

Proposal for a Paper Presentation

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Abstract:

Your abstract (1,000-1,500 words) should include the following information:

***If your abstract is not an empirical or a theoretical one, you are also required to organise the abstract with subtitles.*

1. Introduction

The project, “*Engaging and Strengthening Public and Private Partnership towards the Promotion of Health and People’s Well-being for Environmental Sustainability in Selected Riverine Communities*” in partnership with the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA) was realized to facilitate people’s empowerment towards environmental sustainability that aims to contribute for the improvement of the quality of life of people living at the edge of poverty. This also went beyond addressing the environmental problems in the community to provide a larger picture of the society’s current situation affecting peoples’ health and well-being. The essential concept of “interconnectedness” of the human being to all other creation in the planet earth was given emphasis through the conduct of community-based education sessions to two (2) riverine communities. The students and faculty were trained as community-based facilitators since education and information served as the intervention to address the gap in the lack of knowledge and awareness in the interrelationship of health and environment to the development of the community. The project workers ensure that participants of this realized the importance of their participation in the conservation and protection of this planet as they genuinely understood the connection of their individual actions that affect their community and the society at large.

2. Theoretical framework/literature review

The interconnected problems related to population, health, and the environment are among the Philippines’ huge challenges in the quest of achieving total human development. Although the Philippines have abundant natural resources, these resources are compromised by a number of factors, including population pressures and poverty. The areas on: Public health, well-being and sustainable development are at risk.

Accordingly, Metro Manila is the 11th most populous metropolitan area of the world. As urban centers in the Philippines have grown, water and air pollution problems have expanded. These problems are particularly pressing in the National Capital Region (NCR), where approximately

13% of the country's population resides. The region had a total of 9.9 million population in 2000 and with an annual population growth rate of 1.1% this population would double after 66 years.

Among the Metro Manila local governments, Quezon City has the biggest population, constituting 24% of the regional population with a population of nearly three million. Flooding in the city is primarily caused by its geographical location, low elevations, high density of population and infrastructure and the clogging of waterways which were brought about by irresponsible management of wastes. This is also evident in Barangay Tatalon in District IV and Barangay Sto. Domingo in District I, Quezon City.

3. Methods/analysis

The basis for the project, “Engaging and Strengthening Public and Private Partnership Towards the Promotion of Health and People’s Well-being for Environmental Sustainability in Selected Riverine Communities” is the lack of in-depth understanding of the people in the community on the relationship of their knowledge, attitude and behavior towards the environment that affects their health and well-being as an individual and as families.

A pre assessment tool focused on health and environment was designed from which results served as the basis for the topics that were discussed in the community-based sessions with the parents for five (5) months. After which, post assessment was conducted to identify if there is a significant difference after an intervention was conducted.

4. Results and Discussion

A. Pre and Post Assessment of the participants on their Knowledge on Community Health Problems

| Knowledge on Community Health Problems | PRE | | POST | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | Mean | Verbal Interpretation | Mean | Verbal Interpretation |
| 1. I am knowledgeable on the different community health problems in my community. | 3.13 | Uncertain | 4.3 | Strongly Agree |
| 2. I am knowledgeable on the different environment concern related problems that my community have. | 2.08 | Disagree | 4.74 | Strongly Agree |
| 3. The environmental problems in our community are getting worse. | 2.9 | Uncertain | 4.56 | Strongly Agree |
| 4. Environmental problems in our community have direct relationship to health problems in our community. | 2.73 | Uncertain | 4.7 | Strongly Agree |
| Overall Mean | 2.71 | Uncertain | 4.58 | Strongly Agree |

The table shows the pre and post Assessment of the participants on their Knowledge on Community Health Problems. The data reveals that the participants’ knowledge on the different community health problems related to the environment before the conduct of the community based session is “Uncertain”. However, after the conduct of the community based sessions with the parents, the post assessment revealed that the participants’ knowledge increased with a “Strongly Agree” result of post assessment.

Moreover, their knowledge on the worsening of the environment problems in their community that have direct relationship to the health problems in their community during the pre-assessment was rated “Uncertain” by the participants but it was notable that in the post assessment, the participants rated their knowledge “Strongly Agree” after the conduct of the community based sessions.

It is significant to note that the participants were able to acquire knowledge on the different health problems in the community after the conduct of the sessions.

B. Pre and Post Assessment of the participants on their Attitude towards Community Health Problems

| Attitude on Community Health Problems | PRE | | POST | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | Mean | Verbal Interpretation | Mean | Verbal Interpretation |
| 1. The health of my family is not affected by the environmental problems. | 2.55 | Disagree | 1.7 | Strongly Disagree |
| 2. The community health problems of my neighbors are not my concern. | 3.42 | Agree | 1.3 | Strongly Disagree |
| 3. There’s nothing I can do with the different environmental problems in my community. | 3.24 | Uncertain | 1.44 | Strongly Disagree |
| 4. Me and my family do not contribute to the different environment problems in my community. | 2.62 | Uncertain | 1.74 | Strongly Disagree |
| 5. I can protect my family from community health problems by staying inside my house. | 3.22 | Uncertain | 1.56 | Strongly Disagree |
| Overall Mean | 3.01 | Uncertain | 1.55 | Strongly Disagree |

The table shows the pre and post Assessment of the participants on their Attitude towards Community Health Problems. The pre assessment of the participants on their attitude towards health problems in their community varies from “Uncertain” to “Disagree” while in the post assessment of the participants on their attitude towards health problems in their community is “Strongly Disagree”. This only implies that the participants’ attitude towards the community health problems significantly changed after attending the community based sessions.

It is important to note that the attitude of the participants towards their community health problems changed after attending the sessions.

5. Conclusions and contributions to theory and practice

The problem in health and environment is a phenomenon that affects everyone in the planet especially the poorest of the poor. Thus, the Community Development Section as the extension arm of Trinity University of Asia initiated this project to at least mitigate the devastating effects of environmental damage to the planet through a community-based education sessions targeting the influential person at the household level, the parents. The CDS believes that the parents serve as the first and foremost teacher and educator of every citizen because significant things are learned inside the house.

This project may not have produced great impact in the community but it definitely yielded positive outcomes in the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior of the parents in the riverine communities in dealing with their health and environment issues and concerns. Although this effort started small and focus on group of people, the project was able to facilitate empowerment of individuals especially the fifty (50) parents who were able to complete the modules of the community-based sessions education that enhanced and bridged the gap of the knowledge, attitude, skills and behavior of the participants.

Keywords: *public and private partnership, community-based sessions, people's well-being, riverine community*

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Biographical sketch of each presenter

Presenter:

Balmes, Caroline

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Short biography (word count should not exceed 70 words) :

A professional Social Worker and community development worker for ten (10) years. Her community engagement is with the urban poor communities of Quezon City. She is currently taking Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of the Philippines- Diliman. She works with the Service-Learning Coordinator of the University as she ensures that programs, services and initiatives are holistic and towards contribution to sustainable development goals through facilitating people's empowerment.

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