
Profile, Problems and Needs of Barangay Health Workers in Catarman, Northern Samar: Basis for Program Enhancement

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed and conceptualized to determine the profile, problems and needs of Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) in Catarman, Northern Samar. Specifically, this study aimed to document the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, measure the degree problems encountered by the BHWs, determine the level of needs of the Barangay Health Workers to better improve their duties and responsibilities, and ascertain if there is a significant relationship between the degree of problems and level of needs of the BHWs in performing their duties when grouped according to demographic profile. As to the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, out of 183 BHWs, the majority are 33 years old and above with 80 frequencies; female with 183 frequencies, married with 149 frequencies, college level with 117 frequencies, more than 12 years with 99 frequencies, composed of 7-9 family members with 113 frequencies, and gross family income of 5,001 -10,000 with 93 frequencies. The overall problems encountered by barangay health workers in performing their duties and responsibilities have a grand mean of 4.02, which is considered often problematic. The overall level of BHWs' needs to better perform their duties and responsibilities has a grand mean of 4.42, which is considered very high. As to the significant relationship between the degree of problems and the level of needs of the BHWs in performing their duties when grouped according to demographic profile, none of the variables showed a significant relationship between the dependent and independent variables.

Keywords: - *Barangay Health Workers, Profile, Problems and Needs.*

INTRODUCTION

Barangay Health Workers in Catarman, Northern Samar serve as crucial frontline providers in rural healthcare settings. Their profiles typically reflect a diverse range of community members with varying levels of formal education and training.

The research gaps include problems faced by community health workers, such as inadequate knowledge, limited capacity for service coverage, lack of infrastructural support, and challenges in social acceptance. These gaps affect BHWs' service delivery, which in turn affects their ability to serve the clientele.

Hence, this study will provide data-driven insights into the demographics, significant problems (technical, financial, logistical, health service, and emergency response), and essential needs of BHWs in Catarman, Northern Samar, directly informing the local government and health agencies for program enhancement, policy-making, and resource allocation to improve their performance and support their crucial role in the community. Also, the findings serve as a foundation for local government units (LGUs) to develop targeted

programs and policies aimed at enhancing BHWs performance, addressing their identified needs, and institutionalizing support mechanisms.

Statement of the Problem

. This study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of: 1.1 Age, 1.2 Sex, 1.3 Civil Status, 1.4 Educational Attainment, 1.5 Length of Service, 1.6 Number of Family Members, and 1.7 Gross Family Income
2. What are the degree problems encountered by the Barangay Health Workers in performing their duties and responsibilities in terms of: 2.1 Personal and Ethical Dilemmas, 2.2 Community-level Challenges, 2.3 Institutional Challenges,
3. What are the level of needs of the Barangay Health Workers to better improve their duties and responsibilities in terms of: 3.1 Financial and Professional Needs, 3.2 Training and Resource Needs, and 3.3 Structural and Systemic Needs
4. Is there a significant relationship between the degree of problems and the level of needs of the Barangay Health Workers in performing their duties when grouped according to demographic profile?
5. Based on the result, what program can be enhanced?

Scope and Delimitations

This study sought to find out the profile, problems, and needs of barangay health workers in Catarman, Northern Samar. One limitation of this study was respondent participation, as some refused to complete the survey questionnaire. Also, the large population of BHWs in every barangay, which the researchers cannot include in full, is another limitation.

Review of Related Literature

According to Baliolaa et al. (2024), barangay health workers (BHWs) are community health workers (CHWs) trained to serve as the first point of contact for patients within the larger health system. The BHW program is the main approach of the Philippine government to eliminate disparities in the delivery and accessibility of health services between urban and rural areas. The Global adoption of the Primary Health Care (PHC) framework from 1978 aims to strengthen local health systems at the community level (Baliola M, Golpe M, Advincula-Lopez LV, 2024).

Theoretical Framework

The core theory is **Virginia Henderson's 14 Basic Needs Theory**. The theory states that the nurse's role is to assist patients in performing 14 essential activities of daily living that they are unable to do independently, with the ultimate goal of helping them regain independence as quickly as possible. (Logan, C., 2025)

Another theory is **Faye Abdellah's 21 Typology of Nursing Problems**. The theory explained that a patient-centered framework that organizes nursing care around 21 specific problems across three categories: physical, sociological, and emotional needs. (Gonzalo, A., 2024)

Lastly, **Florence Nightingale's Environmental Theory** is also pinned to the study. The theory posits that the nurse's primary role is to use the environment to promote healing and recovery by manipulating external factors. Theory directly applies to Community Health Workers (CHWs) by providing a framework for improving community health through environmental modifications, similar to how she improved hospital sanitation.

Conceptual Framework

The concept of this study is the Input-Process-Output (IPO) Model, in which the input includes documentation of the socio-demographic profile of the respondents. The input includes the degree of problems encountered by the Barangay Health Workers in performing their duties and responsibilities, and the level of needs of the Barangay Health Workers to better improve their duties and responsibilities. The study process includes data collection through a survey questionnaire and testing for a significant relationship between the degree of problems and the level of needs of Barangay Health Workers in performing their duties, when grouped according to demographic profile. The output of the study is a program enhancement based on its results.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used a pure qualitative research design. The study respondents were all BHWs in the municipality of Catarman, Northern Samar.

Research Design

The study employed a quantitative research design, specifically a descriptive correlational design. Descriptive correlational quantitative research design tests the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

Research Steps

The researcher used the researcher's made/self-made research instrument. No part of the questionnaire is patterned or lifted from a previous study. The questionnaire will comprise three parts in this study. The researchers' instrument for this study was submitted to the research professor and adviser for corrections and pretested with three (3) experts in this field.

Data Collection and Sample Selection

To determine the sample size, the complete enumeration sampling technique was used. Hence, one hundred eighty-three (183) were included. After collection, the data will be tabulated and analyzed statistically using frequency counts, percentages, rankings, and chi-square tests. Lastly, the researcher ensured that data would be deleted after three (3) years, following the study.

Data Analysis Methods

Different kinds of statistical methods were used in this study according to its appropriateness. The following statistical tools will be applied. The researchers used tally, percentage computation, weighted mean, and chi-square.

Research Hypotheses and Validation

The researchers' instrument for this study was submitted to the research professor and adviser for corrections and pretested with three (3) experts in this field. Their corrections were considered sufficient to improve the questionnaire. Then it was pretested on ten percent (10%) of the population size, or eighteen (18) BHWs in the municipality of Bobon, Northern Samar, a nearby municipality of Catarman.

Study Limitations and ethical considerations

One limitation of this study was respondent participation, as some refused to complete the survey questionnaire. Also, the large population of BHWs in every barangay, where the researchers cannot include all of the BHWs, is another limitation. This study was conducted during the School Year 2025-2026.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SOP 1. What is the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of: age, sex, civil status, educational attainment, length of service, number of family members and gross family income?

As to the socio-demographic profile, majority of the respondents are 33 years old and above, female, married, college level, more than 12 years in the service, composed of 7-9 family members, and earned 5,001-10,000 per month.

SOP 2. What are degree problems encountered by the Barangay Health Workers in performing their duties and responsibilities in terms of: Personal and Ethical Dilemmas, Community-level Challenges, and Institutional Challenges?

The data revealed that Personal and Ethical Dilemmas has a mean of 3.61 which is considered often a problem, Community-level Challenges has mean of 4.07 which is considered as often a problem while Institutional Challenges has mean of 4.40 which is considered as always a problem. The overall problems encountered by the barangay health workers in performing their duties and responsibilities has a grand mean of 4.02 which is considered as often a problem.

SOP 3. What are the level of needs of the Barangay Health Workers to better improve their duties and responsibilities in terms of: Financial and Professional Needs, Training and Resource Needs and Structural and Systemic Needs?

The data revealed that financial and professional needs has mean of 4.45 which is considered very highly needed, training and resources needs has mean of 4.49 which is very highly needed, and structural and systematic needs has mean of 3.58 which is considered highly needed. The overall level of needs of the BHWs to better improve their duties and responsibilities has a grand mean 4.42 which is considered very highly needed.

SOP 4. Is there a significant relationship between the degree of problems and level of needs of the Barangay Health Workers in performing their duties when grouped according to demographic profile?

The significant relationship between the degree of problems and level of needs of the BHWs in performing their duties when grouped according to demographic profile, all variables has not significant relationship between the dependent and independent variables.

SUMMARY

Out of 183 Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), most were 33 years old and above, female, married, college-level educated, with over 12 years of service, belonging to families of 7–9 members, and earning a gross family income of ₱5,001–10,000. The overall problems encountered in their duties had a grand mean of 4.02, categorized as “Often a Problem,” while their overall level of needs scored a grand mean of 4.42, considered “Very Highly Needed.” Statistical analysis revealed no significant relationship between the degree of problems and the level of needs when grouped according to socio-demographic profile, indicating that challenges and needs are consistent across all categories.

CONCLUSIONS

BHWs are predominantly adult, married women with considerable years of service, moderate educational attainment, relatively large family sizes, and low income, indicating that they are experienced but may be financially constrained. BHWs frequently encounter problems in carrying out their duties and responsibilities, suggesting that challenges are a regular part of their work and may hinder optimal performance. The level of needs among BHWs is very high, indicating a strong demand for support systems such as training, resources, and assistance to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. Lastly, the degree of problems encountered, and the level of needs do not significantly vary across socio-demographic characteristics, implying that these challenges and needs are commonly experienced by BHWs regardless of their background.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are suggested: (1) Local Government Unit (LGU) of Catarman may strengthen support for BHWs by providing adequate financial assistance, incentives, and benefits to help address their economic constraints. (2) Health authorities and program planners may design and implement continuous training programs, capacity-building activities, and skill enhancement workshops to address the high level of needs identified. (3) Delivery of resources and logistics such as medical supplies, equipment, and transportation support may be prioritized to reduce the problems frequently encountered by BHWs.

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AI DECLARATION STATEMENT:

AI-supported tools helped with grammar and structure in creating this article. No AI tools were used to collect, analyze, or interpret data.

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