

Emerging Roles of Non-Government and Community-Based Organizations in Social Development: Some Case Studies Focusing on Children

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This paper describes and analyzes the specific roles and contributions of selected NGOs in the Philippines to social development and how they are able to ensure sustainability of the gains from their efforts and interventions. Starting off with a theoretical discussion on social development, the paper revolves around how the interplay of socio-cultural, economic, political and environment factors has impinged upon the outcomes of interventions of these NGOs. Social development is focused on two major elements: a) access to resources and opportunities, and b) strengthened capacities for sustained participation and empowerment. Three brief case studies are presented to narrow the discussions to the experiences of some selected members of the National Council of Social Development (NCSD) that cater primarily to the children sector.

Using desk review and case study methods, the data revealed the following: a) increased participation of women in community development work as leaders or active volunteers; b) creation and implementation of some alternative models of practice - mobile school, street peer education, and mobilizing peace builders among children; c) strengthened capacities of CBO leaders in governance and partnership building; d) presence of community-based structures, mechanisms and processes that facilitate the project development processes; e) introduction of cost-efficient and culturally appropriate technologies such as backyard gardening and community-based savings and mobilization scheme that effectively sustained the interest and participation of the members; f) the presence of second-line leaders; and, g) formalized partnerships with the local government units and other key partners.

On the other hand, the following are needed capacities to effectively sustain the project initiatives and gains of the organizations: further advocacy for stronger and sustained support to the NGO projects/activities from among their local partners and key stakeholders; strengthening of capacities on resource mobilization, financial management and stewardship, and network and alliance building; and, the preparation and implementation of a sustainability plan at the onset of project implementation.