural women particularly in the 4th District of Laguna, and the result of this study may be used as basis for program or programs that may alleviate the economic condition and dignity of these women as members of the society.

2. OBJECTIVES

The researchers' primordial goal is to help provide training, development programs and activities to the rural women in the 4th District of Laguna towards personal development and possible preparedness in various life's situations/incidences

Specifically, the College of Teacher Education sought to find out the:

1. Clientele's Profile with regards to their age, civil status, number of siblings, monthly income, and educational background.
2. Level of perspective of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of Human Rights, Health Care Access, Standard of Living, Gender Equality, and Education.
3. Needs assessment of the Profile, the Perspectives and the needs of Rural Women in the 4th District of Laguna



with regards to Trainings, Development Programs and Activities

3. METHODOLOGY

This research is a survey or descriptive in nature. This program included three (3) projects composition namely: 1. Profile, perspective and needs assessment of rural women, 2. Extension programs focusing on personal and community development, and 3. Monitoring and re-assessment. This research focused in the first phase of the program.

During phase 1 of which focuses on the needs assessment of rural women, the team identified the rural women who may provide substantial information regarding their perspectives as mothers and wives who live in a rural community. Their profile includes age, social economic status, educational qualifications, source of income and number of family members. Finally, during the survey, their needs as mothers and as wives were also included in the survey.

There are 16 towns in the 4th district of Laguna, and 294 barangays. The team purposively select all towns within the 4th district and at least 2 barangays in each town were used to represent the women of the 4th District of Laguna in the conduct of this research.

This research was conducted in sixteen (16) towns with at least two (2) barangays in the fourth district of Laguna. The first step is securing permission from the respective municipalities then conduct the orientation and survey in each pre-selected barangay.

During Phase 1, rural women were identified. They are women residence of barangays. They may be housewives, farmers, or with temporary job or source of living. The survey included their profile, perspectives and personal and community needs for development. Each week, one town was surveyed. The rural women were interviewed for confirmation of the data being surveyed/collected. There were members of the CTE faculty to be involved in the survey of data for its completion. After the completion of data collection, analysis was done, with the corresponding conclusions and recommendations. As mentioned above, this research focused in the first phase of the project.

During phase 2, the recommendations will be scrutinized for possible extension proposal where the rural women will be extended services like dissemination of information on awareness, lectures on some topics related to the research conducted like empowerment, proper waste management, good housekeeping among others.

During phase 3, there will be monitoring of the progress and re-assessment on personal and community development of the rural women as regards to the assistance extended by the CTE faculty.

After the time allotted, the responses were collected, assessed, recorded and analyzed. The results were obtained in (3) three parameters (rural women profile, perspective and needs assessment) were evaluated.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Filipino women carry the unwavering burden as their sisters in the rest of the developing world. The conditions

obtaining in a backward, dependent economy oblige most of them to live under conditions of poverty, inequality and justice. Some doors of opportunity and advancement are still unwelcomed for women unless they belong to the upper class of which is 8%, in other crops, livestock and poultry production which is almost 7% and sugarcane farming with only 4% of the total population [1]. Many women are worse off today than they were five years ago, particularly those in rural areas and these deteriorating situations are attributed mainly to the current world economic crisis which has affected women seriously by increasing their unemployment and cutting back on essential services.

Good Housekeeping involves the principle of waste elimination through workplace organization. The Japanese words seiri, seiton, seiso, seiketsu, and shitsuke when translated in English can be roughly translated as sort, set in order, clean, standardize, and sustain. The cornerstone of 5S is that untidy, cluttered work areas are not productive. As well as the physical implications of unwanted items getting in everybody's way and dirt compromising quality. Women, known to be with these attributes, should be fully informed of how these works and to further improve their ability. Without the necessary skills to carry out specialized cleaning tasks in a safe and efficient manner, rural women will find the amount of work and its level of detail too overwhelming to conquer.

According to [2], good housekeeping also provides the foundation for all quality improvement programs. It is a process to create more productive people and more productive companies through motivation, education, and practice. It involves the creation of a strong corporate culture with a productivity mindset. Quality housekeeping takes a lot of effort; much of that effort should be focused on cleanliness which is consistent and on schedule, before the residents return from their daily activities. These would be one great opportunity for rural women as they are experienced in maintaining the organization and cleanliness of their homes.

[3] stated that, rural women are key agents for attaining the transformational economic, environmental and social changes needed for sustainable development, of which involves Proper Waste Management. Attention should be paid in developing and transition countries, where the unsustainable management of solid waste is common. Differences should be highlighted between developing big cities and rural areas, where management issues are different, specifically regarding the amount of waste generated and the waste management facilities available. Being knowledgeable to Proper Waste Management would help the disregarded women to stand up and guide everyone for a better and clean environment.

On the other hand, prevention focuses on creating concrete plans, training and exercises well ahead of a disaster to prepare your organization. Emergency planning activities will allow organizations to reduce loss of life and sustain environmental challenges by developing organizational specific plans, standardized planning tools and emergency management protocols. If a woman knows how to lead and informed her colleagues, with also having the woman's nature of being initiative, every single person in the community would be more



than willing to cooperate.

[4] Further stated that although women are underrepresented in the ranks of power, too many evidences are founded on the misconception that women ought to emulate men.

According to the World Bank, providing life skills enables individuals to effectively deal with the demands of everyday life. It also fosters their critical thinking early on about how gender norms and human rights guide their interactions with others. These skills are especially crucial during adolescence, a stage in which emotional and physical changes take place and critical life questions are raised.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of the household. In all parts of the world, women are facing threats to their lives, health and well-being as a result of being overburdened with work and of their lack of power and influence. To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.

According to Electrician's Career Guide, there are only few female electricians in the world but their experiences in work is largely positive. Female electricians tend to find no difficulty when it comes to finding a company for their training because trade unions want to employ a diverse workforce, and many actively recruit women and minorities to join. Being a man would be a great advantage because of their built but electricians often need to fit into crowded or small spaces, and a petite frame may allow to get to places that a bigger frame could not get to. This clearly implies that, a woman having knowledge in basic electrical wiring would be a great help for them especially if they are single mothers. In the event, that they have spouses that can help them out, a simple and basic electrical would be done without a man's help. A woman finds the sense independence of they are equipped with enough knowledge.

The needs of rural women, according to [5] show that more than 70 percent of the poor and the majority of the world's 880 million illiterate youths and adults live in rural areas. In addition, rural communities do not provide access to formal education, health services, transportation, technology and markets. The quality of education which is available is poor. The researcher also said that recent data shows that among the 1.3 billion people below the poverty line, 900 million women are affected, and of these, 500 million of them live in rural areas. Rural education levels are lower than urban areas in almost every country.

This phenomenon may be seen in Malaysia as well. The adult literacy rate trend shows a continuous increase from 84.9 per cent in 1989 to 92.8 percent in 2008. The adult literacy rate in urban areas is higher at 95 per cent compared to 90 per cent of the rural areas in 2008. The adult illiteracy rate has dropped from 10.6 percent in 2000 to 7.9 per cent in 2008 (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2009). The role of women in family, society,

economy and politics is boosted by the existence of the National Policy on Women (NPW), which was enacted in parliament in 1989. Main objectives of the policy are: i) to ensure fairness between men and women concerning the control and use of resources and information and to obtain fair benefits from development opportunities and ii) integration of women in all sectors of national development, in accordance with their abilities and needs, to enhance the quality of life and eradicate poverty, ignorance and illiteracy and to ensure peace and prosperity. The New Economic Policy (NEP) was introduced in 1970 with a 20-year implementation period with a two-pronged objective of eradicating poverty and overcoming the gap between the races. The main strategy is to eliminate poverty through increased education levels. However, though efforts that have been undertaken to improve literacy and decrease poverty, problems persist, and the targeted goals are long over.

[6] describes the factors that influence the educational backwardness of rural areas: lack of awareness among parents regarding the importance of education, family poverty, lack of motivation to learn, difficulty in changing the perception of education and difficulty in providing technology to students. At the same time, he suggests six ways to strengthen rural education: provide more options educational opportunities for parents and students, establish a sustainable educational model, build up educational infrastructure, develop core skills and competencies, improve the assessment and evaluation system and increase entrepreneurial programs.

Poor rural women often have no academic qualifications and skills; this, coupled with single-mother status, causes women to face difficulty in their lives. Women caught in this situation often look for short-cuts which will lead them out of this quagmire, which in turn affects the lives of their family, especially their children. Involving rural women in entrepreneurship is a major initiative to generate income and perhaps the next-best strategy to get out of poverty [7]. Furthermore, [8] also stated that the driving factors for single parents in getting involved in entrepreneurship include pressures of life and survival, environmental factors such as culture, government support, lifestyle changes and available resources. These factors also include economic and demographic issues such as gender, age, background, educational background and experience. However, women entrepreneurs who need knowledge and skills also have difficulty accessing education, financial services, and transportation. This social problem may trigger a never-ending spiral of failure.

5. DISCUSSION

This descriptive study was envisioned to investigate the current condition of rural women particularly in the 4th District of Laguna, and the result of this study may be basis for program or programs that may alleviate the economic condition and dignity of these women as members of the society. Specifically, this sought to observe the Clientele's profile with regards to Civil status, number of Siblings, Monthly Income, Educational Background and age. Moreover, it also sought to find the Level of perspective of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of Human Rights, Health Care Access, Standard of Living,

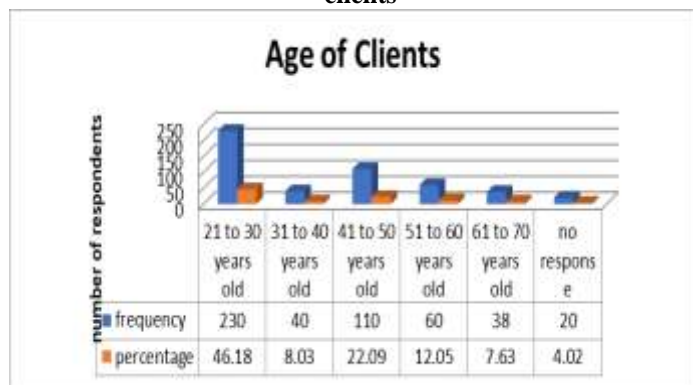
Gender Equality, Education and the Needs assessment of the Profile, the Perspectives and the needs of Rural Women with regards to Trainings, Development Programs and Activities.

Mean level was used in getting the rural women's level of perspective in the 4th district of Laguna. Survey was done to accumulate the clientele's profile.

Finally, to evaluate the Needs assessment of the Profile, the Perspectives and the needs of Rural Women with regards to Trainings, Development Programs and Activities, the frequency and percentage were evaluated and recorded.

The Statistical treatment of data revealed the following findings:

Figure 1.1. Clientele's Profile with regards to the age of clients

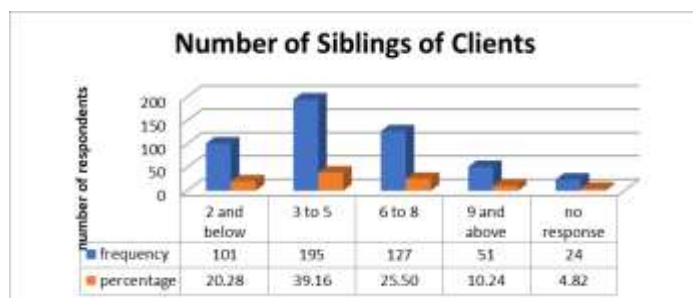


The ages 21 to 30 years old receive the highest frequency of two hundred and thirty (230) or 46.18% of the total 498 respondents followed by the ages 41 to 50 years old, obtaining the frequency of one hundred and ten (110) or 22.09%. On the other hand, the ages 61 to 70 years old got the lowest frequency of thirty-eight (38) or 7.63% of the total 498 respondents. Which clearly provides that the 4.02% or twenty (20) respondents did not or forgot to answer the question with regards to their age.

This means that the clientele's profile with regards to the age of 498 respondents in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna, are majority in the middle age.

Figure 1.1 shows the clientele's profile with regards to civil status in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna.

Figure 1.2. Clientele's Profile with regards to Number of Siblings



For the number of siblings, "3 to 5" receive the highest

frequency of one hundred ninety-five (195) or 39.16% of the total 498 respondents followed by the number of siblings "6 to 8" have the frequency of one hundred twenty-seven (127) or 25.50%. While the number of siblings "9 and above" got the lowest frequency of fifty-one (51) or 10.24% of the total 498 respondents. And there are twenty-four (24) or 4.82% did not answer or forgot to answer the question regarding the number of siblings they have.

This means that the clientele's profile with regards to the number of siblings of 498 respondents in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna, belong to big families.

Figure 1.2 shows the clientele's profile with regards to monthly income in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna.

Figure 1.3. Clientele's Profile with regards to Civil Status



For the status, "Single" receive the highest frequency of two hundred ninety-two (292) or 58.63% of the total 498 respondents followed by the status "Married" have the frequency of one hundred sixty-six (166) or 33.33%. On the other hand, the status "Separated" got the lowest frequency of seven (7) or 1.41% and there are fourteen (14) or 2.81% who did not answer or forgot to answer the question regarding their civil status.

This implies that the clientele's profile with regards to the civil status of 498 respondents in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna, majority are single.

Figure 1.3 shows the clientele's profile with regards to number of siblings in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna.

Figure 1.4. Clientele's Profile with regards to Monthly Income



For the income, "P10,001 to P15,000" receive the highest frequency of one hundred twelve (112) or 22.49% of the total 498 respondents. Followed by the income "P5,001 to P10,000" have the frequency of one hundred and six (106) or

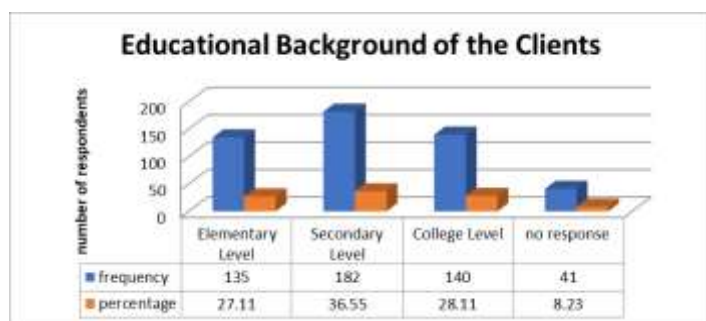


21.29% of the total 498 respondents. While the income “P20,001 and above” got the lowest frequency of seventy (70) or 14.06% of the total 498 respondents. And there are fifty-two (52) or 10.44% did not answer or forgot to answer the question regarding their monthly income.

This means that the clientele’s profile with regards to the monthly income of 498 respondents in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna, are very low or not enough to support their families.

Figure 1.4 shows the clientele’s profile with regards to educational background in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna

Figure 1.5. Clientele’s profile with regards to Educational Background



For the education, “Secondary Level” receive the highest frequency of one hundred eighty-two (182) or 36.55% of the total 498 respondents. Followed by the education “College Level” have the frequency of one hundred and forty (140) or 28.11 % of the total 498 respondents. While the education “Elementary Level” got the lowest frequency of one hundred thirty-five (135) or 27.11% of the total 498 respondents. And there are forty-one (41) or 8.23% did not answer or forgot to answer the question regarding their educational background.

This means that the clientele’s profile with regards to the educational background of 498 respondents in 16 municipalities of 4th district of Laguna, majority of them are not capable to apply a good job due to lack of educational qualifications.

Table 1. Level of Perspective of Rural Women in the 4th District of Laguna

Level of Perspective of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of...	Overall Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
1. Human Rights	4.54	0.612	To a high extent
2. Health Care Access	4.38	0.768	To a high extent
3. Standard of Living	4.43	0.642	To a high extent
4. Gender Equity	4.39	0.590	To a high extent
5. Education	4.43	0.690	To a high extent

Based on the data gathered, the overall mean of 4.54, standard deviation of 0.612, indicated the level of perspective of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of Human Rights are verbally interpreted as high extent. This means that the contents of the programs are very necessary to the perspectives of the rural woman of each municipality.

According to [9], human rights are norms that protects people everywhere from certain aspects such as political, legal, and even social abuses. It is usually mandatory and every single person is entitled to human rights.

With regards to the Client’s Health Care Access, the overall mean of 4.38 and standard deviation of 0.768, indicated the level of perspective of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of Health Care Access are verbally interpreted as high extent. This means that the contents of the programs are very necessary to the perspectives of the rural woman of each municipality.

According to Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Health care access is a person’s privelage of having personal health care services to better achieve the best health outcomes.

Furthermore, the level of perspective of rural women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of Standard of Living indicated that it is verbally interpreted as High Extent with an overall mean of 4.43 and standard deviation of 0.642.

The overall mean of 4.39, standard deviation of 0.590, indicated the level of perspective of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of Gender Equality are verbally interpreted as high extent. This means that the contents of the programs are very necessary to the perspectives of the rural woman of each municipality.

According to IncludeGender, gender equality is a political concept that gives emphasis to implementaion of equality between genders. It is believed that, if gender equality is evident, women and men get to enjoy the same opportunites, rights, and responsibilities within all areas of life.

The overall mean of 4.43, standard deviation of 0.690, indicated the level of perspective of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna in terms of Education are verbally interpreted as high extent. This means that the contents of the programs are very necessary to the perspectives of the rural woman of each municipality.

According to [10], education is the wise, hopeful, and respectful cultivation of learning having the mindset that everyone should have a chance in life. It is inviting the truth and possibility of pursuing and investing time in discovery.

Table 2. Needs assessment of the Profile, the Perspectives and the needs of Rural Women in the 4th District of Laguna with regards to Trainings, Development Programs and Activities

Trainings, Development Programs and Activities	frequency	percentage
1. Good housekeeping (The 5S of good housekeeping: 1 Sort (SEIRI), 2 Systematized (SEITON), 3 Sweep (SEISO), Sanitize (SEIKETSU), and	39	7.83



5 Self-discipline (SHITSUKE); House Cleaning Tips and Maintenance		
2. Proper Waste Management (How to manage home waste; proper garbage disposal; segregation etc)	42	8.43
3. Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (Planning for Special Needs, Safety skills, Useful Emergency Planning)	45	9.04
4. Women Empowerment: Basic Life Skills, First Aid Treatment in Emergency Cases, Awareness on Basic Human Rights)	48	9.64
5. Basic House Electrical Wiring	42	8.43
6. Financial Management and Self reliance	57	11.45
7. Basic Communication & Literacy Skills	74	14.86
8. Coping Mechanisms & Stress Management	46	9.24
9. Sustainable Livelihood Development Program; Baking, Basic Sewing, Cosmetology	62	12.45
10. Personal Grooming, Wellness & Fitness	43	8.63
TOTAL	498	100.00

The Basic Communication & Literacy Skills received the highest response of seventy-four (74) or 14.86% of the total respondents. Followed by the Sustainable Livelihood Development Program; Baking, Basic Sewing, Cosmetology with sixty-two (62) or 12.45% of the total respondents. While the Good housekeeping (The 5S of good housekeeping: 1 Sort (SEIRI), 2 Systematized (SEITON), 3 Sweep (SEISO), Sanitize (SEIKETSU), and 5 Self-discipline (SHITSUKE); House Cleaning Tips and Maintenance got the lowest frequency of thirty-nine (39) or 7.83 of the total respondents.

The data indicated the needs assessment of the Profile, the Perspectives and the needs of Rural Women in the 4th district of Laguna with regards to Trainings, Development Programs and Activities are more on basic communication and literacy skills.

6. RECOMMENDATION

The present study investigated the needs assessment of rural women. Through the conclusions drawn from findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. With the help of the researchers, the government must pursue the implementation of livelihood programs for rural women. This would be a great help for them, to become more knowledgeable about the resources existing in their surroundings and how they can maximize the great potentials of the resources and knowledge they have acquired throughout the process.
2. The phase 2 of the project: providing extension programs to the community to extend and develop

personal and community needs of rural women with 4th district of Laguna such as personal care, housekeeping, literacy, financial management and literacy, special skills and waste management should be implemented. This would be a great opportunity for women who was not able to finish studies, does not have the money to do so or being busy enough to focus more on their families. By implementing the phase 2, rural women would be equipped to improve a certain skill that they personally admire, and make money without having to leave the community and their family.

3. During those periods, LGU's and NGO's could be partners to be able to educate and empower rural women of things they can actually do. The programs implemented must not prioritize educational backgrounds, only those of the skills they have acquired and developed during various seminars implemented by the researchers.

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