

Participation of the Roman Catholic Church in The Delivery of Social Services in the Province of Northern Samar

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the delivery of social services in selected municipalities of the province of Northern Samar. Specifically, it aimed at identifying the social services delivered by the Roman Catholic Church in the province of Northern Samar. The respondents of this study were the Director of the Diocesan Social Action Center, ACT project coordinator, Municipal mayors and the Barangay captains of the five (5) municipalities of the province of Northern Samar. This study employed the descriptive research method. On the social services delivered by the Roman Catholic Church, the ACT project/Adaptive Community Transformation project was one of the social services being delivered by the Roman Catholic Church, majority of the respondents participated together with their respective community. The participation of some of the beneficiaries during trainings, seminar, meetings were the top most problems encountered by the Roman Catholic Church in delivering social services. There are six recommendations for the effective and successful participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the delivery of social services in the province of Northern Samar. Those are the following: The DSAC-Caritas Catarman may include the other religious groups, they may get their cooperation especially in delivering social services. The community people may engage in participating in every social service being delivered by the Roman Catholic Church because it is for their own good. The DSAC-Caritas Catarman may engage more on educational assistance or the educational learning system because in our present society there are still a lot of children who can't afford education. The DSAC-Caritas Catarman may evaluate strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement among municipalities and barangays. The Roman Catholic Church may include the other municipalities and explore to other communities that really need assistance.

Keywords

social services, Roman Catholic Church, Northern Samar

Introduction

An important implication of participation in governance is the attainment of self-reliance on the part of the community because citizens learn to fend for themselves and harness their own talents and capabilities along development efforts. Being self-reliant ultimately builds self-confidence because citizens become aware that their capabilities are being tapped and therefore, feel important knowing that they are able to contribute something to the community. As we know the Government is the primary is the primary function in delivering social services for the people. In community-managed governance, data are collected with the intention of having the community and not only the technical-people, use and manage the information. The community starts to initiate decisions to respond to problems that they themselves have identified. The community residents implement, monitor and evaluate projects on their own. However, attaining this stage does not mean that the government and

concerned sectors from civil society no longer have the responsibility to extend assistance to the community. Rather, community members begin to know how to spell out the nature of external assistance they hope to generate and other forms of support that they need.

The role of the citizens is critical in the development process. Their engagement ensures that plans, programs and activities are relevant to their needs because they are actively involved in each step of the process (Bautista, 2009).

The voluntary sector is the representation of the citizenry. It represents its members or it represents the cause on behalf of many others. Thus, it can be the voice of those who have no access to service, or the voice of "conscience" so to speak.

Social services are a range of public services provided by the government, the sector, and non-profit organizations. These public services aim to create more effective organizations, build stronger communities, promote equality and provide opportunities. For a few decades now, non-governmental organization (NGOs) have seen an

unprecedented growth as citizens with common interest organize themselves and take part in the decision making process in the government in a voluntary capacity. The fundamental principle behind this phenomenon is that the citizens aim to bring their concerns to the government through NGOs which thus advocate for the realization of their aspirations and needs in the monitoring of policies and in the provision of information to encourage participation.

In most countries like the Philippines, many non-government organizations began as welfare organizations and charities. They are seen as agencies providing emergency services.

One of the voluntary organizations in delivering social services for the people is the Roman Catholic Church. Social services are also known as "works of mercy". The main purpose of which is to help people who are in need or in distress.

The Roman Catholic Church plays an important role to further improve the quality of life of the people. It believes that the people have the right and duty to participate in society and help promote the common good well-being of all especially the poor and vulnerable. Despite of many achievements of the Roman Catholic Church in Northern Samar in terms of its participation in the delivery of social services to the people, such role has not yet been formally recognized among public administration scholars and practitioners. Likewise, literatures on the matter are still scarce resulting in the lack of materials that can provide as guide and model for other non-state players in governance.

It is in view of the foregoing that the researcher has endeavored to conduct this study on the participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the delivery of social services in selected municipalities of the province of Northern Samar.

Methodology

The five (5) municipalities were selected to be the locale of the study. These are Bobon, Lavezares, Mapanas, Mondragon, Pambujan. Every municipality has three (3) selected barangays. This study utilizes the descriptive method. The survey method was selected because it is the only research method which can describe and determine the forms of participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the delivery of social services

among selected municipalities of the province of Northern Samar. The respondents of this study were the director of the Diocesan Social Action Center, the Act project coordinator, the five (5) municipal mayors and the three (3) Barangay captains of the five (5) municipalities of the province of Northern Samar.

The interview schedule and interview questionnaire were the main tools in gathering data. The questionnaire consisted of five parts:

Part I is composed of profile of the Roman Catholic Church. **Part II** determines the forms of participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the delivery of social services. **Part III** identifies the social services being delivered by the Roman Catholic Church in selected municipalities of the province of Northern Samar. **Part IV** identifies the problems encountered by the Roman Catholic Church and the delivery of social services. **Part V** focuses on the recommendations from Roman Catholic Church's participation in the delivery of social services in selected municipalities of the province of Northern Samar.

Results and Discussion

The data gathered pertaining to the participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the delivery of social services in selected municipalities of the province of Northern Samar are presented, analyzed, and interpreted in this chapter. Consideration of impartiality and avoidance of an opinionated interpretative served as guiding principles in the treatment of said data.

Forms of Participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the Delivery of Social Services

The mission of the DSAC-CARITAS Catarman is "standing in solidarity with those brethren in need, guided by our profound faith. We commit ourselves to INTIATE, FACILITATE and EMPOWER communities through various means of spiritual and developmental programs towards a dynamic sustained social integral transformation, in collaboration with the Government and Non-Government organizations and various stakeholders in our Local Church." From the mission itself, the participation of the Roman Catholic Church especially in delivering social services in the Province of Northern Samar was well participated by the help of their respective leaders/coordinators in every

project/program with the cooperation of the Government and NGOs.

The program components of the DSAC-Caritas Catarman include the following:

1. Citizenship Education and Values formation through the "Alay Kapwa" program
2. Peace Building and Promotion of Social Justice through the "Justice and Peace" program
3. Environmental Protection and Conservation through the "Ecology and Environment" program
4. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management through the "Relief and Rehabilitation" program
5. Promotion of Good Governance through the "Good Governance" program
6. Women and Children protection and development through the "Children, Women and Youth" program
7. Representation of the citizenry through the "Advocacy Programs"

Table 1. Responses of the Municipal Mayors and Barangay Captains regarding to the Forms of Participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the Delivery of Social Services

Municipal Mayors	Response of the Respondents
Respondent A	Through the ACT project and participation of the Roman Catholic Church the community people become ready for any eventuality particularly during the natural calamities. And it makes me pro-active and leads me to encourage my constituents to practice synergism. I become more committed government/civil servant. The government works hand in hand with the Catholic Church. It continuously supports the program and looks into its successful implementation.
Respondent B	Because they participation our municipality improve their disaster preparedness and enhance their livelihood activities. it made me appreciate more about the importance of building resilience community people thru capability building and livelihood development. It helps in the government program on disaster preparedness and livelihood development.
Respondent C	Their participation to our municipality bring awareness on the effect of the climate change that makes them vulnerable when this calamities come and bring their families to safety. Counter parting, financial counterparts.
Respondent D	Through their participation, it has helped the municipality in helping those who have nothing to eat thus, lessening the burden of the LGU. The purpose of the LGU is to improve the quality of life of its constituents, so as the NGOs has the same purpose also. all the help is given to them particularly in making them safe and focus in going to the barangays. We extend also in health meetings, venues, sound system etc.
Respondent E	By their participation our community become aware and learn the ways of disaster risk reduction and management. By making our community people participate.
Barangay Captains	Response of the Respondents
Respondent A	<i>Mas nag-improve yana an amon komunidad mahiunomg sin nga partisipasyon sin nga Katoliko nga simbahan san ira programa. Labi na gud sa pang adlaw-adlaw nga pangabuhi san tawo.</i>
Respondent B	<i>Dako gud sini an nahibulig saam labi na san partisipasyon san ira programa saam barangay labi na gud an ira nahahatag sa pobre.</i>
Respondent C	<i>An partisipasyon san ira programa an usa sa mga nakahatag sin bulig para sa mga pobre ngan nakabulig saam komunidad kun pan-o maging alirto labi na sa mga kalamidad.</i>
Respondent D	<i>An ACT project naghingyap na madagdagan an kapasidad san mga vulnerable nga mga komunidad na pag andam basi makasalbar san agsob nga bagyo sini nga lugar. Kadamo san ira naihatag saam komunidad labi na an kaaraman sa</i>

	<i>mga kalamidad kun pan-o an pag atubang ngan mahiunong iton sa aktibo nga partisipasyon san ira programa.</i>
Respondent E	<i>Dako an naihatag mahiunong san ura partisipasyon. Sa pangabuhayan sa mga kablas ngan pagpabaskug san preparasyon sa mga panahon san kalamidad.</i>
Respondent F	<i>Mahiunong san ira partisipasyon dako an ikinabg-o saam komunidad ngan mas damo an nabuligan nga kablasanon.</i>
Respondent G	<i>Maupay gihapon nga nagpartisipar an katoliko na simbahan sa ira programa kay damu an nabuligan na pobre ngan dako nga pangabuhian ira naihatag.</i>
Respondent H	<i>Dako an ikinabag-o mahiunong sini nga ira partisipasyon kay nagka mayda sira training kun pan-o mag priparar sa mga kalamidad ngan kun pan-o mag tikang sin pangabuhian.</i>
Respondent I	<i>Maupay an ira partisipasyon kay damo an nabuligan labi na sa pangabuhian san tawo.</i>
Respondent J	<i>Dako an bulig labi na sa mga naapektohan san mga kalamidad, an mga pangabuhian amo an ira dako nga naihatag ngan mahiunong iton san partisipasyon san ira programa.</i>
Respondent K	<i>Mao gihapon nga an mga pobre nagkabuligan ngan nagkayaon sin mga kaaraman san pag atubang san kalamidad.</i>
Respondent L	<i>Nakakabulig gihapon ira partisipasyon kay kadam-an siton an kanan disaster preparedness para an mga tawo maging preparado sa mga kalamidad sanglit dako akon pasasalamat nga nahiapi sini amon barangay.</i>
Respondent M	<i>An ira partisipasyon nakabulig saam kumonidad. Kun baga tama la nga bulig ira naihatag sa tawo, sa ira pangabuhian ngan nahibaro sira pag savings.</i>
Respondent N	<i>Maupay ira naihatag nga partisipasyon sa ira programa kay an ira katuyuanan an pag bulig sa kapobrihan.</i>
Respondent O	<i>Maupay an ira hingyap na makabulig sa mga tawo labi na gud sa mga panhitabo yana nga mga mag-kadurudilain la nga panhitabo sanglit ira gihapon binuligan an mga tawo ngan gin tutduan san mga dapat himuon san panahon san mga kalamidad.</i>

Social Services Delivered by the Roman Catholic Church

The Organizational Goals of the DSAC-CARITAS Catarman is build the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) or the "Digtoy na Katilingban san Simbahan" (DKS) through spiritual and social services that enable them to have life and live it to the full, according to God's divine plan of salvation. Their Core values includes faith, love and service, transparency and accountability, respect for human dignity and God's creation.

There are Program Components by the DSAC-Caritas Catarman.

They are as follows:

1. Alay Kapwa
2. Justice and Peace
3. Ecology and Environment
4. Relief and Rehabilitation
5. Good Governance

6. Women and Children

7. Advocacy programs

The ACT project was well implemented in (5) five municipalities and most of the target barangays were participated by the majority in their communities and every community has received different benefits such as, the community people become ready for any eventuality particularly during natural calamities. They become self-reliant and know how to cope with the aftermath of disaster by indulging in livelihood and by being resourceful. Based on the data gathered, they have seen changes in their community with the implementation of this ACT project as compared to when this project has not been implemented yet. Several positive outcomes in their community arises. The community people learn the ways of disaster risk reduction and management and they become empowered and

help a lot particularly to those indigent constituents. It also provides them extra income.

The ACT project/Adaptive Community Transformation project is under the relief and rehabilitation program. It is one of the social services delivered by the Roman Catholic Church. The target areas of this project are the five (5) municipalities of the province of Northern Samar and 30 barangays in those municipalities - project team will identify which are most at risk.

- USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) funded
- Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project for typhoon resilience

- \$2.5 million US over 2 years, likely extension of another 1-2 years and additional funds.

3 main sectors:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction (LGU and household level)
2. Agricultural livelihood:
 - Agriculture: seaweed production, tilapia, mud crabs milkfish
 - Livestock raising (chickens, swine and goat raising)
 - Agriculture production (vegetables and sweet potatoes, cassava, other root crops)
 - (Menu of options, people can choose which to do, based on their experience/strengths)
3. Savings and internal lending committees (SILC) - formation of saving groups.

Table 2. Responses of the Municipal Mayors and Barangay Captains regarding the Social Services Delivered by the Roman Catholic Church

Municipal Mayors	Responses of the Respondents
Respondent A	The ACT project bring positive effects to the people since they become aware of the disaster risk reduction and management, thereby becoming resilient to natural disasters and know how to cope during with the aftermath of disasters by indulging in livelihoods and by being resourceful.
Respondent B	It helped our barangays enhance their livelihood activities.
Respondent C	Definitely it has positive effects especially to my constituents. In their livelihood projects, awareness of climate change that brings natural calamities such as typhoon.
Respondent D	It has helped a lot particularly to those indigent constituents. In livelihood program.
Respondent E	It brings and how to save and learn the ways of livelihood through livelihood packages offered.
Barangay Captains	Responses of the Respondents
Respondent A	<i>Dire kay dako gud sini an ira nahibulig ngan naghatag sin positibo nga epekto saam kumonidad kay usa ini na ira project sa naghatag improvement saam kumonidad.</i>
Respondent B	<i>Dako gud man sini an nahibulig lalo na sa solar streetlightings amo nga positibo an epekto sini labi na sa tawo kun pan-o nira ini matatagan importansya.</i>
Respondent C	<i>Maupay, kay mahiunong sini nahibaro mag andam an mga tawo sa mga pag andam sa panahon sa kalamidad ngan sayo ini sa nagbulig san mga kabl原因.</i>
Respondent D	<i>Kaupayan ngan maalwan nga pangabuhayan para sa ako nasasakupan.</i>
Respondent E	<i>Damo an nahibulig sini sa mga tawo sa mga barangay, mga pangabuhayan san mga kabl原因.</i>
Respondent F	<i>Maupay kay mas damo an nabuligan nga kabl原因an, mahiunong sa ira livelihood program, ngan nakadagdag income.</i>
Respondent G	<i>Maupay gihapon ngan positibo nga epekto labi na gud sa pangabuhay.</i>
Respondent H	<i>Wara man kay maupay kay an ira an pag bulig sa tawo nga kabl原因.</i>
Respondent I	<i>Asya gihapon nga naka bulig sa mga pangabuhayan san akon mga kabarangay.</i>
Respondent J	<i>Wara man negatibo nga epekto ini kun tutuuson puro lugod positibo kay an ira hingyap an pag bulig gud san mga tawo labi na adton mga naapektohan san</i>

	<i>bagyo.</i>
Respondent K	<i>Mao man iton an kanra hingyap nga makabulig dire la sa pangabuhian san mga tawo kundi pati na an paghatag sin kinaadman kun pan-o ka dapat maging preparado sa mga sakuna.</i>
Respondent L	<i>Maupay kay nakakabulig an ira proyekto ngan sa mga kaandaman sa kanan disaster.</i>
Respondent M	<i>Nakakabulig gad sira saam komunidad labi na sa mga panhibaruan san tawo ngan dagdag pangabuhi.</i>
Respondent N	<i>Maupay kay naka bulig sa mga tawo sa ira mga kaandaman.</i>
Respondent O	<i>Maupay an ira hingyap nga buligan an mga kabras labi na gud sa pagpadayon sa kinabuhi san tawo kahuman san kalamidad.</i>

Conclusion

This study was conducted to determine the participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the delivery of social services in selected municipalities of the province of Northern Samar. Specifically, it aimed at identifying the social services delivered by the Roman Catholic Church in selected municipality of the Province of Northern Samar.

The respondents of this study were the Director of the Diocesan Social Action Center, ACT project coordinator, Municipal mayors and the Barangay captains of the five (5) Municipalities of the Province of Northern Samar. This study employed the descriptive research methods. On the social services delivered by the Roman Catholic Church, it includes the ACT project/ Adaptive Community Transformation project. The majority of the respondents participated together with their respective community. The inactive participation of some of the beneficiary during trainings, seminars, meetings was the top most problems encountered by the Roman Catholic Church in delivering social services.

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