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Research Article

Effectiveness of SK Mandatory Training Conducted in Selected Barangays of Cebu City

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ABSTRACT

All SK Officials are mandated by the SK Reform Act and ordered by the Department of Interior and Local Government to undergo the SK Mandatory Training. This study is intended to assess the effectiveness of the SK Mandatory Training as conducted in selected barangays of Cebu City. It aims to check the extent of the variables. The method utilized in this study was the descriptive correlational design. Survey Questions were drawn from the five training modules, viz.: Decentralization and Local Governance, SK History, Meetings and Resolutions, Planning and Budgeting, Code of Conduct, and Ethical Standards. There were 160 respondents; 124 SK Councilors and 36 SK Chairpersons from different barangays of Cebu City. Based on Pearson product-moment correlation, it was revealed that there is a strong, positive correlation between knowledge and demonstration. It was also shown by the results that; SK Officials were very knowledgeable with a grand mean of 3.58 and have highly demonstrated a grand mean of 3.57. Therefore, the researchers concluded that the SK Mandatory Training conducted for the SK Officials of Cebu City was effective.

Keywords: *Cebu City, Effectiveness, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), SK Mandatory Training*

Introduction

The SK Reform Act reflects the State's acknowledgment of the youth's crucial contribution to the development of the country. The "Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015," also known as Republic Act No. 10742, was designed as a progressive strategy to encourage young people to take an active role in good

governance. The elected SK Officials underwent the required training in May 2018 following the Department of Interior and Local Government Memorandum Circular No. 2018-48, "Guidelines in the Conduct of the Sangguniang Kabataan Mandatory Training." The mandatory training for Cebu City SK officials was held at Cebu Institute of Technology University. The

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training covered 5 modules, viz.: Decentralization and Local Governance, SK History, Meetings and Resolutions, Planning and Budgeting, Code of Conduct, and Ethical Standards. The training implementation was executed by the Faculty of the Learning Resource Institutes previously identified by the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Before the change, there were problems and worries with the way the SK Officials performed. The research's main finding is that the SK performs its functions in a typically subpar manner. This is particularly true when it comes to formulating laws, producing reports, and conducting constituent consultations. Additionally, there is a discrepancy between the requirements of young people and present SK efforts. (Balanon and others, 2007)

Youth organizations have argued against SK's construction, pushed for its restoration, and tried to change it. They thought that young people might directly contribute to effective leadership and government. The current research emphasizes young age to support the notion that, despite their age, they can participate as equal partners and problem-solvers by making judgments on matters that concern them, in line with the studies of Hultgren and Johansson (2019) and Hart (1997).

The planned SK Reformed Act was adopted by Congress and the Senate and went into effect on July 27, 2015. They acknowledged that young people have a crucial role in

nation-building and governance. Recent research has shown that youths' contributions to the nation's political and sustainable development processes will not necessarily be youths-relevant or correct (sic) variables unless young people are engaged and included in the formulation of developmental plans. More than simply incorporating young people's challenges into current policy paradigms is at stake when young people are involved in decision-making (Amanda, 2003:6).

Research Objectives

This study sought to assess the effectiveness of the SK Mandatory Training conducted for the SK Officials among selected barangays of Cebu City. The SK Mandatory Training consists of 5 training modules, viz.: Decentralization and Local Governance, SK History, Meetings and Resolutions, Planning and Budgeting, Code of Conduct, and Ethical Standards. It professed to check the extent of their knowledge and demonstration of that knowledge based on the training modules and examined if a significant relationship exists between the two variables.

Methods

This study utilized the descriptive-correlational design. Cebu City is the research locale of the study wherein 160 respondents were SK councilors and chairpersons who voluntarily participated.

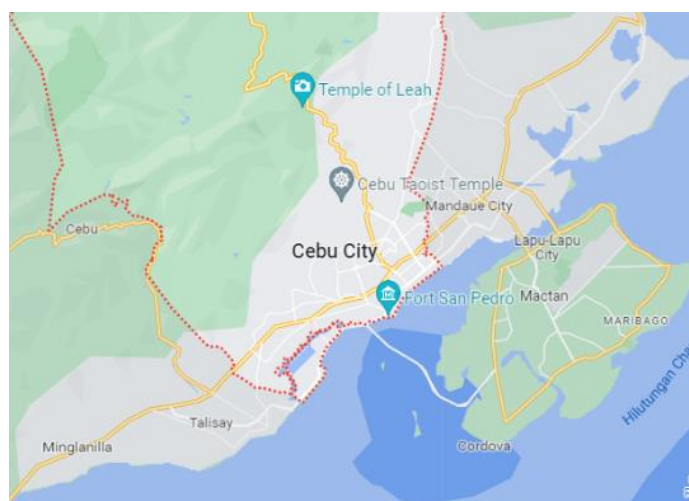


Figure 1. Location Map of Cebu City, Philippines
Source: Google Map

Of the 160 respondents, 124 are SK councilors and thirty-six are SK chairpersons from various barangays in Cebu City

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the researchers used Google Forms to gather data from the respondents. The response took a long time since some respondents have problems accessing stable internet connections.

Using a purposive sampling method, the SK Officials covered in this study are elective officials from different barangays of Cebu City.

Furthermore, frequency distribution and percentages were employed to collect the demographic profile of the respondents such as positions, age, gender, marital status, and educational attainment. In the degree of knowledge and demonstration of the respondents of the 5 training modules, viz.: Decentralization and Local Governance, SK History, Meetings and Resolutions, Planning and Budgeting, Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards, weighted mean and standard deviation were used. Lastly, Pearson product-moment correlation was employed in determining if the level of knowledge and demonstration as perceived by the respondents were significant or not.

Result and Discussion

This study identified the respondents' profiles and examined their level of knowledge and demonstration. The relationship between the two variables was tested using Pearson R.

Table 1. Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
I. SK Position		
Chairman	36	22%
Councilor	124	78%
Total	160	100%
II. Age (Years)		
18- 21 years old	17	11%
22-25 years old	109	68%
26-29 years old	31	19%
30 years old and above	3	2%
Total	160	100%

III. Gender		
Male	72	45%
Female	88	55%
Total	160	100%

IV. Marital Status		
Single	155	97%
Married	5	3%
Total	100%	100%

V. Educational Attainment		
High School Level	1	1%
High School Graduate	2	1%
College Level	63	39%
College Graduate	85	53%
Post-Graduate	9	6%
Total	100	100%

Table 1 showed that most of the SK Officials belong to the age bracket of 22-25 years old. The result is compatible with Section 10 of RA 10742 that the age qualification of-an SK election candidate must be at least eighteen (18) years but not more than twenty-four (24) years of age on the day of the election. Since it has been already 4 years since the election, it is acceptable that there are respondents who belong to the age group of 26-29 years old.

Table 2. Level of Knowledge and Demonstration of SK Officials

Module	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
Decentralization and Local Governance	3.50	VI	3.47	HD
SK History	3.56	VI	3.69	HD
Meetings and Resolutions	3.79	VI	3.68	HD
Planning and Budgeting	3.47	VI	3.51	HD
Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards	3.58	VI	3.5	HD
Grand Mean	3.58	VI	3.57	HD

There are more female SK Officials than males, in terms of gender. Barbuto et al. (2007) discovered gender to be an independent variable that had no bearing on the transactional and transformative conduct of leaders, regardless of its majority. Most SK officials are unmarried, college-educated individuals. The time and attention required to carry out their duties and obligations efficiently and effectively should be given by the SK Officials to attend the regular and special meetings.

Level of Knowledge and Demonstration

Legend:

3.28-4.0- Very Knowledgeable (VK) & Highly Demonstrated (HD)

2.52-3.27- Moderate Knowledgeable (MK) & Moderate Demonstrated (MD)

1.76-2.51- Slightly Knowledgeable (SK) & Slightly Demonstrated (SD)

1.0-1.75- Not Knowledgeable (NK) & Not Demonstrated (ND)

Usually, public officials are required to participate in various training programs regularly and are also obliged to comply with the codes of ethics (Villoria, 2015)

This table indicated the level of knowledge and level of demonstration by the SK Officials. Results of the study showed that the SK Officials are truly knowledgeable and have highly demonstrated the 5 training modules from the SK Mandatory Training. According to the study of Buuren and Edelenbos (2013), it is critical to identify the effectiveness of the training program as it provides the key information for decision-makers around further training investment.

This demonstrated the youth's capacity to understand and fulfill their duties. According to Hinings and Greenwood (1988, cited in Stevens, n.d.), capacity relates to an organization's capabilities and competencies. The capacities of an organization comprise technical knowledge and skills, as well as leadership and knowledge 16 components.

To ascertain the connection between the knowledge and demonstration of SK Officials, Pearson product-moment correlation was used. The conclusion disproved the idea that demonstration and knowledge are unrelated. It

confirmed that there is a statistically significant, substantial, and positive association between knowledge and demonstration. Practice and demonstration share semantic relationships. According to a report, knowledge and practice are favorably correlated (Dowell, 1969).

Knowledge and practices were linked, with better knowledge being matched by better habits (Alkot et al., 2016). Additionally, Mikesell, et al. (1975) stated that training could enhance a variety of government functions and result in higher job performance in a comparatively short amount of time.

Table 3. Result of the Correlation Analysis

Pair of Variables	P-value	Decision	Interpretation
Knowledge and Demonstration	0.000	Reject Ho	Significant

Conclusion

Based on the result, confirmed that the SK Officials are very knowledgeable and have highly demonstrated their knowledge of the five training modules namely Decentralization and Local Governance, SK History, Meetings and Resolutions, Planning and Budgeting, Code of Conduct, and Ethical Standards. Moreover, the Pearson R result showed that there is a strong, positive correlation between knowledge and demonstration of knowledge. The researchers concluded that the SK Mandatory Training conducted for the SK Officials of selected barangays of Cebu City was effective.

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