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Awareness of Salient Provision of RA 10742 and Performance of Sangguniang Kabataan of Selected Barangays of Davao City: Basis for a Leadership Training Program

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the awareness of the salient provisions of Republic Act No. 10742 and the performance of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in selected barangays of Davao City as a basis for developing a leadership training program. Anchored in Attribution Theory and the National Youth Commission-Sangguniang Kabataan Operations Manual, the study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design involving 208 SK officials from the Poblacion and Talomo Districts, selected through modified stratified sampling. Data were collected using an adapted, expert-validated questionnaire and analyzed through frequency, percentage, weighted mean, correlation analysis, and inferential statistical testing. Findings revealed high levels of statutory awareness (WM = 4.16) and governance performance (WM = 4.15). Significant relationships were identified in awareness assessments across most demographic groupings. A significant difference was established between statutory awareness and performance ($t = 3.423$, $p = 0.001$), while a strong positive correlation ($r = 0.648$, $p = 0.000$) indicated that higher awareness was associated with better governance performance. Despite favorable assessments, comparatively lower ratings in youth development planning and public disclosure highlighted areas requiring improvement. Consequently, a three-day leadership training program was proposed to strengthen statutory knowledge, administrative competencies, transparency, and accountability. The study aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through its emphasis on effective youth governance, leadership development, community participation, and institutional collaboration. Its sustainability contribution lies in providing an evidence-based foundation for strengthening institutional accountability, leadership capacity, and inclusive community governance. The study recommends continuous capacity-building, performance monitoring, stakeholder collaboration, and greater youth participation to support effective and sustainable local governance.

Keywords: *Accountability, Governance Performance, Leadership Training, Local Governance, Republic Act No. 10742, Sangguniang Kabataan, Statutory Awareness, Sustainable Development, Youth Participation*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) serves as an institutional mechanism for youth participation in local governance in the Philippines. Established to recognize the role of young people in nation-building, the SK provides opportunities for leadership development, civic engagement, and participation in community decision-making. Its legal foundations include the 1987 Philippine

Constitution, Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, and Republic Act No. 8044 or the Youth in Nation Building Act. These measures recognize youth participation as an important component of democratic governance and community development (Balanon, & Trinidad, 2008). The constitutional basis for youth involvement was further emphasized by Tersol and Domingo (2021) and Camporazo (2018). Republic Act No. 10742, otherwise known as the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, introduced reforms intended to strengthen the accountability, transparency, financial independence, and effectiveness of youth councils. These reforms include expanded age eligibility, anti-political dynasty provisions, mandatory leadership training, and mechanisms for youth development planning (Golez, 2016). The legislation seeks to strengthen the participation of young leaders in implementing community programs and exercising their mandated responsibilities (Musico, et. al., 2017). Youth participation remains essential to democratic development, particularly as younger generations increasingly contribute to policy formulation and community initiatives. However, opportunities for meaningful political participation remain uneven despite the recognized importance of young people in society (Little, 2013) as cited by Navarro 2023). Limited political awareness and institutional barriers may restrict their participation in governance (Bincof, 2018). Within this context, the present study examined the awareness of the salient provisions of RA 10742 and the performance of Sangguniang Kabataan officials in selected barangays of Davao City, providing a basis for developing a leadership training program responsive to identified governance and performance concerns.

Research Problem

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) provides young people with opportunities to participate in governance, formulate development initiatives, and exercise leadership responsibilities (Singson, 2001) as referred to by Tormon, 2020). It also serves as an institutional mechanism for youth representation and nation-building (Mendoza, 2010 as mentioned by Tormon, 2020). Republic Act No. 10742 introduced reforms involving financial independence, leadership training, accountability, and youth development planning to strengthen SK operations (Golez, 2016). These responsibilities include implementing youth development plans and fulfilling institutional obligations (Gavilan, 2018; Tuguero, 2018). Despite these reforms, previous studies identified challenges involving insufficient funding, weak coordination, limited legal awareness, and inadequate community participation (Malaluan, et. al., 2014; Santos, 2018). Eyaa and Oluka (2011) and Raymond (2018) emphasized that knowledge of regulations and professional competence are essential to effective organizational performance. Although the reforms sought to improve youth representation (Palomares, 2021; De Jesus, 2022), concerns regarding leadership preparation (Gorospe, 2018), governance performance (Malaluan, Baja, Carandang, Vergara, and Tamayo (2014), institutional monitoring (Balod and Gono, 2010), and accountability (Reyes and Lopez, 2014) remain relevant. Previous assessments also revealed that SK activities were frequently concentrated on sports, cultural programs, and environmental initiatives (Ponce, Cahiles, Pimping, Jangao, Embornas, and Mendoza's (2013); Fernandez and Shaw (2013), indicating the need for broader youth development programs (National Youth Commission, 2018). Weak policy formulation and limited constituent consultation were likewise identified (Balanon, et. al., 2017), alongside concerns about organizational effectiveness (Santos, 2013; as cited by Mendez, 2021). These findings emphasize the need for institutional improvements (Balanon, 2017), stronger regulatory awareness (Eyana and Oluka, 2011; Raymond, 2018), environmental responsibility (Davenport and Volpel, 2016), and leadership competencies appropriate to young officials (Mortenson, et. al., 2014). Accordingly, the study examined the awareness of the salient provisions of RA 10742 and the performance of SK officials in selected barangays of Davao City to identify governance-related concerns and develop a responsive leadership training program.

Assumptions of the Study

The study was guided by the conceptual premise that awareness of the salient provisions of RA 10742 may be associated with the performance of Sangguniang Kabataan officials. It also considered whether respondents' age, sex, educational attainment, and position were relevant to differences in their assessments of statutory awareness. The original study formulated three null hypotheses, tested at the 0.05 level of significance. First, there is no significant relationship between respondents' assessments of awareness of RA 10742 when grouped according to their demographic profiles. Second, there is no significant difference between awareness of the salient provisions of RA 10742 and SK performance in selected barangays of Davao City. Third, there is no significant correlation between awareness of RA 10742 and the performance of Sangguniang Kabataan officials. These hypotheses provided the basis for examining the statistical relationships between the study variables without presupposing the results of the investigation.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of the study was to determine the level of awareness of the salient provisions of Republic Act No. 10742 and the extent of performance of Sangguniang Kabataan officials in selected barangays of Davao City as a basis for developing a leadership training program. Specifically, the study sought to determine the respondents' demographic profiles in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, and position; assess their awareness of the salient provisions of RA 10742; determine the relationship between awareness assessments and respondent profiles; evaluate the level of SK performance; examine significant differences between awareness and performance; establish whether a significant correlation exists between the two principal variables; and propose a leadership training program based on the findings. The investigation focused on selected barangays within the Poblacion and Talomo Districts of Davao City's First Congressional District during Fiscal Year 2022–2023. The study involved 208 respondents drawn from a population of 432, with the assessment centered on statutory awareness and the performance of SK officials in carrying out their governance responsibilities.

Conceptual or Theoretical Framework

The study was anchored in the National Youth Commission-Sangguniang Kabataan Operations Manual (2023), which emphasizes institutional cooperation, youth empowerment, and effective governance. It was further supported by the Attribution Theory of Fritz Heider (1958) as cited by Tormon (2020), which provided a basis for examining how awareness of statutory responsibilities relates to the governance behavior and performance of SK officials. The conceptual framework identified awareness of RA 10742 and SK performance as the principal variables, while age, sex, educational attainment, and position were examined as respondent characteristics. Previous literature highlighted institutional and organizational barriers (Murdock, et. al., 2018; Ponce, et. al., 2018), demographic influences on performance (Kimmel, 2019; Hassan & Ogunkoya, 2014), and the relevance of education and professional development (Ng & Feldman, 2009; Kasika, 2015; Tumin & Faizuddin, 2018). Other considerations included compensation (Korm, 2011), financial resources (Balanon, et. al., 2008), training (Salah, 2016), organizational support (Murdock, 2018), and individual well-being (Bryson, et. al., 2014). The framework guided the assessment of respondents' demographic profiles, statutory awareness, and governance performance. The findings served as the basis for a proposed leadership training program intended to strengthen legal knowledge, accountability, and effective youth governance.

The study primarily aligns with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by examining legal awareness, accountability, transparency, and effective youth governance. It supports SDG 4

(Quality Education) through the proposed leadership training program aimed at strengthening SK officials' knowledge and competencies. The study also relates to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by promoting youth participation in community development and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by emphasizing collaboration among youth councils, government institutions, and community stakeholders. Its contribution to sustainability focuses on strengthening institutional governance, educational capacity, and community participation. By identifying gaps in statutory awareness and leadership performance, the research provides a basis for improving accountable, inclusive, and sustainable youth governance.

2. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design to assess awareness of Republic Act No. 10742 and the performance of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in selected barangays of Davao City. Descriptive analysis examined respondents' demographic profiles, statutory awareness, and governance performance, while correlational analysis determined relationships among the variables. This design was appropriate for examining existing conditions and statistical associations without manipulating the study variables. The findings served as the basis for a proposed leadership training program.

Research Locale or Study Setting

The study was conducted in the Poblacion and Talomo Districts of Davao City's First Congressional District, Philippines. The area comprises 54 barangays, including 40 in Poblacion and 14 in Talomo, with 618,729 residents according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (2020). These districts provided the setting for assessing SK officials' statutory awareness, governance performance, and implementation of youth development responsibilities under RA 10742.

Participants or Data Sources

The study involved 208 SK officials selected from a population of 432 in the Poblacion and Talomo Districts. Slovin's formula, using a 5% margin of error, determined the sample size, while modified stratified sampling ensured proportional district representation. Of the respondents, 154 (74%) came from Poblacion and 54 (26%) from Talomo. Participants included SK chairpersons and members, categorized according to age, sex, educational attainment, and position to examine variations in statutory awareness and governance performance.

Research Instruments or Materials

The study utilized an adapted, structured questionnaire based on Republic Act No. 10742, comprising three parts: respondents' demographic profiles, awareness of statutory provisions (10 statements), and SK governance performance (10 statements). Responses were measured using a five-point Likert scale, interpreted as Very High (4.21–5.00), High (3.41–4.20), Moderately (2.61–3.40), Low (1.81–2.60), and Very Low (1.00–1.80). Three experts validated the instrument, incorporating their recommendations before administration. However, pilot-testing results and numerical reliability coefficients were not reported.

Data Gathering Procedure

Data collection began with a literature review and questionnaire preparation, followed by expert validation. The researcher secured permission from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and coordinated with the SK Federation and concerned barangay officials in the Poblacion and Talomo Districts. Questionnaires were administered to participating SK officials and retrieved the following day with assistance from SK secretaries. The collected

responses were organized, tabulated, and statistically analyzed in coordination with a statistician.

Data Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyze the data. Slovin's formula determined the sample size, while frequency and percentage described respondents' demographic profiles. Weighted means assessed statutory awareness and SK performance using a five-point Likert scale. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was identified in the methodology for examining significant differences, while Pearson's correlation coefficient (*r*) measured the relationship between awareness and performance. Null hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 significance level. The findings informed the proposed leadership training program.

Ethical Considerations

The researcher secured administrative permission from the DILG, SK Federation, and concerned barangay authorities before conducting the survey. Respondents were informed of the research purpose, assured of confidentiality, and given the option not to disclose their names. The questionnaire underwent expert validation to ensure its suitability for data collection. However, formal ethics committee approval, written informed consent, detailed data protection procedures, and conflict-of-interest declarations were not explicitly documented in the manuscript.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

3.1.1 Age and Sex

The study involved 208 respondents, of whom 132 (63.5%) were aged 22–28 years, 55 (26.4%) were aged 15–21 years, and 21 (10.1%) were aged 29–35 years. In terms of sex, 153 respondents (73.6%) were male, while 55 (26.4%) were female. These findings indicate that the majority of participating SK officials belonged to the 22–28 age group and were male. Age was considered relevant to differences in statutory awareness (Jones, et. al., 2012 as quoted by Tormon, 2020). Similarly, Ledesma (2011), cited by Tormon (2022), discussed the relationship between sex and awareness. The predominance of male respondents was consistent with historical patterns of male representation in youth elections reported by the Commission on Elections (2013), as averred by De Jesus (2022).

3.1.2 Educational Attainment and Position

Regarding educational attainment, 125 respondents (60.1%) were college undergraduates, 66 (31.7%) were college graduates, nine (4.3%) had master's units, and eight (3.8%) held master's degrees. In terms of position, 153 respondents (73.6%) were SK members, while 55 (26.4%) were SK chairpersons. Thus, college undergraduates and SK members constituted the majority of participants. The educational distribution reflected the accessibility of SK positions to individuals with varying educational backgrounds. COMELEC (2001) emphasized that specific educational attainment was not a prerequisite for SK candidacy, subject to statutory qualifications. The larger proportion of SK members was also consistent with their institutional responsibilities in policy formulation, committee leadership, and youth development activities (National Youth Commission-Sangguniang Kabataan Operations Manual, 2023).

3.2 Awareness of the Salient Provisions of RA 10742

The respondents demonstrated a **High** level of awareness of RA 10742, with an overall weighted mean of 4.16. The highest-rated indicator concerned the SK chairperson's ex-officio membership in the Sangguniang Barangay (WM = 4.44, Very High), followed by quorum determination (WM =

4.42) and the assessed statement concerning the SK officials' term of office (WM = 4.41). The lowest-rated indicator involved the SK's role in formulating development and annual youth investment plans (WM = 3.92, High). The findings indicate that respondents were particularly familiar with the institutional position of the SK chairperson and procedural governance responsibilities. However, comparatively lower awareness of development planning suggests an area requiring further capacity development. Rey and Espiritu (2023) emphasized the importance of preparing the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan and Annual Barangay Youth Investment Plan. Similarly, Mahinay's (2012) study, which Tormon (2020) mentioned, associated organized implementation of responsibilities with improved governance performance. Castillo and Gabriel (2020) further emphasized transparency and public accountability as essential components of effective governance.

3.3 Relationship Between Awareness Assessments and Respondents' Profiles

3.3.1 Age and Sex

The groupwise analysis revealed significant positive correlations in awareness assessments across age categories. Respondents aged 18–23 obtained the highest correlation ($r = 0.753$, $p = 0.000$), followed by those aged 24–29 ($r = 0.623$, $p = 0.000$) and those aged 30 and above ($r = 0.509$, $p = 0.000$). Male respondents recorded a correlation of $r = 0.665$ ($p = 0.000$), while female respondents obtained $r = 0.589$ ($p = 0.000$). All reported relationships were statistically significant.

These findings suggest variations in the reported strength of correlations across demographic groups. The original discussion related the age distribution to the eligibility requirements under RA 10742. Regarding sex, Barbuto, et. al., (2017) reported that gender did not determine transactional and transformational leadership behavior. The 2008 ADB Country Gender Assessment and the 2009 UNDP Human Development Report's Gender Development Index also provided contextual discussions of gender representation and educational attainment in the Philippines.

3.3.2 Educational Attainment and Position

Respondents holding master's degrees recorded the strongest correlation in awareness assessments ($r = 0.863$, $p = 0.003$), followed by college graduates ($r = 0.664$, $p = 0.000$) and college undergraduates ($r = 0.651$, $p = 0.000$). Respondents with master's units obtained $r = 0.526$ ($p = 0.073$), indicating a statistically nonsignificant relationship. In terms of position, SK chairpersons demonstrated a significant correlation of $r = 0.621$ ($p = 0.000$), while SK members recorded $r = 0.659$ ($p = 0.000$). The findings indicate that most educational and positional groupings demonstrated significant positive correlations in the reported assessments, except respondents with master's units. The result was discussed in relation to the importance of educational attainment in developing knowledge and understanding of institutional responsibilities. Sessa (2011) as mentioned by Tormon (2020) emphasized the relevance of education to knowledge and compliance with RA 10742.

3.4 Level of Performance of Sangguniang Kabataan Officials

The overall performance of SK officials was rated **High**, with a weighted mean of 4.15. The highest-rated indicator was the establishment of regular and special committees from the Katipunan ng Kabataan (WM = 4.43, Very High), followed by the SK chairperson's responsibility for presiding over meetings (WM = 4.42) and supervising SK activities (WM = 4.40). Fundraising activities also received a Very High rating (WM = 4.32). Meanwhile, the lowest-rated indicator concerned implementing policies on full public disclosure of transactions and documents involving public interest (WM = 3.90, High). The findings indicate relatively strong performance in organizational leadership, committee formation, and administrative supervision, while public

disclosure requires comparatively greater attention. Mahinay's (2013) study associated the effective organization of assigned responsibilities with improved governance performance. Foster (2021) emphasized the importance of special committees in organizational decision-making and leadership development. Castillo and Gabriel (2020) similarly highlighted public transparency as a mechanism for strengthening accountability and citizen participation. Furthermore, Concepcion & Tancinco (2016) documented the implementation of youth-led community projects, demonstrating the importance of evaluating SK performance against mandated functions.

3.5 Significant Difference Between Awareness and Performance

The statistical analysis revealed a significant difference between awareness of the salient provisions of RA 10742 and SK performance, with a computed t-value of 3.423 and a p-value of 0.001. Since the p-value was below the 0.05 significance level, the null hypothesis of no significant difference was rejected. This finding indicates that statutory awareness and governance performance, although both rated High, differed significantly in their assessments. Related investigations reported varying levels of SK effectiveness. Cuenco and Aranas (2016), which was quoted by Erlina, et. al., (2023), documented favorable assessments of SK legislative performance, while Peregrino's (2014) study identified satisfactory implementation of powers and functions alongside a neutral overall effectiveness assessment. These findings provide a comparative context for understanding differences between knowledge of statutory responsibilities and governance performance.

3.6 Significant Correlation Between Awareness and Performance

The Pearson correlation analysis revealed a strong positive and statistically significant relationship between awareness of RA 10742 and SK performance ($r = 0.648$, $p = 0.000$). The null hypothesis of no significant correlation was therefore rejected at the 0.05 level of significance. The result indicates that higher statutory awareness was associated with higher reported governance performance among SK officials. This relationship emphasizes the relevance of understanding legal responsibilities to effectively implementing youth development activities and administrative functions. The finding was consistent with Mahinay (2013), as cited by Rey and Espiritu (2023), who associated organized execution of responsibilities, good governance, and accountability with improved organizational performance.

3.7 Proposed Leadership Training Program

Based on the findings, a three-day mandatory leadership training program was proposed for newly elected SK officials in the Poblacion and Talomo Districts of Davao City. The proposed activity was scheduled for November 13–15, 2024, at Sunny Point Hotel. It was designed to strengthen competencies in decentralization and local governance, the history and salient provisions of RA 10742, parliamentary procedures, preparation of SK resolutions, planning and budgeting, ethical standards, youth development planning, and public disclosure policies. The proposed program addresses the identified areas requiring further improvement, particularly development planning, financial accountability, transparency, and the implementation of statutory responsibilities. Through structured learning activities and institutional coordination, the program was intended to improve governance knowledge, administrative competencies, and the leadership capacity of SK officials. Its proposed implementation reflects the study's objective of using empirical findings to support more effective and accountable youth governance.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in selected barangays of Davao City demonstrated high levels of awareness of the salient provisions of Republic Act No. 10742

and governance performance. Most respondents were aged 22–28 years, male, college undergraduates, and SK members. Significant relationships were identified in awareness assessments across demographic profiles, while a significant difference was established between statutory awareness and performance. A strong positive correlation (r = 0.648) further indicated that higher awareness was associated with better SK performance. These findings provided the basis for a proposed leadership training program aimed at strengthening governance knowledge, accountability, and the effective implementation of mandated responsibilities.

The study recommends conducting information campaigns and orientations to strengthen awareness of RA 10742 and encourage meaningful youth participation in local governance. Regular leadership training and capacity-building activities should enhance SK officials' governance knowledge, project management skills, and administrative competencies. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should also be strengthened to assess performance, promote accountability, and identify areas for improvement. Furthermore, collaboration among SK officials, barangay authorities, youth organizations, schools, and other stakeholders should be encouraged to maximize resources and support community development initiatives. Future researchers are encouraged to further examine SK effectiveness and validate the findings of the present investigation.

The study was limited to 208 Sangguniang Kabataan officials from selected barangays in the Poblacion and Talomo Districts of Davao City's First Congressional District during Fiscal Year 2022–2023. Its scope focused on respondents' demographic characteristics, awareness of the salient provisions of RA 10742, and governance performance. Consequently, the findings represent the conditions assessed within the selected study setting and population.

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