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Needs assessment of barangay Butong's BCPC members as basis of community extension program enhancement for BS psychology

MJ Carla C Catapang ^{1*}, Krezil O Ferrer ², Bhea Luz A Mijares ³, Jinky C Malabanan ⁴

¹⁻⁴ College of Education, Pamantasan ng Cabuyao, Philippines

* Corresponding Author: MJ Carla C Catapang

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Abstract

The varied range of ideas and experiences is critical in analyzing the community's needs and brainstorming opportunities for change. In line with this, the research study aims to provide an enhanced framework for the community extension program of BS Psychology. Participants in the study are residents of Barangay Butong who are members of the BCPC. Before conducting a focused group discussion, BS Psychology students provided Community Extension Programs in collaboration with the Barangay Butong. A total of ten (10) members of the BCPC were gathered and interviewed about their specific needs as members. The researchers conducted a focused-group discussion with the members of BCPC to gather information about their needs. By using interpretative phenomenological analysis, six themes emerged from the focus group discussion data: (1) financial assistance, (2) educational scholarships program, (3) financial literacy, (4) training for BCPC members, and (5) psychosocial support. The study recommends that the BCK plan be conducted annually for the improvement and development of the members of the BCPC in terms of the three (3) categories of needs (existence, relatedness and growth needs).

Keywords: BCPC, framework, community extension program, needs assessment, focused-group discussion

1. Introduction

A Community Extension Program is a voluntary action of any public or private group that aims to help and support a community in order to improve the people's status. It can take many forms, including medical care, financial assistance, educational assistance, and others. (Impact of Community Extension Programs, n.d.)

While the Community Needs Assessment - Child Welfare Information Gateway discussed that the needs of a community are determined through conducting a needs assessment. Meeting the needs of children, youth, and families were made possible through conducting a needs assessment that determined the community's strength and resources. The evaluation focused on the community's capabilities, which included its residents, agencies, and organizations.

Through the virtue of the Republic Act 7722, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) n.d. required higher education institutions such as State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to react to the need for societal reform. Educational institutions played powerful roles in improving the quality of life of local people through their shared knowledge, skills, best practices, and material resources.

The community extension program is a vital component of a higher education institution that draws its plans and strategies for community service delivery from instruction and research. Community extension service is about developing relationships and communities via education. Communities in the Philippines suffer from a variety of communal and social difficulties, including poverty, environmental concerns, resident demographic issues, and other issues.

The City of Cabuyao's Barangay Butong is one of the barangays that deals with many community challenges. As a community affected by the city's urbanization, certain characteristics of the community are expected to improve. This study employed a needs assessment to gain a better knowledge of the barangay's issues and develop a framework that will be used as a future guideline for community extension programs.

The needs assessment enables the precise identification of a community's unique needs or concerns. The distinct areas of a community that was assessed aided in providing local programs with a framework for meeting these needs. The city of Cabuyao has eighteen urbanized barangays, with Brgy. Butong being one of them.

In compliance with the implemented Republic Act 7722, Pamantasan ng Cabuyao (Local University) adopted Brgy. Butong is one of its designated communities where community extension programs are delivered.

Pamantasan ng Cabuyao (PnC) under the quality standards of Association of Local Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (ALCUCOA) involves one area for Community Extension under Area 6.

Based on the ALCUCOA findings last December 2018 BS Psychology program has acknowledged the best practice: "The institution was able to maintain has a institutional community extension, however, program-specific community extension should be strengthened."

However, the opportunities for improvement "There should be specific community extension for Psychology and participation of some students from the program that will address the needs of the community based on the needs assessment.

With the following recommendation "(1) For a more relevant and effective community extension the Psychology program needs to conduct activities together with the students that deal with the topics which are relevant to psychology. (2) An extension program or agenda for psychology relevant issues may be proposed and implemented continuously like quarterly until 5 years to see the impact of the extension activities. (3) Year-end or post extension evaluation research to be conducted by an external party is highly recommended."

2. Methodology

A. Research Design

This research employed a phenomenological approach within a qualitative method, with the primary goal of explaining the current issue and attempting to determine, describe, or identify what it is through the data collection process. This research design focuses on the problems that will be justified by the data gathered, resulting in a situation conclusion (Dudovskiy, 2018) ^[1].

A phenomenological method is most appropriate for investigating people's experiences and opinions and understanding the context in which they occur. This design starts with a research question or a researcher's interest and then provides them with the intention of employing various strategies (such as interview diaries and written accounts) to gain a more visible understanding of this phenomenon. (Wilson, 2015) ^[4].

The barangay grants authorization to conduct research in their community once researchers submit an official letter for participant selection. In coordination with the Barangay Health Center, Brgy. Provided the researcher with a list of BCPC members. The validator will now examine the statement questions. The Informed Consent and Response Credibility Form is given to the parents after the community extension program. The next is to conduct an initial interview, followed by a focus group discussion with the Research Advisor and a representative of the Brgy. Health Center to gain their viewpoints on the statement questions. The researchers next moved on to the data codes. The replies

of BCPC members are categorized in accordance with their responses. In addition, the category is already formed. After categorization, the researchers individually reviewed the codes since some topics need in-depth interviews. The identification of subthemes and superordinate themes is followed by a follow-up interview. The purpose of follow-up interviews is to find patterns within the themes and establish whether or not they are constant. After the follow-up interview, the Inter-Coder checks the creation of sub-themes and superordinate themes. In addition, the needs assessment acts as the basis upon which researchers build the BCPC Plans.

B. Research Locale

This research was carried out in Barangay Butong, Cabuyao City, Laguna Province, Philippines, one of the adopted communities of Pamantasan ng Cabuyao, which was the university's beneficiary of the community extension programs. Barangay Butong has a population of 4.16 percent of Cabuyao's total population. It is one of Cabuyao City's 18 developed barangays. Butong is a Cabuyao City neighborhood. Bigaa and Saint Joseph Village 6 were also nearby, (PhilAtlas, 2022) ^[3].

A qualitative research approach was used to evaluate the specific needs of the BCPC members in Brgy. Butong, through initial interview, follow-ups and in-dept interview.

C. Population and Sampling

The research made use of the total Population since it consists of all members of the BCPC of Brgy. Butong. The study's target demographic was the residents of Barangay Butong in the City of Cabuyao, Laguna. The researchers used the Purposive Sample method in choosing the respondents for the study. Purposive sampling is a sort of non-probability sampling in which researchers choose members of the general population to participate in an interview based on their own judgment. A purposive sample's primary purpose is to provide an example that accurately reflects the population. This study's questionnaires were created and delivered to the target demographics until the target number of participants was reached.

The BCPC members' age group ranges from fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) years old and consists of nine (9) females and one (1) male. Due to the transition of the former Barangay Secretary, the number of BCPC members was reduced to ten (10), including one male. This is due to the fact that the Barangay Secretary was in the process of gathering the list of BCPC members and presented the researchers with the current list. This study was conducted in Barangay Butong, Cabuyao City, Laguna Province, Philippines, one of the adopted communities of Pamantasan ng Cabuyao, the university's community extension program beneficiaries. Butong's population represents 4.16 percent of Cabuyao's overall population.

D. Research Participants

The research intended respondents were BCPC Members, which included youth. The BCPC oversaw coordinating and implementing child protection initiatives at the barangay level, which included the Punong Barangay (Barangay Captain). The age group of the youth ranges from 14 to 18, while the parents' age ranges from 30 and above. The list of members was provided by Brgy. Secretary, Ms. Maila Aydalla. Scheduled interview and focus-group discussion

was also coordinated through her and with the help of the Barangay Health Officers.

E. Research Instrumentation

The Association of Local Colleges and University Commission on Audit (ALCUCOA) accreditation instrument was used for Community Extension Services under Area VI. It was able to maintain institutional community extension and to have a specific program for community extension. The Community Extension Input/s contains: The institution has a separate extension Service Office it is headed by a qualified faculty member/administrative employee and support staff who are qualified, competent, and sufficient in number. Also, the institution's educational philosophy, policies, programs, and services provide for community services anchored on local and national development plans. This included the following key development areas such as (1) environment; (2) disaster preparedness; (3) entrepreneurship; (4) values formation; (5) health and sanitation; (6) education; (7) education and (8) gender and development. "The institution has resources that it shares with the community.: (a) government agencies (b) non-government agencies (c) business/commerce and industry partners (d) church groups (e) the general populations (f) other groups. The institution has various forms of Extension Services such as the following: (a) provides financial aid and other assistance to students in need; (b) Participates in government and non-government organization activities; (c) participates in the work related to educational and religious activities; (d) participates in the works related to civic and cultural activities; and (e) undertakes its own community service projects involves all sectors of the college community in such services (administration, faculty, students, alumni, parents and guests). While in the Process of Community Extension contains: The institution's educational philosophy, policies, programs, and services made known to the community such as: (a) parents and students; (b) alumni; (c) other colleges and universities (d) government entities; and (e) private educational agencies. The institution plans and implements a mechanism to evaluate its community extension services. The institution disseminates community programs/projects/activities to different stakeholders such as: a) parents and students; (b) alumni; (c) other colleges and universities; (d) government entities; and (e) private educational agencies. For the outcome, it needs to improve the quality of life of the people in the community, strengthen partnerships, linkages and networking with the community extension partners, have a good relationship with internal and external support resources and should have a sustainable impact with the people of the community served.

To get reliable findings, the researchers used a pre-interview question that assessed the needs of Barangay Butong residents who are under the BCPC. Participating residents were asked to complete a needs assessment pre-interview questionnaire and interview guide questions that were validated by Professionals in the field of specialization.

F. Data Gathering Procedure

Researchers submitted an official letter for participant selection, and the barangay provides permission to conduct research in their community. Brgy. Presented the researcher with a list of BCPC members in cooperation with the Barangay Health Center. Ten (10) BCPC Members, including nine (9) females and one (1) male, have been highlighted after

collecting their information.

In the following, the validators reviewed the statement questions based on ALCUCOA instrument. Together with BS Psychology researchers, the barangay officials presented the existing community extension programs to BCPC members: Training on the Roles and Responsibilities of Parents and Youth in the Community; Drug Awareness; Health and Medical Awareness; Mental Health Awareness; Health and Hygiene. In addition, Following the Environmental Awareness Campaign and Feeding Program are also provided. Since the majority of participants are between fourteen (14) and eighteen (18) years old, the Informed Consent and Response Credibility Form is distributed during the conduct of interview and together with their parents. The next process is to conduct an initial interview, which was followed by a focus group discussion guided by the Research Adviser and a representative from the Brgy. Health Center in order to obtain their perspectives on the following statement questions: (1) What are the needs of BCPC members in Brgy. Butong? (2) What are the most challenging needs that need to be prioritized? (3) Which BCPC programs are considered helpful?

After obtaining and analyzing the responses of BCPC members, the researchers requested BCPC members to reread the consent form and their responses with their parents. After the BCPC Members reviewed their responses, the researchers proceeded to the codes of data. Coding is the process of characterizing and arranging qualitative data in order to find themes and their connections. The responses of the BCPC members are classified depending on their responses. And the category has already been established. After the identification of the category, the researchers reread the codings individually since certain themes need in-depth interviews. Subthemes and superordinate themes are identified, and a follow-up interview is held. The goal of follow-up interviews is to identify patterns in the themes and determine if the themes are consistent. The Inter-Coder verifies the formation of subthemes and superordinate themes after the follow-up interview. And the needs assessment serves as the foundation for researchers to develop the BCPC Plans.

H. Ethical Consideration

To ensure the rights, dignity, and privacy of the members, researchers need to protect the members, develop trust, promote the integrity of research and guard against misconduct and impropriety. All the members' personal and identifying information and their answers to the questionnaire were given the utmost importance. Ethical consideration was also applied in disclosing any identifying information.

3. Results and Discussions

This chapter presents the results of findings, analysis and interpretation of data gathered parallel to the order of how the statement of the problem is presented in Chapter 1 of the study. This presents the statements of the members. Moreover, this chapter provides the analyzed background of the members.

The results and discussion of the findings are presented in three parts. The first part deals with the Demographic Profile of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) Members. The second part contains the superordinate themes and the constituent sub-themes from the clustered themes of the assessed needs of the BCPC members. The third part contains the merging themes from the assessed needs of the

Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) Members as a variable for the study.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Participants

Participants Code Name	Age	Gender	Address	Civil Status
Cristine	14	Female	816 Purok, Barangay Butong, City of Cabuyao, Laguna	Single
Dolly	14	Female	0817 Purok 4, Barangay Butong, Cabuyao Laguna	Single
Angel	14	Female	0817 Purok 4, Barangay Butong, Cabuyao Laguna	Single
Erika	14	Female	0750 Purok 4, Barangay Butong, Cabuyao Laguna	Single
Mars	16	Female	815 Purok, Barangay Butong, City of Cabuyao, Laguna	Single
Darlene	16	Female	St. Joseph Village 6 Phase 1A, Barangay Butong, City of Cabuyao, Laguna	Single
Jean	16	Female	0819, Purok 4, Barangay Butong, City of Cabuyao, Laguna	Single
Sandra	16	Female	0819, Purok 4, Barangay Butong, City of Cabuyao, Laguna	Single
Bruce	16	Male	066 Purok 2, Barangay Butong, Cabuyao Laguna	Single
Flor	18	Female	0803 Purok 4, Barangay Butong, Cabuyao Laguna	Single

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in Barangay Butong. There were ten (10) members in total, as shown in the table. Since the target respondents were BCPC Members, which included Youth, the majority of ages fell between the range of fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) years old. Ms. Maila Aydalla, the Brgy. The secretary presented the list of members. Due to the transition of the former Barangay Secretary, the BCPC membership list fell to ten (10) members, including (1) male. This is because the barangay

secretary was in the process of preparing the list of BCPC members when Ms. Aydalla sent the current list to the researchers.

As for the members' marital status, ten (10) are single. All members of the BCPC are residing in Barangay Butong. The researcher discovered that the secretary believes certain youth need to be monitored and provided with programs to help them feel secure in terms of their health, daily necessities, and financial security.

Table 2: Superordinate themes and Constituent Subthemes

SUPERORDINATE THEMES	SUBTHEMES
Financial Support and Scholarship Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Assistance for school, food and transportation Needs Educational Scholarship
Establishing Reliable Source of Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Literacy
Community-Need Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for BCPC members Psychosocial Support

In this research, there are three clustered superordinate themes that discuss the major roles played by the barangay council for the protection of children, namely: (1) Provision of Financial Support and Scholarship Program; (2) Establishing Reliable Source of Income; and (3) Community-Need Program. The first superordinate theme revolves around the needs of the members of the BCPC as in barangay Butong. These needs were identified as financial assistance and scholarships. The first subordinate theme focuses on the needs of the Barangay Butong BCPC members.

The second superordinate theme is about the daily needs of

the members of BCPC both as youth and as a parent. The identified daily needs of youth were found to be financial literacy, and for the parents, it was another source of income. In order to have a stable source of income many factors are to be considered.

These needs have been identified as financial assistance and scholarships. In their research, Page *et al.* (2017) ^[2] discovered that social inequalities in college completion had increased over time. And how to aid low-income and first-generation students in their pursuit of college achievement is a critical question. Engagement in training and psychosocial

support-related activities has been highlighted as a priority for BCPC members.

Table 3: Descriptions for Financial Support and Scholarship Assistance

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Emerging Concepts</i>	<i>Themes (Clustered Categories)</i>
<p>Financial for School and other related supplies</p> <p>Source of Income for Family Members</p> <p>Food and Transportation Allowance</p>	<p>"Kinakailangan ng mga kabataan kagaya ko ang tulong pinansyal para sa gamit at proyekto sa school"</p> <p>"Pagkakakitaan, dagdag income para sa pamilya."</p> <p>"Para sa akin, bilang isang studenteng mamamayan ng butong, ang mga pangangailangan ko ay 'yong mga pang financial like pamasaha, pagkain. Something like that po, but kaya pa naman siya i provide ng parents ko."</p>	<p>Financial Assistance</p>
<p>Scholarship Program</p>	<p>"Scholarship program makakatulong ito saakin para mas mapadali ang aking pag aaral."</p> <p>"Scholarship Program dahil hindi sapat ang sweldo ng aking magulang."</p> <p>"Scholarship. Kasi kunyare nagcollege na, makaavail makapagaral ng libre dahil walang kakayanan."</p>	<p>Educational Scholarship</p>

Every student who struggles with finances needs financial assistance. Students nowadays deal with a variety of issues in their daily lives, including stress over projects, reports, group projects, and more. However, some students deal with financial issues that may impact their academic performance. Several college students need financial aid, especially those pursuing jobs that require many years of education beyond the undergraduate level. Scholarships provide distinct advantages and are the most wanted kind of financial

assistance. Scholarship programs are financial aid provided by schools or other organizations to students who have excelled in academics or athletics and who are pursuing higher education. Other members of the BCPC mentioned that this will help them in preparing for their future education. The researchers distinguished that several youths still want financial support since not everyone has the capacity to do so; thus, the barangay prioritizes the BCPC Members need to monitor and observe youth.

Table 4: Descriptions for Establishing Reliable Source of Income

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Emerging Concepts</i>	<i>Themes (Clustered Categories)</i>
<p>School Projects</p> <p>Daily Basic Needs</p>	<p>"Pera at pagkain po. Dahil, maskailangan namin ito sa dami ng proyekto"</p> <p>"Budget or Financial para sa pang araw-araw na gastusin at baon sa paaralan o trabaho."</p> <p>"Pinansyal"</p> <p>"Halos lahat ng tao hindi lamang ng kabataan na katulad ko ay kailangan to; pagkain, tirahan at damit."</p> <p>"Pangbaon at pamasaha sa iskwelahan."</p> <p>"Pamasaha"</p> <p>"Pamasaha"</p> <p>"Baon, Pagkain"</p>	<p>Financial Literacy</p>

The BCPC members consider daily basic needs and school projects as the most challenging issue that they hope to prioritize. Student's lives are not limited to the classroom, because there are academic projects that need to be done outside of the school premises. This is why members have mentioned that meeting basic daily needs such as transportation allowances, living expenses, and food

allowances is also considered to be a challenging issue for them. Financial literacy is required to assist students in meeting their daily basic needs as well as needs for school projects. Learning to budget and allocate their finances correctly at a young age will help them meet their needs and make better financial decisions.

Table 5: Descriptions for Community-Need Program

Categories	Emerging Concepts	Themes (Clustered Categories)
Seminars	"Seminars para sa kabataan."	Training for BCPC Members
	"Seminars para sa mga kabataan na katulad ko po"	
Livelihood and Entrepreneurship	"Katulad po last time mental health awareness po. maraming matutunan at baço sa isipan kaya po iyon ang pinili ko. mai-aaply po ung payo at aral sa hinaharap."	
	"Livelihood Program"	
Environmental Awareness/ Engagement	"Pagtulong sa pag aalaga ng kalikasan."	
	"Pagtuturo kapag nagkasakuna."	
	"Pag-iimis po ng basura at pagtatapon po sa tamang tapunan. dahil sa ilog po ang punta ng mga tinatapong basura kaya naman mabaho at madumi ang mga ilog at nagbabara at napupuno kung sakali kaya naman ay nagdudulot ito ng baha at pangangamoy ng mabahong basura."	
	"Pag lilinis at pag tatanim ng gulay."	

Sports and Other Recreation Activities	"Youth organization for teenagers like basketball, baseball or volleyball team to enhance their skills."	Psychosocial Support	
	"Pagtuturo sa kabataan."		
	"Focus po sa mga pagbibigay ng tulong lalo na sa bata o matanda na nangangailangan. At sa mga sports po."		
	"Any program related to health such as sports, mental health nor awareness."		
Health, Medical and Sanitation Program	"Sports Program."		
	"Mga sports program at mga seminars tulad na inattendan nung nakaraan"		
	"Medikal, para mabigyan ng higit na kalinga ang mga may karamdaman."		
Feeding Programs	"Dagdag na rin ang pamimigay ng vitamins every child/house."	Psychosocial Support	
	"Medical Mission"		
	"Any program na health and environmental related po."		
	"Feeding program po. dahil kalimtan po dito ay hindi po afford o hirap po magprovide ng pagkain para sa kanilang pamilya dahil kapos po sa pera kaya ito makakain ng tatlong beses sa isang araw."		
			"Para sa akin, i prefer na magkaroon pa ng dagdag feeding program na puwedeng sumali ang any age at mga may problema sa kalusugan."

The members of BCPC in Barangay Butong have expressed their desire for the officials of the barangay Butong and organizations to implement Seminars and raise awareness. The BCPC Members are also interested in receiving knowledge on livelihood programs. They seek to improve the living conditions of the low-income community by providing employment and business opportunities. It is seen that the BCPC members consider programs that promote sports and recreational activities as helpful to them. Recreational activities can be done through participating in the community and may help meet new people and form deep ties with neighbors. A strong community can help meet people from many areas of life and interests. Recreation may also involve participating in other activities such as volunteering at an event or joining a club.

Included in the health needs of the BCPC members are medical needs, the need for additional medical assistance. Medical funds, medical equipment, drugs and even hospital accommodations are among the medical needs one might need. The realization of this vulnerability and lack of ability

to support oneself, has made the BCPC members realize the importance of barangay programs relating to medicine. Feeding program is one of the programs that members want to be included especially the senior citizens of Barangay Butong. Programs that provide food reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and promote the growth of families and children. Because the majority of the BCPC members have considered programs related to training; livelihood and entrepreneurship; environmental awareness/ engagement; sports and other recreation activities; health, medical and sanitation; and feeding programs. These are the recurring themes in community need programs.

4. Discussion

After analyzing the results of this study, the following emerging concepts have been designed to illustrate the descriptions of members in their needs from being members of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in Barangay Butong.

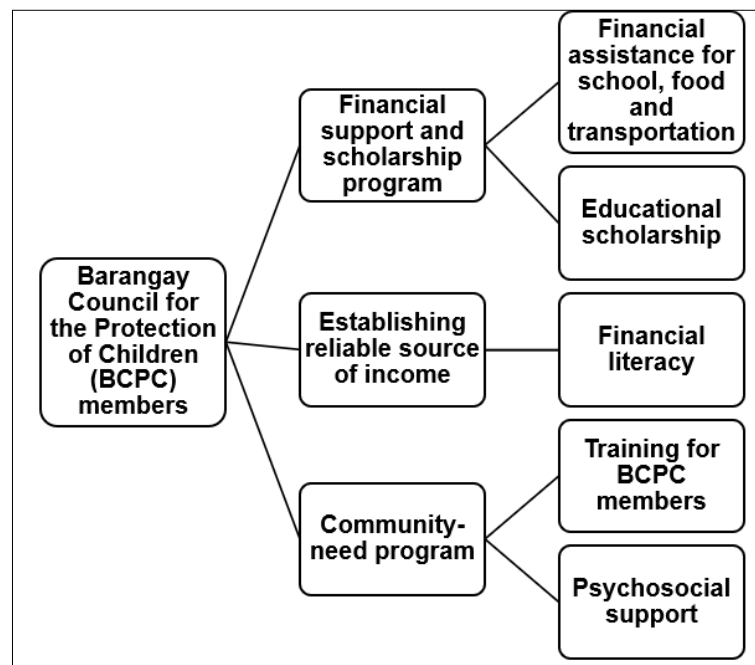


Fig 1: Thematic Map of Superordinate and Sub-themes

The discussion of this research illustrates the developing themes resulting from the Members' responses and narratives. The researchers were able to generate emerging themes from the Members' narratives through re-readings of their responses, including: (1) Financial Support and Scholarship Program; (2) Establishing Reliable Source of Income; and (3) Community-Need Program. Subordinate themes were identified and utilized to further support the study as a result of this: for Financial Support and Scholarship Program, (a) Financial Assistance for school, food and transportation and (b) Educational Scholarship; for Establishing Reliable Source of Income, (a) Financial Literacy; for Community-Need Program, (a) Training for BCPC members and (b) Psychosocial Support.

Financial Support and Scholarship Program

This study found a need for financial assistance and services for BCPC members. Youth members have financial

difficulties, which may have an impact on their academic performance. Students face challenges on a daily basis, including financial assistance for education, food, and transportation. Scholarships provide numerous benefits and are the most common type of educational support. One of the benefits of providing scholarships to students is that it allows them to focus on their academic performance rather than their financial situation. Furthermore, it has been shown that BCPC members need financial assistance just to manage on a daily basis.

Establishing a Reliable Source of Income

This study identified that members of BCPC experience a lack in source of income. The parents' financial security is the only factor that determines the children's ability to study and support themselves. With that, the individuals who are parents have expressed that one of their everyday necessities is a reliable source of income.

Community Need-Program

This research found that since their parents continue to suffer financially, children require further training in Livelihood Programs and Entrepreneurship. By offering job and entrepreneurial possibilities, they attempt to enhance the living circumstances of the low-income neighborhood. Due to the fact that the majority of BCPC members have considered training; livelihood and entrepreneurship; environmental awareness and involvement; sports and other leisure activities; health, medical, and sanitation; and feeding programs.

The main objective of this qualitative research was to find out the Needs Assessment of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in Brgy. Butong. The findings revealed that BCPC members need financial assistance, a scholarship program, financial literacy, training, and psychosocial support. The study also showed that members of BCPC live a simple, modern way of life in an industrialized city. However, due to inadequate educational credentials, they still have restricted means of earning, regardless of the number of years they dwell in the city.

The study also found out that the members of BCPC in Brgy. Butong need for assistance and training programs to develop and upgrade the quality of life particularly in terms of water safety, environment, sanitation, and waste segregation. Members would want training in effective leadership and management and livelihood skills. Also, the parents of the BCPC members requested to give their children seminars and activities that will help them to be aware and guide them through their youth.

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