



Youth governance in the selected Barangays of Baguio City

Governança Juvenil nos Barangays Selecionados da cidade de Baguio, Filipinas

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ABSTRACT

The youth are expected to participate in nation-building and youth development programs not just in sports but also in various sectors of society enumerated in the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the Philippine Youth Development Plan. The Philippines have the Sangguniang Kabataan as a venue for the youth to participate in governance and is guided by the Sangguniang Kabataan reform act of 2015. The research focused on studying the youth governance of selected barangays of Baguio City. The study utilized a descriptive qualitative approach, using key participant interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis in data gathering and using thematic analysis. Results show that the Sangguniang Kabataan conducts youth profiling to identify the needs of the youth. Starting from there, they create projects and programs, many under active citizenship. The Sangguniang Kabataan employ different strategies in formulating and implementing projects and programs, such as organizational partnerships, employing intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and having adaptability, resourcefulness, and commitment to serving and empowering the youth. Despite having great strategies, there is still a problem in gaining youth participation due to more availability of other Sangguniang Kabataan leaders, inactive youth participation, challenge on budget, and lack of facilities and training. Several programs were designed by the researchers to address the challenges that transpired during the study, and these were: semestral general assembly, capacity building for Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and Katipunan ng Kabataan members, and the creation of a youth center.

RESUMO

Espera-se que os jovens participem de programas de construção da nação e desenvolvimento da juventude, não apenas nos esportes, mas também em vários setores da sociedade enumerados na Agenda 2030 das Nações Unidas e no Plano de Desenvolvimento da Juventude das Filipinas. As Filipinas têm o Sangguniang Kabataan como um local para os jovens participarem da governança e são guiados pela lei de reforma Sangguniang Kabataan de 2015. A pesquisa se concentrou em estudar a governança juvenil de barangays selecionados da cidade de Baguio. O estudo utilizou uma abordagem qualitativa descritiva, usando entrevistas com participantes-chave, discussões de grupos focais e análise de documentos na coleta de dados e usando análise temática. Os resultados mostram que o Sangguniang Kabataan realiza perfis de jovens para identificar as necessidades dos jovens. A partir daí, criam projetos e programas, muitos deles de cidadania ativa. O Sangguniang Kabataan emprega diferentes estratégias na formulação e implementação de projetos e programas, como parcerias organizacionais, empregando motivação intrínseca e extrínseca e tendo adaptabilidade, desenvoltura e compromisso de servir e capacitar a juventude. Apesar de ter ótimas estratégias, ainda há um problema em obter a participação dos jovens devido à maior disponibilidade de outros líderes de Sangguniang Kabataan, participação inativa dos jovens, desafio no orçamento e falta de instalações e treinamento. Vários programas foram concebidos pelos pesquisadores para enfrentar os desafios que surgiram durante o estudo, e estes foram: assembléia geral semestral, capacitação para líderes de Sangguniang Kabataan e membros de Katipunan ng Kabataan e a criação de um centro para jovens.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Article process:

Submitted: 11/05/2023

Approved: 22/08/2023

Published: 21/10/2023



Keywords:

Sangguniang Kabataan, Katipunan ng Kabataan, 9 Centers of Youth Participation, Baguio City, Youth Governance

Palavras-chave

Sangguniang Kabataan, Katipunan ng Kabataan, 9 Centros de Participação Juvenil, Cidade de Baguio, Governança Juvenil

Introduction

Most countries have already acknowledged the importance of youth participation in the community and have embedded that notion in their respective laws. And, youth councils are one of the most common ways that countries use to produce and enhance youth participation in their communities. Youth councils aim to encourage and involve the youth in decision-making within their local communities (Augustyniak, 2022).

There is, however, an inadequacy in the academic literature about how youth councils work (De Jesus, 2022; Haddad, 2020; Sawyer, 2019). Still, researchers have determined some positive points of youth councils. Aside from providing benefits to the locality, the youth members themselves profit from being part of youth councils and tend to experience skills development and improved self-esteem. Through youth councils, there is an enhancement of youth empowerment. With such advantages, it is desirable and recommended that the youth be involved in every step of the decision-making process to improve the level of youth participation. This, in turn, will likely result in positive changes on several levels for the individual and the community (De Jesus, 2022 & Haddad, 2020).

The youth's inadequate ability to understand academic or professional documents or plans often results in shallow and unsatisfactory suggestions and implicates their level of participation in these youth councils. Youth participation in youth councils is therefore often tokenistic/symbolic or manipulated which is seen as non-participation. (Haddad, 2020 & Sawyer, 2019; Arunkumar et al, 2018).

The Philippines recognizes youth governance through the powers of Sangguniang Kabataan that are more comprehensively stated in the "Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015". Under this, the Sangguniang Kabataan can adopt resolutions, establish programs and projects, and implement regulations that benefit their fellow youths and society. The provisions and objectives in the Philippine Youth Development Plan published by the National Youth Commission aiming to engage the youth to actively contribute in these nine sectors: Health, Social Inclusion & Equity, Active Citizenship, Education, Peace-building & Security, Environment, Economic Empowerment, Governance, and Global Mobility (National Youth Commission, 2018).

The Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson leads the Sangguniang Kabataan, serving as an ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Barangay and heading the Committee on Youth and Sports Development ("Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015", 2016). Currently, the Sangguniang Kabataan Elections have been postponed for another time, to the last Monday of

October 2023. In the newly signed RA 11935, the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan term will start on November 30 (Parrocha, 2022).

Just like how youth councils face many issues internationally, the Sangguniang Kabataan is not immune to problems. Before the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, many government officials clamored for the abolition of Sangguniang Kabataan citing problems of poor governance practices, corruption, incompetence, lack of support from adult offices, and adverse effects on the members' personal lives among others. Also, studies indicate that in the past years, Sangguniang Kabataan projects were noticeably inclined toward the area of sports, which points to a neglect of important areas for youth such as education and health. These criticisms brought about the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, which included reforms in the Sangguniang Kabataan budget and financial autonomy, skills training, the creation of Local Youth Development Councils, and others. Although there were indeed improvements, there remain issues plaguing the Sangguniang Kabataan. The structure of the Sangguniang Kabataan which subjects it under the jurisdiction of the Barangay Council, the equivalent of a village council, limits their autonomy in project formulation despite being entitled 10% of the Barangay general funds as mandated by the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act. The nationwide implementation of mandatory training for Sangguniang Kabataan members looks unsatisfactory, with the same issue also occurring with the implementation of LYDCs. These problems among others prevent the Sangguniang Kabataan from creating meaningful programs to benefit the youth and intensify the tokenistic characteristics of the Sangguniang Kabataan (Flores et al, 2021).

Despite these challenges, Baguio City has been active in supporting Sangguniang Kabataan and the youth in general. Different youth leaders and youth organizations, primarily the Sangguniang Kabataan, are recognized for their contribution and active participation through the "10 Outstanding Youth Leaders and Organizations," where different youth leaders are awarded for showing that the Baguio youth are promoting active participation and contribution to society (Baguio Youth Development Council, 2020).

Materials and Methods

The study utilized a descriptive qualitative approach. Researchers utilized semi-structured interviews for Sangguniang Kabataan Chairpersons, separate focus group discussions for Sangguniang Kabataan members and Katipunan ng Kabataan members (youth constituents), and document analysis of the Sangguniang Kabataan's Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program and Accomplishment Reports. The researchers developed specific guide questions for the Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussion validated by the University of Baguio Research and Development Center. The researchers conducted a thematic

analysis by identifying the codes and themes from the interviews and also conducted data triangulation by comparing the information from the FGD and the accomplishment reports requested by the Sangguniang Kabataan. This is carried out to ensure that the Sangguniang Kabataan's statements and discussions are factual and to reflect the Katipunan ng Kabataan's viewpoints on the topic at hand.

The researchers utilized the purposive sampling technique in selecting the study participants. The barangays have been chosen based on the top-performing Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and organizations in Baguio City as per City Ordinance No. 004 series of 1999. Out of 128 barangays in the city of Baguio, Pinsao Pilot Project, Brookspoint, Loakan Proper, and Trancoville are 4 barangays selected as the focus of the study.

The requirements for the inclusion of participants the Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and members are that they are 18 years old or above, a member of the Sangguniang Kabataan as of 2019, and have resided in the barangays for at least three years. As for the Katipunan ng Kabataan members, they are at least 18 years old, have lived in the barangay for three years, and are familiar with its youth-focused programs. The study excluded members who are minors, new to the community, absent in the community during the pandemic, and unfamiliar with barangay activities.

Results and Discussions

This part of the paper discusses the interpretation and analysis of the results gathered from the Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and Katipunan ng Kabataan members from barangays Loakan Proper, Trancoville, Pinsao Pilot, and Brookspoint. The themes to be discussed are the specific projects and programs formulated by the Sangguniang Kabataan in the different priority areas of concern in their respective barangays based on the 9 centers of Youth Participation as indicated in the Philippine Youth Development Plan, strategies adopted by the Sangguniang Kabataan in the formulation and implementation of the projects and programs of the Sangguniang Kabataan, and the challenges faced by the Sangguniang Kabataan in the implementation of their projects and programs. A program design that will address issues related to the formulation and implementation of projects and programs is proposed at the end of the discussion.

Specific Projects and Programs Formulated by the Sangguniang Kabataan in their Respective Barangays based on the 9 Centers of Youth Participation indicated in the Philippine Youth Development Plan

The Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015 sets a mandate for the Sangguniang Kabataan to be guided by the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan and the

Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program which is also based on the Philippine Youth Development Plan, and their respective Local Youth Development Plan, to formulate projects and programs relevant to the development of the youth. However, one of the criticisms of the Sangguniang Kabataan is the inclination to focus on sports activities, disregarding other sectors such as education (Flores et al., 2021).

The researchers used the nine centers of youth participation as themes for the gathered projects and programs. As listed below, Active Citizenship had the most activities even as written in the accomplishment reports of the barangays. Often, the Katipunan ng Kabataan are called to volunteer for activities and the barangays have their volunteer program for these youth. As observed, Health programs also focused on pandemic-related activities. Global mobility had little to no activity since the barangays did not formulate activities that did not interest the youth. Brookspoint Sangguniang Kabataan was active in international programs. It can be observed that the barangays did not just focus on sports activities but also had activities for youth with specific needs, scholarship programs, supporting youth organizations, and programs of the national and local government.

Table 1
Projects and Programs per barangay, as classified per center of participation

	Loakan	Pinsao Pilot	Trancoville	Brookspoint
Active citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food packs relief distribution - Travel pass assistance - Esports: ML tournament - Cooking competition - Arts and crafts - Liga - District events - Christmas gift-giving and parol-making - Poster-making competition - Linggo ng kabataan (Cultural Dance Contest) - Volunteer, facilitator, and leadership training for Katipunan ng Kabataan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Food packs relief distribution -Linggo ng kabataan -Esports: ML tournament -Song composition competition -Thank you card to frontliners -Parlour games for kids -Katipunan ng Kabataan volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Youth mobilization program -Cosplaying -Leadership training of youth organization -Art program -Formulation of fun activities -Liga -Creation of youth organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promotion of family day -Community engagement -Linggo ng kabataan -Promotion of youth participation -Relief goods distribution -Community pantry -Cooking contest -Kids' parlour games -Esports: ML tournament
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adolescent sexual reproductive health seminar - Seminar and outreach on teenage pregnancy and family planning - Parent teen talk - Blood donation drive - Medical assistance for the youth, aged mothers, and PWD youth - Basic first aid training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ARH seminar -Hygiene kits distribution -Blood donation drive -Supplemental feeding for lactating mothers -Mental health awareness seminar -Sports fest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health kit/ hygiene kit distribution -Seminars/Webinars: General reproductive health -Medical assistance for the youth, aged, mothers, and PWD youth -Innovative health kit bags -Reproductive health seminar/quiz bee -Webinars on teenage pregnancy -Nutrition month -HIV and AIDS seminar -First aid training -Seminar on anti-illegal drugs -Competition regarding creation of sustainable kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health kit distribution -Proper hand-washing demonstration -HIV seminar and testing -Mental health awareness -Information dissemination on youth pregnancy -Personality development
Social inclusion and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seminars to address concerns on violence against women and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Social welfare and development seminar -Christmas gift-giving/goody box -Youth socialization night -Christmas parol-making -Online Christmas carol -Youth got talent -Halloween activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Awareness program for LGBTQ and PWD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pride march/Pride country inclusive programs -Gender inclusive programs

Education	-Quiz bee	-School supplies distribution -School induction programs -Educational financial assistance -Trivia quiz -Traditional and digital poster making competition -Canvas painting competition -Phone photography competition -Logo making competition	-Educational financial assistance -Brigada eskwela -School supplies distribution	-Reading corner -Summer story camp -Educational financial assistance -Arts competition
Environment	-Urban gardening -Beautification of facilities -Clean and green	-Tree planting -Clean and green	-Clean-up drive -Environmental summits -Tree planting activities	-Clean-up drive -Tree planting -Terrarium making -Urban gardening
Peace building and security	-Seminar on anti-drugs and terrorism (KKDAT)	-KKDAT Seminar -Basic life support training and standard first-aid -Seminar on fire prevention	-KKDAT Seminar -Seminar on Anti-terrorism -Youth night	-KKDAT Forum -Police assistance
Governance	-Voters' registration assistance -Sangguniang Kabataan capacity building seminar -Speakership training	-Assistance in answering community inquiry	-Leadership training -Leadership training of youth organization -Election information campaign	-Turnover of activities -Leadership trainings
Economic empowerment	-Job fair		-Workshop for unemployed -Job first program -Peer facilitator and career seminar	-Economic empowerment for out-of-school youths -Livelihood program for mothers (Flower vase making)

Strategies Adopted by the Sangguniang Kabataan in the Formulation and Implementation of the Projects and Programs of the Sangguniang Kabataan

This area presents the notable strategies used by the different Sangguniang Kabataan in formulating and implementing their projects and programs. All Sangguniang Kabataan barangays are keen on engaging in partnerships with outside organizations with regard to their projects, programs, and activities. They also create meaningful and relevant activities for their youth constituents as per their goal of youth empowerment and basing these activities on youth needs determined through systematic and objective inquiry. To persuade the youth to participate the Sangguniang Kabataan participants also utilized intrinsic and extrinsic motivations. Additionally, being adaptable and practicing participative leadership are needed for successful formulation and implementation of projects. Last but not the least, developing leadership skills in both Sangguniang Kabataan officials and their youth constituents, and encouraging and perpetuating volunteerism are deemed important by the Sangguniang Kabataan participants.

Research data implies that the youth governance of the chosen Sangguniang Kabataan mostly relies on partnerships with other organizations compared with other themes. This is mainly due to limitations on their abilities, budget and other needed resources. Participative Leadership is also important in ensuring the effectiveness of the formulation and implementation of their projects and programs, and a helpful factor in developing good relationships with the youth which in turn is advantageous in improving youth participation.

According to Kaumbolo et al., (2022), good governance is composed of a high level of stakeholder participation, effective leadership, and the resulting group efficiency. Hence, because of the problem in youth participation, the many and varying strategies used by the Sangguniang Kabataan to

formulate and implement their programs still seem to be inadequate in achieving high levels of genuine youth empowerment. Inadequate youth participation blocks effective and adequate inquiry into youth's needs and interests thereby limiting the Sangguniang Kabataan's abilities to formulate meaningful and relevant activities for the youth. It also obstructs the Katipunan ng Kabataan from satisfactorily being a part of the Sangguniang Kabataan decision-making process and truly exercising their right to political participation. Because of such dilemmas, most of the strategies mentioned by the research participants are one way or another, aimed at improving youth participation.

Without improving youth participation of the Katipunan ng Kabataan, even with effective leadership and efficient group work, the Sangguniang Kabataan will continue to struggle to achieve genuine political participation and youth empowerment. These various strategies utilized by the chosen Sangguniang Kabataan support Rojas' (2020) implied ingenuity and untapped potential of the youth. Therefore, the Sangguniang Kabataan, along with its youth leaders, truly needs to be aided and encouraged by the community and the government.

Challenges Faced by the Sangguniang Kabataan in Fostering Youth Engagement and in the Implementation and Formulation of their Youth-Focused Projects and Programs

This area presents the challenges faced by the Sangguniang Kabataan of the selected barangays in formulating and implementing their projects and programs. This current study investigates the various factors that hamper the effectiveness of the Sangguniang Kabataans youth governance established under the 2015 Sangguniang Kabataan reform act.

Sangguniang Kabataan Non-Availability

The success of programs and projects for youths is affected by the Sangguniang Kabataan's presence during the development and implementation of the program. The SK's Non-availability is because of the following reasons;

1. **Work and School Priorities**

The absence of some SK leaders is attributed to the fact that education and employment are now prioritized and regarded as being of utmost importance, especially in a developing nation like the Philippines. The participant from the Katipunan ng Kabataan of Pinsao Pilot and Brookpoint responded that work and education are the main reasons why some of their SK leaders are no longer active. The Sangguniang Kabataan is conflicted whether to prioritize their passion as a youth leader or otherwise leave behind their responsibilities and focus on their studies.

2. **Non-Compensation to Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)**

It has been claimed by some participants that not being compensated impacts their presence as Sangguniang Kabataan leaders. This was supported by Levy Lloyd Orcales, the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation President of Baguio, who said there was a poor voter turnout during the 2018 election since some of the youths spoke out about not being compensated even for their fare while performing official duties. (Agoot, 2018). The researchers observed that since the SK Chairperson is the only one receiving an honoraria, the other SK leaders are demotivated to continue their youth service. The Sangguniang Kabataan of Pinsao Pilot and Trancoville asserts that they cannot compel the Sangguniang Kabataan leaders to stay because they are not compensated and have goals outside of being a youth leader.

3. **Postponement of Barangay Election**

The participant from Trancoville brought up the effects of the delayed barangay election. He claims that since there are only one or two active SK leaders, postponing the barangay election this 2022 is a challenge so it's necessary to nurture the next generation of leaders to replace the current ones. The researchers inferred that the burden of not having SK

leaders is not only a problem for formulating and implementing youth programs but also puts pressure on the remaining SK leaders.

Inactive Youth Participation

Several institutions, the non-governmental sector, and young people have identified young people's low participation in local public life as an issue (Podgorica, 2022). The participation of the Katipunan ng Kabataan is essential for the development and execution of programs and projects since they are the activities lifeline. The study's findings showed that the Sangguniang Kabataan is challenged by the youths' inactivity and lack of interest. It was claimed that despite the SK leaders' best efforts to develop programs, motivating participants remains challenging, as they assert, "mahirap silang hikayatin."

The study has found possible reasons for the youths' lack of participation. Which includes the following;

1. **Katipunan ng Kabataan Lack of Time Availability**

According to the results of this study, the Katipunan ng Kabataan cannot participate in the activities because some members are studying or working. As reflected in the statements of SK Brookspoint, the main obstacle to youth participation is time because the majority of participants are students. Whereas, the SK Chairperson of Trancoville stated that the youths do not have the time to participate in the activities because they also need to do something more productive that emphasizes the necessity of work.

2. **Shy Youth Participants**

The youth performance in the barangays of Loakan and Pinsao Pilot demonstrates the Ibaloi tribe's shy mango culture. In the Cordilleras, a shy person is referred to as a "shy mango." Although it is not used in Brookspoint and Trancoville, it was discussed in the interview that most of their youths are shy and rarely participate in activities.

Moreover, it was discovered that male participants are more active than female youths in Barangay Pinsao Pilot, which is a distinctive feature compared to the other barangays. It was noted that the issue with the low level of youth involvement among the female gender was due to the limited number of programs for female participants.

Additionally, it was stated that some youths would not attend without bribes, like food or a certificate. Further, some participants only join or engage in activities if someone accompanies them.

3. **Lack of Opportunities**

The limited opportunities for youths have been identified as a barrier to youth engagement (Barriers to Youth Engagement and Moving Beyond Them, 2015). The participants' opportunities to showcase their abilities, skills, and knowledge in the various sectors are limited by the lack of programs for female involvement in Pinsao Pilot and the lack of employment activities in the selected barangays.

4. **Lack of Communication**

that the problem extends on the youths' poor efforts to participate in In the study by Malaluan et. al. (2014) even though the Sangguniang Kabataan have great objectives at the start of their terms, such were not realized since subsequent planning are not being attained and activities are not being prepared well due to lack of efficient communication. However, it was seen in this present study that despite efforts to get young people involved in activities like Loakan and Trancoville where they sent invites from house to house. It can be assumed community activities. Furthermore, the pandemic has been ongoing since 2020, so the SK cannot hold meetings or dialogues with the Katipunan ng Kabataan. Despite the availability of online platforms, the

dissemination of information is still constrained because only few have access to the internet.

Challenge on Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Budget

The Department of Budget and Management emphasized that the budget is crucial because it allows the government to plan and manage its financial resources to support the implementation of various programs and projects (The Budgeting Process). Although the SK leaders have a solid foundation of programs and projects, they are hampered by insufficient funding. According to one of the participants, since their barangays are smaller, so is their National Tax Allotment. Even though they have many initiatives in mind, they are constrained by the insufficient funds to support all the activities planned.

Further, it was asserted by the Chairperson of Trancoville that there are inconsistencies on the part of COA, DILG, and other governmental agencies that require the submission of paperwork for transparency and auditing purposes. As they should have created the budget handbook earlier so that the SK would already have their training. Additionally, the participant from Loakan Proper stated that, the budget handbook needed to be better crafted regarding how to release a budget because there are no well written guidelines on how to. With this, they typically turn to sponsorship or solicitation.

Lack of Facilities

The SK of Trancoville and Loakan stated that they do not have recreational facilities such as open courts, youth centers, cultural centers, or other facilities where they can conduct their activities, limiting the programs for the youth. Therefore, these barangays often rent venues for their activities but in some instances Loakan Proper uses the barangay hall or the landing zones for its activity. Additionally, there are also transportation issues because some of the events occur outside the barangay. As for barangay Trancoville, they have to hire jitneys to arrive at the venue.

Programs that will address issues related to the formulation and implementation of projects and programs

Semestral General Assembly

One of the mandates in the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015 is for the Katipunan ng Kabataan to have at least one meeting every six months ("Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015", 2016). With issues of seemingly lacking participation from the Katipunan ng Kabataan due to the lack of confidence and interest, an excellent way to address this is to convene a semestral general assembly for the youth to know each other and share their interests. The researchers further elaborated the semestral general assembly on a program design, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Semestral General Assembly for the Katipunan ng Kabataan

General Program Information	
Program Description:	A semestral general assembly where the Sangguniang Kabataan, their roles and responsibilities, and plans will be introduced, and a needs assessment and discussion on the results of the needs assessment will be discussed with the Katipunan ng Kabataan
Prerequisite Programs:	N/A
Duration:	Once every semester, annually
Management Level of Program:	Per Barangay
Delivery Mode:	Depending on the pandemic restrictions, it may be done through face to face or online
Target Personnel:	Katipunan ng Kabataan Members
Budget Requirements:	This is to be based on the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program
Rationale:	
<p>Other than being a mandate of the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, a semestral general assembly is an avenue for the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Katipunan ng Kabataan to gather and socialize.</p> <p>The Sk will conduct a semestral general assembly, where the first general assembly will be done at the start of the year. A follow-up general assembly will be conducted in the middle of the year, checking on the progress of the issues raised during the first general assembly.</p> <p>Through gathering the youths, essential issues and concerns may be raised through a needs assessment. Through a needs assessment, projects and programs planned to be conducted better gain participation as the interests and needs of the youth are being catered.</p> <p>The youth gets exposed to the decision-making process, and the Sangguniang Kabataan will have a chance to create interesting and meaningful activities, not just for the sake of having projects and programs on paper but also to integrate a community level of youth participation.</p> <p>As the Sangguniang Kabataan conduct an initial needs assessment, they may use it as a basis for their Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program and ensure that the youth will participate as the projects and programs will be based on their suggestions.</p> <p>The general assembly is therefore designed to have the Katipunan ng Kabataan be aware of</p>	

the Sangguniang Kabataan and give them a chance to express their thoughts. Additionally, the general assembly is designed to foster volunteerism and participation in governance and a way to compile youth concerns and establish projects and programs relevant to those concerns.

Objectives:

The general assembly aims to:

- a. Introduce the Sangguniang Kabataan to the Katipunan ng Kabataan, raising awareness on the Sangguniang Kabataan
- b. Conduct a needs assessment that includes a youth profile, where the Sangguniang Kabataan may formulate projects and programs based on the assessment results and observations of the Sangguniang Kabataan in their community
- c. During the 2nd general assembly, check on the progress of issues raised during the first general assembly
- d. Create a rapport between the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Katipunan ng Kabataan

End of Program Outputs

During the end of the program, it is expected that the Katipunan ng Kabataan will have an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Sangguniang Kabataan; the Sangguniang Kabataan will have a compiled report of the needs assessment to be disseminated; the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Katipunan ng Kabataan will have a rapport and a means of communication and connection; the Sangguniang Kabataan are able to formulate and implement activities based on the needs of the Katipunan ng Kabataan, increasing awareness and interest of the Katipunan ng Kabataan and for the Sangguniang Kabataan to learn transparency and accountability

Expected Final Outcomes/Success Indicators:

- a. At the end of the program, Sangguniang Kabataan can connect with the Katipunan ng Kabataan, and the Katipunan ng Kabataan can open up and voice their concerns. It is also expected that the Sangguniang Kabataan sparks the interest of the Katipunan ng Kabataan and is seen through the attendance and involvement of the Katipunan ng Kabataan within their community.

II. Program Content Focus

Content Matrix

The objectives of the semestral general assembly aim to have regular meetings with the Katipunan ng Kabataan, introduce the Sangguniang Kabataan to them, and make the Katipunan ng Kabataan more involved with the Sangguniang Kabataan

Specific Objectives	Contents	Suggested Activity	Duration	Expected Output
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1st general assembly of the year				
Understanding the Sangguniang Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan	Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015 and other relevant laws Understanding democratic processes (suffrage, freedom of speech and others)	Presentation and an ice breaker before moving to the next part of the program	1 hour and 30 minutes	Katipunan ng Kabataan understands the roles and responsibilities of youth
Conduct a needs assessment on the Katipunan ng Kabataan, specifically collecting their interests, characteristics, and needs	Name, Age, Classification (In-school youth, Out-of-school youth, working youth, Youth with Specific Needs), Facebook Profile Link, Interests, and Hobbies, Which of the nine centers of youth participation are you most likely to participate? (rank from 1-9)	Survey to be distributed at the start of the general assembly. Results are to be compiled by the Sangguniang Kabataan Secretary	2- hours	A compiled output that summarizes the interests of the different youth sectors in the barangay in which the Sangguniang Kabataan may base their projects
Presentation of compiled needs assessment	Summary of: - Highest center of participation - Interests - Classification of youth	Posting of the needs assessment in the group chat, facebook page, schools within the barangay, and barangay hall	1 week	A document to be used as a basis in the formulation of projects and programs
Create a bond between the Sangguniang Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan		Creating a group chat for the Katipunan ng Kabataan	1 day	Katipunan ng Kabataan becomes connected with the Sangguniang Kabataan
2nd general assembly of the year				
State of the Sangguniang Kabataan Address (SOSangguniang KabataanA)	Presentation of past needs assessment Presentation of accomplished Projects and Programs	Presentation of Accomplishment Report of the past semester	1- hour	Transparency and accountability of the Sangguniang Kabataan
Conduct a follow-up needs assessment on the Katipunan ng Kabataan, specifically collecting their interests, characteristics, and needs	Name, Age, Classification (In-school youth, Out-of-school youth, working youth, Youth with Specific Needs), Facebook Profile Link, Interests and Hobbies, Which of the 9 centers of youth participation are you most likely to participate? (rank from 1-9)	Survey to be distributed at the start of the general assembly. Results are to be compiled by the Sangguniang Kabataan Secretary	2 hours	A compiled output that summarizes the interests of the different youth sectors in the barangay in which the Sangguniang Kabataan may base their projects

<p>Activity Schedule</p> <p>The activity will be scheduled once every semester and will be coordinated with the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Sangguniang Barangay</p>
<p>Materials:</p> <p>The materials needed are physical venues (seminar halls/ hotel function halls/ basketball courts), food and printed certificates for the participants, manila papers and markers for the participants to use, printed survey forms and evaluation forms, LCD projectors, PowerPoint presentations,</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation:</p> <p>The Sangguniang Kabataan will spearhead the monitoring of both the implementation and the evaluation of the program and will be assisted by the Sangguniang Barangay. For the needs assessment, it will be distributed and collected by the Sangguniang Kabataan Secretary and Sangguniang Kabataan Kagawads; also at the end of each general assembly, and an evaluation form will be given to be used as a reference for the improvement of future general assemblies.</p>

APPROVAL SHEET

This program was designed by Channel Dane S. Palangdao on November 29, 2022

Program Designer	Position/Designation	Date
Channel Dane S. Palangdao	Governor, University of Baguio Student Body School of Teacher Education and Liberal Arts	November 29, 2022

Capacity Building Training for Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and Katipunan ng Kabataan members

It is easy to answer that the Sangguniang Kabataan should be capacitated with the right skills, such as financial management, budgeting, transparency, basic leadership skills, problem analysis and resolution, and effective planning and implementing of projects and programs. However, a problem arises as one of the dilemmas of the Sangguniang Kabataan is that they need help with proper budgeting and auditing. There also needs to be a comprehensive Sangguniang Kabataan Handbook, specifically on budgeting. Table 3 is a program designed by the researchers in response to the mentioned challenges

Table 3

Capacity Building Training for Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and Katipunan ng Kabataan members

General Program Information	
<p>Program Description:</p>	<p>A continuous capacity building training program for the Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and Katipunan ng Kabataan members, with a distribution of published comprehensive handbooks and modules related to the Sangguniang Kabataan</p>

	Operations
Prerequisite Programs:	N/A
Duration:	Schedule to be coordinated with the local National Youth Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, Local Youth Development Council. Preferably on summer vacations.
Management Level of Program:	Per Barangay
Delivery Mode:	Depending on the pandemic restrictions, it may be done through face to face or online
Target Personnel:	Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and Katipunan ng Kabataan Members
Budget Requirements:	This is to be based on the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program

Rationale:

The Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015 mandates the Sangguniang Kabataan leaders to join continuous mandatory training. Mandatory training should be immediately coordinated with proper local government units such as the local National Youth Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, and Local Youth Development Council.

The continuous training will adequately equip the Sangguniang Kabataan Leaders to handle local governance. A comprehensive handbook given after training will guide the Sangguniang Kabataan members to understand what the leaders are expected to do properly.

Additionally, the Sangguniang Kabataan leaders need help with budgeting and auditing. With the proper training and handbook, the leaders will feel at ease and have better papers to submit.

Also, including the Katipunan ng Kabataan in these training will prepare future leaders to step up and add skills they may use when applying for a job if they are not to run for a position in the Sanggunian. With the institutionalization of a Katipunan ng Kabataan Volunteer Program after the training, the barangay will have more people involved in formulating and implementing projects and programs.

Objectives:

The capacity building training aims to:

- a. Equip the Sangguniang Kabataan leader and Katipunan ng Kabataan members with the proper skills in project development and management, budgeting, and auditing
- b. Involve the Katipunan ng Kabataan further in local governance, sparking more interest in participating in local affairs
- c. Release a comprehensive handbook after the training
- d. Institutionalize a Katipunan ng Kabataan Volunteer Program

End of Program Outputs

During the end of the program, the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Katipunan ng Kabataan are equipped with the right skills in local governance. Additionally, when a Katipunan ng Kabataan Volunteer Program is institutionalized, volunteerism, service, and commitment are instilled within the youth, and they may adequately help the Sangguniang Kabataan with project management. Also, it is expected that a comprehensive handbook will be given to the participants.

Expected Final Outcomes/Success Indicators:

- a. At the end of the program, Sangguniang Kabataan can properly budget and audit projects and programs to be implemented
- b. Katipunan ng Kabataan members are interested to join and volunteer for the barangay

II. Program Content Focus

Content Matrix

The objectives of the capacity building program aim to capacitate young leaders with proper skills and further involve the Katipunan ng Kabataan in decision-making and project development, and management.

Specific Objectives	Contents	Suggested Activity	Duration	Expected Output
Training on Project Management				
Learning the parts of project management	Planning: -needs assessment -situation and stakeholders analysis -identification of project -scheduling	Training Seminar on project management	1-hour	The Sangguniang Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan learn about planning and time management
	Designing: -Definition of objectives -expectations: project advantages , and project results		1-hour	The Sangguniang Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan learn about designing a project
	Implementing -how to start implementing -design execution -checking on progress and making adjustments		1-hour	The Sangguniang Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan learn proper implementation of projects
	Measuring -evaluation and reporting		1-hour	The Sangguniang

				Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan learn about evaluating projects and learning from evaluation forms
Project Proposal Making	Barangay situation analysis and the project proposal. Group the participants and let the participants formulate a project proposal based on their observed needs of the youth	Project proposal making	4 hours	Projects and programs for the youth that come from the Sangguniang Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan
Project Proposal Presentation	Summary of the project proposal. Present the project proposal in front of the Barangay Officials and invited speakers, where they may give their comments	Project proposal presentation	2 hours	improve project proposals and giving the Katipunan ng Kabataan a chance to have projects designed by themselves
Training on budgeting and auditing				
Learning how to properly arrange documents	Budgeting (Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program and budgeting a project)	Training and Workshop on Budgeting	4 hours	The Sangguniang Kabataan are knowledgeable on budgeting and may mentor the Katipunan ng Kabataan
	How to properly audit, what software to use	Workshop on Auditing	4 hours	The Sangguniang Kabataan are knowledgeable on auditing and may mentor the Katipunan ng Kabataan
Katipunan ng Kabataan Volunteer program				
Creating a Katipunan ng Kabataan volunteer program	Registered volunteers from the Katipunan ng Kabataan	Creating a group chat or facebook group	1 day	Activeness of the Katipunan ng Kabataan
	Sangguniang Kabataan mentoring the Katipunan ng Kabataan about project management, budgeting and auditing	Mentorship program	The whole Sangguniang Kabataan term	Skills and knowledge are passed on

	Committee headed by Sangguniang Kabataan members	Creation of committees based on the nine centers of youth participation	The whole Sangguniang Kabataan term	Mobilization of Katipunan ng Kabataan according to their strengths
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<p>Activity Schedule</p> <p>The activity will be scheduled according to a feasible time best for the youth involved (preferably summer vacation)</p>
<p>Materials:</p> <p>The materials needed are physical venues (seminar halls/ hotel function halls/ basketball courts), food and printed certificates for the participants, manila papers and markers for the participants to use, printed survey forms and evaluation forms, LCD projectors, PowerPoint presentations, tokens and certificates for the speakers</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation:</p> <p>The Sangguniang Kabataan will spearhead the monitoring of both the implementation and the evaluation of the program and will be assisted by the Sangguniang Barangay. The Sangguniang Kabataan must coordinate with the local National Youth Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, and Local Youth Development Council to invite appropriate speakers.</p>

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Creation of a Youth Center

One of the challenges faced by the Sangguniang Kabataan is the lack of facilities such as covered basketball courts, reading corners, storage rooms, or halls to be used for programs such as seminars. Barangay Loakan needs a dedicated basketball court in their barangay and resorts to district partnerships and borrowing facilities from neighboring barangays. Also, with their large land area, transportation to outside venues of programs makes it hard for the Loakan Katipunan ng Kabataan members to attend. In barangay Trancoville, they do not have an open space for the youth to gather, and the tree park of the barangay is prohibited from being used, so the youth are pushed to go to the city to look for facilities where they can hang out. The Sangguniang Kabataan also do not have their own office and meeting room, making meetings done online. In correspondence to those issues, a youth center must be established. Table 4 shows a program design of the proposed Youth Center.

Table 4
Creation of a Youth Center

General Program Information

Program Description:	A space dedicated to the youth where they may read, study and hang out. It could hold equipment of the Sangguniang Kabataan, serve as a dedicated office and meeting room and may also become a hall for the youth to use during seminars
Prerequisite Programs:	N/A
Duration:	N/A
Management Level of Program:	Per Barangay or district depending on the available area of the barangay
Delivery Mode:	Face to face
Target Personnel:	Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and Katipunan ng Kabataan Members
Budget Requirements:	Coordinated with the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Federation

Rationale:

The Sangguniang Kabataan face the dilemma of lack of facilities. The lack of facilities affects the participation of the youth as they get discouraged when projects and programs, such as seminars that aim to address the needs of the youth, are typically conducted outside the barangays. Some barangays have a large land area, while some have limited space. As observed, barangay Loakan has a large barangay area, and creating a Youth Center with all-in-one facilities is feasible, while Brookspoint, Trancoville, and Pinsao Pilot have limited space for this. Since most youths are studying, a study center with a reading corner may be appropriate. The creation of a youth center aims to have a safe space for the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Katipunan ng Kabataan to nurture skills and development.

Objectives:

The creation of a youth center aims to:

- a. Have a central facility dedicated to the youth to be used for studying, seminars, and storage
- b. Have a reading corner where the Katipunan ng Kabataan may borrow books, increase reading comprehension, and help the Katipunan ng Kabataan study
- c. Have a study center where the Katipunan ng Kabataan may connect to the internet and attend classes or finish requirements
- d. For the Sangguniang Kabataan to have a dedicated storage
- e. Increase youth participation through accessible facilities

End of Program Outputs

During the establishment of the youth center, reading corners should have reference books that may be borrowed, a study center where there are tables, chairs, computers, wifi, and a printer for the youth to use, a storage room for the Sangguniang Kabataan to make their equipment safe and a multi-purpose hall to be used in the implementation of projects and programs such as seminars, vaccination sites, distribution of relief and health kits. The youth center should be accessible to the barangay, if not to the district

Expected Final Outcomes/Success Indicators:

- a. Youth participation is increased due to accessible facilities
- b. Katipunan ng Kabataan excels in school requirements by using the reading corner

- c. The Sangguniang Kabataan may have their own office, increasing productivity
- d. Sangguniang Kabataan equipment last longer

II. Program Content Focus

Content Matrix

The objectives of the creation of a youth center address the issue of lack of facilities and inactivity of the youth

Specific Objectives	Contents	Suggested Activity	Duration	Expected Output
Study center with reading corner				
Establish a study center	Reference books, fiction and non-fiction books	Reading corner	N/A	The Katipunan ng Kabataan can finish their school requirements and have more interest in reading and school. Moreover, for safety concerns, they are located within the barangay or district.
	Tables, chairs, computers, wifi, and printer	Study center	N/A	The Katipunan ng Kabataan can finish their school requirements. Moreover, for safety concerns, they are located within the barangay or district.
Multi-purpose hall				
Create a multi-purpose hall to be used for projects and programs of the youth	Tables, Chairs, LCD Projector	Multi-purpose Hall	N/A	Venue becomes accessible for projects and programs, increasing productivity and participation
Sangguniang Kabataan Office and Storage Room				
For the Sangguniang Kabataan to have their own office and	Computer, printer, wifi, table, and chairs	Sangguniang Kabataan Meeting Room	N/A	The Sangguniang Kabataan may hold meetings regularly and collaborate in creating their

meeting room				documents better. The meeting room can also be used for the preparation of projects and programs
To have a dedicated space to store the equipment of the Sangguniang Kabataan	Locks, organizers, and filing cabinets	Storage Room with a lock		Equipment of the youth are kept safe and will last longer
<p>activity Schedule</p> <p>The establishment of the youth center will be after ocular inspections and must be coordinated with the Local Government Unit</p>				
<p>Materials:</p> <p>The materials needed are reference books, fiction, and non-fiction books, computers, wifi, printers, tables and chairs for the study center, tables and chairs for the multi-purpose hall,</p>				
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation:</p> <p>The Sangguniang Kabataan will spearhead the monitoring of both the implementation and the evaluation of the program and will be assisted by the Sangguniang Barangay. The Sangguniang The Sangguniang Kabataan must coordinate with the local National Youth Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, and Local Youth Development Council for appropriate measures such as on construction and establishment of the youth center.</p>				

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Conclusion

The Sangguniang Kabataan barangays Brookspoint, Loakan, Pinsao Pilot, and Trancoville are geared towards promoting active citizenship, having the most implemented programs and projects in this center of youth participation. This is followed by programs and projects in Health, Social Inclusion and Equity, and Education. On the other hand, global mobility-related activities are nonexistent due to them being deemed as not within the youth’s interests or needs.

Basing the formulation of programs and projects on the needs and interests of the youth was also reflected in the second research objective. It is the most important strategy used by the Sangguniang Kabataan with large consideration given to the number of probable youth

participants. Sangguniang Kabataan officials are also aware of the impermanence of Sangguniang Kabataan officialdom and therefore, consciously try to develop leadership and management skills of the Katipunan ng Kabataan with hopes of them continuing the Sangguniang Kabataan legacy. As such, in all Sangguniang Kabataan barangays, youth volunteerism is always present, nurtured, and celebrated, and has been used to solve the lack of Sangguniang Kabataan manpower.

The individuals allowed to run for a Sangguniang Kabataan position must be 18 years old but not over 24 years old. Unfortunately, juggling their career and personal priorities is a struggle for Sangguniang Kabataan Officials fresh out of college, especially with the repeated postponement of the Sangguniang Kabataan election, this resulted in the most mentioned problem which is the non-availability of the Sangguniang Kabataan members. Inactive youth participation in the part of the KK, the challenge on budget, and the lack of facilities have also made it difficult for the Sangguniang Kabataan to create and implement their programs and projects, and accomplish youth empowerment in their communities. Despite being awarded as one of the outstanding Sangguniang Kabataan in the city of Baguio, there are still many things to improve. It is therefore necessary for the Sangguniang Kabataan and the government to do their best to address these challenges.

All in all, the Sangguniang Kabataan has still not yet perfectly achieved their goal of youth empowerment in community engagement however, they have already taken solid steps towards it. Sangguniang Kabataan officials have already shown their resourcefulness and their commitment to serving and empowering the youth toward civic consciousness. The Sangguniang Kabataan and also the KK themselves just needed to be equipped with better skills, support, and a helping hand from the government and the community.

Acknowledgment

We, the researchers, would like to thank, first and foremost, our dear God Almighty for bestowing us with wisdom, knowledge, and strength to create and finish this endeavor. To our dear parents for their unconditional physical, mental and financial support and for constantly showering us with their never-ending love.

To the Dean of the School of Teacher Education and Liberal Arts, Dr. Aida A. Dapiawen, and the Program Chair of the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Dr. Donnavila Marie B. Panday for allowing us to conduct our research and for providing their support. To our Methods of Quantitative Research Instructor, Mr. Brian R. Flores, for his helpful guidance during the early stages of our study. To our Research in Political Science Instructor and Adviser, Mrs. Luvina B. Lalwet, for her warm guidance, suggestions, and informative discussions and for lending us her time to perfect and finish our research. To our panelists, Dr. Vilma W. Deponio, Ms. Beverly B. Laltoog, and Mr. Alexander G. Kilip Jr., for their insightful comments and for helping further improve our study. To our friends and classmates for their companionship and camaraderie and for constantly motivating us to do our best. Furthermore last but not least, we would also like to thank our research participants for agreeing to be a part of our research and helping us bring this study to fruition. Once again, we give our heartfelt gratitude and thanks.

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