

Problems Encountered By Out-of-School Youth in Selected Barangays of Catarman, Northern Samar

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ABSTRACT

This study on working out-of-school youth wanted to know the economic activities, economic contribution and to determine their role in Catarman, Northern Samar. It aimed to determine the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, know the reasons why they quit/stopped from formal schooling; identify the economic activities they are engaged in; find out their economic contributions to the community; and draw implications from the findings of the study to community development. As regards to the economic contributions of the working out-of-school youth, the following were revealed, earn income to support the family instead of being idle and dependent on parents, they are productive member in the community, and reduced the dependency burden of the barangay.

KEYWORDS: economic contribution, working out-of-school youth, Northern Samar

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Philippines has a large and rapidly increasing out-of-school youth population especially in the rural areas. Because of poverty, poor families are less able to send their children to school; hence their children will likely enter the labor force even before they are ready to work.

Every stage in our life as the youth encounter changes, they would be handling responsibility. It might be from the family or in the community, as s/he grows older more and more tasks are given to him/her.

Particularly those who have completed high school, today's kids in Catarman, Northern Samar, are eager in continuing their education. Some people opt not to attend school, while others decide to work. Given their educational background, they struggle to find employment. In addition, the majority of businesses recruit candidates based on their educational background.

Children nowadays, especially those in Catarman, Northern Samar, who have completed high school, are eager to continue their education. While some individuals choose to work, others elect not to go to school. Their educational background makes it difficult for them to get job. Additionally, the majority of employers choose candidates based on their academic credentials.

In Catarman, Northern Samar, this research on working youth and their economic contribution aims to understand the economic activities of out-of-school youth and to ascertain their function.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted to determine the problems encountered by out-of-school youth economic contributions in Catarman, Northern Samar. Specifically, it aimed to:

1. know the reasons why they quit/stopped from formal schooling;
2. draw implications from the finding of the study to community development.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Catarman, Northern Samar. The respondents of this study are the identified working out-of-school youth in Catarman, Northern Samar. This research employed the descriptive survey research design, to describe carefully the economic contribution of working out-of-school youth in Catarman, Northern Samar. The research instrument used in gathering data to the working out-of-school youth was survey questionnaire.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reasons why they quit/stopped from formal schooling

Table 9 presents that distribution of the respondents' reason why they quit/stopped from schooling. It shows that out of 80 respondents, ranking 1st or 56 was "got a job had and family to support", or "had trouble managing both school and work"; ranked

2 or 33 "did not like school general or the school they were attending"; ranked 3 or 19 "got pregnant or become a parent"; ranked 4.5 or 18 were "did not get along with teachers and financial problem"; ranked 6 or 15 "failing

getting poor grades, or couldn't keep up with school work", ranked 7.5 or 5 students had disciplinary problems and s/he didn't want to go to school"; ranked 8 or 4 "did not feel safe in school"; ranked 9 or 3 "had a drug problem"; 10 or 2 "ashamed"; ranked 12.5 or 1 "suspended or expelled, bored, my father went to prison and I have to get a job to support my family and I have no reason".

The data revealed that majority of the respondents quit/stopped from formal schooling because they need to get a job had a family to support or had a trouble managing both school and work. This finding implies that some youths are forced to quit/stopped and instead work to contribute the household economy.

Problems and Concerns

This table 12 presents the distribution of the respondents according to their problems and concerns. It shows that out of 80 respondents, ranked 1 or 7 90 "to earn money"; ranked 2 or 3 "capital for small business"; ranked 3 or 2 "nature of work is difficult"; ranked 5.5 or 1 "responsibility as a provider, low income, cost of living and savings for house construction. The data indicate that majority of the problems and concern of respondents was money. The finding of the study implies that working out-of- school youth contribute to the economic activities to the family.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were:

1. Majority of the respondents had quit/stopped from formal schooling because of the following: got a job had a family to support or had trouble managing both school and work. Poverty in the family is the major cause of increasing number of out-of-school youths and drop outs in the country.
2. Majority of the respondents are with mature age, and already working to support their families. Their right to education was violated, at their age they should be in school not in the labor force.
3. The working out-of-school is a valuable sector of the society. Usually they are the victim of oppressions and exploitations of the capitalistic economy.

6. 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations are followed:

1. The Barangay Council in coordination with teachers and

parents should go hand in hand to address school dropout especially in high school to avoid the increasing number of out-of-school youths through resolutions about the campaign to go back to school in cooperation with Dep Ed, BLGU, Church, and other sectors.

2. The Barangay Council should encourage out-of-school youth through provision of assistance in programs such as trainings for small business or to undergo skills training at TESDA. Usually, a skilled worker receives a higher income. Creation and income generating opportunities for parents may be provided to sustain the needs of their students initiated by the Barangay officials and other agencies.

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