

Helping Hand: The Salin Kaalaman Tungo sa Kaunlaran Extension Program of Polytechnic University of the Philippines Among the Beneficiaries of the Pilot Centers in Sta. Mesa, Manila, Philippines

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Abstract - *One of the four-fold functions of State Universities and Colleges in accordance by their mandates was to provide assistance to communities; this was achieved thru conducting different skills and development trainings in partnership with Local Government Units (LGU's). This study was conducted to assess the current Extension program of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). Some 74 beneficiaries from the 23 centers of Sta. Mesa, Manila were identified through the use of purposive sampling. The data gathering made use of aided surveys. Weighted Mean and Pearson Product Moment of Correlation was used to treat and process statistical data. Findings revealed that the Extension Services conducted by the PUP Salin Kaalaman Tungo sa Kaunlaran Extension Program (SALIN) were highly effective regarding Information Dissemination, Staff and Officials, Trainings and Programs, Trainers and Speakers, Programs, Accommodation and Venue and the personal impact of the Extension Program to the Beneficiaries. Satisfaction rating on the extension program was also high. Further, this study found out that as respondents are satisfied with the implementation of SALIN, the greater the chance of positive assessment on the effectiveness of the project. The study also disclosed problems and recommendations identified by the respondents. In addressing the research gaps, this study further identified recommendations to enhance capabilities of program implementers such as better execution in the delivery of extension services, fund sourcing and forging linkages or networking.*

Keywords: *Higher Educational Institution, Extension Program, Descriptive Method, Community Development, Philippines*

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the pertinent and existing provisions of the Republic Act 7722, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) mandated all Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) to conduct their four-fold functions; Instruction, Research, Extension and Production. These four-fold functions, through evolving convergence and interaction, helped to strengthen the structure of society using community development and involvement [1]. In line with the Commission's thrust to mobilize knowledge and

technology empowerment, HEI's had been actively conducting research and extension programs and projects. These extension programs, particularly, were technology and knowledge transfer and application.

According to Magsaysay, Extension program, as defined in the House Bill No. 758, was a set of projects, used in community outreach and resources extension based on an organization or institution's goals, vision, objectives and mission by special arrangements to a person [2]. Moreover, Dart,

Petheram, and Straw stated that extension projects and services improved the lives of the people and enhanced their social engagement. It was the use of communication to make good decisions [3].

Higher Educational Institutions were the main purveyors of meaning and knowledge [4]. By the virtues and powers withheld by State Universities and Colleges (SUC) character, different SUC's, their mandates, and as per existing provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1994. It has been delegated among others not only to provide programs of coaching and professional training but also to provide extension, instruction and other services to the community beneficiaries. Extension was done through the promotion of skills development, vigorous extension and research program in food production, health and nutrition, community development and capability building, among others [1].

As one of the SUC's in the Philippines, one of the most significant thrusts of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) was extension services. As a civic-oriented institution, PUP helps individuals in attaining their goals by providing a good, affordable, and globally competitive education. As the biggest state university in terms of student population, together with its commitment to delivering quality, affordable and globally renowned education, the PUP fulfilled its promises of becoming part of development through knowledge and skills empowerment. The Extension programs of the University led by the Research and Extension Management Office (REMO) started its noble vision by building, forming and organizing communities from the different centers in the Sta. Mesa, Manila.

PUP extended its arm to its immediate communities and launched Salin Kaalaman Tungo sa Kaunlaran Extension Program, also known as SALIN, in August 2014 [5]. The SALIN was designed to provide knowledge and effective knowledge and technology transfer to identified communities and other institutions needing expert and credible services. The Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) and the Philippine Association of Extension Program Implementers (PAEPI) duly recognized the SALIN.

Moreover, Dalac, Viray and Estella added that the SALIN was accomplished through skills training and technology transfer like Basic Welding, Basic Computer Literacy, Basic Electronics, Meat Processing, Dishwashing Liquid Making, Solid Waste

Management Seminar, and many others [5]. The University recognizes the cooperation and support coming from the LGU's of the nearby communities through a comprehensive, collaborative, and unified direction under the agreement signed through the Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties.

There were several post evaluation studies about the training conducted by the University; however, a comprehensive assessment about the SALIN has not yet been implemented. Ammakiw argued the importance of conducting a monitoring and evaluation process in an extension program especially to those who involved into the project. An evaluative program gave accountability and transparency about project designs and the way the project were being managed. Especially, monitoring and evaluation created lessons in which can be used as references for establishing future projects and when the monitoring and evaluation are done in a valuable process, it builds mutual trust to the diversity of stakeholders, it incorporates local knowledge, it improves the outcomes of the program and lastly, it institutionalize local engagements [1].

Thus, this assessment was conducted to fulfill the need for a comprehensive assessment study about the Extension program conducted by the University. The study assessed the effectiveness of the SALIN being implemented by the University to adjust and innovate to the needs of the community and to improve the extension program.

With this, this study was worth pursuing because the professionals behind SALIN can utilize the results as a benchmark for further improvement of the program and future reference.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study assessed the (1) level of knowledge of the beneficiaries on SALIN, (2) level of satisfaction and effectiveness of SALIN as perceived by the beneficiaries, (3) and recommendations of the beneficiaries for the improvement of the project. Moreover, this study sought to find out the relationship between the satisfaction of the beneficiaries of SALIN and their assessment on the effectiveness of the project.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An evaluative design was employed to assess SALIN. Some 74 beneficiaries among 23 centers were

obtained based on criteria: (1) the beneficiaries had attended two (2) or more training/seminars of SALIN, (2) the beneficiaries must be residents of barangays under Memorandum of Agreement with the University, and (3) the beneficiaries must be bonafide residents of the partner center within the duration of data gathering. The objectives of the study were explained to the respondents for full understanding. Confidentiality of the data and information was ensured.

The study utilized the use of Descriptive Research Method, an approach in which the researcher observe and describe his observations based on the quantifiable information gathered through the course of the study [6].

The survey questionnaire had four parts: demographics of the beneficiaries, the level of knowledge of the beneficiaries which was measured by three-point scale parameter, the level of effectiveness of the project measured by a four-point scale parameter, and the level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries on SALIN measured by five-point scale parameter. Weighted Mean was utilized to assess the knowledge of the beneficiaries, effectiveness of SALIN, and the satisfaction of the beneficiaries of the project.

Matrix 1. Composite Scoring on the Level of Knowledge on SALIN

Range	Scale	VI
2.36-3.00	3	Low Knowledgeable
1.68-2.35	2	Moderately Knowledgeable
1.00-1.67	1	Highly Knowledgeable

Matrix 2. Composite Scoring on the Level of Effectiveness on SALIN

Range	Scale	VI
3.28-4.00	4	Highly Effective
2.52-3.27	3	Effective
1.76-2.51	2	Not Effective
1.00-1.75	1	Highly Not Effective

Matrix 3. Composite Scoring on the Level of Satisfaction on SALIN

Range	Scale	VI
4.24-5.00	5	Highly Satisfied
3.43-4.23	4	Satisfied
2.62-3.42	3	Slightly Not Satisfied
1.81-2.61	2	Not Satisfied
1.00-1.80	1	Highly Not Satisfied
4.24-5.00	5	Highly Satisfied

Furthermore, this study utilized the use of Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) in

analyzing the data being gathered. The questionnaire was checked by the professionals of the extension program and IDSA (Institute for Data and Statistical Analysis) for content validation and statistical treatment and analysis, respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This presents the result and analysis of the study based on the objectives.

The beneficiaries are highly knowledgeable on the SALIN (2.77). Among the components of SALIN, the objectives of the extension project got the highest weighted mean of 2.94. The result is supported by the findings of Quimbo who specifies that the staffs and members of the extension ensure that the objectives of the extension program are attained and properly explained [7]. On the other hand, the collaboration of SALIN with the center got the lowest weighted mean of 2.48.

The SALIN is an innovative and integrated transfer of technology. It is specially designed to provide useful and applicable knowledge to identified communities and other institutions needing expert and reliable services, with the help of faculty experts and trainers of the University. It is accredited and duly recognized by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) [5].

Table 1. Level of knowledge of the beneficiaries on SALIN

Statements	\bar{x}	VI
PARTNERSHIP	2.48	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN is exclusive to Barangay Officials only.	2.21	Moderately Knowledgeable
The SALIN is formed with the help of cooperation from the Barangays around Sta. Mesa, Manila.	2.56	Highly Knowledgeable
The University and various Barangays around Sta. Mesa, Manila signs a memorandum of agreement to secure ties and participation within the community.	2.66	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN is exclusive to the residents of all Barangays around Sta. Mesa vicinity only.	2.22	Moderately Knowledgeable
The SALIN is the Extension program implemented in accordance with the agenda and objectives of the University's current administration.	2.73	Highly Knowledgeable

Table 1. (cont.) Level of knowledge of the beneficiaries on SALIN

OBJECTIVES	2.94	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN is the effective transfer of technology from University experts to the community.	2.96	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN envisions to enrich and to nourish the quality of life of the residents around Sta. Mesa, Manila.	2.94	Highly Knowledgeable
The speakers in various seminars conducted by the SALIN are experts in their respective fields.	3.00	Highly Knowledgeable
The University works together with Barangay Officials to know the primary needs of every Barangays.	2.90	Highly Knowledgeable
The University provides all the materials and resources needed by SALIN.	2.90	Highly Knowledgeable
SALIN is free of charge or fees and will remain free.	2.96	Highly Knowledgeable
PURPOSE	2.84	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN wants the beneficiaries to learn programs related to livelihood and skills empowerment.	2.98	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN wants the beneficiaries to learn basic and useful knowledge applicable to their lives.	2.94	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN wants the beneficiaries to learn about Health and Wellness, Nourishment and Welfare.	2.90	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN wants the beneficiaries to learn the value and importance of our Environment.	2.90	Highly Knowledgeable
The SALIN wants to provide special training for special groups needing special attention.	2.49	Highly Knowledgeable
Total	2.77	Highly Knowledgeable

The beneficiaries of SALIN are highly satisfied with the way the extension project was implemented with a grand weighted mean of 4.77. Among the areas of the SALIN, the speakers and trainers got the highest weighted mean of 4.84. The result implies that the beneficiaries are satisfied on the teaching strategies of the speakers. The result is supported by the findings of Sicat which explains that effective and efficient trainers of extension program are selected and qualified based on their expertise and knowledge on the skills and training provided to the beneficiaries [8]. On the other hand, information dissemination got

the lowest weighted mean of 4.69. The result implies that there is inadequate information dissemination.

Table 2. General satisfaction rating on the implementation of programs of SALIN

Statements	\bar{x}	VI
General Satisfaction on the Information Dissemination	4.69	Highly Satisfied
General Satisfaction on the Staff And Officials of SALIN	4.74	Highly Satisfied
General Satisfaction on the Trainings and Seminars	4.77	Highly Satisfied
General Satisfaction on the Speakers and Trainers of SALIN	4.84	Highly Satisfied
General Satisfaction on the Program, Accommodation and Venue	4.72	Highly Satisfied
Total	4.75	Highly Satisfied

Table 3. Level of effectiveness on SALIN

Indicators	\bar{x}	VI
Overall Effectiveness of the Information Dissemination	3.57	Highly Effective
Overall Effectiveness of Staff and Officials of SALIN	3.90	Highly Effective
Overall Effectiveness of Training and Seminars	3.75	Highly Effective
Overall Effectiveness of Speakers and Trainers of SALIN	3.87	Highly Effective
Overall Effectiveness of Preparations for Program, Accommodation and Venue	3.86	Highly Effective
Total	3.79	Highly Effective

The beneficiaries perceive SALIN to be highly effective with a grand weighted mean of 3.71. Among the indicators, the staff and officials of SALIN got the highest weighted mean of 3.90. The results are supported by Morton's idea wherein he states that highly competent staff is added to teach people how specific knowledge can be applied to solve problems [9]. On the other hand, information dissemination got the lowest weighted mean of 3.57. The result is in contradictory to Morton's, wherein he argues that the effectiveness of the extension project relied on good communication. There are, at least, three major channels accurately developed for that: (1) direct contact with people, (2) bond and relationship to partner agencies and (3) the traditional channels that include, print and broadcasting [9].

The decision is to reject the null hypothesis if the P-value is less than (or equal to) the 0.05 level of

significance. However, if the P-value is greater than the 0.05 level of significance, then the null hypothesis is accepted. After testing the two variables, results show that there is a positively, moderate relationship between the satisfaction of the beneficiaries on SALIN and their assessment on the effectiveness on information dissemination, staffs and officials, trainers and speakers, program and venue, and the impact on the beneficiaries. It means that the level of satisfaction of the respondents on SALIN affected their assessment on the project.

Table 4. Pearson’s Correlation between the Satisfaction of Beneficiaries on SALIN and their assessment on the Effectiveness of the project

Indicators	r	Effectiveness	
		P-value	Remarks
Information Dissemination	0.281*	0.016	Positively, Moderate
Staffs and Officials	0.358*	0.002	Positively, Moderate
Overall Trainings	0.269*	0.022	Positively, Moderate
Trainers and Speakers	0.265*	0.023	Positively, Moderate
Program and Venue	0.223	0.058	Positively, Weak
Overall	0.285*	0.015	Positively, Moderate

The correlation justifies that there is a relationship between the level of satisfaction of the respondents on the SALIN and their assessment on the level of effectiveness of the project. This implies that as respondents are satisfied with the implementation of SALIN, the greater the chance of positive assessment on the effectiveness of the project.

Table 5. Recommendations for the improvement of the SALIN

Indicators	f	%
New training and seminars	27	36.4%
More practical approaches on seminars and training	1	1.4%
Wide information dissemination	1	1.4%
Additional kits/materials for the seminar	1	1.4%
Improve teaching strategies of SALIN	2	2.7%
Establish partnership with different organizations such as NGOs and TESDA	5	6.8%
Strict time management	2	2.7%
Not Applicable	35	47.2%
Total	74	100.0%

The greatest number of the beneficiaries (36.4%) recommends that there must be new trainings and seminars. On the other hand, 1.4% of the beneficiaries endorse that there must be more practical approaches to seminars and training, wide information dissemination and additional kits/materials for the seminar.

According to Bidad and Campiseño, extension programs are demand driven, demand driven in the sense that extension is community based which includes basic functional needs especially designed to establish the well-being of the populace. Specific needs of the society are identified by the Local Government Units [10].

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Extension activities are being implemented by different Higher Educational Institutions throughout the Philippines as well as in other countries. SUC’s continuously conducts various forms of extension services such as training, literacy, skills development and a lot more.

By these findings, this paper forwards the following conclusions:

The beneficiaries are highly knowledgeable on SALIN. Beneficiaries show a high level of satisfaction to the overall efforts made for the Information Dissemination, Staff and Officials, Trainings and Seminars, Trainers and Speakers, Accommodation and Venue, and Experience. Beneficiaries perceive SALIN as highly effective extension program as dictated by high ratings gained regarding the extension effectiveness. Moreover, the beneficiaries recommend that there must be new and additional training and seminars aligned to their needs, formed partnerships with different organizations like NGOs and TESDA, and improved teaching strategies of SALIN, wide coverage of information dissemination, and additional kits and materials during training and seminars.

The feedback in regards to the services offered by SALIN is good and positive; this can be supported by high level of effectiveness, high level of satisfaction and multiple requests for other training recommended by the beneficiaries.

With this, the researchers recommend the universities to take personal information, like contact details or address, of their beneficiaries and participants so that the implementers could definitely identify the beneficiaries and participants for

assessment and post-evaluation purposes. Information dissemination of the training is crucial to the beneficiaries. It is recommended that they utilized the manpower of the staff and the barangay officials in disseminating information so that attendees of the trainings and seminars would increase.

In evaluating the implementation of SALIN, it is recommended to conduct a census and focus group discussion among the beneficiaries. Also, they can conduct a study that assesses SALIN from the perception of the implementers, trainers/speakers, and the Village Chairman.

It is evident that a lot of groups, organizations and institutions are into conducting extension especially Higher Educational Institutions as per dictated by their mandates. But, this study also wants to recommend that post-evaluation studies must be established to ensure relevance and effectiveness, therefore, a similar or alike research must be conducted by other interested individuals or groups with further consideration in a wider scope of research coverage. The need to conduct an impact study after years of the implementation is very necessary; wherein they could find whether the project reached its purpose and objectives to its beneficiaries on the long-term basis of the extension program.

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