

Impact Study of the Community Project in Purok 21, Barangay Mintal, Davao City

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Abstract

This study evaluates the perceived impact and overall success of the Holy Cross of Mintal (HCM, Inc.) community extension program among residents of Purok 21, Mintal, Davao City. Anchored in the Pragmatist Worldview, General Systems Theory, and the Bottom-Up Paradigm for Community Development, the study employed a convergent parallel mixed-methods design integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches. Data were collected from 150 respondents through a 39-item survey questionnaire and from 15 participants through in-depth interviews. Descriptive statistics, correlation, and multiple regression analyses were used for quantitative data, while thematic analysis was applied to qualitative data. Findings revealed a very high level of perceived program impact ($M = 4.66$) and very successful overall performance ($M = 4.65$) across five program dimensions: Education, Livelihood, Feeding, Urban Gardening, and Catechism. A significant positive relationship ($r = 0.865$) was found between perceived impact and overall success, with all dimensions significantly predicting success, particularly the Feeding program. Qualitative results supported these findings, highlighting themes of spiritual strengthening, improved health, knowledge development, environmental awareness, and economic empowerment. The integration of results confirmed that the program's effectiveness lies in its holistic approach, addressing physical, intellectual, spiritual, and economic needs simultaneously. The study concludes that the HCM, Inc. community extension program serves as a catalyst for holistic human development and community resilience. It recommends strengthening sustainability through stakeholder collaboration, integration of program components, and continued institutional partnerships. This study aligns with SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), reflecting its contribution to improving livelihoods, food security, education, and community development. The findings highlight the program's contribution to socio-economic, educational, and community sustainability by promoting inclusive, evidence-based, and participatory development practices.

Keywords: Catechism, community engagement, community extension programs, livelihood, mixed methods, perceived impact, program success, urban gardening

1. Introduction

Community extension programs function as a critical mechanism through which Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) translate academic resources into socio-economic benefits for marginalized communities. This study evaluates the perceived impact and overall success of the Holy Cross of Mintal (HCM, Inc.) community extension program among residents of Purok 21, Mintal, Davao City. Using a convergent parallel mixed-methods design, the research integrates quantitative measures of program impact across Education, Livelihood, Feeding, Urban Gardening, and Catechism with qualitative accounts of beneficiaries' lived experiences. Anchored in pragmatism and systems-based and participatory frameworks, the study aims to generate evidence-based insights that enhance community engagement and sustainable development.

1.1 Background of HCM, Inc. Community Extension Programs among Purok 21 Beneficiaries

Community extension programs bridge the intellectual capital of HEIs with the socio-economic needs of marginalized communities by addressing poverty, healthcare disparities, and educational gaps. Evaluating these programs ensures institutional accountability and confirms that interventions lead to measurable improvements in community well-being and sustainable development. Globally, extension services empower marginalized groups such as women and youth, yet their effectiveness is constrained by fiscal instability, political challenges, and technical limitations. Evidence from Uganda shows that resource scarcity limits socio-economic transformation, while studies in India highlight a persistent "digital and funding divide" that hinders extension success. The "Institutional-Community Gap," reflected in low participation and limited awareness among beneficiaries, remains a key issue. In the Philippine context, community extension involves collaboration among sectors to promote self-sufficiency, but outdated methodologies and weak research-to-practice

linkages limit effectiveness. These challenges are intensified in vulnerable areas where limited access to markets and government services restrict livelihoods (ACIAR, 2024). Within this setting, HCM, Inc. has implemented extension programs in Purok 21 focusing on Education, Livelihood, Feeding, Urban Gardening, and Catechism. However, the lack of systematic documentation and evaluation of these initiatives creates a gap in understanding their actual impact and sustainability.

1.2 Themes on Perceived Impact and Community Extension Success in Related Literature

Literature indicates that community extension programs significantly contribute to socio-economic empowerment but face persistent structural and institutional barriers. Resource constraints, funding limitations, and technological disparities hinder program effectiveness and sustainability. A key theme is the relationship between program impact and overall success, where insufficient community engagement and awareness weaken outcomes. Studies also emphasize the importance of aligning academic initiatives with actual community needs, as weak integration between research and field application reduces program effectiveness. Additionally, participatory approaches that incorporate beneficiaries' lived experiences are crucial in assessing program success, particularly in vulnerable contexts (ACIAR, 2024). These insights highlight the need to evaluate both measurable impact and community-defined success indicators.

1.3 Local, National, and Global Context of Community Extension Impact and Success

Globally, extension programs are recognized for their role in improving socio-economic conditions but are limited by funding gaps, institutional barriers, and low participation. At the national level, Philippine extension initiatives aim to foster community development but are constrained by outdated practices and insufficient integration of research and implementation. In vulnerable communities, limited institutional reach and socio-economic instability further affect program outcomes (ACIAR, 2024). Locally, the HCM, Inc. extension program in Purok 21 represents a targeted effort to deliver services across multiple development areas. However, the absence of empirical evaluation limits the ability to assess the relationship between program impact and overall success.

1.4 Theoretical and Conceptual Basis for Assessing Impact and Success of Extension Programs

This study is grounded in the Pragmatist Worldview, which supports the integration of quantitative and qualitative methods to address complex social issues and evaluate “what works” in real-world contexts (Creswell, 2013). General Systems Theory frames the extension program as an interconnected system involving inputs (resources and services), throughput (implementation and participation), outputs (community outcomes), and feedback (continuous improvement) (Bertalanffy, 1968). This perspective supports the analysis of how specific program components influence overall success. The Bottom-Up Paradigm for Community Development emphasizes beneficiary participation and lived experiences in defining success, ensuring that evaluation reflects community perspectives rather than solely institutional metrics (Llenares & Deocaris, 2018).

1.5 Research Gaps on Evaluating Perceived Impact and Success among Purok 21 Beneficiaries

Despite the recognized importance of extension programs, gaps remain in evaluating both perceived impact and overall program success. Many studies focus on outputs without integrating beneficiaries' lived experiences, limiting a comprehensive understanding of program effectiveness. Specifically, the HCM, Inc. programs in Purok 21 lack formal evaluation, resulting in insufficient evidence on how impact dimensions (Education, Livelihood, Feeding, Urban Gardening, Catechism) relate to perceived success. This study addresses this gap by examining both quantitative relationships and qualitative narratives to provide a holistic evaluation.

1.6 Alignment of the Study on Community Extension Impact with Relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This study aligns with the following SDGs based on the nature of the HCM, Inc. programs: SDG 1 – No Poverty: Through livelihood interventions that improve household income. SDG 2 – Zero Hunger: Through feeding and urban gardening programs that enhance food security. SDG 4 – Quality Education: Through educational initiatives that build knowledge and skills. SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: Through integrated community development efforts that promote resilience and inclusivity. These alignments demonstrate how evaluating extension program impact contributes to broader development goals.

1.7 Importance of Assessing Community Extension Impact and Success to Multidisciplinary Sustainability

This study contributes to socio-economic sustainability by improving understanding of how extension programs influence livelihoods and community well-being. It supports educational sustainability by strengthening knowledge transfer between HEIs and communities. It also advances community and institutional sustainability by promoting effective partnerships and evidence-based program implementation. By integrating quantitative and qualitative evaluation, the study enhances policy and program sustainability, enabling the refinement and replication of successful community extension models.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Research Design

This study employed a Convergent Parallel Mixed Methods Research Design to provide a comprehensive understanding of community extension impacts in Purok 21. The quantitative and qualitative strands were conducted concurrently but independently using a triangulation approach. The integration of both datasets during interpretation enabled validation of statistical findings through participants' lived experiences. This non-experimental approach is suitable for community-based research as it combines the breadth of quantitative data with the depth of qualitative insights, enhancing the credibility of the results (Bell et al., 2022).

2.2 Locale of the Study

The study was conducted in Purok 21, Mintal, Davao City, where the Holy Cross of Mintal (HCM, Inc.) implements its community extension programs. The area serves as the focal setting for evaluating the program's impact across multiple development dimensions.

2.3 Respondents of the Study

The study involved two groups of participants corresponding to the quantitative and qualitative phases. For the quantitative phase, respondents were residents of Purok 21 who were verified beneficiaries of the HCM, Inc. community extension program. For the qualitative phase, participants were selected from the same group based on their willingness to participate and their ability to provide detailed accounts of their experiences.

2.4 Sample and Sampling Procedure

A total of 150 respondents were selected for the quantitative phase using non-probability purposive and quota sampling. The inclusion criteria required participants to be documented residents of Purok 21 and beneficiaries of the program, while quota sampling ensured balanced representation across the five program dimensions. For the qualitative phase, 15 participants were drawn from the quantitative sample to provide in-depth insights. These participants were chosen based on their willingness and ability to articulate their experiences meaningfully.

2.5 Research Instrument

The quantitative data were collected using a 39-item survey questionnaire adapted from existing literature to measure perceived impact and program success. The instrument underwent internal reliability testing using Cronbach's Alpha to ensure consistency and cultural appropriateness, with responses recorded on a 5-point Likert scale. For the qualitative strand, a structured open-ended questionnaire and unstructured in-depth interviews were utilized to capture detailed descriptions of participants' experiences across the program dimensions, including Spiritual Growth (Catechism), Education, Feeding, Urban Gardening, and Livelihood. Probing questions were used to explore participants' perceptions of program sustainability and success. To ensure methodological rigor, the study followed established standards for validity and trustworthiness. The quantitative instrument was validated by experts and demonstrated high reliability (Cronbach's Alpha = .90). For the qualitative component, credibility was ensured through member checking, confirmability through data triangulation, transferability through detailed contextual descriptions, and dependability through audit trails, following the criteria of Lincoln and Guba (1985).

2.6 Data Gathering Procedure

Data collection was conducted in two phases. The quantitative phase involved administering the survey questionnaire to selected respondents to measure perceived program impact and success. Concurrently, the qualitative phase gathered data through open-ended responses and in-depth interviews to capture participants' lived experiences. The use of both approaches allowed for simultaneous collection of numerical and narrative data, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of the program.

2.7 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis followed a dual approach consistent with the convergent parallel design, where quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed separately before integration. Quantitative data were processed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, including mean and standard deviation, were used to summarize perceived impact and program success. Inferential statistics were applied to examine relationships and predictive effects, including Pearson Product-Moment Correlation to assess the strength and direction of relationships between program dimensions and overall success, and Multiple Linear Regression Analysis to determine the predictive contribution of each dimension. Qualitative data were analyzed using Recursive Thematic Analysis. This involved familiarization with the data, systematic coding, identification of themes, refinement of thematic structures, and final synthesis to capture the essence of participants' experiences. Finally, data integration was achieved through a side-by-side comparison of quantitative results and qualitative themes. This process enabled the researcher to determine whether participants' lived experiences supported or diverged from statistical findings, ensuring a comprehensive and validated interpretation of the program's impact.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Perceived Impact and Success of the Community Extension Program

3.1.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents

The respondents were equally distributed in terms of sex, with a predominantly younger population, as most were below 50 years old. The majority belonged to a lower-to-middle income group, earning between PHP 10,000 and PHP 20,000 monthly. Most respondents had completed high school, indicating a basic level of literacy suitable for participation in educational and livelihood initiatives. This demographic composition suggests that the program is reaching a relatively young and economically constrained population, which is appropriate for community development interventions. The educational background of respondents supports their capacity to engage with program components, reinforcing the relevance of education and livelihood initiatives in improving socio-economic conditions.

3.1.2 Perceived Level of Community Engagement Project Impact

The community engagement program was rated at a very high level of impact across all five dimensions, with an overall mean of 4.66. Catechism recorded the highest mean, followed by Feeding, Education, Livelihood, and Urban Gardening, all consistently falling within the very high range. These results indicate that beneficiaries strongly perceive the program's interventions as evident and meaningful in their daily lives. This high level of perceived impact reflects a holistic development approach where spiritual, physical, educational, and economic needs are addressed simultaneously. The strong performance of Catechism and Feeding suggests that addressing both spiritual and basic physical needs enhances program acceptance and effectiveness, reinforcing the value of integrated, community-centered interventions.

3.1.3 Perceived Overall Success of the Community Extension Program

The overall success of the program was rated very successful, with a mean of 4.65. All program dimensions were consistently rated within the very successful range, with Catechism and Feeding again emerging as the highest-rated components. The low variability in responses indicates strong agreement among respondents regarding the program's effectiveness. This uniformity in perception demonstrates that the program's success is widely experienced across the community, regardless of individual differences. The strong ratings of Catechism and Feeding highlight the importance of addressing both spiritual and immediate physical needs, supporting a holistic model of community development that resonates with beneficiaries.

3.2 Relationship Between Community Engagement and Program Success

3.2.1 Correlation Between Program Dimensions and Overall Success

The results revealed a very high, significant positive relationship between the overall perceived impact of the community engagement project and its overall success, with a correlation value of 0.865. All program dimensions also showed significant positive relationships with overall success, with Catechism having the strongest association. In contrast, demographic variables such as age, gender, educational attainment, and family income showed no significant relationship with program success. These findings indicate that the success of the program is primarily influenced by the quality and effectiveness of its interventions rather than the socio-demographic characteristics of beneficiaries. The strong correlation supports the idea that improvements in any program dimension contribute to overall success, highlighting the interdependence of program components and the effectiveness of a holistic development approach.

3.2.2 Predictive Influence of Program Dimensions on Overall Success

The regression analysis demonstrated that all five program dimensions significantly predict overall program success, with the model explaining 75.3% of the variance. Among the predictors, the Feeding program showed the strongest influence, followed by Urban Gardening, Catechism, Livelihood, and Education. This indicates that addressing basic physical needs, particularly nutrition, plays a critical role in shaping perceptions of program success. The significant contribution of all dimensions further confirms that a multidimensional approach is essential for achieving meaningful and sustained community outcomes.

3.3 Qualitative Themes on Lived Experiences of Beneficiaries

3.3.1 Overall Perception of Program Success

Participants consistently expressed that the community engagement program is successful, highlighting its wide reach and benefits across the barangay. They described the program as having a positive and meaningful impact on their lives. This shared perception reinforces the quantitative findings, indicating that the program's success is not only measurable but also deeply experienced by beneficiaries. The consistency between numerical data and personal narratives strengthens the credibility of the results.

3.3.2 Strengthening of Faith through Catechism

Participants reported that the program strengthened their faith and deepened their relationship with God, emphasizing the value of prayer and spiritual growth. This finding explains why Catechism emerged as one of the strongest contributors to perceived success. In communities where spirituality plays a central role, faith-based interventions enhance emotional resilience and social cohesion, making them essential components of development programs.

3.3.3 Knowledge Development and Educational Empowerment

Participants shared that the education component improved their knowledge, confidence, and sense of inclusion, allowing them to feel more capable and less disadvantaged. This highlights the role of education in fostering empowerment and self-worth. The findings suggest that educational interventions contribute not only to skill development but also to psychological and social well-being, reinforcing their importance in community extension programs.

3.3.4 Improvement of Health and Nutrition

Participants emphasized that the feeding program significantly improved children's well-being and health, describing it as a vital support for families. This supports the quantitative result identifying Feeding as the strongest predictor of success. Addressing immediate physical needs builds trust and enhances the perceived value of the program, making it a critical entry point for community engagement.

3.3.5 Environmental Awareness and Behavioral Change

Participants reported that urban gardening promoted cleanliness, waste segregation, and environmental responsibility, leading to a healthier living environment. This indicates that the program extends beyond food production to behavioral transformation. Environmental initiatives contribute to both health and sustainability, reinforcing the program's long-term impact on community well-being.

3.3.6 Economic Empowerment and Improved Quality of Life

Participants described the livelihood program as improving their quality of life by providing additional income and supporting family needs such as education and daily expenses. This finding demonstrates that livelihood initiatives play a crucial role in promoting self-sufficiency and economic stability. By enhancing financial capacity, the program supports long-term resilience and reduces dependency.

3.4 Integration of Quantitative and Qualitative Findings

The integration of quantitative and qualitative results reveals a strong alignment between statistical outcomes and lived experiences. The high impact and success ratings are supported by participants' narratives describing improvements in spiritual, physical, educational, environmental, and economic aspects of life. This convergence confirms that the program's effectiveness lies in its holistic approach. Quantitative data demonstrate the strength of relationships and predictive factors, while qualitative insights explain how and why these effects occur. Together, they provide a comprehensive understanding of the program's transformative impact on the community.

3.5 Broader Implications and Stakeholder Impact

The findings indicate that the program has generated positive outcomes not only for community residents but also for students, educators, and institutional stakeholders. Residents experienced improved quality of life and increased self-sufficiency, while students and teachers benefited from experiential learning opportunities. The institution strengthened its role in community development, and partnerships with stakeholders enhanced local governance and social cohesion. These results highlight the broader significance of community extension programs as platforms for mutual growth and sustainable development. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the program contributes to a resilient and empowered community.

4. Conclusion & Recommendations

The findings of this study demonstrate that the community engagement program of HCM, Inc. serves as a catalyst for holistic human development by integrating physical, intellectual, spiritual, and economic dimensions, resulting in a very high level of sustained impact in Purok 21. The results confirm that the program's success is driven by the synergy among its components, where Feeding and Catechism establish foundational trust that supports Livelihood and Education initiatives. The qualitative findings further reveal that the program restores dignity and improves well-being, as reflected in participants' increased confidence, improved health, and enhanced quality of life. Overall, the study affirms the role of faith-based Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in fostering community resilience through a holistic and integrated model of engagement.

Based on the findings, the study recommends strengthening the sustainability of the community engagement program through shared ownership among stakeholders. Residents should be encouraged to take active roles in maintaining program initiatives, while HCM, Inc. should ensure the continued integration of all program dimensions and strengthen partnerships

with local institutions (Abadiano et al., 2023). Educators and students may further enhance program impact through service-learning and mentorship activities, while parents and alumni can contribute through active participation and professional support. Additionally, local barangay leadership may reinforce program sustainability through policy support and resource allocation, and future researchers are encouraged to conduct longitudinal and comparative studies, including the use of digital tools to support program continuity (Annan et al., 2024).

The study is limited to the evaluation of the community engagement program within Purok 21, Mintal, Davao City, focusing only on selected beneficiaries and program dimensions at a specific point in time. The findings are based on self-reported perceptions and may not fully capture long-term impacts or variations across different communities.

Compliance with ethical standards

The authors ensured that this study adhered to established standards of research rigor and ethical practice throughout its design and implementation. The study maintained the validity and reliability of data through expert validation, internal consistency testing, and the application of recognized criteria for trustworthiness, including credibility, confirmability, transferability, and dependability. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were selected based on their willingness to engage and provide detailed accounts of their experiences. Data were collected through surveys and interviews in accordance with the study's methodological procedures, ensuring that participants' perspectives were accurately represented.

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