

Social Workers Involvement in the Barangay Health Programs in the Municipality of Pozorrubio

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Abstract- *The participation of social workers in the Municipality of Pozorrubio's barangay health initiatives is examined in this study. Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were used to survey the respondents, who are municipal social workers (MSWs), in order to determine the difficulties they have when providing a range of health services. According to the findings, major issues that impede the efficient provision of health services to the community include a shortage of qualified personnel, a lack of funding, and inadequate buildings and equipment. These limitations have an impact on social workers' capacity to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities and the effectiveness of health programs. According to the findings, the report suggests actions to increase MSW participation in health programs, such as hiring and educating more qualified staff, obtaining greater funding, and expanding access to facilities and equipment. In order to guarantee the provision of efficient and long-lasting health services in Pozorrubio, these policies seek to enhance the role of social workers.*

Indexed Terms- *Health, Municipality, Pozorrubio, Social Workers*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the framework of local government units (LGUs) and their health programs, social workers are especially important in improving the well-being of individuals and communities. Social workers play a vital role in the development, application, and assessment of public health initiatives that seek to enhance care access, reduce health inequities, and assist disadvantaged groups on a global scale. Social workers are essential to local government health initiatives in industrialized countries like the US and Canada. They work along with medical professionals

to guarantee that patients receive comprehensive treatment, especially those who have long-term illnesses or mental health requirements. In these areas, social workers frequently provide counseling, case management, and advocacy for underserved populations, such as low-income families, the elderly, and people dealing with mental health issues. Social workers guarantee that health interventions are easily available, culturally aware, and customized to meet the unique requirements of local communities by bridging the gap between medical services and community resources.

Although they frequently encounter more obstacles, social workers play an equally important role in health programs in poor nations. Social workers, for example, support the provision of basic healthcare services, promote maternal and child health, and participate in public health initiatives to address the effects of infectious diseases, malnutrition, and a lack of healthcare infrastructure in many regions of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Social workers frequently spearhead community-based health promotion initiatives, inform the public about preventative care, and enable people to take charge of their own health, especially in the face of limited funding. With the goal to promote a more effective and inclusive healthcare system globally, social workers' participation in LGU health programs is crucial. They are essential in making sure that health services are accessible, equitable, and sensitive to the various needs of all residents because of their proficiency in negotiating the intricate socioeconomic aspects that affect health outcomes.

In the Philippines, social workers are essential to the implementation of health programs at the local government unit (LGU) level. They work alongside medical experts to address the medical and social factors that impact public health. LGU social workers

regularly take part in community-based health initiatives, particularly in rural and impoverished areas, where they assess patients' health needs, encourage access to healthcare, and provide emotional support to individuals and families.

Their participation is especially important for mental health services, maternity and child health initiatives, and the treatment of infectious diseases like HIV and TB. Additionally, social workers coordinate government-sponsored health initiatives like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), which links medical care to financial assistance. Social workers are an invaluable asset to LGU health programs because of their proficiency in managing delicate situations, navigating social processes, and making sure vulnerable populations are not ignored. This helps to create a more responsive and inclusive healthcare system in the Philippines.

Social workers are essential to the success of local government unit (LGU) health initiatives in Pangasinan, especially when it comes to meeting the medical needs of vulnerable groups. In order to carry out different health initiatives, including immunization programs, mental health support, and maternity and child health services, social workers work in conjunction with local health officials. They actively participate in the provision of community-based health education, offering families and individuals advice and counseling on nutrition, disease prevention, and health practices.

In Pangasinan, social workers also help manage health-related social programs, such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), which connects low-income families with financial aid and health treatments. Social workers make ensuring that underserved communities are aware of the health services that are available to them and have the authority to obtain them by interacting with them. Their participation in LGU health initiatives enhances the area's capacity to offer its citizens comprehensive, equitable, and culturally competent healthcare.

Whether in a local, national, or international setting, social workers are among the front-line providers of social protection programs. There are several

problems with our healthcare system. Our healthcare system has a number of issues. Our nation's economic stability is at risk due to the exorbitant expense of healthcare. The rising expense of health treatment is beyond the means of many households in the municipality of Pozzorubio. th treatment is beyond the means of many households in the municipality of Pozzorubio.

Local health services had several setbacks when health care services were transferred to the Local Government Units (LGU). Due to these distinct administrative rules, devolution has disrupted the integration chain. Today, there is a two-tiered health system with separate administration for public health services and hospital services. The technical oversight and support provided by the Barangay Health Station (BHS) and Rural Health Unit (RHU) make this situation more apparent. Additionally, municipalities function independently of one another, which further divides the province's public health system. Additionally, the best national and local interface became problematic when public health programs were being implemented.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research design aimed to provide a comprehensive numerical overview of the MSWs' characteristics and their engagement in various health programs, allowing for a structured analysis of their profiles and involvement levels. The descriptive quantitative approach is valuable for summarizing and quantifying patterns, identifying potential correlations or differences, and providing a clear snapshot of the MSWs' roles in delivering local health services. The findings from this study can serve as a foundation for identifying areas of improvement, formulating strategies, and enhancing the effectiveness of MSWs' involvement in sustaining local health programs. Purposive sampling was employed to obtain the needed data from the appropriate sources to ultimately attain the objectives of this study. Purposive sampling is a non-probabilistic sampling method that involves the selection of participants that meet a specific criterion. The researcher used a set of inclusion criteria as to who the participants of the study must be. The table below shows the distribution of the respondents.

Purposive sampling was used because the researcher decided to involve respondents who were voluntarily and on duty during the conduct of the study. Confidentiality was maintained in this study.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the gathered responses in line with the Involvement of the Municipal Social Workers in Local Health Program. Responses came from the municipality of Pozzorubio.

Table 1: Problems being met relative to the involvement of the MSW in the delivery of various health services

Problems being met	WM	DE
MANPOWER		
Lack of Competent Manpower	2.28	LS
Over-employed/oversupply	1.98	LS
Lack of Experience and Seminars	2.30	LS
	2.19	LS
Budgetary Support from government	3.32	MS
from DSWD and Health Centers	2.58	LS
from NGOs	2.15	LS
From sponsors and other healthcare team	2.30	LS
from Residents	2.17	LS
Limited budget from all the above entities	2.15	LS
	2.45	LS
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT		
Untrained MWS and BHWs to use equipment	2.17	LS
Availability of Medical Supplies	2.80	MS
Availability of Medical Equipment	2.73	MS
Limited supplies of Birth Control Pills, Medicine for communicable diseases, Medicine supplies for children, and Multivitamins	2.67	MS
Unavailability of	2.53	LS

transportation to reach far-flung places		
Lack of medical and dental facilities to cater to the needs of the residents	2.63	MS
Lack of laboratory equipment	2.42	LS
OAWM	2.56	LS

Legend:

5	4.20 – 5.00	Highly Serious (HS)
4	3.40 – 4.19	Serious (S)
3	2.60 – 3.39	Moderately Serious (MS)
2	1.80 – 2.59	Less Serious (LS)
1	1.0 – 1.79	Not Serious (NS)

The table presents the problems encountered by Municipal Social Workers (MSW) concerning manpower, budgetary support, and facilities and equipment, along with their weighted mean (WM) scores and their respective interpretations. On the manpower, they were less serious at 2.28., Over employed at 1.98., Lack of experience and seminars at 2.30.

Overall, the concerns related to manpower are perceived as less serious by the MSWs.

On the Budgetary support, there were moderately serious about the government budget with 3.32, they perceived less serious on the budget from DSWD and Health Center (2.58), from NGO sponsors and residents. All were rated as less serious (LS) between 2.15 and 2.30.

In entirety, perspectives vary, with government assistance being seen as more worrisome than other sources.

Respondents rated the facilities and equipment as moderately serious in the following areas: transportation to distant locations, lack of medical and dental facilities, limited supplies of essential medications (2.67), availability of medical equipment (2.80), and laboratory equipment (2.42–2.63). All things considered, the availability of medical equipment and supplies appears to be more urgent than other facility-related concerns.

Table 2: Activities and Personnel for the Proposed Measures to Enhance the Involvement of Municipal Social Workers in Delivering Effective and Sustainable Local Health Programs

Activities	Person Responsible
Conduct workshops focusing on health program implementation strategies, community engagement, and resource utilization	Training Coordinator or Department Head
Form interdisciplinary task forces involving health professionals, community leaders, and social workers to plan and execute health initiatives	Team Coordinator or Project Manager
Organize monthly or bi-monthly review sessions to assess program outcomes, identify challenges, and devise improvement strategies.	Evaluation Officer or Program Manager
Conduct community health awareness campaigns, workshops, and outreach events led by social workers.	Outreach Coordinator or Community Engagement Officer
Initiate mentorship programs where experienced social workers mentor younger colleagues to share expertise and insights.	Mentorship Coordinator or Senior Social Workers

Optimizing the impact and accessibility of health services for all residents, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, is the main goal of the proposed measures to increase the involvement of municipal social workers in providing sustainable and successful local health programs in Pozorrrubio. The effort seeks to address the clinical and social determinants of health by enhancing the involvement of social workers in community health programs, guaranteeing a more comprehensive approach to public health. Social workers can help close the gaps between medical services and community needs by fostering preventative healthcare, mental health

awareness, and health education through their skills in case management, community outreach, and psychosocial support.

These initiatives aim to give municipal social workers the education, materials, and equipment they need to operate more productively with medical professionals, local authorities, and community members. By doing this, the project hopes to increase community involvement, provide access to necessary medical care, and guarantee the long-term viability of health initiatives through local control. In the end, this strategy will result in healthier, more empowered communities by improving the general well-being of locals, lowering health inequities, and building a more robust healthcare system in Pozorrrubio.

The suggested actions to increase the participation of municipal social workers in providing efficient and long-lasting local health programs in Pozorrrubio depend on identifying the activities and individuals in charge. First, establishing the precise activities guarantees that the health programs' goals are precise and quantifiable. It makes it possible to organize and carry out health interventions including case management, health education, community outreach, and assistance for vulnerable groups in a methodical manner. In order to ensure that health programs are responsive to the needs of the community, clear actions aid in coordinating the efforts of municipal social workers with regional health priorities.

Additionally, accountability and effective cooperation depend on understanding who is in charge. A well-organized team that collaborates to provide health services is ensured by identifying important members of the municipal government, such as social workers, health officials, and community leaders. Roles that are clearly defined promote communication, minimize duplication, and guarantee efficient use of resources. It also aids in tracking the programs' development, assessing their results, and pinpointing areas in need of development. All things considered, a thorough grasp of the staff and activities involved improves the program's efficacy, sustainability, and capacity to address the health requirements of Pozorrrubio's citizens.

Table 3: Timeframe and Expected Outputs for the Proposed Measures to Enhance the Involvement of Municipal Social Workers in Delivering Effective and Sustainable Local Health Programs

Time Frame	Output
Quarterly sessions over the next year	Trained social workers equipped with updated skills and knowledge for effective program implementation
Initiate within three months; ongoing collaboration	Collaborative plans and coordinated efforts for comprehensive health programs.
Monthly/bi-monthly over the next year	Improved program effectiveness through continuous assessment and adjustment
Quarterly campaigns ongoing for community outreach	Increased community awareness and participation in health programs.
Ongoing with quarterly evaluation	Knowledge transfer and skill enhancement among social workers.

The suggested actions to increase the participation of municipal social workers in providing efficient and long-lasting local health initiatives in the municipality of Pozorrubio must include a timeline and anticipated results. Setting a precise deadline guarantees that the health programs are carried out in a methodical and efficient way. It is beneficial to establish reasonable objectives, distribute resources wisely, and guarantee that significant benchmarks are reached within a given time frame. The success of the project may be jeopardized in the absence of a clear time period due to the possibility of delays, inattention, and the inability to track progress.

On the other hand, expected outputs give a clear picture of the observable outcomes that the program is expected to produce. These results, such better healthcare access, fewer health inequalities, or more community involvement, act as standards for evaluating the program's efficacy. They assist in determining if the goals of the health programs are being achieved and whether social workers'

participation is significantly improving the municipality's health results. Furthermore, accountability and ongoing development are made possible by having expected outputs. If results fall short of expectations, it provides a chance to review plans, make changes, and make sure the program stays on course for long-term health gains in Pozorrubio.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Lack of qualified personnel, little financial assistance, and problems with facilities and equipment are typical difficulties. In summary, a lack of qualified personnel, poor budgetary allocation, and equipment and facility shortages are some of the major issues the municipality of Pozorrubio has in its health programs. These limitations restrict the ability to meet the community's expanding healthcare needs and impede the efficient provision of basic healthcare services.

It is advised that the local government emphasize hiring and training skilled workers, obtain more funds through grants or partnerships, and make investments in modernizing medical facilities and equipment in order to address these issues. Health programs will be more sustainable and effective if resources are used strategically.

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