



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN IN PROGRAM
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Alan T. Caingles, Dadang Prencess Mae, Bingil James

Bachelor of Science in Extension Education

Southern Christian College

College of Extension and Community Development

ABSTRACT

CAINGLES, ALAN T., DADANG, PRENCCESS MAE C. AND BINGIL, JAMES S. 2020. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN IN PROGRAM, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION. Undergraduate Thesis, College of Extension and Community Development, Southern Christian College, Midsayap, Cotabato.

Adviser: Jeanyline M. Alvarado, MSRED

This study focused on the challenges encountered by SK Council in Poblacion 18, Villiarica and Sadaan, Midsayap, Cotabato in its program, planning, and implementation. A qualitative descriptive design was used in the study.

The programs implemented by the SK Council dealt with education, health, and the environment and were in accordance with the mandate of DILG. SK Council observed the process of planning such as consultation with the Katipunan ng Kabataan, brainstorming, Drafting of the ABYIP and CBYDP presentation of plans to BLGU, submission and approval of plans to LGU-DILG, and the implementation. The challenges encountered in the planning of programs included: hard time identifying issues affecting youth, poor participation of the SK Council members, monopoly in planning and decision making, consuming most of the time in the presentation and revision of plans to BLGU, and approval of plans to LGU-DILG was time-consuming. In program implementation, the SK Council followed processes such as meeting with the SK Council, requesting for allocated budget, linking, mobilizing volunteers, actual implementation, and submitting reports and liquidation. Meanwhile, SK Council encountered internal and external challenges in the implementation of the planned programs. The internal challenges were delayed implementation of the program due to practice initiatives, lack of skills, delayed release of the budget, lack of control of autonomy over the management of the SK budget, conflicting loyalty to the commitment as SK Council, and personal needs. While. External challenges included poor participation of KK in SK programs and lack of venue for activities.

Introduction

Youths are dynamic forces for social transformation (Iwuchukwu, Ogbonna & Agboti, 2015). It has been said that the youths have the potential to become future leaders. According to the United Nations (2008) and World Bank (2010), about 50% of the developing world population are youths. They are estimated to be about 1.2 billion with age between 15 and 24 years old. This indicates that youths constitute a serious development opportunity. It has been at the core that

youth must be fully engaged and involved in change efforts at the community level if they are to learn to function as effective members of society (Nitzberg, 2005).

According to Gepuela (2016), the Philippine potential youth leaders are allowed to be social transformers, specifically among the youth sectors, through the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) which was founded in the year 1975. They are to lead in addressing the needs of the youth. However, before the barangay elections in 2013, the SK election was put on hold because of some issues raised against them like corruption, nepotism, and recurring programs focusing on sports festivals and pageantry only. This is enforced with the Republic Act 10632 or known as “An Act to Postpone the Sangguniang Kabataan Election” signed by the former Philippine President Benigno Aquino III on October 3, 2013 (Burgonio, 2013).

The study of Balanon, Ong, Torre, Puzon, Granada, and Trinidad (2007) shows that SK officials find difficulty in coming up with legislation, promoting the development of young people, submitting reports, and holding consultations with their constituents. In 2018, it was reverted through Republic Act No. 10742 known as “An Act Establishing Reforms of Sangguniang Kabataan Creating Enabling Mechanism for Meaningful Youth Participation in Nation-building and other purposes” affirming the role of Filipino youth in nation-building and considering no space for the youth to discuss their development plan for their communities.

The SK officials in the Municipality of Midsayap assumed their office on July 1, 2018, in their respective barangays. Upon assumption, they needed to formulate a three-year plan to be implemented in their respective barangays. The SK plan is known as the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP) with the presence of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK). Their plan must be anchored on the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) and other Local Youth Development Plans (LYDP) at the Provincial, City, and Municipal Levels. It is known that the municipality of Midsayap does not have data on the challenges encountered by newly elected SK officials in the process of planning and implementation, thus, the researchers were motivated to venture on this topic.

Objectives of the Study

The study determined the challenges encountered by Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Council in program planning and implementation in the Municipality of Midsayap, Cotabato in the Year 2018- 2019. Specifically, it aimed to:

1. determine the programs of the SK Council in the Barangays of Poblacion 1 to 8, Sadaan, and Villarica of Midsayap Cotabato;
2. determine the challenges encountered by SK Council in their planning; and
3. determine the challenges encountered in the implementation of their program.

Methodology

This study employed descriptive research design through qualitative method. The researchers used a semi- structured interview guide to gather information needed in the study. It contained guide questions that yielded answers to the research problems and objectives of the study. This study was conducted in the Municipality of Midsayap in the Province of Cotabato. Midsayap is located at the Southwestern portion of North Cotabato Province. It is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Libungan, on the south by the Rio Grande de Mindanao, on the east by the municipalities of Aleosan and Pikit, and on the west by the Municipality of Kabuntalan. Midsayap has a total land area of 29,042 hectares comprising 57 barangays. It is from the 57 barangays where the participants of this study will be determined specifically in Barangay Poblacion 1 to 8 including barangay Sadaan and Villarica (Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Council (MPDC) Midsayap, 2019). The participants of the study were the SK chairpersons, council members including the appointed treasurer and secretary from the Barangay Poblacion 1 to 8, Villarica and Sadaan of Midsayap Municipality.

Study Results

Programs of the SK Council

The participants of the study mentioned that their programs were aligned in the nine program areas of SK such as education, health, environment, global mobility, social inclusion and equity,

active citizenship, peacebuilding and security, governance, and economic empowerment as mandated by the Department of Interior and Local Government. Their programs were manifested in their Annual Barangay Youth Investment Plan (ABYIP). The ABYIP is the annual program of the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP). The latter is the three-year comprehensive youth development plan of the barangay as formulated by the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in consultation with and concurrence with the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK), anchored on the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) and other Local Youth Development Plans (LYDPs) in a Provincial and Municipal Level based on the SK Operations Manual series of 2017.

The participants said that since the time they seated as SK Council in their respective barangay in July 2018, the programs they had implemented so far dealt with education in the form of provision of financial support to needy but deserving high school students enrolled in public schools. They also had programs on gender awareness and Linggo ng Kabataan Celebration. As to health, they had Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE), a seminar on teenage pregnancy, HIV/ AIDS awareness, supplementary feeding program, and sports festival activities, especially with the persons who used drugs. As to the environment, they had tree planting, Alay Linis sa Barangay, bayanihan, establishing of Material Recovery Facilities, Trashcan project, and solid waste management.

Education

Support to Education

According to the participants of the study, the provision of educational assistance to at least ten youth enrolled in public high school within the locality of Midsayap was their main program on education. The qualifications of their beneficiaries included coming from less fortunate families, deserving students, were interested in going to school and enrolled in JHS. The beneficiaries were also not beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). The

qualified beneficiaries were granted of financial assistance worth one thousand pesos either for school supplies or tuition fees.

According to the Participants,

“Sa education naa mi scholarship program pero sa public school lang mi naga focus kay tungod gamay lang man pud ang bayaran didto.. We have 15 beneficiaries We only have to cater miscellaneous fees, meron tayong budget 1000 per head for high school student only” (Under education, we have scholarship program, but we focus in public school only because it has cheap tuition fee. We have 15 beneficiaries. We only have to cater to miscellaneous fees. We have 1000 pesos budget per head to support high school students only)

Participants further said that the main objective of this program was to empower the youth to become active participants in the transformation of the communities.

Participants explained that,

“Pinaagi sa education program, matabangan ang mga kabataan para maging active sila sa communities, ug para matabangan pud sila pinaagi ani. Kay kami...wala rami naga focus sa sports. We are also trying our best to implement other activities.” (Through an education program, youth are helped to become more active in their communities. This can really help them. Our barangay is not only focusing in sports. We are trying also our best to implement other activities.)

The participants added that,

“...para makatabang mi sa mga bata nga gusto i-pursue ilang pageskwela, kay base sa among nakit-an karon dili na eskwela ang interest sa mga kabataan kundi ang pagdula na ug mga mobile games” (...to enable us to help children who want to pursue their studies, since based on our observation today, youth are more in playing mobile games than going to school.)

Participants further said that in the process of selecting scholars, their barangay officials helped them by providing necessary data needed base from the qualifications of the program. Those qualified were afforded cash assistance from the SK budget. This was done through paying of the tuition/miscellaneous fees directly to the school. The school principal helped the SK Council also in monitoring the performance of the scholars as basis for their continuation of support.

Seminar on Gender Awareness

Participants conducted this Gender and Equality in a form of seminars that talk about the importance of equality among gender and the rights of every individual. They invited speakers from government agencies to facilitate the seminar on gender and equality. According to the participants;

“Nag-invite mi ug focal person coming from government agencies to speak on gender equality. Tapos, we go down to the level of the youth whose age is raging 15-24 years old, para masabtan jud nila kung unsa ang buot ipasabot ani nga seminar.” (We invited focal person from government agencies to speak on gender equality. Then we go down to the level of the youth whose age is 15 to 24 years old so that they can internalize what this program is all about.)

The primary objective of the program is to emphasize the important role of every human in society regardless of his/ her gender and identity, and to avoid violence and discrimination especially on the third sex. It also emphasizes on the equal treatment of every individual. As mentioned by the participants, this seminar on gender awareness will provide information and knowledge to the youth regarding on the important role of each individual in the society. This seminar on gender awareness was participated by youth sector and women in the society.

Linggo ng Kabataan

According to participants, it is mandatory for them to celebrate the Linggo ng Kabataan in the month of August. They initiated activities in accordance to the week celebration. The activity that was initiated by the SK council through awareness, by educating them on the different issues happening in the community which included HIV/ AIDS Awareness, it depends on the theme of the celebration. Since it is one of the main issues happening nowadays in society, they also conducted sports activity through ball games (Volleyball and Basketball) because of the youths interest in sports. According to the participants,

“Ang uban na activity namo just like aning education through awareness raising like HIV/AIDS and Drug awareness kay gi-merge namo sa Linggo ng Kabataan namo nga activity” (Other activities we had include raising awareness on HIV/AIDS and Drug awareness were merged with the Linggo ng Kabataan as mandatory celebration.)

The main objectives of this program were to educate and give awareness to the youth the issues or cases of HIV/AIDS happening in the society and how to divert the attention of the youth in to sports. This seminar on HIV/AIDS was participated by the youth and people of the community.

Health

When it comes to health, the SK Council had implemented programs such as Drugs Awareness Resistance Education (DARE), teenage pregnancy, HIV/ AIDS, supplementary feeding program, and sports festival related activities.

Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE)

The participants shared that they have conducted drug symposiums in their respective barangay as one of their programs on health. Participants stated that the implementation of the said program was participated by 50 individuals. While, one participant mentioned that it was participated by 100 individuals composing of the KK and adults. The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Rural Health Unit supported the realization of this program by providing resource persons. According to the participants,

“Ongoing ang mga program namo karon sa persons who use drugs. Mao ng kami naga-dissiminate mi ug information nga naa mi i-conduct nga drug symposium” (There are ongoing programs for those people who use drugs. That is why we disseminate information that we are conducting drug symposium.)

A participant mentioned the objectives of the program,

“Ang main objective namo ani nga program kay para mabawasan ang mga gagamit ug drugs diri sa among barangay” (Our main objective of this program is to lessen the drug users in our barangay.)

Further as shared by the participants,

“Naga-conduct mi ani nga activity because we are trying to be a drug free barangay. So kami pud nga mga SK council, we give our constituents something to do through different

interventions such as sports so that they have something to do” (We conducted this activity because we are trying to be a drug free barangay. As the SK council, we give our constituents something to do through different intervention such as sports.)

The participants said that they conduct this activity in their community is based on the issues faced by the youth nowadays.

Palaro for the Persons Who use Drugs

One of the interventions of the SK Council was sports activity for the persons who used drugs together with the men in uniform or policemen and youth. The Palaro for the PWUD was an activity conducted by the Police which they give opportunity to the SKs as their partner in the implementation. Since this activity was part of the nine areas mandated by the DILG particularly on health program then, the participants were happy being part of this program. As said by the participants that during the activity SK Council assisted the Police and facilitated those PWUD in their games. This activity from the men in uniform and or policeman of Midsayap, Cotabato aims to emphasize the value of sports, to keep the body and mind healthy and to strengthen the relationship between the police and drug surrenderees. The participants stated,

“One time nagconduct ang municipyo diri sa among barangay ug padula sa mga persons who use drugs (PWUD). Kaming mga SK ang nag-assist sa ilaha. Nagpadula and municipyo kauban ang mga drug surrenderes ug mga pulis nga walay kahadlok.” (One time the municipality conducted sports activity here in our barangay with person who used drugs. We, as SK, assisted them. The drugs surrenderees played together with the policemen without fear.)

Since, it is part of the nine areas of the SK program, SK Council found it timely because of the partnership of the LGU to realized their program. Participants took it as an opportunity to realize the program with lesser cost of money, time and effort.

Further, the SK Chairperson said that the palaro aimed to release the tension between the police and the drug users. The SK council believed that through this program, equal treatment between and among the drug surrenderees would be attained and the stigma against them will be eliminated.

Seminar on teenage Pregnancy

The participants conducted seminar on teenage pregnancy. They stated that early pregnancy was one of the issues that needed further solutions especially to the young people. According to them, the seminar would help the youth know the effects of teenage pregnancy in their lives. Further, the participant stated that;

“Gi conduct namo ni nga activity which is seminar kay isa ni siya sa mga main issues karon dire sa among barangay. Para pud maka balo ang mga kabataan kung unsa ang posibleng epekto aning teenage pregnancy sa ilang kinabuhi” (We conducted this activity- a seminar since it is one of the main issues in our barangay so that teens will be informed of the possible effects of teenage pregnancy.)

This seminar was participated by the youth and specifically the grade 10 students, for them to know the effect of teenage pregnancy which is the main issue nowadays.

HIV/AIDS Awareness

The participants shared that they conducted programs that talks about the awareness of HIV/AIDS. To them, it is one of the common and alarming problems in the society. According to them, the campaign helps decrease the cases of HIV/AIDS. The participants shared that,

“HIV/AIDS dile man gud siya ordinaryo nga sakit lang. Kani nga sakit mao ni ang pinaka daku ug pinaka delikado nga issue nga gaka hitabo karon sa mga kabataan mao ng dapat gyud ni ma solusyunan ug ma aware pina agi ani nga activity” (HIV/AIDS is not an ordinary disease. This kind of disease is big and dangerous. It is happening nowadays to the youth. We need to have solution and campaign for awareness through this activity.)

The SK Chairperson also stated that HIV/AIDS awareness seminar provides venue for the youth to know the issue. Further the participant stated that;

“Nag conduct mi ani nga activity kay kini man gud ang issue karon para pud maka balo sila unsa ni siya nga sakit ug paunsa sad ni siya makuha nga sakit.” (We conducted the activity because it is the current issue. We hold such activity provide awareness on the causes and symptoms of the disease.)

To them, the main concern was to open the mind of the youth regarding on the harmful effects of HIV/ AIDS. The seminar was participated by the people in the community.

Barangay Sports Fest

According to the participant, sports is not literally part of the nine SK program areas, however they included sports fest or activities under health program. Since this program is based on the need and interest of the youth, the SK council integrated it as part of the health program in consultation and approval of the DILG. They usually implemented the sports fest every summer and during barangay founding anniversary or fiesta. In Barangay Sadaan, their Basketball league was anchored on the theme “Bola Kontra Droga”.

As experienced by the participants;

“Youth is much interested on sports, kaya we have this basketball and volleyball league and any sports na pwedi namo buhaton. We are not making this sport without purpose. Of course, the main objective of the sports is physical health and also ang sports is for mental health and awareness” (Youth is much interested in sports, thus, we have this basketball and volleyball league and other sports that we can possibly do. We are not making this sport activity without purpose. Of course, the main purpose of it is for physical health, as well as for mental health and awareness.)

The participant also mentioned that the interest of their youth is on sports. They looked forward for it during fiestas and foundation anniversaries. It is already a tradition of their barangay to have this sports event since 1997. So, the SK Council also observed this kind of tradition during their barangay foundation and fiesta, they believed that it is a great way of every individual to establish good relationship among others and to engage themselves into related activities for their enhancement of their capacities and health. Further, they said that through sports activities, it will help keep away the youth from engaging with illegal drugs. It is a way to prevent them in engaging with harmful vices that can lead them in worst life scenario.

More so, the participant stated that through sports activities they found that the relationship of among youth in their barangay has been strengthened. The youth from different puroks and from other communities were able to socialize.

Supplementary Feeding Program

Moreover, the participants implemented Supplementary Feeding program for those malnourished kids. Based on the observation of participants, there were many cases of the malnourished children in their barangay that was why they came up with the Supplementary Feeding Program. According to the participant;

“Usually, ang kaning supplementary feeding program namo ang maka benefit lang jud ani kaning mga bata nga malnourished edad 3-6 years old” (Usually, the supplementary feeding program can only benefit to the children ages 3-6 years old.)

The main objectives of this program were to help the children maintain balanced diet through eating nutritious and proper foods so that the children would be away from any kind of disease and to prevent the malnourished cases in the area. This program was participated by the day care children.

Environment

Some of the participants of the study said that the activities united youth and people of the community. These activities included:

Alay Linis

The participants conduct Alay Linis every second Saturday of the month together with the KK and SK Council. According to them, this activity helped reduce the wastes in the barangay. They did this with the youth who were willing to help in cleaning the surroundings. The participant stated that;

“Ang pinaka main concern gyud namo diri sa barangay is ang basura. Mao ng naga alay linis mi kauban ang SK council ug ang KK para pud ma-limpyo ang among lugar aside ana pinaagi pud aning alay linis naay socialization nga mahitabo between sa amoa ug sa KK” (Our main concern here in our barangay is the garbages. That is why we conducted “alay linis” together with the SK council and KK. This aimed to make barangay clean. Apart from this, it builds socialization among SK council and the KK.)

The main objective of this program is to preserve and maintain their community clean and green with the help of the people in the community as well as the SK Council and KK members.

Tree planting

The participants conducted tree planting together with the SK council and youth sector. Based on the observation of the SK Council, it found out that there was lack of trees in the community. Due to this, the participant from this area initiated to plant coconut trees. According to the participant;

“Naga collect mi ug mga nahulog na mga lubi gikan sa palibot sa among balay tapos among gina tipon mao tu among gina pa tubo tapos pag ma tubo na siya mao na pud dayun to among i-tanom sa among community” (We collect coconut seedlings from our backyard and use the seedlings in our tree growing activity.)

To them, through tree growing activity they were able to help the community to become clean and green environment with the help of the KK and SK Council members.

Solid Waste Management

In Barangay Villarica, the participants conducted a program in waste management through segregating and proper disposal of their wastes. They implemented this program to deal on the proper disposal of solid waste in the community. Through observation, they came up with a program to solve the problem on garbage. The participant stated that;

“Natagad nako kay ang mga basura namo dire is nagadaghan na kaayo labi na diri sa among centro gi strictly implement namo tung segregation kay isa pa dili dawaton ang mga basura sa truck kung wala siya naka segregate.” (I have observed that in our barangay there are lot of garbages. That is why we strictly implement the proper segregation of wastes. The garbage truck will not collect the garbage if it is not well segregated.)

The main objectives of the Solid Waste Management were for the people of the community to know proper segregation and adapt the 3R policy which is the reduce, reuse and recycle.

Bayanihan and Trashcan Project

The participants initiated “Bayanihan”. Its primary purpose was to lessen also the garbage in the areas. They came up with an idea to establish a trash can project for proper waste disposal. The participant stated that;

“Naga Bayanihan mi dire sa among barangay kay tungod daghan ang mga basura nga naabot dire, labi na kung magbaha tapos ang mga tao pud pataka ra sila labay ug mga basura nila. Mao ng isa ni siya sa among initiatives as SK council nga magbayanihan pud mi and mag butang mi ug mga basurahan para ma tarong jud ug labay ang mga basura”. (In our community we have this what we called bayanihan. This is initiated because we notice that garbages are rampant during rainy season. People also lack discipline with garbage disposal. This is our initiative as SK council. We placed garbage bins for garbages to be thrown properly.)

To them, this activity would not be realized without the help of the KK and SK Council members.

Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)

Participants placed material recovery facilities in strategic areas so that the residents within their barangay will able to put and segregate their garbages. According to the participant,

“Since isa sa among areas nga focus is on environment napagkasunduan namo mismo nga mga SK council uban ang KK nga mag put up mi ug MRF para pud dali lang ang paglabay nila ug basura tapos dali lang pud ang pag collect ug garbage sa garbage collector” (Since our areas focus on environment, we the SK council together with the KK placed MRF for easily throwing of garbage. The collector will also easily get their trashes.)
The primary objective of this program was to have a proper segregation of the solid waste.

It was initiated by the SK Council together with the help of the KK to solve the problem of waste on their community.

Process of SK in Program Planning

The participants of the study who were SK Council of Barangay Poblacion 1 to 8, Villarica and Sadaan stated that their SK planned programs had undergone consultation with the Katipunan ng Kabataan, brainstorming among the SK council, drafting/designing ABYIP and CBYIP using the format/matrix provided by the LGU-DILG, presentation and approval of the plans to the BLGU, and submission and approval of the plans to LGUDILG. After the approval, it served as

their guide in the implementation. Figure 1 shows the process of the SK council in planning their programs.

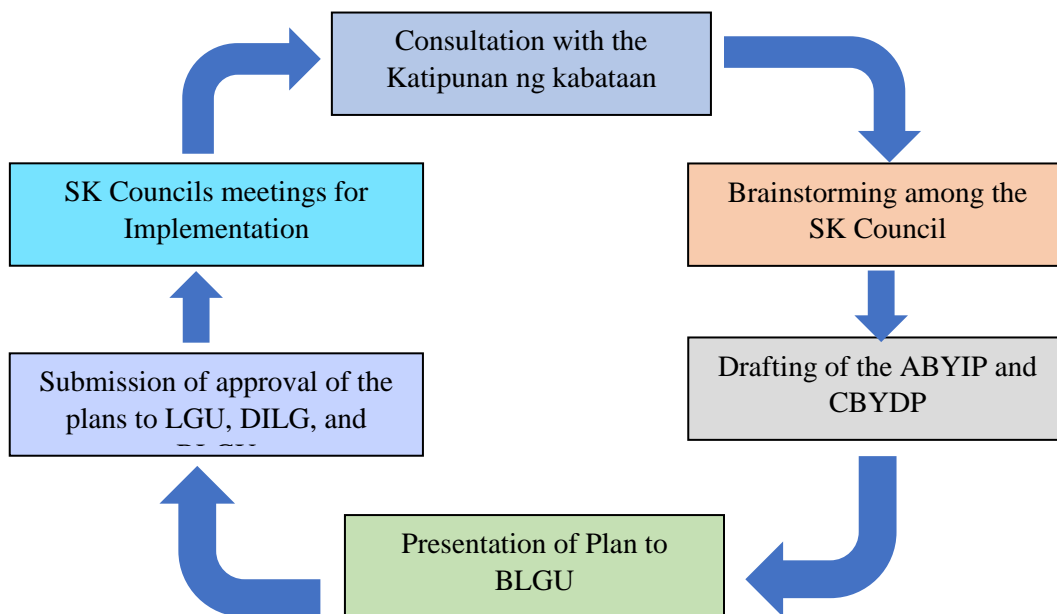


Figure 1. Process of Program Planning of SK Council in Barangay Poblacion 1 to 8, Villarica and Sadaan.

This process of planning was in accordance with the mandate of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The SK Council officers were given opportunity by the DILG personnel to participate in the SK Mandatory Training before they assumed office. It happened in May 2018 at Southern Christian College (SCC), Midsayap, Cotabato.

Consultation with the *Katipunan ng Kabataan*

According to the participants, the results of the consultations they had with their Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) regarding the needs and interest of the youth were the basis of their planning. They solicited ideas on what to implement from KK and determined their needs based on the issues affecting them. They also conducted a consultation with the KK constituents through general assembly with the KK, in the gathering of KK in every village (purok/sitio), and through random interview with the KK members. Based from the participants experience, most of the KK members responded that they wanted “pa-Liga” or sports events. The participant cited that,

“As part of the Reform act 10742, the SK Council of Poblacions must have the KK assembly. So, we can strategize everything what is the main issue of the youth facing nowadays”.

Most of the participants said that the consultations helped them to have an idea on what activities to do with ABYIP and CBYDP and which would also anchor on the nine areas as per mandated by the DILG. Their plans contain specific programs, projects, and activities with budget allocation and indicating the date of implementation. These data were necessary for the release of their funds. As the participant stated,

“We are consultative. We are conducting KK assembly every quarter. Doon tinatanong namin sila kung ano yung program na gusto nilang mangyari dito sa aming barangay at kung ano man yung nakita naming problema sa aming barangay. Isa din yun sa pinagtutuunan namin ng pansin” (We are consultative. We are conducting the KK assembly every quarter. In our assembly, we asked them on what program they would like to have here in our barangay, as well as, their observed problems in our barangay. This one of our prioritized outputs that we are prioritizing.) Most of the participants hold the principle that their plan is “for and by the constituents”. As the participant said, *“We only have one principle that were going to apply in every program planning, and that is for and by the constituent which means “para sa kanila” and “mula sa kanila” in that case they cannot say issues that the program is coming from us because they are the one who suggested it. They are the one who will implement and craft it, so we are just utilizing our time to facilitate them”.*

Brainstorming among the SK Council

The SK Council also had their brainstorming. In brainstorming, the participants pronounced that they had problems in terms of the programs that needed to be implemented because some SK Council members were trying to look at the interest of the youth and not for the issues and concerns of the youth today. As the participants stated

that,

“Sa pag brainstorm namo mag lisod gyud mi kay naay uban nga ang ilang gusto puro lang pa dula. Pero pag abot sa mga issues and concern nga dapat e address sa mga youth especially sa community dile nila ma bring out.” (We have difficulties in the brainstorming, since other are just gone into sports. In terms of the issues and concern that need to be address to the youth especially in the community are not usually brought out.)

Most of the participants reported that brainstorming usually happened during their SK Council meeting. The planning of the SK Council was held one month before the implementation of the program. According to the participants, brainstorming with the group was very helpful in identifying those programs for the youth. They utilized the suggestions or ideas they got from KK and came up with a good plan. During the brainstorming, the participants made a committee report for the Drafting of their ABYIP as the annual basis for their CBYDP as well as the discussion of the things to be prepared for their programs and activities. The participant said,

“Para sa amoang program ug activities nga i-implement. as SK Council, kinahanglan mi mag plano one month before the implementation para sa preparation kay tungod daghan pa ug process nga sundon.” (For our program and activities to be implemented. as SK Council, we need to plan one month before the implementation for preparation because there were many processes to be followed.)

After the brainstorming, the participants drafted their ABYIP and CBYDP using the guided format provided by LGU- DILG.

Drafting of the ABYIP and CBYDP

CBYDP is a three-year comprehensive youth development plan of the barangay that is formulated by the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in the consultation and with the concurrence of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) and anchored on the Philippines Youth Development Plan (PYDP) and other Local Youth Development Plans (LYDP) at the provincial, city and municipals levels. Below is the Plate 1 showing the CBYDP guide format from Sanguniang Kabataan: Mandatory Training Modules Operations Manual (n.d).

FORM FOR THE CBYDP

POYF OBJECTIVE/ AREA/ AGENDA	LYD OBJECTIVE/ AGENDA	ISSUES & CONCERNS	OBJECTIV ES	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	SCHEDULE	LEAD COMMITT EE & PERSONS RESPONSI BLE	BUDGET	REMARKS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)

Plate 1. Guide Format on CBYDP (Sangguniang Kabataan Mandatory Training Modules Operations Manual n.d).

ABYIP is an annual program based on the CBYDP plan. It contains the program, projects, and activities (PPAs) with their corresponding cost, as well a cash flow chart to show the approximate time when the release of corresponding funds will be needed. Plate no. 2 shows the example form of the ABYIP as mandated by DILG.

PROGRAM/ PROJECT/ ACTIVITY	BRIEF PROGRAM / PROJECT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET (IN PHP)	SCHEDULE (MONTH)
Gender Sensitivity Training	This training is designed to open up communications between the genders to bring mutual understanding and respect of others' roles. The training starts with employing local experts on gender issues who have a clear understanding of the problem within the current social and cultural context to help create and lead training sessions.	Php. 12,500.00 (Am Snacks- Php 75x 50 pax= Php. 3750.00) (Lunch- Php 100x 50 pax= Php. 5,000.00) Pm Snacks- Php 75.00x 50 pax= Php. 3750.00)	March 2018

Plate 2. Guide Format on ABYIP (Sangguniang Kabataan Mandatory Training Modules Operations Manual n.d).

In drafting the CBYDP, the SK Chairperson scheduled meetings with the SK Council members in drafting of the plan. The dates of meetings should favor on the availability of the members. SK Council stipulated the programs and activities, its objectives, who are the target sector, the venue where the implementation of the program will be conducted, its specific date

and allocated budget for every programs and activities to implement. The programs and activities were their collective decisions. These were anchored in the nine areas mandatory by the DILG.

Presentation and Approval of the plan to BLGU

Since the SK Council is in bond with the barangay council, they are going to present the drafted program to the barangay council for comments, suggestions and recommendations for proper protocol. But the barangay council has no authority to disapprove the crafted planned of the SK Council. Most of the participants said;

“Ang among na craft na program kailangan namo siya i-present sa barangay council, since we are in bond, for them to have comments, suggestions and recommendations. Pero walay katungod ang barangay council nga mu disapproved sa among na present” (The crafted programs should be presented to the barangay council since we are in bond, for them to have their comments, suggestions, and recommendations. But they have no right to disapprove the programs we presented.)

Most of the participants mentioned that, it was time consuming when they presented their program to the barangay council because they patiently waited for the regular session. The SK Council should attend the session of the barangay council for them to be able to present their plan.

Mostly the participants mentioned that,

“Malisdan jud mi sa pag present sa among programs sa barangay council kay kanang time consuming kayo siya, maghulat pa mi kung kanus a sila mag session para mag present.” (It is difficult for us to present the programs to the barangay council. It takes time, because we should wait for the regular session so that we can present.)

After they presented the program plan and it was already approved by the barangay chairperson, the SK Council integrated the corrections, suggestions and recommendations based on the result of the presentation. The participants stated that;

“Pagkahuman namo ug present sa barangay dile man gyud malikayan nga naa jud silay mga corrections, suggestions ug uban pa. Ang among himuon tarungon namo ang program base sa ilahang komento para ready na siya i-submit sa DILG.” (After we presented our plan to the barangay we cannot avoid corrections, suggestions and so on. What we are trying

to do is to integrate the comments, suggestions base on what comes out in the presentation. And the program plan is now ready for submission to the DILG.)

To them, after they integrated the comments they forwarded the planned programs to the DILG for final approval.

Submission and final approval of plans to DILG

Generally the participants said that after presenting their plan to the BLGU they forwarded the plan to the DILG for final approval. The DILG set a date that the SK Council would submit their plan before the implementation of their program and activities. Participants said that once the plan was approved by the DILG, it became their basis in the implementation of the program.

A participant stated that,

“Sa pag-start ng isang calendar year, yung council ay mayroon na siyang isang whole year plan. Yung plan ng SK Council ay ipi-present sa Barangay Council then will submit to the DILG. Kinakailangan ng approval ng DILG kasi, yun yung magiging guide sapag implement ng program.” (when the calendar year starts, the SK Council had already one whole year plan. The plan of the SK Council will be presented to the Barangay Council then will be submitted to the DILG. It needs an approval of the DILG because it will be the basis in implementing program.)

In the submission of the program to the DILG, the SK Council took time to wait for the final approval of their program. The DILG scrutinized their submitted plan, assessing if the programs were anchored on the nine areas mandated by them. Participants said that,

“Sa pagsubmit sa program didto sa DILG langan kaayo kay ilaha paman gyud tan-awon ug maayo kung ang among nahimo ba nga program kay nasulod ba siya sa nine areas nga mandated mismo nila. Mao ng wala mi mahimo kundi maghulat, dile man pud namo sila pwede ma dali dali.” (Upon submission of the program to the DILG, it takes time because the DILG scrutinized if it is anchored on the nine areas as mandated. That is why we should wait for the approval because we cannot force them.)

For them, it was time consuming to wait for the final approval of the DILG, thus it caused delay of the implementation. According to them,

“Pagpasa namo sa program didto sa DILG maghulat mi sa final approval nila. Usually mabalik sa amoa ang plan 1 week after namo ipasa. Tapos pagka received namo sa program magmeeting na pud mi balik para masabutan namo ang preparation for the implementation sa among na plano na program. Kung unsa among himuon nga strategy sa among mga

program para maka less mi ug gasto kay kana among ABYIP kailangan ma-mplement namo na siya 1 year sugod sa among pag lingkod.” (Upon submission of the program to the DILG we will wait for their final approval. Usually the program plan will be returned to us 1 week after submission to the DILG. Upon receiving the program we will conduct meeting together with the SK Council to plan what to do in preparation for the implementation and to find strategy to be used for us to minimize the cost because the ABYIP must be implemented 1 year upon assumption in our position.)

SK Council Meetings for the Planned Programs Implementation

After receiving the approved CBYDP and ABYIP from the DILG, the SK Chairperson will present them to his/her council members. If council members will not be available on their regular council meeting, then he/she would re-schedule it based on the availability of his/her council members. A statement from a participant says,

“Pagbalik sa among plan nga gi-approve sa DILG, nagapatawag mi ug meeting para sa preparation sa implementation sa among programs ug activities. pero usahay dili man gyud available ang uban nga SK Council members, maong mag set napud mi usab ug schedule nga dapat makaapil ang tanan sa meeting. kay diri naman gud namo i-divide ang among mga trabahuon during sa implementation.”(When we get our approved plan from the DILG, we call for a meeting for the preparation of the implementation of our programs and activities. but sometimes, some of the SK Council members are not available, that’s why we set another schedule for a meeting that everyone is available because we will divide the task during our implementation.)

Further, the participants reported that they met to plan again for the implementation of each program based on the approved ABYIP in their respective community.

Challenges of SK in program Planning

The participants mentioned that along with the processes of their planning they certainly encountered challenges such as, hard time to identify issues affecting youth, poor participation of SK Council members, monopoly in planning and decision making, consuming most of the time on the presentation and revision of plans to BLGU and approval of plans by the LGU- DILG is time consuming.

Hard Time Soliciting Participation to Identify Issues Affecting Youth

Most of the participants encountered difficulty in determining issues concerning youth nowadays. This difficulty was encountered by the participant under the consultation with the Katipunan ng Kabataan. The participants were having a hard time gathering the attention of the KK during their consultation to participate in every activity conducted by the SK Council in their respective barangay. When the participant mentioned this difficulty, the participant felt worried when he would think on how to respond to this problem. It was also observed that most of the youth are spending more time in social media instead of using most of their time in community activities. The participant stated that,

“When it comes to difficulties, we can say that the participation of the youth is weak. So, it is difficult for us to get their attention especially, that we are now leaving in the twenty-first century. They are relying on the technologies and are not into locomotive activities. This is now giving us very hard time to be with them our programs”.

Despite of this difficulty, the participant further mentioned that through the help of the SK council, and KK representatives during the session and planning of the programs who are coming from different purok their constituents were encourage and became responsible. The participants came up with the plans that they needed to execute in a year.

Poor Participation of SK Council Members

Most of the participants had expressed a feeling of dismay every time they called their SK Council members for a meeting, brainstorming and planning. The members sometimes failed to appear/attend. When they followed-up, the usual reasons of most of their SK Council members was conflict of schedule to an equally essential engagements like doing their academic requirements, extra-curricular activities in school, and work duties. SK Chairperson conveyed that their SK Council members could not be forced because they don not have honorarium. Due to this, the scheduled meetings were often postponed. The participants shared,

“lisud usahay makuha ang available nga time sa mga SK Council members during sa among regular SK meeting, labi na kung ang kadalasan sa amoa kay naga skwela pa ug ang uban kay naa nay mga trabaho. We cannot force other SK Council members to be present during

the meeting because at first, they do not have honorarium. Pero gina reschedule namo ang date or time sa among meeting labi na kung majority sa members dili available.” (It’s hard sometimes to get the availability of time of the SK Council members during our regular SK Council meeting especially, most of us are students and some have their own work. We cannot force the SK Council members to be present during the meeting because at first, they have no honorarium. We rescheduled the date or time of the meeting specially when majority of the SK Council members are not available.)

The participants seldom refused to answer questions and often said “ikaw lang tubag”. Since the SK council had poor participation, it caused the delay in the finalization of their plans. The plans usually were done through the initiative of the SK Chairperson by resetting schedule for the planning purpose only according to the majority of the SK Council members.

Monopoly in Planning and Decision Making

Most of the participants shared that when they underwent the drafting of their ABYIP and CBYDP, they had difficulty in associating their different programs and activities to the nine areas mandated by the DILG and putting budget for their different programs due to lack of capacity since, they were first timer in drafting of plan. The usual reason was said by the participants that SK Council members relied and entrusted the drafting of their plan to the SK Chairperson that according to the participants, SK Chairperson was more capable in making plans. The participants felt disappointed while sharing this problem for it was too difficult to plan alone. The participant said,

“lisud gyud mag-buhat sa plan kung wala ang presence sa imong members tungod, kinahanglan pud kaayu ang ilahang mga ideas sa pag decide kung unsa ang mga programs nga I focus ug labi na sa pagbutang ug igo nga budget. Ang uban man gud nga SK Council members kay naga depend sa capability sa mga SK Chairperson kay tungod ang Chairperson ang mas nakabalo sa pagbuhat ug plan.” (It is difficult to make a plan without the presence of your members because, their ideas were needed in deciding what program to be prioritized, and especially in putting enough budget. There were SK Council members who were depending on the capacity of the SK Chairperson since the Chairperson had more knowledge on making plan)

Further, the participant mentioned that having incomplete attendance of the SK Council during the meeting was unavoidable circumstances. The participants rescheduled the date of the meeting as long as the SK Council were all available and still able to meet the requirements for the collective decision. The participants said that;

“Dili gyud namo malikayan nga ma reschedule among meeting kay ang uban sa SK Council kay naay trabaho ug ang uban kay nag-skwela. Kadalasan ang among ginabuhay kay weekend nalang mi mag meeting, usahay kay gabe depende sa ilahang availability.” (We cannot avoid that our regular meeting will be rescheduled because some of the SK Council have their work duties and some of them have classes. Oftentimes, we conducted it during weekend or in the evening it depends on their availability.)

Consuming most of the time on the Presentation and Revision of Plans to BLGU

The participants reported that the presentation of their plans to BLGU consumed most of their time in the revisions of their plans due to the corrections and recommendations of the Barangay Council that they needed to improve. Since the participants shared that they underwent this process, they made revisions of their plans until it had no correction from the Barangay Council and approved by the Barangay Captain. With this, the participants stated that it delayed them in submitting their plans to the LGU- DILG. As said by the participants,

“makaconsume pud ug taas nga panahon ang mag-present sa plano namu as SK Council, didto sa Barangay Council kay kung naa silay mga i-suggest ug kung unsa ang dapat nga bag-uhon ug dungagan sa mga program ug activities nga gibutang namo sa amoang plan. Kinahanglan gyud namo usabon gikan sa pinakauna. Then, I present usab sa Barangay Council. Kung dili gyapun siya maapproved, amoa napud nga i revise hangtud nga I approved sa Barangay Captain.” (It consumes more time when the SK Council presents the plan to the Barangay Council. Because, if there is a suggestion be changed or addition among the programs and activities in our plans, we need to revise it from the beginning then, present it again to the Barangay Council. If they disapprove, then we will do revision again until the Barangay Captain will approve it.)

Since the SK is under the jurisdiction of the BLGU, the participants need the guidance of the Barangay officials in formulating their plans. A participant shared that it is good to present the plan to the Barangay Council because they can help in the improvement of the plan.

Approval of Plans to LGU- DILG is Time Consuming

After the plans were approved by the Barangay Council, the SK Chairperson will submitted them to the LGU-DILG for final approval. While the presentation and approval in the barangay level took time by the participants further revealed that another time was consumed for approval of their plans by the LGU-DILG. They spent time in the submission of plans to the office of the DILG, then waited for how many days on the results whether the plans were approve or not. This was because the DILG personnel took time also in scrutinizing the submitted CBYDP and ABYIP of the SK Council. The DILG personnel assessed if the programs and activities were anchored on the mandated nine program areas. The participants conveyed that they usually waited for one week upon receiving the approval of their plans from the LGU- DILG. The participants said that,

“during sa amoang submission of plan sa DILG, dili siya maapprove sa isa lang ka adlaw, kay tungod ginabasi nila among program og activities kung nasulod ba siya sa nine areas nga gi mandate sa DILG. Kadalasan makuha namo ang amoang plan, one week after namo siya napasa..”(During our submission of plan to the DILG, it could not be approved in one day because, they scrutinized our program and activities if it is anchored on the nine areas mandated by the DILG, mostly we got our approved plans from the DILG one week after submission.)

With their experiences in this process, the participants considered it as one factor on the delay of the program implementation because DILG scrutinized there plan very well and on the level of the SK Council they could not meet on time because they still waited for the corrected programs from the DILG. After the SK Council received the corrected programs they prepared for the actual implementation of the program.

Process of SK in Program Implementation

Most of the participants conveyed that the basis of the implementation of the programs and activities of the SK was the approved ABYIP and CBYDP. The latter served as their guide in the implementation process. Before they implemented their programs, others conducted meeting to create a committees with the help of the SK Kagawad and the barangay officials. They also tapped youth volunteers to help them in the implementation of their program. Aside from that, they had this information dissemination to the youth in the different puroks of their barangay. Figure 2

shows the process of implementing the SK Council programs and activities in their respective barangay.

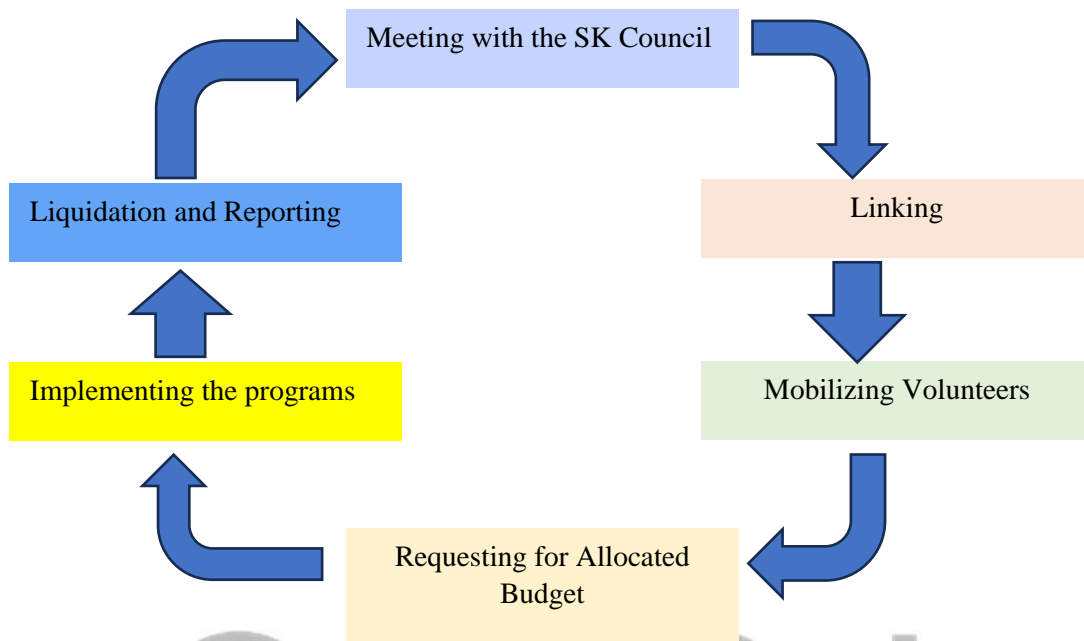


Figure 2: Process of Program Implementation of SK Council in Barangay Poblacion 1-8, Sadaan and Villarica

Implementation process is the process where the SK council followed based on their level upon receiving their approved plans from LGU- DILG.

Meeting with the SK Council

The participants mentioned that before they implemented their planned program, they met to plan what they were going to do before and after the implementation. They stated that,

“Before mi mag-implement sa among mga programs kinahanglan sa mi magmeeting para maplanohan namo kung unsa among himuon sa event. Para sa akoo as SK Chairperson lisod kaayo magpatawag ug meeting ug kanang dile complete imong mga kagawad kay wala jud sila sa event mao ng magtap na lang mi ug youth volunteer nga mo-sub sa ilaha.” (Before we implement our programs, we need to have meeting so that we can plan what we to do at the event. For me, as an SK Chairperson it is very difficult to call a meeting if the councilors are not complete because during, they are absent during the event. That is why we tapped youth volunteer to replace the kagawad).

According to the statement of the SK Chairpersons, complete attendance of their SK Council members was a problem. Every time they called for a meeting, there were few SK Kagawad who would attend because many SK kagawads reasoned that the meeting schedule conflict to their school events and in their works. Thus, the SK Chairperson decided to set the SK Council meeting during evening or weekend depending on the free time of the SK Council members. According to the participants,

“Pag madawat na namo ang approved plans gikan sa DILG, magmeeting mi nga mga SK Council para maplanuhan namo kung unsa among himuon. Kung magpatawag mi ug meeting maglisod mi kay usahay conflict ang schedule mao ng usually gabie or weekend namo siya iconduct depende sa availability sa time.” (Upon receiving the approved plans from the DILG we will conduct a meeting to plan what to do to call for a meeting. It is difficult on our part because of our availability of time, usually we conducted it at night time or weekend.)

During the meeting of the SK Council, they basically plan and on what idea or strategies they are going to apply for the maximization of their resources such as linking how to link with other activities.

Request for the Allocated Budget

The participants conveyed that in the implementation of the program, the budget was really important. The program will not be realized without budget. They said that before they implemented programs, they needed to request the allocated budget to the barangay. As stated by the participants,

“Malisdan jud mi usahay kung magrequest mi ug budget sa barangay kay kailangan namo magprovide ug mga documents parehas anang training design para ma-approve ang among request nga nabutang sa among plan.” (We find difficulty in requesting the budget in the barangay because we need to provide documents such like training design so that our request will be approved as indicated in our plan.)

Since they needed to provide documents for their budget request, it took more time for them to comply those requirements since most of them mentioned that they did not know how to make a concept paper. According to the participants,

“It takes time jud para ma-realized ang program na dapat ma-implement on time kay kailangan mi maghimo ug concept paper tapos wala kaayo mi background unsaon na, mao ng mangayo jud mi ug tabang sa among barangay secretary para lang makahimo mi.” (It takes time to realize our program on time because we need to make concept paper and then we don't have background on how to make it, that is why we asked help from our barangay secretary so that we can make it.)

To them, it was difficult to create concept paper to support the request of the budget since they were neophytes in making it. It took More time in preparing a training design plus another time consumed in the submission of their request to the barangay council and the waiting of the approval. The barangay council headed by the Barangay Captain scrutinized the documents submitted by the SK Council.

Linking

Their next step that the SK Council did was they partnered with the local government agencies like Midsayap Environmental Officer (MENRO), the Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development Office (DSWD) and Rural Health Unit (RHU). They conveyed that linking to seek support from the local government agencies was their initiative and one of their strategies in realizing their programs. The participants stated that,

“Sa program implementation we have this partnership kasi from the local government agencies. When we dive into that particular seminar man gud kailangan namo ug opinion. Aside sa opinion, naa man gud ni sila mga finances” (In program implementation, we partnered with local government agencies. When we dive into that particular seminar, we also need opinion. Aside from that, these agencies have finances.)

To them, since they were still in bond with the barangay council and had difficulties in releasing budget, they looked for to seek partnership with other government agencies. Participants further stated that;

“Sa among level maglisod pud mi usahay pangita ug mutabang sa among activity kay kailangan siya ug mga documents to prove nga naa mi ingana nga program tapos kailangan pud namo ug letter tapos kailangan namo e-address sa ilaha para maka seek mi ug support unya wala man gud kaayo mi idea unsa on na paghimo mao na kung mu ana akong SK Kagawad nga akoy maghimo dili jud ko mag pa salig mangayo jud kog tabang sa Barangay Secretary” (On our level we have difficulties also to seek partners to support in our activity because it needs a document to prove that we have this kind of program,

then we need to make letter to address to them seeking their full support, then we have no idea how to make it then if my SK Kagawad entrusted the work to me I will seek help from the barangay secretary.)

After identifying the partners in the implementation of their programs, the SK council would meet again and planned together to create committees and tasked assignment for program implementation. The participant stated that,

“Before mi mag-implement ug programs mag-meeting sa mi nga mga SK council para sa among tasking, tapos maghimo mi ug committee kung kinsa ang naka-assign ani para pud dile mi malisdan. Tapos naga tabanganay ra pud mi para ma-success jud ang amoang program” (Before we implement programs, we conduct meeting together with the SK Council for our tasking, then we have to create committee assigned to specific task so that it would not be hard for us. We are helping each other in order to make our program successful.)

Mobilize and Organize Volunteers

Participants further shared that the SK Chairperson was responsible for assigning members for each committee. Members were chosen or identified according to their capacities. The SK Chairperson entrusted each task to the SK Kagawads and expected that the activity would be successful. A participant stated that,

“Bisan ug naa na-assign committee magtinabanganay ra pud japon mi nga mga kagawad para magaan ang trabaho. Dili namo siya isalig lang sa naka-assign na committee” (Although there were assigned committees, we still help each other together with other SK kagawads to lighten the work. We do not simply depend to the assigned committees.)

Meanwhile, the SK Council also tapped other youth as volunteers to help them in the program implementation to replace the inactive SK kagawads. They believed that volunteers had significant contributions to the realization of a particular program. They served as their partners in the information dissemination of the program or activity to other youth and served as logistician during the actual implementation. Moreover, they said that involving other youth can add considerable value to achieve and support the mission and goals of the program by also building relationship with others through serving the programs. According to the participant,

“Pinaagi sa uban youth, mapagaan ang trabaho ug maimplement siya ug tarung. Tapos aside ana makabuild pud ug relationship sa uban na youth specially diri sa among

barangay.” (Through other youth, the burden of the work would be lessened. Aside from that, they can build relationship with other youth especially here in our barangay.)

Actual Implementation

After the SK Council mobilized and organized volunteers the program was ready for the actual implementation that involved participation of the KK. According to them,

“Pag han-ay na ang tanan pwede na namo ma-implement ang among activity pinaagi sa tabang sa akong SK Kagawads, volunteers ug sa barangay council.” (If everything is well prepared, we can implement our activity with the help of my SK Kagawad, volunteers and barangay council.)

In the actual implementation of the program the SK Council encountered struggles because of the poor participation of the Katipunan ng Kabataan. The participants said,

“Lisod kaayo mag-invite ug mga kabataan especially sa mga seminars nga among i-conduct kay ang ilang interest base lang sa sports” (It is difficult to invite youth specially in seminars we conducted because their interest was on sports.)

Since there was poor participation of the youth, the SK Council initiated different strategies to motivate them to participate in the various programs and activities.

Liquidation and Reporting

After the program implementation, the SK council were mandated to submit reports and liquidation to the BLGU and DILG. This comprised accomplishment on what they had finished in their planned programs. The participant stated that,

“After sa among activity maghimo mig mga reports and then i-liquidate namo among mga expenses. Kining mga reports mao bale ni among accomplishment sa among na-implement nga mga programs.” (After our activity, we make report and liquidate our expenses. This report is our basis as our accomplishment on the programs we implemented.)

Challenges of SK in Program Implementation

Along the process of the implementation of the SK programs, the participants pronounced that they encountered challenges, both in internal and external. Internal situation happened between the SK Council and Barangay Council Members before the implementation

of the program of which the challenges were lack of skills in technical writing, lack of control or autonomy over the management of SK Budget, conflicting loyalty to the commitment as SK Council and personal needs. While, the external situation happened during the actual implementation of the program of which the challenges were poor participation of KK in SK programs, and lack of venue for activities.

Delayed Implementation of Program due to practice initiative

Based on the responses of the participants that in the process of implementation, they must present their plan in the barangay for the approval of the Barangay Council but some of them had no experience in making concept paper. In concept paper making, most of the participants said that they sought help from the barangay secretary for the making of concept paper since they had no background and experience regarding this matter.

According to them,

“Sa paghimo ug concept paper usually naga-pangayu mi ug tabang sa amoang barangay secretary kay wala mi background kung unsaon paghimu. Kay every request namo ug budget kailangan gyud siya ug mga attachments to prove nga naa mi ing-ani nga activity.”
(In concept paper making usually we seek help from our barangay secretary because we have no background how to do it. In every request of the budget, it is necessary to have an attachment to prove that we have this kind of activity.)

It was found that releasing of SK budget was one of the challenges they encountered in the implementation of their programs since it was difficult for them to provide concept paper in the barangay council.

Lack of Skills

As the participants stated that they were first time in this kind of work thus they had difficulties in making their concept paper for the attachment of the request of the budget. Most of the participants found strategies by seeking help from the barangay secretary in making their concept paper for them to be able to attach in the budget request but for some they did not have

strategies as a result they had difficulties in requesting the budget to be used in the implementation of the program.

Delayed Released of Budget

The participants mentioned that the implementation was delayed due to the approval of budget. Since the SK Council had difficulties in making concept paper and also seeking for the approval of the request they found strategies to merge or incorporate their program to the mandatory Lingo ng Kabataan depending on the theme anchored in the event for them to be able to realized their program and activities

Lack of Control or Autonomy over the Management of SK Budget

The participants believed that in planning and implementing programs, budget is really important. Without corresponding budget, the activities/programs would hardly be realized. They were aware that SK is allocated with 10% from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of the barangay. That 10% provides the available resources to carry out the identified activities/programs in the plan. The SK shall have financial independence in its operation, disbursements and encashment of their funds, income and expenditures. According to SK operations manual page 3 of module 2 session 2 (2018) which states that SK fund shall be deposited in the name of the SK of the concerned barangay in a government owned bank situated in or nearest to its area of jurisdiction with the SK chairperson and the SK treasurer as the official signatories. However, this was not the reality, this was not happening. According to them, their allocated funds were not deposited in the SK and was in the control of the Barangay. So far the NYC, DBM, COA and DILG had also no clear instruction for them on how to disburse money from their fund. The participant stated that,

“It is very timely nowadays since the NYC, DBM, DILG and of course the COA have no clear instruction for us regarding on the SK fund disbursement. We are regulated actually. So even though we have SK treasurer and SK secretary we, cannot disbursed our budget.”

Although the programs of the SK were revealed in the ABYIP, it was very difficult for them to realize and follow correctly in the implementation because of this situation. Further participant stated that,

“Isa jud ka factor nganung dili ma-implement ang uban activity kay tungod sa budget. Maayo na lang gani bago siya napugngan, naka-implement nami ug uban namo nga activity” (One factor why we cannot implement other activity was because of the budget. It was good that we were able to implement some of our activities before it was regulated.)

Since there was a problem in releasing the budget of the SK Council, they had merged their program in the Linggo ng Kabataan which happens every month of August. The observance of the Linggo ng Kabataan and International Youth Day are based on the Memorandum Circular No. 2017-98. Therefore, every SK Council had to create activities in observance of the Linggo ng Kabataan in their respective barangay. In some barangays they merged other program in the Linggo ng Kabataan to save their budget. The participant stated that;

“Pinagsabay na namin i-conduct ang ibang activity sa Linggo ng Kabataan para maka tipid kami sa budget” (We have to merge other activity in the Linggo ng Kabataan so that we can save our budget.)

Since the SK Council was in bond with the Barangay Council, it was not easy for them to disburse money for their activity. They had to merge other programs with the mandatory Linggo ng Kabataan. After the implementation of the program, the two barangays from the study sites stated that they had to conduct again another meeting to plan for the next activity to be implemented and conducted in their respective barangay. It is important for any programs to be based from meetings held by the SK Council. The participant stated that;

“Mag meeting mi tapos mag-discuss na sad mi para sa amoang another activity kay dili lang man isa ra ang problem sa among community” (We need to have meeting and discuss our activity because our communities have different problems.)

In relation to this issue, the SK Council received feedbacks of being underestimated by others due to the programs implemented in their respective barangay. According to the participant,

“Lisod kaayo sa part kanang maingnan ka ug unsa man na siya uy, nganong ing-ana lang man permente iyang activity” (It was very difficult in our part to be told “why s/he always implements such kind of activity?”)

They further shared that people elected them in that position that is why they should act in behalf of the youth in their community. According to the participant,

“Gi-elect mi sa mga tao that is why we should act not for in behalf of the barangay council but in behalf of the Sangguniang Kabataan in our respective barangay. So, sa ngalan nga SK, ang among mga programs jud is mainly concerned on the needs and interest of the youth only” (We have been elected by the people that is we should act not in behalf of the barangay council but in behalf of the youth in our respective barangay. So as SK, our programs should be mainly concerned on the needs and interest of the youth only.)

Conflicting Loyalty between Personal Needs and Commitment as SK Council

SK Council from Barangay Villarica and Barangay Sadaan shared that in the implementation process they had difficulties in manpower since more often than not their Kagawads were not really active during the planning and implementation of the program. According to participants, the SK Kagawads were not active in rendering their service because some were in school and others were working.

“Dili man pud namo ma-force ang uban namo nga kagawad nga magtabang during sa implementation sa among activity kay usahay naa silay klase ug ang uban nanarbaho pud sa layo. Tapos isa pa dili pud namo sila mapugos kay wala man silay honorarium gud” (We cannot force some of our kagawad to help in the implementation of our activity because sometimes they have their classes and others are working far. We also cannot force them because they do not have honorarium.)

The participants shared that they cannot force their SK Kagawads to render services during the implementation of their programs because they were not allocated with salary from SK budget. Thus, the only thing that the SK Chairperson could do was to divide the remaining money from the activities among the SK Kagawads who rendered services, stayed in the entire program and accomplished the task given to them.

Poor Participation of KK in SK programs

The participants found difficulty in mobilizing youth to actively participate in SK programs. Whenever, there are programs or activities that SK Council implemented in their barangay especially when it comes to educational awareness or in the form of seminars or even in environmental related program, they often observed that many youth were not attending. According to them, youth participation in SK programs was challenging because most youth nowadays are fond of using social media and playing electronic, or mobile games. The participants stated,

“Kung kabahin sa attendance ug willingness sa mga kabataan nga magparticipate, kanang nakalimtan na nila ang ilahang mga social responsibilities. Mas gusto na sila ug social media. But when it comes to contributory to the development sa community wala jud” (When it comes to attendance and willingness of the youth to participate, they have forgotten their social responsibilities. They preferred social media. IN addition, when it comes to contribution to the development of the community, they have is none.)

Similarly, the participants found difficulty in terms of the youth participation because youth a typically spent their time in school and other extra-curricular activities. While, others were already working outside the community. To address these challenges encountered, the SK council had different strategies to cope with it. The participants mentioned that dissemination information was done per purok for the people to know the programs being done by the SK Council with the help of the SK Kagawad. In information dissemination, the participants used megaphone to inform the people of the program to be implemented.

“Gagamit mi ug megaphone ga tuyok tuyok mi per purok para mabal an sa uban na mga youth nga na ay activity para pud maka attend sila” (We use megaphone. We have to go around the street so that the youth are informed with the activity to be conducted.)

For the youth to participate and be aware with the activity implemented by the SK Council, they had to do some strategies. They had to encourage them and disseminate information through the use of a megaphone. Further, the participants reported that as reward, they gave five kilos of rice to each PWUD who participated in the activity. The participants further stated that they gave free snacks and free lunch to youth who were participating in their SK programs/activities. According to them, free snacks and free lunch were their main strategy to invite more youth to

participate in their SK programs/activities. During the actual implementation of SK programs, the SK Council headed by the SK Chairperson kept on reminding the participating youth to actively participate in the activities because it provided additional learnings that would help them to grow as an individual aside from the free food reward.

Difficulty in finding a venue for activities

Participants from 3 barangays of the study areas mentioned that one of their challenges in the implementation of the program was the lack of venue particularly the covered court. The usual problem of the participants in the implementation of their program happened during foundation and fiestas. The SK Council of these barangays were feeling hopeful as they shared this problem and said that in every implementation of their foundation activity they needed to find other space for the event. The participant stated,

“Ang number one jud namo nga problema diri sa amoang barangay kay ang venue, kay wala mi covered court. Dati pag-abot sa foundation sa among barangay didto mi nag-foundation sa court gilid sa Amado Hospital. Then last year, giconduct namo among foundation dira atubangan sa barangay hall. Naga-rent mi daan ug parabolic tent kay naay time nga moulan during sa activity.” (The number one problem here in our barangay is the venue, because we do not have our own covered court. Before, every foundation of our barangay, we conducted it at the court beside Amado Hospital. Then, last year, we held our foundation in front of our barangay hall. We also rented parabolic tent in preparation for the rain)

The data mean that the SK Council of these barangays had their initiatives to find ways to look for venues for the implementation of their programs or activities. As experienced by the SK Council of these barangays, they also helped the Barangay Council in processing some requirements to build their covered court as their venue.

Conclusion

Based on the result of the study, the researchers concluded that SK Council from Barangay Poblacion 1 to 8, Villarica and Sadaan encountered challenges in both planning and

implementation of the SK programs. However, these challenges serve as opportunities for them to learn and improve to be better leaders.

Recommendations

Based on the result of the study, the researchers recommend the following:

1. SK Federation of Midsayap should conduct trainings and seminars in planning and implementation of SK programs and projects;
2. Barangay Local Government Unit should guide and support the SK Council in the planning and implementation of SK programs and projects;
3. Local Government Unit should evaluate the performance of duties and responsibilities of the SK officials and make some solutions, recommendations to solve the challenges;
4. Department of Interior and Local Government Unit (DILG) should conduct policy research to review the SK functions, responsibilities and performance;
5. For CECD extension service should conduct trainings and seminars particularly on technical writing which would address challenges they encountered in planning and implementation; and
6. Future researchers should look into the coping mechanism of the SK Council on how they handle the challenges in the planning and implementation.

Literature Cited

- Balanon, Faye & Ong, Michelle & Torre, Beatriz & Puzon, Marco & Granada, Juan & Trinidad, Arnie. (2007). *The Impact of Youth Participation in the Local Government Process*. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282866168_The_Impact_of_Youth_Participation_in_the_Local_Government_Process/citation/download
- Burgonio TJ., (2013). Inquirer. Net *Aquino signs law postponing SK elections*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/501023/aquino-signs-law-postponing-sk-elections>
- Gepuela, Laye (2016). *Whats new with the Sangguninag Kabataan?* Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/moveph/120205-new-improved-sangguniang-kabataan/>

Iwuchukwu, J. C. Ogbonna, I. O. & Agboti O. I (2015). *Journals of Extension in Rural development Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs*. Retrieved from https://app.dimensions.ai/details/publication/pub.1022189134?or_facet_journal=jour.1046144&and_facet_for=3448

Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator MPDC Midsayap. *Socio-Economic Profile of Cotabato Province*. Retrieved from <http://nap.psa.gov.ph/ru12/Municipal%20Profile/midsayap?Profile.htm> on April 12, 2019

Nitzberg J (2005). *The meshing of youth development and community building, putting youth at the center of community building, new directions for youth development, summer2005. P.106*. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284764762_Roles_of_youths_groups_in_rural_community_development_in_Ebonyi_State_Nigeria

Republic Act No.10742 (2016). *An Act Establishing Reforms in the Sangguniang Kabataan Creating Enabling Mechanisms for Meaningful Youth Participation in Nation-building, and for other Purposes*. Retrieved on January 19, 2019 from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/1/15/republic-actno-10742/>

