

EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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Abstract

This study evaluated the effectiveness of extension programs and services of the University by determining its relevance, planning, implementation, resources, monitoring and evaluation. It utilized quantitative method of research using purposive sampling of faculty who were directly involved in extension services including the extension heads, partner agencies and beneficiaries. Results revealed that all community extension programs (literacy, livelihood and environmental) of the university understudy were very effective which indicated that all programs were able to meet the set objectives. Moreover, it showed that among all the key factors of community extension programs, planning was found to be more critical and important for effectiveness.

Keywords: *relevance, services, sustainability, community extension programs*

1.0 Introduction

Extension service is the process by which technology and innovation are transferred to an identified clientele with the ultimate objective of improving the way of life of the people. Extension services are also identified as one of the four-fold functions of a higher education institution. Surigao del Sur State University, a government academic institution, is mandated to perform this function. This university is directed to provide advanced education, higher, technological, professional instruction and training in trade, fishery, agriculture, science, education, commerce, engineering, forestry, nautical courses and other related fields. These fields of specializations are the bases for extension programs and services as an enhancement of curricular program of each campus and based on the approved Extension Manual, Board of Trustees Resolution No. 185 Series of 2002 and Extension programs and services per Board Resolution No. 34 Series of 2004. The extension services aim to

improve the quality of life on service communities thus, they are anchored to address the needs, problems and resources of the community. This paper assessed the effectiveness of extension programs and services of SDSSU by determining its relevance, planning, implementation, resources, monitoring and evaluation.

The income augmentation of target communities, networking and linking of project in the regional, national and international level are the objectives of extension programs and projects based on SDSSU-MTDP (2010). It substantiates that outstanding extension projects are recognized through measures such as importance, innovation, capacity of replication, sustainability, focus, scope, relevance and results, number of publications and creative programs (Alcher, 2007). Furthermore, the extension programs/projects conducted by the faculty strengthen through policy formulation and literacy has convertible exchange values as

form of capital and as a catalyst for social transformation with a central role of parents in children literacy development. Global warming, as a serious environmental threat has directed the implementation of extension projects involving the upland communities in the management of forest resources while ensuring the long-term sustainability of forestry activities and giving the opportunities for improving the lives of the beneficiaries (Mula and Balaje, 2009).

In reality, not all projects are sustained based on the reports of the Heads of extension services due to problems circumstances. Consequently, a need to conduct an assessment measure is commendable to monitor the success and failure of extension projects

The results of the study are of great bearing to the beneficiaries as well as its community of the Province of Surigao del Sur in general which can serve as basis for policy formulation and enhancement of the Extension programs and services of SDSSU.

2.0 Research Design and Methods

The study employed a qualitative method of research. The researcher used an adopted instrument from Accreditation Internal Assessment Body for sustainability of extension projects. This instrument was subjected to validity and reliability measures. It was revised and validated by the extension experts such as the Head of Extension Services of the six campuses of SDSSU. Ocular visit to adopted barangays was also initiated to triangulate the answer of respondents. Through the use of purposive sampling technique, the respondents were identified as follows: 107 faculty who were directly involved in extension services including the extension heads, 78 Partner Agencies and 112 beneficiaries. The data were analyzed using

percentage distribution mean to identify the perceptions of respondents on the sustainability of the extension programs and ANOVA on the significant difference of the community extension programs across the six campuses wherein Post Hoc analysis followed to determine which among the campuses differs significantly.

3.0 Results and Discussions

Extension services, as one of the four-fold functions of the university, endeavours to transfer technology and innovation to identified beneficiaries in order to improve their living, in one way or another. Therefore, extension programs and projects should be implemented properly to attain the set objectives. The data of the effectiveness of extension programs across six campuses of SDSSU is presented in table 1. Results reveal that all community extension programs (literacy, livelihood and environmental) of SDSSU across all six campuses are rated very effective which indicates the identified objectives of the projects were realized. Livelihood programs particularly that Victoria's Pasalubong (SDSSU- Tandag) and Sipag at Tiyaga (SDSSU- Cantilan) are sustained. This is evident because beneficiaries earned income through utilization of technologies transferred by the University. They engaged in entrepreneurial activities, where products made are already registered in the Department of Trade and Industry. Packaging and labeling introduced are applied by beneficiaries whom products displayed in different marketing outlets. With this, they are able to educate their children and provide the needs of their family. This implies that this livelihood project answered the social responsibility of the University. The efforts of the proponents and beneficiaries with support of the

Table 1. Level of effectiveness of community extension programs across the six campuses of SDSSU

Campuses	Community Extension Programs	Program Mean	Interpretation
SDSSU-Tandag	Literacy	4.40	Very Effective
	Livelihood	4.10	Very Effective
SDSSU-Cantilan	Livelihood	4.48	Very Effective
SDSSU-Cagwait	Literacy	3.52	Very Effective
	Livelihood	3.66	Very Effective
SDSSU-Tagbina	Livelihood	4.08	Very Effective
SDSSU-Lianga	Environmental	4.24	Very Effective
SDSSU-San Miguel	Livelihood	4.10	Very Effective
Legend:	4.49-5.00 Outstanding	2.60-3.39 Effective	1.00-1.79 No Improvement
	3.40-4.48 Very Effective	1.80-2.59 Needs Improvement	

officials are agents for project sustainability. Ashley and Carney (2001) emphasize that the core principles underlying livelihood approaches are poverty –focused development activities and sustainable poverty reduction will be achieved only if external support focus on what matters to people, understands the differences between group of people and work with them in a way that is congruent with their current livelihood strategies, social environment and ability to adapt. They further stressed that it should be responsive and participatory: poor people themselves must be key actors in identifying and addressing livelihood priorities. Development agents need processes that enable them to listen and respond to the poor.

Likewise, success of the literacy projects are also manifested with the establishment of Eskwelahan sa Saka (SDSSU- Tandag) for day care pupils. The dedication and commitment of proponents and beneficiaries are indicators for the success of the project. Barangay Officials and partner agencies have significant contributions in

collaborating multiple disciplines and bringing necessary resources to address community issues (DeBord, 2007). The literacy program is outcome based similar to ADDIE model which clearly define steps, allows for effective implementation of activities that are learner-centered (Peterson, 2003).

The Environmental program effectively implemented the mangrove reforestation (SDSSU- Lianga) and other clean and green activities which help to address the present threats of global warming (Mula and Balaje, 2009) that long term sustainability of forestry activities are implemented.

Table 2 indicates the significant difference in the perception of the respondents on the importance of the key factors of the community extension program. Prior to subsequent Analysis of variance, normally test on the data was processed using Kolmogrov-Smirnov Z Test. With p-value of 0.127, data were found to be normally distributed –hence, the use of ANOVA was appropriate.

Table 2. Analysis of variance on the importance of the key factors of community extension program as perceived by respondents

Variables	Implementer		Partner Agencies		Beneficiaries		F-ratio	Prob.	Interpretation
	Mean	DV	Mean	DV	Mean	DV			
Relevance to the Community	4.43	VS	3.28	S	4.0	VS	0.041	0.841	Not significant
Planning	4.45	VS	4.48	S	3.77	VS	10.63	0.002	Significant
Implementation	4.46	VS	4.35	VS	4.57	O	2.76	0.132	Not significant
Funding and Resources	4.34	VS	4.46	VS	4.10	VS	1.40	0.271	Not significant
Community Involvement	4.49	VS	4.31	VS	4.48	VS	0.491	0.620	Not significant
Monitoring and Evaluation	4.31	VS	4.20	VS	4.28	VS	1.540	0.254	Not significant

The data show that among all the key factors of community extension programs, planning is found to be more critical and important for sustainability. This is apparent because comprehensive plans lay out broad and general goals in a logical order from general to more specific. Within the very first few stages of most comprehensive plans, the overall goal of the community is clearly stated. The overall Goal is unique to each community, but generally, the aim is to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and of the natural resources (Gellermann, Swisher & Lenfesty, 2010). However, lack of adequate planning is a major reason for the frequent failure of development projects and extension activities (Koehnen, Portela, & Cristóvão, 1992). So in many situations, the challenge seems obvious: to allocate more time for planning to stop acting hastily and mechanically, without direction and

purpose, like a clock lacking hands. Moreover, Forest and Baker (1994) underline that program planning helps justify budget appropriations and brings understanding among the public, adding that the planning process offers opportunity to people who participate in it to learn, thus building leaders-hip skills in the community that will likely contribute to self-help, independence, and positive end results.

4.0 Conclusion

Extension programs and projects of the University improved quality of life of beneficiaries. Other livelihood projects shall be registered to DTI and BFAD, livelihood organizations to DOLE and any accrediting agencies. Marketing outlets shall be increased through establishment of display centers, Instructional materials, manual; workbooks will be formulated for the literacy

projects. Additional mangroves will be added coming from different agencies. Fund sourcing of extension projects are encouraged to finance capitalization of livelihood projects. Re-planning shall be conducted for livelihood projects especially those who have satisfactory rating.

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