



TECHNIUM
SOCIAL SCIENCES JOURNAL

Vol. 30, 2022

**A new decade
for social changes**

www.techniumscience.com

ISSN 2668-7798



9 772668 779000

Determination of Appropriate Livelihood Program and Development in a Rural Area

Jerson M. Mores¹, Christine T. Morgado², James Patrick M. Mesana³

^{1 2 3}Romblon State University, School of Arts Sciences and Technology, Romblon, Romblon, 5500 Philippines

gerson.martos25@gmail.com, tintinmorgads@gmail.com,
jamesmesanarsu@gmail.com

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the appropriate livelihood program and development in a rural area. A structured questionnaire was used in the study. This study presented the livelihood condition and livelihood needs through the identified assets that the community has. The study results showed that though they have natural assets, there are still limitations to utilizing them for their livelihood. They have a poor water supply, inferior to suitable housing, and poor sanitation. The community has labor capacity but limited skill due to lack of education and insufficient knowledge. The working population receives low wages and still earns below the poverty threshold. A strong family tie is present, as shown by the extended family relationship. Government assistance is obtained through senior citizen pensions and conditional cash transfer through the 4Ps program of the government. As a result, the community showed signs of poverty and needed support from the government. Some of the livelihood programs and improvements suggested were forming associations to access help and assistance, financial literacy, technical and vocational training, and mentoring programs. These suggestions could help in upgrading the livelihood condition of the community.

Keywords. livelihood, development, countryside, determination, community

1. Introduction

Poverty reduction has always been a government's goal. To attain this goal, many government agencies made studies and implemented different livelihood programs to help the poor communities in the Philippines. To achieve this ambition and reach out, the government created the Sustainable Development Program, whose primary goal is to end poverty and hunger in the Philippines.

The effectiveness and sustainability of the livelihood programs become in question after those programs have been implemented. Many factors have been considered in the failure of the plan. Factors such as responsiveness and participation of the people in the community to the programs, accessibility to different types of assets (financial, physical, natural, human, social), and their ability to use these assets and be productive have been considered.

Conducting a livelihood assessment is imperative for several reasons. The first is to determine the sustainability of the community. The second is to alert the residents and local

officials on the impacts of the proposed development on the community's social and economic well-being. The third is avoiding the creation of inequities among the community groups. Assessment of the livelihood needs has a positive impact associated with the development program, and thus it requires attention (Garcia, 2017).

To contribute to economic development, the extension of services to needy communities is part of the social responsibility of educational institutions. The Romblon State University supports the trilogy program functions, instruction, research, and extension as a higher institution. The Commission gave the integration of research and community services importance to higher education, making way for quality research. Assessment of livelihood needs is a must. In addition, determining the appropriate livelihood program and development is necessary for the government and other institutions to implement the right livelihood program in the community.

The community of the eastern side of Romblon has the presence of natural and other assets but cannot use these assets in a productive one. The lack of social services also categorized this community below the poverty line.

2. Review of related literature

According to (Chambers & Conway, 1992), a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (resources, claims, and access), and activities required for living. A livelihood is sustainable, which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation, contributing net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term. "Livelihoods" are the ways people combine their capabilities, skills, and knowledge with the resources at their disposal to create activities that will enable them to make a living. A sustainable livelihood can be carried on the bow and trim the future without depleting the resources it depends on and without depriving other people of a livelihood. Livelihood status is the state of individuals which indicates their socio-economic conditions, living environment, or standard of living.

Ellis (2000, p.15) has defined the livelihood diversification process as "the process by which rural livelihoods construct an increasingly diverse portfolio of activities and assets to survive and improve their standard of living.

Reardon et al. (2001) argue that engagement in multiple livelihoods is dependent on active social networks, financial savings, skills, and education (Reardon et al., 2001).

According to Farrington et al. (2002), getting insights into what kinds of interventions could improve rural livelihood is vital to extension in several ways. First, agricultural and rural development strategies have to be located in the context of rural communities' rights and livelihood aspirations. Second, approaches must complement production (e.g., subsidies, credit, and training), and protection (e.g., pensions, access to health facilities) must complement each other. Third, an extension approach geared broadly to livelihoods contexts rather than narrowly to crops or livestock production contexts is more likely to benefit the rural communities (Farrington et al., 2002).

Antony Penny (2008) said that equitable growth would be at the heart of the livelihood strategy because it would provide a sustainable livelihood for the poor. A buoyant economy would best guarantee that resources would be available to fund targeted programs for food-security-oriented livelihood improvements. But such growth would have to ensure that natural and environmental resources are developed without being degraded to prevent future generations from being compromised by present ones.

According to Mohanty, Lepch, and Kumar (2013), sustainable rural livelihood implies that any developmental intervention for the rural people should be congruent with their existing livelihood strategies and ability to adapt. Data was shown in their study in Sikkim, the 22nd State of Indian Union, based upon an agricultural economy. More than 64% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood.

Another concept is on community development. For Mendes (2008), community development refers to the employment of community structures addressing social needs and empowering groups of people. He also discussed that when these structures and the community's people are appropriately engaged and empowered, the social worker's role in a community development framework lands heavily on the facilitator side of the expert-facilitator continuum. This concept is applied in the study in formulating an action or development plan based on the community's livelihood needs.

The sustainable livelihoods approach is a holistic approach that captures and provides a means of understanding poverty's fundamental causes and dimensions without collapsing the focus onto just a few factors such as economic and food security issues. This approach aims to help the poor achieve lasting livelihood improvements (Ashley & Carney, 1980)

McLeod summarized the recognized assets within sustainable livelihoods theory as follows (McLeod, 2001):

- a. Natural Capital. It is the term used to refer to the stocks of naturally occurring resources (soil, water, air, genetic resources, etc.). They can be used as inputs to create additional benefits, such as food chains, protection against soil or coastal erosion, and other natural resources supporting livelihoods.
- b. Physical Capital. It refers to the basic infrastructure and production inputs needed to support livelihoods.
- c. Human Capital. It refers to health, knowledge, skills, information
- d. Financial Capital. It refers to the financial resources which populations employ to achieve their objectives regarding livelihoods.
- e. Social Capital. It refers to the social resources which populations will rely on when seeking their livelihood objectives (in the present study, this refers specifically to local social capital, networks, associations, local authorities, local officials, and a broader population receiving program assistance).

3. Research Objectives/Statement of the Problem

The study aims to determine the appropriate livelihood program and development for the communities at the eastern side of Romblon, specifically barangay Agtongo, Romblon, Romblon. The following are the specific objectives:

- a. To present the livelihood condition of the respondents of barangay Agtongo
- b. To assess the livelihood needs of the barangay
- c. To determine the livelihood program appropriate in barangay Agtongo

4. Scope and Delimitation

The study is focused on determining the appropriate livelihood program and development at the eastern side community of Romblon Island in the municipality of Romblon. The primary respondents of the study are the 310 households of barangay Agtongo with a total population of 1,278.

5. *Significance of the Study*

The information derived from this study will be used as an action plan to help improve the community's livelihood condition.

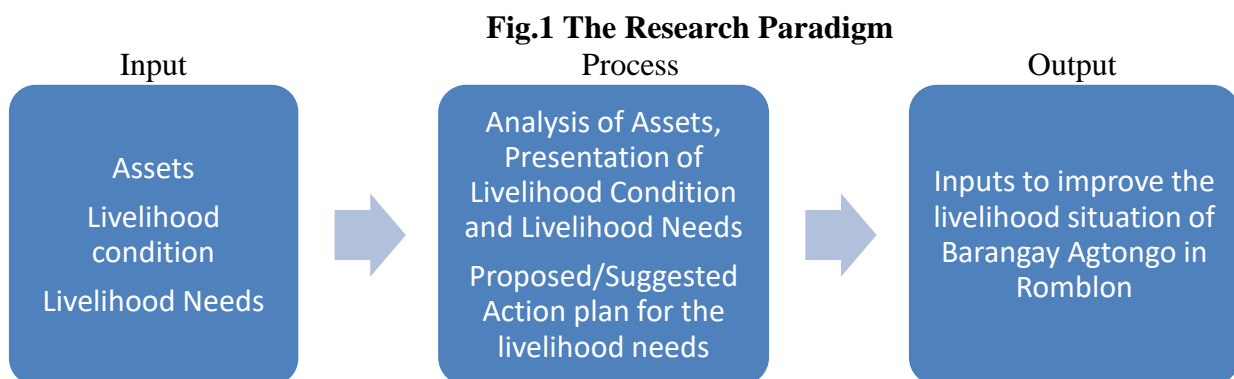
6. *Methodology*

6.1 *Research Design*

This research is descriptive. The study involved the utilization of tools for information assimilation. Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire. Additional information was collected from the secondary sources through discussion and literature review. Some of the tools are:

- a. Individual Interviews – individual interviews were conducted using the structured questionnaire.
- b. Observation – facts were verified, and information was collected through own observations. It enabled us to compare the responses of the people in the area.

The study utilized the Input-Process-Output framework. The input is comprised of the assets identified, livelihood conditions, and livelihood needs of the community. The process part analyzes the information (purchases, livelihood condition, livelihood needs) and the formulation of the action plan. The output is about the suggested action plan to improve the livelihood condition of Barangay Agtongo in the municipality of Romblon.



6.2 *Respondents and Characteristics*

Agtongo is a barangay in the municipality of Romblon, in the province of Romblon, Philippines. Its population determined by the 2015 census was 1,523. The people of Agtongo based on barangay records as of 2019 is 1,278, a 16.09% decrease from the 2015 census. The total number of households in Agtongo is 310, with 344 families. Agtongo has 7 purok or sitios namely; Karay-karay, Cayuing, San Jose, Banturan, Proper, Bahung and Lintian.

Combining age groups, those aged 17 and below, consisting of the young dependent population, including infants/babies, children, and young adolescents/teenagers, makeup 31.7% (405). Those aged 18 to 55, roughly the economically active population and actual or potential workforce members, constitute 53.3% (681). Finally, the aging dependent population aged 56 and over, 15% (192) in all. Male and female are 51% (652) and 49% (626).

Most of the population are students and are still in school, 29.1% (372). With regards to educational attainment, some are elementary undergraduate 16.9% (216), high school graduate 12.1% (154), and elementary graduate 10.5% (134), not yet in school (infants and young) 9%

(115), high school undergraduate 8.6% (110), college graduate 7.8 (100), college undergraduate 5.3% (68).

The labor force (working population) is 35.84% (458) of the total population. Most of the labor force are doing different jobs (driver, saleslady, staff, electrician, seafarer, etc.) with 30.35% (139) but talking about the head of the family; most are fishermen 18.77% (86), laborer 15.94% (73), marble worker 15.06% (69), farmer 11.78% (54), civil servant 4.58% (21), merchant 3.3% (15), livestock breeder 0.22% (1). The dependent population ratio is 1.79, or 2 persons are dependent for everyone working individual.

A population that does not earn at all consists of 63.8% (816). Included here are children and those who depend on their heads of the family. Of those who belong to the labor force, 32.4% (413) are considered poor earning below the poverty threshold, low-income earners are 3.2% (41), and lower-middle-income earners are 0.6% (8).

The majority of the population has no other sources of income, 87% (1112). Those who receive senior citizen pension are 6.3% (81), 4Ps members 5.9% (75), and receiving assistance from relatives 0.8% (10).

Table 1. Profile of the Respondents

| Age | F | % |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Below 18 | 405 | 31.7 |
| 18 to 35 | 444 | 34.8 |
| 36 to 55 | 237 | 18.5 |
| 56 older | 192 | 15.0 |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 652 | 51 |
| Female | 626 | 49 |
| Educational Attainment | F | % |
| Elementary Undergraduate | 216 | 16.9 |
| Elementary Graduate | 134 | 10.5 |
| High School Undergraduate | 110 | 8.6 |
| High School Graduate | 154 | 12.1 |
| College Undergraduate | 68 | 5.3 |
| College Graduate | 100 | 7.8 |
| Still Studying | 372 | 29.1 |
| No Education | 9 | .7 |
| Not yet in School | 115 | 9.0 |
| Working Population (n=458) | | |
| Farmer | 54 | 11.78 |
| Fisherman | 86 | 18.77 |
| Livestock Breeder | 1 | .22 |
| Marble Worker | 69 | 15.06 |
| Merchant (Buy and sell) | 15 | 3.3 |
| Civil servant | 21 | 4.58 |
| Laborer | 73 | 15.94 |
| Others | 139 | 30.35 |
| Population Dependency Ratio:1.79 | | |
| Monthly Income | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Poor (below P 9,250) | 413 | 32.4 |
| Low-Income Earner | 41 | 3.2 |
| Lower Middle Income Earner | 8 | 0.6 |
| No Income | 816 | 63.8 |
| Other Sources | | |
| Assistance from relatives | 10 | 0.8 |
| 4Ps member | 75 | 5.9 |
| Senior Citizen Allowance | 81 | 6.3 |
| No other sources | 1112 | 87 |

7. Results and Discussion

7.1 Assets & Livelihood Condition

7.1.1 Natural Capital

Barangay Agtongo has natural sources of water such as groundwater and deep well. This is found in Purok Banturan, Lintian, Proper and San Jose. Though this is the case, the water supply is still limited (once a week, the water tank is opened to reach households during the dry season and every other day during the wet season). Only purok Proper and Lintian are in the coastal areas, while others are primarily mountainous. Marble deposits are also present in four purok; Karay-karay, Cayuing, Bahung, and Lintian. Residents mostly own agricultural lands. They have their land to cultivate and plant.

Table 2. Location of Natural Assets in the Barangay

| Purok (Barrio) | Groundwater/Deep Well | With Coastal Area | With Marble Deposits | With Agricultural Lands |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Proper | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Lintian | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Karay-Karay | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Cayuing | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Banturan | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| Bahung | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| San Jose | Yes | No | No | Yes |

Source: Barangay officials and Individuals living in the barangay

7.1.2 Physical Capital

Residents who are not reached by water have their rain collector for their water supply. Houses are in poor to good condition. Based on the 2015 – 2016 census, 2.9% (9) of this barangay live in makeshift housing. They are also informal settlers, 36.45% (116) of the households don't have access to safe water supply, and 24.19% (75) don't have access to sanitary toilet facilities.

Table 3. Housing, Water and Sanitation Indicators by Barangay

| Barangay | Households living in makeshift housing | Families who are informal settlers | Families without access to safe water supply | Households without access to sanitary toilet facilities |
|----------|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Agtonggo | 9 | 9 | 116 | 75 |

Source: Community-Based Monitoring System International Network 2015-2016

7.1.3 Human Capital

Parents of the barangay have invested in the education of their younger generation. 29.1% (372) of the population are sent to school. Compared to the heads of the family, 96.12% (298 out of 310) did not finish college. The CBMS done in 2015-2016 states that the unemployment rate in the barangay is 5.1% (23). The heads of the family are primarily laborers, fishers, marble workers, and farmers.

Table 4. Educational Attainment of the Heads of the Family

| Educational Attainment (n=310) | F | % |
|--|----------|----------|
| Elementary Graduate to College Undergraduate | 298 | 96.12 |
| College Graduate | 11 | 3.5 |
| Post Graduate | 1 | 0.3 |

Table 5. Unemployment by Barangay

| Barangay | Number of Persons in the labor force | Unemployment rate (15 years old and above) | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|------------|
| | | Magnitude | Proportion |
| Agtonggo | 452 | 23 | 5.1% |

Source: *Community-Based Monitoring System International Network 2015-2016*

7.1.4 Financial Capital

Agtonggo is one of the poorest barangays in the municipality of Romblon. 89.39% (413 out of 458) of the working population earn below the poverty threshold.

Table 6. Monthly Income of the Labor Force

| Income Category (n=462) | F | % |
|--|----------|----------|
| Poor (earning below P 10,957) | 413 | 89.39 |
| Low Income Earner (P 10,957 to P 21,914) | 41 | 8.87 |
| Lower Middle Income Earner (P 21,914 to P43,828) | 8 | 1.7 |

7.1.5 Social Capital

The older population, 6.3% (81), are receiving senior citizen pension while 5.9% (75) are 4Ps members relying on financial assistance from the government. It is a good indication that financial aid is given to them, and they are not isolated.

Table 7. Social Services (Government Assistance)

| Government Assistance (n=192) | F | % |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Senior Citizen | 81 | 42.19 |
| 4P's Members | 75 | 39.06 |
| None | 36 | 18.75 |

7.2 Livelihood Condition, Livelihood Needs, and Suggested Livelihood Options

Presented in Table 8 are the analysis result. It shows and states the identified assets, livelihood conditions and needs, and suggested options and activities.

Table 8. Programming Framework for Livelihood Program and Livelihood Options

| Assets | Livelihood Condition | Livelihood Needs | Suggested Livelihood Options and Activities |
|--|--|---|---|
| Natural Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural lands ▪ with a natural deposit of marble 4/7 purok (57%) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Though they own land, agriculture is limited only to root crops such as cassava, banana, etc. 2. The closure of marble mining in the barangay affected marble workers and caused unemployment. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training, seminar, skill development | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate formation of an organization (farmers and fisherman association, laborer association, etc.). A registered private organization can request assistance or funding from government and non-government organizations. |
| Physical Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ poor water supply ▪ inferior to suitable housing ▪ poor sanitation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are water resources such as groundwater and deep well, but the water supply is still limited (once a week, the water tank is opened to reach households during the dry season and every other day during the wet season). 2. Some households live in makeshift housing, 2.9% (9), and informal settlers. 3. Several households don't have access to safe water, 36.45% (116) and sanitary toilets facilities 24.19% (75). | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management of water resources to end scarcity of water in the community 2. Distribution of sanitary toilets (available in rural health units) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate formation of an organization (farmers and fisherman association, laborer association, etc.). A registered private organization will have a chance to request assistance or ask for funding from government and non-government organizations. 2. Conduct of seminar on proper sanitation and hygiene. Awareness through workshops is a way of promoting adequate sanitation and good hygiene. |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Human Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ labor capacity ▪ limited skill ▪ lack of education ▪ lack knowledge | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most of the heads of the family are fishermen (86), laborers (73), marble workers (69), and farmers (54). 2. Most of the heads of the family did not finish college 96.13% (298) 3. Many young populations are sent to school, indicating valuing education 29.1% (372). | <p>Training, seminar, skill development</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate formation of an organization (farmers and fisherman association, laborer association, etc.). A registered private organization can request assistance or funding from government and non-government organizations. 2. Vocational/Skills Training and Counseling-includes training adolescents in vocational and small business management skills. The opportunity to add a skill or two will give them a livelihood option to work. Taking a vocational or technical course is free and should be taken advantage of. |
| <p>Financial Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ low wages ▪ no other sources of income | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most of the working population are earning below the poverty threshold, 413 (32.4%) | <p>Provide different options for livelihood</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vocational/Skills Training and Counseling-includes training adolescents in vocational and small business management skills. The opportunity to add a skill or two will give them a livelihood option to work. Taking a vocational or technical course is free and should be taken advantage of. |
| <p>Social Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ low social status ▪ strong links with family ▪ presence of government assistance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extended family can be observed 2. Bad condition of the barangay roads 3. Conditional cash transfer is given to the poorest, old and needy through 4Ps program 75 (5.9%) and senior citizen pension, 6.3% (81) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistency and Sustainability of the assistance 2. Savings and spending habits of fund given | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial Literacy-personal, household financial management. Saving and spending come together. Having a small amount of money with little to no savings has always been a problem. Gaining knowledge in financial literacy programs would be a help. 2. Mentoring programs-job shadowing, counseling, networking. This program aims to reduce social isolation or improve social cooperation in the community. |

8. Recommendations:

The result of the study is helpful in the implementation of livelihood programs that would fit the community's needs. Depending on the prioritized needs of the community, the following are the recommendations:

- a. For the university, formulate extension programs and activities that fit the community's needs.
- b. The leaders initiate registration of community groups or private organizations such as farmers, fishers, and workers' associations to open access to funding and assistance.

References

- [1] Amudavi, David M. (2003). Advancing a Partnership Model of Extension to Support the Kenya National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Program (NALEP) in Rural Livelihood Improvement. *Proceedings of the 19th Annual Conference*, 47-48.
- [2] Community-Based Management System. (2018). *The Many Faces of Poverty*. Vol.9, De La Salle Publishing House. Taft Avenue, Manila: CBMS Network Team.
- [3] Garcia, Rosario C. (2017). Integrating Community Services and Research: A livelihood Needs Assessment at the Countryside of the Philippines, 1-2. Retrieved from <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED570166>
- [4] Krantz, Lasse (2001). The Sustainable Livelihood Approach to Poverty Reduction. *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency*, 1-3.
- [5] Kuhinur, S and Rokonuzzaman M. (2009). Impact of Grameen Bank Micro Credit on Change in Livelihood Status of Women Beneficiaries. *J.Bangladesh Agril.Univ*,7(2), 382-386.
- [6] Mendes, P. P. (2008). Teaching community development to social work students: A critical reflection. *Community Development Journal*.
- [7] Mohanty, A.K, Lepch B., Kumar A. (2013). Constraints Analysis in Adoption of Vegetable Production Technologies for Livelihood Perspective of Tribal Farmers in North Sikkim. *Indian Res.J.Ext.Edu*, 13(2), 51-52.
- [8] Nyasimi, M.K (2007). Differentiating Livelihood Strategies among the Luo and Kipsigis on Western Kenya. *Journal of Ecological Anthropology*, 11(1), 44-45.
- [9] Penney, Antony (2008). Identification of a Livelihood Strategy and Programme to Address Underlying Causes of Food Insecurity in Somalia, 21-26. Retrieved from <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.404.3576&rep=rep1&type=pdf>
- [10] Philippine Statistics Authority. Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph>
- [11] Ellis, F. (2000). *Rural Livelihoods and Diversity in Developing Countries*, Oxford University Press p. 15
- [12] Chambers, R., & Conway, G. R. (1992). Sustainable rural livelihoods: practical concepts for the 21st century. *IDS Discussion Paper*, 296.
- [13] Farrington, J., Christoplos, I., & Kidd, A. D. (2002). *CAN EXTENSION CONTRIBUTE TO RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION? SYNTHESIS OF A SIX-COUNTRY STUDY* John Farrington, Ian Christoplos, Andrew D. Kidd, with Malin Beckman. 123.
- [14] Garcia, R. C. (2017). Integrating Community Services and Research: A Livelihood Needs Assessment at the Countryside of the Philippines Rosario. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 8(3), 113-119.
- [15] McLeod, R. (2001). *The impact of regulations and procedures on the livelihoods and*

asset base of the urban poor - a financial perspective. May, 20 pp.
<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/Output/184838/Default.aspx>

- [16] Reardon, T., Barrett, C. B., & Webb, P. (2001). Nonfarm Income Diversification and Household Livelihood Strategies in Rural Africa: Concepts, Dynamics, and Policy Implications Christopher B. Barrett. In *Food Policy* (Vol. 24, Issue 4).