

IMPLEMENTATION OF POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PLAN

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine the Implementation of Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan amidst covid-19 pandemic and aims to know what are the problems and solutions they deep-felt and implement during this time. It specifically investigated the problems and solutions of the Sangguniang Kabataan in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija in this new normal and what action plan should needed to proposed to improve the performance of SK officials. 28 barangays, composed of Sangguniang Kabataan Chairmen, who were randomly chosen, served as the respondents. The descriptive-evaluative approach and absolute enumeration were used in this study's sampling procedure. According to the study's results, respondents revealed that Sangguniang Kabataan still conduct 'Linggo ng Kabataan' through online platforms but they should maximize conducting activity and programs, so that, they can still follow the protocol. The COVID-19 global pandemic is much more than a health crisis. It has created devastating social, economic and political crises that will leave deep scars in societies, people and also the organizations. SK official is one of the affected organizations in this pandemic that's why lacked of participation was ranked number 1 in the problems they were encountered which affects their performance and they were unable to effectively implemented projects and programs very well. From the results, there were recommendations that have been formulated and one of this was strengthen the partnership between the youth

representative and other organizations such as National Youth Commission, NGO's, and Faith based organizations and the Katipunan ng Kabataan.

Keywords: *Sangguniang Kabataan, Powers and Functions, Local Government Code of 1991*

INTRODUCTION

SK and Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) were established pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act 7160), which allows young people to engage directly in local governance. It was founded and began operations in 1975. It is a method of empowering the SK Chairman through encouragement of the other youths. The Sangguniang Kabataan exemplifies child engagement in local government and strives to become a voice for all youth in local government, specifically for individuals of 15 to 17. They were given the same powers and authority as any other council member. Through this, young leaders have the opportunity to represent and engage in social events that enable them expand their knowledge and work together with their peers.

The Constitution proclaims that youth play a critical role in organizing the country, which resulted in the establishment of the Sangguniang Kabataan, or what we commonly refer to as SK, as codified in the Local Government Code of 1991. Each member contributes something to the Sangguniang Kabataan.

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in the Philippines, it has a great effect in the operations of organizations and people who works under public and private sectors. The global impact of the coronavirus disease outbreak (COVID-19) is astounding (De Jesus, et.al, 2021).

In addition, the Sangguniang Kabataan was not able to make activities for health, education, economic empowerment, social inclusion and equity, peace building and security, governance, active citizenship and others because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this line, the powers and functions of SK were not implemented well.

In this time of Pandemic, the SK should be one of the groups that responds not only to the youth's needs, but also to the needs of the community at large. According to ohchr.org (2021),

Young people should be able to shape responses actively and should be meaningfully involved in all parts and phases of the response.

The municipality of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija in the Philippines has also an active SK Federation member before the pandemic happened. The SK Federation comprises of 28 SK Chairmen representing each barangay of the said Municipality. Because of the pandemic and restrictions posted by the Local Inter Agency Task Force (IATF), their functions as youth leaders have been affected too.

The researcher of this study would like to help the SK federation and members in addressing their efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of their public services amidst the pandemic. It is a great opportunity for the researcher to identify this gap in the implementation of the powers and functions of the SK Federations so that they can continuously provide certain needs for their fellow youth.

With the above statement, the objectives of this study were to determine the Implementation of the Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and aims to know what are the problems and solutions they deep-felt and implement these amidst Covid-19 pandemic. Specifically, it answered the following questions.

1. How may the profile of respondents be described the operation during the pandemic in terms of;
 - 1.1 Age;
 - 1.2 Sex;
 - 1.3 Educational attainment; and
 - 1.4 Classification?
2. How may the implementation of powers and functions of SK Chairman / SK Federation members be analyzed according to section 426 of the local government code of the Philippines?
3. What are the problems encountered of the SK Chairman / SK Federation members in the implementation of powers and their functions amidst covid-19 pandemic?

4. What action plan may be proposed for the improvement of operations of the SK Federation in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija?

Sangguniang Kabataan

The Chairman shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Barangay Council upon assumption of office. As such he shall exercise the same powers, discharge the same duties and functions, and enjoy the same privileges as the regular Barangay Council member. He also serves as the chairman of the committee on youth and sports development in the barangay council.

As stated by Palomares et al. (2021), The Sangguniang Kabataan is a platform re-established under Republic Acts no. 10742 known as Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act. The purpose for its establishment is for youth representatives to implement programs and influence decision-making. Certain privileges for Sangguniang Kabataan officials are stipulated in the implementing rules and regulations of the Republic Act no. 10742 which incentivizes young individuals to run for positions in the Sangguniang Kabataan. People participate in politics for various reasons or motivations. However, political science has little to say to the question as to why some people don't participate in politics whilst others do; this is due to the neglect of political science to inquire the plain origins of human motivations; furthermore, political engagement is a manifestation from the inventory of all conceivable activities that humans partake in (Wuttke, 2016).

According to Alampay & Angeles (2012), Existing studies on youth leaders in the Philippines have mainly focused on the perspectives of the ordinary youth and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) leaders regarding their perceptions about citizenships, and its implications towards the relevance of civic engagement.

In additions as stated by Balanon et, al. (2007), Youth have been revered in studies to have the creativity and the immense potential to stimulate growth. They play pivotal role in achieving development in both the local and national levels (Ravanilla, 2015); (Alampay & Angeles, 2012). However, youth's participation remains limited and in different areas of policy process. There's limited youth participation in War on Drugs-related processes (Mutiarin et. al, 2020) and there is limited youth participation in peace processes as well.

Powers and Functions of Sangguniang Kabataan

According to Sec. 426. Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan. - The Sangguniang Kabataan shall: Promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth in the Barangay in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Code; Initiate programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the members; Hold fund-raising activities, the proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and shall accrue to the general fund of the Sangguniang Kabataan: Provided, however, That in the appropriation thereof, the specific purpose for which such activity has been held shall be first satisfied; Create such bodies or committees as it may deem necessary to effectively carry out its programs and activities; Submit annual and end-of-term reports to the Sangguniang Barangay on their projects and activities for the survival and development of the youth in the Barangay; Consult and coordinate with all youth organizations in the Barangay for policy formulation and program implementation; Coordinate with the appropriate national agency for the implementation of youth development projects and programs at the national level; Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as the Sangguniang Barangay may determine or delegate or as may be prescribed by law or ordinance (COMELEC, 2001).

In addition to the duties which may be assigned to him by the Sangguniang Barangay, the Sangguniang Kabataan chairman shall: Call and preside over all meetings of the Katipunan ng Kabataan and the Sangguniang Kabataan; Implement policies, programs, and projects within his jurisdiction in coordination with the Sangguniang Barangay; Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the Sangguniang Kabataan and the official conduct of its members, and such other officers of the Sangguniang Kabataan within his jurisdiction; With the concurrence of the Sangguniang Kabataan, appoint from among the members of the Sangguniang Kabataan, the secretary and treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary; and exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

Involvement in governance at the local level can have the powers to develop young people's leadership skills and confidence. Through participation in the democratic process, young people are empowered. They gain experience and learn new skills, become responsible and

accountable, develop confidence, and forge meaningful connections with other youth and adults.

This way, our youth leaders will know their level of performance regarding their roles by youth's evaluation and of older members of the community and be aware of it to solve both for the benefit of the youth in the locality. In addition, this study will determine the validity of SK and may serve as guide for state legislators to be acquainted whether the Sangguniang Kabataan or youth council must be abolished or not.

Covid-19 pandemic and its effect to the Sangguniang Kabataan

The Constitutional Performance Assessment findings highlighted the fact that there are many exemplary local government units (LGUs) that are able to deliver services and perform the functions expected of them by the Constitution and the 1991 Local Government Code (RA 7160), which significantly devolved powers to LGUs. However, not all LGUs are able to do this due to a number of constraints, including lack of resources and skilled personnel, patronage, low participation of people, among others (Atienza et al. 2020). Therefore, the goals of having strong local governments and achieving decentralization and local autonomy have not yet been fully actualized under the 1987 Constitution, since the capacity of LGUs is uneven. These Performance Assessment findings have proven true during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the government has relied on and deputized LGUs to deliver services, their genuine autonomy is restricted by the more top-down style of the national government in handling the pandemic, which is in contrast with the principle and goal enshrined in the Constitution.

According to Sintema (2020), the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has spread worldwide, affecting almost all countries and territories. The outbreak was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The countries around the world cautioned the public to take responsive care. The public care strategies have included handwashing, wearing face masks, physical distancing, and avoiding mass gathering and assemblies. Lockdown and staying home strategies have been put in place as the needed action to flatten the curve and control the transmission of the disease.

Some of these LGUs had good coordination with national agencies, but some had to work with other sectors in the absence of clear instructions from the national government, particularly in the beginning of the pandemic. These LGUs and mayors had at their disposal relatively larger

incomes and resources compared to other LGUs, skilled local bureaucracy, good data management and evidence-based decision-making, good partnerships with the private sector and civil society groups, and participatory mechanisms. However, some LGUs failed to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and the responsibilities during the crisis because of limited resources, lack of good management skills, the dominance of patronage politics, corruption, and other problems.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Research Design

This study used quantitative research design. A research design may be described as a series of decision that as whole form of strategy for answering the research questions and testing the hypothesis. Supporting this way of thinking, according to Kothari (2004), research design is a plan, a roadmap and blueprint strategy of investigation conceived so as to obtain answers to research questions and it is the heart of any study.

It is a fact-finding study with adequate and accurate interpretation of the findings. This study used percentage and frequency distribution tool and weighted mean for the interpretation of data.

Study Locale

This research was conducted in the Municipality of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija where the respondents were identified. The respondents of this study came from every barangay founds in the Municipality Bongabon, Nueva Ecija.

Participants of the Study

The Sangguniang Kabataan / SK Chairman of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija were the target respondents of this study. The table below present the sample population found out.

The total population of the study were 28 respondents represented by each barangay in the Municipality of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija.

This study used total enumeration as a method of gathering data. Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013), Total enumeration is a study of every unit, everyone or everything, in a given population. It is also known as complete enumeration, which means a complete count. The researcher used this Sampling method as the total number of respondents was feasible for the researcher to get accurate data and information.

Data Collection

After the approval of the research topic entitled “Implementation of powers and functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan amidst the Covid-19 pandemic: Basis for Development of Action Plan, the researcher proceeded to gathering of data and information and was checked by the research mentor. The researcher begin in collecting related data, study and information from the Internet and website. The questionnaire was guided by the related studies. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was tested and measured with the score of .929, has a good internal consistency. The validity of the research instrument was established by presenting the developed research instrument for the comments of the expert who together rated the instrument with 4.12 weighted mean with verbal interpretation of “Very Good”.

Before the distribution, the researcher got an approval from the head of the Sangguniang Kabataan ng Bayan. After the distribution, the answered questionnaires were retrieved and the data were tallied for interpretation.

Data Analysis

The information gathered from the location was encoded, tabulated, and evaluated. The data was analyzed using statistical techniques such as percentage, frequency distribution, weighted mean and thematic analysis. A scale was used to interpret the results of the data gathered.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Profile of the Respondents

1.1 Profile of the Respondents in terms of Age

Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents in terms of Age.

Table 1. Profile of the respondent in terms of Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
15-21 years old	3	11%
22-28 years old	25	89%
29-30 years old	0	0
Total	28	100%

Majority of the respondents fell under the age ranged **from twenty-two (22) to twenty-eight (28) years old with the percentage of 89**. And this was followed by **11% who fell under the age ranged of fifteen (15) to twenty-one (21) years old**. According to the respondents it shows that the age of 22-28 years old were driven and mature enough to become a leader and this is the age qualification of a running Sangguniang Kabataan which must at least fifteen (15) years but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of the election.

Youth aged 15 to 30 make for nearly one-third of the overall country population, according to the National Youth Commission (NYC). This is usually referred to as the 'youth bulge,' owing to the fact that young people make up a sizable share of the global population. Experts believe that the expanding youth population represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Additionally, those in positions of responsibility must ensure that the expanding number of young people is productive and efficient. According to the theory of generalization, when a person is exposed to more complex external factors, he matures and his pattern of behavior changes; age indicates a person's level of maturity and educability (Bandura 2001).

1.2 Profile of the Respondents in terms of Sex

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents in terms of **Sex**.

Table 2. Profile of the respondent in terms of Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	20	71%
Female	8	29%
Total	28	100%

Table 2 present the distribution of respondents according to sex. As shown in the table, a great count of respondents were males and this was represented by 20 or 71% of the total number of respondents. And this was followed by 8 or 29% who were females. According to the respondents, there are numerous obstacles for men to partake a bigger role and impact in politics. Leadership is still conceptualized in terms of male strength and because of that male was more prone in terms of being authoritative and handling pressure compared to female. According to the Commission on Elections, men have consistently won more votes than women in the last six election years (1998-2013), As an example, consider the 2013 election outcome, which saw 36,000 (male) defeating 8,000 (women) (women). Additionally, the data indicated that the majority of SK Officials are unmarried and hold a bachelor's degree. In terms of familial political ties, the results indicated that the majority of SK officials have no family members participating in politics and entered politics for the first time. In terms of position, the majority are SK Kagawads, which have seven seats in each barangay (Madrid et, al. 2020). Men are more engaged in politics than women, according to Dioso (2019). Which discovered that women have not been politicized not only due to a lack of political interest on their part, but also due to a well-established/practical socio-political culture in society that maintains politics as a "man's business."

1.3 Profile of the Respondents in terms of Educational Attainment

Table 3 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents in terms of Educational Attainment.

Table 3. Profile of the respondent in terms of Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
College Undergraduate	17	61%
College Graduate	11	39%
With Masters' Unit /Degree	0	0
Total	28	100%

The majority of the respondents were College undergraduate and had a great response of 17 or 61% and it was also noted that 11 or 39% were college students. It shows that 17 of the respondents were College Undergraduate because according to them they have no ability to graduate due to lack of financial and they also said that there is no classification to become an SK Chairmen as long as you can read, write and must not have been convicted in any crime.

According to COMELEC (2001), there is no qualification to be a SK official in terms of educational attainment, as long as He/She can read and write in the Filipino, English, or local dialect, and shall not be convicted at final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude.

1.4 Profile of the Respondents in terms of Classification

Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents in terms of **Classification**.

Table 4. Profile of the respondent in terms of Classification

Classification	Frequency	Percentage
Student	11	39%
Faculty	2	7%
Administration Personnel	15	54%
Total	28	100%

The majority of the respondents were Administration Personnel. It shows that most of the respondents were Administration Personnel that performs daily office functions. This

Administration Personnel are those who fully provide their time in accomplishing their main role as public servant. According to them they still implement activities and programs through online platforms to be safe amidst pandemic.

According to Sabharwal (2017), the Environment of Public Personnel Administration (often referred to as human resources management or human capital management) comprises all organizational operations involving people. It comprises the efficient and effective utilization of human resources to meet an organization's objectives.

Personnel Administration, on the other hand, is a universal activity. Each supervisor serves as a personnel manager in effect. Whereas personnel departments are responsible for developing and monitoring personnel policies, supervisors are accountable for enforcing them. The performance of the organization, in turn, is contingent on how supervisors perform their personnel tasks.

Public personnel management operates in a complicated context and is a component of a broader governmental system. As a result of the system's diversity of interests vying for position and power, the personnel system becomes entangled in the political process.

2. Implementation of powers and functions of SK Chairman Members according to section 426 of the local government code of the Philippines

Table 5 shows the Implementation of powers and functions of SK Chairman members according to **section 426 of the local government code of the Philippines.**

Table 5. Powers and Functions according to section 426 of the local code of the Philippines

Powers and Functions	WM	VI	RANK	VB
1. Promulgation of resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth in the barangay.	3.36	Very Good	5	Practiced all the time

2. Initiation of programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the members.	3.39	Very Good	4	Practiced all the time.
3. Submission of annual and end- of- term reports to the Sangguniang barangay on their projects and activities for the survival and development of the youth in the barangay.	3.42	Very Good	3	Practiced all the time
4. Meeting regularly once a month on the date, time, and place fixed by the said Sanggunian.	3.18	Very Good	7	Practiced all the time
5. Consultation and coordination with all youth organizations in the barangay for policy formulation and program implementation	3.21	Very Good	6	Practiced all the time
6. Implementation of policies and programs within his jurisdiction in coordination with the Sangguniang barangay by the SK Chairman.	3.43	Very Good	2	Practiced all the time
7. Coordination with the “Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan in the	3.61	Very Good	1	Practiced all the time

conduct of an annual activity**known as the “Linggo ng Kabataan”.**

Powers and Functions	3.37	Very Good	Practiced all the time.
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As seen on the table above, Coordination with the “Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan in the conduct of an annual activity known as the “Linggo ng Kabataan” got a weighted mean of **3.61** and verbally interpreted as **Very Good**. Respondents revealed that Sangguniang Kabataan still conduct ‘Linggo ng Kabataan’ through online platforms but they should maximize conducting activity and programs.

Today's youth face a significant challenge in stepping up and seizing the opportunity to lead and be heard in the midst of Covid-19. It is an even greater challenge for parents, professionals, and especially the government and Kabataan to have Linggo ng Kabataan in light of the new normal, but having the authority and functions of Sangguniang Kabataan provides an incredible opportunity to guide and create an enabling environment for positive youth engagement and empowerment in order to help shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Implementation of policies and programs within their jurisdiction in coordination with the Sangguniang barangay by the SK Chairman was ranked 2 obtained weighted mean of 3.43 and orally evaluated as Very Good. Majority of the respondents responded that, they continue implement policies and initiatives within their authority amidst Covid-19 epidemic in conjunction with the Sangguniang barangay. It is coupled with an article that the State shall reinforce a system of coordination and collaboration among the population, local executives and the integrated law enforcement and public safety organizations constituted under this Act (Official Gazette, 2016).

Rank 3 results which is submission of annual and end- of- term reports to the Sangguniang barangay on their projects and activities for the survival and development of the youth in the barangay got a weighted mean of 3.42 and orally evaluated as Very Good. According to the respondents, they remained obligated to submit their yearly report even if they did nothing on their barangay such initiatives and activities for the survival and development of the youth in the barangay. According to the respondents, they really need to show up atleast 1 activity for

them to genuinely illustrate what are the efforts they have done during their time. If no activity will be displayed, it will diminish the confidence rate that has been provided to them.

Initiation of programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the members scored as number 4 and earned weighted mean of 3.39 and vocally interpreted as Very Good. Respondents asserted that, were obliged to offer transparency to their jurisdiction so that all the financial and non-financial transactions must be revealed to the public. It will tally up the trust rate that will be given to the respondents.

Ranked 5 is the Promulgation of resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth in the barangay got a weighted mean of 3.36 and vocally evaluated as Very Good. Most of the respondents said that, there are changes in promulgated to carry out the necessary and they were obliged to make resolutions so that they can still fulfill their duty. This results is connected to the Local Government Code of 1991, that while vesting in the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) the authority to promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth and to coordinate with the appropriate national agency for the implementation of youth development projects and programs in the national level, the same Code does not specifically mandates the SK with the power to implement projects and programs related to environmental protection such as tree planting activities and solid waste disposal in their respective barangays. This legislative initiative intends to fill in that gap and mandate the SK to execute tree planting and solid waste disposal programs in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government units concerned. This bill also provides for the manner by which the programs can be efficiently executed.

Findings about consultation and cooperation with all youth organizations in the barangay for policy formation and program execution was ranked 6 and got a weighted mean 3.21 and orally evaluated as Very Good. Respondents indicated that they should exercise caution in formulating policies and implementing programs without consulting or coordinating with all youth organizations in their barangay. It is consistent with Republic Act No. 10742, also known as the "Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015." Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10742. State Policy and Objectives Declaration. – Recognizing the critical role of youth in nation-building, the state supports and protects their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being, instills in them patriotism and nationalism, and encourages their participation in

public and civic activities. To this aim, the State shall provide adequate, effective, responsive, and enabling procedures and support systems for youth empowerment and meaningful engagement in local governance and nation-building (Official Gazette, 2016).

Lastly, meeting monthly on the date, time, and location specified by the stated Sangguniang received a weighted mean of 3.18 and was orally assessed as Very Good. The majority of respondents stated that they continue to have frequent meetings to discuss how they may launch projects, programs, and activities for the growth and welfare of their community in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic. This demonstrates that the SK is still operational despite the pandemic.

To summarize, it demonstrates that the respondents, as SK chairman, continue to carry out their sworn duties and responsibilities. Indeed, no pandemic can deter young leaders from serving and protecting their citizens.

3. The problems encountered of the SK Chairman / SK Federation members in the implementation of the powers and their functions amidst covid-19 pandemic.

Table 6 shows the problems encountered of the SK Chairman / SK Federation members in the implementation of the powers and their functions amidst covid-19 pandemic.

Table 6. The problems encountered of the SK Chairman / SK Federation members in the implementation of the powers and their functions amidst covid-19 pandemic.

Problems encountered of the SK Chairman	Frequency	Rank	Percentage
Lack of Youth Participation & Engagement	10	1	36%
Lack of Fund	4	4	14%
Lack of Management Skills	8	2	29%
Limited activities and programs due to the covid-19 pandemic	6	3	21%

Total	28	100%
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This table presents the problems encountered of the SK Chairman / SK Federation members in the implementation of the powers and their functions amidst covid-19 pandemic. Lack of Youth Participation & Engagement ranked as number 1 with 10 responses or 36%, lack of Management skills was the 2nd rank with 8 responses or 29%, lack of activities and programs due to the covid-19 pandemic came 3rd with 21% responses and lastly, lack of Fund with 4 responses or 14% ranked 4th.

Data revealed that lacked of participation ranked number 1 because most of the respondents stated that the impact of covid-19 pandemic affects their performance and they are unable to effectively implement different projects and programs very well.

Numerous studies have been undertaken to highlight the importance of young engagement in society, according to Peregrino (2014). However, only a few took use of the opportunity to consult the public and youth themselves on their perceptions of their given platform for participation. In the rapidly approaching 2016 elections, which are often regarded as the last chance for SK to pursue reform, study on the constituency's perspective is critical. Stakeholders must recognize that the only way to break our country's poverty cycle is to provide opportunities for our youth to participate in democracy and development. Their participation enables them to gain access to information and educational possibilities. It endows them with authority and encourages them to voice their concerns. It enables individuals to meet their own subsistence needs, eventually allowing them to enter better living conditions.

The results in Table 6 also indicated that one of the respondents' difficulties was a lack of management abilities, as certain SK members did not always participate in programs and events. Seyedinejat et al. (2014) assert that managerial abilities are essential to perform management responsibilities such as planning, organizing, executing, and controlling. Technical competence, social ability, and conceptual ability are all examples of managerial talents. Leaders must possess certain managerial talents. The majority of the time, leaders lack these abilities. Without management abilities, leaders struggle with planning, organizing, executing, and controlling.

Another issue that the Sangguniang Kabataan encountered was a lack of funds, which hampered the SK's programs and activities. Especially now that we are facing a pandemic, the

majority of respondents stated that they unanimously used their own funds to assist students who take online classes, but they were unable to implement certain programs and activities due to a lack of funds.

According to Malaya (2017), one of the key causes of the country's underdevelopment is the unequal distribution of public finances among the regions. With the current system, which controls over 80% of national government revenue and distributes the remainder to local governments, this restriction effectively left LGUs with little money for local development.

Additionally, the Asian Development Bank (2016) notes that public financial management systems are deficient. Without a comprehensive direction, transformation has taken a piecemeal approach. Spending targeting should be enhanced, and national and local spending priorities should be harmonized. Budget operations systems in LGUs are out of date and prohibit planning from being synchronized, restricting the ability of new national programs (Bottom-up Budgeting, Performance Challenge Fund, etc.) to be coordinated with local development plans. Additionally, the reliability of municipal budgeting is harmed by imprecise revenue predictions during the budget formation process. Guidelines for developing local budgets must be consistent with multiyear planning processes. Significant LGU policies, including as those governing the establishment and operation of Local Economic Enterprises, the Special Education Fund, and the development of Disaster Risk Management Plans, must incorporate recently formed performance-based management systems.

Finally, because to a lack of activities and programs during the covid-19 pandemic, respondents report that they are unable to implement face-to-face activities and programming for kids due to the epidemic.

According to Shepherd et al. (2021), COVID-19 limits resulted in decreased physical activity, increased screen time, and deterioration of mental health in adolescents. Additionally, as Hull et al. (2020) indicate, involvement in some type of physical activity or sport is a critical component of sustaining a healthy lifestyle, which is unquestionably a critical public health message for those who live in geographical places that reinforce isolation. More precisely, moderate to vigorous physical exercise has been shown to improve the immune system's response to respiratory infections such as COVID-19.

4. Proposed Action Plan

The researcher used the data gathered in formulating a development plan as reference for the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Table 7. Proposed Action Plan

Specific Objectives	Programs	Responsible Persons
To improve and ensure that the SK Official are conducting meeting regularly once a month.	Implementing of monthly meetings on a systematic schedule that is not injurious to any of the officers	Barangay and SK officials
To enhance SK officials' duties in consultation and coordination in the barangay for policy formulation and program implementation.	Dissemination of Information Officers from Local Government Units (LGU) and other youth organizations meet quarterly	SK Officials
To disseminate the knowledge gained by the SK officials from various seminars and conferences that they attended.	Implementation of Barangay and Municipal Seminars	SK Officials
To generate programs about fund management.	Implementing programs about Annual budgeting or fund management	Barangay and SK officials

Table 7 is the proposed action plan for Sangguniang Kabataan officials. It contains columns that are related from one another which includes the Objectives, Programs and Person Responsible. The 1st objective was to improve and ensure that the SK Official are conducting meeting regularly once a month, results implied that the respondents should getting a habit of conducting regular meetings which help them to achieved their goals that conquered their community. Additionally, 2nd objective was to enhance SK officials' duties in consultation and

coordination in the barangay for policy formulation and program implementation, in conducting policy and programs they should decide to make any project and familiarized with the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) which unified action among the youth and the youth serving groups, agencies, and institutions to promote holistic youth participation in their society. 3rd objective in line with this, to disseminate the knowledge gained by Sangguniang Kabataan officials they should make various seminars and conferences to identify the issues in their Barangay and think possible solutions to that problem. Lastly, Sangguniang Kabataan should generating programs or activities and allocate their budget for proper management.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the researcher was able to draw the following conclusions:

Majority of the respondents ages 22-28 years old and most of them were males who's Administration Personnel and college undergraduate. With regards to Powers and Functions, Sangguniang Kabataan in the conduct of an annual activity known as the "Linggo ng Kabataan". Most of the respondents stated that they can still conduct Linggo ng Kabataan through online platforms by maximize the implementation of activities. Implementations of powers and functions of Sangguniang Kabataan amidst covid-19 pandemic is not significantly related to demographic profile of respondents.

With the above conclusion, it is recommended to strengthen the relationship between the youth representative and other organizations such as the National Youth Commission, non-governmental organizations, and other organizations in order to have a diverse source of different resources that can assist the SK Federation members in developing their leadership skills and carrying out their duties and responsibilities. It can be accomplished through leadership requests, capability development trainings, and other related trainings that benefit the SK Federation.

Additionally, the researcher' proposed action plan may be used to assist the SK federation in developing a more effective organization for local youth engagement.

Finally, this research study can serve as a reference for future researchers conducting additional research on the Sangguniang Kabataan's functions and capabilities.

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